

THE METHODIST CHURCH - CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

Circuit No 34/09

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Registered Charity Number 1134390

The Methodist Church - Chelmsford Circuit is part of the
Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire District of the Methodist Church
Circuit reference 34/09

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THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trustees' Report

The Trustees of The Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit are pleased to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the Methodist year ended 31 August 2024.

Governing document and objectives

The Circuit is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the deed of Union and the Model Trusts of the Methodist Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of - (a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church; (b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church; (c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church; (d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church

The Circuit has taken into account the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance on advancing a Charity's aims when carrying out its range of activities. The trustees consider that these provide benefit to those who worship in our Churches and to the wider community in the Circuit.

Mission Statement

The Circuit updated its Mission Statement in 2023, and continues to review and update it.

The Mission Statement for 2023/24 is as follows:

"The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the good news of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission"

In this, and in partnership with others wherever possible, Chelmsford Methodist Circuit will devote its prayers, resources, encouragement, and commitments on this priority:

Supporting God's People, sharing God's love

Our vision is for a Christ-centred Circuit of vibrant, growing churches supporting each other in expressing God's love and sharing it with others.

As ways towards realising this priority, the circuit will give attention to the following:

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide
- Making followers of Christ. Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
- Encouraging fresh ways of understanding church
- Nurturing an inclusive church which cares for all.

Worship

The church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

We will:

- Offer to the communities around us safe places for worship and acceptance
- Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings (e.g. residential homes, new areas of housing)
- Help people grow a greater awareness of God's awesome presence, and to experience his love, at all stages of life

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Mission Statement (continued)

- Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for people of all ages, during the week as well as on Sundays
- Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches to enable all to participate;
- Support access for all to prayer resources.
-

Learning

Help people to grow and learn as Christians.

We will:

- Support churches and resource members in continuing to grow and delight in Christian discipleship
- Support the training and development of our ordained and lay people including Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and others
- Encourage each other at all stages of the faith journey, through Bible study/fellowship/house groups
- Inform and inspire people to be passionate about justice, peace and integrity of creation
- Provide opportunities for experience and learning about faith sharing
- Support training required by the Connexion (eg Safeguarding, EDI, Unconscious Bias)

Caring & Service

The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

We will:

- Create safe communities characterised by hospitality, generosity, welcome, care, acceptance and respect;
- Provide prayerful, caring support for our Ministry and leadership
- Inspire an outward looking focus to the life and service of the churches within the circuit
- Use our influence to have an impact on issues of equality, diversity and inclusion both locally and more widely
- Encourage everyone to regard being active in service as part of their Christian life; and find ways to witness to our faith through fulfilling needs in our communities and to do what we can to support those in need in the wider world
- Give generously, but with due thought and prayer, of time and money for God's work in the church and in the world
- Work for justice and peace
- Support churches in caring for the environment in the local area, the nation and the wider world.

Evangelism

The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

We will:

- Guard against being apologetic for our faith
- Provide more opportunities to explore the Bible and Christian faith, and the confidence to share it with others
- Engage in mission activities both inside and outside our buildings and to those we meet outside the church in daily life
- Use opportunities in community groups and at occasions such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and Christmas and Easter to share our faith
- Work with other Christian churches to explore openings for evangelism in the community
- Encourage people to be able to pray with and for those who are working for peace and hope.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Mission Statement (continued)

To fulfil these priorities, as a circuit we will:

- Support each of the circuit churches in producing new versions of their mission statements and strategy that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timetabled (SMART)
- Encourage work that is ecumenical, people-centred, flexible and innovative
- Concentrate on the development of new visions and ways of being church relevant for the 21st century, through continued analysis of the circuit's resources of people, property and finance, and use them in ways that will most effectively further the work of God and the circuit.

Churches within the Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit

The Methodist Churches in the Circuit are Trinity, Moulsham Lodge and Broomfield, (all based in Chelmsford), Hatfield Peverel, Maldon, Witham and Halstead. Also included are five Local Ecumenical Partnerships in Braintree, Coggeshall, Great Notley, South Woodham Ferrers and North Springfield. The Methodist Church in Hall Street, Chelmsford closed on 31 December 2023.

The Circuit acts as an umbrella organisation for these Churches and provides the staff to take services and care for members. It provides training and support to members of the Churches for mission to the communities around these Churches.

Organisational Structure

Overall control rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of Ministers to this Circuit. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. This Circuit is part of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District.

The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, supported by ministerial staff and Circuit stewards. Authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for the invitation to and appointment of Ministerial staff and lay employees. In addition to this, the Circuit meeting is charged with the care and maintenance of Ministerial housing and the agreement of the Circuit financial budget and the financial accounts. The Circuit meeting is also required to ensure all property and financial reports of the individual Churches are received in a timely fashion. All members of the Circuit meeting are Trustees to the Circuit and are listed at the end of this report.

Report for the Year

Aims and objectives for 2023/24

The main aims of the Circuit for 2023/24 were as follows:

- To complete the Stationing process for September 2024 and the review of resources.
- To launch the Circuit mission statement and 5 year strategy with a 24 hour prayer event.
- To set up a Circuit prayer group.
- To support the churches in the Circuit to review their own mission statement and 5 year strategy by 31 August 2024.
- To continue with pastoral care for our churches and the wider community.
- To continue work towards becoming an Eco Circuit and to assist churches and members in making relevant changes. To plan a Circuit wide Eco event for 2024.
- To continue the work with the school in Hatfield Peverel and extend the work done with schools and families when possible.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Report for the Year (continued)

Aims and objectives for 2023/24 (continued)

- To establish a 5 year plan for manse management.
- To continue to strive to provide a welcoming, safe and loving environment for all we come into contact with.

