



**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Registered Charity number 1139091**

# **SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**

---

## **CONTENTS**

### **Page**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>Administrative Information</b>                    |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>Trustees' Annual Report</b>                       |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities</b>       |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Auditor's Report</b>                              |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>             |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Comparative Statement of Financial Activities</b> |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>Balance Sheet</b>                                 |
| <b>17.</b> | <b>Cash Flow Statement</b>                           |
| <b>18.</b> | <b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>             |

# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Registered Charity | Registration number  | 1139091  |
| Presbyters         | Hall, Rev'd. H Richard **<br>Arnold, Rev'd Paul **<br>Cooper, Rev'd Shalome M **<br>Hargreaves, Rev'd Denise (from 1.9.23)<br>Heinz, Rev'd George  | Hides, Rev'd Roger (until 31.8.24)<br>Skitt, Rev'd Julia**<br>Summers Rev'd P (from 31.8.24)<br>Windsor – Hides, Deacon S. (until 31.8.24)<br>Woodley, Deacon G. Carys   |
| Circuit Stewards   | Davies, Mrs A<br>Davies, Mrs Lynne (until 31.7.24)<br>Evans, Mrs N C **<br>Gwatkin, John B<br>Hallworth, Mrs B   | Hamilton – Foy, R W (until 31.7.24)<br>Harlington, David ** (until 24.8.24)<br>Knowles, Mrs V A **<br>Threadgold, Mrs A (from 30.8.24)   |
| Circuit Treasurer  | Eccleshall, Mr David **  |  |
| Other Trustees     | Bache, Mrs J<br>Bayliss, G Mr<br>Birch, Mrs Jean (from 30.1.24)<br>Biseker, Rev'd Frances C<br>Blanchard, Mr J.<br>Bradley Ms Lynne<br>Brightwell, N Mr<br>Burnham, Mr Paul<br>Cartwright, Mrs G<br>Chesworth. Rev'd J<br>Chidlow, Miss J<br>Cockayne, Mrs A C<br>Curtis, Mrs Christine A (until 7.4.24)<br>Curtis, Mr David (until 7.4.24)<br>Davies, Mrs Dorothy<br>Dorsett, Mrs J<br>Dutton Mr A D<br>Dutton, Mr David C.<br>Edlington, Mr Keith<br>Edwards, Mrs P A<br>Faulkner, Mrs Christine<br>Finnigan, Mr R (until 8.7.24)<br>Gibbon, Mrs J P<br>Gilbride Mrs Linda<br>Gwatkin, Mr David B<br>Gwatkin, Mrs Jean<br>Hallworth, Mr Michael J.<br>Harmer, Mr Philip W<br>Harrison-Koring Mrs R<br>Heyes, Mrs Zena<br>Hayward, Mrs Cherry<br>Heard, Mr Nicholas<br>Heard, Mrs Susan<br>Holloway, Mrs E E (until 12.4.24)<br>Holt, Mrs Heather M.<br>Huband, Rev'd, William<br>Jackson, Mrs June<br>Jennings, Mr C P<br>Johnson, Mr Paul<br>Jones, Mrs Dilys<br>Jones, Mr Haydn (deceased) | Jones, Mr J C<br>Jones, Mrs Sylvia M<br>Kennett, Mr Christopher<br>Kennett, Mrs Mary<br>Killick, Mrs R Y<br>Knight, Mrs E R<br>Knight, Mr M<br>Lammie, Mrs Susan<br>Leighton, Mrs Victoria<br>Lewis, Mrs E A<br>Lewis, Mrs Sandra M<br>Littlehales, Ms V J<br>Macinally, Rev'd S<br>Maskell, Mrs Ruth<br>Mathews, Miss Susan **<br>Moores, Mrs L<br>Morrison, Mrs Patricia<br>Norris, Mrs Beth A (until 19.3.24)<br>O'Connell. Ms S<br>Owens, Mrs Lynne P<br>Pickard Rev'd D<br>Pitchford Miss L M<br>Price, Miss Heather G.<br>Pritchard, Mrs Catherine M<br>Pritchard, Mrs E<br>Rees, Miss M<br>Richardson, Rev'd Neil<br>Roberts, Mr Barry<br>Roberts, Mrs Doris<br>Salmon, Mrs H H<br>Schofield, Miss J<br>Sheehy, Mrs V<br>Shepherd, Mrs Heather<br>Smith, David Mr<br>Snow, Mrs Beryl<br>Taylor, Mrs S<br>Thomas, Mr Stephen<br>Thomas, Mrs Vivienne<br>Threadgold, Mrs A (from 30.8.24)<br>Turner, Mrs M C<br>Vaughan, Mrs Judith ( from 28.7.24) |

6

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

---

Watts, Mrs H E (until 24.8.24)  
Weller, Mrs Olwen  
White Mr Henry E G  
Wilford, Mrs B  
Williams, Mr Adrian J \*\*  
Williams, Mrs Jean  
Williams, Mrs Joyce

Williams, Mrs S E  
Wilson, Mrs J  
Wise, Mrs Barbara  
Wood, Mrs Margaret O.  
Wright Mrs E Margaret  
Wright Mrs M

**Trustees appointed after 31 August 2024**

Evans, Mrs E J (from 11.9.24)

**Contact**                      Shropshire and Marches Methodist Circuit,  
The Methodist Centre, Lansdowne Road,  
Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0HZ

**Governing Document**                      Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

The Circuit is the primary unit within the Methodist Church in which Local Churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help. It is constituted in accordance with Standing Orders set down in the Constitutional Practice & Discipline of the Methodist Church [C P D] that is updated each year by the Methodist Conference. The full C P D is available to view on the Methodist Church website via the following link: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/governance/cpd>.

The Circuit Meeting is the appointed authority for the management of the Circuit and its constitution and composition is dictated by the terms laid down in Standing Orders within the C P D. The basis on which Churches are represented by Trustees is there too and the process ensures that each has a voice. The meeting is chaired by the Superintendent Minister who is effectively the Chief Executive Officer of the Circuit. The basis of decision making within the Circuit Meeting is set down within the C P D. The day to day operation of the Circuit is delegated to an Executive Committee which is also chaired by the Superintendent Minister. This Committee is constituted in a way that allows representation from Presbyteral and Lay individuals who are also drawn from across the Circuit geographically. The members of this Committee have been identified in the list of Trustees that appears earlier in this document.

