

The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire

Registered Charity No. 1136205

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the

Year ended 31 August 2021

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

TRUSTEES The trustees are the members of the Circuit Assembly. Appendix 1 contains a full list of the elected church representatives and ex officio, or appointed, others who were trustees during the year.

CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE

Rev'd John Hellyer	Superintendent Minister	(from Sep'19)
Rev'd Michelle Ireland	Deputy Superintendent Minister	(from Sep'20)
	& Learning & Caring Portfolio	(from May'20)
Rev'd Jayne Webb	Deputy Superintendent Minister	(from Sep'20)
Rev'd Naomi Cooke	Ministerial Staff Representative	(from Sep'20)
Deacon Sue Peat	Mission Portfolio	(from Sep'20)
Brian Cook	Finance Portfolio	(from Sep'15)
Andy Rickell	Social & Climate Justice	(from Sep'16)
	Portfolio & Circuit Steward	
Russell Buley	Personnel Portfolio &	(from May'20)
	Circuit Steward	(from Mar'17)
Bernie Brewster	Property Portfolio	(from Sep'20)
Arthur Haines	Circuit Steward	(from Sep'20)
Michael Haines	Circuit Steward	(from Sep'20)
Liz Ledger	Circuit Steward	(from Sep'20)
Lesley Ward	Circuit Steward	(from Sep'20)

CIRCUIT OFFICE HOLDERS

Finance Portfolio	Brian Cook Adrian Kilburn Pete Watt	Portfolio Holder & Circuit Treasurer Assistant Circuit Treasurer (to March 2021) Assistant Circuit Treasurer (from March 2021)
Learning & Caring Portfolio	Rev'd Michelle Ireland Rev'd Diane Daymond Anton Wynn	Portfolio Holder Pastoral Care Encourager Children & Young People Network Convener
Mission Portfolio	Deacon Sue Peat Karen Burridge Peter Allsopp Deborah Long Rev'd Stuart Radford Sylvia Munns	Portfolio Holder Creative Arts Officer Worship Taskforce Convener Worship Taskforce Secretary Methodist Homes Secretary Circuit MWIB Chair
Personnel Portfolio	Russell Buley Peter Gardner	Portfolio Holder Safeguarding Officer
Property Portfolio	Bernie Brewster Rev'd John Beardsley Sue Woodward Sally Hall John Bailey	Portfolio Holder Archivist Archivist Lead Manse Coordinator Schedules Officer
Social and Climate Justice	Andy Rickell Rev'd Dr John Sampson Alison Jackson Andy Rickell Rev'd Noel Sharp	Portfolio Holder Multi-Faith Officer Public Issues Officer Disability Awareness Adviser Social Responsibility Officer

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS
(continued)**

Superintendent's Portfolio	Rev'd John Hellyer Adele Gamer Ann Pearce Rev'd Phil Summers	Superintendent Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting Secretary Local Preachers' Training Group Convener and Lead Tutor Chair of Local Preachers' Training Group
CIRCUIT OFFICE	18 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LR	
AUDITORS	Hazlewoods LLP Staverton Court Staverton Cheltenham GL51 0UX	
BANKERS	Santander Bank	
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE	
REGISTERED CHARITY	1136205	

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and the auditor's report of The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire for the year ended 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire is part of the Methodist Church in Britain, which is constituted under the Methodist Church Act 1976 and a Deed of Union and is governed by The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. The Circuit, which came into being on 1 September 2008, was registered as a charity with number 1136205 on 4 June 2010.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

All ministers, presbyteral and diaconal, stationed in the Circuit by the Methodist Conference are members of the Circuit Meeting otherwise known as the Circuit Assembly and therefore trustees (subject to those ministers who do not hold pastoral responsibility within the Circuit notifying the Superintendent of their wish to be members of the Assembly and trustees for the relevant year).

Lay workers who are members of the Methodist Church and who are employed in the Circuit may also be appointed by the Circuit Assembly to be members of it and trustees for the relevant year.

The following are ex officio members of the Circuit Assembly: the circuit stewards, circuit portfolio holders (Finance, Learning & Caring, Mission, Personnel, Property, Social and Climate Justice). Other appointed circuit officers (for example, the safeguarding officer, the archivists, etc.) may also be members of the Circuit Assembly if they choose to be. All circuit stewards and circuit officers are subject to appointment and annual re-appointment by the Circuit Assembly.

Additionally, each church is entitled annually to appoint three representatives to the Assembly (usually a church steward and the church treasurer plus one other). The Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting is entitled annually to nominate up to ten of its members (including the secretary and the convener of the local preacher training group who are ex officio members of the Assembly).

The Assembly has power to appoint other members and welcomes the attendance of those who are not members of the meeting, who however may on occasion be asked temporarily to vacate the meeting when a particular item is being discussed and who may not vote on any issue.

The total membership of the Assembly that served during the 2020-21 year was 131 (see Appendix 1).

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT, INDUCTION & TRAINING

As outlined above, the appointment of the majority of the membership of the Assembly is outside the control of the meeting (but in accordance with the Methodist Church's Constitutional Practice and Discipline). In appointing circuit portfolio holders and other officers, the meeting seeks to fit the particular gifts and skills of an appointee to the needs of the vacancy that is being filled and to achieve the best balance of gifts and skills among office holders to further the work of the Circuit and its churches.

ORGANISATION

The Circuit Assembly met on four occasions in 2020-21. Because of the necessary constraints on meetings arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the meetings (in September, March, May, and July) were held by Zoom. The Circuit Executive, appointed by the Circuit Assembly, now comprises the Superintendent; two presbyters appointed as deputies, one of whom is a portfolio holder; another presbyter elected by the staff meeting; six circuit stewards, two of whom are portfolio holders; and three more portfolio holders. The Executive met on four occasions in 2020-21. Again because of the pandemic the meetings (in November, March, April, and August) were held by Zoom. The Executive acts on behalf of the Circuit Assembly when circumstances so dictate and brings its decisions to the Assembly for scrutiny and its recommendations for approval. The Assembly retains overall responsibility for the Circuit's mission strategy; the invitation of ministers; 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 Methodist Church stations a presbyter to be the Superintendent of the Circuit who is to provide leadership and cohesion within the Circuit and whose duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Church which are to be found in The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

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ORGANISATION (continued)

Circuit churches:

(Note: designation for Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) – M-Methodist, A-Anglican\Church of England, U-United Reformed Church, B-Baptist, C-Congregational Federation)

Abbeydale, Christchurch (LEP – A, M, U, B)	Amberley, Holy Trinity (LEP – A, M)
Apperley	Aylburton
Bailey Lane End	Bishop's Cleeve
Bream	Brimscombe*
Cam	Chalford Hill
Cheltenham, Bethesda	Cheltenham, St Mark's
Cheltenham, Whaddon, St Michael's (LEP – A, M)	Churchdown
Cinderford	Cirencester, Ashcroft (LEP – M, U)
Clements End	Coalway
Drybrook	Dursley
Eastington	Fairford (LEP – C, M)
Gloucester, Barton Street	Gloucester, Lonsdale Road
Gloucester, St John's	Harpury
Hucclecote	Nailsworth, Christ Church (LEP-B,M,U)
Newent, St Mary's (LEP- A,M)	Pillowell
Quedgeley	Randwick, St, John the Baptist (LEP-A,M)
South Cerney (LEP- M,C)	Stonehouse
Stroud, St Alban's (LEP - A, M)	Tetbury, Christ Church (LEP – M,U)
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe
Woolaston*	Wotton-Under-Edge (LEP-M,U)

* During the year the members of Brimscombe and Woolaston churches decided to seek approval from the Circuit Assembly and the District Synod to discontinue public worship and to close the buildings.

In addition to the churches listed above, North Cerney Fellowship and Hawling are now constituted as **classes** of Cheltenham, Bethesda, and Tibberton is a **class** of Gloucester, St. John's. Hawling continues to use its church building. (The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church describes the procedure that is to be followed when a local church has insufficient members to form a Church Council. The remaining members can then be constituted as a class of another Methodist church of sufficient size whereby the Church Council and Pastoral Committee are able to undertake the oversight of the members who form the class.)