Progress during 2023/24

- The Circuit mission statement and 5 year strategic plan for 2023-2028 continue to be reviewed and updated following presentation of the first draft to the Circuit meeting in May 2023.
- A Circuit prayer event took in May 2024 at Witham Methodist Church.
- The Stationing process for September 2024 was completed, with the appointment of Revd. Asif Karam as a presbyter within the Chelmsford Section, from September 2024.
- Most of the churches in the Circuit completed the review of their own mission statements during 2023/24. Actions arising from these reviews will continue in 2024/25 and subsequent years.
After prayerful consideration, the members of the church in Hall Street, Chelmsford, took the decision to request permission to cease to meet, due to declining numbers. The church closed on 31 December 2023. The Circuit reviewed possible uses of the building, and decided that it should be sold. The sale was completed in July 2024. The remaining 3 Methodist churches in Chelmsford continue to discuss ways of working together more closely. Once a month, they meet together in one of the 3 churches for a joint Sunday morning service. They also have a monthly Prayer Walk together in Chelmsford.
- The work with the school in Hatfield Peverel had to be suspended in Autumn 2023 following the temporary closure of parts of the school due to building defects. The work was able to restart after Easter 2024, led by Ria Allen, the Circuit Schools Worker.
In June 2024 Revd. Barry Allen organised a visit of the Counties evangelism organisation's 'Life Exhibition', a multi-media experience for primary school age children. This examines key stories from the Gospels. Led by Revd. Barry & Ria Allen, and supported by volunteers from the local churches, 2 days were spent at the school in Hatfield Peverel and 2 days at the church in South Woodham Ferrers. All the pupils from years 3 to 6 were able to visit the exhibition.
- In November 2022 the Circuit set up a designated fund for donations to offer assistance with housing costs for refugees within the area of the Circuit, particularly those from Ukraine. The Circuit agreed to match any donations received up to a limit of £5,000. During the year five grants/loans were made.
- The work on our environmental responsibilities has continued across the Circuit. Members of the Circuit Leadership Team visited a church in Baildon, to see how they have improved the energy efficiency of their buildings. We are currently working towards the A Rocha UK ECO Circuit award. Of the 12 churches in the Circuit, 4 churches have the Silver Eco Award, 2 have the Bronze Eco Award, and 3 are registered with the Eco scheme, working towards an award.
- A new Circuit Safeguarding Officer was appointed from September 2024.

Aims and objectives for 2024/25

The main aims of the Circuit for 2024/25 are as follows:

- To review the Circuit staffing and complete the Stationing process for September 2025.
- To review the Circuit's Reserves Policy and the allocation of resources.
To recruit new Circuit Stewards.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Aims and objectives for 2024/25 (continued)

- To appoint a Circuit EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion) representative.
- To organise an annual Circuit prayer event.
- To continue to look with enquiring eyes and prayerful hope at the circumstances of our churches, their opportunities and challenges.
- To continue with pastoral care for our churches and the wider community.
- To continue work towards becoming an Eco Circuit and to assist Churches and members in making relevant changes. To plan a Circuit wide Eco event for 2025.
- To continue the work with the school in Hatfield Peverel and extend the work done with schools and families when possible.
- To establish a 5 year plan for manse management.
- To continue to strive to provide a welcoming, safe and loving environment for all we come into contact with.

Staffing

Revd. Mark Pengelly is the Circuit Superintendent and is responsible for the ministry of the Chelmsford section and at Halstead. In September 2023, the Circuit confirmed the extension of the period of invitation for Revd. Mark Pengelly, for a further 2 years from September 2024. However, in December 2024, Revd. Mark confirmed that he will be taking up a new post with effect from the end of March 2025.

Revd. Barry Allen is responsible for the ministry of the Maldon Section. He is retiring at the end of August 2025.

Revd. Asif Karam joined the Circuit from 1st September 2024, in the Chelmsford section.

Ria Allen is the Schools Worker for work in the school in Hatfield Peverel.

Karen Murrell is the Circuit Administrator, based in Chelmsford.

Esther Burton resigned as Circuit Safeguarding Officer in January 2024. Barbara Daniels was appointed as Circuit Safeguarding Officer in August 2024.

Alistair Jenkins was appointed as Finance Officer from mid September 2023, to undertake the detailed accounting work and Janis Croom, one of the Circuit Stewards, was appointed as the Circuit Treasurer from 17 September 2023.

Training

Training for local preachers is on-going as part of the Local Preachers and Leaders of Worship quarterly meetings. Representatives from the Circuit attended the District Synod in Spring 2024 and October 2024. Members of the Circuit continue to attend District Training events. Circuit and Church stewards undertook safeguarding and EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) training online or in person.

Support

Individual Circuit stewards attended Church Council meetings held throughout the year. They take note of issues raised at these meetings and report back to the Leadership team. The Circuit offers encouragement and advice to local Churches on the many and varied projects undertaken in their local communities. A regular Circuit Newsletter is produced which has helped churches to share what they do and how they have found new ways of reaching our local communities.

Ministers are supported by the Circuit Stewards personally and in terms of the properties they occupy.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Risk Management

The major risks are kept under review by the Circuit Leadership Team. Income and expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget.

Safeguarding

The Circuit has adopted the Connexional Safeguarding Policy. The Circuit is committed to providing support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure they are clear and confident in their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

The provision of Safeguarding training is covered by the ongoing work of our Safeguarding Officer. Church safeguarding officers have been attending training in person and online. Connexional guidance about best practice for safeguarding during on line church activities has been adopted.

Financial Review

The Circuit is responsible for

- The ministerial oversight and pastoral care of the thirteen local churches in the Circuit.
- The support of a ministry team of 2 Presbyters (3 from September 2024) and 3 lay workers (pastoral and administrative support).
- Payment of the Circuit contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.
- The maintenance of Circuit properties (3 manses & 1 investment property).

Under Standing Orders the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. In addition the Circuit has a financial obligation to the District to meet a share of its budget.

