

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1138024

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-09-15

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

Contact

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Maidenburgh Street
Colchester
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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: Circuit of Methodist Churches

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£235,264	£232,983	-	-
2024-08-31	£223,367	£179,571	-	-
2023-08-31	£184,746	£213,541	-	-
2022-08-31	£181,677	£226,546	-	-
2021-08-31	£177,370	£178,030	-	-
2020-08-31	£209,235	£204,147	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Christine Pamela Preece	Chair	2022-09-01
Alan Beesley		2015-05-01
BETTY MAY RAMPLING		2012-08-24
Brook Ann		2024-04-01
Christine Joy Firmin		2021-09-01
Christopher Richard Pratt		2021-09-01
Clive Leonard Carrington		2022-09-01
Derek Anthony Coe		2023-11-01
Diana Thompson		2021-09-01
Dr GEOFFREY CHARLES CASEY		
EDWARD GEORGE PENTNEY		
GEOFFREY WILCOX		2014-05-27
Gail Janette Chapman		2024-01-01
JOHN EDWARD JONES		
JUDITH ANN FLETCHER		
Joan Mary Keeble		2024-04-01
John Brook		2021-09-01
Judith Anne Winward		2021-09-01
MARGARET ANN CLUBB		
NEIL ANDREW AUSTIN		
Peter Broom		2024-10-10
RACHEL VAN STAVEREN		
RICHARD JAMES PETTIT		2013-06-24
ROBERT JOHN FINCH		2021-09-01
RON FIRMIN		
Rev Hannah Chun		2023-09-01
Rev Ronald Metcalf Smith		2023-09-01

Name	Role	Appointed
Sally-Anne Crafer		2022-09-01
TRACEY CHAPMAN		2022-03-17
Tony Robert Trevers		2020-09-01
VIVIAN MARY WILCOX		

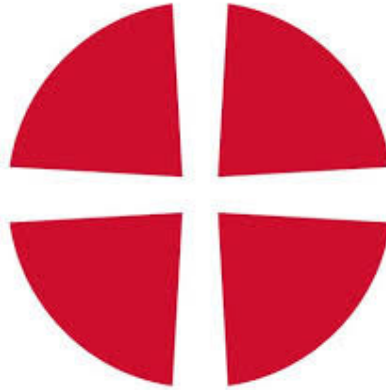
COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1138024

Accounts

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025



METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Registered Charity Number 1138024

Beds, Essex & Herts District - Circuit Number 34/6

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Chair of Trustees Report

Circuit life has continued to grow and develop throughout the past year building on the consolidation work of 2023 – 24. This year has continued to see a good period of stability for the Circuit as it continues to reflect on its mission and ministry.

In June 2025, the Circuit celebrated with their probationer presbyter at her ordination. This was a time of great joy for everyone and it has been wonderful for the Circuit and churches to walk alongside someone in their early years of ministry and see them grow and flourish. All ministers are required to take a three month sabbatical every seven years of ministerial travel. In line with this expectation, the Superintendent took a sabbatical during the course of this year. The plans which had been put into place worked effectively and the needs of the Circuit were well covered with the support of people from within the Circuit, the Chair of District and a Supernumerary minister who, until last year, had resided in the Circuit.

The expertise of the Circuit Stewards team and the Circuit Leadership Team are incredibly appreciated. These groups of people work tirelessly for the good of the Circuit and to ensure that the needs of the Circuit and local churches are reflected upon. The broad range of skills and gifts of these teams mean that meaningful conversations are had which enable a broad range of voices to be included. The stability provided by these groups is very much valued. The time spent in establishing new structures for the overseeing of Circuit Finance have worked well. The Circuit Finance Officer's expertise is greatly appreciated and we were pleased to welcome a new member of the Circuit Finance Group to the team during the year. Work on the property overseen by the Circuit has continued with much work in the background being undertaken. Overall, it has been a quieter year than some on the property front.

Communications within the Circuit continue to run smoothly. The Circuit Administrator effectively and efficiently liaises with the Church Email Hub Co-Ordinators and office holders as required, maintains the Circuit Directory and website, whilst also ensuring that Circuit Meetings run smoothly in relation to the collation of the required documentation. Several Circuit office holders also hold District roles which enhances the Church-Circuit-District-Connexion communications. The Circuit Christmas Celebration was well received and supported as a social event to bring people from across the Circuit together.

Zoom continues to be used as a highly effective platform for the Circuit, in relation to worship and Bible studies as well as some meetings. Sunday evening worship and the Bible Studies all run through Zoom with an average of thirty people attending each week. It is good to see a slightly broader representation of churches at these events over the past year. The use of Zoom for some meetings means that a broader representation of people can be gained whilst also having a positive impact on the carbon footprint.

The Circuit has a Mission Plan which is based around the Methodist Church's 'Our Calling.' This promotes both spiritual growth as well as outreach. The Mission Plan is the primary strategic document for the Circuit and has a monthly review. Great progress has been made on implementing the two year plan. It is intended that an appendix to focus on particular areas for the second year of the plan will be incorporated prior to a deeper review for a new plan to be in place for September 2026. During the year, the majority of churches now also have their own mission plans which have been worked on with appropriate support.

As part of the Mission Plan, one of the main areas of work this year has been to explore the possibility of how the Circuit can best work with, and support, older people, recognising that everyone's definition of an older person will be different! Small group working is now well established within the

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Circuit, and a small group was convened to explore ways in which this could be done. As a result of their work, a proposal for an Anna Chaplain (who is a commissioned person to work alongside older people, working under the licence from the Bible Reading Fellowship) was presented to Circuit Meeting who agreed to an employed lay worker role for 20 hours per week. Following the preparation for, securing of grant funding and recruitment period, we are delighted that an Anna Chaplain will be joining the team in September 2025. This has been a particularly significant piece of work for the Circuit as we look to the future.

During 2023-24 the Circuit Meeting approved a Circuit Grants Policy. This is now fully in operation with two churches applying for and receiving Circuit grant funding to help them realise their mission plans. One was for eco church improvements and the other for a building project. Other Circuits have shown interest in the Grants Policy which has been shared as a starting point for other Circuits to produce their own to meet their own contexts and needs. Local churches continue to serve their communities throughout the week in many and varied ways. As the churches continue to reflect on the communities they serve, the Grants Committee will support and encourage applications for work which meets the criteria of the policy which was reviewed and updated during the year.

The Circuit remains indebted to the Local Preachers team and Worship Leaders who support the leading of worship on a weekly basis. We do not currently have any Local Preachers in training. One Worship Leader, who completed the Connexional training course, was commissioned during the year. One further Worship Leader is in training following a more locally based training course. For various reasons, there has been an increase in the number of services needing to be covered by local churches. Exploring alternative approaches is an area of Circuit work over the next twelve months as we try to find more innovative ways of supporting weekly worship.

Membership numbers across the Circuit on 1 November 2024 stood at 287. This represents an increase of 7 on the previous year which is pleasing to see. Average attendance figures had also increased slightly. It is pleasing to see this visible sign of growth in people's and church's spiritual journeys.

The Circuit acknowledges and is very thankful for the significant efforts of its volunteers within the churches and the Circuit. There is a wide array of gifts, skills and talents which is seen in the depth of commitment which cannot be underestimated. This is representative of the strong faith and commitment shown by so many. There is a strong sense of mutual care and support which is wonderful to see and which makes a huge difference as we serve God and witness to the love of Christ. The members of the Circuit Meeting work diligently in exercising their duties and we are grateful to everyone for all their work.

Looking ahead to next year the main strategic foci will be on the establishment of the Anna Chaplain role within the community, considering the approach to the preaching plan to make the best use of the resources available, work on moving towards becoming an Eco Circuit and supporting the churches in their Energy Efficiency work and reviewing the Mission Plan.

The Circuit will continue to be available to support churches with their mission and growth planning as churches continue to build on the work they have already undertaken and in reaching out into the local communities as they seek to share the love of Christ in the communities they serve. We look forward to sharing in God's work in Colchester, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, in the coming year.

Rev Chris Preece
Superintendent Minister
29th August 2025

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Treasurers' Report

During this year the work of the Circuit Finance Group has settled and consolidated. We have had one change in personnel, ensuring we maintain a wide representation from across the Circuit. We have continued to work collaboratively with our Finance Officer and report to both the Circuit Leadership Team and the Circuit Meeting. We have supported the establishment of a Circuit Grants Policy and this has begun to be used by Churches seeking support with local projects.

Income Trends

All our churches were able to and paid their assessment for the year in line as per budget and we would like to record here our deep gratitude for this support. Investments returned above budget levels of income as rates were elevated on deposit funds during the year. Marks Tey (rental) income is in line with the contract.

Expenditure trends

The stipend levels for our 2 full time Minsters are set by Connexion centrally, we are so grateful for their guidance and also the lay services of our part time Administrator and Finance Officer. The District Levy was higher, reflecting CMTF balance increases as we received property proceeds in prior year. Property maintenance was on budget overall this year, £7,400 of spend related to Marks Tey work of which half on roof repairs.

Fund balances

We are grateful God has provided for us again this year and enabled His work in Colchester to continue. Note 16 to the accounts shows the full analysis of reserves movements by fund this year.

General Unrestricted funds total £1,379,744 at year end General Unrestricted surplus for the year was £37,864, after transfers. CMTF unrestricted ended the year at £341,024, a deficit in CMTF fund of £486,501 was driven by the creation of designated CMTF Mission fund (see below). The unrestricted Sylvia Bristowe trust at TMCP grew slightly this year and ended at £2,801.

The creation of a designated CMTF fund (Mission purpose) which received a transfer in of £399,563 during the year (from unrestricted CMTF) and stood at £418,215 at year end. Our designated fund for Ministerial relocation has not moved during the year, whilst Designated Property repair fund remains at £15,000, being £5,000 for each of: two manses and one let property. We created the Anna Chaplain Designated fund, again by transfer of funds out of CMTF, recognising future expense of this mission. This stood at £50,437 at year end.

Our Restricted Funds for Marks Tey (burial ground upkeep) is a TMCP trust which grew slightly this year and ended at £1,760. The Restricted Benevolent Fund received an allocation of investment income, ending the year at £1,621. Equally, the Restricted Tollgate Development Fund received an allocation of investment income, ending the year at £10,894. The Restricted Anna Chaplain Fund created during the year stands at £11,733 as at year end.

Finance Plans for 2025/26

The 2024/25 budget has been agreed and sustains current ministerial / lay staffing levels. Recently, Methodist Connexion informed a pension contribution rate decrease (Ministerial pensions) down to 20%, below that budgeted. The budget maintains assessment at roughly the level of the current year, one church having a minor increase. The budget contains a small deficit at circuit level, against reserves: £14,000, reduced to £10,000 post pension decrease (equivalent to 4% of total expenditure).

The year 2024-25 will continue to be a year of consolidation alongside the development of plans for increased witness and Mission within Colchester by the Circuit and its Methodist churches. The Circuit Mission Plan (as explained above) will clarify the picture of how we best employ reserves for

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

God's work in and around Colchester. The Circuit envisages supporting Methodist church initiatives; such matters will continue under Circuit scrutiny, potentially involving material spending.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy ordinarily provides for the Circuit to hold a sum equivalent to 6 months' average operating (general fund) expenditure, equating to £82,363 for this year. We aim for this to increase to £100,000 over time, noting that the substantial designations would take our reserves to well over this amount. In normal times this should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure (for example on manses).

Current additional reserves are being held over this amount, with designations to support mission grants to churches, manse upkeep and other church projects, as described above.

Miss R van Staveren
Chair of Circuit Finance Group
28 October 2025

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Full name of charity	Methodist Church Colchester Circuit
Registration Charity Number	1138024
Date of registration	10 September 2010
Correspondence Address:	C/O Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, CO1 1TT

Circuit Ministers and officers -

Circuit Ministers

Rev'd C Preece (Circuit Superintendent)
Rev'd H Chun

Circuit Stewards

Mr T Trevers (Senior)
Mr E Pentney (Property)
Mrs S Crafer
Mrs J Winward

Circuit Finance Trustee:

Miss R van Staveren

The self-employed Finance Officer (Alistair Jenkins) and the Finance Trustee above acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

The voting members of the Colchester Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees being a membership being made up of Circuit office holders, Ministers and Representatives appointed by the churches in the Circuit. Full membership of the Circuit Meeting at 31 August 2024 appears as Appendix A to this report.

Independent Examiner	Mr V P Chandler FCA FCCA, of Moore Green Chartered Accountants 22 Friars Street Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA
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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 the Methodist Church Act (1976). The objects are in line with those for the overall Methodist Church.

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

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT).

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Other training resources are made available by the Methodist Connexional offices.

Related parties

The Circuit is part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit – The Ark Highwoods, Castle, Lexden, Mersea Island, The Well, Wimpole Road and Wivenhoe.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Administration and the Circuit Treasurer with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and expenditure are being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a monthly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process.

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 disclosure 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, co-operating 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 Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches. The Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trustees' responsibilities

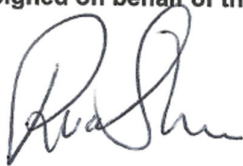
The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the auditors and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



R. VAN STAVEREN

13/5/26



REV. C. PREECE
SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER.

13/5/26

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT CHARITY COMMISSION REFERENCE NUMBER 1134248

I report on the accounts of the Methodist Church Colchester Circuit Charitable Trust for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustee of the charity, 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

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 and I believe that:

- Accounting records were kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act.
- The accounts accord with those records.
- The accounts 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.

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.

Signed:  Date 20.05.2026

Mr V P Chandler FCA FCCA,
Moore Green Chartered Accountants
22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk
CO10 2AA

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

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METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Colchester Circuit

Circuit No 34/6

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Un-restricted)	Designated Funds (un- restricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
Income								
1 Donations and legacies					12,500		12,500	0
2 Income from monetary investments	4	7,701	37,013		650		45,364	46,361
3 Income from investment properties	5	20,042					20,042	19,567
4 Assessments on Churches	6	157,228					157,228	155,620
5 Capital Receipts							0	0
6 Grants received							0	0
7 Other charitable income	7	129					129	1,819
8 Total income		185,101	37,013	0	13,150	0	235,264	223,367
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations				11,460	150		11,610	0
10 Salaries and associated costs	8	94,707					94,707	92,121
11 Property maintenance	9	12,836					12,836	12,439
12 Connexional assessment & model trust le	10	28,071					28,071	26,722
13 District Assessment & Levy	10	6,373	53,324				59,697	24,073
14 Depreciation							0	0
15 Office expenses	12	14,030					14,030	14,866
16 Other outgoings	13	8,719	2,690		622		12,031	9,349
17 Total charitable expenditure		164,737	56,014	11,460	772	0	232,983	179,571
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0	0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							0	0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		20,364	-19,001	-11,460	12,378	0	2,281	43,796
21 Transfers between funds	17	17,500	-467,500	450,000			0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)								
23 Net movement in funds		37,864	-486,501	438,540	12,378	0	2,281	43,796
24 Total funds brought forward		1,341,880	827,525	52,725	13,631		2,235,761	2,191,965
25 Total funds carried forward		1,379,744	341,024	491,265	26,009	0	2,238,042	2,235,761

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	14	1,000,210				1,000,210	1,000,210
Church buildings		0				0	0
Investment properties		248,960				248,960	248,960
Total fixed assets		1,249,170	-	-	-	1,249,170	1,249,170

Current Assets

Debtors & Prepayments	15	7,377				7,377	7,003
Loans by the Circuit						0	0
Investments with TMCP		2,801	341,024	450,125	1,760	795,711	832,017
Central Finance Board Deposits		124,086		41,140	24,248	189,474	136,998
Cash at Bank and in hand		1,592				1,592	15,353
Total current assets		135,856	341,024	491,265	26,009	994,154	991,371

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	16	5,282				5,282	4,780
Grants payable within 2023-4							
Total current liabilities		5,282	0	0	0	5,282	4,655
Net current assets/liabilities		130,574	341,024	491,265	26,009	988,871	986,716

Total assets less current liabilities		1,379,744	341,024	491,265	26,009	0	2,238,042	2,235,886
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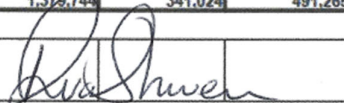
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)

Grants payable after 2022-23						-	0	
Loans to the Circuit						-	0	
Net assets		1,379,744	341,024	491,265	26,009	0	2,238,042	2,235,886

Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	17	1,379,744				1,379,744	1,341,880	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	17		341,024			290,587	827,525	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	17			491,265		541,702	52,725	
Total Unrestricted Funds						2,212,033	2,222,130	
Restricted Funds	17				26,009	26,009	13,631	
Endowment Funds						0	0	
Total Funds		1,379,744	341,024	491,265	26,009	0	2,238,042	2,235,761

Circuit Treasurer:



Approved:

13/5/26

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) issued in October 2019.

The Methodist Church Colchester Circuit meets the definition of a 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 note(s) below.

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

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Methodist Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Designated Funds are intended for a particular purpose, but remain unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those held for a defined purpose, as stipulated within the trust deed. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in Note 16 to these accounts and funds may be represented by cash or other assets.

3 Accounting Policies

A Income

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 of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as 'Other income' in the SOFA will be shown separately only where considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of our much valued volunteers is not quantified in these accounts (but our gratitude is). Further information on volunteer participation is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

B Expenses / VAT

Expenses are recognised immediately when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, provided: (1) the amount is reliably measurable, and (2) it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit. This is the application of the accruals principle to expenses.

As a registered Charity, the Circuit is not VAT registered and all input VAT is charged within the related expense.

C Going Concern

The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The going concern assumption is based on yearly budgeting and management review of outcomes. Both of these support the assertion that the charity will be able to operate into the foreseeable future, well beyond one year.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

D Fixed Assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold residential properties are shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being the properties' market value resulting from a professional valuation in 2015. Colchester Circuit last conducted an external valuation of properties at September 2021. The Circuit has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102.

No Fixed Asset depreciation is being provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the properties in their present condition to be not less than the historical cost and, in the absence of any impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the properties would be immaterial.

E Investment Properties

The Circuit holds the previous church premises at Marks Tey as an Investment Property, given there are no plans to dispose of it and a rental income is being received. Also at West Bergholt we hold retained areas (newer burial ground and bus shelter footprint), and the newer burial ground at Boxted (former Methodist Church).

F Debtors and Prepayments

The main prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of the payment made, in late August 2025, to the Methodist Church centrally, being due early September.

G Creditors

Creditors relate to unpaid invoiced expenditure at August 31 2025, plus provision for amounts likely to become payable related to year ending August 31 2025.

4 Income from Monetary Investments

In all cases this has been derived from funds deposited with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP. Where a restricted fund does not have a unique TMCP account, then that fund is allocated a portion of general fund CFB investment income in equitable proportion.

