

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Peterborough Methodist Circuit for the church year 1st September 2017 to 31st August 2018

(Registered Charity No 1135613)



Produced by the Peterborough Circuit of the Methodist Church
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Our Mission Statement

"The Peterborough Methodist Circuit aims to be the people of God within our communities, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and showing God's love through worship, witness and service."

We seek to discover the needs of contemporary society and respond to it; working with our ecumenical partners towards creating relationships within the communities and sharing the word of God with those around us.

We are seeking to utilise and ensure the abilities and skills of lay people fully in the Circuit and encourage others to explore and offer themselves for service at all levels as equal partners in our work.

Our vision statement for our children's and young people's ministry 'Providing loving and caring ministries that children and young people may come to know Jesus Christ'

Trustees d	Trustees during the year					
Revd Langley Mackrell-Hey (Chair)	Christine Kell					
Giles Armstrong	Sarah Kelly					
Philip Assensoh	Nigel Lightfoot					
George Barber	Laura Martin					
Revd Gareth Baron	Revd Lesley Moseley					
Sue Baron	Alan Newcombe					
Sarah Bereznyckyj	Maureen Newcombe					
Heather Black	Valerie Octon					
Ewan Cappitt	Revd David Parkes					
Isabel Clark	Janet Rich					
Helen Crofts	Margaret Smith					
Sue Gage	Revd Douglas Stevens					
Owen Gardiner	Charles Stewart					
Elizabeth Gee	Madeline Stewart					
Michael Goodman	Simon Stewart					
Anita Gordon	Monica Sturgess					
Revd Sarah Gower	Ann Tooth					
Susan Halford	Revd Graham Tooth					
David Hardwick	Denise Watson					
John Hewitson	Peter Williams					
Trevor Howlett						
Sue Keeney						

Trustees of the Circuit Meeting met four times during the year: In September 2017 and in January, April and June 2018. Our Circuit Meeting Devotions this year were led by: Our District Chair, Revd Helen Cameron on 'Giving praise and glory to God', a local preacher on 'Growing Faith through Prayer and Fasting', a local preacher on trial on 'Embracing challenge and change: Seeing 'change' in a positive light' and the Churches and Volunteers Officer for All We Can on 'Light in the Darkness'.

There are 13 churches in the Peterborough Circuit, and the Circuit crosses 3 counties – Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. One of these churches (Yarwell), is an Anglican Church and Methodist ministers or local preachers lead the service there once a month. The Yarwell congregation is a class of Elton and receives support from the congregation there.

1 Circuit Strategy

- 1.1.1 The Ministry Plan for 2017-2018 was the same as for 2016-2017. Revd Langley and Revd Gareth Baron were responsible for the same churches.
- 1.1.2 Following our Re-invitation process the previous year, when the Circuit Invitation Committee

consulted with all the churches and committee secretaries in the Circuit, at our September Circuit Meeting, our Superintendent Minister, Revd Langley Mackrell-Hey was invited to stay for a further 4 years, from September 2018, as Superintendent Minister of the Circuit.

Our District Chair, Revd Canon Helen Cameron, said it was a joy and privilege to come to the handling of the re-invitation process. She thanked the Circuit Invitation Committee for their careful work. She said ours was the best Reasoned Statement she had ever seen and it had been a really thoughtful and reflective experience for the Circuit.

We approached 80-90 people during Revd Langley's consultation process and this wouldn't have been possible without the efforts from his churches. Thanks go to Madeline Stewart, Mick Goodman, John Hewitson and George Barber for being members of the Invitation Committee. Another positive thing to come out was the value in the section Stewards coming together on occasion to talk and share experiences; CLT decided to set this up for Revd Langley and Revd Gareth's churches in the coming months.

- 1.13 We re-formed the Circuit Invitation Committee again in January 2018, this time for Revd Gareth Baron, now in his fourth year. The Committee was made up of the Circuit Stewards, a representative from each of Revd Gareth's churches and Revd Langley. The stationing team met and Revd Gareth decided that he wants to move on.
- 1.2 Following Deacon John Brobbey's departure, we re-advertised from 28 September for a Welland Pioneer Worker. Monthly prayer support meetings took place at the Charteris Centre and we built up a good relationship between ourselves and Revd Simon Kaye, the vicar at Christ the Carpenter, the nearby Anglian church.
 - We set up a 'Charteris Christian Community' facebook page as we are finding that this allows people to engage and will be a great way of reaching new people.
- 1.2.1 We welcomed Anita (Neat) Gordon on 8 January as our new Pioneer Team Leader in Welland. She is present during the day in the Welland community, which has now become a class of the Circuit. Susan and Stephen Halford and Monica Sturgess were thanked for their work in the recruitment process. Things that had been planted by Deacon John are starting to grow and Neat has made some really good contacts in the community.
 - She has been working alongside numerous community organisations supporting their projects and she has made several 'one to one' connections within the community and many contacts within organisations (including charities, local authority, schools, churches and church members).