The Circuit budget is reviewed annually and covers the costs of the above which are met by assessments from each church towards their share of the total cost. In 2023/24 the Circuit continued to cover part of the annual costs from reserves, to mitigate the full cost of assessments for the churches whose income had been significantly reduced following the Covid pandemic.

The Circuit agreed to continue the Schools and Family Worker project for a further 3 years from 2022/23- to 2024/25 from grants and from funds within the Circuit Model Trust Fund. Funds have been set aside in a designated fund.

General Fund-unrestricted

The General Fund is available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

The purpose of this fund is:

1. To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future.
2. To give assurance to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all the money coming into its care for the purposes of the Charity.
3. To enable the Circuit to meet the objectives set out in its Mission Statement. This statement was reviewed in 2024.

The total income of the General Fund in 2023/24 was £227,169 (2022/23 £207,683) and costs were £188,730 (2022/23 £227,244). £649 (2022/23 £660) was received from the Harriet Walker Endowment Fund. £46,543 was transferred to the Circuit from the general fund of Hall Street Methodist church on closure of that church. After these two transfers, the net surplus was £85,632 (2022/23 deficit £15,421). The balance of the General Fund at 31 August 2024 was £1,699,326 (2023 £1,613,695), of which £1,532,250 (2023 £1,532,250) is the book value of the properties, leaving £167,076 (2023 £81,445) as free reserves. The investment property is stated at current market valuation at the year end. In the opinion of the trustees, due to the volatility in the property market caused by the cost of living crisis, there was no change in the valuation at the end of the year.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial Review (continued)

Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF)-unrestricted

This fund derives from sales of chapels and manses and is restricted by the Conference. This restriction is an internal regulation though the fund can be used for a variety of purposes, and for the purposes of charity accounting this is an unrestricted fund.

An annual levy is made on this fund to go to the District Advance Fund.

Income of the CMTF in 2023/24 was £8,514 (2022/23 £5,488). In addition £254,464 was received from the sale of former Methodist churches (see note 16). Costs this year were £6,282 (2022/23 £6,818).

An unrealised gain on monetary investments of £583 was made (2022/23: loss of £334).

The balance of the CMTF at 31 August 2024 is £423,451 (2023 £166,172). The fund holds cash and investments.

Designated Fund-Schools & Family Worker project

These are unrestricted funds that have been allocated for the purpose of employing a Family & Schools worker for the three years from September 2022 (£103,000). These have been designated by the trustees of the Circuit. This can only revert to general funds by the agreement of the same body. The fund has not been utilised in 2022/23 or 2023/24 and remains at £103,000. In 2023/24 the Schools Worker was unable to work with the school for 2 terms, as the school was closed and then operating in temporary classrooms due to issues with the concrete used in the school buildings. In 2022/23 the Circuit was unable to recruit a Schools Worker until June 2023.

Restricted Fund-Schools Worker project

The restricted fund represents the balance of grants of £9,500 received in 2021/22 and £3,960 in 2023/24, from the District Advance Fund (DAF). This grant is restricted to meeting the running costs of the Schools Worker project in the Maldon section of the Circuit. The total income of the Restricted Fund in 2023/24 was £3,960 (2022/23 Nil) and costs were £4,169 (2022/23 £1,868). The balance of the fund at 31 August 2024 is £4,333 (2023 £4,542).

Restricted & Designated Funds-Refugee Support

An appeal was made in 2022/23 to raise funds to support Ukrainian and other refugees living within the Circuit with loans and one-off grants for housing costs. The donations received less grants made are held in a restricted fund. Income received from donations & loan & grant repayments in 2023/24 was £2,311 (2022/23 £8,126). Grants & loans made in 2023/24 amounted to £7,053 (2022/23 £1,715). The balance of the fund at 31 August 2024 is £1,669 (2023: £6,411).

In 2022/23 the trustees of the Circuit agreed to match any donations received up to a maximum of £5,000. These funds are held in a designated fund, and were not utilised in 2023/24. The balance of the designated fund is £5,000.

Endowment Funds - Harriet Walker Charity

This is a permanent endowment with the capital invested through TMCP.

The income for 2023/24 was £716 (2022/23 £730) and costs were £67 (2022/23 £70). The net surplus of £649 (2022/23 £660) was transferred to the General Fund. An unrealised gain on monetary investments of £1,834 was made (2022/23 decrease of £1,051). The value of the endowment fund at 31 August 2024 is £25,541 (2023 £23,707).

Reserves Policies

General Fund-unrestricted

The Reserves Policy is to hold at least six months' expenditure to meet the District assessment and Circuit manse expenditure. This assumes that churches in the Circuit will continue to meet their agreed contributions to the Circuit Ministerial costs.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves Policies (continued)

Circuit Model Trust Fund-unrestricted

The Charity Commission have agreed that it is appropriate for the trustees to set a separate policy for the management of this fund as follows:

Money held in the Circuit Model Trust Fund that has not been allocated to any specific purpose can be retained for general Circuit purposes including property expenditure on the manses arising from Quinquennial Inspection Reports.

Restricted Fund-Schools & Family Worker project

This fund is to be used for the Schools & Family Worker project in the Maldon section of the Circuit. This project commenced in October 2019. The Circuit Meeting agreed to continue and extend the project for a further 3 years from September 2022. A successful application was made for District funding in 2023/24.

Designated Fund-Schools, family & community project

As described above, the Circuit agreed to continue and extend the Schools, Family and Community project within the Maldon section for 3 years from September 2022, subject to review. It was agreed to fund the costs, net of grants, from the proceeds of sale of Hatfield Peverel church. As a result of this decision, in 2021/22 funds were transferred from the Circuit Model Trust fund to a new designated fund, to cover the budgeted cost of this project for 3 years.

