



The **Methodist** Church

Fazakerley Kensington Linacre Mission Moor Lane (With Class at Birchdale Rd Waterloo)
Old Roan St Mark's Netherton West Derby

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statement

Year ended 31 August 2024

Registered Charity No 1163418

1 Introduction

Welcome to the first Annual Trustees Report of the North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit following the amalgamation of the Liverpool (North Central) Circuit, Liverpool (North) Circuit and the Crosby Circuit (excluding Formby Church), from 1 September 2023.

2 Objectives and activities

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 (1932) the advancement of:

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

Activities

The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the eight churches in the Circuit's geographical area. These are led by the Circuit's ordained ministers, including a supernumerary presbyter and presbyter without appointment; local preachers; visiting ministers from other Circuits and denominations and Worship Leaders.

Prior to the amalgamation the three Circuits had the following projects in place and the newly appointed Circuit Trustees agreed that these should continue for this year.

Liverpool (North Central) Circuit's Community Intergenerational project ("CIP"), based at County Hub, continues to focus primarily upon addressing isolation and loneliness with both adults and older adults, young families with small children and the integration of these component communities. This focus includes school holiday provision for local families with school-aged children. Our activities continue to encourage socialisation whilst fostering interpersonal support networks.

Crosby Circuit's employment of a lay worker to work with the congregation at Moor Lane Church continues to provide support for church members.

Since March 2022 the former Blundellsands Methodist Church has been used as a Welcome Centre for Ukrainians displaced by the war and provides practical help and support.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit

Trustees Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Liverpool (North) Circuit's employment of a Family and Young Persons' worker to work within the churches of the Circuit continues to develop.

A newsletter is produced every quarter to share good news stories from each of our churches.

The Circuit supports local preachers and worship leaders by providing resources for leading worship. Worship in June was based around the Bible Month resources produced by the Methodist Church.

Public Benefit

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

3 Achievements and performance

Stationing in 2023/2024 was successful and the Circuit was appointed a presbyter, The Rev Jemima Strain, from 1st September 2024.

We celebrate the various ways in which our churches and Circuit hubs serve their communities through support for: foodbanks; toddler groups; work amongst young people; work of uniformed organisations; warm spaces; community pantry and generosity in providing suitable premises for community use.

The work with Children and Families continues to be a particular focus for the Circuit as we believe we are fulfilling a need within the communities we serve in providing essential outreach to children and families. The Circuit has allocated resources from reserves accordingly.

The Circuit gave a grant towards helping young people access 3Generate, an event for children and young people, in the NEC, Birmingham.

4 Financial Review

4.1 At the beginning of the year, Crosby Methodist Circuit, Liverpool (North) Methodist Circuit (Charity no 1195942) and Liverpool (North Central) Methodist Circuit (Charity no 1163418) amalgamated to become North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit. This has been accounted for under SORP 27 "Charity Mergers" with the comparative figures being the combined income and expenditure, previously reported under the three individual Circuits.

The overall impact on the 2023 restated figures was to show a net deficit in funds of £757,857; being made up of £515,761 from Crosby Methodist Circuit, £215,370 from Liverpool (North) Methodist Circuit and £26,726 from Liverpool (North Central) Methodist Circuit.

Prior year adjustments of £518,634 were made to the accounts to Crosby Methodist Circuit to reflect the transfer of property and cash to the Southport Circuit, in accordance with the decision of Formby Church to transfer to the Southport Circuit at 31 August 2023.

The amalgamated Circuit has continued to sustain and support the work of churches and mission projects in each of the former Circuits with all projects, staff, properties and ongoing commitments being maintained.

On amalgamation of the Circuits, total capital funds were £3,437k, being General Fund (Unrestricted) of £2,340k (including property at valuation of £2,230k); Circuit Model Trust funds of £948k; Designated property funds of £64k (Blundellsands and County Hub buildings in use by UWC and CIP); Restricted funds of £58k (Various funds including those for UWC, CIP and other specific mission funds) and Endowment funds of £27k (Various restricted endowments held by TMCP).

During the year the Circuit received income of £351k (2022-23: £720k) and dispersed £691k (2022-23: £1,766k). The resulting deficit of income was reduced by a net gain of £39k (2022-23: £288k) on the properties, restricted reserves and endowments to produce a net deficit of income of £301k (2022-23: of £758k). Total reserves carried forward were £3,136k (2022-23: £3,437k).

The assessments received in the year amounted to £105,239 (2022-23: £140,588). Total assessments were lower following transfer of Formby Methodist Church to the Southport Circuit at August 2023.

Donations received are primarily for the work of the UWC and CIP projects.

Grants received are for the work of UWC projects.

Income from properties are lettings received from community and charitable tenants of the County Hub premises and from a private tenancy agreement in respect of the manse at Brenda Crescent, Thornton. Property income is lower following the transfer of the commercially let manse property to the Southport Circuit at August 2023.

The unrestricted general account shows costs in line with budget. Stipend expenditure and lay employee rates have increased each financial year in line with conference approved increases. It is Circuit policy that all lay staff in the Circuit are paid at or above the real living wage as calculated by the Living Wage foundation.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit Trustees Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

In advance of the arrival of an incoming Minister from 1 September 2024, significant maintenance and refurbishment work of £16,217 was carried out on the Brentwood Avenue manse.

In accordance with a policy agreed by the former Liverpool (North Central) Circuit trustees, to commit an amount of £120,000 to cover the ongoing work of the CIP for two years until August 2025, the net deficit on the designated County Hub Property accounts and the restricted Community Intergenerational Project are transferred to general account. For 2023/24 this amount was £40,931.

The Circuit has agreed to sell manse properties to fund the purchase of a manse required for an incoming Superintendent minister in September 2025.

Based on the high level of investment and property reserves, despite the level of deficit, the trustees of the Circuit have every reason to believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

The Circuit has adequate reserves to cover any shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. Trustees do not foresee any other factors that will significantly affect the financial performance.

4.2 Reserves level and policy

The Circuit 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. The aims are:

- to secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
- 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.

