

LEIGH & HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1142805

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2011-07-08

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

Contact

Address Kingsleigh Methodist Church
King Street
Leigh
WN7 4LR

Phone 01942674542

Email admin@leighandhindley.org.uk

Website www.leighandhindley.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: (a) The Christian faith in accordance with The Methodist Church;(b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any organisation of The Church;(c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Church;(d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Church.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Warrington
- Wigan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£207,468	£207,609	-	-
2023-08-31	£561,428	£301,436	£523,735	0
2022-08-31	£201,668	£195,673	-	-
2021-08-31	£182,810	£214,267	-	-
2020-08-31	£194,900	£244,200	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Wilfred Robinson	Chair	2021-09-01
ANDREW JOHN WILCOX M.R.I.C.S.		2011-04-07
DAVID CLAYWORTH		2011-04-07
DELIA CASWELL		2011-04-07
David Ogilvy		2012-07-10
GILLIAN BAGLEE		2011-04-07
Irene Goodhew		2017-07-20
JANET MAY JENNIONS		2011-09-22
JEAN LEECH		2016-07-11
JEAN MARYAN		2016-07-11
Janet Crozier		2020-02-25
Janette Hutchinson		2018-10-23
John Perfect		2024-09-01
Joyce Ann Daniels		2017-09-07
KEITH RONALD GARBETT CTEXT,ATI		2011-04-07
KEVIN MEREDITH		2011-04-07
LYNDA NUTTALL CERT.EDACP		2011-04-07
MARGARET FREEBORN		2011-04-07
MAUREEN HILTON SRN		2012-08-29
MAVIS POWER		2011-04-07
MR ALAN EAVES DIP.ED		2011-04-07
MR NICK FLETCHER MCIPS		2011-04-07
MR STAN WORGAN		2011-04-07
MRS BETTY SMITH		2011-04-07
Margaret Picton-Baxter		2023-02-16
Peter Lewis		2023-09-01
Phillip Kennedy		2017-08-18

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jacquie Evans		2023-09-01
Rev John Fisher		2018-10-16
Rev Katharine Bland		2020-09-01
SUSAN MOONEY		2011-04-07
SUSAN STEWART		2017-01-24
SUSAN WHITEHEAD		2016-07-18
Susan Carol Sherratt		2022-09-01
Susan Fisher		2021-09-01
THOMAS MARTIN		2016-08-01
VAL POWNALL		2016-05-01
Vicky Bilsbury-Robinson		2013-10-25
Yvonne Owens		2023-01-01

LEIGH & HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1142805

Accounts

Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1st SEPTEMBER 2023 to 31st AUGUST 2024
SECTION A
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS**

Registered Charity Number: 1142805

Charity's Principal Address: Kingsleigh Methodist Church, King Street, Leigh WN7 4LR

The Trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted. (if not for whole year)	Name of body entitled to appoint trustee	Leadership team
Gillian Baglee	Circuit Meeting Secretary & Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Marian Bilsbury		June 2024	Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Revd. K. Bland	Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Delia Caswell			Glazebury Church	
David Clayworth			Hindley St. John's Church	
Janet Crozier			Glazebury Church	
Joyce Daniels	Local Preachers Secretary, Synod Representative.		Ex-Officio	
Alan Eaves			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Revd J. Evans	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Revd. J. Fisher	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	Yes
Susan Fisher	Circuit Treasurer, Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Nick Fletcher			Kingsleigh Church	
Margaret Freeborn			Bag Lane Church	
Keith Garbett			Atherton Central Church	
Irene Goodhew			Atherton Central Church	
Joanne Grundy			Glazebury Church	
Maureen Hilton	Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Janette Hutchinson			Culcheth Church	
Janet Jennions			Hindley St. John's Church	
Philip Kennedy			Hindley Green Church	
Jean Leech			Bedford Church	
Peter Lewis			Bamfurlong Church	
Thomas Martin	Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Jean Maryan			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Kevin Meredith			Bedford Church	
Susan Mooney			Kingsleigh Church	
Vera Nelson		Deceased May 2024	Bedford Church	
Victoria Nichol			Bag Lane Church	
Lynda Nuttall			Atherton Central Church	
David Ogilvy			Culcheth Church	
Yvonne Owens			Hindley St John's Church	

Mavis Power			Bag Lane Church	
Valerie Pownall			Bedford Church	
Vicky Robinson			Hindley Green Church	
Revd. W. Robinson	Superintendent Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Carol Sherratt			Culcheth Church	
Elizabeth Smith			Hindley Green Church	
Susan Stewart			Hindley Green Church	
Revd. S. Whitehead	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Andrew Wilcox			Bamfurlong Church	

PROFESSIONAL BODIES EMPLOYED BY THE CIRCUIT 2023/2024

Iain Crompton/ Adam Robson Lambert, Smith Hampton (Chartered Surveyors),
4th Floor, Windmill Green, 24 Mount Street,
Manchester, M2 3NN (Sale of Wigan Road)

Lea Hough (Chartered Surveyors), Oakshaw House, 2 Capricorn Park, Blakewater Road.
Blackburn, BB1 5QR (Quinquennial Inspections)

Sapphire Homes (Estate Agents), 20 King Street, Leigh. WN7 4LG

Joanne Russell at Sinton Solicitors, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6DB

SECTION B STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity's trusts:

The governing document is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Act of Parliament, the Charity Commission, constitutes the charity.

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

Local churches or circuit organisations and the existing trustees appoint new trustees. Ministers and circuit stewards are automatically trustees.

Induction and Training for Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion is issued to new trustees including the leaflet, 'The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' and they are offered the support of the Circuit Meeting Secretary. From time to time training sessions are provided on a range of aspects of the role of Trustees.

Structure

The Circuit is part of the Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District and appoints representatives to its meeting (The District Synod) and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

A Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) that comprises of the Ministers and the Circuit Stewards supports the Meeting of the Trustees (Circuit Meeting). The CLT advises the Circuit Meeting and ensures that its decisions are enacted.

Risks: A standing modest risk to the Circuit is the ability of Churches to pay the financial assessment so that the Circuit so that it can meet its costs. Most Churches rely on the letting of their premises and fund raising to enable them to meet their assessment and running costs. All 10 Churches in the Circuit have managed to pay their assessment for this financial year. Thank you to the treasurers and those who give so generously of their time and money week by week.

A possible risk is the overloading of the ministers, particularly the Superintendent due to the extra workload this role entails. But at the moment the 2 ministers and part-time supernumerary are managing. However long term there is a continuing risk as ministers leave the circuit over time, that the Methodist Church may not be able to replace them, given a national shortage of presbyters.

The four Hubs have continued to worship and work together with varying degrees of success. One Hub shares worship each Sunday alternating between both Churches. Other Hubs share together once a month. Once a quarter a Circuit Service is held centrally and all Churches are invited to attend, these have been quite successful.

Across the Circuit some Churches are struggling to recruit new office holders, with some individuals feeling unable to retire despite long service. This poses a risk to good governance and limits the energy available to pursue new initiatives and look outwards to serve the communities within which the churches sit. The Circuit itself has struggled to find new Circuit Stewards to join the Leadership Team.

The community sees Circuit and Church organisations as safe places and many young children and vulnerable adults use them. The risk of inappropriate behavior is controlled by application of the statutory procedures for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Additionally, in the year, the Circuit updated its Safeguarding Policy using the model that has been recommended by the Methodist Church. Churches are responsible for ensuring that the requirements are met in all their activities. The Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer supported by a Safeguarding Coordinator and ensures that each Church appoints its own Safeguarding Officer. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer supports them and calls meetings to share good practice. Training sessions are made available for all those in Churches and Circuit organisations involved in work with Children and Vulnerable adults.

During this last year the Methodist Church has brought out a Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training module that all Presbyters, Local Preachers, Circuit Stewards and Church Stewards have to complete.

GDPR requirements are also adhered to.

The Circuit monitors that all those who are required to do training or refresher training have attended and completed the necessary training.

SECTION C OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

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

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

SECTION D ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Part 1

Summary of the main activities under taken for the public benefit in relations to these objects.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 10 Methodist Churches in its geographical area. These are open to all people without charge. The Churches welcome all families for baptisms, marriages and funerals and make their facilities available for community use.

The Circuit continues to support a Food Bank operating in the Centre of Leigh under the auspices of the Trussell Trust.

The Circuit supports the work of Bedford Hall and Westleigh Methodist Primary Schools whose children and families include many of no or different faiths. Circuit Ministers, Local Preachers and Church Members, from Bedford and Hindley Green Churches, visit both schools on a regular basis leading full school assemblies, additionally supported by Circuit Members who deliver Bible stories from "Open the Book". Education Sunday Services are held in School and Church where schools and church come together to share worship, these services are well attended by pupils and their families. The "It's Your Move" programme designed to support children in their transition from Primary School to High School is an annual regular feature. The schools feel privileged to be able to offer this support to all children. The Foundation Governors continue to play a pivotal part in the life of the schools.

Individual Churches within the Circuit operate a variety of community services for young and old which are open to all regardless of faith. These include Luncheon and Coffee clubs for people and varied youth activities.

Mission priorities were recently revised to recognise progress on earlier priorities:

"As the Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit we are determined:

1. To Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Our first priority is to worship Him, and grow in faith;
2. To be a prayerful people;
3. To explore all God-given opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others;
4. To be prepared to consider new ideas in order to extend our mission;
5. To love and care for all God's people but especially the vulnerable and all who are struggling;
6. To encourage, support and give a voice to under 25's, building upon, and investing in, the Children's and Youth work already happening within the Circuit;
7. To continue to work and pull together as a Circuit and as Hubs.

SECTION D
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Part 2

Summary of other activities.

The Ministerial Team

Reverend Katharine Bland joined the Circuit on the 1st September 2020. This year in line with the re-invitation process Revd Katharine has been invited to stay for a further 5 years, beginning 1st September 2025.

Reverend John Fisher continues to work as a part-time Supernumerary.

Reverend Wilfred Robinson joined the Circuit as Superintendent Minister on the 1st September 2021.

Lay Employees

In this current Methodist year 2023/2024 the Circuit does not have any Lay Employees.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders along with the Circuit Staff meet quarterly to discuss worship, new ideas and to share in Holy Communion. During the year there are a number of Worship Leader training sessions.