6 Assessment on Churches

Each Circuit church is assessed for a yearly contribution towards meeting the costs of the Circuit's operations, including the payment of Ministerial costs and the Circuit's annual assessments in respect of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion. The amount assessed on each church is considered and agreed annually by the Finance and Resources Committee and confirmed at the summer Circuit Meeting. Such amounts were all paid in full for this year and we are very grateful to our constituent churches for their co-operation.

7 Other Income

General Fund	2025	2024
Tending Finance Officer Contribution	0	1,375
Other Items	<u>129</u>	<u>444</u>
TOTAL	129	1,819

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

7 Grants awarded and donations made

The circuit Grants committee awarded the below grants from the Designated CMTF Mission Fund.

Designated CMTF Mission	2025	2024
The Ark Highwood	1,460	0
Wimpole Road	10,000	0
Restricted Fund for Anna Chaplain		
Donation for scheme membership	150	0
TOTAL	11,610	0

8 Salaries and Associated costs

(a) Costs relating to Superintendent and Presbyter

In the Connexional year 2024-25 the Circuit had 2 full time Presbyters (August 2024 – 2). The stipends, employer's National Insurance Contributions and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. Manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property.

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the Presbyter and the remaining members of the CLT are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs meeting of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit (see Appendix).

(b) Pensions

All presbyters are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist Ministers (which term includes presbyters) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The Connexion accounts for this pension scheme and full pensions disclosures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts.

(c) Stipend related costs

General Fund	2025	2024
Stipends	65,142	60,984
Pension Contributions	12,408	13,564
NI / Apprenticeship Levy	7,133	7,820
Computer Grant	414	388
Travel	2,272	2,325
Council Tax	5,462	5,532
Water charges	<u>1,876</u>	<u>1,508</u>
TOTAL	94,707	92,121

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

9 District & Connexional Assessment and Levy

(a) Assessment on the circuit

The Connexional and District Assessment on circuit is calculated relative to the proportion of church members, and staffing (Presbyters and Mission staff only) of all Circuits in the Beds, Essex & Herts District. For Colchester Circuit this year this amounted to £34,444.

(b) Levy assessed on the Circuit

An annual levy is charged, calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit's CMTF Account balance as at 31 August the previous year. For this year, this amounted to £53,324 on our CMTF Fund.

10 Property Maintenance

The maintenance costs of properties includes costs of Quinquennial inspections, and £7,338 of the total relates to the maintenance of Marks Tey rental property.

The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses and investment property, are supported by a designated fund, which is a buffer against occasional larger items of spend impacting Property Maintenance. In line with Connexional recommendations and in concurrence with the Property Steward, this is targeted at £5,000 per property (see reserves Note 16).

11 Office expenses

General Fund	2025	2024
Lay Administration / Staff	12,545	12,790
Independent Examination	1,050	1,200
Other Office expenses	<u>435</u>	<u>876</u>
TOTAL	14,030	14,866

12 Other outgoings

General Fund	2025	2024
Supply preacher fees (Incl. travel)	693	436
Telephone	1,912	1,626
Professional Fees	480	1,374
Insurance	4,487	4,264
Mission related	351	500
Other	796	150
General CMTF Fund		
Investment Management Fees	<u>2,690</u>	<u>999</u>
TOTAL	11,409	9,349

Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Investment Management Fees	5	5
Staff related costs (AC)	<u>617</u>	
TOTAL	622	5

The insurance charge (general fund) includes 2 Manses and Marks Tey expense. Marks Tey reimburse the expense, which is included within rental income.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

13 Property

Ongoing Use

At 31 August 2025 the Colchester Circuit owns 2 Manses, inhabited by Circuit Presbyters, at Cambridge Road and Robin Crescent. Note C to accounting policies covers the valuation dates. Property given a nominal value are as follows: West Bergholt retained areas (newer burial ground and bus shelter footprint), as well as the newer burial ground at Boxted (former Methodist Church).

PROPERTY

	Manses		
	Total	Land	Buildings
Balance as at 1 September 2024	1,000,210	247,710	752,500
Proceeds from sale			
Market / other movement			-
Balance as at 31 August 2025	1,000,210	247,710	752,500

Investment Property

Principal Investment Property is Marks Tey (former Methodist Church), controlled by the Circuit, and let to a Life Skills training organisation under a 5-year Lease.

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	Total	Land	Buildings
Balance as at 1 September 2024	248,960	62,250	186,710
Proceeds from sale	-	-	-
Market / other movement			-
Balance as at 31 August 2025	248,960	62,250	186,710

The Trustee for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Trust property, Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for day- to- day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing advice and acting under their direction, the local Managing Trustees comply with Charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14 Debtors and Prepayments

General Fund	2025	2024
Prepaid stipends	7,377	7,003

15 Creditors and Accruals – due in under 1 year

Unrestricted Fund	2025	2024
Trade creditors	300	311
Accruals	3,782	3,269
Independent Examination Fee	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
TOTAL	5,282	4,780

16 Reserves

Unrestricted (General) Reserves

General / unrestricted funds are those which have not been earmarked and are available to further the general purposes of Colchester Methodists. General Fund includes the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is an unrestricted fund, much of which emanates from the sale of former church buildings.

Designated Reserves

1 CMTF Mission - This aligns with Methodist core purpose to carry the gospel message and is available for Circuit Grants over 3 years, in accordance with Circuit Grants policy.

2 Property Maintenance - The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses and investment property, are supported by a designated fund, which is a buffer against occasional larger items of spend impacting Property Maintenance. In line with Connexional recommendations and in concurrence with the Property Steward, by year end this has reached the desired £5,000 per property (2 manses and 1 investment property).

3 Ministers Re-location - This is to provide for re-location costs and current level is considered adequate.

4 Anna Chaplain Designated – Circuit funds allocated for Anna Chaplain identified future expense.

Restricted Reserves

Restricted funds are those held for a defined purpose, as stipulated within the trust deed.

1 Development Tollgate - For use in Development and Outreach work in establishing a Methodist presence within the physical area of new housing - the Tollgate area of Colchester

2 Benevolent - Available to provide support to those less well off at the ministers' discretion

3 Marks Tey Burial Ground - Bequest specified for maintenance of the burial grounds at Marks Tey, which is linked to a specific interest earning TMCP fund.

4 Anna Chaplain Restricted – Specific funds ring fenced for Anna Chaplain Mission work,

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Reserves Movement over the Year

RESERVES	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfer	Closing Balance
Unrestricted (General)	1,339,198	184,973	(164,728)	17,500	1,376,943
Unrestricted (CMTF)	827,525	37,013	(56,014)	(467,500)	341,024
Unrestricted (Sylvia Bristowe)	2,682	128	(9)	0	2,801
TOTAL Unrestricted	2,169,405	222,114	(220,750)	(450,000)	1,720,768
Mission	30,112	-	(11,460)	399,563	418,215
Property Maintenance	15,000	-	0	0	15,000
Minister Relocation	7,613	-	0	0	7,613
Anna Chap Des	-	-	-	50,437	50,437
TOTAL Designated	52,725	-	(11,460)	450,000	491,265
Restricted Benevolent	1,548	74	0	0	1,621
Restricted Devel. Tollgate	10,398	496	0	0	10,894
Restricted Marks Tey	1,685	80	(5)	0	1,760
Restricted Anna Chaplain	-	12,500	(767)	0	11,733
TOTAL Restricted	13,631	13,150	(772)	0	26,009
TOTAL Reserves	2,235,761	235,264	(232,983)	0	2,238,042

The transfers above relate to:

- (1) The creation of Anna Chaplain Designated fund
- (2) Circuit approval of Designation for CMTF Mission Fund

Analysis of Reserves by Net Assets

As shown on face of balance sheet:

- (1) the unrestricted general reserve is made up of circuit Fixed Assets, as well as Current Asset (Debtors and Creditors) and a proportion of the cash and investments.
- (2) Restricted Reserves, all designated reserves and the Sylvia Bristowe unrestricted reserve are split between TMCP investment funds and cash at Central Finance Board (CFB) deposit fund.

17 Related parties and Trustees expenses

No Trustees made donations to the Circuit during the year. All of the Trustees are members of a church in the Circuit and may also be on the Church Councils of those churches. Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the Beds Essex & Herts Methodist District, other circuit churches, CFB and TMCP. Only one Trustee has indicated a non - beneficial link via family marriage with a supplier to the Circuit. Expenditure solely for Circuit expenses giving rise to reimbursement to Trustees amounted to £nil.

18 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities existing at year end.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Appendix I

Colchester Methodist Circuit Managing Trustees

Ministers	Rev Chris Preece (Superintendent) Rev Hannah Chun
Supernumerary Minister	Rev Ron Smith
Circuit Stewards	Mrs Sally Crafer Mr Edward Pentney (Property) Mr Tony Trevers (Senior Steward) Mrs Judith Winward
Local Preachers Secretary	Mr Ron Firmin
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Dr Geoff Casey
Chair of Finance Group	Miss R van Staveren

Representatives appointed by Circuit Churches:-

Castle (up to 5 reps)	Mr Clive Carrington (Treasurer) Mr Derek Coe Mr Bob Finch Mr Richard Pettit Mr Chris Pratt (Senior Steward)
The Ark (up to 4 reps)	Mrs Pat Baker Mrs Gail Chapman (Senior Steward) Miss R van Staveren (Treasurer)
The Well (up to 4 reps)	Miss Tracey Chapman (Treasurer) Mrs Judith Fletcher Mr John Jones Mrs Di Thompson (Senior Steward)
Lexden (up to 4 reps)	Mr Neil Austin Mr Alan Beesley (Senior Steward) Mr Geoff Wilcox (Treasurer) Mrs Vivian Wilcox
Mersea (up to 3 reps)	Mrs Ann Brook Mr John Brook (Treasurer) Mrs Joan Moody (Senior Steward)
Wimpole Road (up to 4 reps)	Mr Peter Broom Mrs Margaret Clubb Mrs Christine Firmin (Senior Steward) Mr Edward Pentney (Treasurer)
Wivenhoe (up to 4 reps)	Mr Phil Bingham (Senior Steward) Mrs Joan Keeble (Treasurer) Mrs Betty Rampling

Appendix II

Glossary of Terms

CFB:	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for the Methodist Church in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities.
Church:	a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 90
Circuit:	a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 20
Circuit Meeting:	The trustees of the Circuit, most of whom are appointed by their local Churches and others by virtue of a role they undertake for the Circuit and/or their local Churches.
CLT	Circuit Leadership Team which comprises the Presbyters (Ministers) and pastors stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Treasurers
CMTF:	Circuit Model Trust Fund
Connexion:	The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.
Connexional Funds:	The designated and/or Restricted Funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives.
District:	a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30
DAF:	District Advance Fund
FRS:	Financial reporting Standard
HMRC:	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Lay Employees:	Personnel employed by the Circuit on generally accepted commercial employment terms.
MMPS:	Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme
PASLEMC:	Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church
Pensions Trust:	The Pensions Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges a pension scheme for its Lay Employees
Presbyters	Probationer or Ordained Methodist Ministers (including the Superintendent) who have pastoral and administrative responsibility for the Churches within the Circuit
SOFA:	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP:	Statement of Recommended Practice
TMCP:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1138024

Accounts

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024



METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Registered Charity Number 1138024

Beds, Essex & Herts District - Circuit Number 34/6

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Chair of Trustees Report

This last year has been one of consolidation within the Circuit as it has continued to reflect on its mission and ministry. Following a period of substantial change within the Circuit, the past year has been one of greater stability.

In September 2023 we welcomed a probationer presbyter who has settled in excellently with the churches in her section and who regularly contributes to the evening Zoom services. Our new Finance Officer has worked hard with the newly formed Finance Group to ensure that all aspects of the Finances are covered effectively and efficiently. This arrangement is working extremely well for the Circuit. During the year, the Finance Officer felt it was more appropriate not to work jointly across two Circuits and a new agreement was reached whereby he now has a separate working arrangement with Colchester Circuit.

The care and expertise of the Circuit Stewards team and Circuit Leadership Team continues to be of huge support to the ministerial team and the Circuit as a whole. The range of gifts and skills demonstrated by the group is extremely wide and enables far reaching conversations to be had. Having stability within the team over this past year has been extremely valuable.

We remain grateful for the support of the Supernumerary Presbyters within the Circuit who offer their time, wisdom and skills. From a Circuit perspective, we are very sorry that one of our Supernumerary Presbyters is moving to another Circuit for family reasons. We wish him well and are very grateful that he will continue to support the Circuit throughout the 2024-25 year.

It is good to see that over the past year more people from within the Circuit have taken on roles within the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Methodist District. This is undoubtedly beneficial to the District, and also gives a wider context, dimension and understanding to the work of the Circuit. The Circuit now has representatives within the District in relation to the areas of manses, grants, safeguarding, probationers and the District Policy Committee.

The Circuit continues to develop cohesion through the various communication channels including sharing by email through the Email Hub Co-ordinators, newsletter and the website. The Circuit Administrator plays a key role in this work who works with great efficiency and highly effectively. This work has been developed further through the past year with a Circuit Christmas Celebration sharing in entertainment and food. A Summer Celebration then followed by meeting in a member's garden, sharing in fellowship, a picnic and an outdoor service. Both events were well represented from across the Circuit and very well received.

Zoom continues to be a useful platform for the Circuit. The evening service is held three times a month and the Bible Studies take place most weeks. These both attract an average of about 30 people each week. The evening service tends to be quite reflective in nature and, through the technological skills of the team preparing the Powerpoint presentations, a variety of approaches can be taken. The Bible Studies have covered both themes and specific books of the Bible.

The churches continue to work to serve their communities throughout the week. Several churches have continued to offer Warm Spaces to the local community and, in some cases, this has developed into a regular ongoing event throughout the year offering a space for people in the local community to meet. The churches continue to reflect on their mission and all churches have engaged in thinking about how they reach out to the communities and contexts they serve. Some have finalised mission plans and others are continuing to work towards this.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Circuit is indebted to the team of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders who support the leading of worship on a weekly basis. During this past year, two Local Preachers have been admitted on to 'full plan' including one who studied through the Armed Forces Local Preacher training pathway. He was the first person in the Connexion to complete this training pathway. Two worship leaders have also completed their training. A third Worship Leader in training is awaiting the outcome of the moderation following completion of the Connexional course. Three members of the Circuit were privileged to be involved in the Connexional video to support Vocations Sunday promoting the ministries of local preachers and worship leaders.

Membership numbers across the Circuit on 1 November 2023 stood at 280. This represents a slight drop from 290 the previous year. Several of the churches reported receiving into membership people who had not previously been members of the Methodist Church.

Small group working continues to develop well. Several of these groups deliberately work on a time limited piece of work which, once completed, means the group no longer needs to meet. The Communications group and Mission Planning group are such examples, and we are very grateful for the work that has been completed in these areas. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and GDPR groups continue to work on their respective areas as needed.

New groups in the past year have included a Worship Development Group as part of the statutory support for our probationer, a Succession Planning Group to look at succession planning for key Circuit roles and the Lay Worker Feasibility Group which started its work in August 2024. A small group met to discuss and recommend a Circuit Grants Policy to help in the strategic management of resources for churches. This work was completed, and a Circuit Grants Policy adopted by the Circuit Meeting in March 2024. The Circuit has a Creation Care and Climate Justice group which meet as an informal support group for the churches. The Circuit has registered for the A Rocha Eco Circuit scheme and a further church has registered for the Eco Church scheme.

It has been a quieter year on the property front. After a great deal of negotiation, the sale of West Bergholt Methodist Church completed in September 2023 and the negotiations for the lease of Marks Tey Methodist Church to Achieve Together were finally concluded in November 2023. The manse at New Town Road sold quickly and this completed in September 2023. The Circuit is incredibly grateful to the Circuit Property Steward who has overseen this area of work.

Following an appropriate period of reflection and conversation, the Circuit has formulated, consulted and adopted a Mission Plan which clearly outlines the strategic priorities. These include a focus on Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism which are in line with the 'Our Calling' statement of the Connexion. A review document will provide the basis of monitoring progress to the plan as the Circuit seeks to share the message of Jesus to the wider community.

The Circuit is hugely thankful to the many volunteers who work so hard within the churches and the Circuit. There is a huge range of gifts, skills and talents and the commitment which is shown by so many cannot be underestimated. This is a clear demonstration of the depth of faith which is present throughout the Circuit. There is a great sense of care which is backed up by a willingness to come together and support one another. This makes such a huge difference and is wonderful to see. It is a clear witness to the love of Christ in the way this is demonstrated. The members of the Circuit Meeting continue to work together conscientiously to exercise their responsibilities through the regular meetings held. We are grateful for all their work.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Over the coming year, the Circuit will be continuing their work in supporting our probationer minister and a focus on the implementation of the Mission Plan. The Circuit has agreed to a Circuit wide service series based on the book of Jonah in February 2025. The Circuit will continue to be available to support churches in their setting and implementation of mission plans as appropriate. It is hoped that churches will continue to build on the work they have already undertaken and seek to reach out into the local communities as they seek to share the love of Christ in the communities they serve. We look forward to sharing in God's work in Colchester, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, in the coming year.

Rev Chris Preece
Superintendent Minister
2nd September 2024

Treasurers' Report

As this year has seen the Circuit Finance Group bed in, we have discerned ways of working suitable to the Circuit and personnel. This has included discussions of financial controls and mechanisms of operation, with a Terms of Reference document created to embody this.

The material transactions this year are two property transactions that completed in September 2023, namely the Manse Property at New Town Road and the former church premises at West Bergholt. The income and expense impact of these transactions was recorded in prior year. This year we record the balance sheet capital impact, a move out of Property into Investments. Circuit Unrestricted Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) increased by £513,300 (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) Investment receipt, and General Unrestricted Fund decreased equally (property outgoing).

Income Trends

All our churches were able to and paid assessment for the year in line as per budget and we would like to record here our deep gratitude for this support. Investments returned above budget levels of income as rates were elevated on deposit funds during the year. Marks Tey (rental) income is in line with the contract, but above the original budget.

Expenditure trends

The stipend levels for our 2 full time Ministers are set by Connexion centrally, we are so grateful for their guidance and also the lay services of our part time Administrator and Finance Officer. The District element of assessment was down on prior year and the District Levy was lower than expected. This because we received property proceeds later, so they were excluded from the Levy calculation. Property maintenance was under budget overall this year, £3,900 of spend related to Marks Tey work.

Fund balances

We are grateful God has provided for us again this year and enabled His work in Colchester to continue. Note 19 to the accounts shows the full analysis of funds movements through the year.