Her Welcome/Commissioning Service was held at Dogsthorpe on 8 July.

Neat has joined the committee of the Dogsthorpe and Welland Neighbourhood Partnership and attended several events which they advertised including: A Skate Park Opening on 7 April, a Summer Fayre on 16 June, a Family BBQ on 26 July and a Fun Day on 4 August and regular car boot sales.

She went to Tea & Fellowship at Brookside and also visited Dogsthorpe, Crowland and Southside churches. She is working her way round the whole Circuit. She is always willing to be invited to speak at church meetings.

Other regular activities included attending Eucharist at the Sisters' home, community litter picking, and meeting with other local people and organisations in the community to try and build a picture of what the Welland Community has, needs or wants in terms of activities (church or other) for a wide range of residents.

She has been able to bring together the key agencies and workers in that area to function well together. The collaboration which is now happening is powerful.

She spoke at the ecumenical 'Call to Prayer' meeting on 7 June at Dogsthorpe Methodist Church.

This was positive, encouraging and affirming and included ideas put forward by residents. She has been a continued presence at Charteris events and activities including the Open Access Play, Woodfield Pre-School and the Car Boot and Community Café.

She has linked into the Mission Audit at Dogsthorpe, the Pioneer Hub Services and had meetings with our Circuit Missioner Enabler, Helen Crofts.

There is now a cycle of life and worship centred around Ailsworth Chapel, with many more people from the community and beyond gathering there regularly. On 5 June 'Sewing Bees' handed over many completed quilts to go to the children of Chernobyl. On 22 July, there was a Quiet Morning, which was a very moving and special time shared. On 5 August, they had a barbecue aimed at bringing all members of the Ailsworth Chapel community together. People came from Messy Play, the Coffee Stop and Sewing Bees, as well as the Sunday morning fellowship. The Lord was bringing this extended family together.

1.2.2 Throughout this year, we have been working on developing a new Circuit Strategy, with Circuit Consultation and looking at how best we use our resources. The last one we did was about 7 years ago, so it is time for a review. From the strategy in 2012, the Circuit Administrator position, the Circuit Mission Enabler position and the Circuit Mission Statement have come to fruition. We decided that, as a Circuit, we need to review our resources, human and otherwise, and consider how we best utilise them for mission. We agreed this will be done in 3 stages:

Stage 1 – Where we are now - a paper was presented to the Circuit Meeting to encourage churches to look at mission in all its guises. The paper shows where we've been and what we've done in the past. The plan now is to think about where we want to go, so we have been meeting together, consulting and gathering thoughts.

Stage 2 – The CLT will produce a consultation document to enable talks between staff and congregations on what resources may be needed to facilitate ongoing and new mission and outreach initiatives.

Stage 3 – The Circuit Treasurer will meet with Church Treasurers on how finance can be ensured, as necessary.

In the past, all the churches looked at how they welcomed people and CLT have now challenged the churches to do a Mission Audit. Helen Crofts produced a mission audit resource (It includes many different courses, books and helpful information that she has used in her role as CME. It also includes two audits; one for discerning new mission opportunities and one for assessing existing groups). Local churches were encouraged to use this as a starter. It comprises 4 documents: 1 serves as an introduction, 2 is a general audit for churches, 3 is a resource for individual groups who may wish to reflect on how they are developing, and 4 is an appendix of useful books and resources. Churches have engaged with document 2 to help them take a broader review. There are 3 categories within this Mission Audit resource: 1) What is Church? 2) Discipleship and 3) Evangelism.

Churches have been completing their audits and positive things are happening i.e. Brookside has made simple measures, such as praying about how God is using them. They are happy to create a map showing where people come from to church. The smaller report for the smaller groups will go to each group in the life of the Church.

We have seen there is a lot of work going on in our churches – different work, which is good, as it should fit the community that the church is located in. We are catering for a wide range of people in Peterborough and the global community and opportunities are being taken where they can be. All these things are all part of our mission, and we want to see how we can make these things efficient or better, endorse them and build on growth for the future, and that includes working with our brothers and sisters in other denominations.

