

BRIGHTON and HOVE METHODIST CIRCUIT

Registered Charity 1134137

Trustees' Annual Report

For the Connexional Year 2020-2021

The Trustees of the Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit welcome readers of their Annual Report covering the Financial Year ended 31 August 2021.

1. Aim and Purpose

- a) All our churches are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action. We aim to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love; be good neighbours to people in need and to challenge injustice; make more followers of Christ; and help people to learn and grow in faith. We offer safe and caring communities of nurture and respect that are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- b) The Circuit is the primary unit in which local churches express and experience their interconnexion as the body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help.
- c) It is to the Circuit that presbyters and probationers are stationed and in which local preachers are trained, admitted and exercise their calling.
- d) The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources for ministry which include people, property and finance.

2. Objectives and Activities

- a) In planning its activities, the Circuit has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion together with the 'Our Calling' framework as defined by the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament as we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the wider community

3. Achievements and Performance

a) Worship

Worship

- (i) The ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in a flexible stance on worship throughout the year and relevant to national restrictions and local impact.
- (ii) Whilst the weekly Circuit online services continued, from September 2020 a physical service was held at one church every Sunday on a rotational basis. The service was limited to 45 minutes and included communion but no singing.
- (iii) The period included some notable online services including a Harvest Festival led by District Chair Revd David Hinchliffe at the beginning of October. On 1st November Jonathan Gravestock was recognised as a fully accredited Local Preacher and a previous Superintendent Minister of this Circuit, Revd Kathleen Allen was able to join this as well as some friends from the USA.
- (iv) By the end of November regional restrictions were being reintroduced and in line with recommendations all public acts of congregational worship were once more suspended and by Christmas 2020 a full national lockdown was in force, which lasted until Spring 2021.
- (v) As before online worship enabled many to join who would otherwise not have been able to be there in person and we were grateful for who shared their time, talent and technical expertise to enable these services to take place.
- (vi) From May 2021, plans were made to start to reintroduce physical services, albeit with the congregation wearing masks, socially distanced and no singing. Each church reopened when they were ready, and much effort was made on ensuring a safe and secure environment. There was much joy and rejoicing by congregations being able to connect together again.
- (vii) For those unable or unwilling to join a physical service online services have continued.

b) **Service**

During this year every effort was made to provide pastoral care and engage both with the family of faith and the wider community in whatever way was possible. Many will have experienced enhanced social isolation and anxiety and every safe method of communication and contact was utilised to support and reassure.

d) **Mission and Evangelism**

University Chaplaincy.

The Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit continues to support Chaplaincy work at The University of Sussex and the University of Brighton and is part of the Student Christian Movement (SCM). The work is very different in the two locations because Sussex University is campus-based locally at Falmer, whereas Brighton University is spread, not only across the city, but also has campuses farther afield such as in Eastbourne, so we work very much as a team with colleagues to cover as much of the university as we can between us.

Historically much of what has been offered has been based around hospitality and the absence of students on site and COVID restrictions have paused these, however, a Christmas carol service (jointly hosted between the two universities) was held online. Chaplaincy activities are advertised on the University websites and on their Facebook groups contacts have been maintained in whatever ways possible including online one to one support.

Thanks to the Methodist team led by Student Development Worker Sue Harrington and supported by Revd Cynthia Park and the Revd Dan Woodhouse in these difficult times.

4. **Financial Review**

a) **Income Trends**

(i) Circuit income was in line with budget projections.

(iii) The Covid recovery plan provided stability for churches until the restrictions were lifted by Subsequently cost pressures were absorbed by Circuit Reserves.

b) **Expenditure Trends**

(i) The single largest expense is that relating to employment of ministerial staff. These include stipends; National Insurance contributions; pension contributions and the provision and maintenance of the manses. Expenditure for this year remained within the budget forecast.

(ii) Plans to fund a Circuit Operations Manager continued on hold during this period, however, following a bequest, one of the circuit churches offered a loan to cover the initial role cost and an advert, job description and person specification have been drawn up and recruitment process commenced with the aim of hiring by September/October 2021.

c) **Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy is attached in the appendices.

