

2022 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 2021- 31st August 2022

1) Circuit Staffing

In September 2021, Revd Rosemary Davies continued to serve as Superintendent Minister with the support from one part-time Circuit Pastoral Worker, Robin Sherwood. Robin also has lay authorisation to preside at Holy Communion in the circuit. Revd Rachel Wheeler, a minister without appointment living in Bridgend offered help with preaching appointments and other events in our circuit and this has been of great benefit. Revd Gordon Sollis, a supernumerary minister residing in the circuit continues

to have 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, Minutes 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 2nd November 2021 . The service was held at Skewen church and livestreamed. The 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 were arranged in churches throughout the circuit. We held an online Christmas Eve Communion service and Christmas Day services were held in a smaller number of churches. There were no services on 26th December (Boxing Day).

Covenant service

The annual Methodist covenant service was held in all the churches over the 2 Sundays, 2nd & 9th January 2022.

New Year Party and worship

A thoroughly enjoyable Circuit New Year Party was held online on 7th January 2022. 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

The annual Ash Wednesday service took place online on 2nd February 2022 led by Rev Gordon Sollis with all the other staff taking part.

Lent and Easter

A liturgy to help us focus on Christ's journey to the cross was used on every Sunday in Lent. We held a Circuit Communion service at Skewen on Maundy Thursday which was livestreamed. Services took place in churches on Good Friday and there was an ecumenical service at Ty Santes Fair, Skewen. The early morning Easter service on Aberavon seafront was led by Rev Rosemary Davies and Rev Rachel Wheeler played hymns on the guitar. There was an 8 a.m communion service at Sandfields church followed by breakfast. Neath church decorated an Easter cross in the morning service and it was placed outside for all to see.

3. Mission & outreach

Churches continued to support the Foodbanks in Neath and Port Talbot by giving food and money to support hungry people in these communities. We held a Circuit 'coffee and conversation' event on 8th May 2022 in which all the congregations met to consider mission in their own context and to share in food and fellowship together. Transport was arranged so that Cymmer and Glyncorrwg congregations could be present. It was a very successful event.

Website / social media

Our website (www.neathporttalbotmethodist.org.uk) contains basic information about the circuit but over this past year more of our focus has been on the use of whatsapp and facebook pages to publicise circuit events and services. Several churches operate whatsapp groups to exchange local information and to support one another in prayer. We are very grateful to Gwyn Aubrey for maintaining the website for us.

Work with children, young people and families

Sadly, this aspect of our work has been hit by the pandemic and our congregations are mainly elderly.

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. Basic safeguarding training for stewards and pastoral visitors was undertaken this year and there was a good take-up.

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. With the easing of Covid restrictions, churches have begun to do maintenance work on their buildings and some usergroups have begun to use our premises again which is welcome news.

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 year and there is a questionmark over whether it will recommence again as people have become older and more frail.

Oasis group

This group for women on the periphery of the church has not really been active this year. Individuals have kept in touch with each other by 'phone or social media.

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. In July 2022, preachers took part in a preaching series on the book of Isaiah using the Bible month material.

Sadly three preachers resigned as a result of the Methodist Conference 2021 decision to allow same-sex marriages to take place on Methodist premises. One other preacher retired. This has meant that we have had an increased number of 'Local arrangement' services in the circuit and churches have responded to the challenge. A training session on 'local arrangement' services, was organised by the District Learning Network and held at Skewen church on 11th June 2022 and those who attended found it helpful. Neath Church has held café church services every 6 months and these have provided an opportunity for people to talk with each other about their faith and explore Scripture in a relaxed atmosphere.

The circuit held a Gymanfa Ganu service in Skewen church on 3rd July 2022 which was truly inspiring. Various people from the churches introduced the hymns and there was a mixture of English/Welsh singing. It was great to see members of the Nebo congregation present. The service was also livestreamed.

On 17th October 2022, we held a service in Skewen to mark Peter Swindale's 40 years' service as a local preacher and to present Clem Raymond and Robin Sherwood with their authorisation certificates to preside at the Lord's Supper. The service also provided an opportunity for the circuit to show its appreciation for the preachers and worship leaders in our circuit.

An online monthly Sunday evening service on the last Sunday of the month began in January 2022 as an experiment to see if there was a need given the fact that since Covid -19 struck, churches have only been having morning or afternoon worship.

9. Local Church news

Cymmer

The Charity Shop run by a small band of volunteers opened again for business.