2 Mission and Outreach

- 2.1 The Circuit Meeting looked at the 'Conference Business Digest' 2017 and commended its notices of motion:
 - 1/ Methodist members are called to enthusiasm in prayer and acts of personal evangelism.
 - 2/ Methodist churches to direct their work and wealth to the priority of making new disciples.
 - 3/ Methodist Circuits to resource the forming of new Methodist societies wherever possible, to offer witness and worship in new places, or in places where Christian presence has long since diminished.
 - 4/ Methodist Districts to include disciple-making as a priority for forthcoming synods.
- 2.1.2 We discussed how we can translate what Conference is saying to make things happen locally. We decided we need to find ways of relating faith and helping people to grow in faith and to commit to Christ and to the Church so we have been looking at the ways we do evangelism so it's not embarrassing or difficult. New memberships into the Church included five into Brookside and two into Crowland. There were also Notices of Motion calling churches to develop a mission plan/end of life plan, and calling the Church to prayer and fasting. These were adopted. Southside held a day of prayer and fasting and we have incorporated a week for prayer and fasting each month on our Preaching Plan.
- 2.1.3 A 6-week 'Finding Faith Today' course ran at Elton Methodist chapel and at Brookside. One person really benefitted in drawing closer to the life of the Church. It has been really good to see new members come into the life of the Church.
- 2.1.4 Crowland Explorers did a six-session course focusing on the themes of: Does God exist and How can I live in harmony with creation? Finding Healing in a broken world, Why did Jesus die and what difference does the resurrection make? Holy Communion and Baptism: Believing and belonging in the life of the Church, The Holy Spirit. They use clips from 'Rev', 'The Vicar of Dibley', 'Father Ted', 'The Life of Brian', 'Dick Emery' and also 'The Big Bang Theory' regarding creation. They are also using Nooma videos too to explore. Revd Langley has offered this across the Circuit to any church groups that want it. The best way it works is not to do a big, whole church thing but to work with a small group of people who are able to meet consistently at a certain time.
- 2.2 Revd Langley produced a draft paper entitled 'Developing the Pioneer Hub'. Since then, in association with colleagues from the Peterborough Diocese, a Peterborough Pioneer Hub has been formed. It is there to encourage people who are entrepreneurial, creative and innovative and, in promoting pioneering, we can promote a whole raft of things in the life of the Church. There are 4 tracks to pioneering, which we have as statements on our facebook page:
 - We are an initiative of the Peterborough Methodist Circuit of Churches, and our purpose is to encourage pioneering, fresh expressions, and new mission projects.
 - We believe that God is leading us to work in partnership as we nurture each other, live out our ministries, and are shaped into the people that God is calling us to be i.e. Helen Crofts has been working in partnership with 'For Starters'; we are also working in partnership with the Anglican Church including Revd Charlie Nobbs (Diocesan officer for pioneer ministry) and he is dealing with co-ordinating training for fresh expressions and mission; we have also linked with Peter Ball who is with the URC Church Eastern Synod. So, we have a partnership.
 - We value diversity in all its forms, believing that God uses this to refresh us, challenge us, and help us to reflect on our practice. And we learn from each other.
 - A hub is everything and nothing. It's a reflection of what we are already doing. As a hub, we are a 'network of networks' rather than one single organisation.

'For Starters' is a key part of the hub; it is a forum for anyone starting, thinking of starting or feels their church should be starting something new. It offers space for a variety of groups to hold seminars, training days etc. It offers helpful and practical advice on a variety of initiatives.

Seven churches were represented on 9 January at the "For Starters" day. They arrived with a germ of an idea and came home with a project. It was a very helpful and inspirational day with lots of people

available to answer questions. Different denominations were represented so it was not just from the Methodist perspective. There were good speakers and the shared part where you could talk amongst yourselves and share ideas was very helpful. You heard how people made mistakes and came up against stumbling blocks but they shared how they got through them. A subsequent day was held on 17 March at St Andrew's URC Church.

We produced a flyer about the hub, showing it is there to complement and contrast what the Methodist Church is doing. The three-fold structure is made up of Advocates (experienced practioners), who can speak on our behalf; Associates, who are involved in the active work and Affiliates, who can pray for us. This will increase our awareness and be a great support to us as a Circuit.