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Circuit endeavours actively to maintain, promote and review various policies which help to manage risk, including concerning financial process and the holding of reserves; the management of property and health and safety; and the employment of personnel and lone working

In response to the coronavirus pandemic a Covid-19 Action Group, formed in March 2020 comprising the Superintendent and five members of the Executive, continued to meet fortnightly until the end of July 2021 offering support and advice to churches by regularly drawing attention to the consequences of government legislation and connexional guidance as well as receiving and commenting on the formal risk assessments submitted by churches when preparing to re-open their buildings. Various items of personal protection equipment were purchased by the Circuit and distributed upon request to churches.

The Circuit continues to develop or apply robust procedures for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults; each church has its safeguarding officer. The circuit safeguarding officer organises an active and on-going training programme for all those whose church office demands such training is undertaken; ensures that appropriate policies, checks, and declarations are in place or obtained at Circuit level; liaises with external safeguarding authorities as necessary and advises local churches as required. (The annual report of the circuit safeguarding officer appears below).

FINANCIAL VIABILITY.

The Covid-19 pandemic has naturally impacted the charity, as it has other groups. However, because of the financial situation and plans in place, there is not a concern about its ability to continue for the foreseeable future. There are a number of factors that underlie this statement.

- A. Income: 90% of the charitable income will come from the 38 churches within the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit (listed above) – known as assessments. The assessments cover the general running costs of the Circuit. Whilst understanding that income generally to the individual churches is declining, most have a level of reserves necessary to maintain the set assessment level. It is recognised that some are unable to meet their commitment and so circuit reserves are needed.
- B. Expenditure. Over the last two years, as previously reported, there has been a circuit review in progress. Largely this has been to do with the structure of ministry in the Circuit which impacts on the number of presbyters appointed within the Circuit, whose stipend and accommodation costs represent 74% of the budget. (For note: When presbyters are appointed, they initially come for five years, and the lead time for re-appointing/changing can take over eighteen months). The trustees at its meeting in Sept 2021 approved a process to reduce the presbyteral staff by around 27% over the next three years. This should result in a saving in total expenditure levels in the order of £150,000 per annum. The resultant savings will mean that the required income from the churches through the set assessments can hopefully be reduced. To maintain support for missional outreach in the Circuit, it is intended to increase the number of lay workers as additional support to churches where their employment would be beneficial.
- C. Reserves levels.
 - a. Manses – with the planned reduction of ministerial staff, three manses would become available for sale (increasing unrestricted reserves) or letting (increasing annual revenue income).
 - b. Regrettably some of our churches have had to close (see elsewhere in this report) and others may well follow suit. When this happens, the managing trusteeship passes to the Circuit and the church is then usually sold. As with sold manses, this would represent additional funds going into our unrestricted reserves.

The trustees are therefore satisfied that current level of reserves together with the financial measures being put in place as identified above gives confidence in the ongoing viability of the charity.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The charitable objectives are the advancement of religion, in particular as set out or referred to in the purposes, doctrines and provisions of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. The Circuit seeks to live out the calling of the Methodist Church which is summarised thus:

"The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship and mission. Inspired by Our Calling, we aim:

- To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love;
- To help people grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care;
- To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice;
- To make more followers of Jesus Christ."

The Circuit encourages and supports the churches within it in the provision of regular public acts of worship open to members and non-members alike; the provision of space for prayer and contemplation; the teaching and sharing of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups; pastoral work; the provision of opportunities for worship, teaching, fellowship and social inter-action for all ages and genders; the support of other charities in the UK and overseas with both prayer and finance.

The aims, objectives, policies and activities of the Circuit are under regular review, with particular attention being given to the church/community interface, and to undertaking and prioritising the Circuit's endeavours in accordance with its mission policy. Such reviews have been given new impetus with the adoption by the Circuit Assembly in March 2021 of a refreshed Mission Policy and Plan which in summary identifies priorities for action to be overseen by the Superintendent and the portfolio holders.

MISSION POLICY

The refreshed mission policy and plan is intended to guide and prioritise the Circuit's use of its financial, people and property resources, and to encourage and guide local churches in their own mission and ministry. Work and consultation to develop further and implement the Circuit's vision and strategy for mission are continuing endeavours as evidenced by the Priorities for Action which appear below for each portfolio in the Mission Policy and Plan.

Thus the Circuit's mission policy is intended to guide:-

- a. the ministerial oversight of the Local Churches in the Circuit (this includes those churches in a variety of ecumenical partnerships);
- b. the support of a ministry team of presbyteral ministers, deacon, supernumerary ministers, lay community, family or outreach workers, a chaplain to Hartpury University, and lay circuit administrators;
- c. the location and maintenance of the manses; and
- d. the financial ability to underwrite current and future specific circuit projects thereby ensuring that they are able to be created and sustained.

MISSION PLAN

The Circuit Assembly has agreed a refreshed Mission Plan in March 2021.

Who we are

Methodists believe that:

- All people need to be reached by God's grace.
- All people can be reached by God's grace.
- All people can know God's grace.
- All people can be transformed completely by God's grace.

As the Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire, which is a group of Methodist churches in Gloucestershire:

- We celebrate and respond to the love of God made known in Christ through worship, mission and daily discipleship.
- We cherish our place, as part of the wider Methodist Church, in the worldwide church.
- We rejoice in working in partnership with other denominations, faiths and community groups.
- We embrace the diverse gifts and skills of people called to lay and ordained ministries.

Our reason for being

We are called to be to be a sign, witness, foretaste and instrument of God's Reign in the life of the world, so our life together is centred on worship and mission and we are committed to sharing the Good News. We witness to the transforming love of God through Jesus Christ in individual lives, communities and the wider world.

So, in fulfilling God's mission and our calling, we exist to:

- Connect
- Lead
- Support

the people and churches in the Circuit and communities.

Our guiding principles

All we do is shaped by the commitment to be faithful to Gospel values and to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God who through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit is present and active in the world. We are open to the continuing guidance and transformation of the Holy Spirit.

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So, we aspire to be a Circuit that is:

- Accountable
- Collaborative
- Generous
- Globally aware
- Inclusive
- Learning
- Socially committed
- Transparent
- Valuing of well being
- Willing to take risks

What we will do from 2021 to 2026:

Together as a Circuit and as Local Churches, our priorities and plans will be aligned with *Our Calling* and the church-wide strategy for evangelism and growth of the Methodist Church. These are the areas of mission and ministry that we will make plans to concentrate on and develop over the next four years.

The Circuit Mission Plan sets "direction of travel". Local Churches are invited to develop individual mission plans that are appropriate to their context. These plans will be considered when making decisions about staffing and making grants. Where a Local Church is unable to develop a mission plan its people can focus on worship, pastoral care and mutual support.

Each priority is intended to help the Circuit and its churches focus our time and energies over the next five years. The resources that are available to the Circuit will be directed towards supporting churches and groups that want to take initiatives that build on these priorities.

It is healthier for churches to concentrate on doing a few things well rather than trying to do too much, so no church is expected to try to do everything. The priorities are intended to encourage and support Local Churches in mission planning that is suited to their context; they are not a set of targets to be achieved or a list to be ticked.

Mission and ministry are exercised by Christians in their daily lives as well as their service through the Church. Some priorities may support individual disciples, others Local Churches and others will be undertaken uniquely and best by Circuit groups.

Many of these priorities are ongoing, but some could be given special focus at a particular time of the year in the life in the Circuit. Others involve ways of working that need to be ingrained in our culture so that they inform everything we engage in.

Mission Plan Summary – Priorities for Action

Learning and Caring

- Children's and Youth Ministry
- Vocational Discernment
- Contemplative Spirituality

Mission

- Digital ministry and Spirituality
- "Every church a growing church": supporting Local Church mission plans.
- New Places for New People.
- Church at the Margins.
- Ecumenical -Unity in worship and mission.

Social and Climate Justice

- Equality Diversity and Inclusion.
- Climate Emergency.

Personnel (Ministry)

- Reshaping Ordained and Lay Ministry.