Governance

The Circuit Meeting normally meets 3 times a year and CLT meet every 6/7 weeks.

Churches and Circuit continue to carry out their legal duties in respect of pensions and are strongly urged by the Methodist Connexion to pay the Living Wage to all Lay Employee's.

The Circuit Treasurer invites Church Treasurers to meet usually twice a year to discuss the finances of the Circuit and Churches.

Circuit Property

Marshbrook Close, Hindley manse has had a motor fitted to the garage door due to the weight of the door. Also a new shower cubicle has been fitted and new bathroom floor covering.

Burton Close, Culcheth manse hasn't required any major works this year.

The Circuit continues to ensure that both manses meet the required standards through regular maintenance and improvements.

Wigan Road premises came under the care of the Circuit Trustee's from 1st September 2023. The Circuit Meeting (14/09/2023) voted and agreed to put the premises up for sale. The Circuit has taken on the management of the Utilities, gas, electricity, water and insurance payments and for ensuring the property is kept safe. Members of the Church and Circuit spent some considerable time in clearing out various items some of which were sold. Any monies received have been put into the Circuit bank account. Skips were then hired to clear any rubbish left.

In March 2024 Lambert, Smith Hampton were asked to give a Surveyor's Report on Wigan Road premises at a cost of £2,700.00. Joanne Russell at Sinton's Solicitors was asked to act on the Circuit's behalf.

In June 2024 the Wigan Road Bank account was closed and the sum of £1,375.65 was paid into the Circuit Account.

The current position is that we have a buyer and the legalities of the sale are being dealt with by the solicitors. We don't have a date for signing and finalising the sale but are hopeful it won't be too long off.

Circuit Grants to Churches

At the June 2024 Circuit Meeting the Circuit Treasurer proposed another Utilities Grant which would be 10% of each Churches Utilities figure put on the Standard Form of Accounts 31st August 2023. This was unanimously agreed. Cheques issued to all 10 churches.

Mr. R. Dransfield who had done the churches Quinquennial Inspections for many years had advised the Circuit Property Steward that he had decided to retire. A firm called Lea Hough have been engaged to take on this role their cost being £1,200.00 per Church. The CLT proposed that each Church due to have their Quinquennial Inspection would receive £700.00 from the Circuit with the Church paying £500.00. There being 4 churches in this financial year. The Circuit Meeting approved and cheques issued to the 4 churches.

Epworth Education Trust

The Circuit continues to work closely with the two Methodist Primary Schools in Leigh – Bedford Hall Methodist and Westleigh Methodist. Both the schools are now part of the Epworth Education Trust formed in 2020 by the merger of the Acorn Trust and the Wesley Trust. There are now 11 primary schools within the EET and the Trust is an approved sponsor in the primary, secondary and special sector, were the current articles of association enable both Methodist Schools and Community Schools to become part of the family of schools. The schools currently span 7 Local Authorities, (Bury, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Oldham, St. Helens, Tameside and Wigan). The schools are extremely proud of their Methodist inheritance and the positive impact it makes upon all aspects of school life.

Both schools are well represented on their Local Advisory Boards by Circuit Foundation Governors who are approved by the Circuit prior to membership.

Both schools have a higher percentage than the national average of children supported by the additional Pupil Premium to address the needs of those from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. They deploy these resources to provide a wide range of practical and learning support for these pupils, ranging from breakfast clubs to employment of additional teaching assistants and subsidising educational trips. In both schools the work of the Pastoral Managers adds great value in supporting and understanding the needs of pupils and their families, so to ensure effective Safeguarding and Attendance of all pupils.

In their most recent inspections as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Bedford Hall and Westleigh were both rated Excellent.

SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW

There are General Fund balances of £131,856.56p which are sufficient to meet 6 months' routine expenditure.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund balance at the 31st August 2024 was £343,668.56p.

The various dedicated CFB accounts to help support the Circuit and churches mission, discipleship and evangelism have not been drawn on in this financial year. The Circuit is currently considering how these funds can be best used to support the work and worship of 10 churches and its 2 presbyters and part-time supernumerary presbyter. Particularly in the growth of children, young people and families work. The revised Reserves Policy is appended together with the accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report.

LEGAL OBLIGATION

The trustees confirm that there are no serious incidents or other matters, which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above at their meeting on 27th February 2025.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Revd. Wilfred Robinson
Chair



Mrs. Susan Fisher
Circuit Steward and Treasurer

Date: 27/02/2025

Date: 27/02/2025.

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

LEIGH AND HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024**

BOLTON AND ROCHDALE	District	Circuit no	06/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1142805

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are exempted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Wilfred Robinson
Rev Katharine Bland
Rev John Fisher

Circuit Stewards:

Thomas Martin
Maureen Hilton

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Treasurer:

Susan Fisher

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	178,489.41			178,489.41	182,921.54
a3	Capital receipts					350,366.80
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	5,049.74	17,737.88	248.05	23,035.67	13,117.80
a5	Grants					10,000.00
a6	Other receipts	5,943.07			5,943.07	5,021.56
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	189,482.22	17,737.88	248.05	207,468.15 (a8)	561,427.70

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	99,475.72			99,475.72	91,981.94
b3	Manse Costs	13,072.56			13,072.56	16,139.74
b4	Administration etc	5,970.90	980.28	13.37	6,964.55	6,237.18
b5	District Assessment	38,056.00	17,046.83		55,102.83	43,405.97
b6	Grants & Circuit pymt towards Quinquennial Insp	8,655.00			8,655.00	20,000.00
b7	Wigan Rd Utilities & Legal Expenses	18,981.41			18,981.41	3,338.20
b8	Other payments	5,122.60		234.68	5,357.28	120,332.62
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	189,334.19	18,027.11	248.05	207,609.35 (b9)	301,435.65

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	£	£	£	£	£
c1	(a7-b9)	148.03	-289.23		-141.20	259,992.05
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	175,085.18	343,957.79	4,691.66	523,734.63 (c6)	263,742.58
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	175,233.21	343,668.56	4,691.66	523,593.43	523,734.63
c4	Transfers and adjustments					
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	175,233.21	343,668.56	4,691.66	523,593.43 (c8)	523,734.63 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)	£	£	£	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				762.24	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				762.24	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	207,468 (a8)	207,609.35 (b9)	-141.20	(c7)	523,734.63 (c6)	523,593.43 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	207,468.15	207,609.35	-141.20		523,734.63 (x)	523,593.43 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	63,560.29	62,626.88
f3			
f4	Central Finance Board	111,534.89	112,606.33
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	348,649.45	348,360.22
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL	523,734.63 (c6)	523,593.43 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	523,734.63 (x)	523,593.43 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 1 September 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land and Buildings (at Insurance value)	886,799
g3	Other Assets	4,449,308
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	
g5	Other Liabilities	

f4 include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *Susan Fisher* Date *27/02/2025*

Name and address of treasurer Mrs Susan Fisher 23, Fellbridge Close, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3UD.....

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on ...27th February 2025.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *WJR*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Wilfred Robinson..... Date *27/02/2025*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner D. Fairclough

Name of independent examiner DAVID JOHN FAIRCLOUGH

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner /

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A.

Address 6, DOEFORD CLOSE, CULMETH, CHESHIRE

Post Code WA3 4AL

Date 7 March 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

LEIGH AND HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024**

BOLTON AND ROCHDALE	District	Circuit no	06/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

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Ministers:

Rev Wilfred Robinson
Rev Katharine Bland
Rev John Fisher

Circuit Stewards:

Thomas Martin
Maureen Hilton

--

Treasurer:

Susan Fisher

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	178,489.41			178,489.41	182,921.54
a3	Capital receipts					350,366.80
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	5,049.74	17,737.88	248.05	23,035.67	13,117.80
a5	Grants					10,000.00
a6	Other receipts	5,943.07			5,943.07	5,021.56
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	189,482.22	17,737.88	248.05	207,468.15 (a8)	561,427.70

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	99,475.72			99,475.72	91,981.94
b3	Manse Costs	13,072.56			13,072.56	16,139.74
b4	Administration etc	5,970.90	980.28	13.37	6,964.55	6,237.18
b5	District Assessment	38,056.00	17,046.83		55,102.83	43,405.97
b6	Grants & Circuit pymt towards Quinquennial Insp	8,655.00			8,655.00	20,000.00
b7	Wigan Rd Utilities & Legal Expenses	18,981.41			18,981.41	3,338.20
b8	Other payments	5,122.60		234.68	5,357.28	120,332.62
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	189,334.19	18,027.11	248.05	207,609.35 (b9)	301,435.65

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	148.03	-289.23		-141.20	259,992.05
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		175,085.18	343,957.79	4,691.66	523,734.63 (c6)	263,742.58
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	175,233.21	343,668.56	4,691.66	523,593.43	523,734.63
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	175,233.21	343,668.56	4,691.66	523,593.43 (c8)	523,734.63 (c6)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			762.24	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			762.24	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	207,468 (a8)	207,609.35 (b9)	-141.20	(c7)	523,734.63 (c6)	523,593.43 (c8)
c10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	207,468.15	207,609.35	-141.20		523,734.63 (x)	523,593.43 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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

SECTION F
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	63,560.29	62,626.88
f3			
f4	Central Finance Board	111,534.89	112,606.33
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	348,649.45	348,360.22
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL	523,734.63 (c6)	523,593.43 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	523,734.63 (x)	523,593.43 (y)

SECTION G
OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 1 September 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land and Buildings (at Insurance value)	886,799
g3	Other Assets	4,449,308
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	
g5	Other Liabilities	

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *Susan Fisher* Date *27/02/2025*

Name and address of treasurer Mrs Susan Fisher 23, Fellbridge Close, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3UD.....

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on ...27th February 2025.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *WJR*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Wilfred Robinson..... Date *27/02/2025*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner D. Fairclough

Name of independent examiner DAVID JOHN FAIRCLOUGH

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner /

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A.

