

# Annual Report

## 2022-2023

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## Foreword

We write this most times during the Lent period and this year is not any different. We continue to be grateful for your faithful service in God's vineyard through the collegial work we all share in as a district. Sadly, our beloved London still faces many challenges as are many places as well in the country. We are saddened by the unabating spate of violent crimes and especially knife crime that continues to rob the nation of prospective future productive citizens in taking away our young. We mourn with those who've lost loved ones and we condemn in the strongest sense the violence meted out to the citizens of London and in our country at large by criminal elements. We cry:

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love. (verse 3 of Love Divine All Loves Excelling by Charles Wesley)

Whilst other aspects of life continue to affect our circuits and ministers both positively and sometimes negatively; e.g. continuing cost of living crisis, shortage of available volunteers in congregations, some churches facing growth whilst others having to contend with considering how to end well; we nonetheless celebrate all that God is doing in our midst and this report, in some small measure, aims to give account of some of the work in our district over the past year as well as share hopes and dreams of where we hope to be in another year. Please kindly peruse and share with all in your congregations. In it we welcome a few new leaders into the life of the district, As well as a new staff member Mr Thomas Winter as our District Property Development Officer; we give account of the work of the district and we celebrate all that enables us to be fruitful in ministry as we seek to support circuits in their works of mission

Our sincere thanks to you all for all that you bring, offer and sacrifice to make alive God's message of hope, healing and transforming lives for the eternal Kingdom, through Christ's work of Salvation for all of humanity by the Cross and in His Resurrection.

With much gratitude and every blessing;

***Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle and Revd Nigel Cowgill***  
***Chairs of the London District of the Methodist Church***

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## District Vision and Priorities

The London District of the Methodist Church currently comprises some 15,000 members, 205 ministers, 234 churches, 34 circuits and their projects, together with a number of educational institutions.

We are a diverse group of people originating from many different countries and communities, who find ourselves worshipping and witnessing together in urban, suburban and more rural areas.

We have come together in the belief that we are better together and our intention is to contribute to the wellbeing of each other, of this global city and its surrounding areas; and of the wider Methodist Church.

As the people, churches and projects of the London District of the Methodist Church, our mission is:

*‘To share the good news of Jesus Christ throughout Greater London and the surrounding areas, and to improve the wellbeing of people and their communities.’*

*We do this by:*

- Engaging pastorally and prophetically with the communities in which our churches are located and with the wider region
- Equipping and developing faithful and fruitful disciples and congregations
- Equipping and developing faithful and fruitful preachers and ordained ministers

*Our ways of working include:*

- Engaging in theological reflection and prayerful discernment which will help us to fully understand our mission
- Building quality relationships across our Circuits, with wider Methodism and with ecumenical, interfaith and community groups
- Building quality relationships with civic and political authorities in the area covered by the District
- Seeking to communicate effectively and work collaboratively

- Living and working creatively with diversity and difference
- Deploying the resources over which we have stewardship, effectively and flexibly
- Developing and sharing best practice

### **District Priorities**

As adopted by Synod in April 2014

- To develop lay leadership—in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and local preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry
- To increase participation in social and civic action, by identifying and sharing good practice and promoting networks of practitioners—rooting such engagement in our Methodist identity

These goals are by no means exhaustive or embrace the range of activities carried out in the name of the District. Their purpose is to help focus the major developmental work that is key to the next phase of the District's life as it seeks to support the ministry and mission of local churches, circuits and engage with London as a global city.

## Chairs Responsibilities (until 31 August 2024)

<b>Revd Nigel Cowgill</b> Social Responsibility Commission	35/31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford
	35/05	Battersea & Wandale Valley
	35/28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace
	35/42	Bromley
	35/04	Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham
	35/41	Croydon
	35/24	Ealing Trinity
	35/38	Kingston Upon Thames
	35/06	Lambeth
	35/30	Lesnes Abbey
	35/43	Orpington & Chislehurst
	35/40	Purley
	35/25	Richmond & Hounslow
	35/07	Southwark & Deptford
	35/39	Sutton
	35/37	Teddington
	35/03	Westminster
	35/26	Wimbledon
<b>Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle</b> Authorised Ministries Commission	35/35	Barnet & Queensbury
	35/01	City Road
	35/34	Enfield
	35/33	Forest
	35/10	Hackney & Stoke Newington
	35/13	Harlesden
	35/36	Harrow & Hillingdon
	35/11	Islington & Camden Mission
	35/12	London Mission North West
	35/22	New River
	35/20	Newham
	35/14	Notting Hill
	35/32	Romford
	35/09	Tower Hamlets
	35/23	Wembley
	35/01	West London Mission

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## District Council

The Council is the London District's Policy Committee which seeks to think strategically about the life and mission of the whole District. It coordinates the work of the Commissions and is responsible for the continuity of District business between Synods. Its membership comprises representatives of Superintendents, Circuit Stewards and other relevant groups. The sixteen members meet bi-monthly under the leadership of the District Chairs.

### **The Past Year**

The Council has regularly monitored the finances of the District with the aid of detailed summaries from the Treasurer, George Kulasingham, and developed its thinking on the district's budget priorities. The Council undertook a lay staff salary benchmarking exercise whereby salaries below the benchmark level were adjusted commencing September 2023, in addition to the regular annual percentage salary increases.

At its Away Day in May 2023, the Council discussed the membership and how best to provide support in areas of sustainable ministry and mission, empowerment, evangelism, and work around justice.

The theme of the Autumn Synod was 'Racial Justice' marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stephen Lawrence's death and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving in Great Britain. The Council is grateful for the input of the keynote speakers, Lisa Adjei and Raj Patta for inspiring fruitful conversation.

The Council bid farewell to dedicated Secretary, Mrs Hilary Porter and Council members, Revd Elaine Joseph, one of the representative of the superintendents, and Mr James Pickin, the representative of the Regional and Development Network. The Council acknowledges their work and commitment to the life of the District. The appointments of Mrs Sally Rush, the Learning and Development Officer from the Connexional Team and the Revd Dr Michael Long as one of the Superintendent Representatives were approved.

The Council has continued to fulfil its remit of overseeing the formal consents, authorisations and approvals required for the ongoing work of the District and gave careful consideration to the nomination for a new District Chair.

The Council conveys its congratulations to the Revd Nigel Cowgill on his appointment to the Connexional Team as JDS Programme Coordinator from September 2024 and expresses its gratitude for his valuable work and dedication.

### **Ongoing Plans**

The Council will remain committed to the smooth running of the life and mission of the District and will play a full part in the transitions of leadership as a new Chair of District is appointed.

***Priya Rasanayagam***  
***District Council Secretary***



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## Chairs Nomination Committee

*“ A nomination committee shall be appointed in the last year but one of the existing Chair’s current term of service .....” SO 421A(1) or*

*“ Where an extension of that term is being considered.....” SO421a(2)*

The Chairs Nomination Committee appointed by Synod should consist of nine members and three substitutes. Synod also appoints a convener annually and the London District Synod has tended to appoint the Synod Secretary as convener, although nominations from others could be considered.