We realise that, when we set forward in new work, we have the support of our churches but we may be able to do even more when sharing in partnership and this is where the idea for the associates of the pioneering hub comes in, as we might find someone who appreciates some prayer support and we might be able to enable that among like-minded people. Or, it might be a small group engaging in those disciplines and there may be a small group happening elsewhere or in their own church. This is what happened at Orton Waterville – the germ of the idea has now become ecumenical, partly through contacts but partly through the 'For Starters' session, so they now have people not just from Orton Waterville Methodist but also from the local Anglican church and people from the community.

- 2.3 The Missions and Ministries Team suggested we focus on the work of All We Can and the Circuit Meeting agreed that this will be our Mission focus for the Circuit from Sept 2018 September 2019. All We Can is one of the connexional funds we support. Matthew Forsyth, the newly appointed Churches and Volunteers Officer for All We Can for London and the South (which includes the Northampton District), came to Circuit Meeting to tell us more about the work.
- 2.3.1 £450 was collected across the Circuit for the Karibuni Trust.
- 2.4 Dogsthorpe Methodist celebrated their 50th anniversary in December with a big bouncy castle and lots of fun and food. Many people from the local community attended. Southside Methodist celebrated being 25 years old in June.
- 2.4.1 Several churches in the Circuit took part in the 'Christmas Starts with Christ' campaign and displayed banners. A total of 34 were on display this year.
- 2.4.2 Brookside, Dogsthorpe and Southside continued as three of the host churches in the ecumenically run Winter Night Shelter project, (part of Light Project Peterborough). Everyone in the Circuit was thanked for their support, both prayerfully and financially. Sue Grice (Project Leader at Brookside), gave the statistics for the 2017/18 project: 605 beds out of a possible 728 were provided. 42 different guests stayed over the 3-month period and 22 of these have moved into more sustainable accommodation as a direct result of coming into the project. A total of 189 volunteers from 28 churches were involved and 43 people were praying for the project on a daily basis. With the support of Housing Justice, 8 trained volunteers have agreed to be mentors to the guests once they have moved into some form of accommodation. 6 of the guests are currently being mentored.

This was the third winter that Brookside took part in the Winter Night Shelter project and, at the end of the previous winter, Sue happened to mention to one of their volunteers how much she would like to improve their washing facilities, particularly for the gentlemen. The toilet facilities are very old and have never been updated. That volunteer works for somebody who supplies plumbers and she reported back that he would like to help in some way. She asked if they could supply them with 2 new sinks to replace the old ones. He came and did a make-over of the gentlemen's toilets.

- 2.4.3 Several churches took part in the national 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative.
- 2.4.4 Members of our churches have continued to be active in ecumenical services, activities and projects i.e. within the PE4 churches and Churches Together in Central Peterborough and in the 'Hope4Peterborough' initiative, attending 'Call to Prayer' meetings and the annual New Year's Eve

service at the Cathedral.

And, it is not only central areas working together – churches are also involved with ecumenical work in their own areas i.e. Orton Waterville is very active in Churches Together in the Ortons, and has been since its inception many years ago. This group extends out to Alwalton and Chesterton as well as the whole of the Orton area and includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Free Church and The Salvation Army, as well as Methodist churches. It is a real ecumenical partnership.

- 2.4.5 We have made improvements to our Circuit web site (http://www.peterboroughmethodistcircuit.org/) and maintained the web sites for the Orton Waterville, Elton and Crowland churches and produced facebook pages. Helen, our Circuit Mission Enabler, regularly maintained and posted on the Ailsworth, Elton and Orton Waterville facebook pages. These proved invaluable for giving out information and connecting people. She has also been able to offer words of encouragement as Yaxley Chapel put together their own Facebook page.
- 2.4.6 We continued to produce our bi-monthly 'On the Wireless' resource which includes dates, events, courses, special services, training, reports of activities and topical issues within the Church.
- 2.4.7 After several years of excellent service, Owen Gardiner stood down as the compiler of our 'Circuit Directory'. As well as being a very useful resource for contacting people, it is also brilliant as a prayer resource as every name on there is important. Christine Kell was appointed as the new Directory compiler.
- 2.5 Our Circuit Mission Enabler, Helen Crofts, continued to develop existing and new initiatives that build relationships with local communities, and provide opportunities for people to share their faith. There has been a definite transition in her role as CME. Whilst God has kept her very busy with individual churches and mission/outreach in the Circuit, she has been increasingly involved with the bigger picture of equipping others to develop existing work and start something fresh.