Property

- Property Plan.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Circuit was formed on 1 September 2008 with the amalgamation of the former Cirencester, Stroud & Dursley, Gloucester, Tewkesbury & Cheltenham and Forest of Dean Methodist Circuits, comprising (at the outset of the 2020-21 financial year) forty churches and three classes of churches. The Circuit is responsible for raising the stipends and attendant costs of its ministerial and lay employed staff.

The Circuit's churches include twelve ecumenical partnerships of various kinds, linking us with the Baptist Church, Church of England, the Congregational Federation and the United Reformed Church. Two of these churches - Christchurch, Abbeydale (Gloucester), a Local Ecumenical Partnership - and Christ Church, Nailsworth, a Local Ecumenical Partnership - whose membership includes a significant proportion of Methodists - appoint and house their own ministers, whilst in several of the other LEPs, ministry is shared with the other participating denominations.

The Circuit is richly diverse sociologically and theologically, with churches serving city centre, inner city, suburban, town, village and hamlet locations. Styles of worship vary and several churches experiment with different worship styles, times and settings, with encouragement that churches learn from one another.

Throughout the pandemic the Circuit as a whole and through each of its churches has continued to seek faithfully to worship and serve God, the latter expressed through pastoral care, fellowship and service through and beyond each of its churches. Digital technology has been widely used to sustain these activities. Through the deployment of ministers and lay workers, through regular communication and various other aspects of administrative support together with the ongoing provision of safeguarding, pastoral and other training the Circuit has continued to encourage and resource its churches and members. The South West Learning Network has been particularly helpful during the pandemic in its support of the work of the Circuit through providing online opportunities for training.

Further details of the Circuit's endeavours are detailed in the **Portfolio Reports** set out below (the Finance Portfolio is dealt with later under '**Finance Review**').

Superintendent's Portfolio

Welcome for New Presbyters

In September 2020 we welcomed Revds. Rachel Hope and Wendy Tucker who had been appointed by the Methodist Conference to serve in the Circuit. This was a low key service, held under the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, at Cirencester Ashcroft Church which was live streamed around the Circuit. Rev'd. Esther Mason, a Baptist minister, was welcomed and inducted as the minister at Christ Church, Nailsworth in July 2021.

Refreshing the Mission Plan

The refreshed Circuit Mission Policy and Plan is found elsewhere in this Report. It was adopted unanimously by the Circuit Assembly and will be kept under regular review. It is intended to shape our priorities and our activities up to 2026. The challenge for the coming year will be to ensure that it is owned and embedded into the thinking of the churches in the Circuit. We will also have to ensure that it informs and shapes the work of circuit officers, including ministers, lay employees and portfolio holders.

Reshaping the Circuit Staffing

The report from the personnel portfolio holder indicates the significant work that was done to develop proposals to reshape the lay and ordained staffing of the Circuit. The proposed changes will be implemented over the next three years. The intention is to ensure that the Circuit Mission Plan is properly resourced in a context when budgets are constrained and the number of Methodist ministers available is reducing. One of the principles on which we work is that partnership between ordained and lay people is fundamental to our understanding of the way in which God calls people to ministry in the life of the world.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The whole year has been overshadowed by the pandemic and its effects will continue. The initiatives to sustain our worship, pastoral care and service to the community that began last year have continued. Most churches cautiously began to use their building for worship and other activities from May 2021. We have been changed because of the experience. The use of digital technology has accelerated and will stay with us in ways that will enrich worship, lead to fresh approaches to nurturing discipleship and evangelism as well as improving our carbon foot-print. We have also been bruised as the pandemic has exposed our weaknesses including the financial models on which we work and our over dependence on a few people to take on a lot of responsibility. My thanks should be expressed to the COVID-19 Action Group for their support and wisdom.

Closure of Woolaston and Brimscombe Churches

During the year the people in Brimscombe and Woolaston Methodist Churches took the decision to cease public worship. In both cases we are thankful for God's faithfulness over more than 100 years in using these societies as a witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the generations of people who have offered themselves in the service of Christ in their communities.

God in Love Unites Us

The Methodist Conference adopted the *God in Love Unites Us* report which allows Church Councils to register their church buildings for the conduct of same sex marriages while affirming that individuals and churches prevented by conscience from accepting the development have their position held with equal respect in the Church. All the members of Eastington Methodist Church indicated their intention to resign their Methodist membership after the report was accepted. We wish them God's blessing as they discern God's purpose for them in the future.

Thanks

I conclude with another word of gratitude to the lay officers of the Circuit for the incredible energy, skill, commitment and grace with which they serve the Circuit. The circuit stewards who were appointed last year have made a positive start in linking the individual church with the wider Circuit of which they are a part. Without these people the Circuit would not be able to do its work. I also want to thank the ministers and lay workers who have all been a delight to serve alongside.

The Revd. John Hellyer, Superintendent Minister

Learning & Caring Portfolio

During the connexional year 2020-21 the programme of learning and training opportunities for the Circuit has been broad. It has been mainly on-line due to the restrictions.

There has been training both in groups and for individuals on using Zoom and video editing. This has been particularly helpful for those leading worship.

Additional quarterly meetings in each of the four areas of the Circuit continue to be held regularly for our local preachers as workshops in anticipation of the next three months' lectionary Bible readings. One evening focused particularly on the Theology of Safeguarding. There have also been sessions where resources for the leading of Local Arrangement Services have been shared. These have been organised and led by members of the Worship Taskforce.

A series of videos were produced to encourage members of the churches to reflect on their vocation both current and future.

The Circuit Children & Young People Network convener began working on a proposal to bring together the families with children and young people in our churches together with those who work regularly with them for a residential weekend at a venue in the county when the situation allows. The weekend would be organised around a series of activities with worship together on the Sunday morning. Sadly Covid-19 restrictions meant that this did not happen. The Circuit Children and Young People Network Convener post is vacant from September 2021 and new ways will be sought to bring our young people together this coming year.

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One of our young people took part in this year's Pulse Leadership Academy Summer event, run by PSALMS building on the previous year's link with the Academy.

The Circuit continues to provide a Bristol Methodist District representative on the Forum of the South West Learning Network of the Methodist Church which gives access to a further range of training and learning opportunities offered by members of the connexional team. Since lockdown, virtual training has been employed linking with the South-West Learning Network Team. Sessions that the team provide are widely circulated.

Members of the Gloucestershire Circuit Ministry team are much involved in supporting the District in training related to Eco matters and Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, also Contemplative Ministry. The circuit EDI group will be putting together a range of videos to inspire people to think on issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Two sessions for those involved in pastoral visiting and pastoral care were led by a minister experienced in this field. The circuit safeguarding portfolio holder led a session where church safeguarding officers were reminded of their roles and responsibilities. School volunteers, and school governors met together to share experiences.

While face-to-face meetings have not been possible, online sessions have proved invaluable and future training will involve a mixture of both. Plans for the next year include Healing Ministry, Mission and Vision in Churches and building on the ongoing work of the varying groups in the Circuit.

The Revd Michelle Ireland, Presbyter holding the Learning & Caring Portfolio

Mission Portfolio

Enabling and supporting mission across the Circuit during the pandemic has been a challenge. However, I have been encouraged that many of the churches in the Circuit have experienced growth in new and innovative ways. In particular, the increased use of technology in worship, fellowship groups, young people's groups etc. has been very successful in some churches. The reach of the Church beyond its doors through Zoom and online events has been for many people a new means of mission. This is both exciting and encouraging.

As we start to move out of the pandemic and all continue to live with the 'new normal', the initiatives in the Circuit Mission Plan are starting to take shape. Churches are beginning to work more closely together and in some areas of the Circuit they are establishing 'team ministry.' This will in many ways inform how 'mission' is carried out in those places. The churches in the Gloucester area are a good example of this. There is great potential for some kind of pioneer work to happen in the centre of Gloucester. Conversations are in the early stages, but I have real hope that this will be a positive way forward. Similar pioneer work is also beginning in the Innsworth area – specifically on the new housing developments. Other churches are also either already engaging in some form of pioneer work or are looking to do so in the near future. Bishop's Cleeve is one example of this. This demonstrates a real sense of vision for the future.

A series of videos on 'resourcing mission' is being created. These will be available for all churches to engage with in small groups, in church services or however they choose to use them. I hope to be able to give more information about these at a later date.