During the last year Revd Nigel Cowgill indicated that he had been successful in obtaining a Connexional post. It was agreed between the District and the Connexion that the post would be delayed until 1<sup>st</sup> September to allow an efficient handover for a new Chair of District. This meant that we would need to complete the process for the new Chair of District to start on 1<sup>st</sup> September, rather than the usual two-year period. Due to the short timescale we needed to recruit extra members of the panel as a number were unable to make the date of the interviews. This information was circulated within the District and nominations were invited.

The Chairs Nomination Committee prayerfully reflected on the mission and ministry of the life of the District and future needs. The Committee then met on a number of occasions to plan for the nomination pack and agree the process for a replacement to Revd Cowgill. Shortlisting took place before Christmas. Interviews took place on 18<sup>th</sup> January and the panel, which included the District Chairs Nominations Committee and the Connexional representatives met at Notting Hill Methodist Church. My thanks go to the Revd Paul Wood and the members of Notting Hill Methodist Church for their welcome and generosity in hosting the interviews.

A new Chair of District was recommended by the panel and the name of Revd Dr Jonathan Dean was brought to the District Council for their approval and unanimously recommended to be brought to Synod for approval at our April 2024 Synod.

My thanks go to the members of the Chairs Nominations Committee for their commitment and willingness to work hard to meet the tight deadlines we faced. I am also grateful to the Secretary of Conference and Connexional members of the panel for their excellent support in this process.

**John Logan**  
**Convener of the Chairs Nomination Committee**

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## Human Resources Group

The District HR Group provides advice to the District, Circuits and local churches on all lay employment matters. It provides an advisory service only and does not negate the wish of Churches and Circuits to seek employment advice from other HR specialists or employment lawyers.

The District HR Group has continued to provide advice to churches and circuits in the District on various employment issues throughout the year. Matters had ranged from recruitment and non-complex behaviour/management/relationship issues to complex employee relations and change management issues.

The District HR Group's input and oversight on recruitment issues, especially the design and quality checking of role profiles has continued. Their input also extends to the approval of recruitment/selection documentation pre and post appointment.

### **The Past Year**

Churches and circuits have continued to streamline the complement of lay employees in view of diminishing income and members. They continue to undertake rigorous review of their lay employment staffing resources to include other employment options e.g. self-employment for which we continue to provide appropriate and fit-for-purpose templated documentation. Some of these reviews have also led to redundancies which have become more frequent. It is encouraging to see many churches seeking early advice before any change that could lead to redundancy is started. They have been supported through any proposed changes with purposeful advice. We continue to assist churches and circuits to think through their change management processes so to avoid or minimise any legal challenges and conflict.

Many churches continue to review the terms and conditions of their lay employees with a view to enhancing the minimum/statutory terms they have been on. Churches have been encouraged in this positive step and many have restructured their terms and conditions to provide higher-than-statutory salaries and sickness absence payments.

Churches and circuits have become more aware of their obligation as employers and our advice and support have been sought in a variety of employee relations cases which continue to increase in both quantity and complexity. For many churches/circuits there is deep intent and necessary rigour to ensure that processes are followed that are not just legal and satisfactory to the needs of the church/circuit, but are also sensitive to the lay employees involved. We have endeavoured, as best we can, to support and guide churches and circuits to healthy and effective solutions.

### **Future Plans**

It is clear that churches and circuits have learning and development needs in the area of lay employment management, but with our advice and support, many are getting better at it and are making informed and intentional decisions in this regard. The Learning Network has run

some excellent training sessions for those responsible for managing lay employees and have also (in conjunction with the Connexional HR Team) produced a useful handbook for use by line managers.

The Methodist Church website has a rich resource of materials which churches and circuits are encouraged to access and use, especially in the area of recruitment and selection as well as employment policies which churches/circuits can adapt for their use. These resources are regularly reviewed and updated.

We will continue to provide churches and circuits with effective support and advice in all areas of the lay employment journey for which our intervention is sought.

***Janet Arthur – Chair, District HR Group  
Lay Employment Secretary***

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# Data Protection Resource Group

The purpose of the Data Protection Resource Group is to support and guide churches and circuits across London in reaching data protection compliancy and continuing this good practice. TMCP's (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes) annual data protection checklist will be used as the initial indicator of compliance for the District Resource Group. The support and guidance provided by the group may be achieved through specific resourcing material, training, drop-in sessions and/or signposting as deemed appropriate by the group.

The group will be responsible for educating church and circuit trustees on the legal requirements of data protection (as outlined in Standing Order 019) and outlining the consequences of non-compliance.

## **The Past Year**

Throughout 2023, the group have worked to encourage churches and circuits to fulfil their obligations to data protection and consequently complete TMCP's data protection checklists (as the primary indicator of fulfilling their data protection obligations). The return rate for 2023 has continued to climb (70.35% in 2022 and 54% in 2021), with returns in the last year at 88.8% by the deadline of 31 August.

To encourage completion of the checklists, the District continued to advise via Circuits all to complete the forms, signposting the support available from February, and then ad hoc throughout the next couple of months. The group held an online drop-in session towards the end of May to help anyone with questions regarding data protection. The session was well attended.

The group have also created a new page on the London District website to support churches and circuits with their understanding of data protection. The page provides top tips on data protection, and breaks down some data protection jargon.

## **Future Plans**

The group are looking to see how they might best support churches and circuits going forward with their data protection needs in 2024.

In February the group will host a 'back to basics' training session for anyone needing a refresher in data protection or a better understanding of what it is/why it's important.

Throughout February-May, the group will continue supporting churches and circuits as they complete their data protection checklists for TMCP.

In May, the group will host another drop-in session for support on data protection queries, and support in completing the checklists.

The webpage will be reviewed to ensure it is providing relevant and timely advice.

***Revd Roz Hollingsworth  
Data Protection Resource Group Chair***



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# Property Advisory Group

With some brighter skies on the horizon, the economic crisis does unfortunately continue to drag its stubborn heels. However, as always, the construction sector has been slowly growing in terms of economy from 2023. With research conducted by the Access Group highlighting through statistical data that the final quarter of 2023 indicated the highest number of women employed within the construction sector, but sadly indicating that the sector still believes a lack of adequate technology is the biggest hindrance to achieving carbon-neutral goals. Despite the financial strains it appears that many Circuits managed to continue to have their churches open and providing safe and warm spaces, as well as a location for various food banks/clubs. The bouts of bad weather of the last few months have left their mark and many church property roofs throughout the district require consideration and repair, these issues are of utmost priority to prevent further (and possibly more problematic) internal damage, which could negatively affect the church from delivering its mission affectively.

## **The Past Year**

### **Property Consents Activity**

The consents system recorded the creation of 59 new property projects in 2023, which represented a significant decrease by 17 points compared to those created in the 2022 period. Approximately 30% of property consents submissions made were in relation to physical construction work; alterations, refurbishments or development. The remainder of submissions almost exclusively relating to lease renewals, both residential and commercial. One particular 'good news' submission was for permission to install an external defibrillator for use by the public as well as the church. For the chance to save lives the installation cost was noted as being a mere £1500, something we feel other churches should consider, especially if located in densely populated areas.