The mission audit/resource is currently being used across the Circuit as we look at circuit strategy, but it is a resource that can be prayerfully referred to on an ongoing basis by churches, groups and individuals. She has been involved with several churches and there have been fruitful discussions which will feed into different areas of ministry in the future.

The Peterborough Pioneer Hub is there to support and inspire people who sense the Lord's pioneering call. She and Revd Langley have been working together on this, identifying and inviting people to be Associates, Advocates and Affiliates. They have followed the Lord's lead as to how this evolves; planning regular café style services, and linking people for prayer, worship and support.

The Pioneer Hub Café Worship is taking place once a month. This is a time of contemporary worship and stimulating discussion to nourish and inspire. Revd Langley and Helen pair in leading these but they also welcome leadership from other people. They listen to 4 songs and to the words of those songs and use the words to enable the worship. They then move to a time of prayer and then discuss a theme. It is a good space to sit and reflect, a pit stop, with refreshments. As part of the hub, people are being encouraged to form prayer triplets. Apart from being part of a triplet herself, part of Helen's role is to facilitate this for others. She is also increasingly supporting individuals across the Circuit in their ministries.

Helen took part in the District Vocations Day in May. It is good that pioneer ministry is now represented alongside presbyters, deacons and lay workers.

Other things Helen has been involved in across the Circuit include:

Ailsworth – Messy Play on 15 Feb welcomed 60 people. The Coffee Stop has a regular core of guests and has seen a steady increase in numbers attending regularly. Several grandparents come with their grandchildren, as well as young Mums and Childminders. They had Messy Play in the Easter holidays and in the end of May half-term holiday (mid 40s in number each time). There is a real community feel in both groups now with some people attending both. On 23 June, Revd

Gareth and Helen led a 'Celebration of Family' service to which everyone was invited. Ailsworth are looking to start 'Monday Friends' – a drop in for adults, similar to 'Orton Friends'. We have been gathering volunteers and arranging safeguarding/DBS. There have been donations of craft resources from people in Ailsworth for Messy Play and the Parish Council continues to be interested in all that takes place and support the chapel financially, recognising it as a community space.

Crowland – Helen set up a Facebook page for Crowland Messy Church and invited 2 young Mums to be editors. Messy Church celebrated harvest and Christmas. Helen co-ordinated the team that prepared and led both services and she has handed this role over to the team as a whole.

On 28 March at Explorers (in the library), Revd Charles Brown led the Stations of the Cross and Helen led an Agape meal. A member of Explorers offered to take us to hear Christian writer and speaker, Rob Bell, in Leicester in July. Helen started a small group – 'Jesus Girls' – for young Mums. They meet at Wyvale Softplay and share an Agape Meal (Rainbow Cake and Ribena) and talk Jesus while the little people play. They follow the same daily devotions (Bible Society lyfe) and share about these. They read 'Love Wins' (by Rob Bell) together. Revds Langley and Charles have led Communion services in the library. Two people from Explorers and one from Messy Church were confirmed at Crowland Abbey.

Elton – Helen has stepped back from the toddler Chapel Cheeky Monkeys group, which is going well, and has encouraged them to have their own facebook page, which she links in with the chapel facebook page. Elton folk generously put on an afternoon tea for the young families who attend Chapel Cheeky Monkeys. This coincided with the first anniversary of it starting at the beginning of September. They have a regular group of young families attending with good local support, and have had sensory play sessions.

Orton Waterville – Orton Friends (drop-in for the retired) started on 5 Feb. Helen produced flyers to promote this, which were widely distributed and there is already a regular core of guests at the chapel on a Monday afternoon. The Facebook page is regularly updated and is gradually increasing its audience, with several local people 'liking' it.

Southside – Southside supported the annual shoebox appeal (Samaritans Purse).

4All is a real blessing every Tuesday afternoon. The young families who come value that time and space and are part of the worshipping life of Southside. There have been conversations about baptisms, confirmations and a wedding blessing. Keeping in touch with members of 4All past and present has resulted in a large caring community/church family. As with anything involving young families things are not predictable, but this is a lovely time and space where people feel loved and they want to be there if they can. This is one of Helen's regular commitments, along with jointly leading KidsPlus with two members of Southside.

Helen meets Nigel Pimlott (DMLN) regularly as part of the Methodist Pioneer Pathway and has started to attend a 'community of practice', where she meets with other people involved in pioneer work so that we can support each other and share.