The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

	£
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	
General Fund	1,981,385
Circuit Model Trust Fund	1,012,555
UWC Designated Property Fund	<u>46,354</u>
<i>Total Unrestricted funds</i>	<u>3,040,294</u>
<i>Restricted funds</i>	
UWC General Fund	6,288
UWC "Moving On" Fund	7,582
CIP General Fund	1,283
CIP Projects	8,709
Various Mission Funds (TMCP)	<u>43,483</u>
<i>Total Restricted funds</i>	<u>67,345</u>
<i>Total endowment funds</i>	<u>28,924</u>
<i>Total funds</i>	<u>3,136,563</u>

**North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Trustees Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

Available Reserves

Total unrestricted funds	3,040,294
Less: invested in properties	<u>(1,905,400)</u>
	1,134,894

Less:

Designated Funds

UWC Designated Property Fund	46,354
	46,354

Committed Funds

General Budget Deficit for 2024/25	127,250
CMTF Levy 2024/25	67,192
CIP Project 2024/25	60,000
"Ordained Ministry" Deficit for 2025/26 to 2029/30	360,000
CMTF Grant to West Derby Methodist Church (available to drawdown on condition to August 2025)	<u>35,000</u>
	649,442

Uncommitted reserves, readily available **439,098**

There are no other funds materially in deficit. All investment funds are separately invested either with CFB or TMCP. No money is directly invested in property, securities or other forms of investment.

The minimum policy level of the readily available part of the General Fund is such as to pay for:

- three months' payroll costs and closing costs of staff redundancies - £65k
- three months administration and staff expense costs - £ 7k
- three months property maintenance costs - £15k
- manse repair reserve - £40k
- County Hub repair reserve - £25k
- Blundellsands repair reserve - £25k
- Other properties repair reserve - £10k
- three months connexional and district assessment - £13k

At August 2025 this sum amounted to £200k against actual readily available reserves of £439k as stated above. Actual readily available reserves are surplus to policy commitments at the year-end.

4.3 Plans for 2024/25 and beyond

A budget has been set with financial plans for the Circuit to maintain and support existing ministry and mission work whilst a review and analysis of priorities and policy takes place. A general fund budget deficit of £127,250 is agreed to be covered from reserves.

The trustees of the former Liverpool (North Central) Circuit has previously approved the use of reserves to fund the CIP until August 2025.

The Circuit trustees are reviewing mission opportunities and lay mission staff requirements from September 2025.

The Circuit has committed to a five-year appointment for the Revd Jemima Strain (0.75 time until August 2029) and to a five-year appointment for a Superintendent minister (until August 2030). This is estimated to be an "Ordained Ministry" commitment, totalling £360,000 across the five years until 2030.

**North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Trustees Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

Many churches are suffering from the impact of declining membership and increased costs and it is believed that the current level of assessments are the maximum achievable for the immediate years ahead.

Following wide ranging and detailed discussions took place as regards to individual church accounts and to a variety of methods for calculation of assessments. A formulaic method for calculation of annual church assessments is now agreed being 50% based on total income of churches and 50% based on membership with a cap, based on CPIH, on any increase to ensure that no church is placed in a position of hardship.

The purchase cost of a new manse, to be available from September 2025, will be covered from the sale of existing property assets and does not impact this reserves policy.

5 Structure, governance and management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD). All Governance Documents can be found online at the Methodist Church of Great Britain Website. Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team along with the Local Preachers' Meeting and the Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit is part of the Liverpool Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference. The following churches are linked to the Circuit:- Fazakerley Methodist Church; Kensington Methodist Church; Linacre Methodist Mission; Moor Lane Methodist Church (with a class at Birchdale Road Methodist Church); Old Roan Methodist Church; St. Marks Methodist Church; West Derby Methodist Church. The Liverpool District and 4 other districts are merging to become the North West England District with effect from 1st September 2024 and our new Circuit number will be 1/26.

We employ part-time Circuit Administrators who manage the Circuit's administration, as well as keeping minutes of meetings.

Management

There must be a minimum of two Circuit Meetings per year (SO 514(1)), usually in September and March. Additional meetings can be held any time to allow for a more extended discussion of the life of the circuit. The Circuit Leadership Team, appointed by the Circuit Meeting, meets regularly throughout the year and is authorised to act on behalf of the Circuit Meeting in certain matters. The Circuit Meeting retains responsibility for setting the mission priorities of the Circuit, the overall strategy to deliver those priorities, the invitation of ministers, the oversight of local churches, the admission of people to the office of Local Preacher, and decisions on formal explorations of calls to ministry and candidates for the ordained ministry. The Leadership Team is assisted in the task of financial oversight by the Circuit Treasurer. The Methodist Church appoints a minister to be the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church.

Risk

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in cost terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by not taking them or by setting up control systems that timeously report any significant change in the risk.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female 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.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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Trustees Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with 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 complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice. The Circuit commits itself to 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.

6 Reference and administrative details

Full Name of Charity: North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1163418

Date of registration: 1 September 2023 (Date of first registration of the originating charity was 4 September 2015)

Main communication address:

Circuit Office, Linacre Methodist Mission, Linacre Road, Litherland, Liverpool, L21 8NS.

Name of treasurer acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year:

David Smith

Independent Examiner:

John Keith Taylor, BCom FCA

Investment managers and custodian trustees

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

Investment Bankers:

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9, Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

Day-to-day banking:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25, Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4JQ

Solicitor:

Sintons LLP, The Cube, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6DB

Charity Trustees

The members of the North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown below:

Circuit Ministers (SO 510 (i))

The Revd Ian Hu The Revd Neil Stubbens
The Revd Jemima Strain (from September 2024)

Circuit Stewards

Mr David Evans Mrs Norma Evans Mrs Margaret Langton Mr Alan Lewis
Mrs Angela McAvoy (until August 2024) Mr David Smith Mr Steve Twist

Supernumeraries (SO 510 (ii))

The Revd Susan Edwards The Revd Helen Kirkup

Local Lay Pastor (SO 510 (iii))

Mrs Carol Shanks (until August 2024)

Secretary of the meeting (SO 510 (v))

Mr Richard Stevens (until August 2024)

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Secretary of the Local Preachers' meeting (SO 510 (vi))

Mrs Liz Shaw

Church Office holders and Representatives (SO 510 (vii & viii))

From each local church one church steward, the church treasurer and one representative elected from each local church by the Church Council from its own members

Church	Steward SO 510 (vii)	Treasurer SO 510 (vii)	Representative SO 510 (viii)
Fazakerley	Mrs Edna Korman	Mr Sachin Patil	Mrs Angela McAvoy
Kensington	Ms Joan Lewis	Ms Lorraine Oram	Mr Brian Kiel
Linacre Mission	Mrs Valerie Gee	Mrs Jean Barnes	Mrs Valerie Cousins to February 2024 Mrs Vivienne Marriott from March 2024
Moor Lane	Mrs Hilary Henshall	Mr Tom Battersby	Mr David Hird
Old Roan	Mr Stephen Gent	Mrs Anne Roxburgh	Mr Ian Roxburgh
St Marks'	Mr Joseph Thomas	Mrs Wendy Thomas	Mrs Lynette Thompson
West Derby	Mrs Hilary Ness	Mrs Jill Stubbs	Mr David Williamson

Substitute Church Representatives (SO 501(7))

One substitute appointed by the Church Council from its own members to attend in place of the representative appointed under SO 501(1)(viii); a substitute may speak but not vote nor propose or second any resolution.