Should advice and guidance be required this is available within the Connexional structure of the Methodist Church either from the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District or from the central Connexional Offices and Officials. Where it is appropriate and necessary reference is made to qualified Professionals. Financial and legal guidance is, where required, also available from the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st August 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Shropshire & Marches Methodist Circuit is an unincorporated charity, registered with the Charity Commission.

Trustees are not 'recruited' in the generally accepted sense. They are appointed to the Circuit Meeting in accordance with the requirements set down in the C P D. These include the basis on which each Church is represented at the Circuit Meeting. Whilst no formal training is in place the responsibilities of Trustees undertaking the role is communicated to them when they are first appointed. They have access to The Methodist Church website via <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/office-holders/managing-trustees>. This site is updated regularly.

In addition, Trustees are able to view various Charity Commission documents through the following links: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do> & <https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/en>

### **OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY**

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'

### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

In designing and monitoring the Charity's activities, the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The review of activities in the following sections demonstrates how the Charity has provided benefit directly to the individual churches in the Circuit and thereby to the congregations of those churches and other sections of the community in the area.

#### **General Review**

The accounts presented in this Annual Report are very indicative of the challenging circumstances faced by Shropshire and Marches Methodist Circuit. In common with many other religious and voluntary organisations, we are facing some very challenging cultural shifts in our society, further exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis. We cannot expect to be immune from the changes that these shifts are bringing, not least the decline in regular attendance at Christian worship in Britain. However, the accounts are not the whole story. We remain convinced that the Christian gospel is of value to our culture and we will continue to seek new ways of sharing that gospel in the communities where we operate.

Shropshire and Marches continues to be the largest Circuit within the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church in Britain, covering one third of its geographical area. There are over 50

# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

Methodist congregations gathered under the Circuit umbrella and this geographical diversity provides opportunity and complexity. There can be no doubt that the Methodists of Shropshire and Marches have been stronger together. Our combined numbers and financial resources have enabled us to maintain a Christian witness in scattered rural communities that would have been impossible otherwise. On the other hand, it is not always easy for a small congregation at one end of the circuit to have in mind the situation of other congregations which might be more than 50 miles from theirs. This has been mitigated by recent experience of meeting electronically, but nonetheless it continues to be an issue.

The local churches continue to provide programmes of worship, pastoral care and community involvement under the leadership of Ministers, lay employees and local Church Trustees.

### **Circuit Staff**

Rev Denise Hargreaves joined the Circuit in September 2023 from the Gloucestershire Circuit. Her rural experience in the Forest of Dean has been appreciated as she settles in the Ludlow area. The appointment of Mr. Andrew Skitt to coordinate the work of the "Methodist Mobile Outreach" ("Memo") was noted in the last Annual Report. This work was formally launched in September 2023 and during the course of the year the trailer has been taken to a variety of rural shows and events, predominantly but not exclusively in the northern part of the Circuit. This mission work is a modern take on the kind of evangelism that would have been familiar to the Methodist people of former times, not relying on buildings but going to where people are. The trailer provides a small, well-equipped meeting space that can be used for a variety of different purposes and events.

The Superintendent Minister exercises leadership for the whole Circuit working with others in a collaborative ministry. He oversees the wider work of the Circuit by chairing meetings across the Circuit and instigating gatherings for consultation, training and fellowship for the whole staff and leadership.

### **Responding to change**

During the year, the Circuit committed the churches in Shropshire and Marches to come into full compliance with our Standing Orders in terms of minimum size. By September 2024 most have been able to achieve this. Decisions about how to respond to the few who have not will be taken during the first part of the current year.

We have continued to offer a weekly online worship experience and this has occasionally been used by local churches to supplement the preaching plan. This will become increasingly important if the number of available preachers continues to decline through age and infirmity. However, we continue to struggle with technical issues, some of which are beyond our control. The availability of mobile internet in some rural areas is a major hurdle to progress. Many meetings that would formerly have been held only "in person" are now being held on the Zoom platform, both for the sake of widening participation and decreasing the carbon footprint of the Circuit's activities.

We continue to face the significant demographic challenge of being an ageing community in thinly spread rural areas. But demographics are not the full story any more than our accounts are. New patterns of ministry — e.g. the team approach being modelled in the north of the Circuit — and new models of church will help us to address this challenge, but we know that we cannot organise or manage our way out of these difficult circumstances. We are mindful of the duties and responsibilities which are determined by our role as trustees of a charitable body.

But our fundamental conviction is that the work of God depends upon his grace and his strength, not ours. We are living in a time when following the call of God is not easy. So be it. We commit ourselves to his service and trust in his faithfulness.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **General Fund.**

The overall position reveals a net deficit of £221,587 and this shortfall has been covered by transfers from the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £ 223,850.

# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

Income from Churches by way of assessment was only c 2% short of the budget but transfers from Circuit Model Trust Fund were somewhat more than budgeted principally to cover costs incurred in connection with properties in the course of being sold. The amounts involved will be recovered from the net proceeds of sale.

### Circuit Model Trust Fund.

The fund has benefited from the disposal of seven Properties during the year. The net proceeds amounted to c £ 1.1 m from which was deducted the Connexional Levy totalling £ 290,476. This left c £ 810,000 available to the Circuit for its ongoing work.

Transfers totalling £ 223,850 have been made to the Circuit to cover certain specific costs and to provide general support. The annual District levy based on the balance held at the beginning of the year has been paid £21,469 (2023 – £22,616). This payment is our direct contribution to the work of the District and is used with allotted Connexional funds to provide grant support to Churches and Circuits within the District for approved projects. This Circuit received no grants during the year from the District (2023 - £ 12,850).

A payment of £ 20,000 (2023 - £10,000) has been made to the District as a contribution to the employment costs of the District Agricultural Chaplain who is based within the Circuit.

Grants made available to Churches are specified in Note 10 of the Accounts.

The closing value of £ 956,337 is held as a reserve for the future work and development of the Circuit as indicated in the Reserve Policy Statement.

### Endowment Funds.

Only minimal activity has occurred on these funds during the year in accordance with the inbuilt restrictions

### Overall position.

Although the underlying financial position remains sound, it continues to be necessary to support the ongoing work of the Circuit from reserves. The challenge of balancing the cost of providing Ministerial leadership across such a wide geographical area within which are many small chapels and churches is immense. Fresh approaches are constantly being considered and implemented where potential is identified.

