

STAMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1160930

Details

Other names	STAMFORD & RUTLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT, STAMFORD AND RUTLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2015-03-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	11 Jackson Way Stamford PE9 1FG
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Website	www.stamfordmethodistcircuit.org

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: The Circuit exists to equip local churches for mission and to enable local churches to function more effectively through the Circuit's practical support. The Circuit provides ministers to local Churches following stationing by the Methodist Conference who's aim is to spread the Gospel. It also supports and trains local preachers to lead worship, and youth workers..

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire
- Leicestershire
- Lincolnshire
- Rutland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£201,092	£272,448	-	-
2023-08-31	£212,788	£285,442	-	-
2022-08-31	£167,599	£303,318	-	-
2021-08-31	£335,199	£332,562	-	-
2020-08-31	£210,723	£294,367	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Audrey Hensman		2024-09-01
Barry Charles Streets		2024-09-01
CHRISTOPHER JAMES PURSEHOUSE		2017-09-01
Charlotte Davis		2024-09-01
Christopher Barber		2025-10-13
DR CHRIS SWORN		2014-09-01
Dr David Cappitt		2025-10-13
EILEEN RAY		2014-09-01
ELIZABETH ANN HEATHCOTE		2014-09-01
Elizabeth Clare Hodgson		2024-09-01
Frances Coles		2024-09-01
Georgina Finn		2024-09-01
Graham Stapleton		2017-09-01
IAN RAY		2014-09-01
JEAN SUFF		2014-09-01
Janet Hetherington		2024-09-01
Jonathan Francis Batstone		2024-09-01
MARGARET LOUISE STONES BA DIPED		2014-09-15
MR GEOFF HEATHCOTE		2014-09-01
Muriel Ann Grimes		2025-10-13
NINA RAWLINS		2025-02-19
Nadine Denise Mackie		2024-09-01
Olive Ruzvidzo		2024-09-01
Peter David Wright BSc		2019-05-29
Philip Delwyn Vaughan Jones		2017-09-01
Rev Andrew James Lester Hollins		2022-09-01
Rev Nigel John Coke-Woods		2026-03-01

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Rebecca Helen Wright		2024-09-01
Roger Anthony Macey		2017-09-01
Sally -Ann Marchant		2026-02-03
Sandra Jane Scott Wadkin		2025-10-13
Sarah Atwell King		2023-02-06
Stephen Matthew Fallow		2024-09-01
Vivienne Jean Higgins		2024-09-01
William Paul Henry Booker		2024-09-01

Accounts

Stamford Methodist Circuit

23/15

**Trustees' Annual Report
for year ended 31st August 2024**



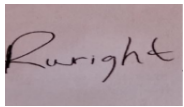
“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”

Registered Charity Number 1160930

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to present the Annual Report and financial statements for the Stamford Methodist Circuit for the year ending 31st August 2024.

It is my strongly held belief that the churches of our circuit remain firm in faith and resolute in their determination to offer the Gospel message to the people of Rutland and South Lincolnshire.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Wright', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Rev'd Rebecca Wright
Circuit Minister and Acting Superintendent Minister

Achievements and Performance 2023-2024

1. Development of Circuit Vision

In the year 2022-2023 the Circuit Meeting had started to reflect on our circuit vision. This was driven by the need to respond to our financial situation. However, we were determined to ensure that the decisions we made were grounded in us fulfilling our mission in our communities. This work continued into 2023-2024 and structural changes were implemented to achieve that vision.

As a circuit, we were and we continue to be mindful of:

- Being responsible for our churches as well as being accountable to the District and, in turn, the Connexion;
- Being sure of who it is we serve, both in terms of God and the churches and congregations we have locally;
- Assessing what we have and what we need by way of resources and where our strengths and weaknesses are;
- Acknowledging that we are part of a bigger picture in the Kingdom of God; and
- How we honour the fact that our churches are part of both our Circuit family, and their local communities, each seeking to be a unique and beautiful expression of a faith-filled Christian presence where they are.

The Circuit Meeting of 21st June 2023 unanimously agreed that we should hold the vision of growth in all areas of our work, including, but not limited to, the size of our congregations, the number of members in our churches, the discipleship of those connecting with our churches, the support we offer to our communities and financial growth for both churches and the circuit.

In our Circuit Meetings and Circuit Leadership Team Meetings throughout 2023-2024 we named the practical implications of fulfilling that vision, realising that in order to grow we needed to first make cuts, which would give the space for growth to begin.

At the same time we wanted to celebrate the churches, their gifts and what they give to their local communities. On 21st June 2024 the Circuit Leadership Team met with a member of the Northampton District Mission Team, under the theme 'Soil, Seeds and Seasons,' to reflect on the identities of each of the circuit churches and how to support each church in meeting its full potential. This theme was brought back to the Circuit Meeting and has guided us in our work for next year.

Circuit Vision remains the starting point for how we work as a circuit.

2. Prayer and Worship

- We continue to support our Preachers, Worship Leaders and those in training through quarterly meetings and provision of resources.
- Bible Month is now a regular feature of our year in ministry. We took part in Bible Month for 2024, establishing a pattern of a training day for all local preachers to assist in their preparation, and participation of some local congregations through fellowship groups.
- We continue to participate in the ecumenical programme Thy Kingdom Come through our online reflections.
- Filling the circuit plan continues to be a challenge due to the number of Local Preachers and Supernumerary ministers who are no longer able to take appointments. During this year we instigated Local Worship, services led by the churches. This has led to an increase in the use of resources provided by the Methodist Church (e.g. Methodist Homes Association, All We Can). It has also led to an increase in different types of worship including Café Church, Fellowship Services, Favourite Hymns and Readings.
- We continued to offer daily online evening prayers and online Sunday Worship reaching those who are housebound as well as others around the country and across the world.
- We committed to hold one circuit service at the beginning of each quarter.
- We held our annual circuit service at Normanton Farm.
- Individual churches hold acts of worship supporting the needs of their community, examples include Messy Church, a dementia church, outdoor services, remembering services, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services and community carol services.
- Prayers from the circuit and the individual churches are submitted to the monthly circuit newsletter.
- Pastoral concerns are brought to each of the circuit meetings and time is spent in prayer over those concerns.
- New hymns have been created within the Circuit and used in some of our churches, one of these is now included online in Singing the Faith Plus.

The Circuit Leadership Team did commit to spending time in prayer and reflection at their monthly meetings as well as time on the governance requirements for the circuit. This has not yet been fully implemented and will be a focus for the next year.

3. Discernment and Calling

We seek to be a circuit which provides additional support for churches and individuals as they consider their calling. We are aware that this is something we need to develop further but during the reporting year the following took place:

- A speaker attended the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting to talk about changes in the training programme for worship leaders and local preachers.
- 2 members of the circuit were elected by the District Synod to be representatives at the Methodist Conference.
- A circuit service was held on 3rd December to celebrate our local preachers, and several certificates were given in recognition of long service in the role.
- Our Circuit Safeguarding Officer is working with the circuit and the church safeguarding officers to create role descriptions for every role in the church. This will aid people in making informed decisions when exploring their calling.

4. Service and caring

We celebrate the various ways in which our churches serve their communities through:

- Pastoral visiting
- Support for Ukrainian refugees including offering meeting places, providing homes and assistance with paperwork and forms
- Providing a location for a village post office
- Coffee Mornings
- Providing lunches
- Supporting foodbanks
- Toddler groups
- Work amongst young people
- Fellowship Groups
- Supporting the work of uniformed organisations
- Supporting an Alcoholics Anonymous group
- Generosity in hiring buildings out
- 'Open the book' programmes in schools
- Partnerships with other organisations e.g. Second Helpings in Stamford
- Choirs
- Warm Space
- And many others.

The Circuit has actively supported an asylum candidate who is a member of one of our churches. Members have attended the Immigration Reporting Centre, conducted a letter writing campaign, raised money for legal fees, provided opportunities for the individual to tell their story and held an all-night prayer vigil.

The Circuit Meeting chose Water Aid as the circuit charity for the reporting year.

5. Communication

We currently:

- Have weekly staff meetings
- Have regular meetings with church treasurers and safeguarding officers.
- Have a website which is regularly updated
- Have an active social media presence
- Assign a circuit steward to each church council
- Circulate notices / information via senior church stewards

We aim to:

- Continue to improve our communication with churches
- Provide resources for Worship where we can
- Meet regularly with property stewards
- Dedicate some Circuit Leadership Team Meetings to focus on individual churches, giving those churches an opportunity to send questions and requests for prayer or help to the meeting.
- Support local churches in their mission and ministry

6. Resources

I. Staffing

Exploring our Circuit Vision throughout the year, the Circuit Meeting took the decision that cuts had to be made before new growth could begin. We explored this under the title “What makes a healthy Circuit?” As well as discussing this in Circuit Meetings, we held an open meeting for anyone from any of the churches to attend and to be part of the discussions.

It was recognised that all the circuit churches were valuable centres of mission each with their own strengths which clearly benefitted their communities. Where we could make changes was in staffing.

- Rev’d Ruth Charlesworth curtailed her appointment to the circuit; leaving in August 2024.
- Rev’d Bekkie Wright was due to enter the stationing process in September 2024 thereby leaving the circuit in August 2025. During the reporting year, Bekkie expressed a desire to extend her appointment, and this was explored by the Circuit Invitation Committee. The decision was that Bekkie’s appointment would be extended by 3 years.
- A supernumerary minister who was supporting the work of the circuit re-entered the stationing process during the year and left the circuit in August 2024.
- A student minister in the circuit also left in August 2024 to take up a probationer appointment in another circuit.
- We agreed that two Lay Worker roles would be created one for Pastoral and Discipleship and another for Discipleship and Evangelism. These would replace the existing Lay Worker roles from September 2024. During the reporting year the role descriptions were agreed along with how the new staffing team would work.

II. Office Holding Roles

- A new Circuit Meeting Secretary was appointed after a vacancy of some time.
- The funded position for our Online and Social Media Support also came to an end, but the role- holder offered to continue the work on a voluntary basis.

7. Legal / Church Requirements

I. Safeguarding

- A number of Creating Safer Space Foundation module training courses have been held around the Circuit. Rev'd Andrew Hollins and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer have trained to lead the course.
- Our Circuit Safeguarding Officer has been instrumental in ensuring access for those who require the CSS Advanced module training. This included offering our circuit as a location for the training.
- Safeguarding audits were undertaken in all 9 circuit churches and for the circuit itself. The circuit audit has been reviewed on 3 occasions during the year.
- We use the safeguarding procedures effectively across the circuit, and ask for advice from the District Safeguarding Officer when needed.
- We review the Circuit Safeguarding Policy annually.
- We maintain a database of all safeguarding requirements.
- The Circuit Safeguarding Officer meets with the church safeguarding officers several times a year.

II. EDI

- During the year we were one of the circuits chosen to be on the Discrimination and Abuse Response Scheme (DARS) pilot.
- Rev'd Andrew Hollins and Rev'd Bekkie Wright led three EDI training courses around the circuit.
- Rev'd Bekkie Wright is a representative on the District EDI Committee and the Connexional JDS Committee.

III. GDPR

We continue to help churches with GDPR. A training session was held on 6th March 2024. Rev'd Bekkie Wright also met with individual churches to help them complete their returns.

In the next year we intend to develop our work in this area, ensuring there is a Data Champion in each Church and that the Data-Mapping is completed for the churches and the circuit.

IV. Property

With the change in staffing due to take effect in September 2024 the Circuit Meeting made decisions on the best locations for the ministers to live and how to ensure that the manses gave the best financial returns for the circuit. The legal and practical work was undertaken to prepare one manse for letting.

V. Finances

- During the year we worked with TMCP to identify the uses for restricted funds. The Circuit Meeting agreed to apply to derestrict some of the funds, with the commitment to use them carefully and well.
- We have kept a watchful eye on balances and sought to transfer funds from reserves as and when needed using the correct mandates
- We held two meetings with church treasurers which have been very well received.
- We have increased our circuit lay staff salaries in line with the connexional agreed increase for ministerial stipends.

Our financial statements accounts and reserves policy are attached on pages 17 to 21 of this report.