In summary, I am encouraged and excited to work more closely with churches across the Circuit as they develop their own mission plans within the wider Circuit Mission Policy and Plan adopted by the Circuit Assembly.

Deacon Sue Peat, Mission Portfolio Holder

Personnel Portfolio

In September 2020 the Circuit welcomed the Rev'ds Rachel Hope and Wendy Tucker, two Methodist presbyteral ministers. The ministerial staffing of the Circuit then became as follows: 11 full-time presbyters; a full-time deacon; 3 part-time presbyters; 3 part-time supernumeraries; 1 authorised presbyter. This equated to 13 full-time equivalent ministers receiving the stipend prescribed by the Methodist Conference for that year. Two of the supernumeraries were not paid stipends. The third part-time supernumerary at Christ Church Nailsworth (LEP) and the URC minister authorised to serve the Circuit at Christchurch Abbeydale (LEP) were employed independently. There was one change during the year in the summer when the Rev'd Esther Mason, a Baptist minister, came to Christ Church Nailsworth and the part-time Methodist supernumerary then stepped down; the financial arrangement remained the same.

At its March 2021 meeting the Circuit Assembly appointed the next Circuit Invitation Committee comprising a representative from each church together with a number of ex officio members. Training sessions for all members of the committee were arranged in early June by the District Chair in order to acquaint members with the Code of Practice and to emphasise the importance of identifying unconscious bias in decision making. These two training sessions and all subsequent consultations related to the invitation and stationing process this year have been held by Zoom because of the pandemic.

Following the training sessions two circuit stewards held conversations with each of the six presbyters whose term of appointment in the Circuit is due to end in 2022. The two part-time presbyters indicated that they did not wish an extension this time. Two of the full-time presbyters made a similar decision and the remaining two let the circuit stewards know that they each wished for an extension of five years to be considered. Members of the Circuit Invitation Committee were informed of the outcome of these discernment conversations and a consultation process, clearly defined in the Code of Practice, then followed involving local churches and other areas of the two presbyters' work in the community. The Circuit Invitation Committee met (virtually) to consider the offers of extension and the responses of those consulted. Both offers had been very warmly received. The committee unanimously recommended to the Circuit Assembly acceptance of the offers. (This has now been similarly approved unanimously by Assembly at its meeting in September 2021)

The Circuit Assembly held in March 2021 unanimously adopted a refreshed Circuit Mission Plan. This included the intention to reshape ordained and lay staffing in the Circuit from September 2022. In the light of the decisions affecting the six presbyters whose term of appointment is due to end in 2022, proposals for re-shaping the staffing of the Circuit for September 2022 were discussed at a special meeting of the Assembly in July 2021. The proposals were predicated on two of the stated aims for staffing in the Mission Plan: "Identify where numbers of ordained ministers can be reduced" and "the strategic deployment of lay workers". Four Area consultation meetings followed to which the circuit ministers with pastoral charge and two stewards from each church were invited and at which further discussion and reflection upon the staffing proposals took place with the aim of helping members to see both the bigger picture of ministry across the Circuit as well as how they would affect their local church.

The staffing proposals envisage reducing the number of Methodist ordained ministers by 2.5 full time equivalents from September 2022 with a possible further reduction of a presbyter from September 2023. We already knew that the Rev'd Simon Topping was due to leave in August 2021 to become Superintendent of North East Somerset and Bath Circuit. To offset the reduction in ministerial staffing it was proposed that the employment of lay workers engaged in children/youth/family outreach work represented by 3.88 full-time equivalents at present could be increased to 5.81 by 2023-24 in addition to a further part-time lay worker paid for by legacy. (This proposed staffing plan has now been accepted by the Circuit Assembly at its September 2021 meeting).

In June the Circuit congratulated the Rev'd Rachel Leather who had successfully completed two years' probation and was received at the Methodist Conference into full connexion and ordained as a Methodist presbyter.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
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For 2020-21 the Circuit was the named employer of nine lay workers:-

- Two part-time administrators, one whose work is focused primarily on finance and the other on general administration. Before Covid-19 both worked in the circuit office at 18 College Green, Gloucester, which is leased by the Circuit from the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral. Since March 2020 as a consequence of the pandemic they have mostly worked from home. Their line manager is the Superintendent.
- Five part-time Children/Youth/Families Outreach workers based in the Methodist churches at Churchdown, Eastington, Gloucester Lonsdale Road, Tetbury and Tewkesbury together with a part-time hospitality worker at Cheltenham Bethesda Methodist Church and a full-time Mission and Outreach Project worker employed at Cirencester Ashcroft Methodist Church.

Each of these lay workers has a management and support group comprising members of the local church and a representative of the Circuit Assembly. An annual report of the work of the lay worker is submitted by these groups to the Circuit Assembly. The Circuit continues to contribute to the funding of a part-time time chaplain at Hartpury University and to be represented on her support group by the Superintendent and a circuit steward.

Russell Buley, Circuit Steward holding the Personnel Portfolio

Property Portfolio

Despite the period of lockdown this year the manse stewards have continued to maintain the thirteen manses of the Circuit. All but one have been occupied as intended by the ministerial staff. The thirteenth property which has not been required for circuit staffing this year has been let on a shorthold assured tenancy. Two quinquennial inspections have been completed whilst the remaining six will be completed by the end of November 2021. The Circuit remains grateful for the considerable time and effort expended by the team of manse stewards led by Sally Hall in responding to urgent property repairs and ensuring the manses are suitably maintained as homes for our ministers.

The Circuit is also grateful to the five burial ground stewards who monitor the condition of the Circuit's retained burial grounds at Ellwood, Highleadon, Kemerton, Oakridge Lynch and Randwick. Whilst the rebuilt retaining wall at Oakridge Lynch has been completed, and responsibility for maintaining the stone fascia of the wall now assumed by the neighbour, there is a graveyard wall close to the neighbour causing concern to the neighbour. Movement of this wall is currently being monitored with the aim of satisfying the neighbour that the wall is stable.

In addition to one of the manses, Yew Tree Cottage continues to be tenanted whilst the flat is currently vacant. Walmore Hill School premises remain leased to the Local Education Authority.

This financial year has seen the completion of the sale of both the Sheepscombe and Lydney Methodist Church buildings. With planning consent being approved for May Hill Methodist Church the premises are currently being marketed.

The managing trustees at Tewkesbury Methodist Church have now engaged an architect to draw up plans for the Welcome Space project.

Bernie Brewster, Property Portfolio Holder

Social and Climate Justice Portfolio

The Circuit's Social and Climate Justice team meets quarterly to consider ways to offer leadership on this portfolio to the Circuit.

The team successfully got the Circuit to adopt its first environmental policy at its Assembly in March 2021. The team is continuing to support circuit churches to become Eco Churches, and to support the whole Circuit to become an Eco Circuit.

The team was responsible for developing and getting agreement to the Eco Church and Climate Emergency and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) plans within the Circuit's new Mission Plan. Related to this, the team agreed to develop the SCJ team by adding the roles of Social Justice Officer and Climate Justice Officer to replace the Social Responsibility Officer, in order to provide named leadership to those elements of the Circuit's Mission Plan.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
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In considering how to implement the EDI plans, the team is working on developing tools for training and encouraging discussions on inclusiveness within our churches.

The portfolio also takes a lead in providing content for the Circuit's Facebook page, as a means of engaging with the people of Gloucestershire about matters of concern affecting the spiritual, economic, social and environmental life of the county. Work on the development of the Circuit's social media presence is being coordinated via a new Circuit Social Media team.

Andy Rickell, Circuit Steward holding the Climate and Social Justice Portfolio

CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Following closely the "Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidelines of the Methodist Church in Britain" (updated September 2020), the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all people and affirms that the needs of children and of adults when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount. The Circuit Safeguarding Policy was reviewed on 21st March 2021. This policy outlines the purpose and procedures of the Circuit Assembly and individual churches, and the roles and responsibilities of the Superintendent, circuit safeguarding officer, circuit and church trustees in achieving its safeguarding commitment and in promoting the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable adults within the Circuit.