It is the case that all our Churches find it increasingly more difficult to balance their books.

Properties – Manses and redundant Churches – continue to be sold as opportunities arise and the proceeds provide the wherewithal to maintain a significant involvement in the mainly rural communities that make up the Circuit.

Executive Committee is constantly aware of the need to manage the financial position in a positive but careful manner thus seeking to ensure that the future work of this Methodist Church is not in doubt.

### Aims

Our aim is twofold:

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- To give reassurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity.

# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

### **PROCESS**

#### **Mission Policy**

A revised Mission Policy was approved by the Circuit Meeting on 20 June 2022. It reads as follows:

'Our mission is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves by the power of the Holy Spirit in our large and rural community.'

With God's help we aim to:

- be aware of the differing needs of all our congregations and be prepared to adapt in order to offer mutual nurture and support
- be aware of the needs of our Ministers, Lay workers and Local preachers and encourage them in their calling and mission
- be aware of the needs of our local neighbourhoods and be witnesses for Jesus Christ within them
- accept our responsibility towards the natural world by consciously caring for God's creation
- be vocal in our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring our churches are places where all are welcome regardless of gender, race, sexuality, or any other issue which might be considered a barrier

So that we may unite as a Circuit in enabling the worship of God, and be a loving, effective and constantly evolving Methodist presence in our communities.'

#### **Financial Plans.**

- The Circuit Assessment required to be paid by the individual Churches is reviewed annually and the income generated covers a good proportion of the costs of the Circuit. The contribution made by each church is arrived at by having regard to the overall size of its membership and its ability to pay.
- We make provision for a property maintenance programme for the Manses occupied by the Ministers by designating a sum agreed by the Circuit Meeting each year for this purpose. We also have regard to the longer term need arising from local inspections and Quinquennial reports and where necessary provide additional funds for these identified purposes.
- The Circuit Fund (Unrestricted General Fund). Balance at the yearend excluding property and plant & machinery was £534,112 although this balance does include c £175,000 proceeds from a property sale that is held in suspense at the moment [See Note 21]. Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its Ministers and the maintenance of the manses. Total costs for the last financial year were in the region of £700,000.
- The Reserves Policy is to hold the equivalent of at least six months' expenditure in hand i.e. £ 380,000; so the present figure meets that criterion.
- Within the Circuit there are a large number of smaller Churches many of whom are struggling to meet their financial obligations including their commitment to Circuit finances. This situation places continuing pressure on the Circuit and, as is evident from the Accounts a substantial transfer has been required from reserves again to counter an operating shortfall. This position is constantly under review.



# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

### Circuit Model Trust Fund [CMTF].

The value at the yearend was £ 956,337 (2023: £ 404,717). This fund derives from sales of churches and chapels and other property and whereas this used to be a restricted fund it is now unrestricted. Although the fund can be used for a variety of purposes there are guidelines set down by the Connexion that need to be respected as well as the principles agreed by the Circuit Meeting.

### Reserves Policy.

Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

The Charity Commission has agreed that it is appropriate for the Trustees to set a policy for the management of this fund and that policy is set out below:

A proportion of the money held in the CMTF has been earmarked by the Trustees for the following purposes:

- Contribution to the employment costs of lay employees within the Circuit of £ 51,250 for 2024/25.
- General support of Circuit activities whilst it continues its ongoing review of the way in which its presbyters, lay workers and members pursue its mission policy. £200,000 is the budgeted amount for 2024/25 with a continuing recognition that support at this level and beyond cannot be sustained indefinitely.
- Circuit Meeting has provided financial support to the District for a number of years as a contribution towards the employment costs of the Agricultural Chaplaincy. A contribution of £ 20,000 has been made in 2023/24 and a commitment (agreed by Circuit Meeting) is in place to increase this in line with inflation in 2024/25. In principle support in 2025/26 is expected to be uprated in line with inflation but with a review being undertaken early in 2025 to consider the future funding position with all the relevant partners.
- Support for projects within individual churches – whether for property schemes or for mission – based on the principle that only 10% of cost will be provided by the Circuit in the normal course but larger amounts can be made available dependent upon the project details and the underlying objectives.

The balance is maintained to support the Circuit in achieving its objectives.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees acknowledge that there are areas of Risk within the Circuit, the principal ones being as follows:

- **Financial Position** – The Circuit continues to operate with a significant shortfall that is counterbalanced by transfers from reserves. These are bolstered from time to time by the disposal of churches and chapels that have ceased to meet for worship and so have closed. At the end of the financial year there were 51 places of worship within the Circuit and of these 19 have less than 12 members.

The majority are under increasing financial pressure and so their contribution to the Circuit finances is precariously balanced especially in the current difficult economic climate. It is also the case that the age profile of the membership is increasing and this accelerates the existential and financial vulnerability. However, each of the Churches/Chapels has a value and so when closed each of them realises at least a modest sum which tends to replenish reserves. As has been said many times before, such a policy cannot be sustained over the long term. The members of the Executive Committee are constantly aware of this and continue to seek a solution that could be the basis of growth in the future. Circuit Trustees have met during the year to discuss this

## SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

particular concern and the Executive Committee is charged with putting together a coordinated plan for consideration by the Circuit Meeting.

- **Property** - Directly, the Circuit includes within its Annual Accounts the properties occupied by its Ministers even though the title is actually vested in the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. When Churches 'cease to meet' i.e. do not open for worship, responsibility for their maintenance reverts to the Circuit whilst arrangements are made for the property to be sold. Whilst always susceptible to the movement in the domestic property market, it is envisaged that the majority of properties 'owned' will not be disposed of in the foreseeable future and so the risk of loss of capital is not considered to be great.
- **Safeguarding** – The aim of the Methodist Church Safeguarding policy is 'to create Christian communities of love and care, where good practice in this area becomes a way of life.' A handbook is made available to each Church and information is disseminated through Districts and Circuits via training and publications. Each Church has a nominated Safeguarding Officer and a policy agreed by its Church Council. The Circuit has responsibility for the overview of the Churches within its area.
- **Key positions** – Within the Circuit there are key positions held by lay members of the Methodist Church who act on a voluntary unpaid basis. Principal among these are Circuit Stewards who represent different geographical parts of the Circuit, a team of people who are responsible for overseeing all matters in connection with Circuit property and the Circuit Treasurer who is accountable to the Circuit Meeting Trustees for all financial matters relating to the Circuit. The Executive Committee is aware of the dangers of having too much reliance on any one individual either for a significant part of the work or for a period that is unreasonably long. The Methodist Church policy is that in the normal course no officer should occupy a post for more than six years and so succession is an issue constantly under review and discussion.