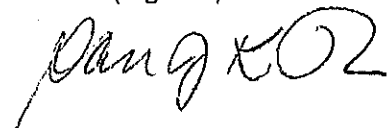
Church	Representative
Fazakerley	Not appointed
Kensington	Not appointed
Linacre Mission	Not appointed
Moor Lane	Mrs Hilary Jackson
Old Roan	Ms Sally Lane
St Marks'	Mrs Margaret Porter
West Derby	Not appointed

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the Circuit Meeting on 5 August 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, as authorised:

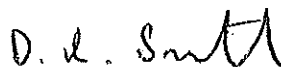
Ian Hu (signed)



Rev Ian Hu

Superintendent Date: 5 August 2025

David K Smith (signed)



David K Smith

Circuit Treasurer Date: 5 August 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 as restated £
Income and Endowments								
Donations and legacies	7	-	-	8	68,996	-	69,004	105,042
Income from monetary investments		8,329	48,657	-	1,454	1,038	59,478	18,507
Income from properties	3	11,100	-	8,725	-	-	19,825	31,072
Assessments on Churches	4	105,239	-	-	-	-	105,239	140,588
Capital Receipts	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	325,432
Grants received	5	-	-	-	94,922	-	94,922	98,692
Other charitable activities		-	-	1,994	-	-	1,994	1,000
Total Income		124,668	48,657	10,727	165,372	1,038	350,462	720,333
Expenditure								
Grants and donations	8	236	6,235	-	13,687	-	20,158	111,122
Salaries and assoc. costs	9	132,218	-	5,273	114,065	-	251,556	241,270
Property maintenance	11	40,666	-	30,419	27,176	-	98,261	111,066
Connexional assess & Levy	13	155,394	-	-	-	-	155,394	669,806
District assessment & Levy	14	11,280	58,365	-	-	-	69,645	16,491
Capital Payments	16	467	-	-	-	-	467	524,900
Office & admin costs	12	52,757	2,857	573	2,171	84	58,442	70,816
Other charitable activities	15	1,020	-	-	35,875	-	36,895	20,682
Total charitable expenditure		394,038	67,457	36,265	192,974	84	690,818	1,766,153
Gains / (Losses) on monetary investments		-	457	-	2,031	1,927	4,415	(3,037)
Gains/(losses) on properties		35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	291,000
Net income/(expenditure)		(234,370)	(18,343)	(25,538)	(25,571)	2,881	(300,941)	(757,857)
Transfers between funds	18	(123,909)	82,978	7,531	34,353	(953)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(358,279)	64,635	(18,007)	8,782	1,928	(300,941)	(757,857)
Reconciliation of funds:								
Total funds brought forward		2,339,664	947,920	64,361	58,563	26,996	3,437,504	4,195,361
Total funds carried forward		1,981,385	1,012,555	46,354	67,345	28,924	3,136,563	3,437,504

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 £	2023 as restated £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manse and Properties	19	1,905,400	-	-	-	-	1,905,400	2,230,400
Investment property		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	29,844	27,179	57,023	59,072
Total fixed assets		1,905,400	-	-	29,844	27,179	1,962,423	2,289,472
Current Assets								
Debtors	20	12,454	-	-	-	-	12,454	40,724
Investments with TMCP	21	5,764	1,012,555	-	12,732	1,745	1,032,796	1,014,769
Central Finance Board	22							
Deposits		64,923	-	46,354	10,898	-	122,175	181,805
Cash at Bank and in hand		113,609	-	-	13,871	-	127,480	64,226
Total current assets		196,750	1,012,555	46,354	37,501	1,745	1,294,905	1,301,524
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	23	120,765	-	-	-	-	120,765	153,492
Net current assets/liabilities		75,985	1,012,555	46,354	37,501	1,745	1,174,140	1,148,032
Total assets less current liabilities		1,981,385	1,012,555	46,354	67,345	28,924	3,136,563	3,437,504
Net assets		1,981,385	1,012,555	46,354	67,345	28,924	3,136,563	3,437,504
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,981,385	-	-	-	-	1,981,385	2,339,664
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		-	1,012,555	-	-	-	1,012,555	947,920
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		-	-	46,354	-	-	46,354	64,361
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,981,385	1,012,555	46,354	-	-	3,040,294	3,351,945
Restricted Funds		-	-	-	67,345	-	67,345	58,563
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-	28,924	28,924	26,996
Total Funds		1,981,385	1,012,555	46,354	67,345	28,924	3,136,563	3,437,504

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the SORP") and in accordance with the "true and fair override" provision contained therein.

ii Basis of preparation

On the 1 September 2024, Crosby Methodist Circuit, Liverpool (North) Methodist Circuit (Charity no 1195942) and Liverpool (North Central) Methodist Circuit (Charity no 1163418) amalgamated to become North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit. This has been accounted for under SORP 27 "Charity Mergers" with the comparative figures being the combined income and expenditure, previously reported under the three individual Circuits.

The overall impact on the 2023 restated figures was to show a net deficit in funds of £757,857 being made up of £515,761 from Crosby Methodist Circuit, £215,370 from Liverpool (North) Methodist Circuit and £26,726 from Liverpool (North Central) Methodist Circuit.

iii Basis

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

Crosby Methodist Circuit and Liverpool (North) Methodist Circuit accounts were prepared on the receipts and payments basis in 2023 and prior years. Liverpool (North Central) Methodist Circuit accounts were prepared on the accruals basis in 2023 and prior years.

Prior year adjustments of £15,369 were made to the accounts to Crosby Methodist Circuit and of £17,956 to the accounts of Liverpool (North) Methodist Circuit to reflect the change to an accruals basis of accounting.