- 2.6 Revd Paul Wood, (Coordinator, Ministry Development, The Discipleship & Ministries Cluster in The Connexional Team), was exploring making links with 12 mascots of the Methodist Church to develop a new resource of an order of service for churches who find themselves planning Own Arrangements. Following a very positive response from church stewards, we offered ourselves to be a pilot Circuit. All churches in the service now benefit from a subscription to The Vine's 'Twelve Baskets' material Which is an excellent resource for when they lead Own Arrangement services.
- 2.7 Revd Gareth continued his oversight of the children and young people's ministry that happens across the Circuit and which is growing. He has started visiting the different youth and children's ministries and is connecting with the leaders.

Our young people were praised at Connexional level for their organisation of and participation in the 'Acts 29: We Are God's People' day on 24 February in Northampton (for young people aged 8 to 23). The Peterborough Circuit was well represented and Chris Gage did a great job of overseeing the day. Such was the success of the event that the district is now exploring the best ways to continue to develop this area of mission and ministry.

- 2.7.1 On the 24 March, Hope Revolution Peterborough hosted a 90's style 'Glo Party' at Kingsgate Community Church. Over 500 young people attended. This event also connected up with young people who were part of the Mission Academy Live initiative. The young people met together to shape the 'Glo Party' and all invited 6 friends to go and were given confidence to do this.
 - Our young people also went to 'Soul Survivor'.
- 2.7.2 Whittlesey were congratulated on receiving a Child-friendly Church award. This is from an outside perspective and moderated nationally.
- 2.7.3 It has been encouraging to see the developments between young people at Dogsthorpe Methodist. It has been really significant to see young people coming together and sharing in worship they have prepared and sharing in friendship and sharing food. They have been well received, which is very encouraging.
- 2.7.4 We have been seeing some developments in connections being made with young people across the Circuit – Crowland went to worship at Dogsthorpe at a youth service with a view to organising a similar visit with Dogsthorpe young people across to Crowland so, it's really encouraging to see those links being built and relationships being forged.
- 2.7.5 We hear good news stories from across the Circuit with regards to Messy Church gatherings and similar types of services. We hear youth leaders/workers giving testimony of how they are seeing young people's lives transformed through coming to faith and being fully switched on to God through their discipleship journeying.
- 2.7.6 The Circuit was encouraged to get involved in '1000 Letters' in order to encourage the 3Generate Methodist Children's and Young People's Assembly, which has grown from 200 to over 1000 people attending in a short space of time. This is happening among conversations at Methodist Conference around decline. People were encouraged to write and share how God has changed our lives as this can really touch others' lives.
- 2.7.7 We devised a 'Children's Mission Audit Worksheet' and churches were encouraged to use this with their children and young people. Also, adults were invited to use it in their house groups and expand on their answers as part of the churches' mission audits. Revd Langley thinks it is excellent and he commended it to the churches. It is a really good way of helping our younger children especially to express themselves about how they feel about Church. It takes their views seriously and gives the opportunity for conversations to come about.
- 2.7.8 The youth group at Crowland organised a quiz to raise money to repair the broken windows that were vandalised in Crowland Abbey. This was their idea. The youth group has doubled.
- 2.7.9 We see CROPS (Christian Options In Peterborough Schools) continue to gain momentum through their growing schools ministry, and a number of Methodists who are serving in schools with the CROPS Mentoring, are very much part of this.

3 Staffing and Appointments, Stewards and Ministries

- 3.1 Sue Keeney, Nigel Lightfoot, Ann Tooth and Simon Stewart were reappointed as Circuit Stewards for 2017/18. Nigel stood down at the end of the year after many years of service but he continued as a rep to Synod.
- 3.1.1 Sue Keeney, Nigel Lightfoot and Monica Sturgess continued as our representatives to District Synod. Philip Assensoh and Ann Tooth were appointed as new reps. Elizabeth Gee stood down and was thanked for her service.
- 3.1.2 Laura Martin was appointed to the role of MHA (Methodist Homes Association) rep. Laura also continued as Chaplain to the local Methodist Home, The Maples.