We are aware that we have been running at a significant deficit for a number of years, but over the past few years have focussed on decreasing that deficit with the aim of having a break even balance on 1st September 2026. The changes we have made over the reported year have set us in good stead to meet that aim.

Objectives, Aims and Purposes of the Stamford Methodist Circuit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. This guidance sets out two key principles:

- The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
- The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

These principles are met within the registered aims and objectives of the Methodist Church in Great Britain ('The Methodist Church' or 'The Church') to which we adhere.

The aim of the Methodist Church in Great Britain is to fulfil its calling, which is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

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

To this end we use the Circuit's resources to:

- Increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love;
- Help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care;
- Be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice; and
- Make more followers of Christ.

We exercise these missional objectives in the areas of Rutland and South Lincolnshire, particularly focussing on the towns or villages of The Deepings, Thurlby, Bourne, Stamford, Ryhall, Ketton, Empingham, Oakham and Uppingham.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets the public benefit requirements.

Circuit Mission & Policy Statement

In partnership with other Christians, the nine churches of the Stamford Circuit exist to:

- Spread the Good News of the life changing love of God as seen in Jesus Christ and experienced through the Holy Spirit
- Enable individuals and groups to grow in faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- Demonstrate God's love for all people
- Encourage and support each other in seeking and fulfilling the will of God

We work together towards the above aims as follows:

Worship

- To offer our best to God in heartfelt praise, honest reflection and prayerful concern
- Offering various styles and emerging patterns of worship to meet a range of spiritual needs and, so far as is possible, relevant to the society in which we live.
- On-going training of preachers and worship leaders, and encouraging people to respond to the call of God

Nurture

- Supporting and training all who work with children and young people.
- Offering appropriate Bible study, fellowship groups, prayer groups and study courses.
- Encourage folk to consider becoming a part of God's community, the Church.

Pastoral Care

- Maintaining and developing effective pastoral care networks for people of all ages within and beyond the Church.
- Emphasising the importance of our circuit family in mutual care and support
- Providing safe space for all.

Sharing the Good News of Christ

- Inviting those involved in church and community groups to meet Jesus Christ and grow in Christian faith.
- Creating opportunities and enabling our people to share faith in relevant ways.
- Creating opportunities to offer children Christian faith through holiday clubs, weeknight activities and schools work.

Service

Both at home and in the world context:

- Prayerfully and intentionally supporting those who work out their faith in secular employment or voluntary work.
- Meeting people's needs as God calls us, wherever
- Possible and appropriate, with other agencies.
- Enacting social justice and supporting the World Church.
- Supporting and standing with the poor and the marginalised.

Safeguarding statement

It is the Methodist Church's intention to value every human being as part of God's creation and the whole people of God. At the heart of the Methodist community is a deep sense of the place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all.

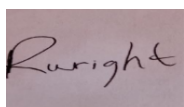
Our church communities are called to be places where the transformational love of God is embodied and life in all its fullness is a gift, which is offered to all people.

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

<https://stamfordmethodistcircuit.org/safeguarding/>

We encourage participation in all that we do by each congregation, both locally and circuit wide.

Dated: 17th June 2025



Rev'd Rebecca Wright

Circuit Minister and Acting Superintendent Minister

Structure

Trustee body

The Circuit Meeting of Stamford Methodist Circuit is the trustee body of the Circuit. Its constitution and membership is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, Volume 2, Book 3, Part 5. (CPD). Membership is drawn from the local churches of the circuit and other representative bodies. List of trustees serving at the time of signing is found on pages 22 and 23 of this report.

The Circuit consists of the following churches

Bourne Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright	Abbey Road, Bourne	PE10 9EF
Deepings Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright	Church Street, Deeping St James	PE6 8HF
Empingham Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright	Main Street, Empingham	LE15 8PR
Ketton Minister: Rev'd Andrew Hollins	Bull Lane, Ketton	PE9 3TB
Oakham Minister: Rev'd Andrew Hollins	Northgate, Oakham	LE15 6FH
Ryhall Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright	Mill Lane, Ryhall	PE9 4HF
Stamford Minister: Rev'd Andrew Hollins	11 Barn Hill, Stamford	PE9 2AE
Thurlby Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright	High Street, Thurlby	PE10 0ED
Uppingham Minister: Rev'd Andrew Hollins	Orange Street, Uppingham	LE15 9SQ

Other Assets

The Circuit owns three manses

2 Coggles Causeway, Bourne PE10 9LN

11 Jackson Way, Stamford PE9 1FG

2 Wensum Close, Oakham LE15 6FU

The Circuit Ministry Team

At the date of signing of this report, the circuit ministry team was made up as follows:

Chair of the Northampton Methodist District:

Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks

Superintendent Minister:

Rev'd Andrew Hollins

Other Ministers stationed in the Circuit:

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Lay member of the Ministry Team:

Mr Philip Jones (Pastoral and Discipleship)

Circuit Leadership Team (CLT)

The CLT is made up of the Circuit Ministry Team, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer plus other co-opted people from time to time.

The CLT meet to consider, discuss and pray for the mission and ministry of the circuit. The CLT meets at least 6 times per year.

Circuit Stewards

The Circuit Stewards are responsible, with the Superintendent and the ministers and probationers appointed to the Circuit, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit Stewards serving in the year and at the date of the signing of this report were as follows:

- Moyra Collins
- Sarah Atwell-King
- Barry Streets (Finance)

Circuit Safeguarding Officer (CSO)

The Circuit Safeguarding Officer (CSO) is responsible for promoting the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable adults within the circuit, acting as a point of reference and providing guidance on safeguarding policies and procedures, ensuring appropriate training and DBS checks are undertaken.

The CSO serving in the year and at the date of signing this report was as follows:

- Charlotte Davis

Meetings which support the work and conduct the circuit

Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting

The Local Preachers' Meeting is responsible for oversight of all local preachers and each local preacher is accountable to the meeting. It is a quarterly meeting of all preachers (lay and ordained) and worship leaders within the circuit. It also exercises a function to enable continuing development, support and encouragement of all those involved with these ministries.

There is an annual service of Holy Communion held in each Connexional Year during which the Preachers and Worship Leaders renew their commitment to their calling.

Circuit Online Ministry team

The team is made up of preachers and volunteers who enable, prepare and lead online acts of worship and prayer throughout the year.

Circuit Worship Planning

The Circuit Services are arranged to offer preaching and worship which relates to the life, mission and ministry of the wider circuit.

An ad-hoc group meets, as required, to plan the Quarterly Circuit Services along with members of the Circuit Ministry Team.

Church Treasurers' Meeting

Church treasurers meet with the ministers and circuit stewards twice a year to consider the apportionment of the annual circuit assessment and other financial matters.

Church Safeguarding Officers meeting

Church safeguarding offices meet twice a year with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the ministers to review and implement safeguarding arrangements, as well as to support one another in their work.

Property Advisory Group (PAG)

The Property Advisory Group is a small working group who oversee matters to do with circuit properties (chapels and manses).

Social Justice Forum

This meeting is an ad hoc gathering which currently aims to meet twice a year. It is open for anyone to attend who has an interest in addressing issues of social justice and current affairs from a Christian perspective.

The forum offers all attendees the opportunity to share their issues and concerns for conversation, debate and prayer. It is the express intention of each gathering that we will agree on practical ways of addressing the issues raised.

Circuit Social Group

An ad-hoc working group to discuss and plan for various social events across the circuit and for the circuit.

Circuit Invitation Committee (CIC)

- The Superintendent Minister: Andrew Hollins (or nominated deputy)
- One other Presbyterian stationed in the circuit
- Two Circuit Stewards
- One representative (e.g. Church Steward) of each church in the appointment being considered.

The CIC exists, providing it has received devolved permission to do so, to enact the Circuit Meeting's decisions regarding ministerial invitations and consultations.

Financial statements

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024					STAMFORD		Circuit
			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
SECTION A							
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		189,653			189,653	196,336
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,093	3,651	1,585	9,329	7,933
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		2,110			2,110	8,519
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		195,856	3,651	1,585	201,092 (a8)	212,788
SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		183,658			183,658	206,029
b3	Manse Costs		19,942			19,942	12,276
b4	Administration etc		3,058			3,058	6,269
b5	District Assessment		60,328	1,842		62,170	59,011
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		3,327	209	84	3,620	1,857
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		270,313	2,051	84	272,448 (b9)	285,442
SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(74,457)	1,600	1,501	(71,356)	(72,654)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		125,621	73,667	29,334	228,622 (c6)	306,214
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	51,164	75,267	30,835	157,266	233,560
c4	Transfers and adjustments		12,015	(5,546)	(6,469)		(4,938)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	63,179	69,721	24,366	157,266 (c8)	228,622
SECTION D							
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					271	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					2,654	1,386
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					1,028	1,115
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					1,897	271

Stamford Methodist Circuit Trustee Annual Report for Year ending 31st August 2024

STAMFORD										Circuit			
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING													
SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page													
Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.													
INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments		Adjustments		Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1													
e2													
e3													
e4													
e5													
e6													
e7													
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds											(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	201,092	(a8)	272,448	(b9)	(71,356)			(c7)	228,622	(c6)	157,266	(c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	201,092		272,448		(71,356)				228,622	(x)	157,266	(y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS									
SECTION F													
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES													
CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024										OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand									NIL		NIL	
f2	Bank Current Account									10,998		4,651	
f3	Bank Deposit Account									NIL		NIL	
f4	Central Finance Board									39,249		56,188	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes									178,375		96,427	
f6	Other funds									NIL			
f7	SUB TOTAL									228,622 (c6)		157,266 (c8)	
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)									(e11)		NIL (e12)	
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT									228,622 (x)		157,266 (y)	
SECTION G													
OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES										At		At	
										1 September 2023		31 August 2024	
g1	Investments (include Endowments)									6714		7134	
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)									1,340,839		1,789,594	
g3	Other Assets												
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end												
g5	Other Liabilities												
f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board													
f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes													
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)													

Financial Policies

Stamford Circuit Reserves Policy

This document includes all funds held by the Circuit Meeting as charity trustees. Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

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

1. General Policy

The Circuit's reserves in hand should never fall below 6 months of the annual assessment.

Aims

Our aim is twofold:

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

2. Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out on pages 11 to 13 of this report and was approved by the Circuit Meeting (as the charity trustees) on 28th November 2012.

It provides for

- The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the nine local churches in the Circuit.
- The support of a ministry team of: -
 - two full time ministers
 - two part time Lay Workers
 - at the time of signing one of these roles is unfilled
 - one part time Circuit Administrator
- The maintenance of the three Circuit manses, one of which is under short term rental

3. Financial Plans

- The Circuit Assessment is reviewed annually and seeks to cover the budgeted costs of Section 1 above. It is based on contributions of each church towards the total cost. Any shortfall is found from the Circuit Model Trust Fund by agreement of the Circuit Meeting.
- The Circuit Assessment will also aim to provide for property maintenance to maintain the three manses.

Unrestricted Funds

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the maintenance of the manses. The total cost for the last financial year was £19,942 (FY23 12,276).

Balance @ 31/8/24 £132,900 (FY23 £199,288)

Restricted Funds

The circuit has three restricted funds; the Model Trust Fund (formerly Circuit Advance Fund), Manse Maintenance Fund and Ministerial Assistance Fund.

Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from the sale of chapels and manses and its use is restricted by Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes.

Balance @ 31/8/24 £69,721 (FY23 £73,667)

Manse Maintenance Fund

This fund is designated towards maintaining the manses.

Balance @ 31/8/24 £28 (FY23 £6,181)

Ministerial Assistance Fund

This fund is for minister's support.

Balance @ 31/8/24 £7,988 (FY23 £7,599)

Endowment Funds

Three endowment funds are held, all of which are bequests. These are held by TMCP custodian trustees.

The income from these funds (net of admin charges) is treated as unrestricted income for the circuit and can be spent for any circuit purposes. The capital value of the bequests therefore remains constant, subject to valuations. The circuit policy is to maintain these bequests in line with the perceived donor's wishes.

George Waddey Bequest – this is a Permanent Endowment and therefore only the income can be spent. Due to the size of the bequest, the circuit has the option of releasing these funds for general circuit use with the approval of the circuit meeting and in line with the Charity Commission guidelines. This bequest dates from circa 1900.