Prior year adjustments of £518,634 were also made to the accounts to Crosby Methodist Circuit to reflect the transfer of property and cash to the Southport Circuit, in accordance with the decision of the trustees following the decision of Formby Church to transfer to the Southport Circuit at 31 August 2023.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

iv Prior year accounts

The income and expenditure, previously reported under the three individual Circuits, as adjusted in iii above is combined for 2023 as follows:

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	Liverpool North	Liverpool North Central	Crosby	Merger adjust.	Combined 2023
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	-	40,676	64,366	-	105,042
Income from monetary investments	12,969	2,774	2,764	-	18,507
Income from properties	12,120	7,045	11,907	-	31,072
Assessments on Churches	44,460	33,250	62,878	-	140,588
Capital Receipts	325,432	-	-	-	325,432
Grants received	-	29,905	68,787	-	98,692
Other charitable activities	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Total Income	394,981	114,650	210,702	-	720,333
Expenditure					
Grants and donations	49,566	35,000	26,556	-	111,122
Salaries and assoc. costs	84,143	68,072	89,055	-	241,270
Property maintenance	30,640	34,334	46,092	-	111,066
Connexional assess & Levy	490,116	163,150	16,540	-	669,806
District assessment & Levy	5,890	4,752	5,849	-	16,491
Capital Payments	-	6,266	518,634	-	524,900
Office & admin costs	40,726	20,743	9,347	-	70,816
Other charitable activities	270	6,281	14,131	-	20,682
Total charitable expenditure	701,351	338,598	726,204	-	1,766,153
Gains / (Losses) on monetary investments	-	(2,776)	(261)	-	(3,037)
Gains/(losses) on properties	91,000	200,000	-	-	291,000
Net income/(expenditure)	(215,370)	(26,724)	(515,763)	-	(757,857)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(215,370)	(26,724)	(515,763)	-	(757,857)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,762,434	932,891	1,500,036	-	4,195,361
Total funds carried forward	1,547,064	906,167	984,273	-	3,437,504

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Balance Sheet	Liverpool North	Liverpool North Central	Crosby	Merger adjust.	Combined 2023
Fixed Assets					
Circuit Manse and Properties	700,000	615,000	915,400	-	2,230,400
Investment property	-	-	-	-	-
Investments		53,065	6,007	-	59,072
Total fixed assets	700,000	668,065	921,407	-	2,289,472
Current Assets					
Debtors	4,885	41,110	8,100	(13,371)	40,724
Investments with TMCP	787,380	225,190	2,199	-	1,014,769
Central Finance Board Deposits	68,396	28,463	84,946	-	181,805
Cash at Bank and in hand	9,245	14,457	40,524	-	64,226
Total current assets	869,906	309,220	135,769	(13,371)	1,301,524
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	22,842	71,118	72,903	(13,371)	153,492
Net current assets/liabilities	847,064	238,102	62,866	-	1,148,032
Total assets less current liabilities	1,547,064	906,167	984,273	-	3,437,504
Funds of the Circuit					
General Fund (Unrestricted)	760,214	664,050	915,400	-	2,339,664
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	786,850	152,965	8,105	-	947,920
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	-	20,000	44,361	-	64,361
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,547,064	837,015	967,866	-	3,351,945
Restricted Funds		42,156	16,407	-	58,563
Endowment Funds		26,996		-	26,996
Total Funds	1,547,064	906,167	984,273	-	3,437,504

v Public benefit entity

The North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit ("Circuit") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

vi Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

vii Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

viii Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

ix Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the Circuit. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as agent in the following matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – “Connexional Funds”.
- the payment of accounts to the church cleaners on behalf of Linacre Methodist Mission, West Derby Methodist Church and Kensington Methodist Church.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income and expenditure of either the Connexion or church as appropriate.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or notes where the value is considered material.

x Expenditure

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

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

All tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included initially at cost, including any incidental expenses of acquisition and irrecoverable VAT.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Subsequently, charitable (functional) land and buildings are held at valuation. The Circuit undertakes to perform the valuations every five years to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the fair value of the asset at the end of the reporting period. Work to existing properties which is capable of extending the useful life or otherwise adding to the value of the property is capitalised. All other expenditure incurred in respect of general repairs to functional assets is charged to the SOFA in the year it is incurred. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its cost to date. The properties have been reviewed for impairment. (There is no expected decline in stated valuations that requires recognition in these accounts.)

xiii Investments

The investments of the Circuit are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 26 below.

xiv Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xv Endowment funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

2 Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: His Majesty's Revenue and Customs

MCF: Methodist Church Fund

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

MWIB: Methodist Women in Britain

Pensions Trust: The Pensions Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges a pension scheme for its lay employees

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

Stipends are payments made to ordained ministers (presbyters and deacons) to cover their living expenses and enable them to fulfil their calling to serve God in the Church. These stipends are set annually by the Methodist Church's Connexional Allowances Committee based on a formula that takes into account factors like inflation and earnings indices.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

3 Income from Properties

Rental income is received from a former manse property at Brenda Crescent, Thornton. The manse and let property at Harrington Road, Formby was transferred to the Southport Circuit on 31 August 2023. The formal tenancy agreements are managed by real estate agents.

Letting income is received from community and charitable groups using the County Hub premises. The Longmoor Lane property was sold in 2023.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	Endow	Total	2023 as restated
Rental Contract:							
Brenda Crescent	11,100	-	-	-	-	11,100	11,100
Harrington Road	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,907
Letting Income:							
Longmoor Lane	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,020
County Hub	-	-	8,725	-	-	8,725	7,045
Totals	11,100	=	8,725	=	=	19,825	31,072

4 Assessments on Local Churches

The Circuit now comprises 7 churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment for the year, previous year amounts in the former Circuits were utilised as a base. The Circuit is unable to cover all its net core costs from the Assessment, utilising surplus reserves to match expenditure. Formby Church transferred to the Southport Circuit on 31 August 2023.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restrtd	Endw	Total	2023
Assessments:							
Fazakerley	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Formby	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,125
Kensington	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	11,214
Linacre Mission	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Moor Lane with Waterloo	27,403	-	-	-	-	27,403	27,403
Old Roan	19,460	-	-	-	-	19,460	19,460
St Marks, Netherton	1,340	-	-	-	-	1,340	1,350
West Derby	22,036	-	-	-	-	22,036	22,036
Totals	105,239	=	=	=	=	105,239	140,588

An assessment on churches is annually determined based on church income and ability to pay. Assessments on churches are quarterly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date the sum in question is treated as a creditor.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

5 Grants received

The Ukraine Welcome Centre and the UWC Moving On project received various grants to support specific work or activities during the year. The District Advance Fund grant to support Community Intergenerational work ceased in August 2023.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restrtd	End	Total	2023
Ukraine Welcome Centre							
Sefton MBC	-	-	-	87,420	-	87,420	59,987
Various Grants	-	-	-	7,502	-	7,502	4,000
UWC Moving On							
Various Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,800
Intergenerational Ministry							
District Advance Fund	=	=	=	=	=	=	29,905
Totals	=	=	=	94,922	=	94,922	98,692

6 Capital receipts

There were no capital receipts in the year. (In 2023, following church closure, the property and cash assets of Longmoor Lane Church were transferred to the Circuit.)

