

1st September 2023- 31st August 2024 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 2023- 31st August 2024

1) Circuit Staffing

In September 2023, Rev'd Dr Gareth Edwards took over from Rev'd Rosemary Davies as Superintendent Minister.

He serves with the support from one part-time Circuit Pastoral Worker, Mr Robin Sherwood. Robin also has lay authorisation to preside at Holy Communion in the circuit.

Rev'd 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.

Rev'd 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, despite ill-health, 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.

Mrs 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, Treasurer, and Church Representatives.

2) Circuit services and events

A number of Circuit Services and other events were held during the year, enhancing our sense of fellowship together. Some are held on-line via Zoom.

Service of Remembering

The annual service to remember those who have died over the last year was held on 1st November 2024. 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. A late-night Circuit Christmas Eve Service was held online until after midnight.

Christmas Day services were held in a number of churches.

Covenant service

The united annual Methodist covenant service was held in Sandfields for all the churches on 7th January 2023.

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. Services took place in churches on Good Friday. The early morning Easter service on

Aberavon seafront was led by members of staff. There was an 8am communion service at Sandfields church followed by breakfast.

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.

Website / social media

The Circuit website (www.neathporttalbotmethodist.org.uk) was revamped and relaunched in September.

WhatsApp and Facebook pages are additionally used to publicise circuit events and services. Several churches operate WhatsApp groups to exchange local information and to support one another in prayer.

A weekly circuit bulletin to keep people informed and the weekly 'Vine at Home' worship resource published by 'Twelve Baskets organisation' continues to be widely emailed and has been appreciated.

Work with children, young people and families

Sadly, this aspect of our work has still not recovered after the pandemic and our congregations are mainly elderly. However, we have some children coming to our Sunday services at Skewen and when they attend Sunday school activities are provided.

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.

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.

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

Our Circuit Men's group meets regularly throughout the year (once every month or two months).

Oasis group

This group for women on the periphery of the church has been relaunched and has an active membership, meeting regularly. Individuals also keep 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.

The circuit held a Gymanfa Ganu service in Skewen church on 7th April 2024. Various people from the churches introduced the hymns and there was a mixture of English/Welsh singing. The service was also livestreamed.

9. Local Church news

Cymmer

The Charity Shop run by a small band of volunteers continues to provide low-cost items to the community as well as supporting several local and national charities.

Glyncorrwg

The arrangement of meeting with the Nebo congregation at the Centre on Sunday afternoons at 3pm continues. The Nebo congregation organise the last Sunday in each month when hymns are sung in Welsh. On other Sundays, it is customary to sing one Welsh hymn per week.

Glynneath

The sanctuary has been redecorated. A number of the congregation come from many miles away in order to attend Sunday services at the chapel.

Jersey Marine

The local primary school has used the church to hold carol services, Easter and Harvest services. The church has been used as a polling station for local elections. 'Friends of Jersey Marine' 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.

Neath

The church continues to host many events which are well supported, including Luncheon Clubs, Quizzes, and Concerts.

North Cornelly

The church is celebrated its Centenary this year. Several events were held, chiefly a celebration event and buffet held on 11th May 2024, attended by many dignitaries, including the President of the Methodist Conference.

Sandfields

The hall has been well-used by outside groups which is very pleasing. The Women's Fellowship re-started their programme and are doing well. The Church Craft Group have been productive and well-supported.

Skewen

The church has continued to play 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 hold their meetings on a Thursday afternoon. A Quiz is held once a month on a Friday evening which is well supported. The Saturday coffee morning is well attended and is a good outreach into the community.

Taibach

The church continues to enjoy good ecumenical relationships and its hall continues to be used by groups such as a local choir and the neighbouring school.

Journeying Onwards

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 onwards.

As the churches seek to negotiate a rapidly changing landscape, they are being challenged to reimagine what mission and outreach look like in today's world—balancing the call to serve their communities with the very real and pressing demands of building maintenance and financial sustainability. This moment calls for both faithful innovation and practical stewardship as churches navigate their future witness and presence in society.

