

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1155413

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2014-01-21

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

Contact

Address Otford Methodist Church
High Street
Otford
Sevenoaks
TN14 5PH

Phone 07812077845

Email admin@wokmc.org.uk

Website wokmc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (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 BEING A 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: Carrying out supervisory function in respect of Methodist Churches within the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£1,864,888	£651,810	£4,588,066	2
2024-08-31	£271,045	£310,062	-	-
2023-08-31	£350,378	£852,558	-	-
2022-08-31	£1,189,792	£380,000	£2,953,504	2
2021-08-31	£606,232	£1,181,557	£2,143,712	2
2020-08-31	£297,895	£592,792	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jane Elizabeth Braund	Chair	2024-09-01
ANN SUAZNABAR		2014-01-10
Alison Jane Farr		2017-09-01
CARL ANDREW WARREN BA HONS		2014-01-10
CHRIS TOWERS		2014-01-10
Carol Ann Oakley		2019-09-01
HUGH EDWARD TAYLOR		2015-09-23
JOHN ARCHER		2016-09-21
JULIA IRENE BEVIS		2014-01-20
KENNETH JOHN BARNES		2014-01-10
MICHAEL JOHN RICHARDSON		2014-01-10
MR PHIL SMITH		2015-09-23
PASTOR HENRY GEORGE EDWARDS		2014-01-10
PETER ALLAN CROUCH FCCA		2014-01-10
RACHEL MARY SHEPPARD		2014-01-10
REG RUMMERY		2014-01-10
REV JOHN STUART CURNOW MA, BA		2014-01-10
ROI JAMES ARDEN		2014-01-10
Rev BRYAN THOMAS KNAPP BA		2014-01-10
Rev GERALD CHARLES GARDINER BA		2014-01-10
Rev JOHN MARK BUTT		2014-01-10
SALLY ELIZABETH ANNE DAGNALL		2014-09-17
SUE WILKINS		2016-09-21
VALERIE GWENDOLINE MANSER		2014-01-10

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1155413

Accounts

Charity registration number 1155413 (England and Wales)

**WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr Michael Richardson
Mr Hugh Taylor
Mrs Carol Oakley
Mrs Alison Farr
Miss Sue Wilkins
Mr John Archer
Mr Phil Smith
Mrs Sally Dagnall
Mrs Julia Bevis
Mr Peter Crouch FCCA
Mr Carl Warren BA Hons
Mr Reg Rummery
Ms Valerie Manser
Mrs Rachel Sheppard
Mr Kenneth Barnes
Mr Roi Arden
Rev John Butt
Mrs Ann Suaznabar
Rev John Curnow MA, BA
Pastor Henry Edwards
Mr Christopher Towers
Rev Jane Braund (Appointed 1 September 2024)

Senior management

Rev Jane Braund (appointed 1st September 2024)	Minister and Chair
Rev Dermot Thornberry	Minister
Rev Kirsty McGhee	Minister
Deacon Helen Cook (appointed 1st September 2025)	Minister
Mr Ian Beavis	Circuit Steward
Dr Nick Rowell (retired 18th September 2024)	Circuit Steward
Mrs Gillian Clayton	Circuit Steward
Mrs Kathy Walsh	Circuit Steward
Mr Christopher Towers	Circuit Treasurer

Charity registrations

England and Wales 1155413
South-East District No 36 Circuit No 18

Auditor

Nash Harvey Group LLP
The Granary
Hermitage Court
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9NT

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Bankers

HSBC Plc
105 Mount Pleasant Road
Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1QP

Central Finance Board
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kingshill
West Malling
ME19 4PE

Investment Bankers

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JG

Solicitors

Warners
16 South Park
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1AN

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

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WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Full name of Charity	Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
Registration Number	1155413
Date of Registration	21 January 2014
Main communication address:	Otford Methodist Church High Street Otford, Sevenoaks TN14 5PH

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and activities

Included in the report are the aims of the Circuit and a commentary of the financial aspects of its work. The report has been prepared based on the activities and plans as they are known at the current time. The Circuit exists for the benefit of the five Methodist Churches, one joint Anglican/Methodist Church, and one joint URC/Methodist Church, employing the Circuit staff and providing financial support for major projects.

Circuit Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit to work together to enable our churches to share the Good News of Jesus. This we do through:

Leadership: to encourage, support and challenge each church to worship God, fulfil its own mission and spread God's word.

Communication: to facilitate effective and relevant communication between churches and encourage two-way communication with wider Methodism.

Maximising Resources: to ensure the most effective use of all resources across the Circuit and the development and use of our God-given gifts.

Public Benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Aims and Objectives

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the Methodist Church.

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

- a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
- b. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
- c. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
- d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church
- e. The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- f. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- g. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- h. Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- i. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- j. Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Volunteers

The Circuit benefits from the time and experience of a number of the Trustees who perform tasks in a voluntary capacity. These tasks include maintaining the freehold properties, keeping the financial records, accepting preaching appointments at Circuit churches, and involvement with safeguarding matters. Where required the Circuit provides its volunteers with training to assist them in the performance of their tasks.

Financial review

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with Conference approved increases. 20% of general fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Grants from the Model Trust Fund included four payments totalling £14,000 to support the Circuit churches.

Significant Transactions

The Circuit has made grants to one of the churches for the major refurbishment of its premises. During the year The Circuit approved an additional grant of £50,000 in addition to the grant of £500,000 provided previously. A total of £186,343 was paid out in the year, of which £131,678 came from external sources, with £121,678 from the return of a Connexional Priority Fund Levy and £10,000 from an external donation. The refurbishment was completed in August 2025.

The Circuit completed the disposal of a redundant church property in August 2025. The net proceeds due to the Circuit from the sale amounted to £1,347,041 after selling costs and payment of the levy due under the rules of The Methodist Church of £173,507. The funds are held in the Model Trust Fund and will be used to support the work of the Circuit and the Churches in the future.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Reserves policy

As of 31st August 2025 the net current assets on general fund of the Circuit were £127,198 giving approximately six months cover for general expenditure. There are substantial funds held in the Model Trust Fund which support the Circuit and individual churches' development plans.

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 15% of the general fund annual expenditure budget plus twice the annual budget for manse repairs. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. The balance on General Fund at 31st August 2025 disregarding the value of land and buildings complies with the Circuit Reserves Policy.

Funds are retained in the Model Trust Funds to be available to meet grant and loan requests for expenditure from the Circuit and the churches in the Circuit falling within the categories approved by the Methodist Church.

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

The Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Plans for future periods

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be four ordained staff with the anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the District and the Connexion.

The Circuit is committed to the stipend and expenses of Deacon Helen Cook, one of the ordained staff mentioned above. Deacon Helen will have responsibilities in the rural churches and for the development of community work and outreach. The costs of this appointment will be met from the Model Trust Fund.

At the year end the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £1,377,332 (2024 £162,910). These funds are held to support future work of the Circuit and to cover the additional cost arising from the appointment of Deacon Helen.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management

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

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

The members of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Active Circuit Ministers:

Rev Jane Braund (appointed 1st September 2024)

Rev Dermot Thornberry

Rev Kirsty McGhee

Deacon Helen Cook (appointed 1st September 2025)

Circuit Lay Worker:

Mr Richard Cannam

Circuit Stewards:

Mr Ian Beavis

Dr Nick Rowell (retired 18th September 2024)

Gillian Clayton

Kathy Walsh

Administrator:

Ms Nicola Martin

Mr Christopher Towers acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Mr Michael Richardson

Mr Hugh Taylor

Mrs Carol Oakley

Mrs Alison Farr

Miss Sue Wilkins

Mr John Archer

Mr Phil Smith

Mrs Sally Dagnall

Mrs Julia Bevis

Mr Peter Crouch FCCA

Rev Bryan Knapp BA

(Retired 16 March 2025)

Mr Carl Warren BA Hons

Mr Reg Rummery

Ms Valerie Manser

Mrs Rachel Sheppard

Mr Kenneth Barnes

Rev Gerald Gardiner BA

(Deceased 31 January 2026)

Mr Roi Arden

Rev John Butt

Mrs Ann Suaznabar

Rev John Curnow MA, BA

Pastor Henry Edwards

Mr Christopher Towers

Rev Jane Braund

(Appointed 1 September 2024)

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trustee Appointment

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) which is published by the Methodist Conference

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

- East Peckham
- Horsmonden
- Otford
- Paddock Wood (jointly with Church of England)
- Sevenoaks
- Tonbridge
- Tunbridge Wells (jointly with URC)

Trustee Decision Making

Trustees of the Circuit meet twice a year by attendance and electronically as required at other times. Voting can be by ballot or a show of hands with a simple majority for most decisions except where required differently by CPD.

Custodian Trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes act as custodian trustees holding the Freehold Property and the Model Trust Funds of the Circuit.

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



Trustee

Date: 18-3-26

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

The trustees are responsible for 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 financial statements 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.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations,
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector,
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation,
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence, and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected, and alleged fraud, and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships,
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions,
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias, and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Audit response to risks identified

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation,
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance,
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims, and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators, and the charity's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

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

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

Use of our report

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



Kate Francesca Sharp (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Nash Harvey Group LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

The Granary

Hermitage Court

Hermitage Lane

Maidstone

Kent

ME16 9NT

Date: 18/3/26

Nash Harvey Group LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund	Total	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund	Total
	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Charitable activities:							
Assessments	4	238,216	-	238,216	237,718	-	237,718
Investment income	5	4,245	11,665	15,910	4,679	28,648	33,327
Other material income	6	-	1,600,762	1,600,762	-	-	-
Total income		<u>242,461</u>	<u>1,622,427</u>	<u>1,864,888</u>	<u>242,397</u>	<u>28,648</u>	<u>271,045</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	<u>247,436</u>	<u>404,374</u>	<u>651,810</u>	<u>240,959</u>	<u>69,418</u>	<u>310,377</u>
Total expenditure		<u>247,436</u>	<u>404,374</u>	<u>651,810</u>	<u>240,959</u>	<u>69,418</u>	<u>310,377</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>315</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(4,975)	1,218,070	1,213,095	1,438	(40,455)	(39,017)
Transfers between funds		3,648	(3,648)	-	22,500	(22,500)	-
Other recognised gains and losses:							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		<u>138,333</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>138,333</u>	<u>642,075</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>642,075</u>
Net movement in funds	10	137,006	1,214,422	1,351,428	666,013	(62,955)	603,058
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		<u>3,073,728</u>	<u>162,910</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>	<u>2,407,715</u>	<u>225,865</u>	<u>2,633,580</u>
Fund balances at 31 August 2025		<u>3,210,734</u>	<u>1,377,332</u>	<u>4,588,066</u>	<u>3,073,728</u>	<u>162,910</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		3,083,536		2,945,203
Investments	17		4,187		4,170
			<u>3,087,723</u>		<u>2,949,373</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	19	1,637,808		34,844	
Cash at bank and in hand		253,718		352,609	
		<u>1,891,526</u>		<u>387,453</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(391,183)		(100,188)	
Net current assets			<u>1,500,343</u>		<u>287,265</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>4,588,066</u>		<u>3,236,638</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds - general	25		3,210,734		3,073,728
Unrestricted funds - Model Trust Fund	24		1,377,332		162,910
			<u>4,588,066</u>		<u>3,236,638</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 18-3-26



Trustee

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit is a Methodist Circuit which meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102, registered with the Charity Commission No: 1155413

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are held for any purpose of the Circuit.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted.

There are no restricted funds.

Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Freehold property is held at depreciated replacement cost, determined based on sums insured, except where a sale is anticipated in the near future, in which case realisable value is used. The land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation has been provided for in the year, as the trustees consider the residual fair value of the manse buildings is not less than its carrying value. Any depreciation charge would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment with no adjustments deemed necessary.

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

Freehold land and buildings

No depreciation deemed necessary

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

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

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

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

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Impairment Review

Determine whether there are indications of impairment of the charity's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future performance of the asset. Where indicators exist impairment reviews are carried out on the charity's tangible assets.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and their residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as age and future economic benefits are taken into account.