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restrtd	End	Total	2023
Properties							
Longmoor Lane Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	325,000
Bank and Cash							
Longmoor Lane Funds	=	=	=	=	=	=	432
Totals	=	=	=	=	=	=	325,432

7 Donations and legacies

Donations to designated funds include monies received for the ongoing work at County Hub.

Restricted fund donations for the work of the UWC are received from Sefton MBC to cover salary costs; sales shop and café at Blundellsands; various private and charitable donations.

Restricted fund donations include various private and charitable contributions towards project activities of the CIP.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restrtd	Endow	Total	2023
Donations:							
Personal and charitable donations	-	-	8	-	-	8	36,358
Legacy Donation	-	-	-	2,000	=	2,000	-

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Ukraine Welcome Centre						
UWC Sales Shop / Cafe	-	-	-	24,063	-	17,946
Various Donations	-	-	-	10,826	-	17,995
UWC Moving On						
Various Donations	-	-	-	19,400	-	28,425
CIP						
Various Donations	-	-	-	12,707	-	4,318
Totals	-	-	8	68,996	-	105,042

8 Grants and donations

Donations to the mission work of Methodist Women in Britain were made in the year.

In accordance with Circuit grant procedures one grant application was received and approved to St Marks, reference their heating and roofing project.

The grant award in 2023 to West Derby Redevelopment was to cover initial feasibility costs in respect of architect and fundraising consultancy fees of which part was drawn down in the year. (A further grant was approved subject to the positive outcome of the feasibility process. This grant is disclosed under contingent liabilities.)

Various grants (typically £200) were made to individuals as part of the UWC Moving On project.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restrtd	Endow	Total	2023
Donations							
MWIB	236	-	-	-	-	236	-
CMTF Grants							
St Marks Roof and Heat	-	6,235	-	-	-	6,235	-
Kensington Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
West Derby Redevelopment	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Kensington Kitchen Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Old Roan Floor	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,084
Fazakerley Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,000
Linacre Energies	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,486
Old Roan Energies	-	-	-	-	-	-	506
Fazakerley Energies	-	-	-	-	-	-	490
UWC Moving On	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Various grants	-	-	-	13,687	-	13,687	26,556
Totals	236	6,235	-	13,687	-	20,158	111,122

9 Salaries and associated costs

Stipends

The Circuit employs three full time and ten part time, (2022-23: three full time and nine part time) lay staff as follows:

Contracted Hours (pw)	80	10	128
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No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the real living wage as calculated by the Living Wage foundation.

Stipendiary Circuit Ministers are eligible to join the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). The MMPS is a funded defined benefit scheme maintained by The Methodist Church of Great Britain. As the Circuit is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme, the Circuit has taken the advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17, Retirement Benefits, and has accounted its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The pension costs for the scheme represent the contribution payable by the Circuit in the year. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference.

10 Cost of Superintendent and Trustees

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North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

The manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property. The value of the Council Tax and water charges paid by the Circuit is not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit in kind in the hands of the minister.

Each Minister is entitled to a three-month sabbatical every seven years and the expenses incurred by the Minister are met by the Connexion with the Circuit continuing to pay the stipend. During the year there has been no sabbatical. The Circuit does not accrue for holiday pay cover as the remaining staff cover the holidays as needed and without extra pay.

	Total	2023
	£	£
Stipends of Ministers	46,562	66,670
Employer's National Insurance contributions	4,142	6,358
Employer's Pension contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme	<u>11,639</u>	<u>15,303</u>
Total cost	<u>62,343</u>	<u>88,331</u>

Payments to trustees

It is generally not Circuit policy to reimburse non-ministerial members of the CLT, Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. Ministers of the Methodist Church are provided a stipend. No member of the Circuit Meeting or CLT was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit, although certain travelling and administration costs may at times be re-imbursed in relation to specific projects.

Travel and administration costs of £nil (2022-23: £nil) were paid to other trustees.

11 Property maintenance

The Circuit is managing trustee for four manses, one of which is occupied by a minister stationed in the Circuit and another for which considerable refurbishment work has been carried out for an incoming minister to occupy from August 2024. The other two manses will be sold. Circuit is responsible for the payment of Council Tax, Utilities, Water charges and Insurance.

Manse costs	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	End	Total	2023
Repairs and maintenance							
Priory Road	385	-	-	-	-	385	437
Eaton Road	3,152	-	-	-	-	3,152	703
Brentwood Avenue	16,217	-	-	-	-	16,217	4,359
Council Tax	3,656	-	-	-	-	3,656	5,612
Water Rates	1,396	-	-	-	-	1,396	1,418
Insurance	<u>1,001</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>1,001</u>	<u>5,973</u>
Totals	<u>25,807</u>	=	=	=	=	<u>25,807</u>	<u>18,502</u>

In 2023 the Circuit covered the cost of quinquennial inspections in the Circuit churches. There were no costs incurred in the year.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Other property costs	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	End	Total	2023
Quinquennial on church properties	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,855
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,855

The Circuit is responsible for other properties being County Hub (primary base for the work of the Community Intergenerational Project and other activities), Blundellsands (primary base for the Ukraine Welcome Centre) and other properties at Longmoor Lane (sold during the year) and Kirkby (marketed for sale). The properties at Oakfield, Maghull, Abrigo and Ridgeway Drive were sold during 2023.

Other Properties	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	End	Total	2023
County Hub Designated							
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	3,623	-	-	3,623	5,170
Kitchen Project	-	-	19,550	-	-	19,550	
Building Insurance	-	-	2,677	-	-	2,677	4,147
Heat and Light	-	-	3,977	-	-	3,977	3,622
Water Rates	-	-	592	-	-	592	1,004
Totals	-	-	30,419	-	-	30,419	13,943
UWC Reserve							
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	11,930	-	11,930	22,281
Heat and Light	-	-	-	6,210	-	6,210	5,748
Building Insurance	-	-	-	8,100	-	8,100	8,100
Water Rates	-	-	-	936	-	936	-
Totals	-	-	-	27,176	-	27,176	36,129
Oakfield Properties							
Council Tax	1,618	-	-	-	-	1,618	-
Water Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,124
Heat and Light	124	-	-	-	-	124	660
Repairs and clearance	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,206
Building Insurance	250	-	-	-	-	250	5,982
Totals	1,992	-	-	-	-	1,992	10,972
Maghull Church							
Water Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Heat and Light	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,014
Building Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,024
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,106
Longmoor Lane							
Repairs and maintenance	1,105	-	-	-	-	1,105	5,286
Building Insurance	2,109	-	-	-	-	2,109	5,855
Heat and Light	712	-	-	-	-	712	4,254
Totals	3,926	-	-	-	-	3,926	15,395