### **Property Returns/Annual Returns**

Although there was a period without a District Property Development Officer in place in late 2023, and with the recent installation of a new Officer in early 2024, the date for the Annual Returns was set for the end of January 2024. Unfortunately, there has been an extremely slow submission of the annual returns which will need to be assessed once again so that next year there is a far more consistent and agreed approach. It is proposed that one of the newly established 'Bricks, Mortar & Mission' property seminars will be utilised to discuss and assess the Annual Returns process.

There are a number of circuits who have not completed their Annual Returns, so work continues in support of these submissions.

### **The Property Advisory Group (PAG)**

With 2024 still fresh and with a new District Property Development Officer in post, the PAG will be looking to meet for the first time at the end of Q1 2024 to discuss what urgent property items have arisen and need further consideration, and to review what the likely priorities are in terms of Methodist property for the upcoming year. The property seminars previously established, and held once a month, have been rebranded as 'Bricks, Mortar & Mission' with the first being held at the end of February 2024. It is hoped that these sessions will help create a strong culture throughout the property teams within the district, providing knowledge and insight into the current activities across the many churches, whilst providing a forum for discussion and

support. It is strongly encouraged that any member, pastoral or lay, of the church system attend if you want to engage more deeply with the potential of existing and proposed Methodist property.

### **Future Plans**

Due to the recent change of District Property Development Officer the primary goal is to rekindle and establish a stronger relationship between the district level property team and the many Circuits and churches. With the ambition, over time, to create a culture of confidence and excitement towards the built environment within the London District. There are numerous beautiful heritage assets which need to be celebrated more boldly, and the future modern development potential of some sites is undeniable. Through the utilisation of Methodist property, whether by enhancing the existing fabric or providing modern facilities and opportunities through proposed development, local and district mission can be propelled.

***Thomas Winter***  
***District Property Development Officer***

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## Authorised Ministries Commission

The AMC oversees the work done by the various groups that comprise the Commission (Ministerial Sabbaticals, Ministerial Development, Local Preacher Training, Probationers oversight, Early Years in Ministry and the District Ministers Retreat).

Our goal is to ensure that every Minister (Presbyter and Deacon) and Local Preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry (primarily through programmes of Ministerial Development, Supervision training and continued Local Preacher development).

Furthermore, the Authorised Ministries Commission exists to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through Greater London and surrounding areas, and to improve the wellbeing of people and communities by equipping and developing faithful and fruitful preachers and ordained Ministers.

Funding continues to be available for Ministers seeking to attend courses and other event to enable their continued development. Requests are received for a diverse range of things including retreats, conferences, PHD studies, short courses and much else in between. Guidance and application forms for CDiM can be found on the London District website.

There continues to be a gap between the number of people who wish to train as Local Preachers and those able to tutor and mentor. The District Local Preacher Secretary works with The Learning Network to ensure that those in training are supported and encouraged.

The Probationer and Early Years Ministers continue to share opportunities to come together, formally and informally, for training, discussion and an annual residential.

We are pleased that Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson has agreed to be our District's Vocations Advisor. We thank Eleanor for this and we will forward further information to circuit superintendents on the areas to be covered in this role. Furthermore, as a district we celebrate the work and dedication of Revd Andy Dart who has been our AMC Convenor and will now be superannuating. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve with Andy in this role and the AMC team wishes him well in his time of "sitting down".

***Revd Roz Hollingsworth and Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle  
AMC Chair and Link District Chair***

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## Probationers Committee

The role of the Probationers Committee is to hear reports on individual probationers from their circuits and the college overseeing their studies to ascertain if they are ready for ordination, or if a recommendation to extend the probation period is more appropriate.

### **The Past Year**

There are currently two probationer ministers serving in the London District: one deacon in her second year of probation, and one presbyter in her first year. The DPC met in February to discuss in depth the progress and training needs with the probationer ministers. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the members of the committee, made up of a mix of presbyters, deacons and lay members, who all work with dedication and enthusiasm. They have to digest a great deal of written material in preparation for the committee and do so very diligently.

We also thank the superintendent ministers and circuit stewards who support our probationers. Their comprehensive written reports as well as personal reflections during the committee day are incredibly valuable.

The probationer ministers attended their annual retreat with their peers from the South East District. This year the retreat was held at The Kairos Centre in Roehampton, where they spent two fascinating days reflecting on the book of Leviticus.

It was good to welcome Revd Andrew Letby back to facilitate the main committee meeting as the current secretary is on sabbatical.

### **Future Plans**

A Testimony Service for those moving forward to ordination this year will take place at Wallington Methodist Church on Sunday 19 May 2024.

***Revd Andrew Letby  
Acting Secretary District Probationers Committee***



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## Early Years

The purpose of this group is to provide peer support alongside the District Chairs and Secretary, as well as two led retreats per year (one for just the London District and one with the South East District), and a forum for ministerial development and training.

### **The Past Year**

We currently have 11 ministers in the London District who are in their early years of ministry.

In February 2023 the London District joined with the South East District for a retreat in Malta. The Methodist appointment in Malta is shared with the Church of Scotland and the group spent a few days at the Jesuit Retreat Centre. We were led by Michael Wadsworth from the Learning Network and the theme was “Walking in Paul’s footsteps”. Our time was split between group or individual reflections and field trips to historical sites. It was a very worthwhile trip to see ministry in a context different from the UK.

In September 2023 the early years group, plus our two probationers, visited the Franciscan Centre in Ladywell (near Guilford) for a 24hr retreat. The time was well spent in reconnecting and discussing individual needs and possible training for the future.

A line management training session took place in November 2023. The foundation of line management was delivered by Revd Nigel Cowgill. Attendees were encouraged to continue their development of this important skill.

A 48hr retreat with the South East District at the Kairos Centre in Roehampton took place in February 2024 with our guest being Michael Wadsworth from the Learning Network and leading the discussions.

### **Future Plans**

- Learning and development session on ‘how to encourage stewardship/lay vocations’ (late April 2024)
- Social gathering in June 2024
- Return to The Franciscan Centre in Sept 2024
- Further responding to the ministerial development needs of individuals and the group

***Deacon Dawn Canham  
Early Years in Ministry Secretary***

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## Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

The role of a District Local Preachers' Secretary involves advocating for local preachers and worship leaders within the District and supporting local preachers' meetings in their role as communities of fellowship and learning.

### **The Past Year**

I have continued to act as a link between the connexional Local Preachers' team and circuit Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' secretaries, though this aspect of the role has changed over recent years as there is more direct communication and less information for me to pass on. In the past year I have attended two online meetings organised for District local preachers' secretaries and tutors by the connexional officers. It is interesting to discuss issues, challenges and questions with colleagues from other Districts: while concerns vary quite widely, one issue frequently mentioned is the difficulty of finding mentors (and in some places also tutors) for those in training as preachers or worship leaders.

Arranging tutoring and mentoring for our students is a difficulty faced by many London circuits too. Members of the Learning Network continue to put a lot of work into providing tutor support to circuits who do not have tutors of their own. Initiatives to share tutoring resources across circuits are also being developed in parts of the District.

Another aspect of my role concerns applications for extensions to the period on trial for local preachers. In exceptional cases, where a local preacher in training has been on trial for five years or more the circuit must request an extension to the on-trial period from the District Council. I have responded to several enquiries about the application process over the last year, and I am currently following up progress on existing extensions.

The ministries of local preachers and worship leaders are clearly valued by congregations; and despite all the challenges, those in training can and do successfully complete their training.