Address 6, DOEFORD CLOSE, CULMETH, CHESHIRE

Post Code WA3 4AL

Date 7 March 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

LEIGH & HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1142805

Accounts

Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1st SEPTEMBER 2022 to 31st AUGUST 2023**
**SECTION A
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS**
Registered Charity Number: 1142805

Charity's Principal Address: Kingsleigh Methodist Church, King Street, Leigh WN7 4LR

The Trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted. (If not for whole year)	Name of body entitled to appoint trustee	Leadership team
Gillian Baglee	Circuit Meeting Secretary & Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Marian Bilsbury			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Revd. K. Bland	Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Delia Caswell			Glazebury Church	
David Clayworth	World Mission		Hindley St. John's Church	
Janet Crozier			Glazebury Church	
Joyce Daniels	Local Preachers Secretary, Synod Representative.		Ex-Officio	
Alan Eaves			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Revd. J. Fisher	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	Yes
Susan Fisher	Circuit Treasurer, Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Nick Fletcher			Kingsleigh Church	
Margaret Freeborn			Bag Lane Church	
Keith Garbett			Atherton Central Church	
Irene Goodhew			Atherton Central Church	
Joanne Grundy			Glazebury Church	
Maureen Hilton	Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Janette Hutchinson			Culcheth Church	
Janet Jennions			Hindley St. John's Church	
Revd. M. Jones	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Philip Kennedy			Hindley Green Church	
Jean Leech			Bedford Church	
Thomas Martin	Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Jean Maryan			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Kevin Meredith			Bedford Church	
Susan Mooney			Kingsleigh Church	
Vera Nelson			Bedford Church	
Lynda Nuttall			Atherton Central Church	
David Ogilvy			Culcheth Church	
Yvonne Owens			Hindley St. John's Church	
Anne Parry			Wigan Road Church	
Mavis Power			Bag Lane Church	

Valerie Pownall			Bedford Church	
Vicky Robinson			Hindley Green Church	
Revd. W. Robinson	Superintendent Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Carol Sherratt			Culcheth Church	
Dorothy Simm			Wigan Road Church	
Elizabeth Smith			Hindley Green Church	
Susan Stewart			Wigan Road Church	
Edith Todd			Bag Lane Church	
Revd. S. Whitehead	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Andrew Wilcox			Bamfurlong Church	
Stan Worgan			Bamfurlong Church	
Joanne Grundy			Stazbury Church	

PROFESSIONAL BODIES EMPLOYED BY THE CIRCUIT 2022/2023

Suki Kaur at Bruton Knowles (Chartered Surveyors), 60 Church Street, Birmingham, B3 2DJ

Sapphire Homes (Estate Agents), 20 King Street, Leigh. WN7 4LG

Joanne Russell at Sinton Solicitors, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6DB

SECTION B STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity's trusts:

The governing document is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Act of Parliament, the Charity Commission, constitutes the charity.

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

Local churches or circuit organisations and the existing trustees appoint new trustees. Ministers and circuit stewards are automatically trustees.

Induction and Training for Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion is issued to new trustees including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' and they are offered the support of the Circuit Meeting Secretary. From time to time training sessions are provided on a range of aspects of the role of Trustees.

Structure

The Circuit is part of the Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District and appoints representatives to its meeting (The District Synod) and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

A Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) that comprises of the Ministers and the Circuit Stewards supports the Meeting of the Trustees (Circuit Meeting). The CLT advises the Circuit Meeting and ensures that its decisions are enacted.

Risks: A standing modest risk to the Circuit is the ability of Churches to pay the financial assessment so that the Circuit can meet its costs. Most Churches rely on the letting of their premises and fund raising to enable them to meet their assessment and running costs. 10 Churches in the Circuit have managed to pay their assessment for this financial year. Thank you to the treasurers and those who give so generously of their time and money week by week.

Sadly at the February 2023 Circuit Meeting Wigan Road Church sought permission to cease to worship and close. This was due to small numbers of attendees at worship and the people feeling overburdened with carrying out the day to day tasks of keeping the church running. The Circuit Meeting agreed and the District Policy Committee was then notified, further to final approval at Methodist Conference in July. As the Church ceased to worship at the end of May the Circuit Assessment received for 2022/2023 was only £5,500.00, two quarters assessment. As from 1st September the Circuit meeting will become the trustees of Wigan Road and the CLT will have the task of ensuring the property is kept safe and taking on board the payment of utility and insurance payments.

A possible risk is the overloading of the ministers, particularly the Superintendent due to the extra workload this role entails. But at the moment the 2 ministers and part-time supernumerary are managing. However long term there is a continuing risk as ministers leave the circuit over time, that the Methodist Church may not be able to replace them, given a national shortage of presbyters.

The four Hubs have continued to worship and work together with varying degrees of success. One Hub shares worship each Sunday alternating between both Churches. Other Hubs share together once a month. Once a quarter a Circuit Service is held centrally and all Churches are invited to attend, these have been quite successful.

Across the Circuit some Churches are struggling to recruit new office holders, with some individuals feeling unable to retire despite long service. This poses a risk to good governance and limits the energy available to pursue new initiatives and look outwards to serve the communities within which the churches sit. The Circuit itself has struggled to find new Circuit stewards to join the Leadership team.

The community sees Circuit and Church organisations as safe places and many young children and vulnerable adults use them. The risk of inappropriate behavior is controlled by application of the statutory procedures for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Additionally, in the year, the Circuit updated its Safeguarding Policy using the model that had been recommended by the Methodist Church. Churches are responsible for ensuring that the requirements are met in all their activities. The Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer supported by a Safeguarding Coordinator and ensures that each Church appoints its own Safeguarding Officer. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer supports them and calls meetings to share good practice. Training sessions are made available for all those in Churches and Circuit organisations involved in work with Children and Vulnerable adults.

During this last year the Methodist Church has brought out a Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training module that all Presbyters, Local Preachers, Circuit Stewards and Church Stewards have to complete.

GDPR requirements are also adhered to.

The Circuit monitors that all those who are required to do training or refresher training have attended and completed the necessary training.

SECTION C OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

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

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

SECTION D ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Part 1

Summary of the main activities under taken for the public benefit in relations to these objects.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 10 Methodist Churches in its geographical area. These are open to all people without charge. The Churches welcome all families for baptisms, marriages and funerals and make their facilities available for community use.

The Circuit continues to support a Food Bank operating in the centre of Leigh under the auspices of the Trussell Trust.

Volunteers and the ministers of the Circuit, especially from Bedford and Hindley Green Churches, support the work of Bedford Hall and Westleigh Methodist Primary Schools whose children and families include many of no or different faiths. An example is the "It's Your Move" programme designed to support children in their transition from Primary School to High School. The schools feel privileged to be able to offer this support to all children. The Foundation Governors continue to play a pivotal part in the life of the schools.

Individual Churches within the Circuit operate a variety of community services for young and old which are open to all regardless of faith. These include Luncheon and Coffee clubs for people and varied youth activities.

Mission priorities were recently revised to recognise progress on earlier priorities:

*As the Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit we are determined:

1. To Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Our first priority is to worship Him, and grow in faith;
2. To be a prayerful people;
3. To explore all God-given opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others;
4. To be prepared to consider new ideas in order to extend our mission;
5. To love and care for all God's people but especially the vulnerable and all who are struggling;
6. To encourage, support and give a voice to under 25's, building upon, and investing in, the Children's and Youth work already happening within the Circuit;
7. To continue to work and pull together as a Circuit and as Hubs.

SECTION D
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Part 2

Summary of other activities.

The Ministerial Team

Reverend Katharine Bland joined the Circuit on the 1st September 2020.

Reverend John Fisher continues to work as a part-time Supernumerary.

Reverend Wilfred Robinson joined the Circuit as Superintendent Minister on the 1st September 2021.

Lay Employees

In this current Methodist year 2022/2023 the Circuit does not have any Lay Employees.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders along with the Circuit Staff meet quarterly to discuss worship, new ideas and to share in Holy Communion. During the year there are a number of Worship Leader training sessions.

Governance

The Circuit Meeting normally meets 3 times a year and CLT meet every 6/7 weeks.

Churches and Circuit continue to carry out their legal duties in respect of pensions and are strongly urged by the Methodist Connexion to pay the Living Wage to all Lay Employee's.

The Circuit Treasurer invites Church Treasurers to meet usually twice a year to discuss the finances of the Circuit and Churches.

Circuit Property

The bathroom at Burton Close, Culcheth manse has been updated with a Walk-in shower replacing the bath. Garden maintenance work, mainly the felling of some overgrown trees has also been carried out.

Marshbrook Close, Hindley manse has had some interior and exterior works done.

During this last year both manses have passed their Quinquennial inspections with only minor works needing to be carried out, during the next 12 months. The Circuit continues to ensure that both manses meet the required standards through regular maintenance and improvements.

The sale of the Stour Road manse was finalised on the 14th October 2022. The sale price of £359,000.00 had been agreed but following the finding of Japanese Knotweed at the side of the house an allowance of £2,240.40p was made to the buyers. Following all payments regarding the sale had been made the net sale proceeds were £350,366.80p. This was then paid into the Circuit TMCP account. A CPF levy of £116,146.72p was then taken from this account.

Circuit Grants to Churches

At the June 2023 Circuit meeting the Circuit Treasurer proposed that because of the large increase in Utility costs that each Church in the Circuit should be given a £1,000.00 grant towards the cost of heating and lighting from the TMCP account. This was unanimously agreed. The funds were drawn down and cheques issued to all 10 churches.

Epworth Education Trust (formerly Acorn Academy)

The Circuit continues to work closely with the two Methodist Primary Schools in Leigh – Bedford Hall Methodist and Westleigh Methodist. Both are now part of the Epworth Trust, created in November 2020 and this now includes Nutgrove Primary, Rosehill Primary, Summerseat Primary and Westley Primary Schools. The schools are extremely proud of their Methodist inheritance and the positive impact it makes upon all aspects of school life. Circuit ministers and church members have been going into both schools on a regular basis to take assemblies and use "Open the Book". Special services have seen the two schools share together. Both schools have a number of church members on their board of foundation governors. Both schools have a higher percentage than the national average of children supported by the additional Pupil Premium to address the needs of those from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. They deploy these resources to provide a wide range of practical and learning support for these pupils, ranging from breakfast clubs to employment of additional teaching assistants and subsidising educational trips. The work of the pastoral managers is of great value in supporting pupils from struggling families and ensuring effective safeguarding of pupils.

in their most recent inspections as part of the Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Bedford Hall was rated as Excellent and Westleigh was rated Excellent.

SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW

There are General Fund balances of £133,867.00p, which are sufficient to meet 6 months' routine expenditure.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund balance has increased due to the proceeds of sale of the Stour Road manse. As at the 31st August 2023 the balance was £343,957.79p.

The various dedicated CFB accounts to help support the Circuit and churches mission, discipleship and evangelism have not been drawn on in this financial year. The Circuit is currently considering how these funds can be best used to support the work and worship of 10 churches and its 2 presbyters and part-time supernumerary presbyter. Particularly in the growth of children, young people and families work.

The revised Reserves Policy is appended together with the accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report.

LEGAL OBLIGATION

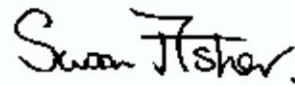
The trustees confirm that there are no serious incidents or other matters, which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above at their meeting on 22nd February 2024.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Revd. Katharine Bland
Chair



Mrs. Susan Fisher
Circuit Steward and Treasurer

Date: 22/2/24

Date: 22/2/2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit Circuit

For the year ended
31st August 2023

Bolton & Rochdale	District	Circuit no	06/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number 1142805

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Wilfred Robinson
Rev Katharine Bland
Rev John Fisher

Circuit Stewards:

Gillian Baglee

Maureen Hilton

Thomas Martin

--

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Treasurer:

Susan Fisher

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	182,921.54			182,921.54	192,632.42
a3	Capital receipts		350,366.80		350,366.80	
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,834.45	10,134.50	148.85	13,117.80	816.87
a5	Grants	10,000.00			10,000.00	
a6	Other receipts	5,021.56			5,021.56	8,218.73
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	200,777.55	360,501.30	148.85	561,427.70 (a8)	201,668.02

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	91,981.94			91,981.94	109,204.06
b3	Manse Costs	16,139.74			16,139.74	17,355.20
b4	Administration etc	5,901.53	322.28	13.37	6,237.18	6,684.69
b5	District Assessment	40,252.00	3,153.97		43,405.97	45,905.50
b6	Grants & donations	10,000.00	10,000.00		20,000.00	7,317.96
b7	Payment to Wigan Rd Methodist Church towards Methodist Ins	3,338.20			3,338.20	
b8	Other payments	4,045.36	116,146.72	140.54	120,332.62	9,205.95
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	171,658.77	129,622.97	153.91	301,435.65 (b9)	195,673.36

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	29,118.78	230,878.33	-5.06	259,992.05	5,994.66
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		145,966.40	113,079.46	4,696.72	263,742.58 (c6)	257,747.92
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	175,085.18	343,957.79	4,691.66	523,734.63	263,742.58
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	175,085.18	343,957.79	4,691.66	523,734.63 (c8)	263,742.58 (c6)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)				
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	561,428 (a8)	361,435.65 (b9)	259,992.05	(c7)	263,742.58 (c6)	523,734.63 (c8)
e10	561,427.70	361,435.65	259,992.05		263,742.58 (x)	523,734.63 (y)

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

TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS
-----------------------	-----------------------

SECTION F
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 202 3

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	65,550.93	63,550.29
f3		
f4	80,415.47	111,534.89
f5	117,776.18	348,649.45
f6		
f7	263,742.58 (c6)	523,734.63 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	263,742.58 (x)	523,734.63 (y)

SECTION G
OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1		
g2	1,034,305	886,799
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer Susan Fisher Date 22/02/2024

Name and address Treasurer: Mrs Susan Fisher, 23 Fellbridge Close, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3UD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be presented to the Circuit meeting held on 22nd February 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Katharine Bland Date 22/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *D Fairclough*

Name of independent examiner DAVID JOHN FAIRCLOUGH

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 6, DOEFORD CLOSE, CULCHETH, MERESIDE

Post Code WA3 4DL

Date 26 FEBRUARY 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

LEIGH & HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1142805

Accounts

Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER 2021 to 31st AUGUST 2022

SECTION A REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Registered Charity Number: 1142805

Charity's Principal Address: Kingsleigh Methodist Church, King Street, Leigh WN7 4LR

The Trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted. (If not for whole year)	Name of body entitled to appoint trustee	Leadership team
Jean Aldred	Chair Lay Appointment & Circuit Steward	Deceased May 2022	Ex-Officio	Yes
Gillian Baglee	Circuit Meeting Secretary & Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Marian Bilsbury			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Revd. K. Bland	Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Delia Caswell			Glazebury Church	
David Clayworth	World Mission		Hindley St. John's Church	
Janet Crozier			Glazebury Church	
Joyce Daniels	Local Preachers Secretary, Synod Representative.		Ex-Officio	
Alan Eaves			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Revd. J. Fisher	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	Yes
Susan Fisher	Circuit Treasurer, Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Nick Fletcher			Kingsleigh Church	
Margaret Freeborn			Bag Lane Church	
Keith Garbett			Atherton Central Church	
Irene Goodhew			Atherton Central Church	
Joanne Grundy			Glazebury Church	
Maureen Hilton	Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Janette Hutchinson			Culcheth Church	
Janet Jennions			Hindley St. John's Church	
Revd. B. Jones	Supernumerary	Deceased June 2022	Ex-Officio	
Revd. M. Jones	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Philip Kennedy			Hindley Green Church	
Jean Leech			Bedford Church	
Janice MacKenzie			Hindley St. John's Church	
Thomas Martin	Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Jean Maryan			Astley & Tyldesley Church	
Kevin Meredith			Bedford Church	

Susan Mooney			Kingsleigh Church	
Vera Nelson			Bedford Church	
Lynda Nuttall			Atherton Central Church	
David Ogilvy			Culheth Church	
Anne Parry			Wigan Road Church	
Mavis Power			Bag Lane Church	
Valerie Pownall			Bedford Church	
Vicky Robinson			Hindley Green Church	
Revd, W. Robinson	Superintendent Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Dorothy Simm			Wigan Road Church	
Elizabeth Smith			Hindley Green Church	
Susan Stewart			Wigan Road Church	
Edith Todd			Bag Lane Church	
Revd. S. Whitehead	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Andrew Wilcox			Bamfurlong Church	
Stan Worgan			Bamfurlong Church	

PROFESSIONAL BODIES EMPLOYED BY THE CIRCUIT 2021/2022

Suki Kaur at Bruton Knowles (Chartered Surveyors), 60 Church Street, Birmingham, B3 2DJ

Sapphire Homes (Estate Agents), 20 King Street, Leigh. WN7 4LG

Joanne Russell at Sinton Solicitors, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6DB

SECTION B STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity's trusts:

The governing document is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Act of Parliament, the Charity Commission, constitutes the charity.

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

Local churches or circuit organisations and the existing trustees appoint new trustees. Ministers and circuit stewards are automatically trustees.

Induction and Training for Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion is issued to new trustees including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' and they are offered the support of the Circuit Meeting Secretary. From time to time training sessions are provided on a range of aspects of the role of Trustees.

Structure

The Circuit is part of the Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District and appoints representatives to its meeting (The District Synod) and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

A Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) that comprises of the Ministers and the Circuit Stewards supports the Meeting of the Trustees (Circuit Meeting). The CLT advises the Circuit Meeting and ensures that its decisions are enacted.

Risks: A standing modest risk to the Circuit is the ability of Churches to pay the financial assessment so that the Circuit can meet its costs. During the recent Covid pandemic and various lockdowns the Churches ability to pay their assessments was adversely affected with some having to dig deep into reserves. In 2021/2022 as Churches fundraising activities and premises lettings began to return to some sort of normality finances for some have begun to look better. Due to some hard work and generosity all 11 Churches were able to pay their full assessments for the financial year 2021/2022.

A possible risk is the overloading of the ministers, particularly the Superintendent due to the extra workload this role entails. But at the moment the 2 ministers and part-time supernumerary are managing. During this past year we have identified the possibility of Churches worshipping and working together in Hubs. Although this is in it's early stages we are hopeful that everyone will find it beneficial. However long term there is a continuing risk as ministers leave the circuit over time, that the Methodist Church may not be able to replace them, given a national shortage of presbyters.

Across the Circuit some Churches are struggling to recruit new office holders, with some individuals feeling unable to retire despite long service. This poses a risk to good governance and limits the energy available to pursue new initiatives and look outwards to serve the communities within which the churches sit. The Circuit itself has struggled to find new Circuit stewards to join the Leadership team.

The community sees Circuit and Church organisations as safe places and many young children and vulnerable adults use them. The risk of inappropriate behavior is controlled by application of the statutory procedures for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Additionally, in the year, the Circuit updated its Safeguarding Policy using the model that had been recommended by the Methodist Church. Churches are responsible for ensuring that the requirements are met in all their activities. The Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer supported by a Safeguarding Coordinator and ensures that each Church appoints its own Safeguarding Officer. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer supports them and calls meetings to share good practice. Training sessions are made available for all those in Churches and Circuit organisations involved in work with Children and Vulnerable adults. The Circuit monitors that all those who are required to do training or refresher training have attended and completed the necessary training.

SECTION C OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

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

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

SECTION D ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Part 1

Summary of the main activities under taken for the public benefit in relations to these objects.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 11 Methodist Churches in its geographical area. These are open to all people without charge. The Churches welcome all families for baptisms, marriages and funerals and make their facilities available for community use.

The Circuit continues to support a Food Bank operating in the centre of Leigh under the auspices of the Trussell Trust.

Volunteers and the ministers of the Circuit, especially from Bedford and Hindley Green Churches, support the work of Bedford Hall and Westleigh Methodist Primary Schools whose children and families include many of no or different faiths. An example is the "It's Your Move" programme designed to support children in their transition from Primary School to High School. The schools feel privileged to be able to offer this support to all children. The Foundation Governors continue to play a pivotal part in the life of the schools. The Circuit had also employed a part-time schools chaplain to work in both schools.

Individual Churches within the Circuit operate a variety of community services for young and old which are open to all regardless of faith. These include Luncheon and Coffee clubs for people and varied youth activities.

Mission priorities were recently revised to recognise progress on earlier priorities:

"As the Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit we are determined:

1. To Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Our first priority is to worship Him, and grow in faith;
2. To be a prayerful people;
3. To explore all God-given opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others;
4. To be prepared to consider new ideas in order to extend our mission;
5. To love and care for all God's people but especially the vulnerable and all who are struggling;
6. To encourage, support and give a voice to under 25's, building upon, and investing in, the children's and youth work already happening within the Circuit;
7. To continue to work and pull together as a Circuit and as sections."