Valuation of Freehold Property

As described in the the accounting policies of the financial statements, freehold property is stated at fair value. The Trustees' have assessed this and based on reference to current insurance valuations consider them to be stated at fair value. However, the rise in interest rates and inflation have caused significant disruption and uncertainty in the UK property market which has inevitable increased the degree of judgement in the property valuations at the balance sheet date.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund 2024 £
Donations and gifts	10,000	-

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Charitable activities		
Assessments	238,216	237,718

5 Income from investment income

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from listed investments	-	86	86	-	114	114
Interest receivable	4,245	11,579	15,824	4,679	28,534	33,213
	<u>4,245</u>	<u>11,665</u>	<u>15,910</u>	<u>4,679</u>	<u>28,648</u>	<u>33,327</u>

The income consists of interest of £10,743 (2024: £28,534) from deposits with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, £4,245 (2024: £4,679) from deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and dividends of £86 (2024: £114) from listed investments.

There was also a further £836 (2024: Nil) interest received from Warners Solicitors for funds held on their client account relating to the Southborough sale.

6 Other material income

Other material income includes £1,479,084 (2024: Nil) from the sale of the former Southborough Methodist Church and £121,678 (2024: Nil) from the refund of a levy paid on the sale of the Horsmonden Manse.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Assessments 2025 £	Assessments 2024 £
Direct costs		
District Assessment	10,081	9,690
Methodist Church Fund	42,290	38,802
Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund	8,234	41,656
Sale of Property Levy	173,507	-
	<u>234,112</u>	<u>90,148</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	195,678	2,000
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	209,520	216,929
Governance	12,500	1,300
	<u>651,810</u>	<u>310,377</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	247,436	240,959
Unrestricted funds - Model Trust Fund	404,374	69,418
	<u>651,810</u>	<u>310,377</u>

8 Grants payable

	Assessments 2025 £	Assessments 2024 £
Grants to institutions:		
Supporting worship at Circuit Churches	11,500	2,000
Refurbishment of East Peckham	181,678	-
Employment of a community worker at Tonbridge	2,500	-
	<u>195,678</u>	<u>2,000</u>

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	129,396	140,154
Telephone and travel	13,043	14,084
Insurance and utilities	19,457	20,426
Maintenance of manses	14,351	8,419
Expenditure on circuit property	16,844	23,846
Other expenditure	16,429	10,000
Governance costs	12,500	1,300
	<u>222,020</u>	<u>218,229</u>
Analysed between:		
Assessments	<u>222,020</u>	<u>218,229</u>

10 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor:		
- for the audit of the charity's financial statements	9,500	1,300
- for other financial services	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements includes £3,500 for the year ended 31st August 2024 and £6,000 for the year ended 31st August 2025.

11 Trustees

Rev Jane Elizabeth Braund, received stipends from The Payroll Bureau at The Methodist Church amounting gross £40,637 in respect of her duties as a Methodist Minister (Presbyter) and Superintendent of the Weald of Kent Circuit.

They also received reimbursements during the year to the value of £2,888.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025 Number	2024 Number
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Salaries	22,227	40,942
Social security costs	1,258	2,420
Other pension costs	313	1,666
Apprentice scheme levy	537	589
	<u>24,335</u>	<u>45,617</u>

The total amounts paid relating to stipends amounted to £105,060 (2024: £94,537).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

13 Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund

As required by the Methodist Church contributions are made from property sales to the Connexional Priority Fund of £173,507 (2024: Nil). An annual levy is also required and the total paid over during the year amounted to £8,234 (2024: £41,656).

14 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund 2024 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	<u>17</u>	<u>315</u>

15 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	2,945,203
Revaluation	138,333
At 31 August 2025	3,083,536
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2025	3,083,536
At 31 August 2024	2,945,203

Freehold land and buildings relates to the four manses held by the Circuit throughout the year.

The historical cost of the freehold properties included at the balance sheet date was £Nil (2024: £Nil) and the accumulated depreciation based on historical cost would be £Nil (2024: £Nil). When the circuit was established by a merger of circuits the then properties were passed over at no cost. During the year there was a revaluation of freehold property based on sums insured. In the opinion of the Trustees, this represents the fair value of the properties at the year-end. The revaluation surplus is disclosed above.

17 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2024	4,170
Valuation changes	17
At 31 August 2025	4,187
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2025	4,187
At 31 August 2024	4,170

18 Financial instruments

	2025 £	2024 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	4,187	4,170

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	3,312	3,902
Other debtors	1,617,552	17,862
Prepayments and accrued income	16,944	13,080
	<u>1,637,808</u>	<u>34,844</u>

Other debtors for the Model Trust Fund include the balance due from the General Fund of £137,632.

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income	21	37,424	33,352
Trade creditors		9,371	13,760
Other creditors		335,388	51,776
Accruals		9,000	1,300
		<u>391,183</u>	<u>100,188</u>

Other creditors includes the balance due to the Model Trust Fund of £137,632.

There are no long-term liabilities.

21 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	<u>37,424</u>	<u>33,352</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	<u>37,424</u>	<u>33,352</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	33,352	-
Released from previous periods	(33,352)	-
Resources deferred in the year	<u>37,424</u>	<u>33,352</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>37,424</u>	<u>33,352</u>

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

21 Deferred income

(Continued)

Deferred income arises from church assessments paid in advance of the year-end which relate to the next accounting period.

22 Provision for Outstanding Grants

The amounts of grants provided but unpaid at 31 August 2024 was £33,914. A total of £195,678 grants were awarded in the year and a total of £205,343 were paid leaving a balance outstanding of £24,249 at 31 August 2025. It is anticipated that this balance will be paid within 12 months. An analysis of grants paid during the year is as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Refurbishment of a Circuit church building	186,343	350,000
Employment of Community Worker	<u>7,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	193,843	355,000
Expensed through SOFA:		
Supporting worship at Circuit Churches	<u>11,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total grants in year	<u>205,343</u>	<u>357,000</u>

23 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>313</u>	<u>1,666</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24 Unrestricted funds - Model Trust Fund

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 August 2025 £
Model Trust Fund	162,910	1,622,427	(404,374)	(3,648)	17	1,377,332
Previous year:	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 August 2024 £
Model Trust Fund	225,865	28,648	(69,418)	(22,500)	315	162,910

The purpose of the Model Trust Fund is to make grants and loans to the Circuit churches, to improve the manse and other purposes as permitted by The Methodist Church.

The transfer between the funds related to support from the Model Trust Fund for the ministry of the Circuit.

25 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and other charitable income which are not subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 August 2025 £
General funds	3,073,728	242,461	(247,436)	3,648	138,333	3,210,734
Previous year:	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 August 2024 £
General funds	2,407,715	242,397	(240,959)	22,500	642,075	3,073,728

The purpose of the general fund is the administration of the Circuit.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund	Total
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £
At 31 August 2025:			
Tangible assets	3,083,536	-	3,083,536
Investments	-	4,187	4,187
Current assets/(liabilities)	127,198	1,373,145	1,500,343
	<u>3,210,734</u>	<u>1,377,332</u>	<u>4,588,066</u>
	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Model Trust Fund	Total
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
At 31 August 2024:			
Tangible assets	2,945,203	-	2,945,203
Investments	-	4,170	4,170
Current assets/(liabilities)	128,525	158,740	287,265
	<u>3,073,728</u>	<u>162,910</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>

27 Sale of Redundant Church

On 4th July 2023 the Circuit entered into a contract for the sale of the site of a redundant church subject to planning permission being obtained. Due to delays relating to planning permission and subsequent re-negotiations regarding the sale price, completion of the sale did not occur until 19th August 2025. No proceeds on sale have previously been recognised as the Trustees considered it prudent to await completion before anticipating receipt of these funds. Due to completion taking place at the end of the financial year, proceeds on sale were held by the solicitor at the balance sheet date and provision was made for receipt of these funds.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

28 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

The following schedule shows the related party transactions for the year and amounts outstanding at the year end. The Circuit churches and other Methodist organisations are considered related parties for the purpose of determining related party transactions.

Circuit churches	2025 £	2024 £
Assessment income	238,216	237,718
Grants paid to the churches	205,343	357,000
Grant from Connexion	-	-
Assessments paid in advance	37,424	33,352
 Methodist church organisations		
District assessment	10,081	9,690
Methodist Church Fund contribution	42,290	38,802
Connexional Priority Fund contribution	8,234	41,656
Connexional Priority Fund Levy	173,507	-
Connexional Priority Fund Levy Refund	121,678	-
Deposit – Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	84,129	210,516
Deposit Central Finance Board	124,493	106,888

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Appendix A

Circuit meeting membership - at 31st August 2025

1. Allison Farr
2. Ann Suaznabar
3. Anne Stobo
4. Barbara Crosswell
5. Carl Warren
6. Carol Oakley
7. Chris Towers
8. Dermot Thornberry
9. Elaine Coupe
10. Felicity Lusted
11. Gill Clayton
12. Helen Warmington
13. Henry Edwards
14. Hugh Taylor
15. Jane Braund
16. John Archer
17. John Sansom
18. Julia Bevis
19. Kathy Walsh
20. Ken Barnes
21. Kirsty McGhee
22. Michael Richardson
23. Nick Rowell
24. Nicola Martin
25. Peter Crouch
26. Philip Smith
27. Rachel Sheppard
28. Reg Rummery
29. Richard Cannam
30. Roi Arden
31. Sally Dagnall
32. Sue Wilkins
33. Valerie Lovett
34. Valerie Manser

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1155413

Accounts



WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Registered Charity number 1155413

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

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WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Legal and administrative information

Registered Charity number 1155413

South-East District No 36 Circuit No 18

Principal Office Address – Otford Methodist Church, High Street, Otford, Kent, TN14 5PH

Trustees

Ministers Rev Jane Braund
 Rev Dermot Thornberry
 Rev Kirsty McGhee

Circuit Stewards Dr Helen Richardson (retired 13th September 2023)
 Mr Rodney Stone (retired 23rd October 2023)
 Mr Ian Beavis
 Dr Nick Rowell (retired 18th September 2024)
 Mrs. Gillian Clayton (appointed 13th September 2023)
 Mrs. Kathy Walsh (appointed 13th September 2023)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Towers

Other Trustees

Name	Role	Date of Appointment
Rev Jane Elizabeth Braund	Chair	01 September 2024
Carol Ann Oakley	Trustee	01 September 2019
Alison Jane Farr	Trustee	01 September 2017
Sue Wilkins	Trustee	21 September 2016
John Archer	Trustee	21 September 2016
Hugh Edward Taylor	Trustee	23 September 2015
Mr Phil Smith	Trustee	23 September 2015
Sally Elizabeth Anne Dagnall	Trustee	17 September 2014
Julia Irene Bevis	Trustee	20 January 2014
Peter Allan Crouch FCCA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev Bryan Thomas Knapp BA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Chris Towers	Trustee	10 January 2014
Carl Andrew Warren BA Hons	Trustee	10 January 2014
Reg Rummery	Trustee	10 January 2014
Valerie Gwendoline Manser	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rachel Mary Sheppard	Trustee	10 January 2014
Kenneth John Barnes	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev Gerald Charles Gardiner BA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Roi James Arden	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev John Mark Butt	Trustee	10 January 2014
Ann Suaznabar	Trustee	10 January 2014

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Rev John Stuart Curnow MA, BA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Michael John Richardson	Trustee	10 January 2014
Pastor Henry George Edwards	Trustee	10 January 2014

Bankers:	HSBC Plc, 105 Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1QP
Investment Bankers:	Central Finance Board, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JG
Auditors:	Nash Harvey Group LLP. The Granary, Hermitage Court, Maidstone, ME16 9NT
Solicitors:	Warners, 16 South Park, Sevenoaks, TN13 1AN

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

Introduction

Included in the report are the aims of the Circuit and a commentary of the financial aspects of its work. The report has been prepared based on the activities and plans as they are known at the current time. The Circuit exists for the benefit of the six Methodist Churches, one joint Anglican/Methodist Church, and one joint URC/Methodist Church, employing the Circuit staff and providing financial support for major projects.