General Unrestricted funds total £1,341,880 at year end and CMTF unrestricted ended the year at £827,525. A General Unrestricted deficit for the year of £491,254 is more than offset by the surplus in CMTF of £534,356; driven by two large property sales, as detailed above and at accounts Note 7. The Sylvia Bristowe unrestricted TMCP trust grew slightly this year and ended at £2,682.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Our designated funds for mission and Ministerial relocation have not moved during the year, whilst Designated Property repair fund was topped up to £15,000, being £5,000 for each of: 2 manses and one let property.

Our Restricted Funds for Marks Tey (burial ground upkeep) is a TMCP trust, trust which grew slightly this year and ended at £1,685. The Restricted Benevolent Fund received an allocation of investment income, ending the year at £1,498. Equally, the Restricted Tollgate Development Fund received an allocation of investment income, ending the year at £10,398.

Finance Plans for 2024/25

The 2024/25 budget has been agreed and sustains current ministerial / lay staffing levels. Recently, Methodist Connexion informed a pension contribution rate decrease (Ministerial pensions) down to 20%, below that budgeted. The budget maintains assessment at roughly the level of the current year, one church having a minor increase. The budget contains a small deficit at circuit level, against reserves: £14,000, reduced to £10,000 post pension decrease (equivalent to 4% of total expenditure).

The year 2024-25 will continue to be a year of consolidation alongside the development of plans for increased witness and Mission within Colchester by the Circuit and its Methodist churches. The Circuit Mission Plan (as explained above) will clarify the picture of how we best employ reserves for God's work in and around Colchester. The Circuit envisages supporting Methodist church initiatives; such matters will continue under Circuit scrutiny, potentially involving material spending.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy ordinarily provides for the Circuit to hold a sum equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure, equating to £88,650 for this year. In normal times this should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure (for example on manses).

Current additional reserves are being held over this amount, whilst a policy is formulated to support mission grants to churches, and in support of other church projects, as described above.

Miss R van Staveren
Chair of Circuit Finance Group
22nd October 2024

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Full name of charity	Methodist Church Colchester Circuit
Registration Charity Number	1138024
Date of registration	10 September 2010
Correspondence Address:	C/O Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, CO1 1TT

Circuit Ministers and officers -

Circuit Ministers

Rev'd C Preece (Circuit Superintendent)
Rev'd H Chun

Circuit Stewards

Mr T Trevers (Senior)
Mr E Pentney (Property)
Mrs S Crafer
Mrs J Winward

Circuit Finance Trustee:

Miss R van Staveren

The self-employed Finance Officer (Alistair Jenkins) and the Finance Trustee above acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

The voting members of the Colchester Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees being a membership being made up of Circuit office holders, Ministers and Representatives appointed by the churches in the Circuit. Full membership of the Circuit Meeting at 31 August 2024 appears as Appendix A to this report.

Independent Examiner

Mr V P Chandler FCA FCCA, of
Moore Green Chartered Accountants
22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk
CO10 2AA

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 the Methodist Church Act (1976). The objects are in line with those for the overall Methodist Church.

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

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT).

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees. Other training resources are made available by the Methodist Connexional offices.

Related parties

The Circuit is part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. The following Methodist Churches are members of the circuit – The Ark Highwoods, Castle, Lexden, Mersea Island, The Well, Wimpole Road and Wivenhoe.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Administration and the Circuit Treasurer with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and expenditure are being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a monthly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process.

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 disclosure 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, co-operating 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 Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches. The Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the auditors and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Trustees



Mr Tony Trevers Senior Circuit Steward



Miss R van Staveren Chair of Circuit Finance group

Date 14-05-2025

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH
COLCHESTER CIRCUIT CHARITY COMMISSION REFERENCE NUMBER 1134248**

I report on the accounts of the Methodist Church Colchester Circuit Charitable Trust for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustee of the charity, 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

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 and I believe that:

- Accounting records were kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act.
- The accounts accord with those records.
- The accounts 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.

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.

Signed:  Date 14.05.2025

Mr V P Chandler FCA FCCA,
Moore Green Chartered Accountants
22 Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk
CO10 2AA

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

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METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Colchester Circuit		Circuit No 34/6						
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Un-restricted)	Designated Funds (un-restricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
1	Donations and legacies						0	2,500
2	Income from monetary investments	4	6,000	39,662	699		46,361	13,770
3	Income from investment properties	5	19,567				19,567	20,457
4	Assessments on Churches	6	155,620				155,620	146,944
5	Capital Receipts	7	-513,236	513,236			0	0
6	Grants received						0	0
7	Other charitable income	8	1,819				1,819	1,075
8	Total income		-330,230	552,898	0	699	0	223,367
Expenditure								
9	Grants and donations						0	335
10	Salaries and associated costs	9	92,121				92,121	88,197
11	Property maintenance	11	12,439				12,439	35,282
12	Connexional assessment & model tr	10	26,722				26,722	28,270
13	District Assessment & Levy	10	6,530	17,543			24,073	25,266
14	Depreciation						0	0
15	Office expenses	12	14,866				14,866	10,525
16	Other outgoings	13	8,345	999		5	9,349	25,666
17	Total charitable expenditure		161,024	18,542	0	5	0	213,541
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0	
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0	-83,942
20	Net income/(expenditure)		-491,254	534,356	0	694	0	43,796
21	Transfers between funds	17	58,365	-57,405	-960		0	0
22	Other gains/(losses)							
23	Net movement in funds		-432,890	476,951	-960	694	0	43,796
24	Total funds brought forward		1,774,769	350,574	53,685	12,937	2,191,965	2,304,702
25	Total funds carried forward		1,341,880	827,525	52,725	13,631	0	2,235,761

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

Colchester Circuit		Circuit No 34/6						
	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	14	1,000,210					1,000,210	1,328,252
Church buildings		0					0	185,194
Investment properties		248,960					248,960	248,960
Total fixed assets		1,249,170	-	-	-	-	1,249,170	1,762,406
Current Assets								
Debtors & Prepayments	15	7,003					7,003	44,754
Loans by the Circuit							0	
Investments with TMCP		2,682	827,650		1,685		832,017	354,729
Central Finance Board Deposits		72,327		52,725	11,946		136,998	34,201
Cash at Bank and in hand		15,353					15,353	3,363
Total current assets		97,365	827,650	52,725	13,631	0	991,371	437,047
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	16	4,655	125				4,655	7,488
Grants payable within 2023-4								
Total current liabilities		4,655	125	0	0	0	4,655	7,488
Net current assets/liabilities		92,710	827,525	52,725	13,631	0	986,716	429,559
Total assets less current liabilities		1,341,880	827,525	52,725	13,631	0	2,235,886	2,191,965
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23							-	
Loans to the Circuit							-	
Net assets		1,341,880	827,525	52,725	13,631	0	2,235,886	2,191,965
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	17	1,341,880					1,341,880	1,774,769
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	17		827,525				827,525	350,575
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	17			52,725			52,725	53,685
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,222,130	2,179,029
Restricted Funds	17				13,631		13,631	12,936
Endowment Funds						0	0	0
Total Funds		1,341,880	827,525	52,725	13,631	0	2,235,761	2,191,965

Circuit Treasurer:

RACHEL VAN STAVEREN

Approved:



METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) issued in October 2019.

The Methodist Church Colchester Circuit meets the definition of a 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 note(s) below.

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

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Methodist Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Designated Funds are intended for a particular purpose, but remain unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those held for a defined purpose, as stipulated within the trust deed. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in Note 19 to these accounts and funds may be represented by cash or other assets.

3 Accounting Policies

A Income

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 of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as 'Other income' in the SOFA will be shown separately only where considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of our much valued volunteers is not quantified in these accounts (but our gratitude is). Further information on volunteer participation is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

B Expenses / VAT

Expenses are recognised immediately when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, provided: (1) the amount is reliably measurable, and (2) it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit. This is the application of the accruals principle to expenses.

As a registered Charity, the Circuit is not VAT registered and all input VAT is charged within the related expense.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

C Fixed Assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold residential properties are shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being the properties' market value resulting from a professional valuation in 2015. Colchester Circuit last conducted an external valuation of properties at September 2021. The Circuit has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102.

No Fixed Asset depreciation is being provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the properties in their present condition to be not less than the historical cost and, in the absence of any impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the properties would be immaterial.

D Investment Properties

The Circuit holds the previous church premises at Marks Tey as an Investment Property, given there are no plans to dispose of it and a rental income is being received. Also at West Bergholt we hold retained areas (newer burial ground and bus shelter footprint), and the newer burial ground at Boxted (former Methodist Church).

E Debtors and Prepayments

The main prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of the payment made, in late August 2024, to the Methodist Church centrally, being due early September.

F Creditors

Creditors relate to unpaid invoiced expenditure at August 31 2024, plus provision for amounts likely to become payable related to year ending August 31 2024.

4 Income from Monetary Investments

In all cases this has been derived from funds deposited with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP. Where a restricted fund does not have a unique TMCP account, then that fund is allocated a portion of general fund CFB investment income in equitable proportion.

5 Income from Investment Properties

Rental Income	2024	2023
General Fund	19,567	-
Designated Fund – Marks Tey	-	20,457

During the year the circuit decided to cease the Marks Tey designation and hence the rental income re church premises and grounds now accrues into the general fund.

6 Assessment on Churches

Each Circuit church is assessed for a yearly contribution towards meeting the costs of the Circuit's operations, including the payment of Ministerial costs and the Circuit's annual assessments in respect of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion. The amount assessed on each church is considered and agreed annually by the Finance and Resources Committee and confirmed at the summer Circuit Meeting. Such amounts were all paid in full for this year and we are very grateful to our constituent churches for their co-operation.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

7 Capital Receipts and Outgoing

These relate to the two property transactions that completed in September 2023, namely the Manse Property at New Town Road and the former church premises at West Bergholt (as described in trustee report). The income and expense impact of these transactions was recorded in prior year. This year we record the balance sheet movement, out of from Property (note 14) into Investments, there is an equal outgoing in General Unrestricted fund. The movement made up as follows:

	£	
Capital receipts (proceeds from sales less fees):	775,393	
TMCP Levy raised on sale of properties (Note 10):	(262,157)	
Receipt in CMTF Unrestricted Fund (TMCP)	<u>513,236</u>	

8 Other Income

General Fund	2024	2023
Tending Finance Officer Contribution	1,375	715
Other Items	<u>444</u>	<u>160</u>
	1,819	875
Restricted items		200
TOTAL	1,819	1,075

9 Salaries and Associated costs

(a) Costs relating to Superintendent and Presbyter

In the Connexional year 2023-24 the Circuit had 2 full time Presbyters (August 2023 – 2). The stipends, employer's National Insurance Contributions and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. Manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property.

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the Presbyter and the remaining members of the CLT are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs meeting of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit (see Appendix).

(b) Pensions

All presbyters are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist Ministers (which term includes presbyters) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The Connexion accounts for this pension scheme and full pensions disclosures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts.

(c) Stipend related costs

General Fund	2024	2023
Stipends	60,984	56,549
Pension Contributions	13,564	14,487
NI / Apprenticeship Levy	6,194	5,750
Computer Grant	388	352
Travel	2,325	3,563
Telephone	1,626	1,513
Council Tax	5,532	5,296
Water charges	<u>1,508</u>	<u>687</u>
TOTAL	92,121	88,197

A pension refund of a prior year additional contribution for £2,167 is included within the above.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

10 District & Connexional Assessment and Levy

(a) Assessment on the circuit

The Connexional and District Assessment on circuit is calculated relative to the proportion of church members, and staffing (Presbyters and Mission staff only) of all Circuits in the Beds, Essex & Herts District. For Colchester Circuit this year this amounted to £33,252.

(b) Levy assessed on the Circuit

An annual levy is charged, calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit's CMTF Account balance as at 31 August the previous year. For Colchester Circuit this year this amounted to £17,543 on our CMTF Fund and was assessed prior to the property proceeds being credited.

A specific levy of £262,157 was made on the sale proceeds received into CMTF, see Note 7, which the Connexion recycles into schemes according to Methodist Church purposes. However as required by SORP, this is netted off against the Capital Receipt in CMTF Fund.

11 Property Maintenance

The maintenance costs of properties, include costs of Quinquennial inspections, of the total £3,854 relates to the maintenance of Marks Tey rental property.

The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses and investment property, are supported by a designated fund, which is a buffer against occasional larger items of spend impacting Property Maintenance. In line with Connexional recommendations and in concurrence with the Property Steward, this is targeted at £5,000 per property (see reserves Note 19).

12 Office expenses

General Fund	2024	2023
Lay Administration / Staff	12,790	8,455
Independent Examination	1,200	1,210
Other Office expenses	<u>876</u>	<u>860</u>
TOTAL	14,866	10,525

The costs of Finance officer were offset for part of the year by Tendring contribution within Other Income (see Note 8).

13 Other outgoings

General Fund	2024	2023
Supply preacher fees (Incl. travel)	1,436	1,825
Professional Fees	2,000	424
Insurance	4,264	1,800
Mission related	500	-
Other	150	596
General CMTF Fund		
Investment Management Fees	<u>999</u>	<u>1,022</u>
TOTAL	9,349	5,667

Designated Funds	2024	2023
Re-location of Presbyter	-	2,716
Professional Fees	-	<u>17,283</u>
TOTAL	-	19,999

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Restricted Funds	2024	2023
Investment Management Fees	5	5

This year's insurance charge (general fund) includes 2 Manses and Marks Tey expense. Marks Tey reimburse the expense, which is included within rental income.

14 Property

Ongoing Use

At 31 August 2024 the Colchester Circuit owns 2 Manses, inhabited by Circuit Presbyters, at Cambridge Road and Robin Crescent. Note C to accounting policies covers the valuation dates. Property given a nominal value are as follows: West Bergholt retained areas (newer burial ground and bus shelter footprint), as well as the newer burial ground at Boxted (former Methodist Church).

The sale of the Church Buildings: New Town Road Manse and the West Bergholt former Church (except for the retained areas as below) completed in September 2023. Note 7 explains property receipt into CMTF Unrestricted funds, offset by the property disposal outgoing in General Unrestricted funds.

PROPERTY

	Manses			Church Buildings		
	Total	Land	Buildings	Total	Land	Buildings
Balance as at 1 September 2023	1,000,210	247,710	752,500	513,236	128,250	384,986
Proceeds from sale	-	-	-	513,236	-128,250	-384,986
Market / other movement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 August 2024	1,000,210	247,710	752,500	-	-	-

Investment Property

Principal Investment Property is Marks Tey (former Methodist Church), controlled by the Circuit, and let to a Life Skills training organisation under a 5-year Lease.

	Investment Property		
	Total	Land	Buildings
Balance as at 1 September 2023	248,960	62,250	186,710
Proceeds from sale	-	-	-
Market / other movement	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 August 2024	248,960	62,250	186,710

The Trustee for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Trust property, Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing advice and acting under their direction, the local Managing Trustees comply with Charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

15 Debtors and Prepayments

General Fund	2024	2023
Prepaid stipends	7,003	6,902
Property sales fees in advance	0	23,362
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>33</u>
TOTAL	7,003	30,297
Designated Funds	2024	2023
Rent due on New Lease	<u>0</u>	<u>14,457</u>
TOTAL	0	14,457

16 Creditors and Accruals – due in under 1 year

Unrestricted Fund	2024	2023
Trade creditors	311	471
Accruals	3,269	205
Independent Examination Fee	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
TOTAL	4,780	1,876
Designated Funds	2024	2023
Trade creditors	0	2,392
Accruals	<u>0</u>	<u>3,220</u>
TOTAL	0	5,612

17 Reserves

Unrestricted (General) Reserves

General / unrestricted funds are those which have not been earmarked and are available to further the general purposes of Colchester Methodists. General Fund includes the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is an unrestricted fund and much of this emanates from the sale of former church buildings.

Designated Reserves

1 Mission Fund - This aligns with Methodist core purpose to carry the gospel message and will be developed in the future in line with Grants policy.

2 Ministers Re-location Fund - This is to provide for re-location costs and current level is considered adequate.

3 Marks Tey – this related to the extended negotiations over rental of Marks Tey. During the year the circuit decided to cease the Marks Tey designation, once the rental agreement was concluded.

4 Property Repairs - The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses and investment property, are supported by a designated fund, which is a buffer against occasional larger items of spend impacting Property Maintenance. In line with Connexional recommendations and in concurrence with the Property Steward, by year end this has reached the desired £5,000 per property (2 manses and 1 investment property).

Restricted Reserves

Restricted funds are those held for a defined purpose, as stipulated within the trust deed.

1 Development Tollgate - For use in Development and Outreach work in establishing a Methodist presence within the physical area of new housing - the Tollgate area of Colchester

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

2 Benevolent - Available to provide support to those less well off at the ministers' discretion

3 Marks Tey Burial Ground - Bequest specified for maintenance of the burial grounds at Marks Tey, which is linked to a specific interest earning TMCP fund.

Reserves Movement over the Year

RESERVES	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Transfer	Closing Balance
Unrestricted (General)	1,772,218	- 330,368	- 161,017	58,365	1,339,198
Unrestricted (CMTF)	350,575	552,898	- 18,542	- 57,405	827,525
Unrestricted (Sylvia Bristowe)	2,551	138	- 7	-	2,682
TOTAL Unrestricted	2,125,344	222,668	- 179,566	960	2,169,405
Mission	30,112	-	-	-	30,112
Property Maintenance	13,170	-	-	1,830	15,000
Minister Relocation	7,613	-	-	-	7,613
Marks Tey	2,790	-	-	- 2,790	-
TOTAL Designated	53,685	-	-	- 960	52,725
Restricted Benevolent	1,468	79	-	-	1,548
Restricted Devel. Tollgate	9,865	533	-	-	10,398
Restricted Marks Tey	1,603	87	- 5	-	1,685
TOTAL Restricted	12,936	699	- 5	-	13,631
TOTAL Reserves	2,191,965	223,367	- 179,571	- 0	2,235,761

The transfers above relate to:

- (1) The removal of the designation for Marks Tey rental negotiations
- (2) Increase in Property Maintenance designation to the full £5,000 x 3 property figure
- (3) A movement into general fund from CMTF in respect of past property transactions

Analysis of Reserves by Net Assets

As shown on face of balance sheet:

- (1) the unrestricted general reserve is made up of circuit Fixed Assets, as well as Current Asset (Debtors and Creditors) and a proportion of the cash and investments.
- (2) Restricted Reserves, all designated reserves and the Sylvia Bristowe unrestricted reserve are split between TMCP investment funds and cash at Central Finance Board (CFB) deposit fund.

18 Related parties and Trustees expenses

No Trustees made donations to the Circuit during the year. All of the Trustees are members of a church in the Circuit and may also be on the Church Councils of those churches. Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the Beds Essex & Herts Methodist District, other circuit churches, CFB and TMCP. Only one Trustee has indicated a non - beneficial link via family marriage with a supplier to the Circuit. Expenditure solely for Circuit expenses giving rise to reimbursement to Trustees amounted to £nil.