#### **Endowment Funds.**

At the year end the following was the balance on these funds:

- Endowment Funds, including Trusts domiciled with Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes £3,278 (2023: £3,043).

The income arising on these funds and the capital involved is available only for the various purposes originally designated.

## SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Rev H Richard Hall**  
**Superintendent Minister**

Date 9 Jan 2025

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2024

---

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Shropshire & Marches Methodist Circuit (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of Cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2024**

---

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

## **Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations**

We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. There were no specific legal or regulatory frameworks identified.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We focussed on laws and regulations which could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP: FRS 102. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE  
TRUSTEES OF SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2024**

---

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

As in all our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Other matters**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Dyke Yaxley Ltd*

*9/1/2025*

**MRS STACEY LEA FCA  
DYKE YAXLEY LIMITED  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**

**1 BRASSEY ROAD  
OLD POTTS WAY  
SHREWSBURY  
SY3 7FA**

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

|   | Note     | General Fund<br>(Unrestricted)<br>£ | Circuit Model<br>Trust Fund<br>(Unrestricted)<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | Totals this<br>year<br>£ | Totals<br>2023<br>£ |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments</b>                      |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                          |                     |
| Assessment or share                               |          | 417,924                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 417,924                  | 441,840             |
| Capital receipts                                  | 2        | 786                                 | 1,106,203  | -                        | -                       | 1,106,989                | 327,735             |
| Interest and Investment Income                    |          | 25,416                              | 31,400   | -                        | 92                      | 56,908                   | 37,475              |
| Grants  | 3        | -                                   | -  | -                        | -                       | -                        | 17,686              |
| Lettings  |          | 7,225                               | -  | -                        | -                       | 7,225                    | 17,084              |
| Other Income                                      | 4        | 37,922                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 37,922                   | 24,890              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                               |          | <b>489,273</b>                      | <b>1,137,603</b>                                   | <b>-</b>                 | <b>92</b>               | <b>1,626,968</b>         | <b>866,710</b>      |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                          |                     |
| <b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>       |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                          |                     |
| Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs           | 5        | 454,047                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 454,047                  | 444,005             |
| District assessment                               |          | 111,432                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 111,432                  | 106,240             |
| Admin, Telephone & Travel                         | 6        | 39,680                              | 1,148  | -                        | 9                       | 40,837                   | 43,408              |
| Insurance, Utilities etc                          | 7        | 33,504                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 33,504                   | 33,952              |
| Maintenance on Manses                             |          | 15,737                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 15,737                   | 27,248              |
| Expenditure on other Circuit property             | 8        | 18,413                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 18,413                   | 10,265              |
| Other expenditure                                 | 9        | 15,146                              | -  | -                        | 83                      | 15,229                   | 21,374              |
| Grants and Donations                              | 10       | 5,900                               | 339,976  | -                        | -                       | 345,876                  | 109,260             |
| Contribution to District Advance Fund             |          | -                                   | 21,469   | -                        | -                       | 21,469                   | 22,616              |
| Governance costs                                  | 11       | 6,000                               | -  | -                        | -                       | 6,000                    | 5,700               |
| Depreciation                                      | 13       | 11,001                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 11,001                   | -                   |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                          |          | <b>710,860</b>                      | <b>362,593</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>92</b>               | <b>1,073,545</b>         | <b>824,068</b>      |
| <b>Net Income/ (expenditure)</b>                  |          | <b>(221,587)</b>                    | <b>775,010</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>-</b>                | <b>553,423</b>           | <b>42,642</b>       |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                    |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                          |                     |
| Property value movement                           | 13,14,17 | (797,000)                           | -  | -                        | -                       | (797,000)                | 315,000             |
| Gains & losses on investments (Unrealised)        |          | (4,904)                             | 460  | -                        | 235                     | (4,209)                  | (6,019)             |
| <b>Net Movement in funds</b>                      |          | <b>(799,641)</b>                    | <b>551,620</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>235</b>              | <b>(247,786)</b>         | <b>351,623</b>      |
| <b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>                    |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                          |                     |
| Total funds brought forward                       |          | 4,083,545                           | 404,717  | -                        | 3,043                   | 4,491,305                | 4,139,682           |
| <b>Total funds carried forward at end of year</b> |          | <b>3,283,904</b>                    | <b>956,337</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>3,278</b>            | <b>4,243,519</b>         | <b>4,491,305</b>    |