Circuit Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit to work together to enable our churches to share the Good News of Jesus. This we do through :

Leadership: to encourage, support and challenge each church to worship God, fulfil its own mission and spread God's word.

Communication: to facilitate effective and relevant communication between churches and encourage two-way communication with wider Methodism.

Maximising Resources: to ensure the most effective use of all resources across the Circuit and the development and use of our God-given gifts.

Review of the Year

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with Conference approved increases. 20% of general fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Grants from the Model Trust Fund included two payments totalling £7,000 to support the Circuit churches.

Significant Transactions

The Circuit has made grants to one of the churches for the major refurbishment of its premises. During the year a further £350,000 was paid out of the grant of £500,000 which was fully provided in the previous year. The refurbishment is expected to be completed in April/May 2025.

The Circuit continues to incur costs relating to a redundant church property. Contracts for the sale of this property were exchanged on 4th July 2023 on the basis that completion will only take place when the purchaser has obtained planning permission. Formal notification of planning permission was received after the year end but the purchaser requested a renegotiation of the sale price given a change in the commercial market. At present these negotiations have been agreed but legal documentation is not yet finalised. In these circumstances the Trustees consider it would be misleading to anticipate any potential proceeds in these accounts.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

Assuming there is a successful conclusion the Circuit can anticipate net proceeds of around £800,000 in the current year.

Fund balances

As of 31st August 2024 the net current assets on general fund of the Circuit were £128,525 giving approximately six months cover for general expenditure. There are substantial funds held in the Model Trust Fund which support the Circuit and individual churches' development plans.

Plans for 2024 – 2025

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains three ordained staff with the anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the District and the Connexion.

The Circuit hopes to complete on the contract for the sale of the redundant church. Under the terms of the revised offer received completion will take place after the purchaser has resolved the funding required.

At the year end the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £162,910 (£225,865). These funds are held to support future work of the Circuit and to cover any additional costs that may need to be incurred on the new development mentioned above.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual financial statement for the year ended 31st August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Full name of Charity	Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
Registration Number	1155413
Date of Registration	21 January 2014
Main communication address:	Otford Methodist Church High Street Otford, Sevenoaks TN14 5PH

The members of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Full list of Trustees:

Name	Role	Date of Appointment
Rev Jane Elizabeth Braund	Chair	01 September 2024
Carol Ann Oakley	Trustee	01 September 2019
Alison Jane Farr	Trustee	01 September 2017
Sue Wilkins	Trustee	21 September 2016

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

John Archer	Trustee	21 September 2016
Hugh Edward Taylor	Trustee	23 September 2015
Mr Phil Smith	Trustee	23 September 2015
Sally Elizabeth Anne Dagnall	Trustee	17 September 2014
Julia Irene Bevis	Trustee	20 January 2014
Peter Allan Crouch FCCA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev Bryan Thomas Knapp BA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Chris Towers	Trustee	10 January 2014
Carl Andrew Warren BA Hons	Trustee	10 January 2014
Reg Rummery	Trustee	10 January 2014
Valerie Gwendoline Manser	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rachel Mary Sheppard	Trustee	10 January 2014
Kenneth John Barnes	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev Gerald Charles Gardiner BA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Roi James Arden	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev John Mark Butt	Trustee	10 January 2014
Ann Suaznabar	Trustee	10 January 2014
Rev John Stuart Curnow MA, BA	Trustee	10 January 2014
Michael John Richardson	Trustee	10 January 2014
Pastor Henry George Edwards	Trustee	10 January 2014

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers Rev Jane Braund (appointed 1st September 2024)
 Rev John Ritson (retired 31st August 2024)
 Rev Sharon Lovelock (retired 31st July 2023)
 Rev Dermot Thornberry
 Rev Kirsty McGhee

Circuit Lay Workers Mr Philip Staddon (retired 31st August 2024)
 Mr Richard Cannam

Circuit Stewards Dr Helen Richardson (retired 13th September 2023)
 Mr Rodney Stone (retired 23rd October 2023)
 Mr Ian Beavis
 Dr Nick Rowell (retired 18th September 2024)
 Gillian Clayton (appointed 13th September 2023)
 Kathy Walsh (appointed 13th September 2023)

Administrator Ms Nicola Martin

Mr Christopher Towers acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Custodian Trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes act as custodian trustees holding the Freehold Property and the Model Trust Funds of the Circuit.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

Volunteers

The Circuit benefits from the time and experience of a number of the Trustees who perform tasks in a voluntary capacity. These tasks include maintaining the freehold properties, keeping the financial records, accepting preaching appointments at Circuit churches, and involvement with safeguarding matters. Where required the Circuit provides its volunteers with training to assist them in the performance of their tasks.

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the Methodist Church.

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

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

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

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

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

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual Conference (CPD) Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. East Peckham | 5. Paddock Wood (jointly with Church of England) |
| 2. Hawkhurst | 6. Sevenoaks |
| 3. Horsmonden | 7. Tonbridge |
| 4. Otford | 8. Tunbridge Wells (jointly with URC) |

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safe Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

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

The Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 15% of the general fund annual expenditure budget plus twice the annual budget for manse repairs. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. The balance on General Fund at 31st August 2024 disregarding the value of land and buildings complies with the Circuit Reserves Policy.

Funds are retained in the Model Trust Funds to be available to meet grant and loan requests for expenditure from the Circuit and the churches in the Circuit falling within the categories approved by the Methodist Church.

Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year that gives a true and fair view of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources during the period and of its state of affairs at the end of the year. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

Auditors

In accordance with the constitution, a resolution to appoint Nash Harvey Group LLP as Auditors was approved by the Trustees.

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and the trustees have taken all steps to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2024 cont'd

Declarations:

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 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  23 June 2025

Name of Treasurer Christopher Towers

Address 40 Willow Park Otford Kent TN14 5NF

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on 13th March 2025 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting  23 June 2025

Name of the Chair of the Meeting Rev Jane Braund

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT CIRCUIT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT CIRCUIT
cont'd

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT CIRCUIT
cont'd

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations,
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector,
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation,
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence, and

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT CIRCUIT
cont'd

- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected, and alleged fraud, and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships,
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions,
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias, and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

Audit response to risks identified

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation,
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance,
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims, and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators, and the charity's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEALD OF KENT CIRCUIT
cont'd

Use of our report

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



Kate Francesca Sharp FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Nash Harvey Group LLP

23 June 2025

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

The Granary
Hermitage Court
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9NT

Nash Harvey Group LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES TO YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	General Fund £	Model Trust Fund £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Charitable activities: Assessments		237,718		237,718	213,764
Investment income		4,679	28,648	33,327	27,672
Other income	5				108,942
Total Income		<u>242,397</u>	<u>28,648</u>	<u>271,045</u>	<u>350,378</u>
Charitable Activities:					
Stipends and salaries	9	140,154		140,154	124,738
District assessment		9,690		9,690	11,521
Methodist Church Fund		38,802		38,802	39,522
Telephone and travel		14,084		14,084	15,023
Insurance and utilities		20,426		20,426	19,866
Maintenance of manses		8,419		8,419	10,859
Expenditure on circuit property			23,846	23,846	60,700
Other expenditure		8,084	1,916	10,000	8,002
Grants and donations	16		2,000	2,000	123,086
Provision for outstanding grants	16				378,914
Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund	10		41,656	41,656	59,227
Other Expenditure					
Audit fee		1,300		1,300	1,100
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		<u>240,959</u>	<u>69,418</u>	<u>310,377</u>	<u>852,558</u>
Unrealised gains/losses on investment assets			-315	-315	149
		<u>240,959</u>	<u>69,103</u>	<u>310,062</u>	<u>852,707</u>
Net Income/Expenditure		1,438	-40,455	-39,017	-502,329
Transfers between funds		22,500	-22,500	-	-
Other recognised gains/losses					
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets		642,075		642,075	182,405
Net movement in funds		<u>666,013</u>	<u>-62,955</u>	<u>603,058</u>	<u>-319,924</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		2,407,715	225,865	2,633,580	2,953,504
Total funds carried forward		<u>3,073,728</u>	<u>162,910</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>	<u>2,633,580</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	General Fund £	Model Trust Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Land and buildings	11	2,945,203		2,945,203	2,303,128
Investments	12		4,170	4,170	3,855
Total Fixed Assets		<u>2,945,203</u>	<u>4,170</u>	<u>2,949,373</u>	<u>2,306,983</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	13	34,844		34,844	69,907
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			210,516	210,516	668,227
Central Finance Board deposits		106,888		106,888	58,968
Cash at bank		35,205		35,205	21,038
Total Current Assets		<u>176,937</u>	<u>210,516</u>	<u>387,453</u>	<u>818,140</u>
Creditors, Accruals and Provisions					
Due under 1 year	14	-48,412	-17,862	-66,274	-102,629
Provision for outstanding grants	16		-33,914	-33,914	-388,914
Net Current Assets		<u>128,525</u>	<u>158,740</u>	<u>287,265</u>	<u>326,597</u>
Net Assets		<u>3,073,728</u>	<u>162,910</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>	<u>2,633,580</u>
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund unrestricted		3,073,728		3,073,728	2,407,715
Model Trust Fund unrestricted			162,910	162,910	225,865
Total Funds		<u>3,073,728</u>	<u>162,910</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>	<u>2,633,580</u>

Registered Charity number 1155413

Approved by the trustees on 23rd June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Rev. Jane Braund (Chair)



1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2008.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. There are no Restricted funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 14 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis

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

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

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

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

The freehold property is held at depreciated replacement cost, determined based on sums insured, except where a sale is anticipated in the near future, in which case realisable value is used. The land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation has been provided for in the year, as the trustees consider the residual fair value of the manse buildings is not less than its carrying value. Any depreciation charge would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment with no adjustments deemed necessary.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year-end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August and other debtors and prepayments.

Creditors

Creditors on General Fund include receipts in advance relating to the 1st quarter assessments received in advance. Creditors on Model Trust Fund include grants approved but not yet paid.

Cash Flow Exemption

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because, as a small charity, it has taken exemption for cash flow in accordance with FRS 102, update bulletin one, in preparation of these financial statements.

Critical Accounting Estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimated are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Impairment Review

Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the charity's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future performance of the asset. Where indicators exist impairment reviews are carried out on the charity's tangible assets.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and their residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as age and future economic benefits are taken into account.

Valuation of Freehold Property

As described in the accounting policies of the financial statements, freehold property is stated at fair value. The Trustees' have assessed this and based on reference to current insurance valuations consider them to be stated at fair value. However, the rise in interest rates and inflation have caused significant disruption and uncertainty in the UK property market which has inevitably increased the degree of judgement in the property valuations at the balance sheet date.

4. Investment Income

The income consists of interest of £28,534 from deposits with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, £4,679 from deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and dividends of £114 from listed investments.

5. Other Income

The receipts on the Model Trust Fund for the previous year were as follows:

	2023 (£)
Non-refundable deposit	5,000
Return of Levy	103,942
	<u>108,942</u>

6 Net movement in funds

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
The net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	1,300	
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements		1,100
	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,100</u>

7. Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because its income is applied for charitable purposes.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31st 2024 cont'd

8. Payments to Trustees

There were no payments for additional services to trustees for the current and previous year excluding the amounts reported under note 9 relating to stipends and salaries.

9. Stipends and Salaries

The total amounts paid relating to stipends amounted to £94,537 (£88,724).

Staff costs for the year were:

Expense	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Gross salaries	40,942	31,855
Pension costs	1,666	1,630
Employers National Insurance	2,420	1,999
Apprentice Scheme Levy	589	530
Total	<u>45,617</u>	<u>36,014</u>

Average number of full time equivalent employees were 3 (2). There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10. Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund

As required by the Methodist Church contributions are made from property sales to the Connexional Priority Fund. An annual levy is also required and the total paid over during the year amounted to £41,656 (£59,227).