### **Future Plans**

There are tentative plans to hold a District local preachers' service, probably in the Autumn. There will be more information about this nearer the time.

I will be happy to attend circuit Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' meetings in the coming year, if they wish to invite me.

***Janet Tweedale***  
***District Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Secretary***

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## Continuing Development in Ministry

After reception into Full Connexion and ordination, all ministers and deacons are required to engage in further study, training, and professional development.

The District recognises the crucial importance of continuing learning and exploration for the development and growth of presbyters and deacons; and the financial implications of this.

Funding is available for ministers who are seeking to attend courses and other events that will seek to facilitate their continuing development.

In the last Connexional year, we have received funding applications, which have included funding for academic work as well as day conferences, retreats, and much else in between.

An application form for funding, which provides guidance on the application process, can be found on the CDIM page of the District website.

***Revd Faith Nyota***  
***CDIM Secretary***

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# District Sabbaticals Advisory Group

A sabbatical is a gift from the Church to all presbyters and deacons, an opportunity to step away from the normal requirements of circuit life and spend three months doing something different, for example study, travel or work experience in a new context, to help reflect on their ministry and to act as a period of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment. Sabbaticals are compulsory for Methodist ministers and are taken after every seven years of ministry.

The role of the District Sabbaticals Advisory Group is to receive, review and advise on the content of prospectuses submitted by presbyters and deacons who are preparing for a sabbatical. The combined wisdom of the members is a useful resource for ministers in the planning process, to help refine their initial ideas into a fruitful sabbatical. Within this process, the role of the secretary is to co-ordinate the work, act as the point of contact between ministers and the Group, keep track of those due for sabbatical in the future and respond to their many queries.

## **The Past Year**

The District Sabbaticals Advisory Group consists of both lay and ordained members, with a lay secretary/convenor.

The Group works primarily by email, having found this to be the most effective way to deal with the paperwork involved and enable ministers to progress their sabbatical plans in a timely manner. Recommendations were submitted to the Spring and Autumn meetings of Synod for approval.

16 ministers took their sabbatical during the Connexional year 2022-23, enjoying a wide variety of experiences: UK and international travel, pilgrimage, exploring creativity, study, retreat, guided reflection and family time to name but some. Six requests for deferral were granted. 15 ministers completed their plans for sabbaticals in 2023-24 and a number are already in the planning stage for 2024-25.

## **Future Plans**

The Advisory Group is keen to develop strategies to help and support those preparing for sabbatical. We encourage the sharing of experiences in the form of a report on return from sabbatical, as the feedback received can act as a useful resource for ministers in the planning stages, as well as providing valuable information for circuits and the District. The sabbaticals section of the District website contains examples of this post-sabbatical feedback and it is planned to develop this collection further.

***Dawn Downes***  
***District Sabbaticals Secretary***



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## Stationing Report

The stationing of ministers into circuit appointments offers challenges in any year and this last year was no different. We were delighted that stationing-matching rounds one and two took place in person this year again. As always, the Chairs are grateful for all the care circuits' offer to ministers and their loved ones through the process of stationing. Thanks are also due for the patience of those making visits, and the trust that they and their families have shown as they prepare to move in 2024.

Throughout the stationing process we had 15 appointments to fill:

- One Diaconal appointment
- One Probationer appointment
- 11 Presbyterian appointments
- Two MOCC appointments

At the time of writing, we still have five appointments unfilled within the District, one of which is a Superintendent appointment. We continue to pray for those circuits as they look at what ministry might be like for them in the next year.

The challenge for circuits also continues as we ask them to consider what kind of ministry they need to support their mission - which may be specialist Lay ministry, Diaconal ministry or Presbyterian ministry. Circuits need to consider the possibility of accepting probationer ministers or ministers from other conferences and churches around the world. Those responsible for stationing in the life of the church are working hard to be as fair as possible in the deployment of ministers to those situations that are most in need.

Training for circuits and ministers who may be involved in stationing for 2024 will take place:

- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm (after the morning session of Representative Synod) at Methodist Central Hall, and;
- Thursday 25 May at 6pm on Zoom

Attendees can register for either session via the District Calendar on the website, or via the Weekly Update.

This year the Stationing Committee have made a number of changes to our code of practice and how we work to reflect the churches commitment to a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice seeking church. Please hold in prayer, the many circuits across our Methodist Connexion which carry vacancies in this coming year; pray for more people to be called into ministry and for all those within the life of our churches to recognise we, both lay and ordained, have ministries to fulfil as members of the body of Christ.

***Revd Nigel Cowgill***  
***London District Chair***

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# Safeguarding

The role of the District Safeguarding Group (DSG) is to support and guide safeguarding policy and practice across the District. The DSG continues to meet regularly to ensure effective implementation of the safeguarding policy across the District. Its members are called on to share their extensive knowledge, to advise and guide the District Safeguarding Officer on existing cases and best practice.

This is also a place where current trends and concerns are discussed. In addition, the group deliberates on the future plans of the District to ensure that they align with the established policy. Such discussions are essential in guaranteeing that the District's safeguarding policy is not only maintained but also improved where necessary.

## **The Past Year**

The implementation of the District's Customer Relationship Management system (Beacon) is proving to be a useful tool in monitoring Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, enabling us to effectively support our Safer Recruitment policy.

To create more opportunities for training and sharing of resources across the District we have created a collection of nine hubs. Site visits have and continue to be carried out to ascertain the best venues within these Hubs for circuits to share as training spaces or as useful spaces in general. Careful thought has gone into the geography of these Hubs and in terms of good transport links. Whilst they may not work for everyone, they do provide the District with other options for training as well as coming to Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Some training sessions have already been carried out, and these have been very positive sessions for both attendees and trainers as there is an increased feeling of community by visiting people in their hubs and circuits.

In June 2023, the Safeguarding Review was sent to all church safeguarding officers. This has been positively received and we have had a good response rate thus far, with 201 part one returns and 184 part two. We look forward to visiting the churches to finalise the document over the coming months and we thank those involved for taking the time to complete.

This year, the District has facilitated the training of a large number of people including:

- 17 participants completing Train The Trainer
- 36 Foundation Module participants
- 145 Advanced Module participants

The District Safeguarding Group is excited to announce that the annual safeguarding conference at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, will take place on March 16th, 2024. The theme for this year's conference is 'Safeguarding Our Wellbeing'. We are delighted to have Carla Quenet as the keynote speaker to open the conference. Following the keynote speech, there will be workshops conducted by Caroline Ryder (Traumatic Stress, The Body, and Somatic Therapies), Tim Jansen (Mental Health and Spirituality), Howard Smedley (Boundaries), and

Carla Quenet (Recognising and Responding Well to Stress). We are eagerly looking forward to meeting everyone and having the opportunity to network and catch up with people.

### **Future Plans**

We recognise the importance of keeping up to date with safeguarding trends and actively seek out training opportunities to enhance our knowledge in this area. Training programmes that have been attended include identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns, effective communication strategies, and best practices for supporting vulnerable individuals. By participating in these training sessions, we hope to improve our ability to recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding risks and ultimately provide a safer and more supportive environment for everyone involved.