- 3.1.3 Church Steward for Oundle, David Hardwick, left the area. We thanked him for the enormous amount of work he had done for the Circuit, including maintaining the vision for our outreach in Welland and writing successful grant applications. He was also very instrumental in the Oundle Foodbank which started last year.
- 3.2 Mick Goodman and Laura Martin continued as Local Preachers on Trial. Matt Forsyth became a Preacher on Note.
- 3.2.1 We incorporated prayer themes on the Preaching Plan, aimed at encouraging support for and awareness of the mid-week worship that takes place across the Circuit. People were encouraged to use these and the fasting weeks as laid out on the Plan. Revd Langley's Plan Letter included a mnemonic built on the services and events that take place during the week, for us all to consider:

 **Making disciples:* pray that we would remember what Jesus has commanded us to do.

 **Inviting newcomers:* pray for those (including yourself) who will invite others to new events.

 **Discerning direction:* pray for our groups as they question how God is calling them to grow.

 **Waiting on God:* pray that we work at God's pace rather than our own.

 **Experiencing God:* pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit to convict, comfort, and counsel.

 **Enabling people:* pray for God to give us the resources we need, and the grace to enable others.

 Knowing God:* pray that we will reflect on God's faithfulness in the past.
- 3.3 We held 'Quiet Mornings' in the Circuit in October, February and July.
- 3.4 Churches took part in 'Bible Month' in June, studying material on Jonah.
- 3.5 Two members at Christ Church were made Baptism ALMs (Baptism Authorised Lay Ministers) within the Church of England. They have done a 5-week course and project and are now part of a team, with Revd Sarah Gower, to relate to families. So, when they accompany her on baptism visits, the families see that there are more people in the church than just the vicar. It is about building up relationships. The ALMs will also have the chance to visit after the baptism and get to know people.
- 3.5.1 A course called 'Starting Right' took place at Christ Church. It's about exploring baptism with parents and babies and families.
- 3.6 Revd Gareth said we are an ecumenical Circuit so it is important that our agenda should reflect who we are, hence we now have a new standing item on our agenda called 'Ecumenical Spot'.

4 Legal

- 4.1 Philip Assensoh succeeded Janet Rich as our new Circuit Safeguarding Officer. Janet continued to work with Revd Gareth, Revd Langley and Philip in the Safeguarding team and she journeyed with Philip in his training. Philip continued his training and then he and Janet delivered training in the Circuit.
- 4.1.2 The Safeguarding Team have done 3 refresher training sessions. The Foundation training at Crowland Methodist on 28 July was a success, attended by Crowland Methodist Church members and Church of England members from a local church. Attendees were happy to know how much effort the Methodist Church put into Safeguarding and taking Safeguarding seriously.
- 4.1.3 The Safeguarding Team still also includes Revds Langley and Gareth. They offered a PC security and online safety course as they felt this would be helpful for people as they use their own computers at home and consider how they keep safe. The Aspire Drug Awareness training is to be arranged.
- 4.1.4 Two people (a supernumerary minister and a local preacher), acted as chaplains in safeguarding training – they are there for when anyone feels the need to withdraw and appreciate a pastoral conversation.
- 4.1.5 Dates will be set for Safeguarding Drugs Awareness training and Safeguarding Computer Safety training, as church members are interested in attending.
- 4.2 The Circuit Meeting addressed the impact of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and put appropriate systems in place and we comply with the new regulations.

5 Finance

- 5.1 The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2018 were approved, subject to audit and were subsequently audited without qualification.
- 5.2 Income for the year was £187,728 including grants totalling £19,000, and expenditure for the year totalled £211,886, the shortfall of £24,158 being covered by the Circuit reserves.
- 5.3 The Circuit policy on reserves, at 6 months, was unchanged.
- It was agreed last year that the Circuit take over from Ailsworth Church Council the trusteeship of the property and finance for an initial period of one year. At our Circuit Meeting in October, we agreed this was not sufficiently long enough so we voted to continue the trusteeship and review in two years' time.
- 5.5 We sold some shares at the end of the year in December which has helped bolster the HSBC account. We had the grant come in to fund the Welland Lay Worker.
- 5.6 The Circuit Meeting approved that the Circuit Book Keeper and Treasurer make payments online.
- 5.7 Again, the churches responded generously to Connexional Funds. Elizabeth Gee was appointed as our new Connexional Funds Secretary.