11. Land and Buildings

The total relates to the four manses held by the Circuit throughout the year.

	2024 (£)
Balance brought forward	2,303,128
Revaluation surplus	642,075
Balance carried forward	<u>£2,945,203</u>

The historical cost of the freehold properties included at the balance sheet date was £nil (2023 £nil) and the accumulated depreciation based on historical cost would be £nil (2023 £nil). When the circuit was established by a merger of circuits the then properties were passed over at no cost. During the

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31st 2024 cont'd

year there was a revaluation of freehold property based on sums insured. In the opinion of the Trustees, this represents fair value of the property at the year-end. The revaluation surplus is disclosed above.

12. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited monthly. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements

	2024 (£)
Market value brought forward	3,855
Profit on revaluation	315
Market value carried forward	<u>4,170</u>

All investments are listed on a registered Stock Exchange and generated income of £114 (£117) for the year.

13. Analysis of current assets

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Stipends in advance	8,627	7,823
Other debtors and prepayments	26,217	62,084
Total	<u>34,844</u>	<u>69,907</u>

The bank balance is held at HSBC Plc. Other debtors include the balance due from the Model Trust Fund of £17,862 (2023: £57,303).

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31st 2024 cont'd

14. Current Liabilities

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Deferred income (15)	33,352	36,852
Other creditors and accruals	32,922	65,777
Total	<u>66,274</u>	<u>102,629</u>

Other creditors for the Model Trust Fund include the balance due to the General Fund of £17,862 (2023 £57,303).

There are no long-term liabilities.

15. Deferred Income

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Arising from deferred income	33,352	36,852

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Balance at 1 September 2023	36,852	31,114
 Deferred in year	 33,352	 36,852
Released in year	<u>-36,852</u>	<u>-31,114</u>
Balance at 31 August 2024	<u>33,352</u>	<u>36,852</u>

Deferred income arises from church assessments paid in advance of the year-end which relate to the next accounting period.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31st 2024 cont'd

16. Provision for Outstanding Grants

The amount of grants provided but unpaid at 31 August 2023 was £388,914. A total of £355,000 was paid during the year leaving a balance outstanding of £33,914 at 31 August 2024. It is anticipated that this balance will be paid within twelve months. An analysis of grants paid during the year is as follows:

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Refurbishment of a Circuit church building	350,000	116,086
Employment of Community Worker	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	355,000	121,086
Expensed through SOFA:		
Supporting worship at Circuit Church	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total grants in year	<u>357,000</u>	<u>123,086</u>

17. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31st August 2024 the Circuit has no capital commitments.

No contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2024

18. Detailed Analysis of Individual Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total (£)
Opening balance	2,407,715	225,865	2,633,580
Income	884,472	28,963	913,435
Expenditure	-240,959	-69,418	-310,377
Transfers	22,500	-22,500	-
Closing Balance	<u>£ 3,073,728</u>	<u>£ 162,910</u>	<u>£ 3,236,638</u>

The purpose of the general fund is the administration of the Circuit.

The purpose of the model trust fund is to make grants and loans to the Circuit churches and to improve the manses.

The transfer between the funds related to support from the Model Trust Fund for the ministry of the Circuit.

19. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund	Tangible Fixed Assets (£)	Net Current Assets (£)	Total (£)
General Fund	2,945,203	128,525	3,073,728
Model Trust Fund	4,170	158,740	162,910
Total	<u>2,949,373</u>	<u>287,265</u>	<u>3,236,638</u>

20. Sale of Redundant Church

On 4th July 2023 the Circuit entered into a contract for the sale of the site of a redundant church subject to planning permission being obtained. Subsequent to the year-end confirmation of planning permission was received from the purchaser. The purchaser requested a re-negotiation of the purchase price given a change in the commercial market and revised terms have been agreed subject to legal documentation. Completion at the revised price is expected to produce a net benefit to the Circuit estimated at £800,000 after the levy that is due to the Connexional Priority Fund. The trustees consider it prudent to await completion before anticipating receipt of these funds.

21. Related Party Transactions

The following schedule shows the related party transactions for the year and amounts outstanding at the year end. The Circuit churches and other Methodist organisations are considered related parties for the purpose of determining related party transactions.

Circuit churches	2024 (£)	2023(£)
Assessment income	237,718	213,764
Grants paid to the churches	357,000	123,086
Grant from Connexion	-	103,942
Assessments paid in advance	33,352	36,852
Methodist church organisations		
District assessment	9,690	11,521
Methodist Church Fund contribution	38,802	39,522
Connexional Priority Fund contribution	41,656	59,227
Deposit – Trustees for Methodist Church	210,516	668,227
Deposit Central Finance Board	106,888	58,968

22. Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Appendix A

Circuit meeting membership - at 31st August 2024

/1	Alison Farr
/2	Ann Suaznabar
/3	Anne Stobo
/4	Barbara Crosswell
/5	Bryan Knapp
/6	Carl Warren
/7	Carol Barnett
/8	Carol Oakley
/9	Chris Towers
/10	Dermot Thornberry
/11	Elaine Coupe
/12	Felicity Lusted
/13	Gill Clayton
/14	Helen Warmington
/15	Henry Edwards
/16	Hugh Taylor
/17	Ian Beavis
/18	Jane Braund
/19	John Archer
/20	John Sansom
/21	Julia Bevis
/22	Kathy Walsh
/23	Ken Barnes
/24	Kirsty McGhee
/25	Michael Richardson
/26	Nick Rowell
/27	Nicola Martin
/28	Peter Crouch
/29	Philip Smith
/30	Rachel Sheppard
/31	Reg Rummery
/32	Richard Cannam
/33	Roi Arden
/34	Sally Dagnall
/35	Sue Wilkins
/36	Valerie Lovett
/37	Valerie Manser

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1155413

Accounts

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)**

For the year ended 31 August 2023

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity – Registration Number

1155413

South East District No 36 Circuit No 18

Ministers

Rev John Ritson
Rev Sharon Lovelock (retired 31st July 2023)
Rev Dermot Thornberry
Rev Kirsty McGhee (appointed 1st September 2023)

Circuit Stewards

Dr Helen Richardson (retired 13th September 2023)
Mrs Julia Bevis (retired March 2023)
Mr Rodney Stone (retired 23 October 2023)
Mr Ian Beavis
Dr Nick Rowell (appointed 14th September 2022)
Gillian Clayton (appointed 13th September 2023)
Kathy Walsh (appointed 13th September 2023)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Towers

Introduction

Included in the report are the aims of the Circuit and a commentary of the financial aspects of its work. The report has been prepared based on the activities and plans as they are known at the current time. The Circuit exists for the benefit of the six Methodist Churches, one joint Anglican/Methodist Church, and one joint URC/Methodist Church, employing the Circuit staff and providing financial support for major projects.

Circuit Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit to work together to enable our churches to share the Good News of Jesus. This we do through :

Leadership: to encourage, support and challenge each church to worship God, fulfil its own mission and spread God's word.

Communication: to facilitate effective and relevant communication between churches and encourage two-way communication with wider Methodism.

Maximising Resources: to ensure the most effective use of all resources across the Circuit and the development and use of our God-given gifts.

Review of the Year

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with Conference approved increases. 23% of general fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Grants from the Model Trust Fund included two payments totalling £7000 to support the Circuit churches.

Significant Transactions

At a Circuit Meeting held in September 2022 the Circuit decided that it was unable to afford the cost of a new church building as had been previously planned on the site of one of the churches. This was disappointing but was a reflection of the significant increase in construction costs since the Covid epidemic. The Circuit now plans to refurbish the existing building and has committed £500000 from Model Trust Funds to assist with the cost. A total of £121086 was paid during the year as part of this commitment which was partly funded by the return of the levy on a previous church sale that amounted to £103942.

The Circuit continues to incur costs relating to a redundant church property. Contracts for the sale of this property were exchanged on 4 July 2023 on the basis that completion will only take place when the purchaser has obtained planning permission. Until permission is obtained the contract must be regarded as conditional. The precise sale price cannot be determined at this time but is expected to be in the region of £1.4 million. In these circumstances the Trustees consider that

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

it would be misleading to anticipate any proceeds in these accounts except for the non-refundable deposit of £5000 paid on exchange. The balance of the purchase price will be subject to costs of sale and the levy due to the Methodist Church, which means that the financial benefit to the Circuit can be estimated at around £850,000.

The Model Trust Fund continues to support the mission of the churches by funding staff and travel costs.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the net current assets on general fund of the Circuit were £104587 giving approximately 4 months cover for general expenditure. There are substantial funds held in the Model Trust Fund which support the Circuit and individual churches' development plans.

Plans for 2022 – 2023

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains three ordained staff with the anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the District and the Connexion.

As mentioned under Significant Transactions the Circuit is supporting the refurbishment of one of the churches by a grant of £500000. It is actively involved in the planning and control of the work.

The Circuit hopes to complete on the contract for the redundant church. Under the terms of the offer received completion will take place after planning permission has been obtained.

At the year end the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £225865 (£737511). These funds are held to support future work in the rural section of the Circuit and to cover any additional costs that may need to be incurred on the new development mentioned above.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Full name of Charity	Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
Registration Number	1155413
Date of Registration	21 January 2014
Main communication address:	Offord Methodist Church High Street Offord, Sevenoaks TN14 5PH

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The members of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev John Ritson Rev Sharon Lovelock (retired 31 st July 2023) Rev Dermot Thornberry Rev Kirsty McGhee (appointed 1 st September 2023)
Circuit Lay Workers	Mr Philip Staddon Mr Richard Cannam
Circuit Stewards	Dr Helen Richardson (retired 13 th September 2023) Mrs Julia Bevis (retired March 2023) Mr Rodney Stone (retired 23 rd October 2023) Mr Ian Beavis Dr Nick Rowell (appointed 14 th September 2022) Gillian Clayton (appointed 13 th September 2023) Kathy Walsh (appointed 13 th September 2023)
Administrator	Mrs Helen Atkinson
Mr Christopher Towers acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.	
Independent examiner	Nash Harvey Group LLP The Granary Hermitage Court Hermitage Lane Maidstone ME16 9NT
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the Methodist Church.

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

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

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

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

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

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

East Peckham

Hawkhurst

Horsmonden

Otford

Paddock Wood (jointly with Church of England)

Sevenoaks

Tonbridge

Tunbridge Wells (jointly with URC)

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 15% of the general fund annual expenditure budget plus twice the annual budget for manse repairs. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. The balance on General Fund at 31 August 2023 disregarding the value of land and buildings complies with the Circuit Reserves Policy.

