

The Methodist Church

The Stamford Circuit

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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.

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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

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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

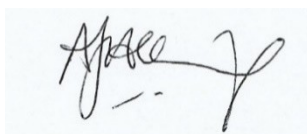
Both at home and in the world context:

- 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.

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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

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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.

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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

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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> |
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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.

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| 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.

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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

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

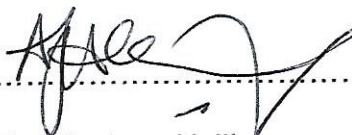
91, Millfield Road, Morton, Bourne.

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

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
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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