5. **Structure, Governance and Management**

a) **The Circuit Meeting**

(i) The Circuit Meeting of the Brighton and Hove Circuit is the body of Managing Trustees and is responsible for the affairs of the Circuit and the development of Circuit Policy. The Circuit Meeting together with the Superintendent Minister and the Circuit Leadership team exercises that combination of spiritual leadership and administrative efficiency which enables the Circuit to fulfil its purposes as set out in the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The Circuit Meeting acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work.

(ii) The Circuit Meeting met on four occasions, on 17th September and 26th November 2020 and 18th March and 16th June 2021 all via online meetings:

(iii) At 16 Jun. 2021 there were 35 members of the Circuit Meeting

b) **Churches**

Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit www.brightonhovemethodistcircuit.org.uk

There are five churches in the Circuit:

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church www.dgmc.org.uk

Hove Methodist Church www.hovemethodistchurch.co.uk

Patcham Methodist Church www.patchammethodistchurch.co.uk

Stanford Avenue Methodist Church www.stanfordavenuemeth.co.uk

Woodingdean Methodist Church www.woodingdeanmethodistchurch.co.uk

At 1 Nov. 2020 the Circuit had 305 members

c) **Staffing**

Revd. Andrew Lowe, Circuit Superintendent,

Revd. Deborah Cornish,

Revd. Dan Woodhouse

6. **Administrative Information**

a) **Appointments**

At the March 2021 Circuit Meeting Steve Preston was appointed as Circuit Steward with immediate effect and Richard Fletcher announced his retirement as Circuit Steward at the end of the Connexional year. Thanks were expressed to Richard, particularly as this was his second period in this office.

b) **Safeguarding**

The Circuit Meeting was very aware that it had no Safeguarding Officer and that all the Safeguarding matters in the Circuit were being conducted by the Safeguarding Officer in each Church. No Safeguarding issues were reported during the period.

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

South East	District	Circuit no	36/12
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134137

If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Reverend Andrew Lowe (Superintendent)
Reverend Deborah Cornish
Reverend Daniel Woodhouse
Reverend Heather Leake-Date

Circuit Stewards:

Ann Collins (Snr Steward)
Stella Goddard
Richard Fletcher
John Patching

Treasurer:

Stella Goddard

SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	173,504			173,504	172,529
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	76	136		212	1,272
a5	Grants	13,860			13,860	13,269
a6	Other receipts	57			57	
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS	187,497	136		187,633 (a8)	187,070

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	122,174			122,174	131,583
b3	Manse Costs	21,317			21,317	26,299
b4	Administration etc	8,757			8,757	7,154
b5	District Assessment	40,329			40,329	42,135
b6	Grants & donations TMCP levy		2,731		2,731	2,839
b7						
b8	Other payments	1,474			1,474	321
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS	194,051	2,731		196,782 (b9)	210,331

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	£	£	£	£	£
c1	(a7-b9)	(6,554)	(2,595)		(9,149)	(23,261)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	110,187	104,626	(1,966)	212,847 (c6)	236,108
c3	Sub total	103,633 (c1+c2)	102,031	(1,966)	203,698	212,847
c4	Transfers and adjustments	(1,966)		1,966		
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	101,667 (c3+c4)	102,031		203,698 (c8)	212,847 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)	£	£	£	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				8	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				9,946	12,873
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				1,401	12,865
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				8,553	8

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	187,633 (a8)	196,782 (b9)	(9,149)	(c7)	212,847 (c6)	203,698 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	187,633	196,782	(9,149)		212,847 (x)	203,698 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward					
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	53,010	65,132
f3		
f4	56,680	30,279
f5	112,879	110,292
f6	(9,722)	(2,005)
f7	212,847 (c6)	203,698 (c8)
f8		
	(e11)	(e12)
f9	212,847 (x)	203,698 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1		
g2	2,100,000	2,100,000
g3		
g4		
g5	19,829	13,020

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)

Name of Circuit No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.




Signature of treasurer Stella Goddard Date... 28th March 2022

Name and address of treasurer

28 Crest Way, Portslade BRIGHTON. BN41 2EY

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 22nd March 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andrew Lowe 28th March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit

Charity Number ... 1134137

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1 to 4. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner Stuart J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FMAAT Retired

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date 15th February 2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-21