19 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities existing at year end.

METHODIST CHURCH COLCHESTER CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Appendix I

Colchester Methodist Circuit Managing Trustees

September 2023 to August 2024 inclusive

Ministers Rev Chris Preece
 Rev Hannah Chun

Supernumerary Ministers Rev Paul Howes
 Rev Ron Smith

Circuit Stewards Mrs Sally Crafer
 Mr Edward Pentney (Property)
 Mr Tony Trevers (Senior Steward)
 Miss R van Staveren (Finance)
 Mrs Judith Winward

Circuit Local Preachers Representative Mr Ron Firmin

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator Dr Geoff Casey

Representatives appointed by Circuit Churches:-

The Ark, Highwoods Mrs Pat Baker
 Miss R van Staveren
 Mrs Gail Chapman (appointed January 2024)

Castle Mr Clive Carrington
 Mr Bob Finch
 Mr Richard Pettit
 Mr Chris Pratt
 Mr Derek Coe (appointed November 2023)

Lexden Mr Neil Austin
 Mr Alan Beesley
 Mrs Vivian Wilcox
 Mr Geoff Wilcox

Mersea Island Mr John Brook
 Rev David Moody
 Mrs Joan Moody
 Mrs Ann Brook (appointed April 2024)

The Well, Mile End Miss Tracey Chapman
 Mrs Judith Fletcher
 Mr John Jones
 Mrs Di Thompson

Wimpole Road Mr Peter Broom (resigned July2024)
 Mrs Margaret Club
 Mrs Christine Firmin
 Mr Andrew Topple (resigned July2024)
 Mr Edward Pentney

Wivenhoe Mr Phil Bingham
 Mr Brian Dack (resigned July2024)
 Mrs Betty Rampling
 Mrs Joan Keeble (appointed April 2024)

Appendix II

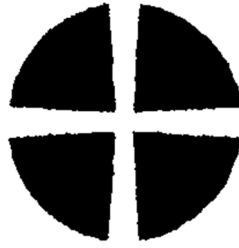
Glossary of Terms

CFB:	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for the Methodist Church in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities.
Church:	a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 90
Circuit:	a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 20
Circuit Meeting:	The trustees of the Circuit, most of whom are appointed by their local Churches and others by virtue of a role they undertake for the Circuit and/or their local Churches.
CLT	Circuit Leadership Team which comprises the Presbyters (Ministers) and pastors stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Treasurers
CMTF:	Circuit Model Trust Fund
Connexion:	The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.
Connexional Funds:	The designated and/or Restricted Funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives.
District:	a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30
DAF:	District Advance Fund
FRS:	Financial reporting Standard
HMRC:	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Lay Employees:	Personnel employed by the Circuit on generally accepted commercial employment terms.
MMPS:	Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme
PASLEMC:	Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church
Pensions Trust:	The Pensions Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges a pension scheme for its Lay Employees
Presbyters	Probationer or Ordained Methodist Ministers (including the Superintendent) who have pastoral and administrative responsibility for the Churches within the Circuit
SOFA:	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP:	Statement of Recommended Practice
TMCP:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1138024

Accounts



THE METHODIST CHURCH

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity number 1138024

TRUSTEES REPORT and ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 August 2023

(Accruals basis)

The Colchester Methodist Circuit is part of the
Beds, Essex & Herts District of the Methodist Church.

Circuit reference 34-06

Colchester Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 August 2023

Chair of Trustees Report September 2022 – August 2023

Reflecting on the year ending August 2023, one of the main themes of the year has been the navigation of transitions. This has been evident in a number of ways and has been achieved through the skills and commitment shown by many, the majority of whom are volunteers, and to whom the Circuit is incredibly grateful.

Following two colleagues 'sitting down' (retiring) in July 2022, the previous ministerial team of three people has been reduced to two. A new Superintendent minister was appointed from September 2022 and the remaining presbyter entered stationing to move Circuits with effect from September 2023. These changes necessitated alterations in the sections overseen by individual ministers and a new approach to the rhythm of working across the Circuit. The care and support of the Circuit Leadership Team, including the gifts and skills of two new Circuit Stewards, and church members have enabled these changes to be navigated smoothly and effectively.

From September 2023 the Circuit is privileged to have a probationer minister join the team who will be entering their first appointment. All appropriate arrangements have been made to ensure the support that is needed has been put into place. We now look forward to a time of stability within the ministerial team.

We are very grateful to our Circuit Steward (Finance) for all the work he has done over many years. Having indicated that he wished to retire, he continued in the role for a further year to enable a transition to be made to a new model for managing the finances. The Circuit has now engaged the services of a paid Circuit Finance Officer. Having offered the possibility to a neighbouring Circuit to join forces, a single appointment was made for the two Circuits. Colchester Methodist Circuit oversees the management of the role. To date, this is working very well.

Tollgate Methodist Community, which was acting as a class of Lexden Methodist Church made the decision during the year to cease as a formal entity. The work that had been done ecumenically in the Stanway area was noted and marked. The group had not formally met since the pandemic and felt it was right this work was continued in a different way. For many years, the Circuit has had a Social Issues Group which has also decided the work they have done could be explored in a different way. This group's work was noted in the June Circuit Meeting. With both Tollgate Methodist Community and the Social Issues Group, grateful thanks are offered to those who have faithfully completed this work over a number of years.

Work continues to develop the cohesion of the Circuit through its communication and ways of working alongside each other. The Circuit website has been redeveloped and refreshed with a greater number of people now able to edit. We now have a Circuit Diary on the website which is maintained by the Circuit Administrator with inputs from all of our churches. A Circuit newsletter has been introduced giving the churches an opportunity, on a quarterly basis, to share their news with others and a quarterly face-to-face evening Circuit Communion service has recently been introduced.

These are alongside the Circuit Zoom Bible studies and evening Zoom services which continue to attract an average of about 25 people per week. The introduction of small group working has been successful and includes groups for Communications, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, GDPR, Farewell and Welcome Service Group planning and a standing group for Finance. Other small groups are being considered for the future including succession planning.

The Circuit has been overseeing several property transactions over the year. This has included the sale of properties, some of which have been more protracted than would have been liked. It is anticipated these will all be completed early in the 2023-24 Connexional year.

The churches have continued to focus on what it means to serve the communities in which they are placed following on from the pandemic. Five out of the seven churches engaged with the Warm Space initiative to provide a warm and welcoming space for people who may be struggling through the cost-of-living crisis. These churches were also very grateful for the grants received through the Bedfordshire, Essex, and Hertfordshire Methodist District to help support this work. As a result, some of the churches have continued to open and new coffee mornings and places of welcome have emerged through it. All the Circuit churches have been asked to consider their mission plans as they seek to share God's love with the community. There is ongoing work which began with a SPA (Serving the Present Age?) day led by the BEH District. The consideration of mission planning for the Circuit will now be undertaken.

During the year, several churches have continued to think about their care for creation and the environment. Work has been undertaken in a number of churches to raise awareness of the climate crisis and also to find ways of incorporating cultural change into the way we live as Christ's disciples. Some churches have achieved the Bronze Eco Church award as part of this work.

Much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure necessary checks and training are put into place. The Circuit Safeguarding training team has delivered a number of sessions for Foundation training over the year and facilitated the opportunity for people from the neighbouring Circuit to attend. The EDI training that is required has been approached innovatively, with a team from the Circuit exploring and trialling face-to-face training opportunities to enhance the online options provided by the Connexion. We are very grateful to those who have led the training and pleased that those who have needed to complete the training have been able to do so.

Membership figures at 1st November 2022 stood at 290. This represents a reduction from 330 at the same time of the previous year. Several churches have reviewed their membership figures following on from the pandemic. Since 1st November 2022, more than half of the churches in the Circuit have received into membership people who had not previously been members of the Methodist Church.

The Circuit is very grateful to the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders who support the leading of worship on a weekly basis. During this year, the training for two Worship Leaders has been completed and a Local Preacher 'on trial' is coming towards the end of her studies. The changes within the ministerial team have inevitably led to more services needing to be covered overall.

The Circuit remains indebted to the many volunteers who work tirelessly within Circuit and Church roles. The talent and commitment of so many cannot be underestimated. Their continued service is a testament to the deep faith that is found within the Circuit. There is a great amount of care, support, and willingness to come and work together which is tremendous to see. There is

considerable wisdom demonstrated by the members of the churches and a desire to be witnesses to Christ in all things.

We are thankful, too, for the ongoing and supportive ministry of the supernumerary ministers in the Circuit. The members of the Circuit Meeting continue to exercise their responsibility diligently as the Managing Trustees through the regular meetings held, sometimes by Zoom and at other times face-to-face. We are grateful for the work the Circuit Meeting members undertake.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Circuit will be focusing on mission planning at a Circuit level, supporting the probationer minister and further consolidating and developing team working. It is hoped churches will want to build on the work they have undertaken through the Warm Spaces initiative and further develop community outreach. It is anticipated the Circuit is now entering a period of stability in staffing and can begin to focus on areas of succession planning to enable everyone to be supported within, and across, the churches and Circuit. We look forward to God's leading through the Holy Spirit as we enter this next year.

*Rev. Chris Preece
Superintendent Minister
31st August 2023*

The Circuit Stewards and Circuit Leadership Team thank our new Superintendent Minister, Rev Chris Preece, for her spiritual, pastoral, and administrative leadership during the past twelve months. Her sensitive and caring approach has ensured the hurdles that had to be negotiated were navigated without causing hurt or misunderstanding.

*Tony Trevers
Senior Circuit Steward
31st August 2023*

Colchester Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 August 2023

Introduction

The Trustees of the Colchester Methodist Circuit are pleased to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the Methodist year ended 31 August 2023. This has been a year of consolidation after the departure of 2 ministers together with the appointment of a new Superintendent minister and Circuit churches continue the process of recovery after the Covid- 19 Coronavirus pandemic. The Circuit has continued to make wide use of latest communications technology to provide Worship & Bible Study resources to the Circuit and a wider audience.

The Trustees wish to thank everyone for their contribution plus the Circuit churches and their members for their continued support in this process of moving forward.

Aims and organisation and “Our Calling Statement” of the Methodist Church

“The Calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”

The Colchester Methodist Circuit seeks to do this through the resources of the Circuit Staff Team together with members of the Circuit churches plus the assistance of Supernumerary Ministers and visiting Preachers when available.

Brief financial review of the year

In the year to August 31 2023 the General Fund, before fund transfers, achieved a net operating profit of £8,067 (2022 net loss £8,213). After transfers to Designated Funds there was a total General Fund loss of £4,144 (2022 net loss of £27,046) compared to the anticipated Budget loss for the year of £15,268. The improvement arose as a result of reduced level of transfers to Designated Funds combined with lower than anticipated Admin support costs due to delayed implementation of revised Circuit Financial management arrangements, further assisted by higher level of deposit interest received and a bequest of £2,500.

During the year higher expenditure, compared to 2021-22, was incurred on property repair costs mainly associated with maintenance of retained burial grounds and utility costs continuing to be incurred on the vacant West Bergholt property while sale negotiations were ongoing plus the vacant manse at New Town Road pending a decision being made concerning its future use.

During the year Designated Fund account balances relating to Quinquennial costs and the Local Preachers\Worship Leaders Fund were reduced to zero with the balances at 1 September 2022 being transferred to General Funds. Expenses relating to these properties in 2022-23 were dealt with via the General Fund.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the quarterly assessment paid over by the circuit churches. Investment income relates to the rental of Marks Tey Methodist Church.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (Cont'd)

Brief financial review of the year (cont'd)

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased in the financial year in line with the Methodist Conference approved increases from September 2022. At end August 2023 the Circuit had 2 (2022 3) full time ministers.

The Circuit contribution to the Beds Herts and Essex Methodist District and the Central Methodist Connexional Office, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church, was £35,376 which represented a small increase of £452 compared to 2022-23.

The Repairs and maintenance fund is being replenished annually from the General Fund in line with centrally suggested increase levels, whilst having regard to avoidance in building up excess balances given the current state of repair of manse properties and likely future needs. Any monies unspent are carried forward to later years. Other property repairs relate to repairs, burial ground maintenance and insurance costs for other properties overseen by the Circuit.

At August 31 2023 an agreed sale price sale had been agreed for the Manse Property at New Town road with exchange of contracts imminent. The church premises and grounds at West Bergholt, which were no longer in use, remained under offer of sale, with agreed transaction prices, and contract exchange expected shortly. Both sales proceeded to completion in September 2023

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the total net current assets of the Circuit were £429,559, but this includes £350,575 held in the Model Trust Fund at TMCP and a significant portion of which may be designated for use in creating a new Church Community in the area on new build known as Chesterwell. The adjusted level of net current asset of £78,984 provides approximately 5 months cover for projected Circuit total expenditure in 2023-24.

Whilst slightly higher than might be normal policy, it is considered prudent to retain this level to accommodate the possibility that, with reduced attendances and increasing costs, the remaining Circuit churches might find it difficult to maintain the current level of Circuit assessment in future years despite the number of Presbyters having fallen to 2 from September 2022.

Plans for 2023-24

The Circuit Budget has been prepared on the basis that there would continue to be 2 full time ordained staff receiving anticipated cost of living stipend increase at September 2023 combined with having part time Circuit Administrator and Circuit Finance Officer in post for a full year plus other estimated increases in costs. Due to the continuing financial effects of Covid -19 on the income of churches, it was not possible to implement the normal agreed formula in calculating Church Assessments for 2023 -24 As a result the assessments were agreed to be the 2022-23 level but increased to £155,620 in total, representing an overall increase of 6%.

The resulting Budget shortfall of £7,506 together with any actual variations from the Budget will need to be met from the Circuit General Reserve.

The year 2023-24 will continue to be a year of consolidation alongside the development of plans for increased witness and Mission within Colchester by the Circuit and its constituent churches.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (cont'd)

Professional Advisers to the Circuit (cont'd)

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London, EC2A 4PE

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester, M1 1JQ

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC, High Street Branch
Colchester, CO1 1 DA

Solicitors Thompson Smith and Puxon
Stable 6, Stable Road
Colchester, CO2 7GL

Property Boydens, Estate Agents
Aston House, 57-59 Crouch Street
Colchester, CO3 3EY

Ablewhite Surveyors Limited
4 & 5 The Cedars
Apex 12
Old Ipswich Road
Colchester
CO7 7QR

TMA Professional Services LLP
The Gatehouse, 116-118 Rainsford Road
Chelmsford, CM1 2QL

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (cont'd)

Aims and organisation

The Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Colchester for the Methodist Church:

"The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of the Deed 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 organisation and resourcing of 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.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting, plus the Circuit Finance and Resources Committee.

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 as induction to their role as trustees. Other training resources are made available by the Methodist Connexional offices.

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (cont'd)

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following active Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

The Ark (Highwoods), Castle, Lexden (including Tollgate Methodist Community to June 2023), Mersea Island, The Well (Mile End), Wimpole Road and Wivenhoe.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership team Meeting and the Circuit Finance and Resources 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 quarterly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and 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 Church 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, co-operating 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

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (cont'd)

Safeguarding (cont'd)

The Colchester Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer monitors the level of training required by all those subject to Safeguarding Certification requirements via the national Disclosure and Barring Scheme and the currency of those certificates via local Church Safeguarding Officers.

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

Reserves Policy

The normal Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. In normal times this should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability of churches to raise the full Circuit Assessment and having regard to possible future changes in Circuit Church composition and financing requirements. Currently, however, it is deemed prudent to hold a higher level of reserves to cover future uncertainty over the development of the Circuit following the various Church closures and the continuing effect on local Church finances of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team

Rev'd C Preece

Circuit Superintendent

Miss Rachel van Staveren

Chair of Circuit Finance Group

Date

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022-23 £	Total 2021-22
Income								
1 Donations and legacies	4	2,500					2,500	2,100
2 Income from monetary investments	5	2,425	10,957		388		13,770	2,076
3 Income from investment properties	6			20,457			20,457	6,000
4 Assessments on Churches	7	146,944					146,944	154,692
5 Capital Receipts	8						0	0
6 Grants received	9						0	8,778
7a Other charitable income	10						0	0
7b Other income	11	875			200		1,075	2,707
8 Total income		152,744	10,957	20,457	588	-	184,746	176,353
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations	12	335					335	3,150
10 Salaries and associated costs	13	88,197					88,197	122,928
11 Property maintenance	14	7,399		29,678			37,077	40,264
12 Connexional assessment	15	28,270					28,270	27,845
13 District Assessment & Levy	15	7,106	18,160				25,266	16,046
14 Depreciation	3						0	0
15 Office expenses	16	10,525					10,525	9,129
16 Other outgoings	17	2,845	1,022	19,999	5		23,871	7,184
17 Total charitable expenditure		144,677	19,182	49,677	5	0	213,541	226,546
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0	0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties								5,324
20 Net income/(expenditure)		8,067	-8,225	-29,220	583	0	-28,795	-44,869
21 Transfers between funds	22	- 12,211		11,961	250		0	0
22 Other (losses)- property reval'n	8,18	- 83,942					-83,942	0
23 Net movement in funds		-88,086	-8,225	-17,259	833	0	-112,737	-44,869
24 Total funds brought forward		1,862,855	358,800	70,944	12,103		2,304,702	2,349,571
25 Total funds carried forward		1,774,769	350,575	53,685	12,936	-	2,191,965	2,304,702

Name of Circuit		COLCHESTER					Circuit No	34-06
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2022/23 £	Totals 2021/22 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	3,18	1,328,252					1,328,252	1,425,000
Circuit Churches	3,18	185,194					185,194	172,388
Investment properties	3,18	248,960					248,960	248,960
Total fixed assets		1,762,406	0	0	0	0	1,762,406	1,846,348
Current Assets								
Debtors	19	30,297		14,457			44,754	14,996
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Investments with TMCP	20	2,551	350,575	1,603			354,729	360,358
Central Finance Board Deposits	20			21,265	12,936		34,201	84,974
Cash at Bank and in hand	20	-18,609		21,972			3,363	3,344
Total current assets		14,239	350,575	59,297	12,936	0	437,047	463,672
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	21	1,876		5,612			7,488	5,318
Grants payable within 2022-23							0	
Total current liabilities		1,876	0	5,612	0	0	7,488	5,318
Net current assets/liabilities		12,363	350,575	53,685	12,936	0	429,559	458,354
Total assets less current liabilities		1,774,769	350,575	53,685	12,936	0	2,191,965	2,304,702
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23							0	
Loans to the Circuit							0	
							0	
Net assets		1,774,769	350,575	53,685	12,936	0	2,191,965	2,304,702
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	22,23	1,774,769					1,774,769	1,862,855
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	22,23		350,575				350,575	358,800
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	22,23			53,685			53,685	70,944
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,179,029	2,292,599
Restricted Funds	22,23				12,936		12,936	12,103
Endowment Funds	2					0	0	0
Total Funds		1,774,769	350,575	53,685	12,936	0	2,191,965	2,304,702
Signed						Signed		
Circuit Superintendent						Chair of Circuit Finance Group		

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) issued in October 2019.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Methodist Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Designated Funds are those specified for particular purposes but remain unrestricted. Restricted funds are those held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 22 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, professionally suggested current market values of property in use and allowing for potential direct selling costs. The values of the New Town Road Manse and West Bergholt premises are included after allowing for anticipated Connexional Property Levies which will be deducted from the net sale proceeds.