Neath Port Talbot Methodist Circuit
Financial Statement 1st September 2023 - 31st August 2024

Income		Expenditure	
balance b/f	£		
CFB	142,793.85		
Lloyds	18,585.97		
Coed Darcy - Lloyds	77.20		
Lloyds Bond	25,000.00		
		Stipends	32,125.50
		Super Ann	7,677.78
		NI	3,204.82
Assessment		Apprenticeship Levy	161.62
Cymmer	2,808.10	Computer Allowance	194.00
Glyncorrwg	3,515.51		
Glynneath	3,628.00	Pastoral Work	4,692.43
Jersey Marine	2,892.24		
Neath	16,701.96	Postage	8.85
North Cornelly	6,103.52	Telephone/Broadband	697.15
Sandfields	28,584.72	Wales Synod Cymru	1,476.00
Skewen	18,307.20	Methodist Central Fund	10,792.00
Taibach	14,783.40	Supernumeraries	3,963.79
		Local Preachers	440.55
Prayer Books	126.50	Manse Expenses	7,194.60
BT Refund	2.02	Manse Insurance	2,201.52
		NPTCBC	2,203.40
Rent (Sandfields Manse)	6,798.40	NPTCBC - Environment	94.06
Rent (Taibach Manse)	5,821.23	Dwr Cymru	216.00
		Circuit Assistant	774.61
		Printing	80.99
		Stationery	4.75
		Resources	82.00
		Auxillary Fund	700.00
		Property Fund	800.00
		Audit Fee	50.00
		Removal Costs	2,085.60
		Training	1,182.00
		Licensing	117.60
Retirement Gift	50.00	Retirement Gift	50.00
		Vine At Home	100.00
Route 16	1,200.00	Route 16	1,700.00
		Coed Darcy	77.20
Lloyds Bond	25,000.00	Lloyds Bond	25,000.00
MNDA	2,039.60	SUB TOTAL	110,148.82
CFB Interest	7,891.30	CFB	169,975.78
Lloyds Bond Interest	12.57	Lloyds	25,559.09
		MNDA	2,039.60
		Coed Darcy - Lloyds	0.00
		Lloyds Bond	25,000.00
TOTAL	332,723.29	TOTAL	332,723.29

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Neath Port Talbot Methodist	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

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

1131776

If not a registered charity His 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 Dr Gareth Edwards
Rev Gordon Sollis - Supernumery
Rev Alf Williams - Supernumery
Rev Dilys Brace - Supernumery
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
Peter Davies
Lesley Harry
Robin Sherwood
Barbara Southard
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		97,325			97,325	96,309
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		7,904	1,734		9,637	5,549
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		12,748			12,748	18,127
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		117,977	1,734		119,710 (a8)	119,985

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		47,701			47,701	46,257
b3	Manse Costs		11,816			11,816	7,649
b4	Administration etc		1,648	915		2,563	3,768
b5	District Assessment		12,268			12,268	18,965
b6	Grants & donations						
b7							
b8	Other payments		9,789			9,789	12,535
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		83,222	915		84,136 (b9)	89,175

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	34,755	819		35,574	30,810
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		30,696	114		30,810 (c6)	
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	65,451	933		66,384	30,810
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	65,451	933		66,384 (c8)	30,810 (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			3,290	915
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,927	1,650
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)			1,362	(735)

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 2024 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)					
e10	119,710 (a8)	84,136 (b9)	35,574	(c7)	(c6)	35,574 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT				(x)	(y)
	119,710	84,136	35,574			
	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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	18,586	27,599
f3 Bank Deposit Account	25,000	25,000
f4 Central Finance Board	142,794	169,976
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	32,839	33,658
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	219,219 (c6)	256,233 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	219,219 (x)	256,233 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
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 2024 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 M. C. S. J. Date 19th September 2024

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 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 19th September 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Gareth Edwards

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Dr Gareth Edwards Date 19th September 2024

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 Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 BURNS FCCA

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

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

Address CASTLE BUILDINGS, CHURCH PLACE

..... NEATH Post Code SA11 3LP

Date 8/12/24

* delete or circle as appropriate