Funds are retained in the Model Trust Funds to be available to meet grant and loan requests for expenditure from the Circuit and the churches in the Circuit falling within the categories approved by the Methodist Church.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
		£	£	£	£
Charitable activities:					
Assessments		213764		213764	199202
Investment income		1102	26570	27672	4615
Other income	5		108942	108942	-
Total Income		<u>214866</u>	<u>135512</u>	<u>350378</u>	<u>203817</u>
Stipends and salaries	7	124738		124738	120785
District assessment		11521		11521	11202
Methodist Church Fund		39522		39522	41302
Telephone and travel		15023		15023	12232
Insurance and utilities		19866		19866	18646
Maintenance of manses		10859		10859	14108
Expenditure on circuit property			60700	60700	24489
Examiners fee		1100		1100	900
Other expenditure		5420	2582	8002	10843
Grants and donations			123086	123086	61321
Provision for outstanding grants	13		378914	378914	-673487
Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund	8		59227	59227	64172
Total Expenditure		<u>228049</u>	<u>624509</u>	<u>852558</u>	<u>-293487</u>
Net Income/Expenditure		-13183	-488997	-502180	497304
Transfers between funds		22500	-22500	-	-
Gains (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		182405		182405	312774
Gains/losses on investment assets			-149	-149	-286
Net movement in funds		<u>191722</u>	<u>-511646</u>	<u>-319924</u>	<u>809792</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		2215993	737511	2953504	2143712
Total funds carried forward		<u>2407715</u>	<u>225865</u>	<u>2633580</u>	<u>2953504</u>

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	General Fund £	Model Trust Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Land and buildings	9	2303128		2303128	2120723
Investments	10		3855	3855	4004
Total Fixed Assets		<u>2303128</u>	<u>3855</u>	<u>2306983</u>	<u>2124727</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	11	69907		69907	46655
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			668227	668227	902362
Central Finance Board deposits		58968		58968	79435
Cash at bank		21038		21038	1285
Total Current Assets		<u>149913</u>	<u>668227</u>	<u>818140</u>	<u>1029737</u>
Creditors, Accruals and Provisions					
Due under 1 year	12	-45326	-57303	-102629	-170701
Provision for outstanding grants	13		-388914	-388914	-30259
Net Current Assets		<u>104587</u>	<u>222010</u>	<u>326597</u>	<u>828777</u>
Net Assets		<u>2407715</u>	<u>225865</u>	<u>2633580</u>	<u>2953504</u>
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund unrestricted		2407715		2407715	2215993
Model Trust Fund unrestricted			225865	225865	737511
Total Funds		<u>2407715</u>	<u>225865</u>	<u>2633580</u>	<u>2953504</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2008.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. There are no Restricted funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 14 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis

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

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

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

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2023 values based on the sums insured except where a sale is anticipated in the near future where realisable value is used. The

land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August and other debtors and prepayments.

Creditors

Creditors on General Fund include receipts in advance relating to the 1st quarter assessments received in advance. Creditors on Model Trust Fund include grants approved but not yet paid.

Cash Flow Exemption

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because, as a small charity, it has taken exemption for cash flow in accordance with FRS 102, update bulletin one, in preparation of these financial statements.

4. Investment Income

The income consists of interest of £26453 from deposits with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, £1102 from deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and dividends of £117 from listed investments.

5. Other Income

The receipts on the Model Trust Fund were as follows:

Non-refundable deposit (see note 16)	5000
Return of Levy	103942
	£108942

6. Payments to Trustees

There were no payments for additional services to trustees for the current and previous year excluding the amounts reported under note 7 relating to stipends and salaries.

7. Stipends and Salaries

The total amounts paid relating to stipends amounted to £88724 (£90828).

Staff costs paid during the year were:

Gross salaries	31855	26117
Pension costs	1630	1458
Employers National Insurance	1999	1846
Apprentice Scheme Levy	530	536
	£36014	£29957

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

Average number of full time equivalent employees were 3 (2).

8. Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund

As required by the Methodist Church contributions are made from property sales to the Connexional Priority Fund. An annual levy is also required and the total paid over during the year amounted to £59227 (£64172).

9. Land and Buildings

The total relates to the four manses held by the Circuit throughout the year.

Balance brought forward	2120723
Revaluation surplus	182405
Balance carried forward	<u>£2303128</u>

10. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited monthly. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements:

Market value brought forward	4004
Loss on revaluation	149
Market value carried forward	<u>£3855</u>

All investments are listed on a registered Stock Exchange and generated income of £117 (£105) for the year.

11. Analysis of Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		
Stipends in advance	7823	7879
Other debtors and prepayments	62084	38776
	<u>£69907</u>	<u>£46655</u>

The bank balance is held at HSBC Plc.

Other debtors include the balance due from the Model Trust Fund of £57303

12. Current Liabilities

The liabilities for the current and previous year relate to Other Creditors.

There are no long term liabilities.

Other creditors for the Model Trust Fund include the balance due to the General Fund of £57303.

13. Provision for Outstanding Grants

At its meeting in September 2022 the Circuit Meeting confirmed its agreement to provide a grant of £500000 towards the cost of refurbishing one of the Circuit churches. This grant was partly funded by a return of levy of £103942 charged on a previous sale of a redundant church. This amount and further expenses of £17144 have reduced the outstanding grant to £378914. Additionally, there remains £10000 outstanding on a grant approved in the previous year.

14. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2023 the Circuit has no capital commitments.
No contingent liabilities were identified at 31 August 2023

15. Detailed Analysis of Individual Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total
Opening balance	2215993	737511	2953504
Income	397271	135512	532783
Expenditure	- 228049	-624658	-852707
Transfers	22500	- 22500	-
Closing balance	<u>£2407715</u>	<u>£225865</u>	<u>£2633580</u>

The purpose of the general fund is the administration of the Circuit.

The purpose of the model trust fund is to make grants and loans to the Circuit churches and to improve the manses.

The transfer between the funds related to support from the Model Trust Fund for the ministry of the Circuit.

16. Sale of Redundant Church

On 4 July 2023 the Circuit entered into a contract for the sale of the site of a redundant church subject to the prospective purchaser obtaining planning consent. If planning permission is not obtained the contract will lapse. Under the contract a non-refundable deposit of £5000 was received and this amount has been included under Other Income (note 5). The precise sale price cannot be determined at this time but is expected to be £1.4 million if the envisaged planning consent is obtained. In these circumstances the trustees consider it misleading to anticipate any proceeds in these accounts except for the non-refundable deposit paid on exchange. The balance of the purchase price will be subject to the levy that is due to the Connexional Priority Fund under the regulations of the Methodist Church reducing the net benefit to the Circuit to an estimated £850000.

17. Related Party Transactions

The following schedule shows the related party transactions for the year and amounts outstanding at the year end. The Circuit churches and other Methodist organisations are considered related parties for the purpose of determining related party transactions.

	2023	2022
Circuit Churches:		
Assessment income	213764	199202
Grants paid to the churches	123086	61221
Grant from Connexion	103942	-
Assessments paid in advance	36852	31114
Methodist Church Organisations		
District Assessment	11521	11202
Chairman's Benevolent Fund	-	100
Methodist Church Fund contribution	39522	41302
Connexional Priority Fund contribution	59227	64172
Deposit – Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	668227	902362
Deposit – Central Finance Board	58968	79435

18. Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no post balance sheet events to report.

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer

Date

Name of Treasurer Christopher Towers

Address 40 Willow Park Otford Kent TN14 5NF

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on 15th March 2024 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting

Name of the Chair of the Meeting Rev John Ritson

Date

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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

Signed: 

Name: Lisa Pattenden ACA/FCCA

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: The Granary, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone,
ME16 9NT

Date: 24/4/24

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

At 31 August 2023

MINISTERS

Rev John Ritson
Rev Dermot Thornberry
Rev Sharon Lovelock (retired July 2023)

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Rev Helen Warmington

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev John Cumow
Rev Gerald Gardiner
Rev John Butt

LAYWORKERS

Mr Philip Staddon
Mr Richard Cannam

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Dr Helen Richardson
Dr Nick Rowell
Mr Rodney Stone
Mr Ian Beavis

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representative

Mrs Sue Ward

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Helen Atkinson

Property and TMCP Advisor

Mr Michael Richardson

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

East Peckham

Mrs Julia Bevis
Mrs Alison Farr
Mrs Eileen Hayward

Hawkhurst

Mr Ken Barnes
Miss Valerie Manser
Mr Reg Rummery

Horsmonden

Mr Henry Edwards
Mrs Rachel Sheppard

St Andrew's Paddock Wood

Mr Peter Crouch
Mr Carl Warren
Mrs Carol Barnett

Otford

Mrs Ann Suaznabar
Mrs Carol Oakley
Mrs Kathryn Ritson
Miss Sue Wilkins
Mrs Sue Ward

The Drive Sevenoaks

Mr John Archer
Mrs Sally Dagnall
Mr Philip Smith

Tonbridge

Mr Roi Arden
Mr Hugh Taylor
Mrs Valerie Lovett

Tunbridge Wells

Mrs Gillian Langstaff
Mr Dave Holton
Mr Alan Spencer

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1155413

Accounts

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
For the year ended 31 August 2022**

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity – Registration Number **1155413**

South East District No 36 Circuit No 18

Ministers Rev John Ritson
 Rev Sharon Lovelock
 Rev Dermot Thornberry

Circuit Stewards Dr Helen Richardson
 Mrs Julia Bevis
 Mr Rodney Stone
 Mr Ian Beavis

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Towers

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Introduction

Included in the report are the aims of the Circuit and a commentary of the financial aspects of its work. The report has been prepared based on the activities and plans as they are known at the current time. The Circuit exists for the benefit of the six Methodist Churches, one joint Anglican/Methodist Church, and one joint URC/Methodist Church, employing the Circuit staff and providing financial support for major projects.

Circuit Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit to work together to enable our churches to share the Good News of Jesus. This we do through :

Leadership: to encourage, support and challenge each church to worship God, fulfil its own mission and spread God's word.

Communication: to facilitate effective and relevant communication between churches and encourage two-way communication with wider Methodism.

Maximising Resources: to ensure the most effective use of all resources across the Circuit and the development and use of our God-given gifts.

Review of the Year

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with Conference approved increases. 23% of general fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Grants from the Model Trust Fund were two payments totalling £27000 to support the Circuit churches. In addition, the Circuit paid £24221 for professional fees relating to the redevelopment of a Circuit church.

Significant Transactions

At a Circuit Meeting held in September 2022 the Circuit decided that it was unable to afford the cost of a new church building as had been previously planned on the site of one of the churches. This was disappointing but was a reflection of the significant increase in construction costs since the Covid epidemic. The Circuit now plans to refurbish the existing building and has committed £500000 from Model Trust Funds to assist with the cost. The accounts reflect the release of the grant that had been allocated from the Model Trust Fund for the new build but the refurbishment grant will be shown in the next year's accounts when the commitment was made.

The Circuit continues to incur costs relating to a redundant church property. The property is under offer but contracts have yet to be exchanged. Once a sale is achieved the Model Trust Fund will receive a proportion of the proceeds.

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

One of the Circuit churches requires significant repairs to its fabric following the quinquennial report. A grant of £25000 has been paid from the Model Trust Fund towards the cost of this work and the level of assessment has been temporarily reduced to assist the church with its finances.

The Circuit approved a grant of £15000 to one of the churches spread towards the cost of employing a Community Lead who will have responsibility for work in the local area of that church. The grant will be spread over three years and the whole sum was outstanding at the year end.

The Circuit had previously agreed a grant of £40000 towards the costs of a major refurbishment of another Circuit church. During the year this amount was paid plus a further grant of £10000 to cover increased costs.

The Model Trust Fund continues to support the mission of the churches by funding staff and travel costs. The accounts also reflect the Circuit Meeting decision to cover the previous year's deficit on General Fund which was caused by the effect of lock down on church income.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022 the net current assets on general fund of the Circuit were £95270 giving approximately 4 months cover for general expenditure. There are substantial funds held in the Model Trust Fund which support the Circuit and individual churches' development plans.

Plans for 2022 – 2023

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains three ordained staff with the anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the District and the Connexion.

As mentioned under Significant Transactions the Circuit is supporting the refurbishment of one of the churches by a grant of £500000. It plans to be actively involved in the planning and control of the work. Currently professional advice is being considered to determine the best way to progress the refurbishment.

The Circuit hopes to exchange contracts for the redundant church. Under the terms of the offer received completion will take place after planning permission has been obtained.

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Full name of Charity	Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
Registration Number	1155413
Date of Registration	21 January 2014
Main communication address	Otford Methodist Church High Street Otford, Sevenoaks TN14 5PH

The members of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev John Ritson Rev Sharon Lovelock Rev Dermot Thornberry
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Circuit Lay Workers	Mr Philip Staddon Mr Richard Cannam
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Circuit Stewards	Dr Helen Richardson Mrs Julia Bevis Mr Rodney Stone Mr Ian Beavis
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Administrator	Mrs Helen Atkinson
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Mr Christopher Towers acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Nash Harvey Group LLP The Granary Hermitage Court Hermitage Lane Maidstone ME16 9NT
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Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
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**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the Methodist Church.

