

2021 Annual Report for the Charity Commission

Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit

Registered 23rd September 2009

Registered Number: 1131776

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- a) The Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church.
- b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church.
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution being a society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

The Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit acts as an umbrella body and resource provider for the nine Methodist Churches and their people of which it is comprised.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The adopted mission statement is in line with the Methodist Church's statement of 'Our Calling' and 'Priorities for the Methodist Church'.

Mission Statement

The Calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to work out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The Circuit exists, therefore, to enable the local churches to:

- Increase awareness of the presence of God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit – and to celebrate God's love.
- Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through teaching and mutual support / care.
- Become good neighbours and to challenge injustice and need.
- Make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Aims and Strategy Objectives

Aim 1) To ensure worship takes place through the communities of the Circuit.

- To ensure regular worship in the churches of the Circuit.
- To make worship effective and relevant through the best use of the resources available, adapted to the local needs and context.

Aim 2) To expand fellowship within each church, its community and the circuit.

- To pursue within the churches the means to grow as Christians.
- To take initiatives to support and care for the community.

Aim 3) To encourage and nurture caring relationships with each other within the churches and people in the local and world community.

- Develop pastoral communication links between each church and its members.
- Develop pastoral links with other care agencies in the local community.
- Widen and encourage involvement in local ecumenical activities.
- Learn, pray about and respond, in whatever way we can, to the needs of the unjust world we share.

Aim 4) To bring people to an awareness of Christ through word and example.

- To invite and encourage people to discover and relate to Christ.
- To encourage church members to share their faith with others through word and deed.
- To raise awareness of Christ outside the church.
- To encourage greater prayer ministry.
- Sharing good ideas of outreach and ministry between the churches.

Principles

In implementing the Policy we shall:

- Make effective use of resources.
- Work with other Circuits and ecumenical partners wherever possible.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charities Act 2006 in relation to public benefit guidance.

Review of activities : 1st September 2020- 31st August 2021

1) Circuit Staffing

In September 2020 our staffing continued as from last year. Revd Rosemary Davies serves as Superintendent Minister and now has support from one part-time Circuit Pastoral Worker, Robin Sherwood as Emma Ryan stood down in November 2020 because of pressing family commitments. Revd Gordon Sollis, a supernumerary minister residing in the circuit has pastoral charge of North Cornelly Church and also

takes services in the Circuit. All the Circuit staff work together to provide pastoral care in partnership with the pastoral visitors in individual churches.

Mr. Clem Raymond continues in a voluntary capacity as a Circuit Support Worker organising the prayer chain and helping with plan-making. Clem also has lay authorisation to preside at Holy Communion throughout the Circuit. Rachel Freeman continues in her contract of three hours per week to provide any administrative help when needed by the Circuit Superintendent. The staff team meet regularly and every two months they are joined by members of the Circuit Leadership Team which includes the Circuit Stewards, Secretary, Treasurer and Property Officer.

2) Circuit services and events

A number of Circuit Services and other events were held during the year, enhancing our sense of fellowship together. Due to the pandemic, some were held on-line via Zoom:

Service of Remembering

The annual service to remember those who have died over the last year was held on 6th November 2020 via Zoom as we were in a 'firebreak lockdown in Wales. This service was well supported by friends from around the circuit, as well as by families who were particularly invited because funerals for relatives had been taken by members of the circuit staff team during the year. This has proved to be a worthwhile initiative, indicating our continuing pastoral care for those who have been bereaved.

Advent & Christmas

To provide a united focus during Advent, a liturgy was produced as in recent years for use in all the churches on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas and on Christmas Day itself. For each week there was a Bible passage, prayer and song, together with the traditional lighting of a candle on the Advent ring.

Christmas carol services which were arranged for churches were cancelled due to another lockdown being imposed from 19th December. However, we were able to arrange an online carol service, plus worship for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Lovefeast service

As we were still in a national lockdown, we held a Zoom Lovefeast service online on 3rd January 2021 instead of a Covenant service as Methodist Conference guidelines do not currently permit Holy Communion to be celebrated online.

New Year Party and worship

A thoroughly enjoyable Circuit New Year Party was held online on 8th January 2021. It was good to see people 'on screen'. We are very grateful to Gwyn Aubrey for co-ordinating the event for us. The evening concluded with an act of worship led by Revd Rosemary Davies.

Ash Wednesday

Due to the pandemic, the annual Ash Wednesday service took place online led by Rev Gordon Sollis.

Lent and Easter

A liturgy to help us focus on Christ's journey to the cross was used during Lent but as it turned out we had to do this online as we were still in lockdown and didn't re-open the churches until Easter Day. The early morning Easter service took place online with Revd Rosemary Davies leading it from the Manse garden.

3. Mission & outreach

Despite the pandemic we were able to support local care homes with the provision of lap blankets made by knitters from various churches in the Circuit.

Churches continued to support the Foodbanks in Neath and Port Talbot by giving food and money to support hungry people in these communities.

Because of the lockdown, the Night shelter scheme with which we were involved last year came to an end.