Restricted & Designated Funds-Refugee Support

These funds are to be used to assist Ukrainian & other refugees living within the area of the Circuit with the cost of deposits for rented housing or other one-off costs linked to moving into independent rented accommodation. Funds received from external donations are held within a restricted fund.

Endowment Funds - Harriet Walker Charity

This is registered as a separate charity (charity registration number 222146), with trustees appointed by the Circuit. The income is to be used for the local Methodist ministry covering the village of Great Totham and is transferred to the General Fund for this purpose.

Trustees' Recruitment

Whilst the appointment of the Trustees is determined in accordance with the Methodist procedures, it is the aim to ensure that the Leadership team have a broad experience to include pastoral, financial and property matters. Training for Circuit stewards is available at District level.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently.
- Prepared accounts on an accrual basis.
- Followed applicable accounting standards.
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Circuit and enables them to ensure that the financial statements steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

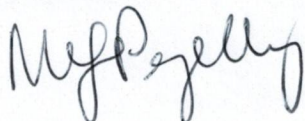
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

So far as each of the trustees is aware, there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the independent examiner and each of the Trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make him aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner has been made aware of that information.

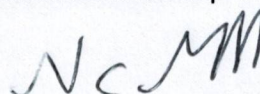
Approval

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the Circuit Meeting on 17th March 2025.

Revd. Mark Pengelly
Superintendent



Nigel Murrell
Circuit Leadership Team



THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

The members of The Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

TRUSTEES OF THE CIRCUIT - year ended 31 August 2024

Circuit Ministers

Revd. Mike Pengelly (Circuit Superintendent Minister)
 Revd. Barry Allen
 Revd. Sue King

Other Authorised Ministers and Supernumeraries

Revd. Tony Shrimpton (Not a trustee)
 Revd. Olufemi Cole-Njie
 Revd. Sue King
 Revd. Guy Goodall (Not a trustee)
 Revd. David Dickens (Not a trustee)

Circuit Stewards

Janis Croom (Circuit Treasurer from 17 September 202)
 Daisy Eeady-Cole
 Gareth Crooks (resigned 12 March 2024)
 Nigel Murrell Senior Steward
 Sheridan Pengelly
 Eric Smart

Co-opted onto CLT:

David Hodgkinson (Circuit Property Secretary)

Safeguarding

Esther Burton (Circuit Safeguarding Officer (not a trustee, resigned 17 January 2024))
 Barbara Daniels (Circuit Safeguarding Officer (not a trustee, appointed August 2024))

Church Representatives

Broomfield	David Hodgkinson Dianne Hodgkinson Les Steed	
Christ Church Braintree	David Drewett David Gask	
Christ Church Coggeshall	Adrian Romano Michelle Milliken	(Not a trustee)
The Church in Great Notley Hall Street (church closed 31 December 2023) Halstead	Lisa Scott Diane Clemence Jerry Kavanagh Helen Catley Revd. Sue King William Lartey	(to 31 December 2023) (to 31 December 2023)
Hatfield Peverel Church	Rosemary Bailey Jane Clemo Jane Cook Jeffrey Hosking	

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
 TRUSTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
 31 AUGUST 2024

Maldon	Julie Hill Maureen Crilley Susan Farrell	(Not a trustee)
Moulsham Lodge	Robert Griffin Glenda Griffin Martyn Edwards Malcolm Lees Clive Pickett	(resigned Jan 2024) (from 1 May 2024) (from 29 May 2024)
North Springfield-St Augustine's	J Douglas Hayton Pamela Scammell Carolyn Smith	(Not a trustee)
South Woodham Ferrers	David Carter Elizabeth Hobbs Judith Radley Lynda Speak Tricia Tutin	(resigned May 2024) (from 29 May 2024)
Trinity	Janet Cassels Roger Fairclough Pamela French Jeffrey Green Gillian Harrington Nigel Murrell Sheridan Pengelly	(from 29 May 2024) (resigned May 2024) (resigned May 2024)
Witham	Janis Croom Michael Thompson Revd. Olufemi Cole-Njie	

**THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024**

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal Office
c/o Trinity Methodist Church
Rainsford Road
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 2XB

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank
P.O. Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

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

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

Circuit Independent Examiner

Mrs J Brace
Mayor Cuttle & Co
Aquarium Suite 7B
101 Lower Anchor Street
Chelmsford
CM2 0AU

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

Name of Circuit: The Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit

No 34/09

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of Senior Circuit Steward *N.C.M.M.* Date..... *17/3/25*

Name: Nigel Murrell, c/o Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on **March 17th 2025.**

Signature of the Chair of the meeting..... *Mark Pengelly*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd. Mark Pengelly Date *17/3/2025*

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

Name of Circuit: The Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit

No 34/09

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 17 to 34. 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.

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:

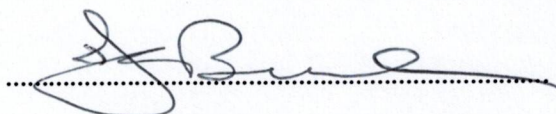
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 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 trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts.

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 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner

Joanne Brace.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

FCCA.....

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

Name of firm:

Mayor Cuttle & Co

Address:

Aquarium Suite 7B, 101 Lower Anchor Street, Chelmsford CM2 0AU

Date.....10/4/2025.....