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

|   | Note     | General Fund<br>(Unrestricted)<br>£ | Circuit Model<br>Trust Fund<br>(Unrestricted)<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | Totals<br>2023<br>£ |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments</b>                      |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                     |
| Assessment or share                               |          | 441,840                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 441,840             |
| Capital receipts                                  | 2        | 502                                 | 327,233  | -                        | -                       | 327,735             |
| Interest and Investment Income                    |          | 18,144                              | 19,237   | -                        | 94                      | 37,475              |
| Grants  | 3        | 17,686                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 17,686              |
| Lettings  |          | 17,084                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 17,084              |
| Other Income                                      | 4        | 24,890                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 24,890              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                               |          | <b>520,146</b>                      | <b>346,470</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>94</b>               | <b>866,710</b>      |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                     |
| <b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>       |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                     |
| Stipends, salaries, NIC & Pension costs           | 5        | 444,005                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 444,005             |
| District assessment                               |          | 106,240                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 106,240             |
| Admin, Telephone & Travel                         | 6        | 42,207                              | 1,192  | -                        | 9                       | 43,408              |
| Insurance, Utilities etc                          | 7        | 33,952                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 33,952              |
| Maintenance on Manses                             |          | 27,248                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 27,248              |
| <b>Expenditure on other Circuit property</b>      |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                     |
|   | 8        | 10,265                              | -  | -                        | -                       | 10,265              |
| Other expenditure                                 | 9        | 21,289                              | -  | -                        | 85                      | 21,374              |
| Grants and Donations                              | 10       | 27,074                              | 82,186   | -                        | -                       | 109,260             |
| Contribution to District Advance Fund             |          | -                                   | 22,616   | -                        | -                       | 22,616              |
| Governance costs                                  | 11       | 5,700                               | -  | -                        | -                       | 5,700               |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                          |          | <b>717,980</b>                      | <b>105,994</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>94</b>               | <b>824,068</b>      |
| <b>Net income/ (expenditure)</b>                  |          | <b>(197,834)</b>                    | <b>240,476</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>-</b>                | <b>42,642</b>       |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                    |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                     |
| Property cost movement                            |          | 253,688                             | (253,688)  | -                        | -                       | -                   |
| Property value movement                           | 13,14,17 | 315,000                             | -  | -                        | -                       | 315,000             |
| Gains & losses on investments (Unrealised)        |          | (5,597)                             | (287)  | -                        | (135)                   | (6,019)             |
| <b>Net Movement in funds</b>                      |          | <b>365,257</b>                      | <b>(13,499)</b>                                    | <b>-</b>                 | <b>(135)</b>            | <b>351,623</b>      |
| <b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>                    |          |                                     |  |                          |                         |                     |
| Total funds brought forward                       |          | 3,718,288                           | 418,216  | -                        | 3,178                   | 4,139,682           |
| <b>Total funds carried forward at end of year</b> |          | <b>4,083,545</b>                    | <b>404,717</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                 | <b>3,043</b>            | <b>4,491,305</b>    |



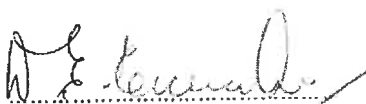
**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

|   | Note | General Fund<br>(Unrestricted)<br>£ | Circuit Model<br>Trust Fund<br>(Unrestricted)<br>£ | Other<br>Funds<br>(Restricted)<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | Totals<br>this year<br>£ | Totals<br>2023<br>£ |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>   |      |                                     |  |                                     |                         |                          |                     |
| Manses etc  | 13   | 1,871,792                           | -  | -                                   | -                       | 1,871,792                | 2,151,792           |
| Plant and Machinery   | 13   | 34,000                              | -  | -                                   | -                       | 34,000                   | 45,001              |
| Properties held as Investment   | 14   | -                                   | -  | -                                   | -                       | -                        | 610,000             |
| Investments   | 15   | 21,426                              | -  | -                                   | 3,277                   | 24,704                   | 35,833              |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>   |      | <b>1,927,218</b>                    | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>                            | <b>3,277</b>            | <b>1,930,496</b>         | <b>2,842,626</b>    |
| <b>Current Assets</b>   |      |                                     |  |                                     |                         |                          |                     |
| Debtors and Prepayments   | 16   | 28,910                              | 149,774  | -                                   | -                       | 178,684                  | 35,527              |
| Central Finance Board and<br>Trustees for Methodist Church<br>Purposes deposits etc |      | 563,927                             | 861,312  | -                                   | 1                       | 1,425,239                | 953,920             |
| Properties held for sale  | 17   | 844,000                             | -  | -                                   | -                       | 844,000                  | 751,000             |
| Cash at Bank and in hand  |      | 11,125                              | -  | -                                   | -                       | 11,125                   | 4,662               |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>   |      | <b>1,447,961</b>                    | <b>1,011,086</b>                                   | <b>-</b>                            | <b>1</b>                | <b>2,459,048</b>         | <b>1,745,109</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |      |                                     |  |                                     |                         |                          |                     |
| Creditors falling due within one year   | 18   | 91,275                              | 54,750   | -                                   | -                       | 146,025                  | 96,430              |
| <b>Net Current Assets</b>   |      | <b>1,356,686</b>                    | <b>956,337</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                            | <b>1</b>                | <b>2,313,023</b>         | <b>1,648,679</b>    |
| <b>Total assets less<br/>current liabilities</b>                                    |      | <b>3,283,905</b>                    | <b>956,337</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                            | <b>3,278</b>            | <b>4,243,519</b>         | <b>4,491,305</b>    |
| <b>Funds of the charity</b>   |      |                                     |  |                                     |                         |                          |                     |
| General Fund (Unrestricted)   | 19   | 3,283,905                           | -  | -                                   | -                       | 3,283,905                | 4,083,545           |
| Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)   | 19   | -                                   | 956,337  | -                                   | -                       | 956,337                  | 404,717             |
| Other funds (Restricted)  | 19   | -                                   | -  | -                                   | -                       | -                        | -                   |
| Endowment Funds   | 19   | -                                   | -  | -                                   | 3,278                   | 3,278                    | 3,043               |
| <b>Total Funds</b>  |      | <b>3,283,905</b>                    | <b>956,337</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                            | <b>3,278</b>            | <b>4,243,519</b>         | <b>4,491,305</b>    |

The accounts on Pages 14 to 25 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
 Rev H Richard Hall  
 Superintendent Minister

Date 9/11/2025

  
 .....  
 David Eccleshall  
 Circuit Treasurer

Date

SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT  
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

|  | Note      | 2024                      | 2023                    |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Net cash (used) / generated in operating activities</b> | <b>20</b> | <b><u>(1,157,435)</u></b> | <b><u>(315,551)</u></b> |
| <b><u>Cash flows from investing activities:</u></b>        |           |                           |                         |
| Interest and dividends                                     |           | 56,908                    | 37,475                  |
| Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets                |           | 1,106,989                 | 327,735                 |
| Payments from purchase of tangible fixed assets            |           | -                         | (45,001)                |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>           |           | <b><u>1,163,898</u></b>   | <b><u>320,209</u></b>   |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>     |           | <b><u>6,463</u></b>       | <b><u>4,658</u></b>     |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents brought forward</b>           |           | <b><u>4,662</u></b>       | <b><u>4</u></b>         |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>           |           | <b><u>11,125</u></b>      | <b><u>4,662</u></b>     |

# SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### b) Funds structure

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. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose and Endowment funds which represent gifts, the capital normally being unavailable for spending, and the income from which is either Restricted or Unrestricted. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 19 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

#### c) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount

Grants are recognised on receipt unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount.

Capital receipts are recognised when the charity is entitled to the income.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Investment income is recognised on receipt of the income.