The DSG is actively deliberating the appointment of an Independent Chair. Last year, the job description was circulated among the team, and they were asked to provide any necessary modifications or recommendations to be included in the updated advertisement. Moreover, the group will be proactively exploring the possibility of recruiting new DSG members to expand the group.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone throughout the District who is working hard with us to ensure that safeguarding practices within our churches meet the highest standards.

***Claire De Stefano***  
***District Safeguarding Officer***

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# Learning Network

The role of the Learning Network is to equip and resource the Church through a wide range of contextually relevant learning and development opportunities. Priorities for learning and development are established both by the Methodist Conference and through the regional Learning & Development Forum, with the aim to support circuits to be places of lifelong learning and sharing, so as to encourage and inspire Methodist people in all aspects of [Our Calling](#).

## **The Past Year**

In this season of Eastertide, as we reflect on rebirth; on mourning, hope, and new beginnings; we share with you our gratitude for the ongoing invitations we receive from your churches, circuits and district to mourn, hope, and recreate with you. It is our great privilege to journey with you in mission, ministry and discipleship; to be welcomed and trusted by you; to help you make your contexts safer, more efficient and more effective in response to the Great Commission that we are called to.

Sally and Sharon are involved in the delivery of many learning and development opportunities offered by the Learning Network, and we promote these opportunities to churches and circuits in the District through the weekly newsletter. We currently have individuals from London participating in both the Explore, and the Encounter programmes. We have continued to support tutors and mentors for Worship Leading and Local Preaching, and circuits as they seek to offer provision for WLP students. Additionally, Sally and Sharon continue to support churches and circuits in their visioning and mission planning. Both are involved in the delivery of Safeguarding training, and are members of the Authorised Ministries Commission and the Social Responsibility Commission, respectively. Sally is also a member of the District Council.

Thank you for your engagement with our [Facebook group](#) and the newer [Methodist Resources Facebook Group](#) – we greatly appreciate these opportunities for conversation, questions and sharing, and thank you again for moving with us, so swiftly, to this more streamlined model of communicating.

Please be encouraged to stay in contact, or get in touch with us – we are a relatively small team yet with big dreams to develop our relationships with you, to deepen our learning from and with you, and to thereby serve you as best we can. If you would like to know more about our LN team and our work, please visit our [webpage area](#).

## **Future plans**

The Learning Network continues to develop in response to the needs across the Connexion, wider society and creation. We are working mindfully towards our [Net Zero target](#), evolving our [inclusive](#) and [justice-seeking](#) practice, and deepening collaboration. Our online opportunities are increasing, with most meetings, training and events now accessible online, yet our team remains flexibly available to you; offline and on site where and when appropriate. We hope you might now be encountering more members of the LN team since we have moved to a ‘one team’ way of working!



Here are just some of the forthcoming LN opportunities available to the Connexion:

- [Positive Working Together](#), online opportunities in April, June and July for training centering on transforming conflict and managing change and transition.
- [Explore](#): Beginning again this spring, Explore is a nine session course for any member of the Methodist Church in Britain to take a breath, step back, and consider how they are called to respond to God's call through worship, learning & caring, evangelism or service.
- [Circuit Stewards' Communities of Practice sessions](#) continue on the last Wednesday of every month, where Circuit Stewards from across the Connexion are invited to gather online to learn together with members of the Connexional Team, share good practice, ask questions and build relationships.

For more, and to keep up-to-date with how the LN can support and resource you, [please sign-up to our newsletter](#), join our [Facebook group](#), and or contact your LN team: [Sharon Nugent](#), [Sally Rush](#), [Tricia Mitchell](#).

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# SRC Report

The Social Responsibility Commission (SRC) continues to seek to advise the District on policy and priorities for Methodist Social Responsibility involvement in London; to coordinate and advocate that involvement, and to encourage theological reflection on its nature and significance as an expression of Christian discipleship.

## **The Past Year**

The SRC has contributed to the following areas of work:

- The SRC explored how to respond to the second reading of the illegal immigrants' bill that was passed in parliament.
- Met with Rachel Lampard regarding the justice seeking church and how the District can respond to it.
- We had an Away Day at Royal Foundation of St Katherine on 27<sup>th</sup> September, the main discussion was the District 'Lent Course for 2024 - Let Justice Flow' by Richard Grocott.

## **HIV Chaplaincy**

The SRC has continued to support the ongoing work of the HIV Chaplaincy in its work to supporting a number of people who had engaged with its services.

## **Future Plans**

There continues to be a need to recruit more members to the SRC, particularly the younger generations, in order to facilitate its work and increase the visibility of the group within the district. The SRC acknowledges that there are a number of issues that it would like to play a part in, be it through collaboration with other groups, the production of resources or through signposting where necessary. The group looks forward to tackling a select number of projects or issues and presenting them to the District. Saturday 22 April 2023 was Stephen Lawrence Day to mark 30 years since his murder. The SRC worked alongside the District Chairs, and other people within the life of the District, to put together a racial justice themed Synod in the autumn and led devotions.

***Revd Nigel Cowgill***  
***SRC Chair***

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## District Reconciliation Group

The work of supporting circuits and local congregations during times of needing to have difficult conversations continues in the life of the District. Sadly, we have had a few resignations this year due to heavy work-loads most of us are carrying in the service of God's church.

Nonetheless we are encouraged that there are always people available to help sustain support for our local needs. We have sought to walk alongside those who have found themselves in situations of conflict; offering support and necessary resources to navigate their context. We purpose always to link people and situations with the appropriate mediator and or reconciliatory process. We have been blessed as a District in being part of the pilot project with Place for Hope and consequently have benefited immensely from their expertise, personnel and guidance.

We are grateful to Deacon Ali McMillan for taking on the role of Convenor for the Reconciliation Group and we hope you will all support her as she navigates with us this vital work.

We are currently putting the finishing touches to a support document for the benefit of circuits which has been overseen by Ms Monica Pryce-Ross. We are grateful for her diligence, patience with us and well-thought-out layout for the manual and it will certainly be of benefit to all who will use it.

*O God of struggle and joy,  
God of peace and present in conflict  
Bring us to contented understanding,  
Compassionate hearing,  
Willingness to positively encounter,  
Your grace in conflict,  
Each other in disagreements  
And be bound by your love  
In all we do to reconcile the world  
And each other, into your Loving Care;  
Through Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen!*

**Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle**  
**Chair of District**

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## District Complaints Group

The Complaints Support Group offers support for people who are going through the complaints process of the Methodist Church.

Our support means we provide a listening ear to both the complainant and the respondent in a complaint. We will also explain the process as individuals progress through the various stages of a complaint. The work is confidential.

We are very grateful to those members of the support group who offer their time to support people in this way.

***Revd Jonathan Mead***

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# Methodist Women in Britain

MWiB has as its strapline 'For Women, For Justice, For Christ'. Through creative worship, campaigning and fundraising we seek to raise awareness – both our own and the wider church - on a variety of social and global issues.

## **The Past Year**

One challenge during the last few years has been fewer groups having meetings. However, we have increasingly made use of technology, and have successfully come together on a few occasions as a District. Highlights have been a Coronation Tea party, an online quiz, joining with the Connexional residential weekend in Swanwick, and our District Day in October when we commissioned Lilla Hercules as the District MWiB President.