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	General Funds Unrest'd	Circuit Model Trust Fund Unrest'd	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowm't Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Income from monetary investments		8,379	8,514	-	-	716	17,609
Income from investment properties	5	43,225	-	-	-	-	43,225
Assessments on Churches	6	171,707	-	-	-	-	171,707
Grants received	7	-	-	-	3,960	-	3,960
Other charitable income	8	3,858	-	-	2,311	-	6,169
Total income		227,169	8,514	-	6,271	716	242,670
Expenditure							
Grants and donations	9	-	-	-	7,053	-	7,053
Salaries and associated costs	10	101,884	-	-	1,362	-	103,246
Property maintenance & other costs	12	34,875	-	-	-	-	34,875
District Assessment & Levy	13	46,884	5,809	-	-	-	52,693
Office expenses & resources	14	3,620	-	-	2,807	-	6,427
Other outgoings	15	1,467	473	-	-	67	2,007
Total charitable expenditure		188,730	6,282	-	11,222	67	206,301
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	18	-	583	-	-	1,834	2,417
Net income/(expenditure)		38,439	2,815	-	-4,951	2,483	38,786
Transfers between funds		649	-	-	-	-649	0
Other gains	16	46,543	254,464	-	-	-	301,007
Net movement in funds		85,631	257,279	0	-4,951	1,834	339,793
Total funds brought forward		1,613,695	166,172	108,000	10,953	23,707	1,922,527
Total funds carried forward		1,699,326	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	2,262,320

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	General Fund Unrest'd	Circuit Model Trust Fund Unrestricted	Design'd Funds Unrest'd	Restricted Fund	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Income from monetary investments		5,006	5,488	-	-	730	11,224
Income from investment properties	5	20,447	-	-	-	-	20,447
Assessments on Churches	6	175,658	-	-	-	-	175,658
Grants received	7	4,327	-	-	-	-	4,327
Other charitable income	8	2,245	-	-	8,126	-	10,371
Total income		207,683	5,488	0	8,126	730	222,027
Expenditure							
Grants and donations	9	-	-	-	1,620	-	1,620
Salaries and associated costs	10	133,858	-	-	782	-	134,640
Property maintenance & other costs	12	43,564	-	-	-	-	43,564
District Assessment & Levy	13	44,232	6,316	-	-	-	50,548
Office expenses & resources	14	3,770	-	-	991	-	4,761
Other outgoings	15	1,820	502	-	95	70	2,487
Total charitable expenditure		227,244	6,818	0	3,488	70	237,620
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	18	-	-334	-	-	-1,051	-1,385
Net income/(expenditure)		-19,561	-1,664	0	4,638	-391	-16,978
Transfers between funds		4,140	-8,480	5,000	-	-660	0
Other gains	16	-	-	-	-	-	0
Net movement in funds		-15,421	-10,144	5,000	4,638	-1,051	-16,978
Total funds brought forward		1,629,116	176,316	103,000	6,315	24,758	1,939,505
Total funds carried forward		1,613,695	166,172	108,000	10,953	23,707	1,922,527

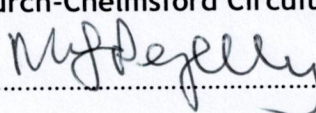
THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund Unrest'd	Circuit Model Trust Unrest'd	Design'd Funds unrest'd	Rest'd Fund	Endow Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses	17	1,250,000					1,250,000	1,250,000
Investment Properties	17	282,250					282,250	282,250
Total Fixed Assets		1,532,250	0	0	0	0	1,532,250	1,532,250
Current Assets								
Investments with TMCP	18		423,451			25,541	448,992	189,879
Debtors & Prepayments	19	14,459					14,459	10,159
Cash at Bank	20	155,412		108,000	6,002		269,414	193,359
Total Current Assets		169,871	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	732,865	393,397
Current Liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	21	2,795					2,795	3,120
Total Current Liabilities		2,795	0	0	0	0	2,795	3,120
Net Current Assets		167,076	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	730,070	390,277
Total assets less current liabilities		1,699,326	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	2,262,320	1,922,525
Long term liabilities (due after more than 1 year)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net assets		1,699,326	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	2,262,320	1,922,525
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	22-24	1,699,326					1,699,326	1,613,695
General Fund (Designated)	22-24			108,000			108,000	108,000
CMTF (Unrestricted)	22-24		423,451				423,451	166,172
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,699,326	423,451	108,000	0	0	2,230,777	1,887,867
Restricted Funds	22-24				6,002		6,002	10,953
Endowment Funds	22-24					25,541	25,541	23,707
Total Funds		1,699,326	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	2,262,320	1,922,527

The notes on pages 20 to 34 form part of these accounts

Approved by the trustees of The Methodist Church-Chelmsford Circuit and signed on their behalf.

Rev. Mark Pengelly, Superintendent Minister.....

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102-the Charities SORP (FRS 102)October 2019 update.

Note 2 Funds

The funds held comprise:

Unrestricted General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit.

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

Restricted funds are those held for a narrower purpose. The Circuit has two restricted fund, a grant received for the Family & Schools Worker project in the Maldon section, and donations received for the Refugee Support fund.

Designated Funds -There are two such funds. The trustees have voted to reserve funds for the Family & Schools Worker project in the Maldon section and also for the matching contribution from the Circuit for Refugee Support fund.

Endowment funds are those for which the capital is invested, and the income may be used for specified purposes. The Circuit has one endowment fund.

Note 3 Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost or valuation as at 2015, except that investments (including a property) are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Income recognition

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

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised

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.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. All properties are freehold and the estimated land component of all properties is shown in note 17 to the accounts. Fixtures and fittings within the properties are not valued separately from the building value.

No depreciation is provided on buildings since the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 3 Accounting policies (continued)

Investment Property

The Circuit owns one residential property (formerly a manse) which is surplus to its normal staffing requirements. This property is currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy and is classified as an investment property. The property is valued in the accounts at fair value, being open market value, net of estimated costs of disposal.

Monetary investment assets

The investment assets of the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Endowment Fund are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP.

Debtors

Debtors include assessments due by the end of August and are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit. The prepayment is the monthly ministerial stipends paid in advance to Methodist Church central payroll at the end of August, for stipends due on 1 September.

Creditors

Creditors include trade creditors and expenses incurred before the year end, at the amounts subsequently paid.

Going concern

To the best of their knowledge and belief the Trustees confirm that there are no material uncertainties that would call into question the Circuit's financial viability for at least 12 months from the date of the approval of these accounts.

Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of 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.

Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement to make the grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant to be accrued is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years, discounted to net present value where the difference is material, is treated as a provision being released in future years in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Church. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not apply any tax charge.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 4 Glossary of terms

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

Church: a group of members relating to a specific Church

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, and overseen jointly

Circuit Meeting: The trustees of the Circuit, most of whom are appointed by their local Churches and the others by virtue of a role they undertake for the Circuit and/or their local Churches.

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): A group (comprising mostly, but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formulation of the Circuit. Generally the CLT comprises the Presbyters (Ministers) and lay staff stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and the Circuit Treasurer

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

Connexional Funds: The designated and/or Restricted Funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives.

CPF : Connexional Priority Fund

District: a group of contiguous Circuits linked geographically.

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

Lay Employees: Personnel employed by the Circuit on generally accepted commercial employment terms.

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

NEST: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Chelmsford Methodist Church

Presbyters (including Superintendent): Probationer or Ordained Methodist Ministers who have pastoral and administrative responsibility for the Churches within the Circuit

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

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

Note 5 Income from Investment Properties

The trustees have determined that the property owned at 10 Wickfield Ash, Chelmsford is unlikely to be returned to use as a manse in the foreseeable future and have therefore classified it as an investment property.

Note 6 Assessments on Churches

The Circuit comprises 13 (12 from January 2024) churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. The Circuit aims to cover all its net core costs from the Assessment. The Assessment on Churches is determined annually and calculated as 50% on the membership of each Church and 50% on its income from offerings and Gift Aid. The amount due from the churches which are part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) is reduced if another denomination funds the Minister for that church.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 6 Assessment or share (continued)	General Fund (unrestricted)	General Fund (unrestricted)
	2023/24	2022/23
Broomfield	18,115	18,161
Christ Church, Braintree (LEP)	6,312	7,200
Christ Church, Coggeshall (LEP)	977	962
The Church at Great Notley (LEP) Hall Street, Chelmsford (closed December 2023)	1,707	1,477
Halstead	1,834	6,000
Hatfield Peverel	8,000	8,000
Maldon	7,032	7,488
Moulsham Lodge	14,971	20,522
South Woodham Ferrers	30,000	21,500
St Augustine, Springfield (LEP)	13,197	14,133
Trinity, Chelmsford	3,200	3,000
Witham	53,004	53,004
	13,358	14,211
Total	171,707	175,658

These amounts are included in the accounts based on the due date of receipt by the Circuit. They include £550 (2023 £500) to be received after the year end, included in debtors on the Balance Sheet.

Note 7 Grants & Donations received

	Restricted Fund	General Fund (unrestricted)
	2023/24	2022/23
DAF-for Schools Worker Project	3,960	-
DAF-for new windows	-	4,327
Total	3,960	4,327

In 2023/24 the Circuit received a grant of £3,960 from the District Advance Fund for the School Worker project in Hatfield Peverel (2022/23 grant of £4,327 received from DAF towards the cost of new double glazed windows in the Park Avenue manse).

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 8 Other charitable income

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Fund- Refugee Support	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
Solar energy rebate	2,325	-	2,325
Disposal of Hall St contents	1,259	-	1,259
Refugee fund donations & grants repaid	-	2,311	2,311
Donations	274		274
Total other charitable income	3,858	2,311	6,169

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Fund- Refugee Support	Total
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Solar energy rebate	2,193	-	2,193
Refugee fund donations	-	8,126	8,126
Donations	52	-	52
Total other charitable income	2,245	8,126	10,371

The Restricted fund is for Refugee Support and was set up in response to the refugees coming to the UK after the Ukraine invasion.

Note 9 Grants & donations paid

	Restricted Fund- Refugee Support	Restricted Fund- Refugee Support
	2023/24	2022/23
Grants from the Refugee Support Fund	7,053	1,620

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 10 Stipends, salaries and associated costs

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Fund-Schools worker	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
Stipends & salaries			
Stipends-Ministers	61,372	-	61,372
Salaries-Lay worker & admin	6,240	1,362	7,602
Employers' pension contrib's	15,624	-	15,624
Employers' N I	5,959	-	5,959
Apprenticeship levy	360	-	360
Supernumerary fees	1,176	-	1,176
Professional fees-admin contracts	6,959	-	6,959
Total stipends & salaries costs	97,690	1,362	99,052
Associated costs			
Ministers' travel	3,714	-	3,714
Payroll fees	480	-	480
Total stipends, salaries & associated costs	101,884	1,362	103,246

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Fund	Total
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Stipends & salaries			
Stipends-Ministers	84,005	-	84,005
Salaries-Lay worker & admin	10,396	779	11,175
Employers' pension contributions	21,731	-	21,731
Employers' N I contributions	8,022	3	8,025
Apprenticeship levy	467	-	467
Supernumerary fees	800	-	800
Professional fees-admin contract	5,400	-	5,400
Total stipends & salaries costs	130,821	782	131,603
Associated costs			
Ministers' travel	2,386	-	2,386
Lay employees' travel	171	-	171
Payroll fees	480	-	480
Total associated costs	3,037	-	3,037
Total stipends, salaries & associated costs	133,858	782	134,640

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 10 Stipends, salaries and associated costs (continued)

Stipends were paid to 2 Ministers in 2023/24 (3 in 2022/23). Salaries were paid to 2 part-time lay workers/administrative staff and 2 contractors (2 part time staff and 1 contractor in 2022/23). The previous Family & Schools worker resigned at the end of 2022/23, with a new Schools Worker appointed from April 2024. The Family & Schools Worker cost was met from the Restricted Fund, using a grant received from the District.