The circuit safeguarding officer, in liaison with ministers and individual church safeguarding officers, offers guidance on safeguarding matters and checks that churches are complying with the robust procedures and guidance of the Methodist Church through self-evaluation audits. The circuit safeguarding officer maintains a database of DBS and training records of all volunteers in the Circuit and liaises with the Bristol District safeguarding officer and other external safeguarding authorities, as necessary.

The Circuit provides Foundation Safeguarding training for its volunteers, who are expected to attend a course every four years, and similarly Advanced Module Safeguarding training through the Bristol District. Due to restrictions on face-to-face training created by the Covid-19 pandemic, volunteers have been encouraged to attend on-line training for both these modules presented by the Methodist South-West Learning Network during this period. The Methodist Church has temporarily extended the four-year training period to five. The Circuit will recommence face-to-face training when it is considered safe to do so.

Peter Gardner, Circuit Safeguarding Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Covid-19

The 2020/21 financial year was, as noted elsewhere, again challenging for the Circuit. However, the Charity is in a good financial position despite the Covid-19 pandemic and can be considered financially secure for the next 12 months and into the coming years (re previous section 'Financial Viability').

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

Financial Aims

Our aim is twofold:

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding source of the Charity:

- Is raised primarily in the form of assessments (levies) on each of our circuit churches, as set out by Standing Orders.
- To support our missional work, additional funding comes from external sources in the form of grants, which relate to a specific project and for a limited period of time.
- Rental income from three investment properties, one of which is a primary school leased by Gloucestershire County Council.
- Rental income for part of the year for an unoccupied manse.

We understand the requirements under charity regulations to disclose our involvement in fundraising. The Charity does not generate funds from commercial activities and charitable activities other than identified above.

Assessments (monies levied on each church in the Circuit) provide the majority (over 90%) of the Circuit's income (excluding recovery of lay employment salary costs through grants and churches). A Circuit Finance Support Group, representative of large and small, urban and rural churches assists the circuit treasurer and assistant treasurer in monitoring and reviewing the changes in the assessment calculation process, as well as the regular financial monitoring. During 2020/21, as a result of some churches being unable to fully meet their assessments in the latter part of the year due to churches being closed, the shortfall (an amount of £21,887 which represents 2.9% of the total assessments) was covered by additional donations from churches with larger reserves together with Circuit reserves.

The circuit assessment is reviewed annually and covers the costs of 1a-c of the Mission Policy, together with other general administration expenses. It is calculated on a combination of

- i. The unrestricted and non-designated income (excluding lettings income) of a church.
- ii. The number of members in each church.
- iii. The average attendance at services, averaged over the year.

The current proportional split is (i) 60%, (ii) 20%, (iii) 20%.

Support to churches having difficulty meeting the agreed assessments, or because of particular local difficulty, has been offered through an assessment relief grant or other available funds. Financial support for churches will be continued where appropriate.

Grants

IN - £7,858 was received via the government Covid Furlough scheme. This was for Lay workers at Tetbury & Eastington and Church Maintenance employees at St John's (Gloucester) and Fairford. Of the received amount, £5,793 was paid over directly to the individual church.

OUT - Through the Model Trust Fund (MTF) and other funds, grants were made available for assessment support. The MTF, and other circuit funds, were also used to support the outreach workers as well as general expenditure.

Grants made during the year included:

- £8,868 – To cover the planned assessment receipts not achieved following the sale of Tibberton and Lydney chapels.
- £38,820 – As a contribution/grant towards the employment of church-based lay workers plus the Hartpury chaplaincy.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Financial summary

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Incoming Resources:		
Assessments	752,737	766,955
Church Grants to support Assessments	-	37,870
Property/Investment	36,898	34,086
Other Income	105,681	96,443
Proceeds of Sale from Circuit Property	389,044	205,224
Total	1,284,360	1,140,578

Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and other staff and the maintenance of the manses. The total costs for the year were:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Resources expended:		
Staffing	618,193	603,482
Manse maintenance	52,534	24,763
Property / church grants	21,184	42,323
District / URC / Cong. Federation Costs	166,291	163,362
DAF levy	7,308	4,250
Other governance costs	174,659	186,950
Connexional levy on Sales of Churches	100,578	55,666
Total	1,140,747	1,080,796

Net movement in funds: surplus

143,613 59,782

FUNDS

The funds held by the charity are detailed in note 14 to the financial statements.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund (MTF) – The receipts are principally derived from monies received from the sale of chapels, manses and other property, less legal fees and a compulsory levy to the Connexional Property Fund (CPF) (for sale values up to £100,000, the levy is 20%; over £100,000, levy = 40%).

The MTF is unrestricted in its nature, being available for all Methodist Trust purposes. The Model Trust Fund is used by the Circuit for a variety of mission, ministry and property projects. A compulsory annual levy (based on the year-end balance of the Fund) transfers funds to the Bristol District to be made available by the District by way of grants in respect of new initiatives in mission and ministry. This levy taken on 1/9/2020 was £7,308. On the basis of the fund balance at 31/8/21, the levy to be taken on 1/9/21 will be £13,312.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
MTF balance at 31 August	294,155	196,162

Main MTF Movements: Income – Net proceeds from Church sales (Sheepscombe and Lydney)\Interest\Fund Revaluations £254,259; Outgoings – £156,266 District Levy\Transfer to other Circuit funds to cover budget support costs in year plus known committed projects (lay and property work).

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

RESERVES POLICY

As at 31 August 2021 the Circuit had the following funds:
(See Note 14 to the Financial Statements for details of funds held)

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Restricted	30,777	31,156
Designated	203,826	151,695
Unrestricted (manse properties + fixed assets) *	4,023,563	4,024,582
Unrestricted (MTF and others)	446,064	353,184
Total Funds	4,704,230	4,560,617

* Note: These funds cannot be realised unless the manses are disposed of.

It is recognised that the level of Minimum Reserves is set to cover the running costs of the Circuit (mainly ministers\staff costs) in the event of a sudden drop in income. Generally, the loss of charity income (substantially being assessments from churches) would, in reality, be on a gradual basis over a number of years (i.e. if church membership declined and leaving a church less able to pay the full level of assessment). In the event of this type of decline, there would be time and options for structured planning of the re-deployment of ministers within the wider Methodist Connexion, with the consequential saving in circuit costs. Indeed, in the regrettable event of a church closure and subsequent sale, additional funds would be available to cover commitments.

It was considered that we could sensibly set the level of Minimum Reserves necessary at £125,000 to provide a level sufficient for day-to-day cash flow and a level of funds which could be made available for unidentified projects. This does not affect the viability of the Charity (the Circuit) whilst, at the same time, making available funds for supporting those future mission options.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the impact on churches has been significant. Most churches have covered their drop in income by using reserves, so contributions to the Circuit through Assessments have not been affected (other than the £21,887 already noted). Indeed, the shortfall from some smaller churches was covered by surplus donations made in the previous year, together with use of Circuit reserves.

As churches get back together, their income should improve and provide a little more stability for the churches as, for example, buildings can be used again for lettings.

The Charity's reserves level will be monitored closely through the next year to ensure funds are available to meet its commitments. The anticipated circuit review has now been completed (see elsewhere in this report) which will lead to annual savings in staffing costs as well as possible gains in redundant Manses being let or sold. This will ease the overall circuit expenditure and thus hopefully lead to a reduction in church assessments.

Balance of Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds over the Minimum Reserves level, are available for identified projects or general budget support, if approved by the Circuit Assembly.

STAFFING COMMITMENTS

Along with the presbyters and deacon, we have financially supported the lay workers who work in the following areas of the Circuit:

- Part-time Families or Communities Workers at Tewkesbury, Eastington, Gloucester Lonsdale Road, Churchdown, Bethesda – Cheltenham; and
- Full-time worker at Cirencester Ashcroft.

We have financially supported by grants in partnership:

- with the Gloucester Diocese and Hartpury University, a part-time Chaplain at Hartpury University; and
- at Nailsworth Christ Church LEP a part-time Families worker.

Brian Cook, Circuit Steward holding the Finance Portfolio up to August '21.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (UK GAAP)).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application or resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The Circuit Meeting (Assembly) is responsible for ensuring that the relevant circuit stewards, officers and administrators keep proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 200. It is also responsible, including through the appointment of relevant circuit stewards, officers and administrators, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

As far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The Circuit's auditors, Hazlewoods LLP have indicated their willingness to accept reappointment as auditors.

ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT MEETING

Signed: Michelle Ireland Jayne Webb 20.03.2022
Date

Print name REV MICHELLE JANE IRELAND REV JAYNE WEBB

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditors under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 14, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Charity financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the company. We determined that the most significant laws and regulations included UK GAAP, the Charities SORP FRS 102 and Charities Act 2011;
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual characteristics.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also planned and performed audit procedures including:

- Gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework and considering the risk of any acts which may be contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluation of the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Making inquiries with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud.
- Testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions outside the normal course of the charity's activities.
- Evaluation of the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclusion on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Hazlewoods LLP - Statutory Auditor

Date 26 April 2022

Staverton Court
Staverton
Cheltenham, GL51 0UX

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CIRCUIT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
INCOME							
Grants and donations							
Donations and recovery of expenses		105,681	-	105,681	96,443	-	96,443
Church sale proceeds		389,044	-	389,044	205,224	-	205,224
Charitable activities							
Assessments		752,737	-	752,737	804,825	-	804,825
Investments							
Property income	2	32,084	-	32,084	31,209	-	31,209
Investment income	3	4,680	134	4,814	2,674	203	2,877
Total income		1,284,226	134	1,284,360	1,140,375	203	1,140,578
EXPENDITURE							
Raising funds							
Property	4	(4,686)	-	(4,686)	(4,717)	-	(4,717)
Charitable activities							
Grants	5	(21,184)	-	(21,184)	(42,323)	-	(42,323)
Other	5	(1,114,877)	-	(1,114,877)	(1,033,756)	-	(1,033,756)
Total expenditure		(1,140,747)	-	(1,140,747)	(1,080,796)	-	(1,080,796)
Net movement in funds		143,479	134	143,613	59,579	203	59,782
Funds:							
Brought forward		4,529,461	31,156	4,560,617	4,464,336	36,499	4,500,835
Transfers between funds		513	(513)	-	5,546	(5,546)	-
Carried forward	14	4,673,453	30,777	4,704,230	4,529,461	31,156	4,560,617

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CIRCUIT BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		3,606,371		3,607,390
Investment properties	11		<u>417,192</u>		<u>417,192</u>
			4,023,563		4,024,582
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	585,879		436,877	
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>122,758</u>		<u>128,741</u>	
		708,637		565,618	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors due within one year	13	(27,970)		(29,583)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>680,667</u>		<u>536,035</u>	
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>4,704,230</u>		<u>4,560,617</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	14		4,673,453		4,529,461
Restricted funds	14		30,777		31,156
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>4,704,230</u>		<u>4,560,617</u>

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Circuit Meeting and authorised for issue on 20.03.2022
and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: Michelle G. Ireland Jayne E Webb

Print name: REV MICHELLE JANE IRELAND REV JAYNE WEBB

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CIRCUIT CASH FLOW STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net movement in funds		143,613	59,782
Adjustments for non-cash items:			
Depreciation	10	1,019	1,359
Net interest received		(4,814)	(2,877)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Working capital adjustments:			
Increase in debtors		(149,002)	(29,983)
Decrease in creditors		(1,614)	(6,065)
Net cash flow from operating activities		(10,798)	22,216
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		4,814	2,877
Net cash flow from investing activities		4,814	2,877
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(5,983)	25,093
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		128,741	103,648
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August		122,758	128,741
Cash balances at 31 August		63,304	43,132
Other cash balances held by third parties		59,454	85,609
Cash and cash equivalents per balance sheet at 31 August		122,758	128,741

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these accounts.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Circuit's financial statements.

Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements relate to the work of the Circuit, in all aspects.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with: applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards; the Charity Commission 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The functional currency of the Circuit is pound sterling (£).

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast a significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

In making the current year's assessment the trustees have taken into account cash reserves and available unrestricted funds at the point of approving the financial statements, reviewed detailed forecasts that take account of the anticipated impact of the coronavirus pandemic and considered the availability and use of Government support, such as staff furlough schemes.

There are inherent uncertainties regarding the forecasts, such as the extent of the impact of the UK recession on the Charity and the levels of future incoming resources. However, the Charity continues to receive assessments from and be supported the Circuit's churches and the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from approval of these financial statements.

Consequently, the trustees have concluded that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual statements.

Judgements and estimation uncertainty

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

The trustees have made judgements and estimates in respect of: the fair value of tangible assets; asset depreciation rates and the recoverability of debtor balances in preparing these financial statements.

Donated goods

Individual donated goods of a consumable nature valued under £500 such as harvest festival produce are not shown in these financial statements. Those over this amount or of a capital nature are recorded.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Income

Income as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the net amounts from all sources.

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period;
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and the charity is not contractually entitled to the income until the work has been done; and
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities other than where grants are deferred to match the income to expenditure over the life of the project.

Church sale proceeds

As required under Methodist Standing Orders, when a chapel is sold, sale proceeds (less costs and the Connexional Property Fund levy) are generally due to the Circuit. Such proceeds are recognised as charitable income in the year they are received.

Investment income

Investment income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period on a receivable basis.

Grants to local churches

Grants to local churches for property schemes and other purposes are accounted for as liabilities when they receive formal approval by the Trustees.

Other grants payable

Grants awarded to other charitable bodies are accounted for as liabilities in the year in which the award is made. Multi-period grants are accounted for in full in the year awarded where there is a binding commitment to make the future payments.

Designated funds

Where the Circuit has agreed to use its reserves to meet revenue costs or to meet future capital costs it has designated the funds within unrestricted reserves. It also makes provision in this way when it has indicated its support for a local church building scheme, but no actual liability has yet been created.

Expenditure

Costs are defined as follows:

Raising funds	Includes those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and in applying for new funding and sponsorship.
Charitable	The costs of delivering the charitable activities and the costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and including fees for external scrutiny of the accounts and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs directly relating to a particular activity are allocated directly and other costs (support costs) are allocated on an appropriate basis to reflect the usage of resources.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Leased assets

In respect of leases that are operating leases, the annual rentals are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applicable and applied to charitable purposes only. Income tax suffered on deeds of covenant and gift aid or investment income is reclaimed in full.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are shown at cost to the Charity, with the exception of the manses and other property assets. These have been included at cost if purchased from third parties, or if received from other Circuits, at their carrying value from the donor. Assets costing less than £1,000 are written off as revenue expenditure in the year of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost or valuation less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Manses	-	nil
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	25% per annum on net book value

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings, because of the estimated high residual value and the consequent immateriality of any depreciation charge. Freehold land is not depreciated. Fixed asset disposal proceeds are reported net of any levy payable to the CPF.

Investment properties

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost and subsequently at fair value at the reporting date. Depreciation is not provided on investment property.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and balances held by third parties on behalf of the charity.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension contributions

Methodist Ministers Pension Fund:

The Circuit is a member of the connexional pension scheme (MMPS) which covers presbyters and deacons of the Methodist Church. The contribution rates are set each year by the Methodist Conference. The MMPS is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the Circuit accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme. It has done so because it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period in which they are payable.

Circuit Pension Scheme:

The Circuit contributes to a defined contribution scheme for its lay staff and makes employer contributions of 6% of salary.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Circuit has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Circuit will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement, as financial assets or financial liabilities. All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Assets, other than those measured at fair value, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each balance sheet date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss as described below. Where indicators exist for a decrease in impairment loss, and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the prior impairment loss is tested to determine reversal. An impairment loss is reversed on an individual impaired financial asset to the extent that the revised recoverable value does not lead to a revised carrying amount higher than the carrying value had no impairment been recognised.