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Kirkby							
Repairs and maintenance	405	-	-	-	-	405	675
Building Insurance	1,372	-	-	-	-	1,372	1,756
Heat and Light	5,621	-	-	-	-	5,621	
	7,398	-	-	-	-	7,398	2,431
Brenda Crescent							
Letting charges	1,543	-	-	-	-	1,543	1,354
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	478
	1,543	-	-	-	-	1,543	1,832
Abrigo							
Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,315
Water Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	126
Heat and Light	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	666
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,186
Ridgeway Drive							
Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,381
Water Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	235
Heat and Light	-	-	-	-	-	-	(114)
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,213
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,715
Property maintenance Totals	40,666		30,419	27,176		98,261	111,066

12 Office and administration costs

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	Endow	Total	2023
PPSA, IT and equipment	6,211	-	-	321	-	6,532	10,372
Sundries	3,594	-	-	46	-	3,640	2,068
Telephone	1,895	-	573	1,200	-	3,668	2,794
Travel	7,046	-	-	201	-	7,247	7,427
Removal costs	4,312	-	-	-	-	4,312	-
Training	-	-	-	296	-	296	1,021
Circuit office	3,040	-	-	-	-	3,040	2,760
Legal and professional	24,736	-	-	-	-	24,736	41,199
Preaching and worship	1,916	-	-	-	-	1,916	2,912
TMCP charges	7	2,857	-	107	84	3,055	263
Totals	52,757	2,857	573	2,171	84	58,442	70,816

13 Connexional Assessment

The Connexional Assessment is calculated relative to the proportion of staffing (ministerial and lay), church members, church attendances and total relevant income of all Circuits in the Liverpool District.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Under Methodist Standing Order 970, the Connexional Priority Fund ("CPF") levy is charged on the proceeds from the disposition of virtually all Methodist Model Trust Property. (A proportion of the CPF levy may be reclaimed and used to fund a qualifying Replacement Project.) This levy was charged following the disposal of Longmoor Lane Church. There is no provision for any reclaim included in these accounts.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restrt	Endow	Total	2023
Methodist Church Fund (MCF)	44,560	-	-	-	-	44,560	50,055
Connexional Priority Fund ("CPF") levy							
Sale of Longmoor Church	110,834	-	-	-	-	110,834	-
Sale of Maghull Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	287,606
Sale of Ridgeway Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,763
Sale of Abrigo	-	-	-	-	-	-	89,237
Sale of Oakfield Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	149,145
Connexional assessment and levy Totals	155,394	-	-	-	-	155,394	669,806

14 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the proportion of staffing (ministerial and lay), church members, and total relevant income of all Circuits in the Liverpool District. One third of the overall cost is calculated using staffing proportions, one third income proportions, one third membership proportions.

Standing order provides that a levy be taken into District Advance Funds (DAFs) on all capital money held in each Circuit model trust fund. The levy is 2.5% on the first £100,000.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	Endow	Total	2023
District assessment and Levy	11,280	58,365	-	-	-	69,645	16,491
Totals	11,280	58,365	-	-	-	69,645	16,491

15 Other charitable activities

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restricted	Endow	Total	2023
UWC Activities	-	-	-	18,605	-	18,605	14,131
UWC Café costs	-	-	-	14,159	-	14,159	-
CFW projects running costs	-	-	-	3,111	-	3,111	2,679
3Generate expenses	1,020	-	-	-	-	1,020	2,750
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	270
Kensington projects running costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	852
Totals	1,020	-	-	35,875	-	36,895	20,682

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

16 Capital Payments

A detailed review of model trust funds and permanent endowments was carried out in 2023 to understand charitable purposes with support from TMCP, Liverpool District and Charity Commission. Restricted funds of value £6,266 were transferred to other Methodist trustee bodies better able to manage and distribute funds as required.

Following further review, it was determined to transfer income of one permanent endowment to Kensington Church as means to ensure charitable benefit is best applied.

At 31 August 2023, property of the manse at Harrington Road, Formby at book value £452,582 and unrestricted bank funds of £66,052 were transferred to the Southport Circuit, as agreed, following the decision of Formby Church to transfer to the Southport Circuit.

	General	CMTF	Desig	Restr	Endow	Total	2023
Transfer of Restricted funds to other Methodist trusts				467		467	6,266
Transfer Harrington Road, Formby manse to Southport Circuit							452,582
Transfer Crosby Circuit unrestricted bank funds to Southport Circuit							66,052
Totals	=	=	=	467	=	467	524,900

17 Investment management

During the year the Circuit paid £3,055 to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund and various endowment funds (2022-23: £263). The sum of £3,055 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year and is shown as allocated. See Note 12 above.

18 Transfers between funds

During the year the following transfers were made:

- £249,166 between general fund and Circuit model trust fund property disposals of £360,000 less connexional property levy of £110,834.
- £22,915 between Circuit model trust fund and general fund being legal and survey costs on completion of property disposals.
- £98,765 between Circuit model trust fund and general fund being transfers to support circuit grants and other operating expenditure.
- £44,508 between Circuit model trust fund and general fund being transfer of investment interest.
- £953 between endowment funds and restricted funds being income earned on endowments available for restricted use.
- £5,931 between general fund and County designated fund to cover net costs of fund.
- £1,600 between CIP Projects and County designated fund to support utility costs
- £4,000 between CIP Projects and Intergenerational fund to support salary costs
- £35,000 between general fund and Intergenerational project fund.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

19 Manse and other property

In accordance with Circuit policy to obtain revised valuations every five years, valuations remain unaltered following revision on all properties in 2022.

The properties in Eaton Road, Liverpool and Brenda Crescent, Thornton do not meet the current requirements of a manse and are no longer required as a manse. The sale of Eaton Road was completed in 2024/25. The Brenda Crescent property is privately let on a managed tenancy agreement.

The property at Longmoor Lane, Liverpool was sold during the year.

There is no depreciation on the properties as the impairment review at the end of the year confirmed that the current residual market value of the building was greater than the carrying value of that part of the asset's cost to date.

