

# The Methodist Church



## Minister (Superintendent)

### Revd. Karen George

20 Rochester Avenue  
Bromley  
Kent, BR1 3DD

Tel. 020 8460 0669

[20kmgeorge@googlemail.com](mailto:20kmgeorge@googlemail.com)

## Minister (Supernumerary)

### Revd. David Morris

Flat 1, Goldcrest Court  
72 Scotts Lane, Bromley  
Kent, BR2 0LD

Tel. 020 8650 2763

[david.morris@methodist.org.uk](mailto:david.morris@methodist.org.uk)

### Deacon Laura MacBean

73 Hawes Lane  
West Wickham,  
Kent, BR4 0DF

Tel. 020 8249 8592

[laura.macbean@googlemail.com](mailto:laura.macbean@googlemail.com)

Circuit Stewards **Mrs Hilary Cheverton, Mr David Jackson**

Circuit Treasurer **Ms Esther Owusu**

## Trustees' Annual Report

### Bromley Methodist Circuit - legal and administrative information

#### Charity number

1151857

#### Principal address

20 Rochester Avenue,  
Bromley,  
Kent BR1 3DD

#### Independent Examiner

John Whittam ICAEW  
9 Badgers Way,  
Stratford-Upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire CV37 0UJ

#### Bankers

HSBC Bank plc  
333 Vauxhall Bridge Road  
London SW1V 1EJ

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The trustees have accepted a Church House dispensation to report on a Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis, and decided to take advantage of the available audit exemption and have the accounts independently examined. The trustees are listed on page 4.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and with such guidance and best practice for those reporting on an R&P basis as is contained in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The charity was established under the Deed of Union 1932, the Methodist Church Act 1976 and by Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. Eligible trustees are proposed by local Methodist Churches within the Circuit and appointed by existing trustees. Ministers of Methodist Churches within the Circuit are automatically appointed as trustees.

There is a range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion and appointed trustees have access to these documents. There is briefing on the roles and responsibilities of a trustee in the Methodist Church. Existing trustees also assist in familiarising new trustees with the role. The London District provides training sessions for officers who hold specific responsibilities.

The Circuit is part of the London Methodist District, which is in turn accountable to the Methodist Conference (Connexion). The Circuit is responsible for funding the payment of Methodist clergy stipends and related expenses, the provision of manses, and the general oversight of the three churches (four church buildings) within the Circuit.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to these risks. Financial governance is documented, and the subject authorities, processes and procedures are reviewed at least annually.

## **Objectives and activities**

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 and local or other organisation of The Methodist Church.
- (c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.
- (d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In order to achieve these objectives the charity undertakes a number of activities, which are summarised below.

The Circuit provides oversight of churches, manses and ministers in its area of responsibility. Through this and the delivery of services of worship by the churches it is providing public benefit. The Circuit oversees the worship and preaching by the ministry team in the four churches of the Circuit. In January 2024 one of the churches closed down; West Wickham Methodist Church was no longer used as a place of worship in the Circuit. The trusteeship of the church reverted to the Circuit. The Circuit is also responsible for the provision and upkeep of the three manses in the Circuit.

The Circuit is committed to maintaining regular worship and services to the communities in which our churches are sited. We shall offer further training opportunities to our people, to improve and enhance the ways in which we do this. We shall use the resources entrusted to us and at our disposal to enrich the life of all we do through our ministry together.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **Property and Finance**

The Circuit receives virtually all its regular income from an assessment collected from each church in proportion to their membership. A proposal to adjust this method of calculation, for instance in respect of a church's level of income or assets, was not proceeded with. Additionally, small amounts of bank interest are earned.