Website / social media

Our website (www.neathporttalbotmethodist.org.uk) contains pages about each church in the circuit and wider circuit information, including forthcoming events and contact details. We see this as an important tool for mission and we include website details on circuit publications, such as the preaching plan. We are very grateful to Gwyn Aubrey for maintaining the website for us. Some churches have started facebook pages during the year and a number of church Whatsapp groups are in operation.

Work with children, young people and families

Sadly, this aspect of our work has been hit by the pandemic and we'll need to re-think our mission.

4. Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The Methodist Church requires a number of different office holders at church and circuit level to attend appropriate training. A record is also kept and updated of all those who need to have DBS disclosures.

5. Property

The Sandfields & Taibach manses have continued to be let on a short-term lease in order to provide income for the Circuit.

Quinquennials for several of the churches are now overdue due to the pandemic. Very little maintenance has taken place in churches during the pandemic and no community groups have been using the premises.

6. Finance

We have been fortunate in receiving regular income from the letting of two former Manses in the circuit. The Circuit Treasurer has been keeping an eye on the finances and we have been able to help individual churches by keeping the assessment at a manageable level. More people have taken out standing orders to support their churches and this has helped with preparing budgets.

7. Christian discipleship & fellowship

Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings

Weekly studies and prayer meetings have been taking place online and have provided opportunities for people to meet 'on screen' and share in discussion and prayer. This has brought the Circuit churches closer together.

Circuit Men's group

This group has not met during the pandemic and there is a question over whether it will recommence again as people have become older and more frail.

Oasis group

Face-to face meetings of women on the periphery of the church ceased during the pandemic although some contact was made via Zoom and a facebook page.

8. Worship

The circuit remains incredibly grateful to all our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. Worship Leaders and Local Preachers meet together on a regular basis for mutual support, fellowship and training. Kira Hughes and Sian Way ceased being worship leaders in training but may re-start when personal circumstances permit.

Sadly we lost one preacher as a result of the Methodist Conference 2021 decision to allow same-sex marriages to take place on Methodist premises. We expect there may be more resignations to follow. Small groups for continuing development made up of both preachers and worship leaders have continued to meet to discuss a range of topics in between formal meetings and these have been done online. We focussed on Mark's gospel for a preaching series in June 2021.

Our Local Preachers' Secretary, Mr Walter Holder sadly resigned from the Methodist Church in July 2020 and Mr Laurence Pearce took over from him.

9. Local Church news

Cymmer

During the pandemic, the Charity Shop run by a small band of volunteers did not open.

Glyncorrwg

The arrangement of meeting with the Nebo congregation at the Centre on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. continues to be successful. The attendances have not been as good as the previous year as some people are still nervous about catching Covid-19. The Nebo congregation organise the last Sunday in each month when all the hymns are sung in Welsh. On other Sundays, it is customary to sing one Welsh hymn per week.

Glynneath

The church Bible study led by Mr Clem Raymond was disbanded during the year due to the pandemic. Numbers attending worship continue to be small.

Jersey Marine

The Remembrance service in November 2020 was not held as we were still in the 'firebreak' lockdown. We were delighted to use the church for a wedding on 1st March 2021. It was a small affair due to Covid -19 regulations but it was such a lovely

occasion. The premises were used as a polling station for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2021.

Neath

All social and fund-raising events were stopped during the pandemic. Similarly, Llansawel Art Group and Alcoholics Anonymous were unable to meet on the premises. It was a joy to hold worship again on Easter Day after the national lockdown and to decorate the Easter cross as a sign of new life. The Cross was on public display outside the front of church. The display of flowers outside the entrances to the church have been much appreciated by the community. Robert Davies, Jean and Trevor Bond continue to work hard to provide these colourful displays.

North Cornelly

Community groups were unable to use the premises during the pandemic.

Sandfields

There were no community groups meeting on the premises.

Some of the members of the weekly Bible study group joined the online Circuit study group. The weekly prayer meeting at the church had to stop and some members joined the online weekly prayer group. The Craft group started to run their meetings online and this has been much appreciated.

Skewen

All the regular groups and activities came to a stop over the pandemic. One of the founding members of the Toddler Group stood down after thirty years of service. As some of the volunteer helpers are now older, there was no one to take the group on and so, the group had to close - its mission fulfilled.

Taibach

The pandemic meant that the community groups and church groups were not able to meet on the premises.

Living with the pandemic

All church activities and community group meetings have been unable to take place for most of this year and this has had a huge effect financially as well as socially. We have been able to worship in our churches for some of the year but the Covid-19 restrictions have meant we have kept worship to 40 minutes and the bread and wine of Holy Communion has been distributed to people in their seats by the presiding minister.

The Circuit churches have adapted to the changing situation of Covid-19 regulations very well but this has been a difficult time for a lot of people. The Superintendent Minister continued to produce a weekly circuit bulletin. In addition the weekly 'Vine at Home' worship resource published by 'Twelve Baskets organisation' was sent out. We have continued to run online meetings and church services where possible.

God has been faithful in the joys and struggles of the past year and we trust Him to lead and guide us as we journey on in faith.

Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit.
1st September 2020 - 31st August 2021.