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

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

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

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

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

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

East Peckham

Hawkhurst

Horsmonden

Otford

Paddock Wood (jointly with Church of England)

Sevenoaks

Tonbridge

Tunbridge Wells (jointly with URC)

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 15% of the general fund annual expenditure budget plus twice the annual budget for manse repairs. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. The balance on General Fund at 31 August 2022 disregarding the value of land and buildings complies with the Circuit Reserves Policy.

Funds are retained in the Model Trust Funds to be available to meet grant and loan requests for expenditure from the Circuit and the churches in the Circuit falling within the categories approved by the Methodist Church.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
		£	£	£	£
Charitable activities:					
Assessments		199202		199202	195858
Investment income		267	4348	4615	2946
Other income	5		-	-	407428
Total Income		<u>199469</u>	<u>4348</u>	<u>203817</u>	<u>606232</u>
Stipends and salaries	7	120785		120785	120302
District assessment		11202		11202	9076
Methodist Church Fund		41302		41302	43467
Telephone and travel		12232		12232	8703
Insurance and utilities		18646		18646	18600
Maintenance of manses		14108		14108	9462
Expenditure on circuit property			24489	24489	21844
Examiners fee		900		900	900
Other expenditure		8072	2771	10843	5884
Grants and donations		100	61221	61321	27955
Provision for outstanding grants	13		-673487	-673487	743746
Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund	8		64172	64172	171618
Total Expenditure		<u>227347</u>	<u>-520834</u>	<u>-293487</u>	<u>1181557</u>
Net Income/Expenditure		-27878	525182	497304	-575325
Transfers between funds		24932	-24932	-	-
Gains (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		312774		312774	44086
Gains/losses on investment assets			-286	-286	686
Net movement in funds		<u>309828</u>	<u>499964</u>	<u>809792</u>	<u>-530553</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		1906165	237547	2143712	2674265
Total funds carried forward		<u>2215993</u>	<u>737511</u>	<u>2953504</u>	<u>2143712</u>

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Land and buildings	9	2120723		2120723	1807949
Investments	10		4004	4004	4290
Total Fixed Assets		<u>2120723</u>	<u>4004</u>	<u>2124727</u>	<u>1812239</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	11	46655		46655	20066
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			902362	902362	968000
Central Finance Board deposits		79435		79435	122585
Cash at bank	1285			1285	13679
Total Current Assets		<u>127375</u>	<u>902362</u>	<u>1029737</u>	<u>1124330</u>
Creditors, Accruals and Provisions					
Due under 1 year	12	-32105	-138596	-170701	-49111
Provision for outstanding grants	13		-30259	-30259	-743746
Net Current Assets		<u>95270</u>	<u>733507</u>	<u>828777</u>	<u>331473</u>
Net Assets		<u>2215993</u>	<u>737511</u>	<u>2953504</u>	<u>2143712</u>
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund unrestricted		2215993		2215993	1906165
Model Trust Fund unrestricted			737511	737511	237547
Total Funds		<u>2215993</u>	<u>737511</u>	<u>2953504</u>	<u>2143712</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2008.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. There are no Restricted funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 14 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis

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

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

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

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2022 values based on the sums insured except where a sale is anticipated in the near future where realisable value is used. The

land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August and other debtors and prepayments.

Creditors

Creditors on General Fund include receipts in advance relating to the 1st quarter assessments received in advance. Creditors on Model Trust Fund include a grant received in advance that is considered repayable.

Cash Flow Exemption

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because, as a small charity, it has taken exemption for cash flow in accordance with FRS 102, update bulletin one, in preparation of these financial statements.

4. Investment Income

The income consists of interest of £4243 from deposits with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, £267 from deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and dividends of £105 from listed investments.

5. Other Income

The receipt on the Model Trust Fund in the previous year relates primarily to proceeds from the sale of redundant churches.

6. Payments to Trustees

There were no payments for additional services to trustees for the current and previous year excluding the amounts reported under note 7 relating to stipends and salaries.

7. Stipends and Salaries

The total amounts paid relating to stipends amounted to £90828 (£89618)

Staff costs paid during the year were:

Gross salaries	26117	26721
Pension costs	1458	1603
Employers National Insurance	1846	1799
Apprentice Scheme Levy	536	561
	<u>£29957</u>	<u>£30684</u>

Average number of full time equivalent employees were 2 (2).

8. Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund

As required by the Methodist Church contributions are made from property sales to the Connexional Priority Fund. An annual levy is also required and the total paid over during the year amounted to £64172 (£171618).

9. Land and Buildings

The total relates to the five manses held by the Circuit throughout the year.

Balance brought forward	1807949
Revaluation surplus	312774
Balance carried forward	<u>£2120723</u>

10. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited monthly. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements:

Market value brought forward	4290
Loss on revaluation	- 286
Market value carried forward	<u>£4004</u>

All investments are listed on a registered Stock Exchange and generated income of £105 (£69) for the year.

11. Analysis of Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		
Stipends in advance	7879	7509
Other debtors and prepayments	38776	3554
	<u>£46655</u>	<u>£11063</u>

The bank balance is held at HSBC Plc.

Other debtors include the balance due from the Model Trust Fund of £34654

12. Current Liabilities

The liabilities for the current and previous year relate to Other Creditors.

There are no long term liabilities.

Other creditors for the General Fund include the balance due to the Model Trust Fund of £34654 and a refundable grant of £103492.

13. Provision for Outstanding Grants

Following the Circuit Meeting decision not to proceed with a new church building the unused part of the previously approved grant totalling £688487 has been reversed. A grant towards the cost of employing a Community Lead worker at a Circuit church for a total of £15000 was approved and will be paid over three years; this grant has been provided in accordance with the Accounting Policy on Grants. The result of these two matters is a net credit of £673487 on the Outstanding Grant Provision shown on the Statement of Financial Activities.

14. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2022 the Circuit has no capital commitments.
No contingent liabilities were identified at 31 August 2022

15. Detailed Analysis of Individual Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total
Opening balance	1906165	237547	2143712
Income	512243	4348	516591
Expenditure	- 227347	520548	293201
Transfers	24932	- 24932	-
Closing balance	<u>£2215993</u>	<u>£737511</u>	<u>£2953504</u>

The purpose of the general fund is the administration of the Circuit.

The purpose of the model trust fund is to make grants and loans to the Circuit churches and to improve the manses.

The transfer between the funds related to support from the Model Trust Fund for the ministry of the Circuit.

16. Related Party Transactions

The following schedule shows the related party transactions for the year and amounts outstanding at the year end. The Circuit churches and other Methodist organisations are considered related parties for the purpose of determining related party transactions.

	2022	2021
Circuit Churches:		
Assessment income	199202	195858
Grants	61221	27855
Funds transferred on closure	-	21618
Assessments paid in advance	31114	30994
Methodist Church Organizations:		
District Assessment	11202	9076
Chairman's Benevolent Fund	100	100
Methodist Church Fund contribution	41302	43467
Connexional Priority Fund contribution	64172	171618
Deposit – Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	902362	980000
Deposit – Central Finance Board	79435	122585

17. Post Balance Sheet Events

Since the year end the Circuit Meeting has approved a grant of £500000 from the Model Trust Fund towards the refurbishment costs of a Circuit church. This amount will be reflected in the 2022/2023 accounts.

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer

Date ???

Name of Treasurer Christopher Towers

Address 40 Willow Park Otford Kent TN14 5NF

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on 2023 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting

Name of the Chair of the Meeting Rev John Ritson

Date ????

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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

Signed:

Name: Lisa Pattenden ???

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: The Granary, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone,
ME16 9NT

Date:

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

At 31 August 2022

MINISTERS

Rev John Ritson
Rev Sharon Lovelock
Rev Dermot Thornberry

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Rev Helen Warmington

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev John Curnow
Rev Gerald Gardiner
Rev John Butt

LAYWORKERS

Mr Philip Staddon
Mr Richard Cannam

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Julia Bevis
Mr Rodney Stone
Mr Ian Beavis

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representative

Mrs Sue Ward

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinators

Mr Philip Staddon
Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Helen Atkinson

Property and TMCP Advisor

Mr Michael Richardson

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

East Peckham

Mrs Julia Bevis
Mrs Alison Farr
Mrs Eileen Hayward

Hawkhurst

Mr Ken Barnes
Miss Valerie Manser
Mr Reg Rummery

Horsmonden

Mr Henry Edwards
Mrs Rachel Sheppard

St Andrew's Paddock Wood

Mrs Jean Saggars
Mr Peter Crouch
Mr Carl Warren
Mrs Carol Barnett

Otford

Mrs Ann Suaznabar
Mrs Carol Oakley
Mrs Kathryn Ritson

The Drive Sevenoaks

Mr John Archer
Mrs Sally Dagnall
Mr Philip Smith

Tonbridge

Mr Roi Arden
Mr Hugh Taylor
Mrs Valerie Lovett

Tunbridge Wells

Mrs Gillian Langstaff
Mr Dave Holton
Mr Alan Spencer

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1155413

Accounts

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
For the year ended 31 August 2021**

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity – Registration Number **1155413**

South East District No 36 Circuit No 18

Ministers Rev John Ritson
 Rev Sharon Lovelock
 Rev Dermot Thornberry
 Rev Jonathan Todd (retired 31st July 2021)

Circuit Stewards Dr Helen Richardson
 Mrs Julia Bevis
 Mr Rodney Stone
 Mr Ian Beavis

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Towers

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Introduction

Included in the report are the aims of the Circuit and a commentary of the financial aspects of its work. The report has been prepared based on the activities and plans as they are known at the current time. The Circuit exists for the benefit of the six Methodist Churches, one joint Anglican/Methodist Church, and one joint URC/Methodist Church, employing the Circuit staff and providing financial support for major projects.

Circuit Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit to work together to enable our churches to share the Good News of Jesus. This we do through :

Leadership: to encourage, support and challenge each church to worship God, fulfil its own mission and spread God's word.

Communication: to facilitate effective and relevant communication between churches and encourage two-way communication with wider Methodism.

Maximising Resources: to ensure the most effective use of all resources across the Circuit and the development and use of our God-given gifts.

Review of the Year

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with Conference approved increases. 24% of general fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Grants from the Model Trust Fund were two payments of £2000 to support the Circuit churches. In addition the Circuit paid £23855 for professional fees relating to the redevelopment of a Circuit church.

Significant Transactions

Due to the impact of the Covid virus and lock down the Circuit churches have been closed for large parts of the year. This has reduced their income, especially from lettings, and caused some churches to reduce their assessment payments to the Circuit. The shortfall in budgeted assessment income for the year was £22000.

At the beginning of the year the Circuit held two redundant church buildings. One of these was sold and the net proceeds of £310000 were received into the Model Trust Fund. In addition the Model Trust Fund received £76000 from a profit sharing agreement relating to a church property sold in an earlier year. Following these receipts the sum of £119000 was passed to the Connexional Priority Fund of the Methodist Church.

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

The Circuit continues to incur costs relating to the remaining redundant church property. The property is in the hands of agents with a view to a sale. Once a sale is achieved the Model Trust Fund will receive a proportion of the proceeds.

The Circuit Meeting has approved grants from the Model Trust Fund totalling £790000 relating to development plans at two of the Circuit churches. At the year end the sum of £743746 remained unspent and these accounts reflect a provision for this amount in accordance with the accounting policy on grants.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2021 the net current assets on general fund of the Circuit were £98216 giving approximately 4 months cover for expenditure. There are substantial funds held in the Model Trust Fund which support the Circuit and individual churches' development plans.

Plans for 2021 – 2022

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains 3 ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the District.

The Circuit is actively involved in the plans for the construction of new church premises and has been working with the church regarding the development team and fundraising. The existing premises have suffered from erosion of the foundations and this will render them unusable at some time in the foreseeable future. The project is progressing and will include the purchase of land as well as building costs. The Circuit Meeting has approved a grant of £750000 towards the cost of this project part of which has been spent on fees for the professional team.