Value @ 31/8/24 £866 (FY23 £870)

Stamford Methodist Circuit Trustee Annual Report for Year ending 31st August 2024

G Marsh Bequest – this is an unconditional bequest, and the capital can be used for any Methodist purpose at the discretion of the circuit

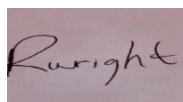
Value @ 31/8/24 £7,322 (FY23 £6,956)

B Sims Bequest –The money was endowed to the Circuit to be managed by TMCP.

Value @ 31/8/24 £1,177 (FY23 £1,122)

Approval

Approved by Trustees on 17th June 2025

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Wright', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Rev'd Rebecca Wright

Circuit Minister and Acting Superintendent Minister

Stamford Methodist Circuit Trustee Annual Report for Year ending 31st August 2024

Trustees serving at the time of signing the report

Trustee Name	Office	Name of body entitled to appoint Trustee
Rev'd Andrew Hollins	Superintendent	Conference of the Methodist Church
Rev'd Rebecca Helen Wright	Presbyter	Conference of the Methodist Church
Mr Philip Delwyn Vaughan Jones	Lay Worker: Pastoral & Discipleship	By virtue of employment
Mr Barry Charles Streets	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Moyra Collins	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Sarah Atwell-King	Circuit Steward	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Charlotte Davis	Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Nina Jane Rawlins	Circuit Meeting Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Dr Anthony Law	Local Preachers Meeting Secretary	Local Preachers Meeting
Miss Margaret Louise Stones	Connexional Funds Secretary	Circuit Meeting
Ms Jean Suff	Property Advisor Group	Circuit Meeting
Dr Kenneth Morris Stewart	Property Advisor Group	Circuit Meeting
Ms Olive Ruzvidzo	Synod Member	Circuit Meeting
Mrs Georgina Finn	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mr Jonathan Francis Batstone	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mr Geoffrey Allan Heathcote	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mrs Nadine Denise Mackie	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mr Iain James Cameron	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mrs Francis Coles	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mrs Eileen Ray	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Dr David Cappitt	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office

Stamford Methodist Circuit Trustee Annual Report for Year ending 31st August 2024

Dr Christopher Howard Sworn	Church Treasurer	By virtue of office
Mrs Elizabeth Clare Hodgson	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mrs Vivienne Jean Higgins	Church Council Rep	Stamford Church Council
Mrs Janet Elizabeth Hetherington	Church Council Rep	Stamford Church Council
Mrs Audrey Hensman	Church Council Rep	Stamford Church Council
Mr Edward Leslie Wilks	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mr Graham Stapleton	Church Council Rep	Oakham Church Council
Mr Stephen Matthew Fallow	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mrs Elizabeth Ann Heathcote	Church Council Rep	Ketton Church Council
Mr Ian Ray	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mrs Yvonne Trevor	Church Council Rep	Empingham Church Council
Mr John Victor Bassill	Church Council Rep	Uppingham Church Council
Mrs Ellen Whiffin	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mr Roger Anthony Macey	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mr Peter David Wright	Church Council Rep	Bourne Church Council
Mr Christopher James Pursehouse	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mrs Hazel Batstone	Church Council Rep	Deeping Church Council
Mrs Anne Grimes	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mr Christopher Barber	Church Council Rep	Thurlby Church Council
Mrs Sandra Wadkins	Church Steward	By virtue of office
Mrs Margaret Cameron	Church Council Rep	Ryhall Church Council

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

STAMFORD	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

NORTHAMPTON	District	Circuit no	23/15
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1160930

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

--

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

Ministers:

REV. ANDREW HOLLINS
REV. RUTH CHARLESWORTH
REV. REBECCA WRIGHT

Circuit Stewards:

MRS. MOYRA COLLINS
MRS. SARAH ATWELL KING
MR. BARRY STREETS

Treasurer:

BARRY STREETS

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	Assessment/Share		189,653			189,653	196,336
a2	Capital receipts						
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,093	3,651	1,585	9,329	7,933
a4	Grants						
a5	Other receipts		2,110			2,110	8,519
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		195,856	3,651	1,585	201,092 (a8)	212,788

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		183,658			183,658	206,029
b3	Manse Costs		19,942			19,942	12,276
b4	Administration etc		3,058			3,058	6,269
b5	District Assessment		60,328	1,842		62,170	59,011
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		3,327	209	84	3,620	1,857
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		270,313	2,051	84	272,448 (b9)	285,442

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(74,457)	1,600	1,501	(71,356)	(72,654)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		125,621	73,667	29,334	228,622 (c6)	306,214
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	51,164	75,267	30,835	157,266	233,560
c4	Transfers and adjustments		12,015	(5,546)	(6,469)	(c7)	(4,938)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	63,179	69,721	24,366	157,266 (c8)	228,622 (c6)

SECTION D					
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)				
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			271	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,654	1,386
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,028	1,115
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			1,897	271

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

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)			(c7)	228,622 (c6)	157,266 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT				228,622 (x)	157,266 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS			
		201,092 (a8)	272,448 (b9)	(71,356)		
		201,092	272,448	(71,356)		

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	NIL	NIL
f2 Bank Current Account	10,998	4,651
f3 Bank Deposit Account	NIL	NIL
f4 Central Finance Board	39,249	56,188
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	178,375	96,427
f6 Other funds	NIL	
f7 SUB TOTAL	228,622 (c6)	157,266 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	NIL (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	228,622 (x)	157,266 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	6714	7134
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,340,839	1,789,594
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Name of Circuit STAMFORD

No 23/15

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer



Date 26/11/24

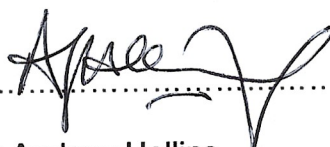
Name and address of treasurer.....Barry Streets

91, Millfield Road, Morton, Bourne. Post Code.....PE10 0NU

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 11th February 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andrew Hollins.....

Date 11th February 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

STAMFORD Circuit

Charity Number 1160930

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the STAMFORD Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *Jan Simmonds*

Name of independent examiner Jan Simmonds

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ... CIMA (retired)

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address ... 13 Perth Road, Stamford, Lincs

..... Post Code ... PE9 2TX

Date 26 November 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Accounts

The Methodist Church

The Stamford Circuit

Page | 1

23/15



Circuit Policies and information

2022-23

The Circuit Churches

Bourne	Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth
Deepings	Church Street, Deeping St James PE6 8TL Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth
Empingham	Main Street, Empingham LE15 8PR Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright
Ketton	Bull Lane, Ketton PE9 3TB Minister: Rev'd Andrew Hollins
Oakham	Northgate, Oakham LE15 6FH Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright
Ryhall	Mill Lane, Ryhall PE9 4HF Minister: Rev'd William Booker
Stamford	11 Barn Hill, Stamford PE9 2AE Ministers: Rev'd Andrew Hollins Rev'd William Booker
Thurlby	High Street, Thurlby PE10 0ED Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth
Uppingham	Orange Street, Uppingham LE15 9SQ Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

The Circuit Ministry Team

CHAIR OF THE NORTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT

Rev'd Helen Cameron

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

Rev'd Andrew Hollins

OTHER MINISTERS STATIONED TO THE CIRCUIT:

Rev'd William Booker

Rev'd Ruth

Charlesworth

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

LAY MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY TEAM

Mr Philip Jones (Circuit Mission Enabler)

Ms Julia Husbands (Circuit Children & Families Worker)

FORCES CHAPLAINS RESIDING IN THE CIRCUIT

None at present

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev'd Richard Baggott

Rev'd Barry Gent MA

Rev'd Brian Lewis BA

Rev'd Chris Bamber

Rev'd Maureen Jones

Rev'd David Bosworth

Rev'd Dr Christine Pocock

Rev'd Fred Day

Rev'd Andrew Bell

Rev'd Julia Dowding

Rev'd Peter Lemmon

Circuit Leadership Team

Circuit Stewards

The circuit stewards are responsible, with the Superintendent and the ministers and probationers appointed to the Circuit, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

Page | 4

They also have the particular rights and duties set out in Standing Orders 531 to 534 regarding circuit funds, invitations, manses etc.

In discharging those responsibilities and duties it is desirable that the circuit stewards shall:

- (i) be sensitive to the needs of the ministers and probationers and their families;
- (ii) meet with the ministers and probationers at least twice each year, before the Circuit Meeting;
- (iii) keep themselves informed of the activities of each Local Church in the Circuit; and
- (iv) be aware of district and connexional policies as they affect the Circuit and its Local Churches.

In exercising these responsibilities current Circuit Stewards have said that the following attributes are needed:

- Pastoral sensitivity with a broad vision and constant seeking after God's guidance
- A listening ear, empathy, confidentiality and a helping hand

The Circuit Stewards are namely:

Moyra Collins, Marion Roberts (resigned during the year), Sarah Burke (resigned during the year), Sarah Atwell-King and Barry Streets.

Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) Meeting

The Circuit Stewards and Circuit Ministry Team meet as the CLT to consider, discuss and pray for the mission and ministry of the circuit. The CLT meets about 6 times per year.

Policies and Statements

Circuit Mission & Policy Statement

Page | 5

In partnership with other Christians, the nine churches of the Stamford Circuit exist to:

- Spread the Good News of the life changing love of God as seen in Jesus Christ and experienced through the Holy Spirit
- Enable individuals and groups to grow in faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- Demonstrate God's love for all people
- Encourage and support each other in seeking and fulfilling the will of God

We work together towards the above aims as follows:

Worship

- To offer our best to God in heartfelt praise, honest reflection and prayerful concern
- Offering various styles and emerging patterns of worship to meet a range of spiritual needs and, so far as is possible, relevant to the society in which we live.
- On-going training of preachers and worship leaders, and encouraging people to respond to the call of God

Nurture

- Supporting and training all who work with children and young people.
- Offering appropriate Bible study, fellowship groups, prayer groups and study courses.
- Encourage folk to consider becoming a part of God's community, the Church.

Pastoral Care

- Maintaining and developing effective pastoral care networks for people of all ages within and beyond the Church.
- **Emphasising** the importance of our circuit family in mutual care and support
- Providing safe space for all.

Sharing the Good News of Christ

- Inviting those involved in church and community groups to meet Jesus Christ and grow in Christian faith .
- Creating opportunities and enabling our people to share faith in relevant ways.
- Creating opportunities to offer children Christian faith through holiday clubs, weeknight activities and schools work.
-

Service

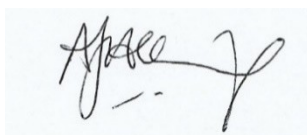
Both at home and in the world context:

- Prayerfully and intentionally supporting those who work out their faith in secular employment or voluntary work.
- Meeting people's needs as God calls us, wherever possible and appropriate, with other agencies.
- Enacting social justice and supporting the World Church.
- Supporting and standing with the poor and the marginalised.

Encouraging participation in all the above by each congregation both locally and circuit-wide.

Dated : 19th June 2024

Signed Andrew Hollins, Chair of Circuit Meeting



Stamford Circuit Reserves Policy

Trustees' Annual Report - Circuit Reserves Policy

This document includes all funds held by the Circuit Meeting as charity trustees. Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Page | 7

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

General Policy

The Circuit's reserves in hand should never fall below 6 months of the annual assessment.

Aims

Our aim is twofold:

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

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document and was approved by the Circuit Meeting (as the charity trustees) on 28th November 2012.

Essentially, it provides for:-

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of:-

- 3.5 full time equivalent Ministers
- one part time Circuit Children, Families & Youth Work Enabler

- one part time Circuit Administrator
- one part time Circuit Mission Enabler

(c) The maintenance of the three Circuit manses.

(2) Financial Plans

*The Circuit Assessment is reviewed annually and seeks to cover the costs of section 1 above. It is based on contributions of each church towards the total cost. Any shortfall is found from the Circuit Model Trust Fund by agreement of the Circuit Meeting.

*The Circuit Assessment will also aim to provide for property maintenance to maintain the three manses.

(3) Reserves Policy

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

Unrestricted Funds

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the maintenance of the manses. The total cost for the last financial year was £14,008.

It is Circuit Policy to never allow the Revenue Accounts to exceed the recommended level of six months expenditure. When balances rise above this, recommendations for investment of the surplus will be brought to the Circuit Meeting by the Circuit Leadership Team.