Income		Expenditure	
	£		£
balance b/f			
CFB	111,926.56		
Lloyds	12,595.62		
Coed Darcy - Lloyds	77.20		
Lloyds Bond	25,000.00		
		Stipends	28,103.90
		Super Ann	6,872.65
		NI	2,685.99
Assessment		Apprenticeship Levy	153.03
Cymmer	1,584.68	Computer Allowance	169.00
Glyncorrwg	2,729.29		
Glynneath	2,750.00	Assessment - Jersey Marine	1,044.07
Jersey Marine	3,425.04	Assessment - Neath	2,609.54
Neath	13,098.84	Assessment - Sandfields	4,463.98
North Cornelly	3,744.06	Assessment Skewen	6,174.74
Sandfields	18,528.98		
Skewen	21,246.36	Pastoral Work	3,305.89
Taibach	11,419.76		
		Travel	670.49
Donation - Postage	10.00	Postage	1,499.07
Staff Telephone	132.00	Telephone/Broadband	512.18
		Synod Fund	513.39
		Connex Assess	12,909.12
Rent (Sandfields Manse)	5,658.83	Supernumeraries	965.50
Rent (Taibach Manse)	6,919.32	Local Preachers	348.40
		Manse Expenses	280.24
		Manse Insurance	1,720.49
Bible Material	82.50	NPTCBC	1,979.08
Prayer Books	169.80	Dwr Cymru	202.00
Donation - Printing	50.00	Circuit Assistant	359.07
		Printing	580.88
		M.P.H.	227.17
		Stationery	222.69
		Resources	545.68
		Auxillary Fund	680.00
		Property Fund	780.00
		Audit Fee	75.00
		Prayer Handbooks	295.70
		Vine at Home	100.00
Donation - Paypal	65.00	Licensing	694.44
EasyFundRaising	53.05	One License	87.50
Zoom	127.72	NPT Website	42.14
Route 16	1,230.00	Route 16	1,230.00
Donation - Lap Blankets	220.00	Outreach	231.90
Skewen Flood	1,720.00	Skewen Flood	1,720.00
		SUB TOTAL	85,054.92
CFB Interest	152.41	CFB	113,745.34
Lloyds Bond Interest	275.75	Lloyds	21,115.31
		Coed Darcy - Lloyds	77.20
		Lloyds Bond	25,000.00
TOTAL	244,992.77	TOTAL	244,992.77

Note to the Accounts : Route 16 - £ 1,230.00 was banked as a donation and £ 20.00 was received as a cash donation - total raised by the circuit £ 1,250.00. Christmas Alpha Churches, a charity organisation, matched the amount raised by the circuit so a total of £ 2,500.00 was recognised by Route 16 from the Circuit.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Neath Port Talbot Methodist	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021**

Wales	District	Circuit no	02/18
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1131776

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

(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:

Rev Rosemary Davies
Rev Gordon Sollis - Supernumerary
Clem Raymond - Support Worker
Emma Ryan - Pastoral Worker (September - November 2020)
Robin Sherwood - Pastoral Worker

Circuit Stewards:

Gwyn Aubrey - Senior Steward & Property
Michelle Amesbury
Brian Curtis
Lesley Harry
Claire Roberts
Robin Sherwood
Peter Davies (December 2020)
Jan Griffiths - Secretary

Treasurer:

Karen Sherwood

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		78,527			78,527	93,925
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		428	113		541	1,271
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		13,488			13,488	11,631
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		92,443	113		92,557 (a8)	106,826

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		41,639			41,639	46,440
b3	Manse Costs		4,182			4,182	3,764
b4	Administration etc		3,174	69		3,243	3,355
b5	District Assessment		13,423	858		14,280	16,099
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		19,008			19,008	35,506
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		81,425	927		82,352 (b9)	105,165

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	11,018	(813)		10,205	1,661
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		149,599	34,318		183,918 (c6)	182,257
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	160,618	33,505		194,123	183,918
c4	Transfers and adjustments						(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	160,618	33,505		194,123 (c8)	183,918 (c6)

SECTION D							
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						
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					2,950	511
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					2,950	511
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)						

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)	92,557 (a8)	82,352 (b9)	10,205	(c7)	183,918 (c6)	194,123 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	92,557	82,352	10,205		183,918 (x)	194,123 (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 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	12,596	21,115
f3 Bank Deposit Account	25,000	25,000
f4 Central Finance Board	111,927	113,745
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	34,318	33,505
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	183,841 (c6)	193,366 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	183,841 (x)	193,366 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations 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 the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *K. C. S.* Date... *18.09.21*

Name and address of treasurer Karen Sherwood

14 Parkfield, Tonna, Neath, Neath Port Talbot, . Post Code... SA11 3JN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 22 September 2021.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *R. Davies*

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... Rev Rosemary Davies ... Date *19.09.21*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1131776

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to 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

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 ROGER BYERS

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) ROGER BYERS & CO LTD

Address CASTLE BUILDINGS, CHURCH PLACE

..... NEATH Post Code SA11 2L1

Date 07/06/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-21