The accruals basis has been followed to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the proceeds, the Trustees are reasonably certain the resources will be received and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the value of time given by volunteers is not recognised.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered and all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1000. All properties are freehold, and the estimated land component of all properties is indicated in note 18 to the accounts.

No depreciation is provided on buildings in use since the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings and other properties (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties at New Town Road and West Bergholt are included at Market Value. Other Circuit properties were valued by external inspection at September 2021.

Investment Properties

The church premises at Marks Tey is deemed to be an Investment Property in that there are no immediate plans to dispose of it and a rental income is being received.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

Investments

Apart from a Cash Deposit Account with CFB, which is available at call, and proceeds from property sales plus bequests deposited with TMCP the Circuit had no other monetary investments.

Debtors and Prepayments

The main prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of the payment made, in late August 2023, to the Methodist Church centrally being the value of monthly Ministerial Stipend due to the Circuit Ministers on September 1 2023 and payable in advance by Circuits

Creditors

Creditors relate to unpaid invoiced expenditure at August 31 2023 plus provisions for amounts likely to become payable associated with year to August 31 2023 accounting period.

Impact of Accounting changes

In preparing the Accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS102 and the Charities SORP 102, the statement of comparative items was required. The Balance Sheet at 31 August 2023 includes the corresponding amounts from the 2021-22 Accounts in these accounts for comparison purposes.

Values

All data is stated in "rounded" £ sterling.

4. Donations and Legacies

The General Fund received a bequest of £2,500 via the estate of a deceased Circuit Member. This is deposited with Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and has no restrictions on its use.

5. Income from Monetary Investments

In all cases this has been derived from funds deposited with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP.

6. Income from Investment Properties

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>General Fund</u>	Nil	Nil
<u>Designated Fund – Marks Tey</u>		
Rental of church premises & grounds	20,457	6,000

7. Assessment on Churches

Each Circuit church is assessed for a yearly contribution towards meeting the costs of the Circuit's operations, including the payment of Ministerial costs and the Circuit's annual assessments in respect of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion. The amount assessed on each church is considered and agreed annually by the Finance and Resources Committee and confirmed at the summer Circuit Meeting.

8. Capital receipts and Profit on Property sales

As detailed under Note 18 the Manse property at New Town Road and the Church property at West Bergholt were in the process of being sold shortly after the year end. An adjustment for Market value at August 2023 is included in the Accounts.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)

9. Grants Received

No District or Connexional Grants were received by the Circuit during 2022-23.

10. Other Charitable Income

There was no Other Charitable Income to be disclosed for 2022-23.

11. Other Income

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Tending Circuit Contributions		
to costs of shared Finance Officer	715	Nil
to costs of shared Manse property	Nil	1,148
Licence Fee re Bus Shelter area	129	Nil
Burial grounds fees	<u>31</u>	<u>Nil</u>
	<u>875</u>	<u>1,148</u>
 <u>Designated Funds</u>		
Licence Fee re Bus shelter area	Nil	129
Sale of Furniture – redundant Churches	Nil	630
Burial grounds fees	Nil	600
Compensation	Nil	200
Total	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1,559</u>
 <u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Allocation of part energy cost rebate for vacant manse	<u>200</u>	<u>Nil</u>

12. Grants & Donations

In the year to August 31 2023 the following donations were paid from the Circuit General Fund

Boxted Methodist Silver Band	100
The Ark Methodist Church re Computer	235
Total	<u>335</u>

13. Salaries and Associated Costs

In the Connexional year 2022-23 the Circuit had 2 full time Presbyters (August 2022 – 3). The Circuit is required to pay “employer” contributions to the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme in respect of all Presbyters. The Pension Scheme is controlled and administered by The Methodist Church centrally.

A home telephone and broadband connection is provided solely for use on Circuit business and travel costs incurred on Circuit business are re-imbursed against expense claims.

The Ministers’ Manses are provided by the Circuit which maintains and insures the properties. The value of Community Charge and Water Charges are shown below but these are not regarded by HMRC as being “Benefits in Kind”.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

13. Salaries & Associated Costs (Cont'd)

All costs of the Presbyters are met by the General Fund, except where it is possible for allocation to a Designated Fund. In such cases the costs are included with "Other Outgoings".

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Stipends	56,549	80,055
Pension Contributions	14,487	22,840
NI & Apprenticeship Levy	5,750	8,045
Computer Grant	352	513
Travel	3,563	1,744
'Phone	1,513	1,846
Community Charge	5,296	6,361
Water charges	687	1,524
Total	<u>88,197</u>	<u>122,928</u>

14. Property Maintenance

The maintenance costs of properties, shown as expenses incurred by the General Fund, relate to the costs of insurance for Circuit Manses, utilities costs on vacant manses whilst being or awaiting re-furbishing and costs of Quinquennial inspections.

The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses and retained burial grounds, where Church properties have been sold, are met from a Fund specifically designated for this purpose and which is funded from the General Fund in line with Connexional recommended levels for amounts to be set aside annually on a per manse basis and to maintain the fund in positive territory.

In addition, Designated Fund property maintenance costs relate to insurance costs and property costs for the Marks Tey churches premises.

15. Connexional and District Assessments

These allocated Assessments are calculated to reflect the number of Church members and the staffing of the Colchester Circuit in proportion to the total numbers within the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District. 50% of the assessment is calculated using membership and 50% using staffing levels.

Also at 1st September, the Beds, Essex & Herts District takes an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust funds held by TMCP for the purposes of the District Advance Fund.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

16. Office Expenses

General Fund

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Stationery, Printing, Postage	471	853
Computer costs	195	208
Circuit Admin. Assistance	8,455	6,711
Mobile 'phone cost Administrator	194	239
Independent Examination cost	1,210	1,075
Total	<u>10,525</u>	<u>9,086</u>

17. Other Outgoings

General Fund

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Supply Preacher Fees	1,125	940
Other travel costs	700	619
General Insurance	190	162
Legal & Professional fees	424	(240)
Advertising	329	(222)
Equipment	Nil	134
Sundry expenses	77	236
Total	<u>2,845</u>	<u>1,629</u>

Model Trust Fund

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
TMCP Administration Fee	<u>1,022</u>	<u>654</u>

Designated Funds

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Quinquennial inspection costs	Nil	2,880
Presbyter re-location costs	2,716	2,021
Legal & Professional Fees	17,283	Nil
Total	<u>19,999</u>	<u>4,901</u>

Restricted funds

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
TMCP Administration Fee	<u>5</u>	<u>Nil</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

18. Tangible Fixed Assets

At 31 August 2023 the Colchester Circuit possessed 3 Manses and the church at West Bergholt which is considered to be part of Operating assets at present, while that property sale awaits completion. In addition, Marks Tey Methodist Church, which is under the control of the Circuit, is considered to be an Investment Property. This property is currently used by a Life Skills training organisation and negotiations are continuing for a replacement 5-year Lease.

The Circuit has retained ownership of the newer burial ground at Boxted and this is included in Tangible Fixed Assets at a nominal value of £100.

The sale of the Manse at New Town Road and the Church property at West Bergholt (except for the retained areas of newer burial ground and the bus shelter footprint) will be completed in September 2023. It has been assumed that the net sale proceeds, after sale costs and the compulsory Connexional Levy amount, can be considered to represent the Market Value of these properties at 31 August 2023. This has resulted in the negative valuation adjustment of £83,942 indicated at Line 22 on the SOFA.

As stated under Note 3 to the accounts no depreciation has been charged on Fixed Assets.

The Trustee for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Trust property, Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for day- to- day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing advice and acting under their direction, the local Managing Trustees comply with Charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Operating Properties

	<u>Land</u>	Manse <u>Buildings</u>	Church <u>Buildings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at 1 Sept 2022	403,600	1,072,500	121,288	1,597,388
Market Value adjustment	(27,640)	(73,748)	17,446	(83,942)
Balance at 31 Aug 2023	<u>375,960</u>	<u>998,752</u>	<u>138,734</u>	<u>1,513,446</u>

Investment Properties

	<u>Land</u>		Church <u>Buildings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at 1 Sept 2022	62,250	-	186,710	248,960
Balance at 31 Aug 2023	<u>62,250</u>		<u>186,710</u>	<u>248,960</u>
Total all Properties	<u>438,210</u>	<u>998,752</u>	<u>325,444</u>	<u>1,762,406</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

19. Debtors and Prepayments

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Prepaid Stipends	6,902	6,424	-	-
Property Surveys & Legal Fees paid in advance	22,672	8,539	-	-
Insurance refunds re property sales	690	-	-	-
Arrears of rent due on New Lease Agreement	-	-	14,457	-
Other Debtors and Prepayments	<u>33</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33</u>
Total	<u>30,297</u>	<u>14,963</u>	<u>14,457</u>	<u>33</u>

20. Cash at Bank and in hand

All Balances at Bank relate to the General Fund and Designated Funds. Other Designated Fund balances are deemed to be held within the deposits at the Central Finance Board from which regular monthly transfers to the Circuit's current account with Barclays Bank PLC are made to meet the actual expenditure for all funds. The balance held by TMCP as Circuit Model Trust money derives mainly from the sale of Boxted and Fingringhoe Methodist Church premises or to bequests relating to the General Fund or Designated Funds.

21. Creditors and Accruals – due in under 1 year

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Trade creditors	471	760	2,392	1,344
Other Creditors and Accruals	205	1,180	3,220	934
Independent Examination Fee	1,200	1,100	-	-
Total	<u>1,876</u>	<u>3,040</u>	<u>5,612</u>	<u>2,278</u>

22. Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This is used at the discretionary of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and where funds have not been designated for other purposes. The vast majority of the total General Fund is held as freehold properties, being manses for Ministers and churches under the control of the Circuit.

General Fund includes the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is an unrestricted fund, and at 31 August 2023 predominantly represented the net proceeds from the sale of the properties at Boxted Methodist Church and Fingringhoe Methodist Church.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

22 Funds (Cont'd)

Designated Funds

These are Funds designated for specific purposes but whose use is not restricted by any document or deed specifying the purpose indicated. Details of movements in these funds during 2022-23 are set out below.

Restricted Funds

These comprise the Mission Fund (formerly the Development Fund) and a donation received, the terms of which specify that it may only be utilised in Development and Outreach work in connection with establishing a Methodist presence within the area of new housing being built in the Tollgate area of Colchester together with a bequest specified for maintenance of the burial grounds at Marks Tey.

Fund Movements

	Balance <u>1 Sept '22</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Balance <u>31 Aug '23</u>
General Fund:-					
Property Reserves	2,147,743	10,957	(103,124)	-	2,055,576
Current Reserves	<u>73,912</u>	<u>152,744</u>	<u>(144,677)</u>	<u>(12,211)</u>	<u>69,768</u>
	<u>2,221,655</u>	<u>163,701</u>	<u>(247,801)</u>	<u>(12,211)</u>	<u>2,125,344</u>

Transactions shown under Property Reserves relate to profits & provisions on property sales plus income & expenses in the Model Trust Fund which has resulted from property transactions.

Designated Funds:-

	Balance <u>1 Sept '22</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Balance <u>31 Aug '23</u>
Marks Tey	5,731	20,457	(23,398)	-	2,790
Local Preachers\ Worship Leaders	369	-	-	(369)	Nil
Mission	30,112	-	-	-	30,112
Repairs & Maint	24,268	-	(23,563)	12,465	13,170
Quinquennials	1,135	-	-	(1,135)	Nil
Ministers Reloc'n	<u>9,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,716)</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>7,613</u>
Total	<u>70,944</u>	<u>20,457</u>	<u>(49,677)</u>	<u>11,961</u>	<u>53,685</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

22 Funds (Cont'd)

Restricted Funds:-

Development –

Tollgate	9,527	338	-	-	9,865
Benevolent	1,018	200	-	250	1,468
Marks Tey –					
Burial Grounds	<u>1,558</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,603</u>
Total	<u>12,103</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>12,936</u>

TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,304,702</u>	<u>184,746</u>	<u>(297,483)</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<u>2,191,965</u>
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23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Net Current Assets</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund:-			
Property Reserves	1,705,550	350,026	2,055,576
Current Reserves	<u>56,856</u>	<u>12,912</u>	<u>69,768</u>
	<u>1,762,406</u>	<u>362,938</u>	<u>2,125,344</u>
Designated Funds:-			
Marks Tey	-	2,790	2,790
Mission	-	30,112	30,112
Manse Repairs\Maintenance	-	13,170	13,170
Ministers Relocation	<u>-</u>	<u>7,613</u>	<u>7,613</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>53,685</u>	<u>53,685</u>
Restricted Funds:-			
Development – Tollgate	-	9,865	9,865
Benevolent	-	1,468	1,468
Marks Tey – Burial Grounds	<u>-</u>	<u>1,603</u>	<u>1,603</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>12,936</u>	<u>12,936</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,762,406</u>	<u>429,559</u>	<u>2,191,965</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

24. Related parties and Trustees expenses

No Trustees made donations to the Circuit during the year. All of the Trustees are members of a church in the Circuit and may also be on the Church Councils of those churches.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the Beds Essex & Herts Methodist District, other circuit churches, CFB and TMCP. Only one Trustee has indicated a non - beneficial link via family marriage with a supplier to the Circuit.

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee during the financial period.

Expenditure related solely to relevant expenses of the Circuit and the payments to Trustees were simply reimbursement of such. The total amounted to £789.

25 Volunteer Contributions

The Circuit and all Circuit churches are heavily dependent on volunteers who contribute skills, time, energy and in the case of churches money. This is primarily in the filling of specific posts and by serving on Committees. The Circuit is very grateful to them all for their help and commitment.

No attempt has been made to value the voluntary contributions in financial terms.

26. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities existing at year end.

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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

Name and address of Treasurer 2022-2023 Geoffrey Wilcox

2 Ladell Close, Colchester, Essex
CO3 9XT

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 5th December 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev, C Preece

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1138024

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Colchester Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 11 to 22. 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.

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 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the 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 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: Vincent P Chandler

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA, FCCA

Name of firm: Moore Green, Chartered Accountants

Address: 22 Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AA

Date:

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Managing Trustees

September 2022 to August 2023 inclusive

Ministers	Rev Chris Preece Rev Joe Adams (left Circuit on 16 th July 2023)
Supernumerary Ministers	Rev Paul Howes
Circuit Stewards	Mrs Sally Crafer Mr Edward Pentney (Property) Mr Tony Trevers (Senior Steward) Mr Geoffrey Wilcox (Finance) Mrs Judith Winward
Circuit Local Preachers Representative	Mr Ron Firmin
Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Dr Geoff Casey
Social Issues Working Group Co-ordinator	Mr Keith Thompson

Representatives appointed by Circuit Churches:-

The Ark, Highwoods	Mrs Pat Baker Miss Rachel van Staveren
Castle	Mr Clive Carrington Mr Bob Finch Mr Richard Pettit Mr Chris Pratt
Lexden	Mr Neil Austin Mr Alan Beesley Mrs Vivian Wilcox
Mersea Island	Mr John Brook Rev David Moody Mrs Joan Moody
The Well, Mile End	Miss Tracey Chapman Mrs Judith Fletcher Mr John Jones Mrs Di Thompson
Wimpole Road	Mr Peter Broom Mrs Margaret Club Mrs Christine Firmin Mr Andrew Topple
Wivenhoe	Mr Phil Bingham Mr Brian Dack Mrs Betty Rampling

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1138024

Accounts



THE METHODIST CHURCH

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity number 1138024

TRUSTEES REPORT and ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 August 2022

(Accruals basis)

The Colchester Methodist Circuit is part of the
Beds, Essex & Herts District of the Methodist Church.

Circuit reference 34-06

Colchester Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Chair of Trustees Report

The main theme dominating the year 2021-22 was to work out the differing ways in which the Circuit and churches returned following the Covid pandemic. By the end of the year on-site worship had resumed in all churches. Other activities have been reviewed with some beginning again and others in abeyance it being considered that it now is not the right time to resume. There continue to be weekly Zoom services and Bible study offered and which attract a good number of people as well as on-site activities and groups.

There has been some considerable change within the leadership of the Circuit. The Superintendent and his presbyteral colleague both 'sat down' (retired) in July 2022. The Circuit expressed its thanks and appreciation of their contribution to the Circuit at a special service at that time. A new Superintendent was welcomed in September 2022. Within the Circuit Steward team, two new Stewards have been welcomed to the team and grateful thanks are expressed for those who have chosen to stand down. This period of adjustment also includes an acknowledgement that the Circuit is now working with a team of two presbyters as opposed to three previously.

This period of change has precipitated a review of the ways of working within the Circuit. To this end, more small groups are now being formed to consider differing aspects of the life of the Circuit such as Communications. It is hoped that other small groups will be formed as it encourages more people to be involved in the leadership of the Circuit, in a way that is time limited and more conducive to the other responsibilities that people hold.

During the 2021-22 Connexional year much consideration and review of the way of the financial management of the Circuit was undertaken. This work continued into September 2022, and beyond, with a focus on ensuring that the financial knowledge is shared between a wider group of people to make a more sustainable model. A small Finance Group was set up in August 2022 to further consider this work and made recommendations to the September Circuit Meeting to employ a part time Circuit Finance Officer who would work in conjunction with the Finance Group to oversee the financial affairs of the Circuit.

The Circuit membership at 1st November 2021 stood at 330. This represents a reduction of 22 from the previous year. Throughout the 2021-22 Connexional year several churches have undertaken a review of membership.

Individual churches are being attentive to their context and the situation in the world. Several churches are considering their response to the climate crisis with possible involvement in the Eco Church Award. The economic crisis also looms large for many and the possibilities for reaching out to local communities is being considered.

There are many talented and committed volunteers whose care and support cannot be underestimated. The time, effort and energy that is put into Circuit life by so many is testament to the depth of faith that there is within the Circuit. The ministry of the supernumerary ministers is greatly appreciated by many for the work and support they offer to the life of the Circuit.