We achieved fundraising to dig a borehole at a Methodist School in Wa, in the Upper West region of Ghana. We also raised money for the Fund for Human Need – a Methodist charity offering small grants to people where 'a little means a lot'.

We continue to support Daffodil Day at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, and commend the Easter Offering Service to all churches and circuits in the London District. Each year, MWiB offers this service as a gift to the Methodist Church, working in its preparation in collaboration with the Global Relationships Team. Last year the Easter Offering raised over £196,000 for the Methodist World Mission Fund.

## **Future Plans**

We look forward to having a Quiet Day, to grow our own spirituality, and to supporting the Friends of Cornwall Regional Hospital, Jamaica in fundraising for much needed equipment.

MWiB provide pastoral care grants (up to £200) where churches are making particular efforts post-Covid to offer pastoral care in their community; enabling grants to empower women and girls to further their Christian ministry; and social and community action grants to foster and develop community action or to encourage new initiatives.

Please explore <https://mwib.org.uk> for more information.

***Helen Cornick***  
***District Secretary for Methodist Women in Britain***

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# District Financial Report on Year 2022-23

A summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out on the following pages. They are an abridged version of the full audited accounts. Copies of the full version of the audited accounts will be emailed to all Circuit Treasurers and Superintendents. They will be available at Synod in April and are available on the Charity Commission Website.

The Full Trustee Report and Accounts are aligned with the Charity reporting requirements FRS102. This is further explained in the full report and accounts along with the comparative figures of 2021-22 accounts where relevant.

## **The Past Year**

The District General Fund (non-designated) operated with surplus of £39,425 for the year. The main reasons for the surplus were as follows:

- planned benchmarking exercise was delayed 12 months so increase in salaries was less than budgeted decision
- London District has reduced District Chairs which has reduced costs associated with manses.
- The District has also reduced the space which we rent from the Trustees of Central Hall.
- Increased interest income received due to higher rates of interest offered by CFB.

The District own two manses and these were revalued in 2017-18 accounts. As there has been little change in value since that time the only impact on the Manse Value Fund is the depreciation of the buildings.

The Benevolent Fund continues to provide the support needed by ministerial staff in special circumstances. In the year, grants were made of £500 and interest income earned was £129. The fund held £3,534 at end of year.

New grants awarded from the District Advance Fund amounted to £500,309, of which £60,000 was paid in the 2022-2023 year and £440,309 is transferred to Liabilities for payment in future years. DAF Grants of £915,315 are held for expected payments in future years.

The Jean Richardson Endowment Fund exists to assist exchange visits between UK and Overseas youth organizations. No grants were made. The fund held 71,667 at the end of the year.

Trust Fund 20520 - East End Mission - remains under the management of the District Trustees, for the benefit of the Tower Hamlets Circuit, who received grants of £92,536.

Other funds shown relate to District projects funded by the DAF, the Connexion and contributions. They cover Youth Enablement, Training, Chaplaincy, and the District Mission theme of Woven.

At the year-end, the finances were adequate for the continued progress and development of District activities.

***George Kulasingham***  
***District Treasurer***

# Consolidated Financial Activity (Sept 2022 – August 2023)

	2022-23	2021-22
<b>Income</b>		
Assessments from Circuits	1,621,251	1,545,740
deduct: Payment to Methodist Church Fund	1,311,216	1,317,396
<b>District Assessments</b>	<b>310,035</b>	<b>228,344</b>
Donations		10,000
Contributions from Circuit Advance Funds	379,760	470,859
<b>Total from Circuits</b>	<b>689,795</b>	<b>709,203</b>
Contribution from Connexion to cost of Chair	90,178	86,490
Interest on deposits and investment income	153,312	54,407
Other Income (e.g. Rent, Grants, training)	54,123	50,368
Grants (incl trfs from DAF & General fund)	211,534	106,625
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,260,794</b>	<b>1,007,093</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants and Donations committed in year	581,188	251,351
Salaries and associated costs	382,348	402,876
Property Costs (incl. Ins., C tax, utilities etc.)	149,227	44,052
Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	23,242	29,262
Synods, Commissions, Committees, Conference, etc.	9,823	28,128
Depreciation (now incl. of manse buildings)	21,213	20,430
Training	2,325	10,926
Other Expenditure	35,558	37,341
Audit& Accountancy fees	10,105	9,625
Manse loan interest		
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,215,029</b>	<b>833,991</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>45,765</b>	<b>173,102</b>
Gains/(losses) on disposal of Manse		
Gains/(losses) on revaln fixed assets		
Gains/(losses): on investment assets	(163,393)	(155,847)
<b>Net</b>	<b>(117,628)</b>	<b>17,255</b>
<b>Fund Balances from last year</b>	<b>5,149,828</b>	<b>5,132,573</b>
<b>Total Fund Carried Forward</b>	<b>5,032,200</b>	<b>5,149,828</b>



## Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2023)

	2022-2023		2021-2022	
Fixed Assets				
Manse & Property (Depreciating)	1,668,757		1,687,184	
Investments with TMCP	1,395,251		1,558,644	
	3,064,008	3,064,008	3,245,838	3,245,828
Current Assets				
Cash in Bank and in hand	1 65,893		137,022	
Central Finance Board Deposits	223,012		176,570	
TMCP interest accounts	2,377,355		2,244,113	
Loans from the District	0		0	
Debtors and Prepayments	4 5,530		38,602	
	2,811,790	2,811,790	2,596,307	2,596,307
Current Liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	16,657		24,772	
Grants payable (within 1 year)	708,936		561,535	
	725,593		586,307	
Long Term Liabilities				
Grants Payable after 1 year	118,005	118,005	106,000	106,00
Net Assets		5,032,200		5,149,828

## Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2023, cont.)

Fund Balances and Movements		Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on revaluation	Transfer to other funds	Closing Balance
		£	£	£	£		£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>							
General Fund (excluding manse fund)	U	150,676	416,237	(345,812)		(31,000)	190,101
<b>Designated Funds</b>							
London District Advance Fund (incl. loan to circuit)	D	605,675	515,522	(445,563)		44,480	720,114
Manse Value Fund	D	1,685,675		(19,100)			1,666,558
Manse Refurbishment Fund	D	105,338	1,839	(115,432)		31,000	22,745
District Training Personnel & Facilities	D	8,831		(953)		3,973	11,851
District Youth Enablement	D	24,361	50,300	(58,662)			16,019
London District Chaplaincy	D	2,380	43,750	(40,332)			5,798
Growing London Leaders	D	6,745	-	-			6,745
District Focus	D	27,932	(60)	(6,431)			21,441
WL & LP Training	D	3,973	-	-		(3,973)	-
CSS Advanced Level Training	D	10,663		(4,671)			5,992
Emergency fund	D	621				(621)	621
3 Generate Coaches	D	500	-	(500)			-
Media & interfaith project	D	50	-	-			50
<b>New Community Church Project</b>	D	6,718	15,000	(6,755)			14,963
<b>CDiM</b>	D	4,332	-	(1,214)			3,118
<b>ADSO</b>	D	16,173	24,534	(25,843)			14,864
<b>Covid 19 Support</b>	D	44,480	-			(44,480)	
<b>CRM Project</b>	D	-	16,000	(8,585)			7,415
<b>Warm Spaces</b>	D	-	20,000	(8,000)			12,000
<b>Emergency Response Funds</b>	D	-	30,000			621	30,621
<b>HIV Chaplaincy</b>	D	-	44,000	(22,000)			22,000
<b>Total Designated (excluding DAF)</b>		1,948,775	245,363	(318,478)	-	(13,480)	1,186,218
<b>Total Unrestricted and Designated</b>		2,705,126	1,177,122	(1,109,853)	-		2,772,395
<b>Restricted Funds</b>							
London District Pastoral & Benevolent Fund	R	3,137	897	(500)	-		3,534
Tower Hamlets - Sale-Land Stepney East End Mss	R	2,345,577	75,521	(99,221)	(161,320)		2,160,557
London Regional Network (incl. deferred Income)	R	528		(191)	-		337
Inter Circuit Support	R	23,700	5,000	(5,000)			23,700
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		2,372,942					2,118,128
<b>Endowment Fund</b>							
Jean Richardson Bursary	E	71,760	2,194	(204)	(2,073)		71,677
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>5,149,828</b>	<b>1,260,734</b>	<b>(1,214,969)</b>	<b>(163,393)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,032,200</b>