6 Property

- 6.1 Paul Hutchings and Mick Goodman were appointed by the Circuit Meeting to help revitalise the previous Circuit Property Committee, (now renamed the Circuit Property Team) and, in particular, to ensure that reporting on all circuit property (manses) is accurate and up to date, as well as offering support to local churches for their own annual reporting. We thanked Malcolm Boucher, Margaret Smith and Trevor Howlett who stood down after years of dedicated service.
- 6.1.2 Paul's primary role is to try and oversee and encourage churches to do their online property returns and it falls to the Property Secretaries in each church to do the online returns so he has produced a guide to help with this ('Guide for Annual Reporting for Property Stewards').
 - Crowland applied to the Mick George Community Fund and were successful in receiving £15,000 which enabled them to have new carpets throughout the church and major repairs to most of the windows.
- 6.2 We continued to let the Dogsthorpe manse and the income from this is all ring-fenced for the Welland project.
- 6.3 Dogsthorpe was successful in its application to the Circuit's Property for Mission Fund in receiving a grant for £10,000 towards its new heating system. Dogsthorpe pledged a significant figure from their own budget and actively sought grant funding and funding from the local community and continued to raise further funding from within their own congregation. They were successful in 2 grant applications Methodist Insurance gave £5,000 and WREN Landfill grant gave £20,000.
- 6.4 Quinquennial surveys were carried out at the Gunthorpe Road Manse and at Ailsworth, Brookside and Southside Methodist churches

Signed: G Baron

(Revd Gareth Baron – Chair – and Acting Superintendent of the Methodist Circuit: Peterborough Circuit of Churches)

Date: 19th June, 2019

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

PETERBOROUGH							
FOR THE YEAR EN							
31 AUGUST 2018							
District	Circuit no	23/21					
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number		1135613					
If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	Gift Aid num	nber					
(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to se status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not re registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242) Ministers:	ee evidence of	the organisation's charitable					
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REVD GARETH BARO	NC						
REVD SARAH GOWE	ER						
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Circuit Stewards:							
MRS SUE KEENEY	,						
MR NIGEL LIGHTFO	OT.						
MRS ANN TOOTH							
MR SIMON STEWAR	RT						
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Treasurer:							
MR GILES ARMSTRO	NG						

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

PETERBOROUGH Circuit

	SECTION A	~	Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		126,770			126,770	142,075
	Capital receipts			7,659		7,659	17,161
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income						
_			4,317	5,959		10,276	13,035
-	Grants		19,000			19,000	18,000
	Other receipts		24,023			24,023	8,430
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		174,110	13,618		187,728 (a8)	198,701
	SECTION B PAYMENTS Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and						
	travel costs		120,467			120,467	156,044
b3	Manse Costs		13,453			13,453	16,763
b4	Administration etc		5,372			5,372	7,149
b5	District Assessment		43,868			43,868	41,944
b6	Grants & donations		10,000			10,000	
b7							
b8	Other payments		8,208	10,518		18,726	27,853
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		201,368	10,518		211,886 (b9)	249,753
_	SECTION C					In the second second	
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(27,258)	3,100		(24,158)	(51,052)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last	year	31,480	212,663		244,143 (c6)	295,195
¢3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	4,222	215,763		219,985	244,143
с4	Transfers and adjustments		40,571	(40,571)		(c7)	
с5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	44,793	175,192		219,985 (c8)	244,143 (c6
	SECTION D						
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY (these amounts should not be incli					GANISATIONS	
	Balance brought forward from last ye			The same of the sa	,		360
$\overline{}$	Offerings/Gifts - received for externa		tions				90
	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external or						450
	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 +						

Circuit

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

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219,985	(66)	244,143	(c7)			(24,158)	(b9)	211,886	37,728 (a8)		2 - totals column)
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f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

DECLARATIONS

	ave prepared the accounts control of the Circuit	from the records of the Circuit and	nd that they include all				
Signature of Tre	asurer		Date				
Name	MR. GILES ARMS	STRONG					
Address	1, EATHWAITE GRE	EEN, PETERBOROUGH PE4 6S.	Z				
Presentation t	to the *Circuit Meeting	for approval.					
I confirm that the	e Accounts have been prese	ented to the Circuit Meeting on	17/10/18				
and were approv	red.						
Signature of	the Chair of the meeting	HORWA					
Name of the Cha	air of the meeting	Rev Dr Longlay Mark	well- Hog				
Date	17110118]	•				
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the							
		Circuit					
This Report is or	the Circuit Accounts for th	ne vear ended 31 st August	2018				

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees conside audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and the independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - · to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
- * Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate
 - (3) I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.
- * Please circle as appropriate

Name	M. J. RWFLES					
Signature	M.T. RIVE					
Relevant Professional qualification or body						
	FCA (ICAEW)					
Address	4 SAREN COURT PETEILBORONGH PETE 723					
Date	08/10/18					

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

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FOR THE YEAR EN							
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

PETERBOROUGH Circuit

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