Looking ahead from September 2022, the Circuit has entered stationing for a presbyter to succeed a minister who will be moving to another Circuit in Summer 2023. It is anticipated that more small groups will be formed so that specific areas of the Circuit's life will be developed more effectively over time. A Circuit newsletter is being reintroduced with a view to churches and the Circuit sharing information about the life of the Circuit and supporting one another. 2022-23 will be a year of consolidation with a focus on mission planning whilst the new team continues to settle and work alongside each other, and the churches within the Circuit. There is a commitment to discerning God's direction for the Circuit and we look forward to all that God has planned.

Rev. Chris Preece

Superintendent Minister

November 2022

Colchester Methodist Circuit

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Introduction

The Trustees of the Colchester Methodist Circuit are pleased to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the Methodist year ended 31 August 2022. This has been a very challenging year for the Circuit staff, Circuit officers and other volunteers resulting from staff sickness and, due to the Covid- 19 Coronavirus pandemic, Circuit Churches having to remain closed until early summer 2021 before some form of normal worship could be resumed. Inevitably there have been some deaths and people who, for various reasons, have chosen not to return to Church. The Circuit has continued to make wide use of latest communications technology to provide Worship & Bible Study resources to the Circuit and a wider audience.

The Trustees wish to thank everyone for their contribution plus the Circuit churches and their members for their support and understanding during this difficult period.

Aims and organisation and “Our Calling Statement” of the Methodist Church

“The Calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”

The Colchester Methodist Circuit seeks to do this through the resources of the Circuit Staff Team together with members of the Circuit churches plus the assistance of Supernumerary Ministers and visiting Preachers when available.

Brief financial review of the year

In the year to August 31 2022 the General Fund, before recognising profit on a property sale, achieved a net operating loss of £8,213 (2021 net profit £4,924) and after transfers to Designated Funds a total General Fund loss of £27,046 (2021 net loss of £8,426) compared to the anticipated Budget loss for the year of £39,896. The improvement arose as a result of significantly lower travel and administration costs, combined with lower than anticipated miscellaneous costs further assisted by receipt of a Connexional grant relating to staff sickness costs.

During the year higher expenditure, compared to 2020-21, was incurred on Manse repair costs mainly associated with re-furbishing of the Cambridge Road manse for the incoming Superintendent. The Trustees are aware that in 2022-23 significant expenditure may be required on the manse at New Town Road to compensate for work previously deferred.

Utility costs continued to be incurred on the vacant West Bergholt property while sale negotiations are ongoing.

At the year end the account balances relating to Fingringhoe (now sold), Boxted and West Bergholt had been reduced to zero. Any further expenses relating to these properties will be dealt with via the General fund or other appropriate designated funds.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the quarterly assessment paid over by the circuit churches. Investment income relates to the rental of Marks Tey Methodist Church.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022 (Cont'd)

Brief financial review of the year (cont'd)

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased in the financial year in line with the Methodist Conference approved increases from September 2021. At end August 2022 the Circuit had 3 (2021 3) full time ministers.

The Circuit contribution to the Beds Herts and Essex Methodist District and the Central Methodist Connexional Office, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church, was £34,924 which represented a decrease of £1,096 compared to 2021-22.

The Manse repair and maintenance fund is being replenished annually from the General Fund in line with centrally suggested increase levels and any monies unspent are carried forward to later years. Other property repairs relate to repairs, burial ground maintenance and insurance costs for other properties overseen by the Circuit.

At August 31 2022 the church premises and grounds at West Bergholt, which are no longer in use, remained under offer of sale with agreed sale prices but contracts not yet exchanged.

The premises at Fingringhoe were sold in autumn 2021 and the net proceeds, after Connexional Levies, deposited with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) in the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is unrestricted as regards future use by the Circuit.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022 the total net current assets of the Circuit were £458,354, but this includes £358,800 held in the Model Trust Fund at TMCP and a significant portion of which may be designated for use in creating a new Church Community in the area on new build known as Chesterwell. The adjusted level of net current asset of £99,554 provides approximately 7 months cover for projected Circuit total expenditure in 2022-23.

Whilst slightly higher than might be normal policy, it is considered prudent to retain this level to accommodate the possibility that, with reduced attendances and increasing costs, the remaining Circuit churches might find it difficult to maintain the current level of Circuit assessment in future years despite the number of Presbyters having fallen to 2 from September 2022.

Plans for 2022/23

The Circuit Budget has been prepared on the basis that there would be 2 full time ordained staff receiving anticipated cost of living stipend increase at September 2022 combined with having a part time Circuit administrator in post for a full year plus other estimated increases in costs. Due to the financial effects of Covid -19 on the income of churches, it was not possible to implement the normal agreed formula in calculating Church Assessments for 2022-23. As a result the assessments were agreed to be the 2021-22 level but reduced by 5.0% to £146,944 in total.

The resulting Budget shortfall of £15,268 together with any actual variations from the Budget will need to be met from the Circuit General Reserve.

The year 2022-23 will continue to be a year of consolidation alongside a re-assessment by the Circuit and its constituent churches of the pattern of witness within Colchester.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022 (cont'd)

Professional Advisers to the Circuit (cont'd)

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London, EC2A 4PE

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester, M1 1JQ

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC, High Street Branch
Colchester, CO1 1 DA

Solicitors Thompson Smith and Puxon
Stable 6, Stable Road
Colchester, CO2 7GL

Property Boydens, Estate Agents
Aston House, 57-59 Crouch Street
Colchester, CO3 3EY

Morley Riches & Ablewhite LLP
4 Kings Court, Newcomen Way
Colchester, CO4 9RA

TMA Professional Services LLP
The Gatehouse, 116-118 Rainsford Road
Chelmsford, CM1 2QL

Aims and organisation

The Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Colchester for the Methodist Church:

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

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022 (cont'd)

Aims and organisation (cont'd)

The organisation and resourcing of 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.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

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).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting, plus the Circuit Finance and Resources Committee.

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 as induction to their role as trustees. Other training resources are made available by the Methodist Connexional offices.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following active Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

The Ark (Highwoods), Castle, Lexden (including Tollgate Methodist Community), Mersea Island, The Well (formerly Mile End), Wimpole Road and Wivenhoe.

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022 (cont'd)

Risk Management (cont'd)

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a quarterly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and 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 Church 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, co-operating 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 Colchester Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer monitors the level of training required by all those subject to Safeguarding Certification requirements via the national Disclosure and Barring Scheme and the currency of those certificates via local Church Safeguarding Officers.

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022 (cont'd)

Safeguarding (cont'd)

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

Reserves Policy

The normal Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. In normal times this should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability of churches to raise the full Circuit Assessment and having regard to possible future changes in Circuit Church composition and financing requirements. Currently, however, it is deemed prudent to hold a higher level of reserves to cover future uncertainty over the development of the Circuit following the various Church closures and the effect on local Church finances of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team



Rev'd C Preece, Circuit Superintendent

(from September 1 2022)

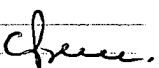
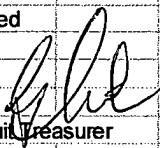


Mr. G Wilcox, Circuit Treasurer

Date

March 28 2023

Name of Circuit		COLCHESTER				Circuit No	34-06
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	4			100	2,000		2,100
2 Income from monetary investments	5	423	1,603		50		2,076
3 Income from investment properties	6			6,000			6,000
4 Assessments on Churches	7	154,692					154,692
5 Capital Receipts	8						0
6 Grants received	9	8,778					8,778
7a Other charitable income	10						0
7b Other income	11	1,148		1,559			2,707
8 Total income		165,041	1,603	7,659	2,050	-	176,353
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	12	1,150			2,000		3,150
10 Salaries and associated costs	13	122,928					122,928
11 Property maintenance	14	3,537		36,277	450		40,264
12 Connexional assessment	15	27,845					27,845
13 District Assessment & Levy	15	7,079	8,967				16,046
14 Depreciation	3						0
15 Office expenses	16	9,086		43			9,129
16 Other outgoings	17	1,629	654	4,901			7,184
17 Total charitable expenditure		173,254	9,621	41,221	2,450	0	226,546
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19a Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
19b Profit/(loss) on property sales	8	5,324					5,324
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-2,889	-8,018	-33,562	-400	0	-44,869
21 Transfers between funds	22	- 156,317	137,484	18,583	250		0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-159,206	129,466	-14,979	-150	0	-44,869
24 Total funds brought forward		2,022,061	229,334	85,923	12,253		2,349,571
25 Total funds carried forward		1,862,855	358,800	70,944	12,103	-	2,304,702

Name of Circuit	COLCHESTER					Circuit No	34-06	
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022								
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021/22	Totals 2020/21
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	3, 18	1,425,000					1,425,000	1,425,000
Circuit Churches	3, 18	172,388					172,388	304,548
Investment properties	3, 18	248,960		0	0	0	248,960	248,960
Total fixed assets		1,846,348	0	0	0	0	1,846,348	1,978,508
Current Assets								
Debtors	19	14,963		33			14,996	10,709
Loans by the Circuit							0	0
Investments with TMCP	20		358,800		1,558		360,358	229,334
Central Finance Board Deposits	20	1,240		73,189	10,545		84,974	131,333
Cash at Bank and in hand	20	3,344					3,344	3,444
Total current assets		19,547	358,800	73,222	12,103	0	463,672	374,820
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	21	3,040		2,278			5,318	3,757
Grants payable within 2021-22							0	0
Total current liabilities		3,040	0	2,278	0	0	5,318	3,757
Net current assets/liabilities		16,507	358,800	70,944	12,103	0	458,354	371,063
Total assets less current liabilities		1,862,855	358,800	70,944	12,103	0	2,304,702	2,349,571
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2021-22							0	0
Loans to the Circuit							0	0
Net assets		1,862,855	358,800	70,944	12,103	0	2,304,702	2,349,571
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	22, 23	1,862,855					1,862,855	2,022,061
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	22, 23		358,800				358,800	229,334
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	22, 23			70,944			70,944	85,923
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,292,599	2,337,318
Restricted Funds	22, 23				12,103		12,103	12,253
Endowment Funds	2					0	0	0
Total Funds		1,862,855	358,800	70,944	12,103	0	2,304,702	2,349,571
Signed		Signed						
								
Circuit Superintendent		Circuit Treasurer						
Date		March 28 2023						

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) issued in October 2019.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Designated Funds are those specified for particular purposes but remain unrestricted. Restricted funds are those held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 22 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, professionally suggested current market values of property in use and allowing for potential direct selling costs. The value of the West Bergholt premises is included after allowing for anticipated Connexional Property Levies which will be deducted from the net sale proceeds.

The accruals basis has been followed to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the proceeds, the Trustees are reasonably certain the resources will be received and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the value of time given by volunteers is not recognised.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered and all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1000. All properties are freehold and the estimated land component of all properties is indicated in note 18 to the accounts.

No depreciation is provided on buildings since the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings and other properties (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties were valued by external inspection at September 2021.

Investment Properties

The church premises at Marks Tey is deemed to be an Investment Property in that there are no immediate plans to dispose of it and a rental income is being received.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

Investments

Apart from a Cash Deposit Account with CFB, which is available at call, and proceeds from property sales and a bequest deposited with TMCP the Circuit had no other monetary investments.

Debtors and Prepayments

The main prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of the payment made, in late August 2022, to the Methodist Church Centrally being the value of monthly Ministerial Stipend due to the Circuit Ministers on September 1 2022, and payable in advance by Circuits

Creditors

Creditors relate to unpaid invoiced expenditure at August 31 2022 plus provisions for amounts likely to become payable associated with year to August 31 2022 accounting period.

Impact of Accounting changes

In preparing the Accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS102 and the Charities SORP 102, the statement of comparative items was required. The Balance Sheet at 31 August 2022 includes the corresponding amounts from the 2020-21 Accounts in these accounts for comparison purposes.

Values

All data is stated in "rounded" £ sterling

4. Donations and Legacies

No donations to the General Fund were received during the year. In regard to Designated Funds a donation was received towards the cost of creating a new Garden of Remembrance at West Bergholt Church. A new Restricted Fund was created as the result of a bequest given for the purpose of maintaining the burial grounds at Marks Tey Church.

5. Income from Monetary Investments

This has been derived entirely from funds deposited with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and Trustees for Methodist Church purposes (TMCP).

6. Income from Investment Properties

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>General Fund</u>	Nil	Nil
<u>Designated Fund – Marks Tey</u>		
Rental of church premises & grounds	6,000	6,000

7. Assessment on Churches

Each Circuit church is assessed for a yearly contribution towards meeting the costs of the Circuit's operations, including the payment of Ministerial costs and the Circuit's annual assessment in respect of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion. The amount assessed on each church is considered and agreed annually by the Finance and Resources Committee and confirmed at the summer Circuit Meeting.

8. Capital receipts and Profit on Property sales

During the year the Church property at Fingringhoe was sold and the resulting profit on sale is disclosed in the accounts

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

9. Grants Received

The Circuit received a grant from Connexional Funds in relation to the extended sickness of one of the Presbyters during 2021-2022

10. Other Charitable Income

There was no Other Charitable Income to be disclosed for 2021-22

11. Other Income

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Tending Circuit Contribution to costs of shared Manse	<u>1,148</u>	<u>1,307</u>
 <u>Designated Funds</u>		
Licence Fee re Bus shelter area	129	130
Sale of Furniture – redundant Churches	630	2,649
Burial grounds income	600	140
Compensation	200	Nil
Insurance refund – Boxted	Nil	140
Miscellaneous Income	Nil	2
Total	<u>1,559</u>	<u>3,061</u>

12. Grants & Donations

In the year to August 31 2022 the following donations were paid from Circuit Funds

	General Fund	Restricted Funds
Citizens UK	1,000	
Staff welfare	150	
Colchester Food Bank		1,000
Refugee Action – Colchester		1,000
Total	<u>1,150</u>	<u>2,000</u>

13. Salaries and Associated Costs

In Connexional year 2021-22 the Circuit had 3 full time Presbyters (August 2021 – 3Presbyters). The Circuit is required to pay “employer” contributions to the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme in respect of all Presbyters. The pension scheme is controlled and administered by The Methodist Church centrally.

A home telephone and broadband connection is provided solely for use on Circuit business and travel costs incurred on Circuit business are re-imbursed against expense claims.

The Ministers’ Manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains and insures the properties. The value of Community Charge and Water Charges are shown below but these are not regarded by HMRC as being “Benefits in Kind”

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

13. Salaries & Associated Costs (Cont'd)

All costs of the Presbyters are met by the General Fund, except where it is possible for allocation to a Designated Fund. In such cases the costs are included with "Other Outgoings".

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Stipends	80,055	79,550
Pension Contributions	22,840	20,598
NI & Apprenticeship Levy	8,045	7,803
Computer Grant	513	507
Travel	1,744	446
'Phone	1,846	1,815
Community Charge	6,361	7,524
Water charges	1,524	1,432
Total	<u>122,928</u>	<u>119,675</u>

14. Property Maintenance

The maintenance costs of properties, shown as expenses incurred by the General Fund, relate to the costs of insurance for Circuit Manses, utilities costs on vacant manses whilst being or awaiting re-furbishing and burial ground maintenance costs at Boxted not met from the remaining Boxted funds balance.

The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses are met from a Fund specifically designated for this purpose and which is funded from the General Fund in line with Connexional recommended levels for amounts to be set aside annually on a per manse basis and to maintain the fund in positive territory.

Designated Fund property maintenance costs relate to insurance costs, utility costs and property costs for Boxted, Fingringhoe, West Bergholt and Marks Tey churches where applicable.

Restricted Fund balances in regard to Marks Tey Burial Ground were utilised to replace the fencing around the burial ground.

15. Connexional and District Assessments

These Assessments are calculated to reflect the number of Church members and the staffing of the Colchester Circuit in proportion to the total numbers within the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District. 50% of the assessment is calculated using membership and 50% using staffing levels.

Also at 1st September, the Beds, Essex & Herts District takes an annual levy on Circuit Model Trust funds held by TMCP for the purposes of the District Advance Fund.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

16. Office Expenses

General Fund

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Stationery, Printing, Postage	853	422
Computer costs	208	192
Ministerial Admin. Assistance	6,711	1,711
Mobile 'phone cost Administrator	239	Nil
Independent Examination cost	1,075	1,045
Total	<u>9,086</u>	<u>3,370</u>

The amount shown under **Designated Funds** relates to stationery

17. Other Outgoings

General Fund

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Supply Preacher Fees	940	125
Other travel costs	619	48
General Insurance	162	162
Professional fees	(240)	(240)
Advertising	(222)	50
Equipment	134	82
Sundry expenses	236	41
Total	<u>1,629</u>	<u>268</u>

Model Trust Fund

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
TMCP Administration Fee	654	<u>51</u>

Designated Funds

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Quinquennial inspection costs	2,880	Nil
Presbyter re-location costs	2,021	Nil
Professional Fees	Nil	120
Total	<u>4,901</u>	<u>120</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

18. Tangible Fixed Assets

At 31 August 2022 the Colchester Circuit possessed 3 Manses and the church at West Bergholt which is considered to be part of Operating assets at present, while the property sale awaits completion. In addition Marks Tey Methodist Church, which is under the control of the Circuit, is considered to be an Investment Property. This property is currently used by a Life Skills training organisation and negotiations have commenced for a replacement 5-year Lease.

The Circuit has retained ownership of the newer burial ground at Boxted and this is included in Tangible Fixed Assets at a nominal value of £100.

As stated under Note 3 to the accounts no depreciation has been charged on Fixed Assets.

The Trustee for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Trust property, Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for day- to- day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing advice and acting under their direction, the local Managing Trustees comply with Charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Operating Properties

	<u>Land</u>	Manse <u>Buildings</u>	Church <u>Buildings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at 1 Sept 2021	437,350	1,072,500	219,698	1,729,548
Disposals in year	(33,750)	-	(98,410)	(132,160)
Balance at 31 Aug 2022	<u>403,600</u>	<u>1,072,500</u>	<u>121,288</u>	<u>1,597,388</u>

Investment Properties

	<u>Land</u>		Church <u>Buildings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at 1 Sept 2021	62,250	-	186,710	248,960
Balance at 31 Aug 2022	<u>62,250</u>		<u>186,710</u>	<u>248,960</u>
Total all Properties	<u>465,850</u>	<u>1,072,500</u>	<u>307,998</u>	<u>1,846,348</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

19. Debtors and Prepayments

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Prepaid Stipends	6,424	9,057	-	-
Property Surveys &			-	-
Legal Fees paid in advance	8,539	800		
Other Debtors and Prepayments	<u>Nil</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>14,963</u>	<u>10,709</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>Nil</u>

20. Cash at Bank and in hand

All Balances at Bank are held within the General Fund. Designated Fund balances are deemed to be held within the deposits at the Central Finance Board from which regular monthly transfers to the Circuit's current account with Barclays Bank PLC are made to meet the actual expenditure for all funds. The balance held by TMCP as Circuit Model Trust money derives mainly from the sale of Boxted and Fingringhoe Methodist Church premises.