SECTION D ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS Part 2

Summary of other activities.

The Ministerial Team

Reverend Katharine Bland joined the Circuit on the 1st September 2020.

Reverend John Fisher continues to work as a part-time Supernumerary.

Reverend Wilfred Robinson joined the Circuit as Superintendent Minister on the 1st September 2021.

Lay Employees

In 2021/22 we started the year with three lay employees: a part-time circuit administrator, Andrea Metcalfe, a part-time lay pastoral assistant, Eileen Groves, and a part-time schools chaplain, Vicky Tyrrell.

In March 2022 the funding for Eileen Groves role as a lay pastoral assistant came to an end.

In May 2022 Andrea Metcalfe resigned as the part-time circuit administrator to move to York with her family. The job was advertised but currently we have not been able to employ a new administrator, the role is to be relooked at.

In August 2022 Vicky Tyrrell the part-time schools chaplain came to the end of the fixed 3-year contract and the decision was taken at the June Circuit meeting not to renew the contract.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders have returned to meeting in person, with the occasional Zoom meeting as required.

Governance

The Circuit Meeting and CLT are now able to meet in person to conduct business.

Churches and Circuit continue to carry out their legal duties in respect of pensions for lay employees, with the circuit treasurer supporting churches to do so. GDPR requirements are also adhered to.

Circuit Property

Regular maintenance and minor improvements have been undertaken at the manses at Marsh Brook Close, Hindley, Burton Close, Cuicheth and Stour Rd, Astley to ensure that that they continue to meet the required standards.

At the 2021 September Circuit Meeting the decision was made by the members to put Stour Road manse up for sale. TMCP were advised and the due process for the sale was put in place. Bruton Knowles were employed to undertake a structural survey following which Sapphire Estate agents (Leigh) were instructed to put the property up for sale. Sinton's Solicitors (Joanne Russell) dealt with the legal side of the sale. At the 31st August an offer of £359,000. had been accepted but the sale had yet to be finalised.

Circuit Grants to Churches

During 2021/2022 3 churches took advantage of the grants to churches scheme to purchase IT equipment to help facilitate streamed services and enhance their normal worship.

In March 2022 the final payment of £5000 was paid to Culcheth Methodist Church towards their Youth for Christ worker.

Epworth Education Trust (formerly Acorn Academy)

The Circuit continues to work closely with the two Methodist Primary Schools in Leigh – Bedford Hall Methodist and Westleigh Methodist. Both are now part of the Epworth Trust, created in November 2020 and this now includes Nutgrove Primary, Rosehill Primary, Summerseat Primary and Wesley Primary Schools. The schools are extremely proud of their Methodist inheritance and the positive impact it makes upon all aspects of school life. Circuit ministers and church members have been going into both schools on a regular basis to take assemblies and use "Open the Book". Special services have seen the two schools share together. Both schools have a number of church members on their board of foundation governors. Both schools have a higher percentage than the national average of children supported by the additional Pupil Premium to address the needs of those from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. They deploy these resources to provide a wide range of practical and learning support for these pupils, ranging from breakfast clubs to employment of additional teaching assistants and subsidising educational trips. The work of the pastoral managers is of great value in supporting pupils from struggling families and ensuring effective safeguarding of pupils.

In their most recent inspections as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Bedford Hall was rated as Excellent and Westleigh was rated Outstanding.

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Leigh & Hindley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

District	Circuit no	06/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1142805

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

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are exempted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Wilfred Robinson
Rev Katharine Bland
Rev John Fisher

--

Circuit Stewards:

Gillian Baglee

Maureen Hilton
Thomas Martin

--

Treasurer:

Susan Fisher

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Assessment/Share	192,632.42			192,632.42	179,813.99
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	282.27	530.18	4.42	816.87	555.24
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts	8,218.73			8,218.73	2,440.79
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	201,133.42	530.18	4.42	201,668.02 (a8)	182,810.02

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	109,204.06			109,204.06	129,727.93
b3	Manse Costs	17,355.20			17,355.20	14,165.25
b4	Administration etc	6,684.69			6,684.69	10,270.41
b5	District Assessment	42,596.00	3,309.50		45,905.50	46,363.59
b6	Grants & donations	7,317.96			7,317.96	7,387.84
b7						
b8	Other payments	8,874.81	331.14		9,205.95	6,352.64
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	192,032.72	3,640.64		195,673.36 (b9)	214,267.66

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	9,100.70 (a7-b9)	-3,110.46	4.42	5,994.66	-31,457.64
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	136,865.70	116,189.92	4,692.30	257,747.92 (c6)	289,205.56
c3	Sub total	145,966.40 (c1+c2)	113,079.46	4,696.72	263,742.58	257,747.92
c4	Transfers and adjustments					
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	145,966.40 (c3+c4)	113,079.46	4,696.72	263,742.58 (c8)	257,747.92 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	201,666 (a8)	195,673.36 (b9)	5,994.66	(c7)	257,747.92 (c6)	263,742.58 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	201,666.02	195,673.36	5,994.66		257,747.92 (x)	263,742.58 (y)

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

TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS
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SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	43,176.25	65,550.93
f3		
f4 Central Finance Board	93,689.45	80,415.47
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	120,882.22	117,776.18
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	257,747.92 (c6)	263,742.58 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	257,747.92 (x)	263,742.58 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (at Insurance value)	949,530	1,034,035
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *Susan Fisher* Date *16 February 2023*

Name and address treasurer Mrs Susan Fisher, 23 Fellbridge Close, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3UD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 16th February 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *W. Robinson*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Wilfred Robinson Date *16/02/2023*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- (the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *D. Fairclough*

Name of independent examiner *DAVID JOHN FAIRCLOUGH*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *FCA*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *N/A*

Address *6, DOEFORD CLOSE, CULMETH, CHESTER*

Post Code *WA3 4DL*

Date *28 FEBRUARY 2023*

* delete or circle as appropriate

SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW

There are General Fund balances of £106,132, which are sufficient to meet 6 months' routine expenditure.

The high balance of £355K held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund at August 2015 has now been depleted to £113K. Funds having been assigned to various dedicated CFB accounts to help support the Circuit and churches mission, discipleship and evangelism. Some of the projects and appointments have now come to the end of their designated term. The Circuit is currently considering how these funds can be best used to support the work and worship of 11 churches and its 2 presbyters and part-time supernumerary presbyter. The revised Reserves Policy is appended together with the accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report, in which no major concerns are raised.

LEGAL OBLIGATION

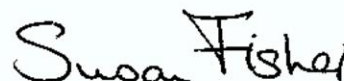
The trustees confirm that there are no serious incidents or other matters, which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above at their meeting on 16th February 2023.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev. Wilfred Robinson
Chair (Superintendent Minister)



Mrs. Susan Fisher
Circuit Steward and Treasurer

Date: 16th February 2023.

Date: 16th February 2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Leigh & Hindley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

District	Circuit no	06/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1142805

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

--

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are exempted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

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Rev Katharine Bland
Rev John Fisher

--

Circuit Stewards:

Gillian Baglee

Maureen Hilton
Thomas Martin

--

Treasurer:

Susan Fisher

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a1	RECEIPTS					
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a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	282.27	530.18	4.42	816.87	555.24
a5	Grants					
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b3	Manse Costs	17,355.20			17,355.20	14,165.25
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SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	9,100.70 (a7-b9)	-3,110.46	4.42	5,994.66	-31,457.64
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	136,865.70	116,189.92	4,692.30	257,747.92 (c6)	289,205.56
c3	Sub total	145,966.40 (c1+c2)	113,079.46	4,696.72	263,742.58	257,747.92
c4	Transfers and adjustments					
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	145,966.40 (c3+c4)	113,079.46	4,696.72	263,742.58 (c8)	257,747.92 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

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Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)			(c7)	257,747.92 (c6)	263,742.58 (c8)
e10	201,666.02 (a8)	195,673.36 (b9)	5,994.66		257,747.92 (x)	263,742.58 (y)

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

TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS
-----------------------	-----------------------

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	43,176.25	65,550.93
f3		
f4	93,689.45	80,415.47
f5	120,882.22	117,776.18
f6		
f7	257,747.92 (c6)	263,742.58 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	257,747.92 (x)	263,742.58 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1		
g2	949,530	1,034,035
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *Susan Fisher* Date *16 February 2023*

Name and address treasurer Mrs Susan Fisher, 23 Fellbridge Close, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3UD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 16th February 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *W. Robinson*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Wilfred Robinson Date *16/02/2023*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- (the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *D. Fairclough*

Name of independent examiner *DAVID JOHN FAIRCLOUGH*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *FCA*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *N/A*

Address *6, DOEFORD CLOSE, CULMETH, CHESTER*

Post Code *WA3 4DL*

Date *28 FEBRUARY 2023*

* delete or circle as appropriate

LEIGH & HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1142805

Accounts

Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1st SEPTEMBER 2020 to 31st AUGUST 2021

SECTION A REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Registered Charity Number: 1142805

Charity's Principal Address: Kingsleigh Methodist Church, King Street, Leigh WN7 4LR

The Trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted. (If not for whole year)	Name of body entitled to appoint trustee	Leadership team
Jean Aldred	Chair Lay Appointment & Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Gillian Baglee	Circuit Meeting Secretary & Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Marian Bilsbury			Astley / Tyldesley Church	
Revd. K. Bland	Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Elsbeth Brighton	Circuit Steward, Treasurer, Safeguarder		Ex-Officio	Yes
Delia Caswell			Glazebury Church	
David Clayworth	World Mission		Hindley St. John's Church	
Janet Crozier			Glazebury Church	
Joyce Daniels	Local Preachers Secretary, Synod Representative.		Ex-Officio	
Revd. B. Deakin	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Alan Eaves			Astley / Tyldesley Church	
Linda Fish	Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Revd. J. Fisher	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	Yes
Nick Fletcher			Kingsleigh Church	
Margaret Freeborn			Bag Lane Church	
Keith Garbett			Atherton Central Church	
Irene Goodhew			Atherton Central Church	
Joanne Grundy			Glazebury Church	
Maureen Hilton	Circuit Steward, Synod Representative		Ex-Officio	Yes
Janette Hutchinson			Culcheth Church	
Janet Jennions			Hindley St. John's Church	
Revd. B. Jones	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Revd. M. Jones	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Philip Kennedy			Hindley Green Church	
Jean Leech			Bedford Church	
Janice MacKenzie			Hindley St. John's Church	

Thomas Martin	Circuit Steward		Ex-Officio	Yes
Jean Maryan			Astley / Tyldesley Church	
Kevin Meredith			Bedford Church	
Susan Mooney			Kingsleigh Church	
Vera Nelson			Bedford Church	
Lynda Nuttall			Atherton Central Church	
David Ogilvy			Culcheth Church	
Anne Parry			Wigan Road Church	
Rev. L. Pereira	Minister		Ex-Officio	Yes
Mavis Power			Bag Lane Church	
Valerie Pownall			Bedford Church	
Dorothy Sim			Wigan Road Church	
Elizabeth Smith			Hindley Green Church	
Rev. L. Smith	Acting Superintendent Minister	May 2021 – 31/08/2021	Ex-Officio	Yes
Rev. V. Smith	Superintendent Minister	Moved April 2021	Ex-Officio	Yes
Susan Stewart			Wigan Road Church	
Edith Todd			Bag Lane Church	
Rev. S. Whitehead	Supernumerary		Ex-Officio	
Andrew Wilcox			Bamfurlong Church	
Stan Worgan			Bamfurlong Church	

SECTION B STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity's trusts:

The governing document is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976) and the charity is constituted by Act of Parliament.