2 PROPERTY INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Rent received	32,084	-	32,084	31,209

THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Bank interest received	<u>4,680</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>4,814</u>	<u>2,877</u>

4 COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	2021 £	2020 £
Property costs	<u>4,686</u>	<u>4,717</u>

5 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Grants £	Other £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Stipends, salaries and expenses	-	618,193	618,193	587,648
Manse costs	-	52,534	52,534	24,763
Other grants	21,184	-	21,184	42,323
District assessments	-	166,291	166,291	163,362
District advance fund levy	-	7,308	7,308	4,250
Other costs	-	169,326	169,326	180,663
Depreciation	-	1,019	1,019	1,359
Audit, accountancy and other fees	-	47,209	47,209	25,738
Office, communications and other costs	-	52,997	52,997	42,748
Donations	-	-	-	3,225
Total 2021	<u>21,184</u>	<u>1,114,877</u>	<u>1,136,061</u>	<u>1,076,079</u>
Total 2020	<u>42,323</u>	<u>1,033,756</u>	<u>1,076,079</u>	

All the support costs incurred by the Charity are included in the above note and have been allocated to charitable activities as other activities are incidental to the running of the Charity.

6 GRANT MAKING ACTIVITIES

During the year £21,184 of grants were made to institutions. Other than to assist in external training, no grants were made to individuals. Grants made in the year to 31 August 2021 are analysed below.

	2021 £	2020 £
Assessment support	500	11,748
Church outreach	14,891	12,557
Other	<u>5,793</u>	<u>18,018</u>
	<u>21,184</u>	<u>42,323</u>

Support costs associated with grant making activities are not separable from the core activities of the Circuit and are not disclosed on this basis.

THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7 STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Stipends and salaries	486,876	471,277
Pension contributions – Methodist Ministers Scheme	89,246	78,874
Pension contributions – Other	6,017	5,306
Social security costs	36,054	32,191
	<u>618,193</u>	<u>587,648</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	Number	Number
	2021	2020
Ordained staff	13	13
Lay workers	4	4
Office staff	1	1
	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>

These figures do not include lay church maintenance workers, who are processed through the Circuit Lay Payroll system.

8 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND TRUSTEES EXPENSES

During the year expenses were reimbursed to 34 Trustees totalling £10,103 (2020: £21,832) in respect of travelling expenses and £18,353 (2020: £15,942) in respect of other Circuit Costs. All expenses were reimbursed to trustees who are salaried ministers' or lay trustees and were incurred in carrying out their roles and duties on behalf of the Circuit.

Information on remuneration paid to Trustees, who are also considered to be key management personnel by the Circuit is included in Note 20.

9 NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

This is stated after charging:	2021	2020
	£	£
Auditors remuneration - Audit of the annual accounts	5,665	5,500
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,019	1,359
Operating rentals – Circuit office rent	<u>4,007</u>	<u>3,700</u>

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

10 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Manses £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 September 2020	3,603,315	13,207	3,616,522
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 August 2021	<u>3,603,315</u>	<u>13,207</u>	<u>3,616,522</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 September 2020	-	9,132	9,132
Charge for the year	-	1,019	1,019
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 August 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>10,151</u>	<u>10,151</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31 August 2021	<u>3,603,315</u>	<u>3,056</u>	<u>3,606,371</u>
As at 1 September 2020	<u>3,603,315</u>	<u>4,075</u>	<u>3,607,390</u>

11 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Land and buildings £
Fair Value	
As at 1 September 2020 and at 31 August 2021	<u>417,192</u>

The trustees determine the fair value of investment properties to be as shown in the financial statements. The Circuit has not used an independent professionally qualified valuer to assist with determination of the investment value. Should investment properties be realised, the Circuit will owe levies to the TMCP before receipt of sale proceeds is obtained.

12 DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors and prepayments	62,335	78,282
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church property deposits	<u>523,544</u>	<u>358,595</u>
	<u>585,879</u>	<u>436,877</u>

13 CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Purchase ledger	20,684	24,083
Other creditors and accruals	<u>7,286</u>	<u>5,500</u>
	<u>27,970</u>	<u>29,583</u>

THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

14

ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Current year:	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
Property	4,024,582	-	(1,019)	-	4,023,563
Unrestricted property funds	4,024,582	-	(1,019)	-	4,023,563
MTF	196,162	254,259	(21,344)	(134,922)	294,155
General	157,022	1,029,798	(1,118,384)	83,473	151,909
Unrestricted other funds	353,184	1,284,057	(1,139,728)	(51,449)	446,064
Total non-designated	4,377,766	1,284,057	(1,140,747)	(51,449)	4,469,627
Designated funds					
Pioneering Ministry	2,500	-	-	(2,500)	-
Mission Bursary	8,737	-	-	(8,737)	-
Manse Maintenance	4,068	-	-	(4,068)	-
Minister Relocation	53	-	-	(53)	-
CFB committed funds	119,914	169	-	83,743	203,826
Assessment Support	10,411	-	-	(10,411)	-
Stipend Fund	6,012	-	-	(6,012)	-
	151,695	169	-	51,962	203,826
Total unrestricted	4,529,461	1,284,226	(1,140,747)	513	4,673,453
Restricted funds					
CFB – The Relief Fund	9,051	12	-	783	9,846
TMCP - Deakin Trust	799	-	-	-	799
TMCP - Marshall Trust	232	36	-	-	268
TMCP - Muriel Brooks	308	(3)	-	-	305
Pamela Selby	8,818	-	-	(8,818)	-
Benevolent Fund	787	-	-	(787)	-
TMCP - Kemerton Graveyard	5,372	7	-	(100)	5,279
TMCP - Manse Maintenance	4,668	6	-	-	4,674
TMCP - A W Maggs	1,121	74	-	(1,195)	-
CFB – restricted funds	-	2	-	9,604	9,606
Total restricted	31,156	134	-	(513)	30,777
Total funds	4,560,617	1,284,360	(1,140,747)	-	4,704,230

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

14 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (continued)

Prior year:	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted	4,314,565	1,139,417	(1,080,605)	4,389	4,377,766
Designated	149,771	958	(191)	1,157	151,695
Total unrestricted	4,464,336	1,140,375	(1,080,796)	5,546	4,529,461
Total restricted	36,499	203	-	(5,546)	31,156
Total funds	4,500,835	1,140,578	(1,080,796)	-	4,560,617

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Circuit funds are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	4,023,563	-	4,023,563
Cash at bank and in hand	113,153	9,605	122,758
Unrestricted TMCP Funds	315,368	-	315,368
Restricted TMCP Funds and other net current assets	221,369	21,172	242,541
	4,673,453	30,777	4,704,230

16 DESIGNATED FUNDS

Details of designated funds are as follows:

Mission Bursary	A bursary fund primarily for young people going to do Christian mission work overseas. Set up with funds from the sale proceeds of St Luke's church in Gloucester.
Assessment Support	To assist churches who are struggling to meet the set assessments.
Minister Relocation	To cover costs of ministers relocating to the Circuit.
Committed Projects Fund	To, mainly, cover the costs of Budget Support and missional lay employment.
Pioneering Ministry	To support the work of the Deacon at Innsworth.
Manse Maintenance	Surplus funds being held until required.
Stipends Fund	Surplus funds being held until required.
Other (under £1,000)	Designated for various uses.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

17 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Details of restricted funds are as follows:

The Relief Fund	To enable Methodist groups in the UK, as needs arise, to assist their work of supporting the relief of persons suffering or affected by disasters or major incidents by providing support and assistance to relieve their charitable needs caused by those events.
Pamela Selby	Bequest 'For the benefit of the Church's Ministry in the Forest of Dean'.
Kemerton Graveyard	Proceeds from the sale of Kemerton Church are to be used for the upkeep of the graveyard.
Manse Maintenance	For the upkeep of Circuit manses.
Other (under £1,500)	Various specific restrictions on usage.

18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity had no capital commitments at the year end.

19 OPERATING LEASES – LESSOR

The total of future minimum lease receipts is as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Expiry date:		
Within 1 year	25,245	8,580
Between 2 and 5 years	26,400	-
Over 5 years	23,650	-
	75,295	8,580

OPERATING LEASES – LESSEE

The total of future minimum lease payments is as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Expiry date:		
Within 1 year	4,007	3,700
Between 2 and 5 years	3,673	7,092
Over 5 years	-	-
	7,680	10,792

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Ministers

Stipends and allowances for presbyters and deacons (collectively ministers) are set annually by the Methodist Conference, and the Circuit is responsible for meeting those costs for all ministers appointed by the Conference to the Circuit.