The Circuit Meeting has also approved a grant of £40000 towards the costs of a major refurbishment of another Circuit church. The outstanding commitment on both grants has been reflected in these accounts.

At the year end the Circuit Model Trust Fund stood at £237547. These funds are held to support future work in the rural section of the Circuit and to cover any additional costs that may need to be incurred on the new development mentioned above.

The Circuit has placed the premises of a redundant church with agents with a view to sale. When the sale is achieved the Circuit plans to spend part of the sale proceeds on the new church mentioned above.

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Full name of Charity	Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
Registration Number	1155413
Date of Registration	21 January 2014
Main communication address	Otford Methodist Church High Street Otford, Sevenoaks TN14 5PH

The members of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev John Ritson Rev Sharon Lovelock Rev Dermot Thornberry Rev Jonathan Todd (retired 31 st July 2021)
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Circuit Lay Workers	Mr Philip Staddon Mr Richard Cannam
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Circuit Stewards	Dr Helen Richardson Mrs Julia Bevis Mr Rodney Stone Mr Ian Beavis
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Administrator	Mrs Helen Atkinson
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Mr Christopher Towers acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Nash Harvey Group LLP The Granary Hermitage Court Hermitage Lane Maidstone ME16 9NT
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Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
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Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the Methodist Church.

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

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

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

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

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

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

East Peckham

Hawkhurst

Horsmonden

Otford

Paddock Wood (jointly with Church of England)

Sevenoaks

Tonbridge

Tunbridge Wells (jointly with URC)

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 15% of the general fund annual expenditure budget plus twice the annual budget for manse repairs. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. The balance on General Fund at 31 August 2021 disregarding the value of land and buildings complies with the Circuit Reserves Policy.

Funds are retained in the Model Trust Funds to be available to meet grant and loan requests for expenditure from the Circuit and the churches in the Circuit falling within the categories approved by the Methodist Church.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
		£	£	£	£
Charitable activities:					
Assessments		195858		195858	233095
Investment income		109	2837	2946	7677
Other income	5		407428	407428	57123
Total Income		<u>195967</u>	<u>410265</u>	<u>606232</u>	<u>297895</u>
Stipends and salaries	7	120302		120302	150734
District assessment		9076		9076	9693
Methodist Church Fund		43467		43467	45381
Telephone and travel		8703		8703	12381
Insurance and utilities		18600		18600	22946
Rent of manse		-		-	35494
Maintenance of manses		9462		9462	9176
Expenditure on circuit property			21844	21844	47169
Examiners fee		900		900	900
Other expenditure		4251	1633	5884	6890
Grants and donations		100	27855	27955	82100
Provision for outstanding grants	13		743746	743746	-
Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund	8		171618	171618	169928
Total Expenditure		<u>214861</u>	<u>966696</u>	<u>1181557</u>	<u>592792</u>
Net Income (Expenditure)		(18894)	(556431)	(575325)	(294897)
Transfers between funds		14000	(14000)	-	-
Gains (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		44086		44086	129147
Gains/losses on investment assets			686	686	(90)
Net movement in funds		<u>39192</u>	<u>(569745)</u>	<u>(530553)</u>	<u>(165840)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		1866973	807292	2674265	2840105
Total funds carried forward		<u>1906165</u>	<u>237547</u>	<u>2143712</u>	<u>2674265</u>

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	General Fund £	Model Trust £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Land and buildings	9	1807949		1807949	1763863
Investments	10		4290	4290	3604
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1807949</u>	<u>4290</u>	<u>1812239</u>	<u>1767467</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	11	11063	9003	20066	32534
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			968000	968000	812857
Central Finance Board deposits		122585		122585	102724
Cash at bank		13679		13679	15828
Total Current Assets		<u>147327</u>	<u>977003</u>	<u>1124330</u>	<u>963943</u>
Creditors, Accruals and Provisions					
Due under 1 year	12	-49111		-49111	-57145
Provision for outstanding grants	13		-743746	-743746	-
Net Current Assets		<u>98216</u>	<u>233257</u>	<u>331473</u>	<u>906798</u>
Net Assets		<u>1906165</u>	<u>237547</u>	<u>2143712</u>	<u>2674265</u>
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund unrestricted		1906165		1906165	1866973
Model Trust Fund unrestricted			237547	237547	807292
Total Funds		<u>1906165</u>	<u>237547</u>	<u>2143712</u>	<u>2674265</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2008.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. There are no Restricted funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 14 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis

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

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

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

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2021 values based on the sums insured except where a sale is anticipated in the near future where realisable value is used. The land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August and other debtors and prepayments.

Creditors

Creditors include receipts in advance, sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessments received in August.

Cash Flow Exemption

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because, as a small charity, it has taken exemption for cash flow in accordance with FRS 102, update bulletin one, in preparation of these financial statements.

4. Investment Income

The income consists of interest of £2768 from deposits with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, £109 from deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and dividends of £69 from listed investments.

5. Other Income

The receipt on the Model Trust Fund relates primarily to proceeds from the sale of redundant churches.

6. Payments to Trustees

There were no payments for additional services to trustees for the current and previous year excluding the amounts reported under note 7 relating to stipends and salaries.

7. Stipends and Salaries

The total amounts paid relating to stipends amounted to £89618 (£103839).

Staff costs paid during the year were:

Gross salaries	26721	41143
Pension costs	1603	2483
Employers National Insurance	1799	2707
Apprentice Scheme Levy	561	562
	<u>£30684</u>	<u>£46895</u>

Average number of full time equivalent employees were 2 (3).

8. Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund

As required by the Methodist Church contributions are made from property sales to the Connexional Priority Fund. An annual levy is also required and the total paid over during the year amounted to £171618 (£169928).

9. Land and Buildings

The total relates to the five manses held by the Circuit throughout the year.

Balance brought forward	1763863
Revaluation surplus	44086
Balance carried forward	<u>£1807949</u>

10. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited monthly. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements:

Market value brought forward	3604
Loss on revaluation	686
Market value carried forward	<u>£4290</u>

All investments are listed on a registered Stock Exchange and generated income of £69 (£75) for the year.

11. Analysis of Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		
Stipends in advance	7509	7421
Other debtors and prepayments	3554	25113
	<u>£11063</u>	<u>£32534</u>

The bank balance is held at HSBC Plc.

Other debtors for the Model Trust Fund includes the balance due from the General Fund of £9003.

12. Current Liabilities

The liabilities for the current and previous year relate to Other Creditors.

There are no long term liabilities.

Other creditors for the General Fund includes the balance due to the Model Trust Fund of £9003.

13. Provision for Outstanding Grants

The Circuit Meeting has approved grants totalling £790000 towards projects at two circuit churches of which the sum of £743746 remained unspent at the year end. It is considered that both projects are sufficiently advanced for the Circuit to regard these grants as operational obligations. In accordance with the Accounting Policy on Grants shown on page 10 full provision has been made for this amount. It is anticipated that the majority of this liability will fall due within twelve months.

14. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2021 the Circuit has no capital commitments.

No contingent liabilities were identified at 31 August 2021

15. Detailed Analysis of Individual Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total
Opening balance	1866973	807292	2674265
Income	240053	410951	651004
Expenditure	- 214861	- 966696	- 1181557
Transfers	14000	- 14000	-
Closing balance	<u>£1906165</u>	<u>£237547</u>	<u>£2143712</u>

The purpose of the general fund is the administration of the Circuit.

The purpose of the model trust fund is to make grants and loans to the Circuit churches and to improve the manses.

The transfer between the funds related to support from the Model Trust Fund for the ministry of the Circuit.

16. Related Party Transactions

The following schedule shows the related party transactions for the year and amounts outstanding at the year end. The Circuit churches and other Methodist organisations are considered related parties for the purpose of determining related party transactions.

	2021	2020
Circuit Churches:		
Assessment income	195858	233095
Grants	4000	2000
Funds transferred on closure	21618	500
Assessments paid in advance	30994	30833
Methodist Church Organizations:		
District Assessment	9076	9693
Chairman's Benevolent Fund	100	100
Methodist Church Fund contribution	43467	45381
Connexional Priority Fund contribution	171618	169948
Deposit – Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	980000	812857
Deposit – Central Finance Board	122585	102724

17. Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no matters to report.

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 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

Name of Treasurer Christopher Towers

Address 40 Willow Park Otford Kent TN14 5NF

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on 2022 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting

Name of the Chair of the Meeting Rev John Ritson

Date

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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

Signed:

Name: Lisa Pattenden

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: The Granary, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone,
ME16 9NT

Date:

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

At 31 August 2021

MINISTERS

Rev John Ritson
Rev Sharon Lovelock
Rev Jonathan Todd
Rev Dermot Thornberry

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Rev Helen Warmington

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Keith Lyon
Rev John Curnow
Rev Gerald Gardiner
Rev John Butt

LAYWORKERS

Mr Philip Staddon
Mr Richard Cannam

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Julia Bevis
Mr Rodney Stone
Mr Ian Beavis

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representative

Mrs Sue Ward

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinators

Mr Philip Staddon
Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Helen Atkinson

Property and TMCP Advisor

Mr Michael Richardson

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

East Peckham

Mrs Julia Bevis
Mrs Alison Farr
Mrs Eileen Hayward

Hawkhurst

Mr Ken Barnes
Miss Valerie Manser
Mr Reg Rummery

Horsmonden

Mr Henry Edwards
Mrs Rachel Sheppard

St Andrew's Paddock Wood

Mrs Jean Saggars
Mr Peter Crouch
Mr Carl Warren
Mrs Carol Barnett

Otford

Mrs Ann Suaznabar
Mrs Carol Oakley
Mrs Kathryn Ritson

The Drive Sevenoaks

Mr John Archer
Mrs Sally Dagnall
Mr Philip Smith

Tonbridge

Mr Roi Arden
Mr Hugh Taylor
Mrs Valerie Lovett

Tunbridge Wells

Mrs Gillian Langstaff
Mr Dave Holton
Mr Alan Spencer

Accounts

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)**

For the year ended 31 August 2020

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity – Registration Number 1155413

South East District No 36 Circuit No 18

Ministers

Rev John Ritson
Rev Gillian Le Boutillier – Scott (retired 31st August 2020)
Rev Sharon Lovelock
Rev Dermot Thornberry
Rev Jonathan Todd

Circuit Stewards

Ms Sue Wilkins
Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Julia Bevis
Mr Rodney Stone
Mr Ian Beavis (appointed 18th March 2020)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Towers

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Introduction

Included in the report are the aims of the Circuit and a commentary of the financial aspects of its work. The report has been prepared based on the activities and plans as they are known at the current time. The Circuit exists for the benefit of the six Methodist Churches, one joint Anglican/Methodist Church, and one joint URC/Methodist Church, employing the Circuit staff and providing financial support for major projects.

Circuit Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit to work together to enable our churches to share the Good News of Jesus. This we do through :

Leadership: to encourage, support and challenge each church to worship God, fulfil its own mission and spread God's word.

Communication: to facilitate effective and relevant communication between churches and encourage two-way communication with wider Methodism.

Maximising Resources: to ensure the most effective use of all resources across the Circuit and the development and use of our God-given gifts.

Review of the Year

Income Trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with Conference approved increases. 20% of general fund expenditure is the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Grants from the Model Trust Fund included £75000 towards the building of the Eastbourne Emmanuel Church, £5000 to the chapel fund of the Trinity School at Sevenoaks and £2000 to support one of the Circuit churches.

Significant Transactions

In the previous year two of the Circuit churches ceased to meet. The church property has been deemed surplus to requirements and both are in the hands of agents for sale. In the event of a sale the Circuit Model Trust Fund will receive a proportion of the sale proceeds. Until that event the costs associated with the buildings are met from Model Trust Fund resources.

During the year a manse property was sold. The proceeds of sale amounting to £355000 were received into the Model Trust Fund from which the sum of £122000 was passed to the Connexional Priority Fund of the Methodist Church.