Trustees are appointed by local churches or circuit organisations and the existing trustees. Ministers and circuit stewards are automatically trustees.

Induction and Training for Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion is issued to new trustees including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' and they are offered the support of the Circuit Meeting Secretary. From time to time training sessions are provided on a range of aspects of the role of Trustees.

Structure

The Circuit is part of the Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District and appoints representatives to its meeting (The District Synod) and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Meeting of the Trustees (Circuit Meeting) is supported by a Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) which comprises of the Ministers and the Circuit Stewards. The CLT advises the Circuit Meeting and ensures that its decisions are enacted.

Risks: A standing modest risk to the Circuit is the ability of Churches to pay the financial assessment so that the Circuit can meet its costs. However, this risk has become much greater since the start of the Covid pandemic two years ago. The balances held by most Churches in the Circuit have been adversely affected by limitations on their sources of income during various lockdowns. While Church balances were sufficient to pay most of the Circuit assessment in 2020/2021 this capacity is now under threat as Churches fundraising activities and premises lettings have not returned to pre Pandemic capacity as yet.

A real risk of the overloading of the ministers, particularly the Superintendent, had been identified and Trustees appointed a part-time lay Pastoral and Preaching Assistant to support the ministerial team and have appointed a lay chaplain to support the work in the circuit schools. A re-distribution of pastoral charge was agreed in June 2017 to even up the responsibilities from September 2017, and this has been effective for several years. However, there is a continuing risk as ministers leave the circuit over time, that the Methodist Church may not be able to replace them, given a national shortage of presbyters and the Circuit will then have to explore further lay appointments.

Across the Circuit some Churches are struggling to recruit new office holders, with some individuals feeling unable to retire despite long service. This poses a risk to good governance and limits the energy available to pursue new initiatives and look outwards to serve the communities within which the churches sit.

The community sees Circuit and Church organisations as safe places and many young children and vulnerable adults use them. The risk of inappropriate behaviour is controlled by application of the statutory procedures for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Additionally, in the year, the Circuit updated its Safeguarding Policy using the model that had been recommended by the Methodist Church. Churches are responsible for ensuring that the requirements are met in all their activities. The Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer supported by a Safeguarding Co-ordinator and ensures that each Church appoints its own Safeguarding Officer. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer supports them and calls meetings to share good practice. Training sessions are made available for all those in Churches and Circuit organisations involved in work with Children and Vulnerable adults. The Circuit monitors that all those who are required to do so have attended, and is currently in final stages of completing an initial round of refresher training for those whose original training was some years ago. Refresher sessions of advanced training for those in leadership roles have now been introduced and many of those required to attend have now been trained.

SECTION C OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

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

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

SECTION D ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Part 1

Summary of the main activities under taken for the public benefit in relations to these objects.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist Churches in its geographical area. These are open to all people without charge. The Churches welcome all families for baptisms, marriages and funerals and make their facilities available for community use.

The Circuit continues to support a Food Bank operating in the centre of Leigh under the auspices of the Trussell Trust.

Volunteers and the ministers of the Circuit, especially from Bedford and Hindley Green Churches, support the work of Bedford Hall and Westleigh Methodist Primary Schools whose children and families include many of no or different faiths. An example is the "It's Your Move" programme designed to support children in their transition from Primary School to High School. The schools feel privileged to be able to offer this support to all children. The Foundation Governors continue to play a pivotal part in the life of the schools.

Individual Churches within the Circuit operate a variety of community services for young and old which are open to all regardless of faith. These include Luncheon and Coffee clubs for older people and varied youth activities.

The trustees have used some of the moneys generated from the sale of redundant Churches to employ a lay chaplain to work in the two schools.

Mission priorities were recently revised to recognise progress on earlier priorities:

"As the Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit we are determined:

1. To Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Our first priority is to worship Him, and grow in faith;
2. To be a prayerful people;
3. To explore all God-given opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others;
4. To be prepared to consider new ideas in order to extend our mission;
5. To love and care for all God's people but especially the vulnerable and all who are struggling;
6. To encourage, support and give a voice to under 25's, building upon, and investing in, the children's and youth work already happening within the Circuit;
7. To continue to work and pull together as a Circuit and as sections."

SECTION D
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Part 2

Summary of other activities.

The Ministerial Team

Reverend Katharine Bland joined the Circuit on the 1st September 2020.

Reverend John Fisher continues to work as a part-time Supernumerary.

Reverend Len Pereira retired from the Circuit in August 2021.

Reverend Wilfred Robinson has agreed to commence his position as Superintendent Minister on 1st September 2021.

Reverend Vivienne Smith (Superintendent Minister) left the Circuit at Easter 2021 to help out in her new Circuit.

Reverend Luke Smith took over as caretaker Superintendent until August 2021.

Lay Employees

In 2020/21 there were three lay employees: a part-time circuit administrator, Andrea Metcalfe, a part-time lay pastoral assistant, Eileen Groves, and a part-time schools chaplain, Vicky Tyrrell.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

Groups have continued to meet in person and Zoom as allowed

Governance

The Circuit met in person as allowed and conducted business remotely by email and Zoom when necessary, as did Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Invitation Committee.

Churches and Circuit continue to carry out their legal duties in respect of pensions for lay employees, with the circuit treasurer supporting churches to do so. GDPR requirements are also adhered to.

Circuit Property

Regular maintenance and minor improvements have been undertaken at the manses at Marsh Brook Close, Hindley, Burton Close, Culcheth and Stour Rd, Astley to ensure that they continue to meet the required standards.

Circuit Grants to Churches

The resources, which the Circuit set aside in 2015, to allow each Church to further its mission priorities, have now been expended. A new scheme of grants to Churches had been introduced but was then repurposed during the year to focus on equipment to facilitate setting up IT required to stream services into Churches and continue Church business during lockdown.

Epworth Trust (formerly Acorn Academy)

The Circuit continues to work closely with the two Methodist Primary Schools in Leigh – Bedford Hall Methodist and Westleigh Methodist. Both are now part of the Epworth Trust, created in November 2020 and this now includes Nutgrove Primary, Rosehill Primary, Summerseat Primary and Wesley Primary Schools. The schools are extremely proud of their Methodist inheritance and the positive impact it makes upon all aspects of school life. Education Sunday services in chapel were suspended during the pandemic and in addition, school governors met via zoom for Local Advisory Board meetings. Obviously visits into school by both church members and governors were deemed unsafe during this time also.

Both schools have a higher percentage than the national average of children supported by the additional Pupil Premium to address the needs of those from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. They deploy these resources to provide a wide range of practical and learning support for these pupils, ranging from breakfast clubs to employment of additional teaching assistants and subsidising educational trips. The work of the pastoral managers is of great value in supporting pupils from struggling families and ensuring effective safeguarding of pupils.

Both schools have been judged as Outstanding in their most recent inspections as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.

SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW

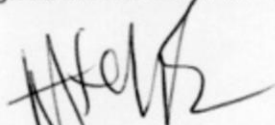
There are General Fund balances of £93,689, which are just sufficient to meet 6 months' routine expenditure. Capital receipts from sales of surplus properties in recent years had led to much greater reserves in the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) than the circuit has held in the past, leading the circuit to review the Reserves Policy and develop mechanisms to ensure resources are used to support mission, discipleship, and evangelism. Trustees have identified a range of specific projects and appointments as key steps in delivering the agreed mission priorities and implementation is now well under way. Once resources are allocated to these initiatives moneys are drawn down from the CMTF and placed in dedicated accounts at the Central Finance Board. The revised Reserves Policy is appended together with the accounts and the independent examiner's report, in which no major concerns are raised.

LEGAL OBLIGATION

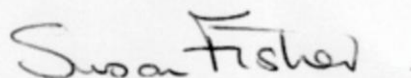
The trustees confirm that there are no serious incidents or other matters, which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above at their meeting on 17 February 2022.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Wilfred Robinson
Chair (**Superintendent Minister**)



Mrs Susan Fisher
Circuit Steward and Treasurer

Date: 17/02/2022.