21. Creditors and Accruals – due in under 1 year

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Trade creditors	760	268	1,344	33
Other Creditors and Accruals	1,180	2,298	934	83
Independent Examination Fee	1,100	1,075	-	-
Total	<u>3,040</u>	<u>3,641</u>	<u>2,278</u>	<u>116</u>

22. Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This is used at the discretionary use of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and where funds have not been designated for other purposes. The vast majority of the total General Fund is held as freehold properties, being manses for Ministers and churches under the control of the Circuit.

General Fund includes the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is an unrestricted fund, and at 31 August 2022 represented the net proceeds from the sale of the property at Fingringhoe Methodist Church.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)

22 Funds (Cont'd)

Designated Funds

These are Funds designated for specific purposes but whose use is not restricted by any document or deed specifying the purpose indicated. Details of movements in these funds during 2021-22 are set out below.

Restricted Funds

These comprise the Circuit Benevolent Fund and a donation received, the terms of which specify that it may only be utilised in Development and Outreach work in connection with establishing a Methodist presence within the area of new housing being built in the Tollgate area of Colchester together with a bequest specified for maintenance of the burial grounds at Marks Tey.

Fund Movements

	Balance <u>1 Sept '21</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Balance <u>31 Aug '22</u>
General Fund:-					
Property Reserves	2,150,437	6,927	(9,621)	-	2,147,743
Current Reserves	<u>100,958</u>	<u>165,041</u>	<u>(173,254)</u>	<u>(18,833)</u>	<u>73,912</u>
	<u>2,251,395</u>	<u>171,968</u>	<u>(182,875)</u>	<u>(18,833)</u>	<u>2,221,655</u>

Transactions shown under Property Reserves relate to profits & provisions on property sales plus income & expenses in the Model Trust Fund which has resulted from property transactions.

Designated Funds:-

	Balance <u>1 Sept '21</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Balance <u>31 Aug '22</u>
Boxted	592	468	(1,060)	-	Nil
Fingringhoe	2,527	285	(238)	(2,574)	Nil
Marks Tey	16,521	6,000	(15,290)	(1,500)	5,731
West Bergholt	622	906	(6,687)	5,159	Nil
Local Preachers\					
Worship Leaders	412	-	(43)	-	369
Development	30,112	-	-	-	30,112
Manse Repairs	23,522	-	(13,002)	13,748	24,268
Quinquennials	2,265	-	(2,880)	1,750	1,135
Ministers Reloc'n	<u>9,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,021)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>9,329</u>
Total	<u>85,923</u>	<u>7,659</u>	<u>(41,221)</u>	<u>18,583</u>	<u>70,944</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

22 Funds (Cont'd)

Restricted Funds:-

Development –

Tollgate	9,485	42	-	-	9,527
Benevolent	2,768	-	(2,000)	250	1,018
Marks Tey –					
Burial Grounds	<u>-</u>	<u>2,008</u>	<u>(450)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,558</u>
Total	<u>12,253</u>	<u>2,050</u>	<u>(2,450)</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>12,103</u>

TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,349,571</u>	<u>181,677</u>	<u>(226,546)</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<u>2,304,702</u>
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23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Net Current Assets</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund:-			
Property Reserves	1,789,491	358,252	2,147,743
Current Reserves	<u>56,857</u>	<u>17,055</u>	<u>73,912</u>
	<u>1,846,348</u>	<u>375,307</u>	<u>2,221,655</u>
Designated Funds:-			
Marks Tey	-	5,731	5,731
Local Preachers\ Worship Leaders	-	369	369
Development	-	30,112	30,112
Manse Repairs\Maintenance	-	24,268	24,268
Quinquennial Inspections	-	1,135	1,135
Ministers Relocation	<u>-</u>	<u>9,329</u>	<u>9,329</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>70,944</u>	<u>70,944</u>
Restricted Funds:-			
Development – Tollgate	-	9,527	9,527
Benevolent	-	1,018	1,018
Marks Tey – Burial Grounds	<u>-</u>	<u>1,558</u>	<u>1,558</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>12,103</u>	<u>12,103</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,846,348</u>	<u>458,354</u>	<u>2,304,702</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

24. Related parties and Trustees expenses

No Trustees made donations to the Circuit during the year. All of the Trustees are members of a church in the Circuit and may also be on the Church Councils of those churches.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the Beds Essex & Herts Methodist District, other circuit churches, CFB and TMCP. Only one Trustee has undertaken authorised paid work for the Circuit and another Trustee has indicated a non - beneficial link via family marriage with a supplier to the Circuit.

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee during the financial period.

Expenditure related solely to relevant expenses of the circuit and the payments to Trustees were simply reimbursement of such. The total amounted to £2,469.

25 Volunteer Contributions

The Circuit and all Circuit churches are heavily dependent on volunteers who contribute skills, time, energy and in the case of churches money. This is primarily in the filling of specific posts and by serving on Committees. The Circuit is very grateful to them all for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made to value the voluntary contributions in financial terms.

26. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

There were no capital commitments or Contingent liabilities existing at year end

Name of Circuit Colchester

Circuit No 34-06

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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.

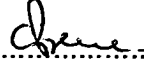
Signature of Treasurer  Date March 27 2023

Name and address of Treasurer: Geoffrey Wilcox

2 Ladell Close, Colchester, CO3 9XT

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on March 27 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Chris. Preece, Circuit Superintendent Date March 27 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Colchester Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1138024

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Colchester Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 10 to 21. 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.

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 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.
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the 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 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: Vincent P Chandler

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA, FCCA

Name of firm: Moore Green, Chartered Accountants

Address: 22 Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AA

Date **03-04-2023**

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Circuit Managing Trustees at 31 August 2022

Ministers	Rev'd Alan Jenkins Rev'd Ken Chalmers Rev'd Joe Adams	
Supernumerary Ministers	Rev'd Paul Howes	
Circuit Stewards	Mr Tony Trevers (Admin.) Mr Geoffrey Wilcox (Finance) Mrs Sheila Dempsey Mrs Avril Lankester Mr Edward Pentney (Property)	
Circuit Local Preachers Representative	Mr Ron Firmin	
Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Dr Geoff Casey	
Representatives appointed by Circuit Churches:-		
The Ark, Highwoods	Mrs Pat Baker Miss Rachel van Staveren Mrs Judith Winward	Rep Finance Steward
Castle	Vacancy Mr Bob Finch Mr Richard Pettit Mr Chris Pratt	Rep 1 Rep 2 Finance Steward
Lexden	Mr Neil Austin Mr Alan Beesley Mrs Vivian Wilcox	Rep Steward Rep
Mersea Island	Mr John Brook Rev'd David Moody Mrs Joan Moody	Finance Rep Steward
The Well, Mile End	Miss Tracey Chapman Mrs Judith Fletcher Mr John Jones Mrs Di Thompson	Finance Rep WB Rep Steward
Wimpole Road	Mr Peter Broom Mrs Margaret Club Mrs Christine Firmin Mr Andrew Topple	Rep 1 Rep 2 Steward Rep
Wivenhoe	Mr Phil Bingham Mr Brian Dack Mrs Betty Rampling	Steward Rep Rep

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1138024

Accounts



THE METHODIST CHURCH

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity number 1138024

TRUSTEES REPORT and ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 August 2021

(Accruals basis)

The Colchester Methodist Circuit is part of the
Beds, Essex & Herts District of the Methodist Church.
Circuit reference 34-06

Colchester Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Chairman's Report

This has been a very difficult year in our Circuit life due to necessary precautions associated with the Covid pandemic. Most of our churches have needed to remain closed for the majority of the year and have only gradually begun to re-open from June, albeit with the wearing of masks and social distancing being required.

Therefore, the Circuit has turned to the use of technology to keep in touch with everyone and to provide a means of weekly worship not just to our Church congregations but also to a wider "audience". As a result the Circuit now has a presence on YouTube, where a high standard of production has been achieved. Circuit and Church Meetings plus Bible Study have taken place using Zoom. Also via Zoom it has now become possible to institute a weekly Sunday Evening worship, led by a Minister, and which attracts regular participants numbering over 25 – a larger number than may have attended physically at an actual service held in the Church.

My special thanks are due to my fellow ministers and the splendid technical team who have made all of this possible despite it being a very steep learning curve.

As mentioned in my report last year, I was on the point of resuming the position of Circuit Superintendent when another health problem materialised, shortly to co-incide with the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately, as a result of Covid, it has become apparent that the low level of my immune system places severe restrictions on any face- to- face contact and which is extremely frustrating. Consequently, I have decided to retire a year early for medical reasons in summer 2022.

Also my colleague, Rev Ken Chalmers experienced a period of significant, and debilitating, ill health from the summer of 2020 to early 2021, after which he began a phased return to full time duties. As a result he will also be retiring from the active Methodist Ministry in Summer 2022.

Unfortunately, our colleague Rev Joe Adams has been unwell since April 2021 and is receiving medical treatment and advice. We look forward to his healthy return in due course.

The Circuit is currently going through the necessary Methodist procedure to seek a new Superintendent Minister for September 2022, when following a re-allocation of Ministerial responsibilities the Circuit will become a 2 Minister Circuit.

The Circuit intends to continue to develop policies designed to explore the potential future growth and structure of the Circuit and the advancement of the mission of the Methodist Church in the Colchester area. This will involve each of the churches, in conjunction with the Circuit, reviewing how best to resume community outreach activities now that some semblance of normal life has resumed. New housing developments continue apace in northern Colchester and the people at The Well (comprising the combined congregation of Mile End, Boxted and West Bergholt Methodist Churches), currently based on Mile End premises, continue to consider how best to establish a presence in this area.

The new Primary Junior school in the Tollgate area is now receiving staged intakes by school year and construction of the long-promised community centre for the Tollgate\Lakelands area has now commenced. Recognition of the vision & sacrifice made by the former members of Eight Ash Green Church in ceasing to worship in order to form the Tollgate Methodist Community and seeking the establishment of a worshipping community for the area remains a Circuit ambition.

At October 2020 the Circuit Church membership totalled 352 which represented a reduction of 18 compared to October 2019. Sadly, the Covid pandemic has had the effect of making more vulnerable members of the Circuit community more circumspect in deciding whether to return to "live" worship in our Churches.

The remaining major part of the Boxted Methodist Church premises have been disposed of during the year. The Church at Fingringhoe is now proceeding through legal channels and the premises at West Bergholt have an active purchasing interest which, it is anticipated, will come to a successful conclusion.

The Circuit is fortunate in having a group of highly committed and professional lay volunteers, without whom the continuing work of the Circuit would be impossible. We continue to be very grateful to them all for their continued endeavours and support.

The Connexional Year, 2021-22 will be a challenging year for the Circuit, involving a degree of consolidation and re-assessment of priorities, but we move forward firmly determined to remain positive in order to ascertain and engage with the changes which God has planned for this Circuit.



Rev'd Alan Jenkins,
Circuit Superintendent

10 November 2021

Colchester Methodist Circuit

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Introduction

The Trustees of the Colchester Methodist Circuit are pleased to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the Methodist year ended 31 August 2021. This has been a very challenging year for the Circuit staff, Circuit officers and other volunteers resulting from staff sickness and that all Circuit Churches were required to close in mid- March 2020 due to the Covid- 19 Coronavirus pandemic. Since that time the Circuit has made wide use of latest communications technology to provide Worship & Bible Study resources to the Circuit and a wider audience. Fortunately, from early summer some of the Covid pandemic restrictions have eased and gradually all of the Circuit churches have been able to resume "in – person" worship by July 2021 albeit with continuing caution around face mask wearing and congregational singing.

The Trustees wish to thank everyone for their contribution plus the Circuit churches and their members for their support and understanding during this difficult period.

Aims and organisation and "Our Calling Statement" of the Methodist Church

"The Calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission."

The Colchester Methodist Circuit seeks to do this through the resources of the Circuit Staff Team together with members of the Circuit churches plus the assistance of Supernumerary Ministers and visiting Preachers when available.

Brief financial review of the year

In the year to August 31 2021 the total Circuit Funds, before profit on a property sale, achieved a net loss of £660 (2020 surplus of £5,088) compared to the anticipated Budget loss for the year of £27,045. The improvement arose as a result of lower travel cost, later employment of the Circuit Administrator and underspend on Designated Funds mainly from lower expenditure on manse repairs and which represents deferral of expenditure to a future occasion.

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the quarterly assessment paid over by the circuit churches. Investment income relates to the rental of Marks Tey Methodist Church.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure has increased in the financial year in line with the Methodist Conference approved increases from September 2020, while in 2020-21 the Circuit did not incur the cost of a community worker. At end August 2021 the Circuit had 3 (2020 3) full time ministers.

The Circuit contribution to the Beds Herts and Essex Methodist District and central Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church, was £36,020 which represented an increase of £ 2,040 compared to 2019-20.

The Manse repair and maintenance fund is being replenished annually from the General Fund in line with centrally suggested increase levels and any monies unspent are carried forward to later years. Other property repairs relate to repairs, burial ground maintenance and insurance costs for other properties overseen by the Circuit.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021 (Cont'd)

Brief financial review of the year (cont'd)

At August 31 2021 there were 2 Circuit Churches, which were no longer in use, under offer of sale with agreed sale prices but contracts not yet exchanged. It has been thought prudent to recognise the potential losses on sale which may result. Accordingly a charge of £35,000 has been entered in the accounts for the year ended August 31 2021.

The premises at Boxted were finally sold in July 2021 and the net proceeds, after Connexional Levies, deposited with The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) in the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is unrestricted as regards future use by the Circuit.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2020 the total net current assets of the Circuit were £371,063, but this includes £229,334 held in the Model Trust Fund at TMCP and which has been designated for use in creating a new Church Community in the area on new build known as Chesterwell. The adjusted level of net current asset of £141,729 provides approximately 8 months cover for projected Circuit total expenditure in 2021-22.

Whilst higher than might be thought normal, it is considered prudent to retain this level to accommodate the possibility, that due income fall-off resulting from Covid –19 and reduced number of churches in the Circuit, the remaining churches might find it difficult to maintain the current level of Circuit assessment in future years.

Plans for 2021/22

The Circuit Budget has been prepared on the basis that there would be 3 full time ordained staff receiving anticipated cost of living stipend increase at September 2021 combined with having a part time Circuit administrator in post for a full year plus other estimated cost increase. Due to the financial effects of Covid -19 on the income of churches, it was not possible to implement the normal agreed formula in calculating Church Assessments for 2021-22. As a result the assessments were agreed to be the 2020-21 level but reduced by 6.50% to £155,696.

The resulting Budget shortfall of £38,885 together with actual variations from the Budget will be met from the Circuit General Reserve.

The year 2021-22 will inevitably be a year of consolidation alongside a re-assessment by the Circuit and its constituent churches of the pattern of witness within Colchester.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The charities Report and Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

Full Name of Charity: Colchester Methodist Circuit Board

Registration Charity Number: 1138024

Date of registration 15 September 2010

Main communication address 39 New Town Road
Colchester, Essex, CO1 2EF

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021 (cont'd)

Circuit Ministers and officers in 2020-21

Circuit Ministers	Rev'd A D Jenkins (Circuit Superintendent) Rev'd K Chalmers Rev'd J N Adams
Circuit Stewards	Mrs S Dempsey Mrs A Lankester Mr T Trevers (Administration) Mr G Wilcox (Finance) Mr E Pentney (Property)

Mr G Wilcox acted as the principal officer overseeing the day- to- day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

The voting members of the Colchester Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees being a membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the churches in the Circuit.

Full membership of the Circuit Meeting at 31 August 2021 appears as Appendix A to this report.

Professional Advisers to the Circuit

Independent Examiner	Mr V P Chandler ACA FCCA, of Moore Green Chartered Accountants 22 Friars Street Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London, EC2A 4PE The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester, M1 1JQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC, High Street Branch Colchester, CO1 1 DA
Solicitors	Thompson Smith and Puxon Stable 6, Stable Road Colchester, CO2 7GL

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021 (cont'd)

Professional Advisers to the Circuit (cont'd)

Property	Boydens, Estate Agents Aston House, 57-59 Crouch Street Colchester, CO3 3EY
	Morley Riches & Ablewhite LLP 4 Kings Court, Newcomen Way Colchester, CO4 9RA
	TMA Professional Services LLP The Gatehouse, 116-118 Rainsford Road Chelmsford, CM1 2QL

Aims and organisation

The Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Colchester for the Methodist Church:

"The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of the Deed 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 organisation and resourcing of 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.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021 (cont'd)

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers Meeting, plus the Circuit Finance and Resources Committee.

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 as induction to their role as trustees. Other training resources are made available by the Methodist Connexional offices.

Related Parties

The Circuit is part of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following active Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

The Ark (Highwoods), Castle, Lexden (including Tollgate Methodist Community), Mersea Island, The Well (formerly Mile End), Wimpole Road and Wivenhoe.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership team Meeting and the Circuit Finance and Resources 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 quarterly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process and 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 Church 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.

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021 (cont'd)

Safeguarding (cont'd)

- 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, co-operating 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 Colchester Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer monitors the level of training required by all those subject to Safeguarding Certification requirements via the national Disclosure and Barring Scheme and the currency of those certificates via local Church Safeguarding Officers.

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

Reserves Policy

The normal Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. In normal times this should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability of churches to raise the full Circuit Assessment and having regard to possible future changes in Circuit Church composition and financing requirements. Currently, however, it is deemed prudent to hold a higher level of reserves to cover future uncertainty over the development of the Circuit following the various Church closures and the effect on local Church finances of the current Covid-19 Pandemic.