#### d) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

#### e) Allocation of governance costs

Administration expenses of the charity relate to the costs of running the Charity, such as insurance, accountancy fees and costs of statutory compliance, and include any costs which cannot be specifically attributed to another expenditure classification. See note 11 for basis of allocation

#### f) Charitable activities

The Shropshire & Marches Methodist Circuit exists to encourage and support the ministry and mission of all the churches in its care. Any expenditure specifically to achieve these objects is included in direct charitable expenditure.

## SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

---

#### g) Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. Provision is made for depreciation where appropriate.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Manses etc.         | Not depreciated   |
| Plant and Machinery | 25% straight line |

Properties used for the purposes of the charity are included in the Circuit's accounts when responsibility for maintenance etc. rests with the Circuit.

They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt. Where cost is not available, the Circuit Meeting has estimated the buildings' current value to the circuit, based on insurance values and taking account of the fact that cover will be based on demolition and reinstating the current building and not the original cost less accumulated depreciation.

When properties are sold, the Connexion is entitled to levy a proportion of the proceeds and therefore, when the decision is made to sell a property, the book value is adjusted to reflect the expected realisable value, net of levies and any other selling costs.

#### h) Investment Properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is measured using the fair value model and stated at its fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in net income/ (expenditure) for the year.

#### i) Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

#### j) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### k) Basic Financial Assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### l) Basic Financial Liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

#### m) Pensions

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**2 Capital Receipts comprise the following**

|  | General | Unrestricted funds<br>Circuit Model Trust | 2024<br>Total | 2023<br>Total |
|--|---------|---|---------------|---------------|
|  | £       | £   | £             | £             |
| Balances and asset sale proceeds from Manses and closed churches | 786     | -   | 786           | 502           |
| Sale of Coton Chapel   | -       | -   | -             | 115,954       |
| Sale of Knolton Chapel   | -       | -   | -             | 43,811        |
| Sale of Moreton Mill Chapel                                      | -       | -   | -             | 167,468       |
| Sale of Chirk Bank Chapel  | -       | 201,826                                   | 201,826       | -             |
| Sale of Eardisley Chapel   | -       | 61,508                                    | 61,508        | -             |
| Sale of Ruyton X1 Towns Manse                                    | -       | 318,251                                   | 318,251       | -             |
| Sale of Wattlesborough Chapel                                    | -       | 136,794                                   | 136,794       | -             |
| Sale of Knolton Cottage  | -       | 182,432                                   | 182,432       | -             |
| Sale of Green Chapel   | -       | 58,518                                    | 58,518        | -             |
| Sale of Cleobury Mortimer Church                                 | -       | 146,874                                   | 146,874       | -             |
|  | 786     | 1,106,203                                 | 1,106,989     | 327,735       |

**3 Grants**

|   | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church | -         | 12,850    |
|   | -         | 12,850    |

**4 Other income**

|  | General | Unrestricted funds<br>Circuit Model Trust | 2024<br>Total | 2023<br>Total |
|--|---------|---|---------------|---------------|
|  | £       | £   | £             | £             |
| Employment cost of Administrator at Ludlow office has been financed by Ludlow Methodist Church and Hands Together Ludlow | 22,686  | -   | 22,686        | 20,965        |
| Various sources towards employment of Pastoral Worker  | 5,265   | -   | 5,265         | 4,836         |
| Other  | 9,971   | -   | 9,971         | 3,925         |
|  | 37,922  | -   | 37,922        | 29,726        |

**5 Staff costs**

|               | Salaries | National Insurance | Pension | Apprenticeship Levy | 2024<br>Total | 2023<br>Total |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
|               | £        | £                  | £       | £                   | £             | £             |
| Ministerial   | 239,874  | 21,845             | 62,494  | 1,199               | 325,412       | 339,041       |
| Lay employees | 116,544  | 6,439              | 5,070   | 582                 | 128,635       | 104,965       |
|               | 356,418  | 28,284             | 67,564  | 1,781               | 454,047       | 444,006       |

The average number of employees during the year was 17 (2023 - 17) with all employee time involved in providing support services to charitable activities. All the Ministers are Trustees of the Circuit but stipends relate solely to their duties as Ministers.

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises the members of the executive committee. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of key management personnel were £164,364 (2023 - £153,709). No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023 - none).

**6 Telephone & Travel including Administration**

|                                | Unrestricted | Circuit Model Trust Fund | Restricted | Endowment | 2024<br>Total | 2023<br>Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
|                                | £            | £                        | £          | £         | £             | £             |
| Ministerial Travel             | 16,581       | -                        | -          | -         | 16,581        | 21,189        |
| Supernumerary Travel           | 1,678        | -                        | -          | -         | 1,678         | 1,199         |
| Lay Travel                     | 6,030        | -                        | -          | -         | 6,030         | 6,038         |
| Telephone - Ministers & Office | 9,944        | -                        | -          | -         | 9,944         | 8,476         |
| Other administration           | 5,447        | 1,148                    | -          | 9         | 6,604         | 6,506         |
|                                | 39,680       | 1,148                    | 0          | 9         | 40,837        | 43,408        |

SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

| <b>7 Insurance, Utilities on occupied Manses</b> | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>Circuit Model Trust Fund</b> | <b>Restricted</b> | <b>Endowment</b> | <b>2024 Total</b> | <b>2023 Total</b> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | £                   | £                               | £                 | £                | £                 | £                 |
| Insurance  | 7,017               | -                               | -                 | -                | 7,017             | 7,966             |
| Council Tax                                      | 22,568              | -                               | -                 | -                | 22,568            | 22,403            |
| Water rates                                      | 3,919               | -                               | -                 | -                | 3,919             | 3,583             |
|  | <b>33,504</b>       | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>         | <b>33,504</b>     | <b>33,952</b>     |

| <b>8 Expenditure on other Circuit Property</b> | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>Circuit Model Trust Fund</b> | <b>Restricted</b> | <b>2024 Total</b> | <b>2023 Total</b> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | £                   | £                               | £                 | £                 | £                 |
| Other Manses either unoccupied or let          | 2,342               | -                               | -                 | 2,342             | 750               |
| Properties awaiting sale or sold               | 13,933              | -                               | -                 | 13,933            | 5,747             |
| Cleobury Mortimer Methodist Church premises    | 2,000               | -                               | -                 | 2,000             | 2,771             |
| Other  | 138                 | -                               | -                 | 138               | 997               |
|  | <b>18,413</b>       | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>          | <b>18,413</b>     | <b>10,265</b>     |