Date: 17/02/2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Leigh & Hindley

Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

District

Circuit no

06/07

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1142805

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Vivienne Smith (to April) Rev Luke Smith (from May)

Rev Katharine Bland

Rev Len Pereira

Rev John Fisher

Circuit Stewards:

Jean Aldred

Gillian Baglee

Maureen Hilton

Linda Fish

Thomas Martin

Treasurer:

Elsbeth Brighton

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	179,813.99			179,813.99	183,475.78
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and investment income	161.83	392.77	0.64	555.24	2,109.31
a5	Grants					5,000.00
a6	Other receipts	2,440.79			2,440.79	4,311.41
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	182,416.61	392.77	0.64	182,810.02 (a8)	194,893.50

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	129,727.93			129,727.93	146,902.25
b3	Manse Costs	14,165.25			14,165.25	13,533.03
b4	Administration etc	10,270.41			10,270.41	11,555.53
b5	District Assessment	42,888.00	3,475.59		46,363.59	42,898.43
b6	Grants & donations	7,387.84			7,387.84	15,000.00
b7						
b8	Other payments	6,113.02	239.02		6,352.64	12,300.87
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	210,553.05	3,714.61		214,267.66 (b9)	244,189.91

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	£	£	£	£	£
c1	(a7-b9)	-28,136.44	-3,321.84	0.64	-31,457.64	-49,295.41
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	105,002.14	119,511.76	4,691.80	289,205.56 (c5)	338,501.07
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	136,865.70	116,189.92	4,692.30	257,747.92	289,205.56
c4	Transfers and adjustments					
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	136,865.70	116,189.92	4,692.30	257,747.92 (c8)	289,205.56 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)	£	£	£	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8					(e11)	(e12)
e9				(c7)		
e10	182,810.02 (a8)	214,267.66 (b9)	-31,457.64		289,205.56 (c6)	257,747.92 (c8)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				
					289,205.56 (x)	257,747.92 (y)

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	289.97	
f2	34,318.96	43,176.25
f3		
f4	130,353.27	93,689.45
f5	124,203.42	120,882.22
f6		
f7	289,205.56 (c6)	257,747.92 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	289,205.56 (x)	257,747.92 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1		
g2	998,337	949,530
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment 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..... 5/2/2022

Name and address of treasurer Dr Elspeth Brighton

32 Wadeson Way, Croft, Warrington, WA3 7JS

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on ... 17th FEBRUARY 2022.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Wilfred Robinson Date 17/02/2022...

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached other than the following:

Independent evidence is unavailable to support the characterisation of payments made to one of the Circuit's ministers totalling £945 recorded as "for benevolence" in the Circuit's records (disclosed in the accounts as "Other Payments"). The unavailability of evidence reflects the Circuit's understanding of the confidentiality required by Standing order 527.

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 David John Fairclough

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) ... N/A

Address 6, Doeford Close, Culcheth, Cheshire

..... Post Code .. WA3 4DL

Date 22 February 2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Leigh & Hindley

Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

District

Circuit no

06/07

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1142805

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Vivienne Smith (to April) Rev Luke Smith (from May)

Rev Katharine Bland

Rev Len Pereira

Rev John Fisher

Circuit Stewards:

Jean Aldred

Gillian Baglee

Maureen Hilton

Linda Fish

Thomas Martin

Treasurer:

Elsbeth Brighton

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	179,813.99			179,813.99	183,475.78
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and investment income	161.83	392.77	0.64	555.24	2,103.31
a5	Grants					5,000.00
a6	Other receipts	2,440.79			2,440.79	4,311.41
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	182,416.61	392.77	0.64	182,810.02 (a8)	194,893.50

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	129,727.93			129,727.93	146,902.25
b3	Manse Costs	14,165.25			14,165.25	13,533.03
b4	Administration etc	10,270.41			10,270.41	11,555.53
b5	District Assessment	42,888.00	3,475.59		46,363.59	42,898.43
b6	Grants & donations	7,387.84			7,387.84	15,000.00
b7						
b8	Other payments	6,113.02	239.02		6,352.64	12,300.87
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	210,553.05	3,714.61		214,267.66 (b9)	244,189.91

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	£	£	£	£	£
c1	(a7-b9)	-28,136.44	-3,321.84	0.64	-31,457.64	-49,295.41
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	105,002.14	119,511.76	4,691.80	289,205.56 (c5)	338,501.07
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	136,865.70	116,189.92	4,692.30	257,747.92	289,205.56
c4	Transfers and adjustments					
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	136,865.70	116,189.92	4,692.30	257,747.92 (c8)	289,205.56 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)	£	£	£	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8					(e11)	(e12)
e9				(c7)		
e10	182,810.02 (a8)	214,267.66 (b9)	-31,457.64		289,205.56 (c6)	257,747.92 (c8)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				
					289,205.56 (x)	257,747.92 (y)

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	289.97	
f2	34,318.96	43,176.25
f3		
f4	130,353.27	93,689.45
f5	124,205.42	120,882.22
f6		
f7	289,205.56 (c6)	257,747.92 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	289,205.56 (x)	257,747.92 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1		
g2	998,337	949,530
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment 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..... 5/2/2022

Name and address of treasurer Dr Elspeth Brighton

32 Wadeson Way, Croft, Warrington, WA3 7JS

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on ... 17th FEBRUARY 2022.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Wilfred Robinson Date 17/02/2022...

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh & Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages P1 to P3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached other than the following:

Independent evidence is unavailable to support the characterisation of payments made to one of the Circuit's ministers totalling £945 recorded as "for benevolence" in the Circuit's records (disclosed in the accounts as "Other Payments"). The unavailability of evidence reflects the Circuit's understanding of the confidentiality required by Standing order 527.

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 David John Fairclough

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) ... N/A

Address 6, Doeford Close, Culcheth, Cheshire

..... Post Code .. WA3 4DL

Date 22 February 2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

LEIGH & HINDLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1142805

Accounts



The Methodist Church

Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER 2019 to 31st AUGUST 2020

SECTION A REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Registered Charity Number: 1142805

Charity's Principal Address: Kingsleigh Methodist Church, King Street, Leigh WN7 4LR

The Trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted (if not for whole year)	Name of body entitled to appoint trustee	Member of Leadership Team
Jean Aldred	Chair Lay Employment; Circuit steward		Circuit Trustees Ex officio	Yes
Gillian Baglee	Circuit Steward Circuit Meeting Secretary		Circuit Trustees	Yes
Marian Bilsbury			Astley/Tyldesley Church	
Katharine Bland	Minister		Culcheth Church	Yes
Elsbeth Brighton	Circuit Steward and Treasurer		Ex officio	Yes
Delia Caswell			Glazebury Church	
David Clayworth	World Mission		Circuit Trustees	
Janet Crozier			Glazebury Church	
Joyce Daniels	Secretary to Local Preachers' Meeting; Synod representative		Ex officio	
Revd Bruce Deakin	Supernumerary		Ex officio	
Alan Eaves			Astley/Tyldesley Church	
Linda Fish	Circuit Steward		Ex officio	Yes
Revd John Fisher	Supernumerary		Ex officio	
Nick Fletcher			Kingsleigh Church	
Margaret Freeborn			Bag Lane Church	
Keith Garbett			Atherton Central Church	
Irene Goodhew			Atherton Central Church	
Joanne Grundy			Glazebury Church	
Florence Hatton			Ex officio	
Maureen Hilton	Synod representative		Ex officio	
Janette Hutchinson			Culcheth Church	
Janet Jennions			St John's Church	
Rev Brian Jones	Supernumerary		Ex officio	
Rev Mary Jones	Supernumerary		Ex officio	Yes
Philip Kennedy			Hindley Green Church	
Jean Leech			Bedford Church	
Janice MacKenzie			St John's	
Roddy Marr	Circuit Steward		Ex officio	Yes

Thomas Martin	Circuit Steward		Ex officio	Yes
Jean Maryan			Astley/Tyldesley Church	
Kevin Meredith			Bedford Church	
Susan Mooney	Circuit Steward		Kingsleigh Church	
Vera Nelson	Methodist Women in Britain		Circuit Trustees	
Lynda Nuttall			Atherton Central Church	
David Ogilvy			Culcheth Church	
Anne Parry			Wigan Road	
Rev Len Pereira	Minister		Ex officio	Yes
Mavis Power			Bag Lane Church	
Valerie Pownall			Bedford Church	
Vicky Robinson			Hindley Green Church	
Dorothy Simm			Wigan Road Church	
Elizabeth Smith			Hindley Green Church	
Revd Vivienne Smith	Superintendent Minister		Ex officio	Yes
Susan Stewart			Wigan Road Church	
Edith Todd			Bag Lane Church	
Revd Sue Whitehead	Supernumerary		Ex officio	
Andrew Wilcox			Bamfurlong Church	
Stan Worgan			Bamfurlong Church	

Name and addresses of advisers consulted by the Trustees:

Platt and Fishwicks, Solicitors. The Old Bank, 47 King Street, Wigan WN1 1DB

Borron Shaw, Estate Agents. 161 Park Road, Wigan WN6 7AG

SECTION B
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the charity's trusts:

The governing document is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976) and the charity is constituted by Act of Parliament.

Trustees are appointed by local churches or circuit organisations and the existing trustees. Ministers and circuit stewards are automatically trustees.

Induction and Training for Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion is issued to new trustees including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church' and they are offered the support of the Circuit Meeting Secretary. From time to time training sessions are provided on a range of aspects of the role of Trustees.

Structure

The Circuit is part of the Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District and appoints representatives to its meeting (The District Synod) and is accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The Meeting of the Trustees (Circuit Meeting) is supported by a Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) comprising the Ministers and the Circuit Stewards. The CLT advises the circuit meeting and ensures that its decisions are enacted.

Risks: A standing risk to the circuit is the ability of churches to pay the financial assessment so that the circuit can meet its costs. The controls in place include discussion of the circuit's budget with the treasurers of all churches and very limited delegation of spending from the Circuit Meeting.

A real risk of the overloading of the ministers, particularly the Superintendent, had been identified and Trustees appointed a part-time lay Pastoral and Preaching Assistant to support the ministerial team and have appointed a lay chaplain to support the work in the circuit schools. A re-distribution of pastoral charge was agreed in June 2017 to even up the responsibilities from September 2017, and this continues to be effective.

Across the circuit some churches are struggling to recruit new office holders, with some individuals feeling unable to retire despite long service. This poses a risk to good governance and limits the energy available to pursue new initiatives and look outwards to serve the communities within which the churches sit.

Circuit and Church organisations are seen by the community as safe places and many young children and vulnerable adults use them. The risk of inappropriate behaviour is controlled by application of the statutory procedures for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Additionally, in the year, the Circuit updated its safeguarding policy using the model that had been recommended by the Methodist Church. Churches are responsible for ensuring that the requirements are met in all their activities. The Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Officer supported by a Safeguarding Co-ordinator and ensures that each church appoints its own safeguarding officer. The Circuit Safeguarding Officer supports them and calls meetings to share good practice. Training sessions are made available for all those in churches and circuit organisations involved in work with children and vulnerable adults. The Circuit monitors that all those who are required to do so have attended, and is currently in final stages of completing an initial round of refresher training for those whose original training was some years ago. Refresher sessions of advanced training for those in leadership roles has now been introduced and many of those required to attend have now been trained.