A home telephone and broadband connection is provided for Ministers solely for use on Circuit business and travel costs incurred on Circuit business are re-imbursed against expense claims. The full-time Ministers' manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains and insures the properties and meets the cost of Council Tax and water charges. The amounts are not regarded by HMRC as benefits in kind.

No employee received employee benefits totalling more than £60,000.

There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial, the holiday year ends on 31 August.

Pensions

All ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

The Connexion accounts for the MMPS pension scheme and shows the figure in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented.

The lay employees are eligible to join the pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST, a government scheme which allows for defined contributions. The Circuit contributes as an employer to this scheme.

Note 11 Payments to trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the Presbyters and Deacon and the remaining members of the CLT are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent Minister and other presbyters undertake the primary executive roles within the Circuit. The Circuit Senior Steward chairs meeting of the CLT and the Superintendent chairs the Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit.

No trustee received any remuneration for their role as trustee.

The Circuit policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses and reimbursement of purchases on behalf of the Circuit such as maintenance of the manses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Circuit such as training.

Trustees did not claim any expenses in respect of Circuit Trustee duties in 2023/24.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
 31 AUGUST 2024

Note 12 Property expenses

	General Fund (unrestricted)	General Fund (unrestricted)
	2023/24	2022/23
Property costs-manses		
Insurance	2,632	1,066
Manse Council tax & water	6,712	9,539
Maintenance-manses	11,378	23,403
Quinquennial inspection fee- NIL (4 in 2022/23)	-	2,795
Property costs-let properties		
Maintenance-let properties	3,855	2,754
Agents' fees	6,000	4,007
Property costs-Hall Street church after church closed		
Insurance	1,142	-
Heating & water charges	2,996	-
Maintenance	160	-
Total property costs	34,875	43,564

The Circuit is Managing Trustee for two properties used as manses, (one in Chelmsford and one in Maldon). A third manse property in Chelmsford was temporarily let out on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy in 2023/24 due to the vacant ministerial post. An investment property in Chelmsford is also let out on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy.

Note 13 Connexional & District Assessment and Levy

	General Fund (unrestricted)	General Fund (unrestricted)
	2023/24	2022/23
District Assessment	46,884	44,232
	CMTF Fund - unrestricted	CMTF Fund - unrestricted
	2023/24	2022/23
District Advance Fund Levy	5,809	6,316

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the proportion of church members, and staffing (Presbyters and Mission staff only) of all Circuits in the Beds, Essex & Herts District. 50% of the overall cost is calculated using relative membership proportions and 50% using relative staffing proportions. The assessment is mainly a contribution to Connexional costs for national support services, discipleship and mission but also includes funding towards the costs of the District office and staff. The levy for the District Advance Fund is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit's CMTF Account balance as at 31 August in the previous accounting period.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 14 Office expenses and resources

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Schools Fund	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
Telephone & internet	1,855	-	1,855
Printing, postage & stationery	831	-	831
Other administrative expenses	337	-	337
Preaching & sundry resources	597	2,807	3,404
Total	3,620	2,807	6,427

	General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Schools Fund	Total
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Telephone & internet	2,116	-	2,116
Printing, postage & stationery	1,151	-	1,151
IT costs	210	-	210
Preaching & sundry resources	293	991	1,284
Total	3,770	991	4,761

Note 15 Other outgoings

	General Fund (unrestricted)	CMTF Fund (unrestricted)	Endowment Fund	Total	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
Training	81	-	-	81	960
Other	586	-	-	586	155
Independent examiner's fee	800	-	-	800	800
TCMP admin. fee	-	473	67	540	572
Total	1,467	473	67	2,007	2,487

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

Note 16 Other gains

	General Fund (unrestricted)	CMTF Fund (unrestricted)	Total	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
Hall Street general fund transferred to Circuit on closure	46,543	-	46,543	-
Sale of church building-proceeds of sale, net of selling expenses	-	384,106	384,106	-
CPF levy	-	-129,642	-129,642	-
Net amount received by Circuit	46,543	254,464	301,007	-

The former Methodist Church in Hall Street was sold during this year. The proceeds of sale (net of selling costs) were £384,100. In accordance with Methodist Standing Orders, a levy of £129,640 was paid to the Connexional Priority Fund levy. The net amount of £254,460 is held by the Circuit in the Circuit Model Trust Fund for Circuit use.

The Circuit also received £6 less £2 CPF levy from a refund of fees paid on the sale of Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church in 2021/22.

The Connexional Priority Fund is held centrally by the Methodist Church and is used for Mission work across the Connexion.

Note 17 Fixed Assets-Manses and Other Properties

	Manse Land	Manse buildings	Investment property	Total	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
Balance brought forward	510,000	740,000	282,250	1,532,250	1,532,250
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	510,000	740,000	282,250	1,532,250	1,532,250

Schedule of Manses and Investment Property

Property	Type	Cost	Valuation	Total
30 Park Ave Chelmsford	Manse	425,000		425,000
4 Rubens Gate Springfield Chelmsford	Manse	475,000		475,000
11 Mirosa Drive Maldon	Manse	350,000		350,000
10 Wickfield Ash Chelmsford	Investment		282,250	282,250
Total		775,000	757,250	1,532,250

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

Note 17 Fixed Assets-Manses and Other Properties (continued)

There are 3 manses (3 - 2022/23), 2 located in Chelmsford and 1 in Maldon, which are valued at cost as defined by FRS102. The manse at Park Avenue, Chelmsford was stated at deemed historic cost as at August 2014 in accordance with FRS 102. The manse at Maldon is valued at purchase cost in June 2015. The house at Rubens Gate, in North Springfield, Chelmsford is valued at purchase cost in October 2014 plus the capital cost of improvements net of impairment in 2018/19. This property was let on a short-term basis from mid August 2023. It is intended that this will be used a manse again in the future. The property at Wickfield Ash continues to be let on a short-term basis. As it is unlikely that this property will be required in future as a manse it is valued as an investment property at the potential net sale proceeds receivable by the Circuit of £282,250 (2022/23 £282,250). This is based on a trustees' market valuation of £450,000 less the potential costs of sale of £167,750 (£7,750 professional fees and £160,000 payable for the Connexional Priority Fund Levy). 2022/23 figures are: trustees' valuation of £450,000 less £167,750 costs of sale (£7,750 professional fees and £160,000 CPT Levy). No depreciation is being provided for the manses as the trustees consider the current residual value of the properties in their present condition to be not less than their brought forward cost and, in the absence of any impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the properties would be immaterial. The Circuit has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

