



THE METHODIST CHURCH

BRISTOL & SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CIRCUIT

Circuit No. 7 / 2

SOUTH BRISTOL METHODIST CHURCH

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number - 1131502

Minister:

Rev'd Sally Spencer

Church Stewards:

Mr Robert Bennett

Mrs Sue Gilchrist

Miss Kavita Bhalarao

Mrs Ann Rees

Mrs Susan Rooke

Mr Adrian Westlake

Treasurer:

Mr Richards Hills

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc

Investment Bankers

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Accounts Examiner

Mr H G Nash FCA



SOUTH BRISTOL METHODIST CHURCH

1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Section A

Reference and Administration Details

Name of Charity	South Bristol Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number	1131502
Charity's Principal Address	Knowle Methodist Church
	Redcatch Road
	Bristol
Post Code	BS4 2EP

Name of body entitled to appoint trustee: SBMC Church Council

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Mrs Jean Abbott		
Mr Robert Bennett		
Miss Julia Blackmore		
Mrs Frances Bullas	Secretary	
Mrs Mercy Cavicchioni		
Mrs Sue Gilchrist		
Mr Richard Hills	Treasurer	
Miss Mary Hudson		
Rev Prof Teddy Kalongo		
Ms Edna Kissi		
Mrs Janice Lee		
Mrs Janet MacGregor		
Mrs Ruth Price		
Mrs Anne Rees		From 21 May 2025
Mr Derek Rees		
Mr Clive Rooke		
Mrs Susan Rooke		
Mr John Seward		Until 15 October 2024
Mrs Rachel Joanna Spencer		From 11 February 2025
Revd Sally Spencer	Chairperson	
Mr Kevin Richard Soulsby	Contact Person	
Mrs Aroona Smith		Until 15 October 2024
Mr Adrian Westlake		

Section B

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document	South Bristol Methodist Church uses an approved governing document issued by the Methodist Conference (as detailed below) and have not altered or changed the objects clause of this document.
Wording of Governing Document	<p>The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church: (2) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church: (3) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church: (4) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.
Trustee Selection Method	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Each of the four congregations that make up South Bristol Methodist Church shall appoint annually three members of their congregation to sit on Church council plus the two congregational stewards who sit on the leadership team. All will be trustees of the church. (2) Such persons, if any, as the Church Council judges it appropriate to appoint from among those employed by the council, or by the Circuit Meeting in work in the local church will be trustees of the church. (3) The Superintendent Minister and one listed ministerial staff of the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Methodist circuit will be a trustee of the church (4) Other trustees for the time being members of church council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church treasurer • The Church MWiB representative • The Church Council Secretary • Circuit stewards as appointed by the circuit stewards meeting <p>Note:- Each trustee MUST be a member of the Methodist Church.</p>
South Bristol Methodist Church Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) South Bristol Methodist Church is made up of the congregations of Bedminster, Knowle, and St. Peter's churches. (2) There are three worship centres within SBMC. (3) There will be an annual meeting of the whole church which will be open to all and will be an opportunity to

	<p>discuss the whole life of the church.</p> <p>(4) Each congregation will hold quarterly, an open meeting to which everyone is welcome and which will discuss any issues the members of the meeting raise. The calling of these meetings and the voting at them will be in accordance with the constitution, practice, and discipline of the Methodist Church.</p> <p>(5) The guidelines for the working of South Bristol Methodist Church is aligned to the constitution, practice, and discipline of the Methodist Church and can only be amended with the trustees voting 75% in favour of any amendment.</p>
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Section C	Objectives and Activities
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The provision of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike. (2) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. (3) Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved. (4) Taking religious assemblies in schools. (5) Promoting the whole mission of the church and aiding social cohesion through activities for older people, parents and toddlers, and other specific needs groups. (6) Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas financially and with prayer.
Contribution made by Church Members and friends of SBMC	<p>The trustees would like to acknowledge the work carried out in all of its congregations in leading worship, providing pastoral care and maintaining the premises, especially during the cost of living increases.</p> <p>Generous giving by congregation members has continued in all four worship centres and in these difficult times the trustees are also grateful for all the work carried out by congregation members in their communities.</p>

Summary of the main
achievements of SBMC

Whoever you are, whatever your journey, welcome.

We are your neighbourhood Methodist Church. We seek to bring our community into the all-encompassing ways of Jesus Christ, and take his love out into the world. We seek to offer hope and encouragement as we serve each other and the wider area, travelling together in faith.

As part of God's church in South Bristol, our aim is to grow in the spiritual depth of our faith, in the difference we can make to the communities around us, and in the numbers of people who can discover and grow in the love of God in our congregations. This year there have been significant signs of growth in our church community.

We have grown in spiritual depth, through regular worship and Bible study and for some, by holding on to faith through illness and other difficulties in life. Weekly worship continues to equip people to practise their faith in daily life, and small group discussions take place to nurture people in their faith and discuss subjects of topical interest. SBMC supports monthly services in local care homes, where we can provide a message of hope. Pastoral care is important and is led by teams of volunteers from within the congregations.