Glyncorrwg

The arrangement of meeting with the Nebo congregation at the Centre on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. continues to be successful. During the year a few of the regulars have become frail and this has had an impact. 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

Numbers attending worship continue to be small. The celebration of the 130th anniversary of the church was postponed due to the illness of a key member of the congregation. It was decided to hold the celebration in March 2023.

Jersey Marine

It has been exciting to see the development of 'Friends of Jersey Marine' which is a group made up of residents who use the church premises for events. The chair of the group is a committed member of Jersey Marine church and this has enabled the relationship between the church and village to be strengthened. The outdoors Carol service was the first big event and attracted over 80 people to join in singing of carols and to hear the Christmas story. The local primary school has used the church to hold carol services, Easter and Harvest services and in June 2022. Revd Rosemary Davies led a 'mock' wedding in which the children took part with their teddies being the bride, groom and guests. The church was used as a polling station for local elections in May 2022

Neath

The Queen's Jubilee in June 2022 was marked by holding a teaparty in the Wesley room and hosting an art exhibition. Live music was provided by a band of 5 musicians who meet regularly on church premises. It was great to see so many people from the community coming to the event. In July 2022 a coffee afternoon was held in the gardens of a church member and in August 2022, the church held another teaparty which was much appreciated. Neath church is blessed with a good catering team! 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. It was a joy to have an adult baptism and welcome 4 new members into the church, both services being led by Revd. Rosemary Davies.

North Cornelly

Groups using the premises slowly began to get going again. The Bereavement group set up by church member Mr Larry Pearce attracts small numbers but is greatly appreciated by those who attend.

Sandfields

User groups started to make enquiries about booking the hall which was very pleasing. The Church craft group started back and they have been busy making things. The Women's league and Bible study began to make plans to re-start their programme.

The ill health and frailty of some stalwart members of Women's League has had a major impact. Revd Rosemary Davies led a baptism service on 3rd July 2022.

Skewen

The church has played a key role in the livestreaming of worship in the circuit. We're grateful to the technical team at Skewen for managing this. The Women's Fellowship held a meeting in September 2021 to decide on the future pattern of their meetings. As people are now older, it was decided to hold the meetings on a Thursday afternoon rather than on a Thursday evening. There was also discussion about re-commencing the Saturday coffee morning which is a good outreach into the community.

Taibach

The midweek Friendship group began their weekly meetings again with a varied programme of in-house speakers. It was a great joy for church members to celebrate the wedding of Hilary Lawson and Lyn Sullivan in their church. The service was conducted by the minister, Revd Rosemary Davies on 1st May 2022. The church continues to enjoy good ecumenical relationships and the Methodist Church hosted a Pentecost service on 5th June 2022 which was led by Revd Rosemary Davies.

Emerging from the pandemic

As Covid-19 restrictions eased during the year, the churches began to resume some of their group activities but it is still early days. More people in the churches have become frail and there is still a nervousness on the part of some, to return to worship.

The churches are trying to negotiate a new landscape and to re-imagine what it means to engage in mission and outreach. In some places maintenance of the buildings and concerns about finances are more pressing. The Superintendent Minister, Revd Rosemary Davies continued to produce a weekly circuit bulletin to keep people informed and the weekly 'Vine at Home' worship resource published by 'Twelve Baskets organisation' has been appreciated. Revd Rosemary Davies announced in August 2022 that she will be retiring next year and so this circuit will go into stationing to find a new Superintendent minister for September 2023.

We give thanks that God has been faithful to our circuit in the past year and we trust Him to lead and guide us into the future as we journey on in a post-pandemic world.

Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit
1st September 2021 - 31st August 2022