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2020 the net current assets on general fund of the Circuit were £103110 giving approximately 4 months cover for expenditure. There are substantial funds held in the Model Trust Fund which support the Circuit and individual churches' development plans.

Plans for 2020 – 2021

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains 4 ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the District. Given the impact of Covid-19 most churches are experiencing a loss of rental income which will be reflected in their finances; they have been invited to discuss these issues with the Circuit. This could have an impact on the assessment income for the year but the circuit considers that it has adequate reserves to meet any shortfall in assessment income. The Reverend Jonathan Todd is attached to the Kent College School Pembury who are responsible for his stipend.

The Circuit is actively considering the redevelopment of the premises at one of the churches. The project is progressing and will include some purchase of land as well as building costs. A project manager and an architect have been appointed and funds have been allocated from the Model Trust Fund to enable preliminary drawings to be prepared and costed. It is hoped that significant progress will be made in 2021.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund amounted to £807292 at 31st August 2020. The Circuit plans to utilise part of these funds in the redevelopment of a Circuit church and to support other Circuit activities.

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Full name of Charity	Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
Registration Number	1155413
Date of Registration	21 January 2014
Main communication address	Otford Methodist Church High Street Otford, Sevenoaks TN14 5PH

The members of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev John Ritson Rev Gillian Le Boutillier–Scott (retired 31 st August 2020) Rev Sharon Lovelock Rev Dermot Thornberry Rev Jonathan Todd
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Circuit Lay Workers	Mr Philip Staddon Mr Richard Cannam
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Circuit Stewards	Ms Sue Wilkins Dr Helen Richardson Mrs Julia Bevis Mr Rodney Stone Mr Ian Beavis (appointed 18 th March 2020)
------------------	--

Administrator	Mrs Helen Atkinson
---------------	--------------------

Mr Christopher Towers acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Nash Harvey Group LLP The Granary Hermitage Court Hermitage Lane Maidstone ME16 9NT
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Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
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**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the Methodist Church.

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

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

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

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

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

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

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting and the Circuit Finance and Property Committee.

Trustee Training

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

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit:

East Peckham

Hawkhurst

Horsmonden

Otford

Paddock Wood (jointly with Church of England)

Sevenoaks

Tonbridge

Tunbridge Wells (jointly with URC)

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

**Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 15% of the general fund annual expenditure budget plus twice the annual budget for manse repairs. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches. The balance on General Fund at 31 August 2020 disregarding the value of land and buildings complies with the Circuit Reserves Policy.

Funds are retained in the Model Trust Funds to be available to meet grant and loan requests for expenditure from the Circuit and the churches in the Circuit falling within the categories approved by the Methodist Church.

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total 2019/20	Total 2018/19
		£	£	£	£
Charitable activities:					
Assessments		233095		233095	250411
Investment income		567	7110	7677	7445
Other income	5	50200	6923	57123	29364
Total Income		<u>283862</u>	<u>14033</u>	<u>297895</u>	<u>287220</u>
Stipends and salaries	7	150734		150734	160337
District assessment		9693		9693	8128
Methodist Church Fund		45381		45381	42866
Telephone and travel		12381		12381	18849
Insurance and utilities		22946		22946	20338
Rent of manse		35494		35494	-
Maintenance of manses		9176		9176	9742
Expenditure on circuit property			47169	47169	32272
Examiners fee		900		900	-
Other expenditure		5369	1521	6890	17993
Grants and donations		100	82000	82100	2100
Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund	8		169928	169928	53226
Total Expenditure		<u>292174</u>	<u>300618</u>	<u>592792</u>	<u>365851</u>
Net Income (Expenditure)		(8312)	(286585)	(294897)	(78631)
Transfers between funds		(330657)	330657	-	-
Gains (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		129147		129147	(13306)
Gains/losses on investment assets			(90)	(90)	36
Net movement in funds		<u>(209822)</u>	<u>43982</u>	<u>(165840)</u>	<u>(91901)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		2076795	763310	2840105	2932006
Total funds carried forward		<u>1866973</u>	<u>807292</u>	<u>2674265</u>	<u>2840105</u>

WEALD OF KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	General Fund £	Model Trust £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Land and buildings	9	1763863		1763863	1984716
Investments	10		3604	3604	3694
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1763863</u>	<u>3604</u>	<u>1767467</u>	<u>1988410</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	11	30534	2000	32534	24185
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits			812857	812857	756300
Central Finance Board deposits		102724		102724	161289
Cash at bank		15828		15828	3367
Total Current Assets		<u>149086</u>	<u>814857</u>	<u>963943</u>	<u>945141</u>
Creditors and Accruals					
Due under 1 year	12	-45976	-11169	-57145	-93446
Net Current Assets		<u>103110</u>	<u>803688</u>	<u>906798</u>	<u>851695</u>
Net Assets		<u>1866973</u>	<u>807292</u>	<u>2674265</u>	<u>2840105</u>
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund unrestricted		1866973		1866973	2076795
Model Trust Fund unrestricted			807292	807292	763310
Total Funds		<u>1866973</u>	<u>807292</u>	<u>2674265</u>	<u>2840105</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2008.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. There are no Restricted funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 14 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis

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

Income Recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

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

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2020 values based on the sums insured except where a sale is anticipated in the near future where realisable value is used. The land component is not recognised in these figures. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August and other debtors and prepayments.

Creditors

Creditors include receipts in advance, sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessments received in August.

Cash Flow Exemption

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because, as a small charity, it has taken exemption for cashflow in accordance with FRS 102, update bulletin one, in preparation of these financial statements.

4. Investment Income

The income consists of interest of £7035 from deposits with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, £567 from deposits with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and dividends of £75 from listed investments.

5. Other Income

The receipt on General Fund related to grants received from Connexion and District towards the manse rental and stipend costs of Rev Gillian Le Boutillier-Scott. The receipt on Model Trust relates primarily to the excess over book value for the manse sold in the year.

6. Payments to Trustees

There were no payments for additional services to trustees for the current and previous year excluding the amounts reported under note 7 relating to stipends and salaries.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

7. Stipends and Salaries

The total amounts paid relating to stipends amounted to £103839 (£116562).

Staff costs paid during the year were:

Gross salaries	41143	38485
Pension costs	2483	2086
Employers National Insurance	2707	2472
Apprentice Scheme Levy	562	732
	<u>£46895</u>	<u>£43775</u>

Average number of full time equivalent employees were 3 (3).

8. Contributions to Connexional Priority Fund

As required by the Methodist Church contributions are made from property sales to the Connexional Priority Fund. An annual levy is also required and the total paid over during the year amounted to £169928 (£53226).

9. Land and Buildings

The total relates to the five manse held by the Circuit throughout the year.

Balance brought forward	1984716
Sale at book value	- 350000
Revaluation surplus	129147
Balance carried forward	<u>£1763863</u>

10. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited monthly. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements:

Market value brought forward	3694
Loss on revaluation	(90)
Market value carried forward	<u>£3604</u>

All investments are listed on a registered Stock Exchange and generated income of £75 (£110) for the year.

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

11. Analysis of Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		
Stipends in advance	7421	8732
Other debtors and prepayments	25113	15453
	<u>£32534</u>	<u>£24185</u>

The bank balance is held at HSBC Plc.

Other debtors for the General Fund includes the balance due from the Model Trust Fund of £11169.

12. Current Liabilities

The liabilities for the current and previous year relate to Other Creditors.

There are no long term liabilities.

Other creditors for the Model Trust Fund includes the balance due to the General Fund of £11169.

13. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2020 the Circuit has no capital commitments.

No contingent liabilities were identified at 31 August 2020

14. Detailed Analysis of Individual Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Model Trust Fund	Total
Opening balance	2076795	763310	2840105
Income	413009	14003	427042
Expenditure	- 292174	- 300708	- 592882
Transfers	- 330657	330657	-
Closing balance	<u>£18866973</u>	<u>£807292</u>	<u>£2674265</u>

The purpose of the general fund is the administration of the Circuit.

The purpose of the model trust fund is to make grants and loans to the Circuit churches and to improve the manses.

The transfers between the funds were related to the book value of the manse sold in the year and to support from the Model Trust Fund for the ministry of the Circuit.

15. Related Party Transactions

The following schedule shows the related party transactions for the year and amounts outstanding at the year end. The Circuit churches and other Methodist organisations are considered related parties for the purpose of determining related party transactions.

	2020	2019
Circuit Churches:		
Assessment income	233095	250411
Grants	2000	2000
Funds transferred on closure	500	11132
Loan made/(repaid) in year	-	(17000)
Debtor for assessments	-	-
Assessments paid in advance	30833	29801
Methodist Church Organizations:		
District Assessment	9693	8128
Chairman's Benevolent Fund	100	100
Methodist Church Fund contribution	45381	42866
Connexional Priority Fund contribution	169948	53226
Deposit – Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	812857	756300
Deposit – Central Finance Board	102724	161289

16. Post Balance Sheet Events

During December 2017 the redundant church premises at Wadhurst were sold for £450000 subject to a potential uplift on the completion of the proposed development. The uplift of £75953 was received after the year net of the Connexional Priority Fund contribution.

Following the closure of two churches during the year their premises have become vacant. One of the premises is being sold and is expected to realise about £300000. Under Methodist policies a proportion of the receipts are due to the Connexional Priority Fund and a balance of about £180000 will be due to the Model Trust Fund. The other premises have been placed on the open market with the possibility of a sale in the future. The anticipated receipts will be reflected in the year of receipt.

Activities of the Circuit churches have been severely curtailed by the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) causing church buildings to be closed. Many churches have developed on line worship and all are giving their members and adherents pastoral support. The rental income that is an important source of funding to many churches has significantly declined. Despite this loss of rental income all churches were able to meet their assessments for the year under review. Since the year end some churches have been unable to meet their assessment obligations in full which will create an income shortfall for the current year. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and are satisfied that Circuit reserves will be adequate to ensure that its activities can continue for the foreseeable future.

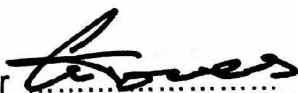
Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 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 17th March 2021

Name of Treasurer

Christopher Towers

Address

40 Willow Park Otford Kent TN14 5NF

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on 17th March 2021 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the Meeting



Name of the Chair of the Meeting

Rev John Ritson

Date 17th March 2021

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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

Signed: 

Name: LISA PATTENDEN

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

The Granary, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9NT

Date: 17th March 2021

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

At 31 August 2020

MINISTERS

Rev John Ritson
Rev Sharon Lovelock
Rev Jonathan Todd
Rev Dermot Thornberry

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Rev Helen Warmington

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev Keith Lyon
Rev John Curnow
Rev Gerald Gardiner
Rev John Butt

LAYWORKERS

Mr Philip Staddon
Mr Richard Cannam

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miss Sue Wilkins
Mr Rodney Stone
Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Julia Bevis
Mr Ian Beavis

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representative

Mrs Sue Ward

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinators

Mr Philip Staddon
Dr Helen Richardson
Mrs Helen Atkinson

Property and TMCP Advisor

Mr Michael Richardson

Weald of Kent Methodist Circuit

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

East Peckham

Mrs Julia Bevis
Mrs Alison Farr
Mrs Eileen Hayward

Hawkhurst

Mr Ken Barnes
Miss Valerie Manser
Mr Reg Rummery

Horsmonden

Mr Henry Edwards
Mr Stuart Hughes
Mrs Rachel Sheppard

St Andrew's Paddock Wood

Mrs Jean Sagers
Mr Peter Crouch
Mr Carl Warren
Mrs Carol Barnett

Otford

Mrs Carol Oakley
Mrs Ann Suaznabar
Mrs Kathryn Ritson

The Drive Sevenoaks

Mr John Archer
Mrs Grace Archer
Mr Robert Bright
Mrs Sally Dagnall
Mr Philip Smith

Tonbridge

Mr Roi Arden
Mrs Lee Athwal
Mr Hugh Taylor
Mr John Davis

Tunbridge Wells

Mrs Gillian Langstaff
Mr Derek Legg
Mr Alan Spencer