We have welcomed a new employee focusing on the church's work in the community, and have grown in our community impact through continuing Warm Welcome Spaces at St Peter's and Knowle, links with Monica Wills House in Bedminster and a new project hosting South Bristol Grace Network in Bedminster, which offers social enterprises benefitting the local community. We continue to host Citizen's Advice at Knowle and have welcomed the Food Pantry at St Peter's in partnership with Oasis Community Hub.

Although always respectful of the beliefs of others, we are not apologetic for wanting to share the good news of the Gospel message of forgiveness, love and hope through Jesus Christ with those who are interested and we are happy to be welcoming new faces, in small numbers, to our congregations over the last year. We continue to baptise small numbers of children and adults, and to carry out funerals for much loved members of our congregation as well as people from our local communities. This year we have also been delighted to welcome new members and to encourage those who are learning to lead worship in our services.

We have increased the work we are doing with children and

	<p>teenagers, recognising the importance of supporting and encouraging young people. We continue to work with schools in Broomhill and to run our own Junior Church at Knowle. We have joined this year with other churches in Knowle and Totterdown to run a Youth Alpha course.</p> <p>We continue to represent, in our congregations and in our leadership teams, sections of our community from a variety of ethnic, generational and social backgrounds and see this as one of our strengths. We meet regularly for Church Council and other meetings to discuss and make decisions about church life. Thanks go to people who have stepped down from church activities after many years of service, and to people who have taken on new responsibilities.</p> <p><i>“Be thankful in all circumstances”. From 1 Thessalonians 5.18</i></p>
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Section E Financial review	
SBMC Policy on Reserves	The policy is to maintain a general reserve equivalent to three months routine expenditure.
Any Funds in Deficit	There are no funds in deficit

SOUTH BRISTOL METHODIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Offerings and Tax recovered		65,594		65,594	66,823
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,699		2,699	2,961
Lettings		64,551		64,551	77,662
Fund Raising Activities		10,186		10,186	9,640
Donations and Bequests		13,554		13,554	7,899
Grant for Warm Space			4,920	4,920	6,000
Other Grants		7,128	52,000	59,128	2,881
Mission work funding from the sale of premises			43,500	43,500	41,500
Other receipts		118		118	710
TOTAL RECEIPTS		163,830	100,420	264,250 (a7)	216,076

SECTION B					
PAYMENTS					
Circuit Assessment or Share		81,954		81,954	84,313
Donations		2,055		2,055	1,351
Repairs and Maintenance		18,698		18,698	18,541
Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		27,038		27,038	34,095
Other payments		37,509	13,476	50,985	23,864
TOTAL PAYMENTS		167,254	13,476	180,730 (b9)	162,164

SECTION C					
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR		(3,424)	86,944	83,520	53,912
Total funds brought forward from last year		131,457	47,692	179,149 (c6)	125,237
Sub total		128,033	134,636	262,669	179,149
Transfers and adjustments		5,788	(5,788)	0 (c7)	0
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		133,821	128,848	262,669 (c8)	179,149

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
(these amounts are not included in total receipts/payments figures above)				£	£
Balance brought forward from last year				0	0
Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				1,117	834
Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				1,117	834
BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID				0	0

SOUTH BRISTOL METHODIST CHURCH
SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
Bedminster	418	420	-2		238	236
Knowle	414	902	-488		736	248
St Peters, Brislington	577	538	39		142	181
			0.00		0.00	0.00
			0.00		0.00	0.00
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,409	1,860	-451	0.00	1,116(e11)	665
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	264,250(a7)	180,730(b9)	83,520	(c7)	179,149(c6)	262,669
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	265,659	182,590	83,069	0.00	180,265(x)	263,334
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
Cash in hand		171
Bank Current Account	120,457	201,144
Bank Deposit Account		
Central Finance Board	58,692	61,354
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	0	
Other funds		
SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	179,149(c6)	262,669
Total funds held by Internal Organisations	1,116(e11)	665
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	180,265(x)	263,334

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2025
Investments (include Endowments)	1,325	1,278
Land & Buildings (Insurance value)	10,044,303	10,305,489
Other Assets	0	0
Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
Other Liabilities	0	0

Address

16 Norton Road, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 2JG

Presentation to the South Bristol Methodist Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Report and Accounts were presented for approval by the Church Council on 24th February 2026.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

S Spencer

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev'd Sally Spencer

Date

24/02/2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

SOUTH BRISTOL METHODIST CHURCH

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for 1 under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an 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 accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of a sample of items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken 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:

- (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 been met;
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature

H G Nash

Hilary Gordon Nash, FCA
75 Manor Road
Keynsham
Bristol, BS31 1RE

Date

16/02/2026

Section F	Other Information
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Not Applicable

Section G	Declaration
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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

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Full Names

Revd Sally Spencer	Mrs Frances Bullas
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair etc)

Chairperson	Secretary
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Date

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Section F

Other Information

Not Applicable

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures



F.M. Bullas

Full Names

Revd Sally Spencer

Mrs Frances Bullas

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair etc)

Chairperson

Secretary

Date

24

2

2026

24

2

2026