Proceeds from the sale of properties (minus the levy collected, upon sale, by the Connexion) are held in a Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), from which the District Advance Fund collects a further levy each financial year. The Circuit Meeting may approve the spending of the CMTF according to guidelines laid down by Conference, and no funds were drawn from the CMTF in the year as there were no major improvement works planned for the year. In 2022, the Circuit generously provided the London District of the Methodist Church with £18,500 to support the Methodist Pensions Reserve, which had experienced a significant decline. The Methodist District has now successfully stabilised its finances and is in a good position to return the funds, which have been refunded into our CMTF. The CMTF balance at financial year-end was up due to the refund received and interest earned £40,200.

The manses and other dwellings managed by the charity, if in occupation, are occupied by clergy and their families. However, one of the properties has been let out due to the property becoming vacant in September 2022 when one of the Minister's left the Circuit and was not replaced. Quinquennial inspections of all the properties are arranged on a regular basis. Boiler servicing, gas safety, intruder alarm system and drainage/gutter inspections are carried out annually at each of the manses.

We have continued to maintain and insure our properties, and respond to the challenges of determining the resources appropriate to the life of the circuit. Circuit funds have continued to support ministerial staff to provide pastoral and preaching for four Methodist congregations.

The members and adherents of the churches in our circuit have continued in their generosity towards the common good and the spreading of the Gospel through their time, talents and resources, including financially. The Circuit Officers and paid staff have done outstanding work on the back of such generosity and continue to keep the Circuit moving forward whilst fulfilling all other obligations.

### **Safeguarding**

The safeguarding policies and practice of the Circuit and its constituent churches continue to develop in line with Methodist Church guidelines and best practice. Opportunities for safeguarding training have been provided during the year, especially for those newly appointed to serve in particular ways in our churches, in line with Methodist guidelines.

### **Lay Employees**

There are currently no lay employees at Circuit level.

### **Financial review**

A bulk sum of £58,528.92 was received on the 30/08/2024 into the Circuit's CFB account when the WWMC account was finally closed, including an interest of £237.70. The trustees reported a surplus for the year of £89,222 after a prior year surplus of £2,508, and a budgeted surplus of £860.

Expenses on the manses were lower (£11,107) compared to the previous year (£21,787) as most of the urgent repairs and recommended maintenance works were carried out the previous year. Other

expenses were close within budget. Receipts were on budget. Revenue from the Circuit Assessment on constituent churches, which we try to hold as low as practicable, were slightly down by 8%, reflecting movements in membership numbers between the four churches.

The Circuit reserves policy is to hold a sum in general fund net current assets equivalent to six months average general fund expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of larger expenditure on manses and enable the Circuit to function in the short term in the event of an unexpected circumstance or inability to raise the full Circuit assessment from churches. This would require reserves of £80,000.

At 31 August 2024, the total liquid resources for Circuit stand at £198,000, and we anticipate this amount will increase in the coming year as we continue to let the property at Bramerton Rd and the private property at Hawes Lane, West Wickham. This financial position not only allows us to adhere to our reserves policy but also provides a robust contingency buffer.

### **Plan for the future**

It is our intention to use any significant resources that flow into the Circuit in ways that continue to improve and enhance the life of our churches and the communities they serve. Churches in the Circuit are likely to continue to need financial support as they expand their community and mission work. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 the Bromley Circuit will merge with the Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit to form the Widmore Circuit.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable charities law and the requirements of the Methodist Connexion.

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

This Report was approved at the Bromley Methodist Circuit Meeting on Thursday 5 December 2024, on which date the trustees were the following:

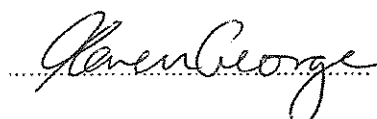
Rev. Karen George	Deacon Laura MacBean	Mary Jackson
Rev Derek Stanworth	Rev. David Morris	Esther Owusu
Maureen Patricia Bazeley	David Jackson	Joan Clark
Jenny Nichols	Hilary Cheverton	Ann Fox
Grace Devarajula	Ann Woollins	Nana Ama Brehene
Sheila Priestman	Judith Seldon	
Caroline Thomas	SimonYoung	
John Ntow	Belynda Pykes	
Rene Meissner	Mary Lancaster	