SECTION C **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

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

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

SECTION D **ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Part 1

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relations to these objects.

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

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the Methodist Churches in its geographical area. These are open to all people without charge. The churches welcome all families for baptisms, marriages and funerals and make their facilities available for community use.

The Circuit continues to support a Food Bank operating in the centre of Leigh under the auspices of the Trussell Trust and working with other agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

As a new venture the circuit held a congregational “Big Sing” and has produced and sold a CD of the event, with proceeds donated to a homeless charity in Leigh.

Volunteers and the ministers of the Circuit, especially from Bedford and Hindley Green churches, support the work of Bedford Hall and Westleigh Methodist Primary Schools whose children and families include many of no or different faiths. An example is the “It’s Your Move” programme designed to support children in their transition from Primary School to High School. The schools feel privileged to be able to offer this support to all children. The Foundation Governors continue to play a pivotal part in the life of the schools.

Individual churches within the Circuit operate a variety of community services for young and old which are open to all regardless of faith. These include luncheon and coffee clubs for older people and varied youth activities.

The circuit’s own youth group “Explore” now operates under the aegis of one of the circuit’s churches. The trustees have used some of the moneys generated from the sale of redundant churches to employ a lay chaplain to work in the two schools.

Mission priorities were recently revised to recognise progress made in working towards earlier priorities:

“As Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit we are determined:

1. To Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Our first priority is to worship Him, and grow in faith;
2. To be a prayerful people;
3. To explore all God-given opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others;
4. To be prepared to consider new ideas in order to extend our mission;
5. To love and care for all God’s people but especially the vulnerable and all who are struggling;
6. To encourage, support and give a voice to under 25’s, building upon, and investing in, the children’s and youth work already happening within the circuit;
7. To continue to work and pull together as a circuit and as sections.”

Considerable progress is being made in delivering these priorities, with a programme of grants to support churches in their mission and the appointment of lay staff to take the work forward. The circuit is now in the process of taking stock and exploring Fresh Expressions of mission and worship. The circuit is also reflecting on the appropriate mix of lay and ministerial staff to deliver its mission in future.

SECTION D
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Part 2
Summary of other activities.

The Ministerial Team

Reverend Vivienne Smith was invited to continue in the role of Superintendent Minister for a further five years from 2018 to 2023 and Rev Andrew Bradley will now leave the circuit in 2020.

Lay Employees

In 2018/19 there were three lay employees: a part-time circuit administrator, Andrea Metcalfe, a part-time lay pastoral assistant, Eileen Groves, and a part-time schools chaplain, Catherine Preece.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

Several people continued their training as worship leaders during the year and now make a growing contribution to services within the circuit. Neil Whitehead is now a local preacher on trial.

Governance

In the year the Circuit met three times at different churches and there were meetings of church stewards. The latter is a new initiative to meet twice a year to share good practice and news of activities and has been warmly welcomed.

Churches and Circuit continue to carry out their legal duties in respect of pensions for lay employees, with the circuit treasurer supporting churches to do so. GDPR requirements are also adhered to.

Circuit Property

Regular maintenance and minor improvements have been undertaken at the manses at Marsh Brook Close, Hindley, Burton Close, Culcheth and Stour Rd, Astley to ensure that they continue to meet the required standards.

Circuit Grants to Churches

The resources which the circuit set aside in 2015, to allow each church to further its mission priorities, have now been expended. A new scheme of grants to churches involving a greater contribution from the church's own resources and from match funding has now been introduced.

Acorn Academy

The Circuit continues to work closely with the two Methodist Primary Schools. Both schools are over-subscribed, and numbers are increasing at Westleigh, with building alterations to accommodate the growing roll. The schools are extremely proud of their Methodist inheritance and the positive impact it makes upon all aspects of school life. Both held Education Sunday services which were well attended and inspirational in the celebration of education within a Methodist school. Both schools have a higher percentage than the national average of children supported by the additional Pupil Premium to address the needs of those from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. They deploy these resources to provide a wide range of practical and learning support for these pupils, ranging from breakfast clubs to employment of additional teaching assistants and subsidising educational trips. The work of the pastoral managers is of great value in supporting pupils from struggling families and ensuring effective safeguarding of pupils. Both schools have been judged as Outstanding in their most recent inspections as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. A serious fire in March 2018 affected the main building at Westleigh Methodist Primary School. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of school staff, and many others, the school was able to re-open for the summer term using a mix of temporary and permanent accommodation. Permanent repair work was completed during the summer holidays ready for the autumn term 2018.

SECTION E **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

There are healthy General Fund balances of £110,330 which are amply sufficient to meet 6 months' routine expenditure. Capital receipts from sales of surplus properties in recent years had led to much greater reserves in the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) than the circuit has held in the past, leading

the circuit to review the Reserves Policy and develop mechanisms to ensure resources are used to support mission, discipleship, and evangelism. Trustees have identified a range of specific projects and appointments as key steps in delivering the agreed mission priorities and implementation is now well under way. Once resources are allocated to these initiatives moneys are drawn down from the CMTF and placed in dedicated accounts at the Central Finance Board. The revised Reserves Policy is appended together with the accounts and the independent examiner's report, in which no concerns are raised.

LEGAL OBLIGATION

The trustees confirm that there are no serious incidents or other matters which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above at their meeting on 25 February 2020.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

**Rev Vivienne G. Smith
Chair (Superintendent Minister)**

Date:

**Dr Elspeth Brighton
Senior Circuit Steward and Treasurer**

Date:

SECTION E
FINANCIAL REVIEW


There are healthy General Fund balances of £96,795 which are just sufficient to meet 6 months' routine expenditure. Capital receipts from sales of surplus properties in recent years had led to much greater reserves in the Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) than the circuit has held in the past, leading the circuit to review the Reserves Policy and develop mechanisms to ensure resources are used to support mission, discipleship, and evangelism. Trustees have identified a range of specific projects and appointments as key steps in delivering the agreed mission priorities and implementation is now well under way. Once resources are allocated to these initiatives moneys are drawn down from the CMTF and placed in dedicated accounts at the Central Finance Board. The revised Reserves Policy is appended together with the accounts and the independent examiner's report, in which no major concerns are raised.

LEGAL OBLIGATION

The trustees confirm that there are no serious incidents or other matters which they should have brought to the attention of the Commission.

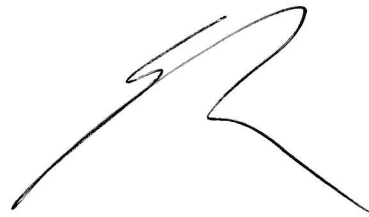
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above at their meeting on 23 February 2021.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Rev Vivienne G. Smith
Chair (Superintendent Minister)

Date: 26/3/21



Dr Elspeth Brighton
Senior Circuit Steward and Treasurer

Date: 23/3/21

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Leigh & Hindley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020

District	Circuit no	06/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1142805
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev Vivienne Smith
Rev Andrew Bradley
Rev Len Pereira
Rev John Fisher

Circuit Stewards:

Roddy Marr
Vicky Bilsbury-Robinson (part year)
Jean Aldred
Gillian Baglee
Thomas Martin
Linda Fish

Treasurer:

Elspeth Brighton

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		183,475.78		183,475.78	184,486.30
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,035.09	1,071.22	2,106.31	2,462.60
a5	Grants		5,000.00		5,000.00	62.80
a6	Other receipts		4,311.41		4,311.41	4,454.65
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		193,822.28	1,071.22	194,893.50 (a8)	191,466.35

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		148,902.25		148,902.25	143,504.33
b3	Manse Costs		13,533.03		13,533.03	13,934.13
b4	Administration etc		11,555.53		11,555.53	8,064.78
b5	District Assessment		38,756.00	4,142.43	42,898.43	42,201.12
b6	Grants & donations		5,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00	2,000.00
b7						
b8	Other payments		12,034.97	265.70	12,300.67	9,403.81
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		229,781.78	14,408.13	244,189.91 (b9)	219,108.17

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)				
c1			-35,959.50	-13,336.91		
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		200,961.64	132,848.67	4,691.66	338,501.97 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	165,002.14	119,511.76	4,691.66	289,205.56
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	165,002.14	119,511.76	4,691.66	289,205.56 (c8)
						338,501.97 (c6)

SECTION D			
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	225.00	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	225.00	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)		

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1										
e2										
e3										
e4										
e5										
e6										
e7										
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds							(e11)		(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)		194,894 (a8)	244,189.91 (b9)	-49,296.41	(c7)	338,501.97 (c6)		289,205.56 (c8)	
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT		194,893.50	244,189.91	-49,296.41		338,501.97 (x)		289,205.56 (y)	
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS						

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		289.97
f2	25,168.55	34,318.90
f3		
f4	175,793.09	130,393.27
f5	137,540.33	124,203.42
f6		
f7	338,501.97 (c6)	289,205.56 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	338,501.97 (x)	289,205.56 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

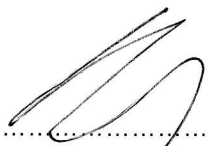
	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1		
g2	871,318	898,337
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

Declarations and Scrutiny

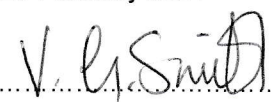
I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer  Date 23/3/21

Name and address of treasurer: Dr Elspeth Brighton, 32 Wadeson Way, Croft,
Warrington WA3 7JS

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 23 February 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd Vivienne G. Smith..... Date 26/3/21

Name of Circuit: Leigh & Hindley No: 06/07

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Leigh & Hindley Circuit**

Charity Number 1142805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leigh and Hindley Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached other than the following:

Independent evidence is unavailable to support the characterisation of payments made to one of the Circuit's ministers totalling £2,000 recorded as "for benevolence" in the Circuit's records (disclosed in the Accounts as "Other Payments"). The unavailability of evidence reflects the circuit's understanding of the confidentiality required by Standing order 527.

I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner David John Fairclough

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 6 Doeford Close, Culcheth, Cheshire,

..... Post Code WA3 4DL

Date 5 April 2021

* delete or circle as appropriate