Balance @ 31/8/23 £124,185

Restricted Funds

The circuit has three restricted funds; the Model Trust Fund (formerly Circuit Advance Fund), Manse Maintenance Fund and Ministerial Assistance Fund.

Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from the sale of chapels and manses and its use is restricted by Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes.

Money held in the Model Trust Fund has been earmarked by the trustees for the following purposes:

- *£28,000 for the employment of the Circuit Mission Enabler over the next year
- *£18,000 for the employment of the Circuit Children, Families and Youth Work Enabler over the next year
- *£4,000 towards the potential costs of Quinquennials.

*Balance @ 31/8/23 £73,667

Manse Maintenance Fund

This fund is designated towards maintaining the manses.
Balance @ 31/8/23 £6181.30

Ministerial Assistance Fund

Page | 10

This fund was used initially for the payment of an Admin Assistant but from September 2008 the salary has been taken from the Circuit Fund
Balance @ 31/8/23 £7,599.45

Endowment Funds

Three endowment funds are held, all of which are bequests. These are held by TMCP custodian trustees.

The income from these funds (net of admin charges) is treated as unrestricted income for the circuit and can be spent for any circuit purposes. The capital value of the bequests therefore remains constant, subject to valuations. The circuit policy is to maintain these bequests in line with the perceived donor's wishes.

George Waddey Bequest – this is a Permanent Endowment and therefore only the income can be spent. Due to the size of the bequest, the circuit has the option of releasing these funds for general circuit use with the approval of the circuit meeting and in line with the Charity Commission guidelines. This bequest dates from circa 1900.

Value @ 31/8/23 £869.67

G Marsh Bequest – this is an unconditional bequest and the capital can be used for any Methodist purpose at the discretion of the circuit

Value @ 31/8/23 £6956.22

B Sims Bequest –The money was endowed to the Circuit to be managed by TMCP.
Value @ 31/8/23 £1122.24

Approval

Approved by Circuit Meeting on 6th February 2024

Signed: Andrew Hollins

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Hollins', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

(Chair of the Circuit Meeting)
Date to be Reviewed: June 2025

Safeguarding Policy for the Stamford Circuit (23/15)

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

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

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Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered

pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power,
especially by anyone in a position of trust.

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Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

A model circuit policy

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable
Adults Policy for The Stamford Circuit

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting
held on 21st June 2023

It will be reviewed in June 2024

1. The Policy

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this 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.

Page | 14

The Stamford Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children and of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Stamford Circuit recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is **recognised** that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people. This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The Stamford. Circuit fully agrees with the statement reiterated in Creating Safer Space 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The Stamford Circuit recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, controlling behaviour, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

responsibilities in

The Stamford Circuit commits itself to:

1. RESPOND without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the Church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust. It commits itself to providing informed pastoral care to those in need, including the supervision of those who have committed criminal offences.
2. IMPLEMENT the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance, government legislation and guidance to achieve safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. The PROVISION of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and

safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

4. AFFIRM and give thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledge the shared responsibility of us all for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults on our premises.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure that procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance (July 2020). The full implementation of these policies should ensure that:

- The Church (and all associated activities) is a safer place for everyone.
 - Communities we serve have confidence that children and vulnerable adults are as safe as possible and that their wellbeing is enhanced in the life of the Church.
- People in the church are alert to unsafe practices and are able to challenge them.
- Office holders are safely recruited, trained for their roles and are accountable for their activities.
- People who have experienced abuse are accepted, empowered and supported in maintaining control over their lives and making informed choices without coercion.
- People who abuse are held accountable to the law and the risk they pose is managed while they are supported and challenged to address their motivations and behaviour.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1. Circuit Meeting

It is the responsibility of each Circuit Meeting to appoint a Circuit Safeguarding Officer and there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. It is not appropriate for a minister in pastoral charge or circuit superintendent to fill any gap, because of the potential conflict of roles but an individual safeguarding officer may cover the role in more than one location. The role will usually be undertaken on a voluntary basis, although expenses should be met.

Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the circuit lies with the Circuit Meeting. The circuit safeguarding officer should be a member of the Circuit Meeting or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual holds the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.

The Stamford Circuit

Appoints Katherine Willison and Charlotte Davis as Circuit Safeguarding Officers (Adults) and Katherine Willison as Circuit Safeguarding Officers (Children), and supports them in their role.

The circuit meeting holds the following responsibilities, which may be delegated to the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, if appropriate:

1. Support and advice to the circuit superintendent and the circuit stewards regarding safeguarding matters.
2. With the support of the circuit superintendent, prompt recording and reporting of any safeguarding

concerns of which they are made aware. This will include appropriate referral to statutory agencies and DSOs, as required by Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.

3. Making appropriate arrangements for the secure storage, retention and appropriate sharing of safeguarding information held by the circuit.
4. Promoting the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable adults within the circuit.
5. Presenting a report to each circuit meeting about safeguarding events (noting the need for confidentiality regarding specific cases) and reminding relevant parties (where necessary) that safeguarding should be a standing item on the Circuit Meeting agenda
6. Receiving and reviewing church risk assessments and training schedules for each church in the circuit and sharing with the circuit meeting annually.
7. Attending the circuit staff meeting as necessary to discuss concerns brought to their attention.
8. Liaising with individual church safeguarding officers to offer guidance and check they are complying with Methodist Church Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance. This should include at least one annual meeting.
9. Working with the superintendent minister, ministers and the DSO regarding safeguarding concerns.
10. Attending and active participation at safeguarding training, district safeguarding events and meetings.
11. Work with local ecumenical partners and their safeguarding representatives.
12. Reviewing safeguarding policies for each church in the circuit prior to presentation to the Circuit

Meet
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13. Su
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annual
review
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circuit
safegu
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|---|---|
| <p>14. Maintaining of a record of all people within the circuit who have received Foundation Module, Foundation Refresher Module (prior to 2020), together with dates of attendance</p> <p>15. Ensuring that training is offered to those working with children and vulnerable adults, holding an office of responsibility, or are in other applicable roles as defined in Appendix III of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.</p> <p>16. Overseeing timely delivery of appropriate training, in liaison with the Church Safeguarding Officers and accredited Circuit Trainers</p> <p>17. Advising all churches in the circuit of the requirement to adopt a safer recruitment policy and to carry out required procedures when appointing staff or volunteers</p> <p>18. DBS verification on behalf of the circuit.</p> <p>19. Retaining records of names of those at circuit level who have DBS checks.</p> <p>20. Providing reminders to church safeguarding officers about the need to apply or reapply for checks in accordance with the Methodist Church policy (for updates, the period is currently every five years).</p> <p>21. Assisting the DSO with setting up Monitoring and Support Groups for those subject to safeguarding contracts and reminding the chairs of groups when reviews are due.</p> <p>22. Maintaining a directory of useful names and contact details.</p> | <p>oversight, which will be arranged by the superintendent minister and carried out by them or a nominated substitute. Records of oversight meetings will be signed and agreed. Supervision will include consideration of wellbeing and</p> |
|---|---|

Where a circuit safeguarding officer carries out the above activities, there is a requirement for supervisory

discussions of the areas of activity included within the role on a regular basis.

3.2. Superintendent Minister

1. Ensure that all churches have appropriate and up-to-date safeguarding policies in place.
 2. Support those in pastoral charge in exercising responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.
 3. Ensure the provision of pastoral support for those involved in issues of abuse and in the management of those who present a safeguarding risk.
 4. Ensure that training opportunities are in place for all workers with children, vulnerable adults, for staff of the circuit and for members of the local churches in the circuit, in accordance with Appendix III of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.
 5. Ensure that the Circuit Meeting appoints a circuit safeguarding officer/s and that the details of each person are passed to the district office.
 6. Ensure that the Circuit Meeting reviews this policy annually.
 7. Support the circuit safeguarding officer (Adults) and the circuit safeguarding officer (Children) in their work, providing access to resources to enable them to fulfil their functions.
- Circuit stewards

The circuit stewards must ensure that agreed procedures are in place for circuit and ecumenical events that involve children or vulnerable adults.

Procedures for circuit events involving children, young people or vulnerable adults

It is essential that circuit events that involve children or vulnerable adults do not slip through the net because

they are not owned by one church. Circuit events must be notified to the DSO prior to final agreement with the event organiser to ensure that all permissions, risk assessments and good practice guidelines are in place.

Responsibility for those planning and leading the event All those involved in leading and running the event must be aware of the procedure.

The event should have been planned effectively and attention given to the following issues:

1. Risk assessment and suitability of the activity and the premises
2. The appointment of a team to take charge of the event, including safeguarding and first aid personnel (particular health or ability needs should be taken into account)
3. Numbers of children, young people or vulnerable adults involved
4. Transportation following good practice guidelines. This information is to be sent to the DSO for approval PRIOR to the event being agreed.

Key concepts and definitions

i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16

years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or

traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.

iii) Safeguarding: protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their

health and ensuring safe and effective care.

- iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult

or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Signed



Chair of Circuit Meeting

Dated : 19th June 2024

Signed Andrew Hollins, Chair of Circuit Meeting

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting held on 21st June 2023. It will be reviewed in June 2024.

Reps to the Representative Session of the Synod

The synod is a District Gathering which meets twice per year where each Circuit is represented by local church members. The synod deals with matters of mission and ministry within the District and is led by the Chair of the District. We are entitled to elect 5 members from the Stamford Circuit.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Jean Suff | 2. Sarah Burke |
| 3. Phil Jones | 4. Moyra Collins |
| 5. Vacancy | |

Church Treasurers' Meeting

Staff link person: Rev Andrew Hollins

Local church treasurers meet, as required, to consider the apportionment of the annual circuit assessment and other financial matters.

Property Advisory Group (PAG)

Staff Link person: Rev Andrew Hollins

The Property Advisory Group is a small working group who oversee matters to do with circuit properties (chapels and manses).

Current coordinator: Jean Suff

Members of the group:

Jean Suff, Ken Stewart, plus vacancies

Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting

Chair: The Superintendent Minister

Current Secretary: Tony Law

Representative to the Circuit Meeting: Vacant

This is a quarterly meeting of all preachers (lay and ordained) and worship leaders within the circuit.

The meeting deals with the oversight and training of preachers and worship leaders.

The meeting also exercises a function to enable continuing development, support and encouragement of all those involved with these ministries.

There is an annual service of Holy Communion held in each Connexional Year during which the Preachers and Worship Leaders renew their commitment to their calling.

Circuit Resource Group

Staff Link Person: Phil Jones

Current Co-ordinator: Vacant

The Circuit Resource Group plans and runs various activities for spiritual growth and stimulation throughout the year. Examples of such gatherings are:

Quiet days, Study Days (such as 'Reflecting on the work of chaplains' and 'Medical Ethics and Christian faith')

Training days (for pastoral visitors and church stewards).

Members of the group:

Phil Jones, Ruth Charlesworth, Moyra Collins, David Bosworth and Andrew Hollins.

MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) Group

Staff link person: Ruth Charlesworth

Current coordinator: Nina Rawlins

MWiB is an organisation which brings together creative spirituality, a passion for global social justice and mission. At the core is worship, and from there grows the challenge to live as disciples of Christ in today's world, supporting, encouraging and acting for the good of all.

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Public Issues Forum

Staff Link Person: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Current coordinator: Helen Baggott

The Public Issues Forum is an ad hoc gathering which meets twice a year. It is open for anyone to attend who has an interest in addressing issues of social justice and current affairs from a Christian perspective. The forum offers all attendees the opportunity to share their issues and concerns for conversation, debate and prayer.

It is the express intention of each gathering that we will agree on practical ways of addressing the issues raised.

Circuit Mission Forum

Staff link and coordinator: Phil Jones (ME)

A working group to consider outreach and mission across the circuit and to develop mission policy and strategy for the circuit. This group will meet as often as needed to support initiatives in the local churches and specifically encourage the making of more disciples of Jesus.

Circuit Social (Farm Weekend & Quiz) Group

Staff link: Julia Husbands

An ad-hoc working group to discuss and plan for various social events across the circuit and for the circuit.

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Circuit Worship Planning

Staff link: Andrew Hollins

The Circuit Services exist to offer excellent preaching and worship which relates to the life, mission and ministry of the wider circuit. It is essential that friends from the local churches offer their help in planning these acts of worship to ensure that they properly reflect the life of the circuit.