## General Fund Budget – unrestricted non-designated (September 2024 – August 2025)

### London District of the Methodist Church Budget 2024- 25

	Actual 22-23 £	Budget 2023-24 £	Draft budget 2024-25 £
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Income from assessments on circuits</b>	<b>1,621,251</b>	<b>1,670,882</b>	<b>1,810,692</b>
<b>Less Assessment to Connexion</b>			
Methodist Church Fund payments	1,311,216	1,430,114	1,494,881
<b>Net Income from circuits</b>	<b>310,035</b>	<b>240,769</b>	<b>315,811</b>
<b>Add Other Income</b>			
CAF interest receivable	119		
CFB interest receivable	15,905	0	11,929
DAF grants paid through district	0		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>16,024</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,929</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>			
<b>General and Governance</b>			
Audit fees	10,105	10,352	10,611
Bank Fees	74	78	83
Consultancy	1450	0	0
Ecumenical grants	2,630	5,557	4,872
Hospitality& gifts	1,971	1,489	2,215
Meeting facilities (Non commission)	2,664	2,282	3,464
Miscellaneous	426	410	479
CCLI License	249	364	280
Minutes of conference & cpd	259	453	291
Other grants paid	3,548		
Travel	468	724	724
<b>Total General and Governance</b>	<b>23,844</b>	<b>31,710</b>	<b>24,850</b>
<b>Chairs Expenses</b>	<b>4,785</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,632</b>
<b>Commission, synods, Methodist conference etc</b>			
Authorised Ministries Commission	6,841	8,577	8,267
Social Responsibility Commission	0	307	876
Superintendents' meetings	1,231	2,971	3,338
Methodist Conference	52	359	384
Synods	3,486	3,890	4,085
<b>Total Commission, synods, Methodist conference etc</b>	<b>9,824</b>	<b>16,298</b>	<b>17,308</b>
<b>Finance expenses</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>584</b>
<b>Office Expenses</b>	<b>13,408</b>	<b>16,445</b>	
<b>Property costs</b>			
Manse costs	12,351	18,449	18,762

# London District of the Methodist Church Budget 2024- 25

	Actual 22-23	Budget 2023-24	Draft budget 2024-25
	£	£	£
Office rent	20,071	24,760	21,238
<b>Total Property costs</b>	<b>32,422</b>	<b>43,209</b>	<b>39,999</b>
<b>Safeguarding costs</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>4,297</b>	<b>3,501</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Associated costs</b>	<b>168,252</b>	<b>201,423</b>	<b>202,642</b>
<b>Training costs</b>			
Staff training - non project	350	1,000.00	1,000.00
Chairs' training	290	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Total training costs</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>255,634</b>	<b>313,002</b>	<b>314,200</b>
<b>Transfer to Manse Refurbishment Fund</b>	<b>31,000</b>		<b>11,929</b>
<b>Net Surplus / -Loss</b>	<b>39,425</b>	<b>-72,234</b>	<b>1,611</b>
<b>Less Depreciation</b>		2,000.00	2,000.00
Net Cash surplus/deficit		-70,234	3,611
<b>Less Capital Costs</b>		4,000.00	4,000.00
Cash surplus / -required		-74,234	-389

## Circuit Assessments 2024-2025

Circuit number	Circuit name	Circuit assessments 2024-25	MCF	District expenses	Quarterly payments
		100% £	83% £	17% £	£
1	City Road	62,748	51,804	10,944	15,687
2	West London Mission	64,944	53,617	11,327	16,236
3	Westminster	43,892	36,237	7,655	10,973
4	Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham	34,112	28,162	5,950	8,528
5	Battersea & Wandle Valley	61,848	51,061	10,787	15,462
6	Lambeth	71,452	58,990	12,462	17,863
7	Southwark & Deptford	97,564	80,547	17,017	24,391
9	Tower Hamlets	28,644	23,648	4,996	7,161
10	Hackney & Stoke Newington	41,656	34,391	7,265	10,414
11	Islington & Camden Mission	27,640	22,819	4,821	6,910
12	London Mission North West	34,776	28,711	6,065	8,694
13	Harlesden	21,268	17,559	3,709	5,317
14	Notting Hill	15,984	13,196	2,788	3,996
20	Newham	40,368	33,327	7,041	10,092
22	New River	88,396	72,978	15,418	22,099
23	Wembley	40,620	33,535	7,085	10,155
24	Ealing Trinity	60,356	49,829	10,527	15,089
25	Richmond & Hounslow	37,500	30,959	6,541	9,375
26	Wimbledon	33,480	27,641	5,839	8,370
28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace	57,608	47,560	10,048	14,402
30	Lesnes Abbey	43,328	35,771	7,557	10,832
31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford	56,020	46,249	9,771	14,005
32	Romford	65,840	54,357	11,483	16,460
33	Forest	85,872	70,895	14,977	21,468
34	Enfield	81,756	67,497	14,259	20,439
35	Barnet & Queensbury	60,988	50,351	10,637	15,247
36	Harrow & Hillingdon	118,988	98,235	20,753	29,747
37	Teddington	31,736	26,201	5,535	7,934
38	Kingston upon Thames	39,452	32,571	6,881	9,863
39	Sutton	75,748	62,536	13,212	18,937
40	Purley	29,400	24,272	5,128	7,350
41	Croydon	74,304	61,344	12,960	18,576
42	Bromley	36,584	30,203	6,381	9,146
43	Orpington & Chislehurst	45,820	37,828	7,992	11,455
<b>Total from Circuits</b>		<b>1,810,692</b>	<b>1,494,881</b>	<b>315,811</b>	<b>452,673</b>

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# The District Advance Fund

The purpose of the District Advance Fund of the London District is to support missional and outward looking, creative projects amongst our churches and circuits. Grants approved by the committee meet the criteria which are set out in a policy document on the District website. These may include grants for personnel, training, equipment and property. Funding for the District Advance Fund comes from a levy on circuit model trust funds.