Note 18 Monetary Investment Assets

Investments held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

Year end valuation	2023/24 CMTF fund	2023/24 Endowment fund	2022/23 CMTF fund	2021/22 Endowment fund
Common investment funds	8,126	25,541	7,542	23,707
Trustees' Interest Fund	415,325	-	158,630	-
Total	423,451	25,541	166,172	23,707

Change in investment values	CMTF fund	Endowment fund
Investments held in common investment funds	2023/24	2023/24
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	7,542	23,707
Net gain on revaluation	584	1,834
Carrying (market) value at end of year	8,126	25,541

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees' Interest Fund on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium-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 agents who are responsible for the day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensures 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.

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Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

	General Fund (unrestricted)	General Fund (unrestricted)
	2023/24	2022/23
Debtors		
Assessments due	550	500
Solar panel FIT payment due	942	836
Hall Street insurance refund due	1,017	-
Prepayments		
Ministers' stipends in advance	10,356	6,876
Manse insurance	1,594	1,493
Council Tax	-	210
Letting agents' fees	-	244
Total debtors & prepayments	14,459	10,159

Note 20 Bank Balances

	General (un- restricted)	CMTF (Un- rest'd)	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
Central Finance Board deposit	73,062	43,386	108,000	5,477	229,925	181,974
Co-op bank current account	39,489	-	-	-	39,489	11,383
Total Bank	112,551	43,386	108,000	5,477	269,414	193,357

The balance held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is available on demand without loss of interest, interest is credited monthly.

Note 21 Creditors & accruals

	General Fund (unrestricted)	General Fund (unrestricted)
	2023/24	2022/23
Trade creditors & expenses	1,195	470
Rent received in advance	-	1,850
Accruals	1,600	800
Total	2,795	3,120

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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Note 22 Funds

General Fund -unrestricted

The purpose of this 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. Following the closure of Hall Street church, the general funds of the church were transferred to the Circuit. The balance has been added to the Circuit general fund.

Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF)-unrestricted

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit. Its main source of income is legacies and formulaically determined contributions from the sale of manses and church buildings in the Circuit.

Although this is technically an Unrestricted Fund under the control of the Circuit Meeting, prior approval is still required from the District to utilise these funds. Methodist Standing Orders 930, 931 and 917(2) are applicable.

Designated Funds- unrestricted

These are two unrestricted funds that have been allocated as follows:

£103,000 allocated in 2022/23 for the purpose of employing a Family & Schools worker in the Maldon section of the Circuit, for the three years 2022/23-2024/25.

£5,000 allocated in 2022/23 as a matching donation to funds donated to the Circuit for the purpose of assisting Ukrainian & other refugee families in the area.

These funds have been designated by the trustees of the circuit meeting. The funds can only revert to general funds by the agreement of the same body.

Restricted Funds

These are two funds where donations have been received by the Circuit for a particular purpose as follows:

Grants received in 2021/22 and 2023/24 from the District Advance Fund for the costs of the Schools Worker project within the Maldon section of the Circuit. The District has given permission for these funds to be carried forward; any funds not used for this purpose will required to be returned to the District.

Donations received in 2022/23 and 2023/24 from individual personal donations received from around the Circuit for the purpose of assisting Ukrainian & other refugee families in the area.

Endowment Fund

This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy given by Mrs H Walker. The income can only be used for local religious purposes.

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

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Note 23 Summary of fund movements

	Balances as at 31/08/23	Income & Gains	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains	Balances as at 31/08/24
General Fund	1,613,695	273,712	-188,730	649	-	1,699,326
CMTF	166,172	262,978	-6,282	-	583	423,451
Designated- Family & Schools Worker	103,000	-	-	-	-	103,000
Designated- Circuit Refugee Support	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Restricted- Schools Worker	4,542	3,960	-4,169	-	-	4,332
Restricted- Refugee Support	6,411	2,311	-7,053	-	-	1,670
Endowment	23,707	716	-67	-649	1,834	25,541
Total	1,922,527	543,677	-206,301	0	2,417	2,262,320

THE METHODIST CHURCH-CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT

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Note 24 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:

	General Fund (unrest'd)	CMTF Fund (unrest'd)	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endo't Fund	Total
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
Tangible fixed assets	1,532,250	-	-	-	-	1,532,250
Current assets	169,871	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	732,865
Current liabilities	-2,795	-	-	-	-	-2,795
Net assets	1,699,326	423,451	108,000	6,002	25,541	2,262,320

	General Fund (unrest'd)	CMTF Fund (unrest'd)	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Endo't Fund	Total
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Tangible fixed assets	1,532,250	-	-	-	-	1,532,250
Current assets	84,565	166,172	108,000	10,953	23,707	393,397
Current liabilities	-3,120	-	-	-	-	-3,120
Net assets	1,613,965	166,172	108,000	10,953	23,707	1,922,527

Note 25 Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or in the preceding year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one of the Churches within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the BE&H District and Churches within the Circuit, CFB and TMCP. No trustee currently has a related party connection to any supplier.

Note 26 Volunteer Contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in the UK is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In this Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with the mission, manses, finance, policy, grants and training. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Circuit to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

Note 27 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities.

There are no capital commitments or contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2024 (2023 Nil).