	Land	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation Priory Road			
Balance b/f at 1 September	35,000	130,000	165,000
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>35,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>165,000</u>
Cost or valuation Eaton Road			
Balance b/f at 1 September	70,000	180,000	250,000
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>70,000</u>	<u>180,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>
Cost or valuation Brentwood Avenue			
Balance b/f at 1 September	<u>72,500</u>	<u>217,500</u>	<u>290,000</u>
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>72,500</u>	<u>217,500</u>	<u>290,000</u>
Cost or valuation Brenda Crescent			
Balance b/f at 1 September	<u>68,750</u>	<u>206,250</u>	<u>275,000</u>
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>68,750</u>	<u>206,250</u>	<u>275,000</u>
Cost or valuation Kirkby			
Balance b/f at 1 September	25,000	75,000	100,000
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>25,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
Cost or valuation Land at Wilsons Lane			
Balance b/f at 1 September	<u>400</u>	=	<u>400</u>
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>400</u>	=	<u>400</u>

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Cost or valuation Longmoor Lane			
Balance b/f at 1 September	<u>81,250</u>	<u>243,750</u>	<u>325,000</u>
Revaluation on disposal	<u>8,750</u>	<u>26,250</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Sold in year	<u>(90,000)</u>	<u>(270,000)</u>	<u>(360,000)</u>
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	=	=	=
Cost or valuation Blundellsands			
Balance b/f at 1 September	<u>125,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>625,000</u>
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>125,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>625,000</u>
Cost or valuation County hub properties			
Balance b/f at 1 September	<u>75,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Revaluation in year	=	=	=
Balance c/f at 31 August 2024	<u>75,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Totals carried forward at 31 August 2024	471,650	1,433,750	1,905,400

20 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2023 were received during the following year.
All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2023 were for activities that have been held during 2023-24.

Debtors were made up as follows:	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
General Fund:		
Trade debtors		
Payroll costs for Churches	<u>2,041</u>	<u>1,450</u>
	<u>2,041</u>	<u>1,450</u>
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	<u>10,413</u>	<u>11,174</u>
<i>Unrestricted Prepayments:</i>	<u>10,413</u>	<u>11,174</u>
Total General Fund	12,454	12,624
Designated Fund: County Hub		
Other debtors		
Approved grant award from CMTF	-	<u>20,000</u>
<i>Other debtors</i>	-	<u>20,000</u>
Total Designated Fund	-	20,000
Restricted Fund: Ukraine Welcome Centre		
Prepayments and accrued income		
Payments in advance	-	<u>8,100</u>
<i>Restricted Prepayments:</i>	-	<u>8,100</u>
Total Restricted Fund	-	8,100
Total	12,454	40,724

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

21 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Mission Capital Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

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

22 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Circuit has two current accounts and one deposit at CAF Bank, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available.

In addition, the Circuit has one deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on this account and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

Following the amalgamation of Circuits and transfer of assets to the Circuit, "legacy" accounts at HSBC plc, NatWest plc and Barclays plc and CFB have continue to be used. These accounts are being closed on a staged basis as operational matters are concluded.

23 Creditors and accrued expenses

The amount due to the Southport Circuit has not been paid during the year but will be paid during the year to 31 August 2025. All other sums shown as Creditors at 1 September 2023 were paid during the following year. It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2024 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2025.

Creditors were made up as follows:	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
General Fund:		
Other creditors		
Southport Circuit	77,100	66,052
Approved grant awards	9,500	-
Advance payment	<u>11,509</u>	<u>11,751</u>
<i>Other creditors</i>	98,109	77,803
Accruals and deferred income		
Various accruals	<u>22,656</u>	<u>20,689</u>
<i>Unrestricted Accruals:</i>	22,656	20,689
Total General Fund	120,765	98,492

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Circuit Model Trust Fund:		
Other creditors		
Approved grant awards	=	<u>55,000</u>
Other creditors	-	<u>55,000</u>
Total	120,765	153,492

Maturity analysis of financial liabilities				
	Accrued at		Accrual	Accrued at
	01-Sep-23	Paid in year	Made in year	31-Aug-24
Other creditors				
Southport Circuit	66,052	-	11,048	77,100
Approved grant awards	-	-	9,500	9,500
Advance payment	<u>11,751</u>	<u>11,751</u>	<u>11,509</u>	<u>11,509</u>
Other creditors	<u>77,803</u>	<u>11,751</u>	<u>32,057</u>	<u>98,109</u>
Accruals and deferred income				
Various accruals	<u>20,689</u>	<u>20,689</u>	<u>22,656</u>	<u>22,656</u>
Unrestricted Accruals:	<u>20,689</u>	<u>20,689</u>	<u>22,656</u>	<u>22,656</u>
Total	98,492	32,440	54,713	120,765

24 Unrestricted Funds - balance £3,040,294 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £3,351,945)

24.1 General Fund – balance £1,981,385 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £2,339,664)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes.

During the year the Circuit completed disposal of the property at Longmoor Lane, Liverpool with a small gain on disposal, payment of Connexional levy in accordance with Methodist discipline and transfer of excess funds to the Circuit Model Trust Investment Fund.

Income and expenditure relating to properties at County Hub (principal base for the Community Intergenerational Project) and at Blundellsands (base for the Ukraine Welcome Centre) is managed through separate designated funds with deficit on the County Hub account funded by transfer from the General Fund.

At the end of year 96% of this fund, by valuation, is held as freehold properties.

24.2 Circuit Model Trust Fund – balance £1,012,555 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £947,920)

This unrestricted fund is for use at the discretion of trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit.

Funds were received from investment by transfer from the General Fund, following sale of the Longmoor Lane property.

A grant was awarded to St Marks church property project in the year.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

In July 2023, the trustees committed funds to an amount of £120,000 to the work of the CIP until August 2025. (See Note 29.)

In July 2023, the trustees approved a grant of £35,000 to the West Derby redevelopment project subject to the project being fully funded. (See Note 29.)

24.3 UWC Designated Property Fund – balance £46,354 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £44,361)

This fund is designated towards maintaining the Blundellsands property whilst in use by the UWC project.

Income to this fund is the sale of the Church Organ during the year.

There has been no other transaction on this fund with all minor repair and maintenance costs met through the UWC Restricted Fund account.

24.4 County Property Fund – balance £nil at 31 August 2024 (2023: £20,000)

This fund includes income and expenditure relating to the use of the premises at County Hub which serves as a primary base for the work of the Community Intergenerational project.

Transfers are received from General Fund to cover the net costs of £5,931 in the year.

The brought forward balance of £20,000, being committed funds for a Kitchen refurbishment, was fully utilised during the year.

25 Restricted Funds - balance £67,345 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £58,563)

25.1 Ukraine Welcome Centre – balance £6,288 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £14,437)

This is the primary project fund for the work to support displaced Ukrainians in the Liverpool area and based at Blundellsands church.