## **The Past Year**

The total of grants awarded 2022 – 2023 was £500,309. These are summarised by category as follows:

<b>Grants awarded</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
General	£192,706
Ministry	£177,602
Project	£130,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£500,309</b>

As in previous years, the grants were awarded to a diverse and inspiring range of projects. These are a few examples:

- £20,000 to Loughton Methodist Church towards a Café refurbishment project
- £24,603 to the Richmond and Hounslow circuit towards the employment of a Lay Pastor
- £30,000 towards the employment of a Premises Manager at Upper Norwood Methodist Church

The next page details DAF grants awarded by the London DAF committee between September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Our thanks go to all committee members who have kept the important work of DAF running through this past year.

***Revd Richard Grocott***  
***Secretary of the London DAF Committee***

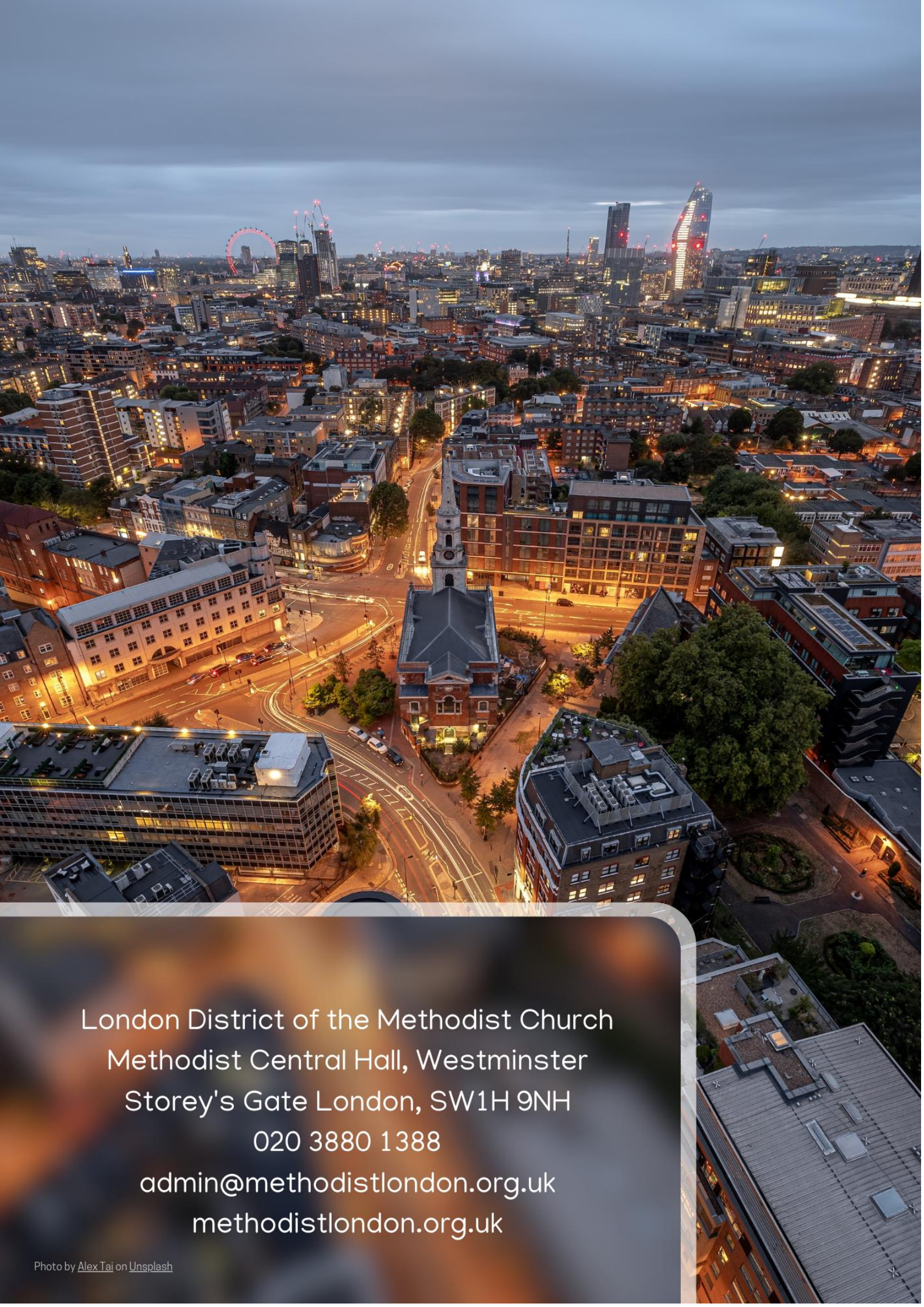
## DAF Grants agreed 2022 – 2023

Date Agreed	Grant to	Purpose	Category	Years	DAF	LMF
17/10/2019	Warlingham Methodist Church	Family Worker	Personnel	2		£5,000
27/01/2020	London District of the Methodist Church	New Church Community	Personnel	1		£15,000
18/10/2020	Clapham Methodist Church	Night Hub Project Co-ordinator	Personnel	2		£16,861
28/01/2021	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Circuit	Religious Education Resources Project	Personnel	2		£9,500
19/05/2021	Hinde Street Methodist Church	Outreach worker	Personnel	3		£20,000
26/10/2022	Harlesden MC	Circuit administrator	General	3	£61,733	
26/10/2022	Trinity at Bowes	Vestibule expansion	Project	1	£10,000	
26/10/2022	London District	ADSO	General	3	£80,973	
26/10/2022	London District	Warm spaces	Ministry	1	£20,000	
17/05/2022	Hackney & Stoke Newington	Circuit outreach worker	Ministry	3	£60,000	
17/05/2022	Loughton	Café refurbishment	Project	1	£20,000	
17/05/2022	New Malden	Heating system	Project	1	£20,000	
17/05/2022	Richmond & Hounslow	Diaconal appointment	Ministry	3	£63,000	
17/05/2022	Richmond & Hounslow	Lay pastor	Ministry	3	£24,603	
17/05/2022	St Mark's New River	Improvement scheme	Project	1	£20,000	
17/05/2022	Forest Shern Hall	Refurbishment	Project	1	£20,000	
17/05/2022	South Harrow H&H	Toilet refurbishment	Project	1	£20,000	
17/05/2022	Upper Norwood BHCP	Premises manager	General	3	£30,000	
17/05/2022	Wembley	Circuit Administrator	General	3	£20,000	
18/05/2022	Hounslow Methodist Church	Kitchen renovation	Property	1		£15,085
18/05/2022	Lighthouse Methodist Church	Lighthouse Meth Ch. - build. Repairs	Property	1		£15,000
13/06/2022	City Road	Global Mission Fellow	Ministry	1	£10,000	



Date Agreed	Grant to	Purpose	Category	Years	DAF	LMF
13/06/2022	Fernhead Road London NW	Renovation project	Project	1	£20,000	
06/07/2022	Teddington	Ministerial support project	Personnel	2		£25,824
06/07/2022	London District of the Methodist Church	CRM System Project	Other	2		£16,000
25/01/2023	London District of the Methodist Church	District Chaplaincy	Personnel	2		£7,000
26/10/2023	Fernhead Rd Methodist	Church & Community Outreach	Personnel	3		£7,000
<b>Totals:</b>					£500,309	£154,770





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