Income		Expenditure	
balance b/f	£		£
CFB	113,745.34	Stipends	28,507.60
Lloyds	21,115.31	Super Ann	6,971.43
Coed Darcy - Lloyds	77.20	NI	2,824.51
Lloyds Bond	25,000.00	Apprenticeship Levy	143.46
		Computer Allowance	171.00
		Pastoral Work	4,450.26
Assessment		Assessment Jersey Marine	1,721.07
Cymmer	1,177.64	Assessment Neath	639.90
Glyncorrwg	2,081.56	Assessment Sandfields	13,098.54
Glynneath	1,900.00	Assessment Skewen	8,388.96
Jersey Marine	3,425.04		
Neath	10,480.02	Travel	1,689.46
North Cornelly	3,595.95	Postage	501.36
Sandfields	29,939.52	Telephone/Broadband	426.65
Skewen	19,174.80	Wales Synod Fund	1,846.92
Taibach	8,709.75	Methodist Central Fund	13,477.72
		Supernumeraries	2,984.05
Prayer Books	146.50	Local Preachers	1,195.75
Circuit Services		Manse Expenses	291.12
Staff Telephone	105.50	Manse Insurance	1,765.66
		NPTCBC	2,017.91
Supernumeraries	782.10	Dwr Cymru	280.00
NPTCBC	150.00	Circuit Assistant	421.96
		Circuit Service / Expenses	40.83
Donation	50.00	Printing	571.88
Donation - Postage	40.00	M.P.H.	66.60
		Photocopier	46.26
Rent (Sandfields Manse) Peter Alan	2,931.38	Stationery	31.97
Rent (Taibach Manse) Peter Alan	2,881.55	Resources	213.11
Rent (Sandfields Manse) CLF	3,636.00	Auxillary Fund	700.00
Rent (Taibach Manse) CLF	4,098.00	Property Fund	800.00
		Audit Fee	50.00
		Prayer Handbooks	237.25
Resources	117.60	Y Cyngor - Bible Month Material (Duplicate Payment)	58.80
		CCLI (Streaming Plus Licence)	236.00
Easy FundRaising	114.41	Zoom Licence	143.88
Amazon Smile	68.01	Lloyds Bond	25,000.00
		NPT Website	68.98
		Vine @ Home	100.00
Lloyds Bond	25,000.00		
		Donation - The Small Things	1,255.00
Donation - The Small Things	755.00	Donation - Route 16	1,275.00
Donation - Route 16	755.00	Pension Reserve Fund - Circuit & Churches	3,670.00
Pension Reserve Fund - Churches	2,170.00	The Gambia Nursery	120.00
CFB Interest	498.46	SUB TOTAL	128,500.85
Lloyds Bond Interest	275.00		
		CFB	125,702.74
		Lloyds	5,715.85
		Coed Darcy - Lloyds	77.20
		Lloyds Bond	25,000.00
TOTAL	284,996.64	TOTAL	284,996.64

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Neath Port Talbot Methodist	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022**

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**

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

Ministers:

Rev Rosemary Davies
Rev Gordon Sollis - Supernumerary
Rev Rachel Wheeler - Minister without Appointment
Clem Raymond - Support Worker
Robin Sherwood - Pastoral Worker

Circuit Stewards:

Gwyn Aubrey - Senior Steward & Property
Michelle Amesbury
Brian Curtis
Lesley Harry
Claire Roberts
Robin Sherwood
Peter Davies
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		80,484			80,484	78,527
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		773	153		927	541
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		17,291			17,291	13,488
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		98,549	153		98,702 (a8)	92,557

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		44,443			44,443	41,639
b3	Manse Costs		4,355			4,355	4,182
b4	Administration etc		2,000	95		2,096	3,243
b5	District Assessment		15,325	838		16,162	14,280
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		34,728			34,728	19,008
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		100,851	933		101,784 (b9)	82,352

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(2,302)	(780)		(3,082)	10,205
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		160,618	33,505		194,123 (c6)	183,918
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	158,316	32,725		191,041	194,123
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	158,316	32,725		191,041 (c8)	194,123 (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				1,510	2,950
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				2,650	2,950
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)				(1,140)	

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 2022 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						
c8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	98,702 (a8)	101,784 (b9)	(3,082)	(c7)	194,123 (c6)	191,041 (c8)
	98,702	101,784	(3,082)		194,123 (x)	191,041 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate
sheet if necessary and bring
the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2		
f3		
f4		
f5		
f6		
f7		
f8		
f9		
	21,115	5,716
	25,000	25,000
	113,745	125,703
	33,505	32,725
	193,366 (c6)	189,144 (c8)
	(e11)	(e12)
	193,366 (x)	189,144 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1		
g2		
g3		
g4		
g5		

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 2022 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 KCS Date 24th September 2022

Name and address of treasurer Karen Sherwood.....

14 Parkfield. Tonna, Neath, Neath Port Talbot, SA11 4JN

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on ...13th September 2022..

Signature of the Chair of the meeting R. Davies

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Rosemary Davies Date 13/9/22

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 2022 set out on pages 1 to 3. 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 3LP

Date 22 February 2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22