An ad-hoc group meets, as required, to plan the Quarterly Circuit Services along with members of the Circuit Ministry Team.

Circuit Praise

There are also the 'Circuit Prayer & Praise' gathering which offer informal, contemporary worship at various churches around the circuit.

Circuit Invitation Committee (CIC)

The Superintendent Minister: Andrew Hollins (or nominated deputy)

One other Presbyter stationed in the circuit

Two Circuit Stewards

One representative (e.g. Church Steward) of each church in the appointment being considered.

The CIC exists, providing it has received devolved permission to do so, to enact the Circuit Meeting's decisions regarding ministerial invitations and consultations.

Circuit Kaleidoscope Group

Staff Link: Rev'd Andrew Hollins

Co-ordinator: Linda Bosworth

A group set up to encourage prayer and spirituality across the circuit.

Circuit Online Ministry team

Staff Link: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

The group is made up of preachers and volunteers who enable, prepare and lead online acts of worship and prayer.

The group is also working towards offering online mission and ministry to seekers and making the Circuit social media presence meaningful for seekers and new joiners.

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

STAMFORD	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

NORTHAMPTON	District	Circuit no	23/15
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1160930

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

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

Ministers:

Rev . Andrew Hollins
Rev. Ruth Charlesworth
Rev Rebecca Wright

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs. Moyra Collins
Mrs Sarah Atwell King
Mr Barry Streets

Treasurer:

Mr Barry Streets

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	Assessment/Share		196,336			196,336	161,300
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,371	3,675	915	7,933	1,258
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		8,519			8,519	5,041
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		208,198	3,675	915	212,788 (a8)	167,599

SECTION B							
	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		206,029			206,029	182,262
b3	Manse Costs		12,276			12,276	27,922
b4	Administration etc		6,269			6,269	14,740
b5	District Assessment		52,669	6,342		59,011	61,959
b6	Grants & donations						9,000
b7							
b8	Other payments		1,272	504	81	1,857	7,435
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		278,515	6,846	81	285,442 (b9)	303,318

SECTION C							
	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR						
c1		(a7-b9)	(70,317)	(3,171)	834	(72,654)	(135,719)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		100,876	176,838	28,500	306,214 (c6)	441,933
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	30,559	173,667	29,334	233,560	306,214
c4	Transfers and adjustments		95,062	(100,000)		(4,938) (c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	125,621	73,667	29,334	228,622 (c8)	306,214 (c6)

SECTION D					
	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)				
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			1,386	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,115	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			271	

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
e10	212,788 (a8)	285,442 (b9)	(72,654)	(4,938) (c7)	306,214 (c6)	228,622 (c8)
	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	212,788	285,442	(72,654)	(4,938)	306,214 (x)	228,622 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS			

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

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	NIL	NIL
f2	9,740	10,998
f3	NIL	NIL
f4	12,903	39,249
f5	283,571	178,375
f6	NIL	
f7	306,214 (c6)	228,622 (c8)
f8	NIL (e11)	(e12)
f9	306,214 (x)	228,622 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	2,077	6,714
g2	1,026,889	1,340,839
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer



Date... 24.01.2024...

Name and address of treasurer Barry Streets

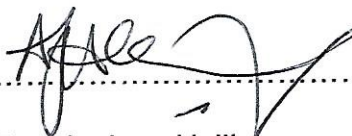
91, Millfield Road, Morton, Bourne.

Post Code PE10 0NU.

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 6th February 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Andrew Hollins

Date 06 Feb 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the STAMFORD Circuit

Charity Number 1160930

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the STAMFORD Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit STAMFORD No 23/15

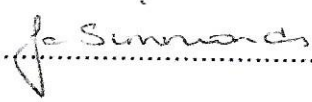
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner J M Simmonds

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACMA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 6 Forest Gardens

..... Stamford, Lincs..... Post Code ...PE9 2FL...

Date 26 January 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23

Name of Circuit STAMFORD No 23/15

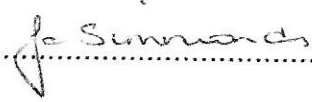
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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner J M Simmonds

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACMA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 6 Forest Gardens

..... Stamford, Lincs..... Post Code ...PE9 2FL...

Date 26 January 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form reviewed

May-23

Accounts

The Methodist Church

The Stamford Circuit

Page | 1

23/15



Circuit Policies and information

2021-22

The Circuit Churches

Bourne **Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF**
Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Deepings **Church Street, Deeping St James PE6 8TL**
Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

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Empingham **Main Street, Empingham LE15 8PR**
Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Ketton **Bull Lane, Ketton PE9 3TB**
Minister: Rev'd ~~Andy Fyall~~Andrew Fyall Hollins

Oakham **Northgate, Oakham LE15 6FH**
Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Ryhall **Mill Lane, Ryhall PE9 4HF**
Minister: Rev'd William Booker

Stamford **11 Barn Hill, Stamford PE9 2AE**
Ministers: Rev'd ~~Andy Fyall~~Andrew Fyall Hollins
Rev'd William Booker

Thurlby **High Street, Thurlby PE10 0ED**
Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Uppingham **Orange Street, Uppingham LE15 9SQ**
Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

~~Online Church—Facebook based~~
~~Minister:—Rev'd~~ Andy FyallAndrew Hollins

The Circuit Ministry Team

CHAIR OF THE NORTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT

Rev'd Helen Cameron

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

Rev'd Andrew Fyall

Page | 3

OTHER MINISTERS STATIONED TO THE CIRCUIT:

Rev'd William Booker

Rev'd Ruth

Charlesworth

Rev'd Helen Fyall (Hospital Chaplain)

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

LAY MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY TEAM

Mr Philip Jones (Circuit Mission Enabler)

Ms Julia Husbands (Circuit Children & Families Worker)

FORCES CHAPLAINS RESIDING IN THE CIRCUIT

None at present

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev'd Neville Ashton

Rev'd Richard Baggott

Rev'd Barry Gent MA

Rev'd Brian Lewis BA

Rev'd Chris Bamber

Rev'd Maureen Jones

Rev'd David Bosworth

Rev'd Dr Christine Pocock

Rev'd Fred Day

Rev'd Andrew Bell

Rev'd Julia Dowding

Rev'd Peter Lemmon

Circuit Leadership Team

Circuit Stewards

The circuit stewards are responsible, with the Superintendent and the ministers and probationers appointed to the Circuit, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

Page | 4

They also have the particular rights and duties set out in Standing Orders 531 to 534 regarding circuit funds, invitations, manses etc.

In discharging those responsibilities and duties it is desirable that the circuit stewards shall:

- (i) be sensitive to the needs of the ministers and probationers and their families;
- (ii) meet with the ministers and probationers at least twice each year, before the Circuit Meeting;
- (iii) keep themselves informed of the activities of each Local Church in the Circuit; and
- (iv) be aware of district and connexional policies as they affect the Circuit and its Local Churches.

In exercising these responsibilities current Circuit Stewards have said that the following attributes are needed:

- Pastoral sensitivity with a broad vision and constant seeking after God's guidance
- A listening ear, empathy, confidentiality and a helping hand

The Circuit Stewards are namely:

Ian Husbands (resigned June 2022), Moyra Collins, Marion Roberts, Sarah Burke and Nina Rawlins.

Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) Meeting

The Circuit Stewards and Circuit Ministry Team meet as the CLT to consider, discuss and pray for the mission and ministry of the circuit. The CLT meets about 6 times per year.

Policies and Statements

Circuit Mission & Policy Statement

Page | 5

In partnership with other Christians, the nine churches of the Stamford Circuit exist to:

- Spread the Good News of the life changing love of God as seen in Jesus Christ and experienced through the Holy Spirit
- Enable individuals and groups to grow in faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- Demonstrate God's love for all people
- Encourage and support each other in seeking and fulfilling the will of God

We work together towards the above aims as follows:

Worship

- To offer our best to God in heartfelt praise, honest reflection and prayerful concern
- Offering various styles and emerging patterns of worship to meet a range of spiritual needs and, so far as is possible, relevant to the society in which we live.
- On-going training of preachers and worship leaders, and encouraging people to respond to the call of God

Nurture

- Supporting and training all who work with children and young people.
- Offering appropriate Bible study, fellowship groups, prayer groups and study courses.
- Encourage folk to consider becoming a part of God's community, the Church.

Pastoral Care

- Maintaining and developing effective pastoral care networks for people of all ages within and beyond the Church.
- **Emphasising** the importance of our circuit family in mutual care and support
- Providing safe space for all.

Sharing the Good News of Christ

- Inviting those involved in church and community groups to meet Jesus Christ and grow in Christian faith .
- Creating opportunities and enabling our people to share faith in relevant ways.
- Creating opportunities to offer children Christian faith through holiday clubs, weeknight activities and schools work.
-

Service

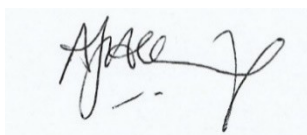
Both at home and in the world context:

- Prayerfully and intentionally supporting those who work out their faith in secular employment or voluntary work.
- Meeting people's needs as God calls us, wherever possible and appropriate, with other agencies.
- Enacting social justice and supporting the World Church.
- Supporting and standing with the poor and the marginalised.

Encouraging participation in all the above by each congregation both locally and circuit-wide.

Dated : 19th June 2024

Signed Andrew Hollins, Chair of Circuit Meeting



Stamford Circuit Reserves Policy

Trustees' Annual Report - Circuit Reserves Policy

This document includes all funds held by the Circuit Meeting as charity trustees. Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Page | 7

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

General Policy

The Circuit's reserves in hand should never fall below 6 months of the annual assessment.

Aims

Our aim is twofold:

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

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document and was approved by the Circuit Meeting (as the charity trustees) on 28th November 2012.

Essentially, it provides for:-

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of:-

- 3.5 full time equivalent Ministers
- one part time Circuit Children, Families & Youth Work Enabler

- one part time Circuit Administrator
- one part time Circuit Mission Enabler

(c) The maintenance of the three Circuit manses.

(2) Financial Plans

*The Circuit Assessment is reviewed annually and seeks to cover the costs of section 1 above. It is based on contributions of each church towards the total cost. Any shortfall is found from the Circuit Model Trust Fund by agreement of the Circuit Meeting.

*The Circuit Assessment will also aim to provide for property maintenance to maintain the three manses and to reach a balance of £10,000 as a reserve.

(3) Reserves Policy

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

Unrestricted Funds

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the maintenance of the manses. The total cost for the last financial year was £27,922.15.

It is Circuit Policy to never allow the Revenue Accounts to exceed the recommended level of six months expenditure. When balances rise above this, recommendations for investment of the surplus will be brought to the Circuit Meeting by the Circuit Leadership Team.

Balance @ 31/8/22 £204,333.17 in total.

Restricted Funds

The circuit has three restricted funds; the Model Trust Fund (formerly Circuit Advance Fund), Manse Maintenance Fund and Ministerial Assistance Fund.

Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from the sale of chapels and manses and its use is restricted by Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes.

Money held in the Model Trust Fund has been earmarked by the trustees for the following purposes:

- *£10,000 for anticipated property schemes in the next year
- *£28,000 for the employment of the Circuit Mission Enabler over the next year
- *£18,000 for the employment of the Circuit Children, Families and Youth Work Enabler over the next year
- *£4,000 towards the potential costs of Quinquennials.

| *Balance @ 31/8/22 £176,837.85

Manse Maintenance Fund

This fund is designated towards the maintaining the manses.

Balance @ 31/8/22 £6,005.48

Ministerial Assistance Fund

This fund was used initially for the payment of an Admin Assistant but from September 2008 the salary has been taken from the Circuit Fund

Balance @ 31/8/22 £7,383.48

Endowment Funds

Three endowment funds are held, all of which are bequests. These are held by TMCP custodian trustees.

The income from these funds (net of admin charges) is treated as unrestricted income for the circuit and can be spent for any circuit purposes. The capital value of the bequests therefore remains constant, subject to valuations. The circuit policy is to maintain these bequests in line with the perceived donor's wishes.