The following ministers received the basic stipend (£25,524 or pro rata where applicable):

Rev'd John Hellyer	(Superintendent)
Rev'd Dr Simon Topping	(Part-time 0.167 FTE)
Rev'd Andrew Biggs	
Rev'd Naomi Cooke	
Rev'd Denise Hargreaves	
Rev'd Rachel Hope	
Rev'd Michelle Ireland	
Rev'd John Kime	(Part-time 0.5 FTE)
Rev'd Rachel Leather	
Rev'd Dr John McNeill	
Deacon Sue Peat	
Rev'd Stuart Radford	(Part-time 0.5 FTE – but costs fully reimbursed by Nailsworth LEP)
Rev'd Noel Sharp	(Part-time 0.33 FTE)
Rev'd Phil Summers	
Rev'd Wendy Tucker	
Rev'd Jayne Webb	

Minister appointments with a part-time 'no stipend' based appointment. Both are Supernumerary Ministers.

Rev'd Martin Turner	Cheltenham (Whaddon) LEP
Rev'd David King	Newent St Mary's LEP (From May 2018)

Apart from Rev'ds Kime, Sharp and Topping all were provided with living accommodation as required by the Methodist Church's Standing Orders. In addition to the basic stipend, the Superintendent was paid the Methodist Conference standard Superintendent's allowance (£2,552). No allowance now for Deputies.

Other ministers who are resident in the Circuit, for the purposes of the Methodist stations, but not in Circuit appointments or without appointment may also be members of the Circuit Assembly if they notify the Superintendent, but do not receive payment or accommodation from the Circuit, except for preaching fees and related expenses.

Local preachers

Of the Local Preachers' representatives who are members of the Circuit Assembly, only travel and other expenses related to fulfilling their preaching appointments are paid.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

20

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

Lay employees

The following are employees of the Circuit and are in receipt of salaries for the work they undertake in the capacities indicated.

Administrators

Louise Hebborn	Circuit Administrator (Administration) (28 hrs / wk.)
Michelle Warren	Circuit Administrator (Finance) (24 hrs / wk.)

Church Based Workers

Julie Biggs ++	Community Outreach Worker – Lonsdale Road, Gloucester (20hrs / wk.)
Linda Bone **	Part time Activity Leader - Tetbury (3 hrs / wk.)
Clair Prosser ++	Families Outreach Worker –Tewkesbury (20hrs /wk.)
Rachel Simpson ++	Hospitality & Pastoral Care Worker – Cheltenham Bethesda (24 hrs / wk.)
Charley Trykush ++	Families Outreach Worker - Churchdown (23hrs/wk.)
Anton Wynn ++	Mission & Outreach Project Worker (FT 37.5 hrs / wk.)
Roz Wisniewski ++	Youth & Families Worker – Eastington (20hrs/wk.)
Richenda Leigh	Chaplain – Employed by Hartpury University, 3-way grant funded,

Note 1:

Lay employee marked '++' – salaries were met by the church, with part funding granted from the Circuit and other sources.

Lay employee marked '**' – salaries were met fully by the local church.

Note 2:

To ensure correct payroll\payment procedures, a number of other people used by individual churches for caretakers\maintenance etc. are processed through the Circuit payroll system. The Circuit is fully reimbursed by each church for the salary costs.

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF TRUSTEES 2020/21

Note: Some Trustees are Trustees in more than one capacity, but only one vote per person is permitted.

Ministers:

Andrew Biggs	Naomi Cooke*	Denise Hargreaves
John Hellyer*	Rachel Hope	Michelle Ireland*
John Kime	Rachel Leather	John McNeill
Sue Peat*	Stuart Radford	Noel Sharp
Phil Summers	Simon Topping	Wendy Tucker
Martin Turner	Jayne Webb*	

Circuit Executive:

Bernie Brewster	Russell Buley	Brian Cook
Arthur Haines	Michael Haines	Liz Ledger
Andy Rickell	Lesley Ward	

(Plus asterisked ministers in the previous list who were representatives to, or who had particular responsibilities on, the Circuit Executive).

Additional trustees were (1) other circuit officers, District Synod representatives, and a lay worker whom the Assembly appointed as trustees on an ex officio basis, or because they were circuit officers who took up the option of being a trustee and member of the Assembly; (2) Supernumerary ministers or ministers in other appointments within the Circuit who took up the option of being a trustee and member of the Assembly; (3) Church elected representatives; and (4) Local Preacher elected representatives. They are as follows:

(1) Other Appointed Circuit Officers or Representatives who are Trustees (other than Trustees also appointed in another capacity):

John Bailey	Sue Clarke	Peter Gardner
Sally Hall	Celia Kidd	Graham Marsh

Circuit elected representatives to the District Synod

Russell Buley	Ken Burgin	Mike Haines
Liz Ledger	Jackie Morris	Keith Long
Malcolm Stevens	Peter Gardner	

Lay Worker whom the Assembly appointed to be a member

Julie Biggs

(2) Supernumerary Ministers who are Trustees (other than in another role):

Richard Atkins	Diane Daymond	Vernon Godden
Robbie Riddell	Martin Turner	Steve Ward

**THE METHODIST CIRCUIT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF TRUSTEES 2020/21 (continued)

(3) Church Elected Representatives (up to 3 elected representatives are allowed per church):
(# indicates they served for part of the year)

Abbeydale	Malcolm Brader	Peter Staite	
Amberley	Margaret Keck		
Apperley	Peter Stych		
Aylburton	Liz Day	Gerald Newcombe	Julia Newcombe
Bailey Lane End	Jim Morgan	Nigel Stewart	
Bishops Cleeve	Marie Chattell	Marie Lever	Ruth Whiting
Bream	Helen Clements	Rebecca Morgan	
Brimscombe	Jenny Blockley	Sarah Elliott	
Cam	John Jewell	Alastair MacLeod	
Chalford Hill	Tony Gittings	Stuart Hobbs	
Cheltenham - Bethesda	Moirra Anderson	Elaine Bailey	Keith Norman
Cheltenham - St Marks	Matthew Courtney	Derek Porter	Ann Varley
Cheltenham - Whaddon	Biddy Turner		
Churchdown	George Govan	Eric Lambert	
Cinderford	Philip Hyne		
Cirencester	Brenda Climer		
Clements End	Angela Allcock	Arthur Haines	Bridget Purvis
Coalway	Fred Burrough	David Norman	Enid Norman
Drybrook	John Rogers	Henry Hayward	Pam Hayward
Dursley	Sally Hall	Meriel Hellen	Christine Wetton
Eastington	Ken Burgin	Rebecca Burgin	
Fairford	Rachel Emmerson	Christine Watson	
Gloucester - Barton Street	Eric John	Harold Mumford	
Gloucester - Lonsdale Road	Mike Haines	Peter Hillier	Jill Tucker
Gloucester - St. John's	Mary Hellyer	Malcolm Stevens	Christine Gardner
Harpury	David Ledger	Liz Ledger	
Hucclecote	Richard Clarke	Malcolm Trigg	John Rainbow
Nailsworth	Chris Law	Margaret Marshall	
Newent	Susan Cook	Fred Passant	
Pillowell	Derrick Dobbs	Malvina Dobbs	Lynne Kear
Quedgeley	Elaine Cameron	Norman Wilson	
Randwick	Stuart Gregory	Brian Stanley	
South Cerney	Joanne Oldridge		
Stonehouse	Sue Burnham	Ginny Young	Alex Walmsley
Stroud	Pete Watt	Mary Wilkinson	Ingram Rose
Tetbury	Sue Cook	Barbara Woodcraft	
Tewkesbury	Jean Davies	Lin Sallis	Patricia Turner
Winchcombe	Joan Onions	Geoff Onions	Trevor Upton
Woolaston	Liz Lander		
Wotton - under - Edge	Reg Clarke	Alison Jackson	

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF TRUSTEES 2020/21 (continued)

(4) Local Preacher elected Representatives (up to 10 nominees are allowed) (other than Trustees also appointed in another capacity):

Peter Allsopp
Adele Garner

John Bell
Neil Grecian

David Bennett
Ann Pearce