| <b>9 Other expenditure</b>                   | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>CMTF</b> | <b>Endowment</b> | <b>2024 Total</b> | <b>2023 Total</b> |
|--|---------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | £                   |             | £                | £                 | £                 |
| Presbyteral relocation allowances            | 600                 | -           | -                | 600               | 1,200             |
| Removal costs                                | 3,300               | -           | -                | 3,300             | 3,875             |
| Supernumerary Ministers' Fees                | 4,305               | -           | -                | 4,305             | 2,450             |
| Bayston Hill Church for office accommodation | 840                 | -           | -                | 840               | 840               |
| Worship Materials                            | 1,844               | -           | -                | 1,844             | 1,822             |
| Other inc Zoom related costs                 | 4,257               | -           | 83               | 4,340             | 11,187            |
|  | <b>15,146</b>       | <b>-</b>    | <b>83</b>        | <b>15,229</b>     | <b>21,374</b>     |

| <b>10 Grants and Donations</b>                 | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>Circuit Model Trust Fund</b> | <b>2024 Total</b> | <b>2023 Total</b> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | £                   | £                               | £                 | £                 |
| Various Churches (6)                           | -                   | -                               | -                 | 5,600             |
| Ellesmere for Mission Project                  | -                   | -                               | -                 | 17,349            |
| <u>Connexional levy &amp; Grants repaid:</u>   |                     |                                 |                   |                   |
| Coton  | -                   | -                               | -                 | 22,381            |
| Knolton  | -                   | -                               | -                 | 4,568             |
| Moreton Mill                                   | -                   | -                               | -                 | 42,987            |
| Chirk Bank                                     | -                   | 56,730                          | 56,730            | -                 |
| Eardisley                                      | -                   | 8,302                           | 8,302             | -                 |
| Ruyton X1 Towns                                | -                   | 103,300                         | 103,300           | -                 |
| Wattlesborough                                 | -                   | 30,717                          | 30,717            | -                 |
| Knolton Cottage                                | -                   | 48,973                          | 48,973            | -                 |
| Green  | -                   | 7,704                           | 7,704             | -                 |
| Cleobury Mortimer                              | -                   | 34,750                          | 34,750            | -                 |
| Bishops Castle Methodist Church                | -                   | 17,000                          | 17,000            | -                 |
| Welsh End Methodist Church                     | -                   | 5,000                           | 5,000             | -                 |
| Melville Methodist Church                      | -                   | 7,500                           | 7,500             | -                 |
| District Agricultural Chaplain                 | -                   | 20,000                          | 20,000            | 10,000            |
| St. Mary's Youth Project, Cleobury Mortimer ** | 6,000               | -                               | 6,000             | 6,000             |
| Herefordshire Churches Together                | 400                 | -                               | 400               | 375               |
| Refund from Rea Valley Churches                | (500)               | -                               | (500)             | -                 |
|  | <b>5,900</b>        | <b>339,976</b>                  | <b>345,876</b>    | <b>109,260</b>    |

\*\* This amount is returned to the Circuit as rental for the premises and is included in income received.  
The premises have now been sold to the lessee

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**11 Analysis of support and governance costs**

|                       | Support | Governance | 2024  | 2023  |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|-------|-------|
| Auditors remuneration | -       | 6,000      | 6,000 | 5,700 |
|                       | -       | 6,000      | 6,000 | 5,700 |

The total included in auditors remuneration relates to the audit and no other services are provided.

**12 Payments to Trustees**

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
|   | 2024  | 2023  |
| Number of Trustees who were paid expenses excluding Presbyters and employed lay staff | 6     | 8     |
|   | 2024  | 2023  |
| Nature of the expenses  | £     | £     |
| Supernumerary Fees and Travel expenses  | 3,975 | 2,963 |
| Lay Travel and expenses excluding costs reimbursed                                    | 1,046 | 1,124 |
| Total amount paid   | 5,021 | 4,087 |

During the year £610 (2023: £649) was paid to 1 trustee ( 2023 - 2 Trustees) for carrying out PAT testing. This amount includes both mileage and labour costs too.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration in the year for their services as Trustees.

**13 Tangible Fixed Assets**

|  | Manse     | Plant and machinery | Total     |
|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
|  | £         | £                   | £         |
| <b>Cost</b>                                  |           |                     |           |
| Balance brought forward                      | 2,151,792 | 45,001              | 2,196,793 |
| Additions                                    | -         | -                   | -         |
| Transfers to / from properties held for sale | (280,000) | -                   | (280,000) |
| Depreciation                                 | -         | (11,001)            | (11,001)  |
| Balance carried forward                      | 1,871,792 | 34,000              | 1,905,792 |
| <b>Net book value</b>                        |           |                     |           |
| 31 August 2024                               | 1,871,792 | 34,000              | 1,905,792 |
| 31 August 2023                               | 2,151,792 | 45,001              | 2,196,793 |

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**14 Investment properties**

|                                     | 2024      | 2023      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                     | £         | £         |
| Balance brought forward             | 610,000   | 410,000   |
| Additions                           | -         | 225,000   |
| Transfer from Tangible Fixed Assets | -         | 200,000   |
| Transfer to properties for sale     | (610,000) | (300,000) |
| Revaluations                        | -         | 75,000    |
| Balance carried forward             | -         | 610,000   |

The investment properties were valued by independent valuers with relevant professional qualifications. Minsterley and Overton properties are valued on the basis of open market value in accordance with The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

**15 Fixed Asset Investments**

|                             | Listed<br>investments<br>£ | Unlisted<br>investments<br>£ | Total<br>£ |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Market value</b>         |                            |                              |            |
| Balance brought forward     | 25,601                     | 10,232                       | 35,833     |
| Add net gain on revaluation | (4,960)                    | 752                          | (4,208)    |
| Sale proceeds               | -                          | (6,921)                      | (6,921)    |
| Balance carried forward     | 20,641                     | 4,063                        | 24,704     |
| <b>Net book value</b>       |                            |                              |            |
| 31 August 2024              | 20,641                     | 4,063                        | 24,704     |
| 31 August 2023              | 25,601                     | 10,232                       | 35,833     |