George Waddey Bequest – this is a Permanent Endowment and therefore only the income can be spent. Due to the size of the bequest, the circuit has the option of releasing these funds for general circuit use with the approval of the circuit meeting and in line with the Charity Commission guidelines. This bequest dates from circa 1900.

Value @ 31/8/22 £866.83

G Marsh Bequest – this is an unconditional bequest and the capital can be used for any Methodist purpose at the discretion of the circuit

Value @ 31/8/22 £7,168.25

B Sims Bequest –The money was endowed to the Circuit to be managed by TMCP.

Value @ 31/8/22 £1,209.75

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Kingston value @ 31/8/22
£4,520.14

Various ex Barnack @ 31/8/22 -
£345.52

Approval

Approved by Circuit Meeting on 8th June 2022

Signed: Andrew Hollins



(Chair of the Circuit Meeting)
Date to be Reviewed: June 2025

Safeguarding Policy for the Stamford Circuit (23/15)

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

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

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Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered

pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power,
especially by anyone in a position of trust.

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Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

A model circuit policy

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable
Adults Policy for The Stamford Circuit

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting
held on 8th June 2022
It will be reviewed in June 2023.

1. The Policy

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this 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.

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The Stamford Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children and of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Stamford Circuit recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is **recognised** that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people. This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The Stamford. Circuit fully agrees with the statement reiterated in Creating Safer Space 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The Stamford Circuit recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, controlling behaviour, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

responsibilities in

The Stamford Circuit commits itself to:

1. RESPOND without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the Church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust. It commits itself to providing informed pastoral care to those in need, including the supervision of those who have committed criminal offences.
2. IMPLEMENT the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance, government legislation and guidance to achieve safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. The PROVISION of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and

safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

4. AFFIRM and give thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledge the shared responsibility of us all for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults on our premises.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure that procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance (July 2020). The full implementation of these policies should ensure that:

- The Church (and all associated activities) is a safer place for everyone.
 - Communities we serve have confidence that children and vulnerable adults are as safe as possible and that their wellbeing is enhanced in the life of the Church.
- People in the church are alert to unsafe practices and are able to challenge them.
- Office holders are safely recruited, trained for their roles and are accountable for their activities.
- People who have experienced abuse are accepted, empowered and supported in maintaining control over their lives and making informed choices without coercion.
- People who abuse are held accountable to the law and the risk they pose is managed while they are supported and challenged to address their motivations and behaviour.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1. Circuit Meeting

It is the responsibility of each Circuit Meeting to appoint a Circuit Safeguarding Officer and there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. It is not appropriate for a minister in pastoral charge or circuit superintendent to fill any gap, because of the potential conflict of roles but an individual safeguarding officer may cover the role in more than one location. The role will usually be undertaken on a voluntary basis, although expenses should be met.

Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the circuit lies with the Circuit Meeting. The circuit safeguarding officer should be a member of the Circuit Meeting or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual holds the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.

The Stamford Circuit

Appoints Katherine Willison and Charlotte Davis as Circuit Safeguarding Officers (Adults) and Katherine Willison as Circuit Safeguarding Officers (Children), and supports them in their role.

The circuit meeting holds the following responsibilities, which may be delegated to the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, if appropriate:

1. Support and advice to the circuit superintendent and the circuit stewards regarding safeguarding matters.
2. With the support of the circuit superintendent, prompt recording and reporting of any safeguarding

concerns of which they are made aware. This will include appropriate referral to statutory agencies and DSOs, as required by Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.

3. Making appropriate arrangements for the secure storage, retention and appropriate sharing of safeguarding information held by the circuit.
4. Promoting the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable adults within the circuit.
5. Presenting a report to each circuit meeting about safeguarding events (noting the need for confidentiality regarding specific cases) and reminding relevant parties (where necessary) that safeguarding should be a standing item on the Circuit Meeting agenda
6. Receiving and reviewing church risk assessments and training schedules for each church in the circuit and sharing with the circuit meeting annually.
7. Attending the circuit staff meeting as necessary to discuss concerns brought to their attention.
8. Liaising with individual church safeguarding officers to offer guidance and check they are complying with Methodist Church Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance. This should include at least one annual meeting.
9. Working with the superintendent minister, ministers and the DSO regarding safeguarding concerns.
10. Attending and active participation at safeguarding training, district safeguarding events and meetings.
11. Work with local ecumenical partners and their safeguarding representatives.
12. Reviewing safeguarding policies for each church in the circuit prior to presentation to the Circuit

Meeting.
13. Supporting the circuit superintendent with the annual review of the circuit safeguarding policy and sending a

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>14. Maintaining of a record of all people within the circuit who have received Foundation Module, Foundation Refresher Module (prior to 2020), together with dates of attendance</p> <p>15. Ensuring that training is offered to those working with children and vulnerable adults, holding an office of responsibility, or are in other applicable roles as defined in Appendix III of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.</p> <p>16. Overseeing timely delivery of appropriate training, in liaison with the Church Safeguarding Officers and accredited Circuit Trainers</p> <p>17. Advising all churches in the circuit of the requirement to adopt a safer recruitment policy and to carry out required procedures when appointing staff or volunteers</p> <p>18. DBS verification on behalf of the circuit.</p> <p>19. Retaining records of names of those at circuit level who have DBS checks.</p> <p>20. Providing reminders to church safeguarding officers about the need to apply or reapply for checks in accordance with the Methodist Church policy (for updates, the period is currently every five years).</p> <p>21. Assisting the DSO with setting up Monitoring and Support Groups for those subject to safeguarding contracts and reminding the chairs of groups when reviews are due.</p> <p>22. Maintaining a directory of useful names and contact details.</p> | <p>oversight, which will be arranged by the superintendent minister and carried out by them or a nominated substitute. Records of oversight meetings will be signed and agreed. Supervision will include consideration of wellbeing and</p> |
|---|---|

Where a circuit safeguarding officer carries out the above activities, there is a requirement for supervisory

discussions of the areas of activity included within the role on a regular basis.

3.2. Superintendent Minister

1. Ensure that all churches have appropriate and up-to-date safeguarding policies in place.
 2. Support those in pastoral charge in exercising responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.
 3. Ensure the provision of pastoral support for those involved in issues of abuse and in the management of those who present a safeguarding risk.
 4. Ensure that training opportunities are in place for all workers with children, vulnerable adults, for staff of the circuit and for members of the local churches in the circuit, in accordance with Appendix III of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.
 5. Ensure that the Circuit Meeting appoints a circuit safeguarding officer/s and that the details of each person are passed to the district office.
 6. Ensure that the Circuit Meeting reviews this policy annually.
 7. Support the circuit safeguarding officer (Adults) and the circuit safeguarding officer (Children) in their work, providing access to resources to enable them to fulfil their functions.
- Circuit stewards

The circuit stewards must ensure that agreed procedures are in place for circuit and ecumenical events that involve children or vulnerable adults.

Procedures for circuit events involving children, young people or vulnerable adults

It is essential that circuit events that involve children or vulnerable adults do not slip through the net because

they are not owned by one church. Circuit events must be notified to the DSO prior to final agreement with the event organiser to ensure that all permissions, risk assessments and good practice guidelines are in place.

Responsibility for those planning and leading the event All those involved in leading and running the event must be aware of the procedure.

The event should have been planned effectively and attention given to the following issues:

1. Risk assessment and suitability of the activity and the premises
2. The appointment of a team to take charge of the event, including safeguarding and first aid personnel (particular health or ability needs should be taken into account)
3. Numbers of children, young people or vulnerable adults involved
4. Transportation following good practice guidelines. This information is to be sent to the DSO for approval PRIOR to the event being agreed.

Key concepts and definitions

i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16

years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.

iii) Safeguarding: protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their

health and ensuring safe and effective care.

iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult

or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Signed



Chair of Circuit Meeting

Dated : 19th June 2024

Signed Andrew Hollins, Chair of Circuit Meeting

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting held on 8th June 2022. It will be reviewed in June 2023.

Reps to the Representative Session of the Synod

The synod is a District Gathering which meets twice per year where each Circuit is represented by local church members. The synod deals with matters of mission and ministry within the District and is led by the Chair of the District. We are entitled to elect 6 members from the Stamford Circuit.

1. Jean Suff 2. Sarah Burke 3. Phil Jones (ME)
4. Chris Ballard 5. Moyra Collins 6. VACANT

Church treasurers' Annual Meeting

Staff link person: Rev Andy Fyall

Local church treasurers meeting in January / February each year to agree the apportionment of the annual circuit assessment.

Property Advisory Group (PAG)

Staff Link person: Rev Andy Fyall

The Property Advisory Group is a small working group who oversee matters to do with circuit properties (chapels and manses) on a project by project basis.

Current coordinator: Jean Suff

Members of the group:

Jean Suff, Ken Stewart, plus vacancies

Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting

Chair: The Superintendent Minister

Current Secretary: Phil Jones

Rep to the Circuit Meeting: Vacant

This is a quarterly meeting of all preachers (lay and ordained) and worship leaders within the circuit.

The meeting deals with the oversight and training of preachers and worship leaders.

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The meeting also exercises a function to enable continuing development, support and encouragement of all those involved with these ministries.

There is an annual service of Holy Communion held in each Connexional Year during which the Preachers and Worship Leaders renew their commitment to their calling.

Circuit Resource Group

Staff Link Person: Phil Jones (ME)

Current Co-ordinator: Vacant

The Circuit Resource Group plans and runs various activities for spiritual growth and stimulation throughout the year. Examples of such gatherings are:

Quiet days,

Study Days (such as 'Reflecting on the work of chaplains' and 'Medical Ethics and Christian faith')

Training days (for pastoral visitors and church stewards).

Members of the group:

Phil Jones, Ruth Charlesworth, Moyra Collins, David Bosworth and Andy Fyall

MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) Group

Staff link person: Ruth Charlesworth

Current coordinator: Nina Rawlins

MWiB is an organisation which brings together creative spirituality, a passion for global social justice and mission. At the core is worship, and from there grows the challenge to live as disciples of Christ in today's world, supporting, encouraging and acting for the good of all.

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Public Issues Forum

Staff Link Person: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Current coordinator: Helen Baggott

The Public Issues Forum is an ad hoc gathering which meets twice a year. It is open for anyone to attend who has an interest in addressing issues of social justice and current affairs from a Christian perspective. The forum offers all attendees the opportunity to share their issues and concerns for conversation, debate and prayer.

It is the express intention of each gathering that we will agree on practical ways of addressing the issues raised.

Circuit Mission Forum

Staff link and coordinator: Phil Jones (ME)

A working group to consider outreach and mission across the circuit and to develop mission policy and strategy for the circuit.

This group will meet as often as needed to support initiatives in the local churches and specifically encourage the making of more disciples of Jesus.

Circuit Social Group

Staff link: Ruth Charlesworth

Coordinator: Ian Husbands

A working group to discuss and plan for various social events across the circuit and for the circuit.

Examples of these kind of events have been the trivia quiz and the Barn dance at Normanton Lodge Farm.

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Circuit Worship Planning

Staff link: Andy Fyall

The Circuit Services exist to offer excellent preaching and worship which relates to the life, mission and ministry of the wider circuit. It is essential that friends from the local churches offer their help in planning these acts of worship to ensure that they properly reflect the life of the circuit.

This group will meet to plan the Quarterly Circuit Services along with members of the Circuit Ministry Team.

Circuit Praise

There are also the 'Circuit Prayer & Praise' gathering which offer informal, contemporary worship at various churches around the circuit.

Circuit Kaleidoscope Group

Staff Link: Rev'd William Booker

Co-ordinator: Linda Bosworth

A group set up to encourage prayer and spirituality across the circuit.

Circuit Invitations Committee

Staff Link: Andy Fyall

Circuit Steward: Ian Husbands

Members: Chris Pursehouse, Eileen Ray, AnneMarie Niemann, Nina Rawlins, Sarah Burke, Chris Barber, Moyra Collins, Roger Macey.

The CIC exists to enact the Circuit decisions regarding ministerial staff invitations and consultations.

Circuit Online Ministry team

Staff Link: Rev'd Andrew Fyall

The group is made up of preachers and volunteers who enable, prepare and lead online acts of worship and prayer.