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2021 (cont'd)

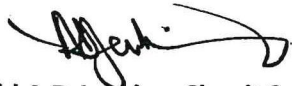
Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Circuit and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team



Rev'd A D Jenkins, Circuit Superintendent



Mr. G Wilcox, Circuit Treasurer

Date *March 22 2022*

Name of Circuit	COLCHESTER	Circuit No	34-06
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Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	4	200					200
2 Income from monetary investments	5	192	89		13		294
3 Income from investment properties	6			6,000			6,000
4 Assessments on Churches	7	166,508					166,508
5 Capital Receipts	8						0
6 Grants received	9						0
7a Other charitable income	10						0
7b Other income	11	1,307		3,061			4,368
8 Total income		168,207	89	9,061	13	-	177,370
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	12	1,800		25			1,825
10 Salaries and associated costs	13	119,675					119,675
11 Property maintenance	14	2,150		13,917			16,067
12 Connexional assessment & Levy	15	28,096	634				28,730
13 District Assessment & Levy	15	7,924					7,924
14 Depreciation	3						0
15 Office expenses	16	3,370					3,370
16 Other outgoings	17	268	51	120			439
17 Total charitable expenditure		163,283	685	14,062	0	0	178,030
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19a Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
19b Profit on Property sales	8	24,892					24,892
20 Net income/(expenditure)		29,816	-596	-5,001	13	0	24,232
21 Transfers between funds	-	217,887	204,537	12,850	500		0
22 Other gains/(losses)	18	35,000					-35,000
23 Net movement in funds		-223,071	203,941	7,849	513	0	-10,768
24 Total funds brought forward		2,245,132	25,393	78,074	11,740		2,360,339
25 Total funds carried forward	23,24	2,022,061	229,334	85,923	12,253	-	2,349,571

Name of Circuit

COLCHESTER

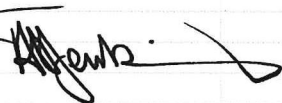
Circuit No

34-06

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

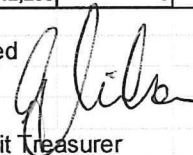
Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Circuit Manses & Equipment	3,19	1,425,000				1,425,000	1,425,000
Circuit Churches	3,19	304,548				304,548	518,693
Investment properties	3,19	248,960				248,960	248,960
Investments						0	
Total fixed assets		1,978,508	0	0	0	1,978,508	2,192,653
Current Assets							
Debtors	20	10,709				10,709	10,401
Loans by the Circuit		0				0	
Investments with TMCP	21	0	229,334			229,334	25,393
Central Finance Board Deposits	21	33,868	85,212	12,253		131,333	168,122
Cash at Bank and in hand	21	2,617	827			3,444	7,727
Total current assets		47,194	229,334	86,039	12,253	374,820	211,643
Current liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	22	3,641		116		3,757	43,957
Grants payable within 2018-19						0	0
Total current liabilities		3,641	0	116	0	3,757	43,957
Net current assets/liabilities		43,553	229,334	85,923	12,253	371,063	167,686
Total assets less current liabilities		2,022,061	229,334	85,923	12,253	2,349,571	2,360,339
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2018-19						0	0
Loans to the Circuit						0	0
						0	0
Net assets		2,022,061	229,334	85,923	12,253	2,349,571	2,360,339
Funds of the Circuit							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	23,24	2,022,061				2,022,061	2,245,132
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	23,24		229,334			229,334	25,393
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	23,24		85,923			85,923	78,074
Total Unrestricted Funds						2,337,318	2,348,599
Restricted Funds	23,24			12,253		12,253	11,740
Endowment Funds	2				0	0	
Total Funds		2,022,061	229,334	85,923	12,253	2,349,571	2,360,339

Signed



Circuit Superintendent

Signed



Circuit Treasurer

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Designated Funds are those specified for particular purposes but remain unrestricted. Restricted funds are those held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 23 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, professionally suggested current market values of property in use and the anticipated net realisable value in the case of properties potentially to be disposed of in the next two years. The accruals basis has been followed to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the Trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the time of volunteers is not recognised.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered and all input VAT is charged with the expense to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1000. All properties are freehold and the estimated land component of all properties is indicated in note 19 to the accounts.

No depreciation is provided on buildings since the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings and other properties (on the assumption that they had reached the end of their useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties were reviewed for impairment at August 2018.

Investment Properties

The church premises at Marks Tey is deemed to be an Investment Property in that there are no immediate plans to dispose of it and a rental income is being received.

Investments

Apart from a Cash Deposit Account with CFB, which is available at call, and proceeds from property sales deposited with TMCP the Circuit had no other monetary investments.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

Debtors and Prepayments

The main prepayment included in the accounts is in respect of the payment made, in late August 2021, to Methodist Church Centrally being the value of monthly Ministerial Stipend due to Ministers on September 1 2021, and payable in advance by Circuits

Creditors

Creditors relate to unpaid invoiced expenditure at August 31 2021 plus provisions for amounts likely to become payable associated with year to August 31 2021 accounting period.

Impact of Accounting changes

In preparing the Accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS102 and the Charities SORP 102, the statement of comparative items was required. The Balance Sheet at 31 August 2021 includes the corresponding amounts from the 2019-20 Accounts in these accounts for comparison purposes.

Values

All data is stated in "rounded" £ sterling

4. Donations and Legacies

A donation of £200 to the General Fund was received in 2020-21

5. Income from Monetary Investments

This has been derived entirely from funds deposited with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and Trustees for Methodist Church purposes (TMCP).

6. Income from Investment Properties

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>General Fund</u>	Nil	Nil
<u>Designated Fund – Marks Tey</u>		
Rental of part church premises	6,000	6,000

7. Assessment on Churches

Each Circuit church is assessed for a yearly contribution towards meeting the costs of the Circuit's operations, including the payment of Ministerial costs and the Circuit's annual assessment in respect of Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion. The amount assessed on each church is considered and agreed annually by the Finance and Resources Committee and confirmed at the summer Circuit Meeting.

8. Capital receipts and Profit on Property sales

In late July 2021 the remaining parts of the property at Boxted Methodist Church were sold.

The resulting profit resulting from the disposal of the property, including the Paddock area sold in July 2020, is stated at line 19b of the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). The older, closed, burial ground has been dealt with in the form of a long lease to the purchasers of the Church premises.

9. Grants Received

There have been no grants received from Connexion, BEH District or external sources in 2020-21

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

10. Other Charitable Income

There was NIL charitable Income to be shown under any of the Funds for 2020-21.

11. Other Income

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Tending Circuit Contribution to costs of shared Manse	1,307	1,288
Rent received- Robin Crescent Manse	Nil	Nil
Travel expenses re-imbursed by BEH District	Nil	265
Total	<u>1,307</u>	<u>1,553</u>
<u>Designated Funds</u>		
Letting income & Licence Fee	130	4,026
Sale of Furniture – redundant Churches	2,649	125
Contribution to Utility costs – Boxted	Nil	732
Burial grounds income	140	322
Funds transfer from Boxted Methodist Church	Nil	8,568
Funds transfer from West Bergholt Meth Church	Nil	4,712
Insurance refund – Boxted	140	Nil
Miscellaneous Income	2	Nil
Total	<u>3,061</u>	<u>18,485</u>

12. Grants & Donations

In the year to August 31 2021 the following donations were paid from Circuit Funds

	General Fund	Designated Fund
Citizens UK	1,500	
Castle Methodist Church – online Worship service reproduction	300	
Expedition Josh – Cycle Ride		25
Total	<u>1,800</u>	<u>25</u>

13. Salaries and Associated Costs

In year 2020-21 the Circuit had 3 full time Presbyters (August 2020 - 3). In 2020 the Circuit shared the cost of a Community Worker based at The Ark Methodist Church to reflect work carried out within other Circuit Churches and on Circuit activities – this post was declared redundant in June 2020. The Circuit is required to pay “employer” contributions to the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme in respect of all Presbyters. The pension scheme is controlled and administered by The Methodist Church centrally.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

13. Salaries & Associated Costs (Cont'd)

A home telephone and broadband connection is provided solely for use on Circuit business and travel costs incurred on Circuit business are re-imbursed against expense claims.

The Ministers' Manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains and insures the properties. The value of Community Charge and Water Charges are shown below but these are not regarded by HMRC as "Benefits in Kind"

All costs of the Presbyters are met by the General Fund, except where it is possible for allocation to a Designated Fund. In such cases the costs are included with "Other Outgoings".

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Stipends (incl. Community Worker)	79,550	92,770
Pension Contributions	20,598	20,056
NI & Apprenticeship Levy	7,803	7,731
Computer Grant	507	495
Travel	446	3,457
'Phone	1,815	2,057
Community Charge	7,524	7,551
Water charges	1,432	1,835
Total	<u>119,675</u>	<u>135,952</u>

14. Property Maintenance

The maintenance costs of properties, shown as expenses incurred by the General Fund, relate to the costs of insurance for Circuit Manses.

The cost of repair and maintenance for the Circuit Manses are met from a Fund specifically designated for this purpose and which is funded from the General Fund in line with Connexional recommended levels for amounts to be set aside annually on a per manse basis and to maintain the fund in positive territory. Other Designated Fund property maintenance costs relate to insurance costs, utility costs and property costs for Boxted, Fingringhoe, West Bergholt and Marks Tey churches where applicable.

15. Connexional and District Assessments

These Assessments are calculated to reflect the number of Church members and the staffing of the Colchester Circuit in proportion to the total numbers within the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District. 50% of the assessment is calculated using membership and 50% using staffing levels.

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

16. Office Expenses

General Fund

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Stationery, Printing, Postage	422	426
Computer costs	192	639
Ministerial Admin. Assistance	1,711	300
Independent Examination cost	1,045	1,098
Total	<u>3,370</u>	<u>2,463</u>

17. Other Outgoings

General Fund

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Supply Preacher Fees	125	200
Other travel costs	48	274
General Insurance	162	137
Training	Nil	153
Professional fees	(240)	961
Advertising	50	Nil
Equipment	82	85
Sundry expenses	41	117
Total	<u>268</u>	<u>1,927</u>

Model Trust Fund

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
TMCP Administration Fee	<u>51</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Designated Funds

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Quinquennial inspection costs	Nil	1,620
Assessments paid - Fingringhoe	Nil	736
Professional Fees	120	Nil
Funds transferred to		
The Well	Nil	5,000
Sundry expenses	nil	181
Total	<u>120</u>	<u>7,537</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

18. Other Gains/(Losses)

The amount disclosed under "Other gains/losses" represents provision for the anticipated losses likely to arise on the sales of Fingringhoe and West Bergholt Methodist Churches when comparing the probable net proceeds with the values of the property held within Tangible Fixed Assets at August 31 2021.

19. Tangible Fixed Assets

At 31 August 2021 the Colchester Circuit possessed 3 Manses and the churches at Fingringhoe and West Bergholt which are considered to be part of Operating assets at present, while the property sales await completion. In addition Marks Tey Methodist Church, which is under the control of the Circuit, is considered to be an Investment Property. This property is currently let to a Life Skills training organisation.

The Circuit has retained ownership of the newer burial ground at Boxted and this is included in Tangible Fixed Assets at a nominal value of £100.

As stated under Note 3 to the accounts no depreciation has been charged on Fixed Assets.

The Trustee for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) is the legal owner and custodian trustee of all Methodist Trust property, Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for day- to- day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing advice and acting under their direction, the local Managing Trustees comply with Charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Operating Properties

	<u>Land</u>	Manse <u>Buildings</u>	Church <u>Buildings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at 1 Sept 2020	465,405	1,072,500	405,788	1,943,693
Disposals in year	(28,055)	-	(151,090)	(179,145)
Provision for future losses on sales			(35,000)	(35,000)
Balance at 31 Aug 2021	<u>437,350</u>	<u>1,072,500</u>	<u>219,698</u>	<u>1,729,548</u>

Investment Properties

	<u>Land</u>		Church <u>Buildings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at 1 Sept 2020	62,250	-	186,710	248,960
Balance at 31 Aug 2021	<u>62,250</u>		<u>186,710</u>	<u>248,960</u>
Total all Properties	<u>499,600</u>	<u>1,072,500</u>	<u>406,408</u>	<u>1,978,508</u>

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)

20. Debtors and Prepayments

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Prepaid Stipends	9,057	9,159	-	-
Property Surveys paid in advance	300	Nil	-	-
Legal Fees paid in advance	500	500		
Other Debtors and Prepayments	<u>852</u>	<u>646</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>96</u>
Total	<u>10,709</u>	<u>10,305</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>96</u>

21. Cash at Bank and in hand

Apart from £827 currently remaining in the bank account of West Bergholt Church, all Balances at Bank are held within the General Fund. Designated Fund balances are deemed to be held within the deposits at the Central Finance Board from which regular monthly transfers to the Circuit's current account with Barclays Bank PLC are made to meet the monthly actual expenditure for all funds. The balance held by TMCP as Circuit Model Trust money derives from the sale of Boxted Methodist Church premises.

22. Creditors and Accruals – due in under 1 year

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Designated Funds</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Trade creditors	268	220	33	383
Circuit Assessments in advance	Nil	41,852	-	-
Other Creditors and Accruals	2,298	422	83	-
Independent Examination Fee	1,075	1,080	-	-
Total	<u>3,641</u>	<u>43,574</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>383</u>

23. Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This is used at the discretionary use of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and where funds have not been designated for other purposes. The vast majority of the total General Fund is held as freehold properties, being manses for Ministers and churches under the control of the Circuit.

General Fund includes the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which is an unrestricted fund, and at 31 August 2021 represented the net proceeds from the sale of property at Boxted Methodist Church.

Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)

23 Funds (Cont'd)

Designated Funds

These are Funds designated for specific purposes but whose use is not restricted by any document or deed to the purpose indicated. Details of movements in these funds during 2020-21 are set out below.

Restricted Funds

These comprise the Circuit Benevolent Fund and a donation received, the terms of which specify that it may only be utilised in Development and Outreach work in connection with establishing a Methodist presence within the area of new housing being built in the Tollgate area of Colchester.

Fund Movements

	Balance <u>1 Sept '20</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Balance <u>31 Aug '21</u>
General Fund:-					
Property Reserves	2,161,141	24,981	(35,685)	-	2,150,437
Current Reserves	<u>109,384</u>	<u>168,207</u>	<u>(163,283)</u>	<u>(13,350)</u>	<u>100,958</u>
	<u>2,270,525</u>	<u>193,188</u>	<u>(198,968)</u>	<u>(13,350)</u>	<u>2,251,395</u>

Transactions shown under Property Reserves relate to profits & provisions on property sales plus income & expenses in the Model Trust Fund which has resulted from property transactions.

Designated Funds:-

	Balance <u>1 Sept '20</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	Balance <u>31 Aug '21</u>
Boxted	1,394	1,167	(1,969)	-	592
Fingringhoe	4,059	444	(1,976)	-	2,527
Marks Tey	19,778	6,000	(4,257)	(5,000)	16,521
West Bergholt	1,969	1,450	(3,797)	1,000	622
Local Preachers\					
Worship Leaders	412	-	-	-	412
Development	30,112	-	-	-	30,112
Manse Repairs	11,445	-	(2,063)	14,140	23,522
Quinquennials	555	-	-	1,710	2,265
Ministers Reloc'n	<u>8,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>9,350</u>
Total	<u>78,074</u>	<u>9,061</u>	<u>(14,062)</u>	<u>12,850</u>	<u>85,923</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

23 Funds (Cont'd)

Restricted Funds:-

Development –

Tollgate	9,472	13	-	-	9,485
Benevolent	<u>2,268</u>	-	-	500	<u>2,768</u>
Total	<u>11740</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>12,253</u>

TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,360,339</u>	<u>202,262</u>	<u>(213,030)</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<u>2,349,571</u>
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24. Analysis of net assets between funds

	<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Net Current Assets</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund:-			
Property Reserves	1,921,103	229,334	2,150,437
Current Reserves	<u>57,405</u>	<u>43,553</u>	<u>100,958</u>
	<u>1,978,508</u>	<u>272,887</u>	<u>2,251,395</u>
Designated Funds:-			
Boxted	-	592	592
Fingringhoe	-	2,527	2,527
Marks Tey	-	16,521	16,521
West Bergholt	-	622	622
Local Preachers\ Worship Leaders	-	412	412
Development	-	30,112	30,112
Manse Repairs\ Maintenance	-	23,522	23,522
Quinquennial Inspections	-	2,265	2,265
Ministers Relocation	<u>-</u>	<u>9,350</u>	<u>9,350</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>85,923</u>	<u>85,923</u>
Restricted Funds:-			
Development – Tollgate	-	9,485	9,475
Benevolent	<u>-</u>	<u>2,768</u>	<u>2,768</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>12,253</u>	<u>12,253</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,978,508</u>	<u>371,063</u>	<u>2,349,571</u>

**Colchester Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts (Cont'd)**

25. Related parties and Trustees expenses

No Trustees made donations to the Circuit during the year. All of the Trustees are members of a church in the Circuit and may also be on the Church Councils of those churches.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the Beds Essex & Herts Methodist District, other circuit churches, CFB and TMCP. Only one Trustee has undertaken authorised paid work for the Circuit and another Trustee has indicated a non - beneficial link via family marriage with a supplier to the Circuit.

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee during the financial period.

Expenditure related solely to relevant expenses of the circuit and the payments to Trustees were simply reimbursement of such. The total amounted to £1,106.

26 Volunteer Contributions

The Circuit and all Circuit churches are heavily dependent on volunteers who contribute skills, time, energy and in the case of churches money. This is primarily in the filling of specific posts and by serving on Committees. The Circuit is very grateful to them all for their help and commitment.

No attempt has been made to value the voluntary contributions in financial terms.

27. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

There were no capital commitments or Contingent liabilities existing at year end

Name of Circuit **Colchester**

Circuit No **34-06**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

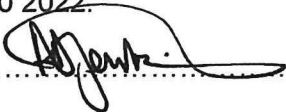
Signature of Treasurer  Date February 15 2022.

Name and address of Treasurer: Geoffrey Wilcox

2 Ladell Close, Colchester, CO3 9XT

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 will be presented to the Circuit meeting to be held on March 30 2022.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Alan D Jenkins

Date .. 22/3/22 ..

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Colchester Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1138024

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Colchester Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 10 to 21. 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.

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 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the 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 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: Vincent P Chandler

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA, FCCA

Name of firm: Moore Green, Chartered Accountants

Address: 22 Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AA

Date 25/4/22

Colchester Methodist Circuit

Circuit Managing Trustees at 31 August 2021

Ministers	Rev'd Alan Jenkins (Superintendent and Chairman) Rev'd Ken Chalmers Rev'd Joe Adams
Supernumerary Ministers	Rev'd Paul Howes
Circuit Stewards	Mrs Sheila Dempsey Mrs Avril Lankester Mr Edward Pentney Mr Tony Trevers Mr Geoffrey Wilcox
Circuit Local Preachers Representative	Mr Ron Firmin
Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Dr Geoff Casey
Social Issues Working Group Co-ordinator	Mr Keith Thompson
Representatives appointed by Circuit Churches: -	
The Ark, Highwoods	Mrs Pat Baker Miss Rachel van Staveren Mrs Judith Winward
Castle	Mr Malcolm Butler Miss Jane Dansie Mr Richard Pettit Mr Chris Pratt
Lexden	Mr Neil Austin Mr Alan Beesley Mrs Vivian Wilcox
Mersea Island	Rev'd David Moody Mrs Joan Moody
The Well, Mile End	Mrs Judith Fletcher Mr John Jones Mrs Di Thompson
Wimpole Road	Mr Peter Broom Mrs Margaret Clubb Mrs Christine Firmin Mr Andrew Topple
Wivenhoe	Mr Phil Bingham Mr Brian Dack Mrs Betty Rampling