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investment in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at the bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value, using the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

**16 Analysis of debtors and prepayments**

|                                      |         |        |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <b>General Fund</b>                  | 2024    | 2023   |
|                                      | £       | £      |
| Debtors                              | 1,600   | 4,240  |
| Prepayments                          | 27,310  | 29,487 |
|                                      | 28,910  | 33,727 |
| <b>Circuit Model Trust Fund</b>      | 2024    | 2023   |
| Debtors                              | 149,774 | 1,800  |
|                                      | 149,774 | 1,800  |
| <b>Total debtors and prepayments</b> | 178,684 | 35,527 |



**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**17 Properties etc held for sale**

|                         | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£      |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Cost/valuation</b>   |                |                |
| Balance brought forward | 751,000        | 436,000        |
| Additions               | 940,000        | 571,000        |
| Revaluations            | (111,000)      | -              |
| Disposals               | (736,000)      | (256,000)      |
|                         | <u>844,000</u> | <u>751,000</u> |
| Balance carried forward |                |                |
| <b>Net book value</b>   |                |                |
| 31 August 2024          | <u>844,000</u> |                |
| 31 August 2023          | <u>751,000</u> |                |

**18 Analysis of current liabilities**

|                               | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£     |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Creditors under 1 year</b> |                |               |
| Trustee expenses              | -              | 820           |
| Audit fee                     | 6,000          | 5,700         |
| Deferred income               | 85,275         | 89,910        |
| Other creditors [CMTF]        | 54,750         | -             |
|                               | <u>146,025</u> | <u>96,430</u> |

Deferred income comprises of assessments received in advance to the period that they relate to:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Balance as at 1 September 2023         | 89,910        |
| Amounts released to income in the year | (89,910)      |
| Amounts deferred in the year           | 85,275        |
|  | <u>85,275</u> |
| Balance as at 31 August 2024           | <u>85,275</u> |

**19 Analysis of charitable funds**

**Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds**

|         | Balance<br>b/fwd<br>£ | Income<br>£      | Expenditure<br>£   | Transfers<br>£ | Gains and<br>losses<br>£ | Fund<br>c/fwd<br>£ |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| General | 4,083,545             | 489,273          | (710,860)          | 223,850        | (801,904)                | 3,283,904          |
| CMTF    | 404,717               | 1,137,603        | (362,593)          | (223,850)      | 460                      | 956,337            |
|         | <u>4,488,262</u>      | <u>1,626,876</u> | <u>(1,073,453)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>(801,444)</u>         | <u>4,240,241</u>   |

**Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds - previous year**

|         | Balance<br>b/fwd<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Gains and<br>losses<br>£ | Fund<br>c/fwd<br>£ |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| General | 3,718,288             | 520,146        | (717,980)        | 253,688        | 309,403                  | 4,083,545          |
| CMTF    | 418,216               | 346,470        | (105,994)        | (253,688)      | (287)                    | 404,717            |
|         | <u>4,136,504</u>      | <u>866,616</u> | <u>(823,974)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>309,116</u>           | <u>4,488,262</u>   |

The unrestricted funds are available to be spent for any purposes of the charity.

The transfer of funds between General and CMTF, related to the following:- general support of circuit activities - £180,000 (2023 - £160,750), specific support for lay employee costs - £ 43,850 (2023 - £37,000), cost of Mission Project Trailer NIL (2023 - £48,500), contribution towards costs of properties subsequently sold - NIL (2023 - £2,438), contribution towards cost of alterations, repairs and maintenance at O (2023 - 1) Manse - NIL (2023 - £5,000).

**SHROPSHIRE & MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**19 Analysis of charitable funds - continued**

**Analysis of movements in endowment funds**

| Endowment Name        | Balance<br>b/fwd | Income    | Expenditure | Transfers | Gains and<br>losses | Fund<br>c/fwd |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
|                       | £                | £         | £           | £         | £                   | £             |
| Hazel J Price Gift    | 292              | 9         | (9)         | -         | 23                  | 315           |
| George Parton Bequest | 1,841            | 56        | (56)        | -         | 142                 | 1,983         |
| Mary Ann Price Legacy | 910              | 27        | (27)        | -         | 70                  | 980           |
|                       | <u>3,043</u>     | <u>92</u> | <u>(92)</u> | <u>-</u>  | <u>235</u>          | <u>3,278</u>  |

**Analysis of movements in endowment funds - previous year**

| Endowment Name        | Balance<br>b/fwd | Income    | Expenditure | Transfers | Gains and<br>losses | Fund<br>c/fwd |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
|                       | £                | £         | £           | £         | £                   | £             |
| Hazel J Price Gift    | 305              | 9         | (9)         | -         | (13)                | 292           |
| George Parton Bequest | 1,922            | 57        | (57)        | -         | (81)                | 1,841         |
| Mary Ann Price Legacy | 951              | 28        | (28)        | -         | (41)                | 910           |
|                       | <u>3,178</u>     | <u>94</u> | <u>(94)</u> | <u>-</u>  | <u>(135)</u>        | <u>3,043</u>  |

All the endowment funds are invested in CFB Managed Mixed Fund and the income is used for general circuit purposes.

**20 Reconciliation of net movements in funds to cash flow from operating activities**

|   | 2024               | 2023             |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Net movement in funds                                     | (247,786)          | 351,623          |
| Deduct interest income shown in investing activities      | (56,908)           | (37,475)         |
| Deduct receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets        | (1,106,989)        | (327,735)        |
| Add back depreciation                                     | 11,001             | -                |
| Decrease (increase) in debtors                            | (143,157)          | 5,129            |
| Increase (decrease) in creditors                          | 49,595             | (8,178)          |
| Loss / (Gain) on revaluation of properties                | 797,000            | (315,000)        |
| Loss / (Gain) on revaluation of fixed asset investments   | 11,129             | 6,019            |
| (Gain) / Loss on revaluation of current asset investments | (471,319)          | 10,066           |
|   | <u>(1,157,435)</u> | <u>(315,551)</u> |

**21 Contingent liability relating to the potential claim over a sold estate**

It continues to be the case that a third party may have a claim over an estate which was sold during 2018/2019 financial year end. This amount cannot be reliably measured therefore no accounting provision has been recognised in the accounts.