Income received includes £87,420 from Sefton MBC towards the cost of staff salaries. Other income received is from individuals, corporates and charities and from the Sales shop and café at Blundellsands church. Expenditure is the cost of staff salaries, shop, café and building operating costs and activities.

25.2 UWC Moving On – balance £7,582 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £1,869)

This the project fund to assist Ukrainians associated with the Ukraine Welcome Centre moving to new homes or accommodation. Income is received as donations from individuals, corporates and charities. This fund is managed by the Ukraine Welcome Centre project and provides grants of typically £200 to £600 to approved individuals.

25.3 Community Intergenerational Fund – balance £1,283 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £391)

The Community Intergenerational Fund is a project to support Community Intergenerational work across the former Liverpool (North Central) Circuit, initially supported by Methodist Church connexion and the District Advance Fund. This project commenced in August 2019 with Connexion funding ended in 2022 but matched by District Advance funding for 2023.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

In July 2023, the trustees committed to use reserves to continue to fund this project until August 2025.

25.4 CIP Projects Fund – balance £8,709 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £4,714)

The CIP Projects funds various community and intergenerational activities of the Community Intergenerational project. This fund is a catchall for various activities with specific restrictions relating to some donations. Strict compliance is ensured by the management of the children and family worker in association with the treasurer. Total income in the year was £12,708 and expenditure was £3,113 with transfers out of £5,600.

25.5 Worship and Mission Income Fund, balance £907 at 31 August 2024 (2023 overdrawn at £801)

The Worship and Mission Income Fund is used principally to support worship and mission costs in the Circuit. Total expenditure in the year was £nil. A capital amount, £26,613 at 31 August 2024, is invested to provide income to support the purposes of the fund.

25.6 Worship and Mission Capital Fund, balance £26,613 at 31 August 2024 (2023 £24,914)

The Worship and Mission Capital Fund is invested to provide income to support the purposes of the fund.

25.7 Oakfield Mission fund – balance £13,862 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £12,938)

The Oakfield Mission fund is the administrative combination of a number of funds received by transfer on the closure of Oakfield church with varied but similar terms. Total income in the year was £630 being investment income and expenditure of £36. A transfer of £2 was made to the Worship and Mission fund.

25.8 Other funds – balance £2,101 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £101)

A legacy of £2,000 was received in the year for mission work in the Walton area..

The market valuations for the various funds have been provided by TMCP. The funds of the Intergenerational project are held on deposit at CAF and CFB.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

26 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

	Balance at					Balance at
Fund	01-Sep-23	Income	Exp'diture	Transfers	Gains/ Losses	31-Aug-24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	2,339,664	124,668	(394,038)	(123,909)	35,000	1,981,385
Circuit Model Trust Fund	947,920	48,657	(67,457)	82,978	457	1,012,555
UWC Designated	44,361	1,993	-	-	-	46,354
County Property	20,000	8,734	(36,265)	7,531	-	-
Total unrestricted	3,351,945	184,052	(497,760)	(33,400)	35,457	3,040,294
Ukraine Welcome Centre	14,437	129,810	(137,959)	-	-	6,288
UWC Moving On	1,869	19,400	(13,687)	-	-	7,582
Intergenerational project	391	-	(38,108)	39,000	-	1,283
CIP Projects	4,714	12,708	(3,113)	(5,600)	-	8,709
Worship and Mission	(801)	-	-	1,708	-	907
Mission Capital	24,914	824	(71)	(753)	1,699	26,613
Oakfield Mission	12,938	630	(36)	(2)	332	13,862
Other	101	2,000	-	-	-	2,101
Total restricted	58,563	165,372	(192,974)	34,353	2,031	67,345
Circuit Account (Trust 822)	196	10	-	(10)	-	196
Hugh Rowlands (Trust 280)	378	42	(2)	(40)	-	378
J Edmondson Bequest (Trust 867)	2,086	249	(13)	(235)	45	2,132
H J Stones Bequest (Trust 3840)	5,053	154	(13)	(140)	390	5,444
May Crane Bequest (Trust 8240)	19,283	583	(56)	(528)	1,492	20,774
Total endowment	26,996	1,038	(84)	(953)	1,927	28,924
Total Funds	3,437,504	350,462	(690,818)	-	39,415	3,136,563

27 Connected organisations and related parties

Ministers of the Methodist Church have membership held connexionally. All of the other Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees in their Churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Liverpool Methodist District, Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Circuits in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Names of Connected Organisations	Receipts £	Payments £
Donee: Liverpool Methodist District – District assessment	-	(11,280)
Donee: Liverpool Methodist District – District Advance Fund levy	-	(58,365)
Donee: The Methodist Church Fund – Connexional assessment	-	(44,560)
Donee: The Methodist Church Fund – Connexional priority levy	-	(110,834)
Donee: St Marks Methodist Church CMTF Grants	-	(6,235)
Donor: Churches within North Liverpool and South Sefton Circuit (assessments on Churches)	105,239	-
Donee: Methodist Women in Britain		(236)

There were no related party transactions.

28 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

29 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

In July 2023, the Circuit trustees committed an amount of £120,000 from the Circuit Model trust fund to extend the work of the Community Intergenerational project until at least August 2025. As at August 2024, an amount of £40,931 was transferred to support project costs and the costs of the County Hub building.

In July 2023, the Circuit trustees approved a grant of £35,000 to West Derby Methodist Church towards the costs of redevelopment to the main church building. The grant to be paid only on the project being fully funded through other grants and donations.

There are no other capital commitments or contingent liabilities.

30 Lease commitments

The Circuit has no lease commitments

31 Independent examiner

No accrual has been made for the fee of the auditor or independent examiner who has historically provided his services free of charge (2022-23: Nil). The auditor or independent examiner provided no additional services during the year.

North Liverpool and South Sefton Methodist Circuit (Number 18/3)

Independent examiners report

Report to the trustees

For the year ended 31st August 2024

Registered charity no. 1163418

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st August 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 36.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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:

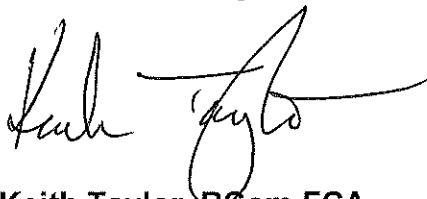
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

The matters that have come to my attention are:

- The financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2023 were not examined. Consequently, the comparative figures shown in the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2024 are not covered by this examination report.
- I have not obtained independent verification of investments, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

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

Signed:



Name: John Keith Taylor, BCom FCA

Date: 26/2/26

Relevant professional qualification:

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 12 Newholme Close, Liverpool L12 0JG