The group is also working towards offering online mission and ministry to seekers and making the Circuit social media presence meaningful for seekers and new joiners.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Circuit

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022**

Northampton	District	Circuit no	23/15
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1160930

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

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

Ministers:

Rev A.W.Fyall
Rev R. Charlesworth
Rev W. Booker
Rev B. Wright

Circuit Stewards:

Mr. I.G. Husbands
Mrs. M. Collins
Mrs. A. Niemann
Mrs. S. Burke
Mr. C. Barber

Treasurer:

Mrs. N.J. Rawlins

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		161,300			161,300	158,875
a3	Capital receipts						171,376
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		206	918	134	1,258	2,307
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		5,041			5,041	2,641
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		166,547	918	134	167,599 (a8)	335,199

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		182,262			182,262	176,374
b3	Manse Costs		27,922			27,922	12,625
b4	Administration etc		14,740			14,740	9,214
b5	District Assessment		48,980	12,979		61,959	59,037
b6	Grants & donations		9,000			9,000	23,000
b7							49,790
b8	Other payments		6,527	826	82	7,435	2,522
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		289,431	13,805	82	303,318 (b9)	332,562

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(122,884)	(12,887)	52	(135,719)	2,637
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		123,760	289,725	28,448	441,933 (c6)	439,296
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	876	276,838	28,500	306,214	441,933
c4	Transfers and adjustments		100,000	(100,000)		(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	100,876	176,838	28,500	306,214 (c8)	441,933 (c6)

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

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	167,599 (a8)	303,318 (b9)	(135,719)	(c7)	441,933 (c6)	306,214 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	167,599	303,318	(135,719)		441,933 (x)	306,214 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	31,581	✓ 9,740
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	13,776	12,903
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	396,576	✓ 283,571
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	441,933 (c6)	306,214 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	441,933 (x)	306,214 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	2,315	2,077
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,026,889	1,026,889
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

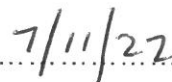
Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer



Date



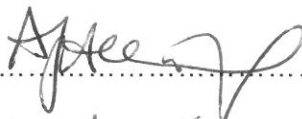
Name and address of treasurer Mrs. N.J. Rawlins

17 Cottesmore Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 2SQ

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 ^{Act} ~~were~~ will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 6th February 2023

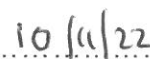
Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Andrew J.C. Rawlins

Date



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... Stamford

Charity Number .. 1160930

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit STAMFORD CIRCUIT No 23/15

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner [Signature]

Name of independent examiner S BOWELL KING

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner CIMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address

Post Code

Date 6/11/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....Stamford

Charity Number . 1160930

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

P.xls

lofl

Name of Circuit STAMFORD CIRCUIT No 23/15

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

I have/have-net* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £1 0,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner [Signature]

Name of independent examiner S BOWELL KING

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner. none

Name of firm (where appropriate) n/a

Address

Post Code

Date 6/11/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Accounts

The Methodist Church

The Stamford Circuit

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23/15



Circuit Policies and information

2021-22

The Circuit Churches

Bourne

Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF

Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Deepings

Church Street, Deeping St James PE6 8TL

Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Empingham

Main Street, Empingham LE15 8PR

Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Ketton

Bull Lane, Ketton PE9 3TB

Minister: Rev'd Andy Fyall

Oakham

Northgate, Oakham LE15 6FH

Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Ryhall

Mill Lane, Ryhall PE9 4HF

Minister: Rev'd William Booker

Stamford

11 Barn Hill, Stamford PE9 2AE

Ministers: Rev'd Andy Fyall

Rev'd William Booker

Thurlby

High Street, Thurlby PE10 0ED

Minister: Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Uppingham

Orange Street, Uppingham LE15 9SQ

Minister: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Online Church Facebook based

Minister: Rev'd Andy Fyall

The Circuit Ministry Team

CHAIR OF THE NORTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT

Rev'd Helen Cameron

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:

Rev'd Andy Fyall

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OTHER MINISTERS APPOINTED TO THE CIRCUIT:

Rev'd William Booker

Rev'd Ruth Charlesworth

Rev'd Helen Fyall (Hospital Chaplain)

Rev'd Bekkie Wright

LAY MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY TEAM

Mr Philip Jones (Circuit Mission Enabler)

VACANT at time of agreeing policy (Circuit Children & Families Worker)

VACANT at time of agreeing policy (Circuit Youth Outreach & Social Media Consultant)

Mrs Ruth Pryke (Stamford Children & families Worker)

FORCES CHAPLAINS RESIDING IN THE CIRCUIT

None at present

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Sister Eileen Rogers

Rev'd Neville Ashton

Rev'd Richard Baggott

Rev'd Barry Gent MA

Rev'd Brian Lewis BA

Rev'd Chris Bamber

Rev'd Maureen Jones

Rev'd David Bosworth

Rev'd Dr Christine Pocock

Rev'd Fred Day

Rev'd Andrew Bell

Rev'd Julia Dowding

Circuit Leadership Team

Circuit Stewards

The circuit stewards are responsible, with the Superintendent and the ministers and probationers appointed to the Circuit, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting.

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They also have the particular rights and duties set out in Standing Orders 532 to 534 regarding invitations, manses etc.

In discharging those responsibilities and duties it is desirable that the circuit stewards shall:

- (i) be sensitive to the needs of the ministers and probationers and their families;
- (ii) meet with the ministers and probationers at least twice each year, before the Circuit Meeting;
- (iii) keep themselves informed of the activities of each Local Church in the Circuit; and
- (iv) be aware of district and connexional policies as they affect the Circuit and its Local Churches.

In exercising these responsibilities current Circuit Stewards have said that the following attributes are needed:

- Pastoral sensitivity with a broad vision and constant seeking after God's guidance
- A listening ear, empathy, confidentiality and a helping hand

The Circuit Stewards are namely:

Ian Husbands, Moyra Collins, Chris Barber, Sarah Burke, Nina Rawlins and AnneMarie Niemann.

Circuit Leadership Team Meeting

The Circuit Stewards and Circuit Ministry Team to consider, discuss and pray for the mission and ministry of the circuit. The CLT meets about 6 times per year.

Policies and Statements

Circuit Mission & Policy Statement

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In partnership with other Christians, the ten churches of the Stamford Circuit exist to:

- Spread the Good News of the life changing love of God as seen in Jesus Christ and experienced through the Holy Spirit
- Enable individuals and groups to grow in faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- Demonstrate God's love for all people
- Encourage and support each other in seeking and fulfilling the will of God

We work together towards the above aims as follows:

Worship

- To offer our best to God in heartfelt praise, honest reflection and prayerful concern
- Offering various styles and emerging patterns of worship to meet a range of spiritual needs and, so far as is possible, relevant to the society in which we live.
- On-going training of preachers and worship leaders, and encouraging people to respond to the call of God

Nurture

- Supporting and training all who work with children and young people.
- Offering appropriate Bible study, fellowship groups, prayer groups and study courses.
- Encourage folk to consider becoming a part of God's community, the Church.

Pastoral Care

- Maintaining and developing effective pastoral care networks for people of all ages within and beyond the Church.
- Emphasising the importance of our circuit family in mutual care and support
- Providing safe space for all.

Sharing the Good News of Christ

- Inviting those involved in church and community groups to meet Jesus Christ and grow in Christian faith .
- Creating opportunities and enabling our people to share faith in relevant ways.
- Creating opportunities to offer children Christian faith through holiday clubs, weeknight activities and schools work.



Service

Both at home and in the world context:

- Prayerfully and intentionally supporting those who work out their faith in secular employment or voluntary work.
- Meeting people's needs as God calls us, wherever possible and appropriate, with other agencies.
- Enacting social justice and supporting the World Church.
- Supporting and standing with the poor and the marginalised.

Encouraging participation in all the above by each congregation both locally and circuit-wide.

Dated : 9th June 2021

Signed Andy Fyall, Chair of Circuit Meeting

Stamford Circuit Reserves Policy

Trustees' Annual Report - Circuit Reserves Policy

This document includes all funds held by the Circuit Meeting as charity trustees. Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit. Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

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General Policy

The Circuit's reserves in hand should never fall below 6 months of the annual assessment.

Aims

Our aim is twofold:

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

(1) Mission Policy

The Circuit's Mission Policy is set out in a separate document and was approved by the Circuit Meeting (as the charity trustees) in June 2021

Essentially, it provides for:-

(a) The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the ten local churches in the Circuit.

(b) The support of a ministry team of:-

- four presbyter ministers
- fifteen supernumerary ministers
- one part time Children and Family Worker

- one part time Circuit Administrator
- one part time Mission Enabler on an annual contract
- contribution to the employment of parttime Circuit Youth Outreach & Social Media Enabler.

(c) The maintenance of the three Circuit manses.

(d) An amount of £50k to be ringfenced for evangelism across the Circuit (i.e. outreach events, ALPHA courses etc. This equates to an amount of £5, 000 per chapel and any application for funding will be scrutinised by the CLT. Criteria and application forms will be made available.

(2) Financial Plans

* The Circuit Assessment is reviewed annually and seeks to cover the costs of 1 (a) and (b) above and is based on contributions of each church towards the total cost. Any shortfall is found from the Circuit Model Trust Fund by agreement of the Circuit Meeting.

* The Circuit Assessment will also allow a provision for our property maintenance to maintain the three manses and to reach a balance of £10,000 as a reserve.

(3) Reserves Policy

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

Unrestricted Funds

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the maintenance of the manses. The total cost for the last financial year was £ 14,255

It is Circuit Policy to never allow the Revenue Accounts to exceed the recommended level of six months expenditure. When balances rise above this, recommendations for investment of the surplus will be brought to the Circuit Meeting by the Circuit Leadership Team.

Balance @ 31/8/20 £476, 713 in total

Restricted Funds

The circuit has three restricted funds; the Model Trust Fund (formerly Circuit Advance Fund), Manse Maintenance Fund and Ministerial Assistance Fund.

Model Trust Fund

This fund derives from the sale of chapels and manses and its use is restricted by Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes.

Money held in the Model Trust Fund has been earmarked by the trustees for the following purposes:

- * £10,000 p.a. for anticipated property schemes in the next year
- * £28,000 p.a. for the employment of a Rural Missioner over the next year
- * £18,000 p.a. for the employment of Children and Family worker over the next year
- * £4,000 towards the potential costs of Quinquennial

Balance @ 31/8/20 £262.666

Manse Maintenance Fund

This fund is designated towards the maintaining the manses.

Balance @ 31/8/20 £5,986

Ministerial Assistance Fund

This fund was used initially for the payment of an Admin Assistant but from September 2008 the salary has been taken from the Circuit Fund

Balance @ 31/8/20 £7,360

Endowment Funds

Three endowment funds are held, all of which are bequests. These are held by TMCP custodian trustees.

The income from these funds (net of admin charges) is treated as unrestricted income for the circuit and can be spent for any circuit purposes. The capital value of the bequests therefore remain constant, subject to valuations. The circuit policy is to maintain these bequests in line with the perceived donor's wishes.

George Waddey Bequest – this is a Permanent Endowment and therefore only the income can be spent. Due to the size of the bequest, the circuit has the option of releasing these funds for general circuit use with the approval of the circuit meeting and in line with the Charity Commission guidelines. This bequest dates from circa 1900.

Value @ 31/8/20 £866

G Marsh Bequest – this is an unconditional bequest and the capital can be used for any Methodist purpose at the discretion of the circuit

Value @ 31/8/20 £ 6,680

B Sims Bequest –The money was endowed to the Circuit to be managed by TMCP.

Value @ 31/8/20 £1,449

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Kingston value @ 31/8/20 £3,969

Various ex Barnack @ 31/8/20 £ 345

Approval

Approved by Circuit Meeting on 18th November 2020

Signed: Andy Fyall

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. W. Fyall', is positioned below the printed name 'Andy Fyall'.

(Chair of the Circuit Meeting)

Date to be Reviewed June 2022

Safeguarding Policy for the Stamford Circuit (23/15)

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

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Statement of safeguarding principles

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

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership 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.

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Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

A model circuit policy

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy for

The Stamford Circuit

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting held on
9/6/2021

It will be reviewed on 8/6/2021

1. The Policy

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this 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.