Other trustees during the financial year 2023-24 covered by this Report were: Janet Hrebien, Alison Driscoll

On behalf of the trustees,

Karen George

Superintendent Minister and Chair of the Circuit Meeting



Dated: 5/12/2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Bromley	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 AUGUST 2024

London	District	Circuit no	35/42
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1151857

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:

Revd. Karen George (Superintendent Minister and
Chair of the Circuit Meeting and Circuit Leadership Team Meeting)
Revd David Morris (Supernumery)

Circuit Stewards:

Hilary Cheverton
David Jackson

Treasurer:

Esther Owusu
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## 20ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Bromley

Circuit

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		108,532		108,532	117,371
a3	Capital receipts		109,787		109,787	15,000
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		837	21,118	21,955	1,498
a5	Grants					
a6	Other receipts		46,666	27,929	74,595	61,866
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>265,821</b>	<b>21,118</b>	<b>314,868 (a8)</b>	<b>195,735</b>

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		80,715	27,388	108,103	104,925
b3	Manse Costs		30,647		30,647	37,809
b4	Administration etc			56	56	56
b5	District Assessment		29,448		29,448	28,588
b6	Grants & donations		1,200		1,200	1,200
b7	Capital payments		28,594		28,594	15,000
b8	Other payments		6,536	491	7,027	5,581
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>177,140</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>205,075 (b9)</b>	<b>193,159</b>

SECTION C						
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a7-b9)	88,680	20,571	541	109,793
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		(10,575)	19,628	79,246	88,299 (c6)
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	<b>78,105</b>	<b>40,199</b>	<b>79,787</b>	<b>198,092</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>78,105</b>	<b>40,199</b>	<b>79,787</b>	<b>198,092 (c8)</b>

SECTION D				
d	<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b> (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	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)</b>			

## 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 £253,300, 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)					
	314,888 (a8)	205,075 (b9)	109,793	(c7)	88,299 (c6)	198,092 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	314,888	205,075	109,793		88,299 (x)	198,092 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward						
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS			

## SECTION F

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	39,555	68,292
f3		
f4	29,105	89,650
f5	19,628	40,260
f6		
f7	88,299 (c6)	198,093 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	88,299 (x)	198,093 (y)

## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1		
g2	1,870,931	1,921,450
g3	46,360	49,558
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 ..... Bromley ..... No. 35/42 .....

## Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer .....  ..... Date 07/11/2024

Name and address of treasurer ESTHER OWUSU  
53 HACKINGTON CRESCENT, BECKENHAM Post Code BR31RY

### 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 5/12/2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....  .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV KAREN GEORGE Date 5/12/2024

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BROMLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT ..... Circuit

Charity Number 1151857

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the BROMLEY METHODIST  
Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 2 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.

\* delete or circle as appropriate



Name of Circuit ...BROMLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT..... No .....

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner ..... 

Name of independent examiner JOHN WHITTAM

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ICAEW

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address 9 BADGERS WAY, STRATFORD UPON AVON

WARWICKSHIRE, CV37 0UJ

Date 5TH December 2024

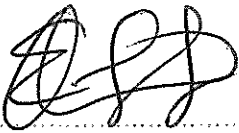
\* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-23

Name of Circuit ..... Bromley ..... No 35/42 .....

## Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer .....  ..... Date 07/11/2024

Name and address of treasurer ESTHER OWUSU  
53 HACKINGTON CRESCENT, BECKENHAM Post Code BR3 1RY

### 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 .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting ..... Date .....

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BROMLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT ..... Circuit

Charity Number 1151857

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Name of Circuit ...BROMLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT..... No .....

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Signature of independent examiner ..... 

Name of independent examiner JOHN WHITTAM

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ICAEW

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address 9 BADGERS WAY, STRATFORD UPON AVON

WARWICKSHIRE, CV37 0UJ

Date 5TH December 2024

\* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-23