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The Stamford Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children and of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Stamford Circuit recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people. This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The Stamford Circuit fully agrees with the statement reiterated in Creating Safer Space 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The Stamford Circuit recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, controlling behaviour, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The Stamford Circuit commits itself to:

1. RESPOND without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the Church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust. It commits itself to providing informed pastoral care to those in need, including the supervision of those who have committed criminal offences.
2. IMPLEMENT the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance, government legislation and guidance to achieve safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. The PROVISION of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in

safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

4. AFFIRM and give thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledge the shared responsibility of us all for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults on our premises.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure that procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance (July 2020). The full implementation of these policies should ensure that:

- The Church (and all associated activities) is a safer place for everyone.
 - Communities we serve have confidence that children and vulnerable adults are as safe as possible and that their wellbeing is enhanced in the life of the Church.
- People in the church are alert to unsafe practices and are able to challenge them.
- Office holders are safely recruited, trained for their roles and are accountable for their activities.
- People who have experienced abuse are accepted, empowered and supported in maintaining control over their lives and making informed choices without coercion.
- People who abuse are held accountable to the law and the risk they pose is managed while they are supported and challenged to address their motivations and behaviour.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1. Circuit Meeting

It is the responsibility of each Circuit Meeting to appoint a Circuit Safeguarding Officer and there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. It is not appropriate for a minister in pastoral charge or circuit superintendent to fill any gap, because of the potential conflict of roles but an individual safeguarding officer may cover the role in more than one location. The role will usually be undertaken on a voluntary basis, although expenses should be met. Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the circuit lies with the Circuit Meeting. The circuit safeguarding officer should be a member of the Circuit Meeting or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual holds the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.

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The Stamford Circuit

Appoints Katherine Willison and Charlotte Davis as Circuit Safeguarding Officers (Adults) and Katherine Willison as Circuit Safeguarding Officers (Children), and supports them in their role.

The circuit meeting holds the following responsibilities, which may be delegated to the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, if appropriate:

1. Support and advice to the circuit superintendent and the circuit stewards regarding safeguarding matters.
2. With the support of the circuit superintendent, prompt recording and reporting of any safeguarding

concerns of which they are made aware. This will include appropriate referral to statutory agencies and DSOs, as required by Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.

3. Making appropriate arrangements for the secure storage, retention and appropriate sharing of safeguarding information held by the circuit.
4. Promoting the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable adults within the circuit.
5. Presenting a report to each circuit meeting about safeguarding events (noting the need for confidentiality regarding specific cases) and reminding relevant parties (where necessary) that safeguarding should be a standing item on the Circuit Meeting agenda
6. Receiving and reviewing church risk assessments and training schedules for each church in the circuit and sharing with the circuit meeting annually.
7. Attending the circuit staff meeting as necessary to discuss concerns brought to their attention.
8. Liaising with individual church safeguarding officers to offer guidance and check they are complying with Methodist Church Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance. This should include at least one annual meeting.
9. Working with the superintendent minister, ministers and the DSO regarding safeguarding concerns.
10. Attending and active participation at safeguarding training, district safeguarding events and meetings.
11. Work with local ecumenical partners and their safeguarding representatives.
12. Reviewing safeguarding policies for each church in the circuit prior to presentation to the Circuit Meeting.
13. Supporting the circuit superintendent with the annual review of the circuit safeguarding policy and sending a copy to the DSO.

14. Maintaining of a record of all people within the circuit who have received Foundation Module, Foundation Refresher Module (prior to 2020), together with dates of attendance
15. Ensuring that training is offered to those working with children and vulnerable adults, holding an office of responsibility, or are in other applicable roles as defined in Appendix III of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.
16. Overseeing timely delivery of appropriate training, in liaison with the Church Safeguarding Officers and accredited Circuit Trainers
17. Advising all churches in the circuit of the requirement to adopt a safer recruitment policy and to carry out required procedures when appointing staff or volunteers
18. DBS verification on behalf of the circuit.
19. Retaining records of names of those at circuit level who have DBS checks.
20. Providing reminders to church safeguarding officers about the need to apply or reapply for checks in accordance with the Methodist Church policy (for updates, the period is currently every five years).
21. Assisting the DSO with setting up Monitoring and Support Groups for those subject to safeguarding contracts and reminding the chairs of groups when reviews are due.
22. Maintaining a directory of useful names and contact details.

Where a circuit safeguarding officer carries out the above activities, there is a requirement for supervisory oversight, which will be arranged by the superintendent minister and carried out by them or a nominated substitute. Records of oversight meetings will be signed and agreed. Supervision will include consideration of wellbeing and

discussions of the areas of activity included within the role on a regular basis.

3.2. Superintendent Minister

1. Ensure that all churches have appropriate and up-to-date safeguarding policies in place.
2. Support those in pastoral charge in exercising responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.
3. Ensure the provision of pastoral support for those involved in issues of abuse and in the management of those who present a safeguarding risk.
4. Ensure that training opportunities are in place for all workers with children, vulnerable adults, for staff of the circuit and for members of the local churches in the circuit, in accordance with Appendix III of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance.
5. Ensure that the Circuit Meeting appoints a circuit safeguarding officer/s and that the details of each person are passed to the district office.
6. Ensure that the Circuit Meeting reviews this policy annually.
7. Support the circuit safeguarding officer (Adults) and the circuit safeguarding officer (Children) in their work, providing access to resources to enable them to fulfil their functions.

Circuit stewards

The circuit stewards must ensure that agreed procedures are in place for circuit and ecumenical events that involve children or vulnerable adults.

Procedures for circuit events involving children, young people or vulnerable adults

It is essential that circuit events that involve children or vulnerable adults do not slip through the net because

they are not owned by one church. Circuit events must be notified to the DSO prior to final agreement with the event organiser to ensure that all permissions, risk assessments and good practice guidelines are in place.

Responsibility for those planning and leading the event
All those involved in leading and running the event must be aware of the procedure.

The event should have been planned effectively and attention given to the following issues:

1. Risk assessment and suitability of the activity and the premises
2. The appointment of a team to take charge of the event, including safeguarding and first aid personnel (particular health or ability needs should be taken into account)
3. Numbers of children, young people or vulnerable adults involved
4. Transportation following good practice guidelines.
This information is to be sent to the DSO for approval PRIOR to the event being agreed.

Key concepts and definitions

- i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.
- ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- iii) Safeguarding: protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their

health and ensuring safe and effective care.

iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Signed



Chair of Circuit Meeting

Dated : 9th June 2021

Signed Andy Fyall, Chair of Circuit Meeting

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting held on 9th June 2021. It will be reviewed in June 2022

Reps to the Representative Session of the Synod

The synod is a District Gathering which meets twice per year where each Circuit is represented by local church members. The synod deals with matters of mission and ministry within the District and is led by the Chair of the District. We must elect 6 members from the Stamford Circuit.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1. Jean Suff Jones (ME) | 2. Sarah Burke | 3. Phil |
| 4. Chris Ballard | 5. Moyra Collins | 6. VACANT |

Church treasurers' Annual Meeting

Staff link person: Rev Andy Fyall

Local church treasurers meeting in January / February each year to agree the apportionment of the annual circuit assessment.

Property Advisory Group (PAG)

Staff Link person: Rev Andy Fyall

The Property Advisory Group is a small working group who oversee matters to do with circuit properties (chapels and manses) on a project by project basis.

Current coordinator: Jean Suff

Members of the group:

Jean Suff, Ken Stewart ++ new members needed

Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting

Chair: the Superintendent Minister

Current Secretary: Phil Jones

Rep to the Circuit Meeting: Vacant

This is a quarterly meeting of all preachers (lay and ordained) and worship leaders within the circuit.

The meeting deals with the oversight and training of preachers and worship leaders.

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The meeting also exercises a function to enable continuing development, support and encouragement of all those involved with these ministries.

There is an annual service of Holy Communion held at the beginning of each Connexional Year during which the Preachers and Worship Leaders renew their commitment to their calling.

Circuit Resource Group

Staff Link Person: Phil Jones (ME)

Current Co-ordinator: Vacant

The Circuit Resource Group plans and runs various activities for spiritual growth and stimulation throughout the year. Examples of such gatherings are:

Quiet days,

Study Days (such as 'Reflecting on the work of chaplains' and 'Medical Ethics and Christian faith')

Training days (for pastoral visitors and church stewards).

Members of the group:

Phil Jones, Ruth Charlesworth, Moyra Collins, David Bosworth, Andy Fyall

MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) Group

Staff link person: Ruth Charlesworth

Current coordinators: Nina Rawlins

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MWiB is an organisation which brings together creative spirituality, a passion for global social justice and mission. At the core is worship, and from there grows the challenge to live as disciples of Christ in today's world, supporting, encouraging and acting for the good of all.

Public Issues Forum

Staff Link Person: Rev'd Bekkie Wright

Current coordinator: Helen Baggott

The Public Issues Forum is an ad hoc gathering which meets twice a year. It is open for anyone to attend who has an interest in addressing issues of social justice and current affairs from a Christian perspective.

The forum offers all attendees the opportunity to share their issues and concerns for conversation, debate and prayer.

It is the express intention of each gathering that we will agree on practical ways of addressing the issues raised.

Circuit Mission Forum

Staff link and coordinator: Phil Jones (ME)

A working group to consider outreach and mission across the circuit and to develop mission policy and strategy for the circuit.

This group will meet as often as needed to support initiatives in the local churches and specifically encourage the making of more disciples of Jesus.

Circuit Social Group

Staff link: Ruth Charlesworth

Coordinator: Ian Husbands

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A working group to discuss and plan for various social events across the circuit and for the circuit.

Examples of these kind of events have been the trivia quiz and the Barn dance at Normanton Lodge Farm.

Circuit Worship Planning

Staff link: Andy Fyall

The Circuit Services exist to offer excellent preaching and worship which relates to the life, mission and ministry of the wider circuit. It is essential that friends from the local churches offer their help in planning these acts of worship to ensure that they properly reflect the life of the circuit. This group will meet to plan the Quarterly Circuit Services along with members of the Circuit Ministry Team.

Online Church

The group now has a sub-group consisting of those preachers who offer online worship.

Circuit Praise

There are also the 'Circuit Prayer & Praise' gathering which offer informal, contemporary worship at various churches around the circuit.

Circuit Children & Youth

Staff link: Luke Denley

A new working group to offer support and share ideas for work with children and young people across the circuit.

This ad hoc group would meet maybe twice per year.

Circuit Invitations Committee

Staff Link: Andy Fyall

Circuit Steward: Ian Husbands

Members: Chris Pursehouse, Eileen Ray, AnneMarie Niemann, Nina Rawlins, Sarah Burke, Chris Barber, Moyra Collins, Roger Macey.

The CIC exists to enact the Circuit decisions regarding ministerial staff invitations and consultations.

Circuit Kaleidoscope Group

Staff Link: Rev'd William Booker

Co-ordinator: Linda Bosworth

A group set up to encourage prayer and spirituality across the circuit.

Circuit Online Ministry team

Staff Link: Rev'd Andy Fyall

The group is made up of preachers and volunteers who enable, prepare and lead online acts of worship and prayer.

The group is also working towards offering on line mission and ministry to seekers and making the Circuit social media presence meaningful for seekers and new joiners.

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

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

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	335,199 (a8)	332,562 (b9)	2,637	(c7)	439,296 (c6)	441,933 (c8)
c10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	335,199	332,562	2,637		439,296 (x)	441,933 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	32,967	31,581
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	37,738	13,776
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	368,591	396,576
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	439,296 (c6)	441,933 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	439,296 (x)	441,933 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	2,315	2,315
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,026,889	1,026,889
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Name of Circuit 30th/40th Methodist Circuit No 1160980

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner [Signature]

Name of independent examiner SARAH ORWELL KING

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner CCMA/ACMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 5 BRIDGESTON WAY NORTH LUFFENHAM

Post Code LE15 8LH

Date 20/11/21

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-21

Accounts

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

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

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	210,723 (a8)	294,367 (b9)	(83,644)	(c7)	525,255 (c6)	441,611 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	210,723	294,367	(83,644)		525,255 (x)	441,611 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	7,245	32,967
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	9,862	37,738
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	508,148	370,906
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	525,255 (c6)	441,611 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	525,255 (x)	441,611 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	6544	6544
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	924,880	
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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