SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1132517

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-11-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Circuit Office Kingsbridge Methodist Church 100 Fore Street Kingsbridge TQ7 1AW
Phone	01548 852073
Email	fiona.southdevon@gmail.com
Website	southdevonmethodistchurches.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(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 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.

Activities: Mission Statement:- The aim of the circuit is to worship and glorify God and serve him in the community.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£87,488	£92,446	-	-
2024-08-31	£82,031	£81,427	-	-
2023-08-31	£81,059	£64,355	-	-
2022-08-31	£75,827	£73,740	-	-
2021-08-31	£63,912	£67,318	-	-
2020-08-31	£61,861	£55,811	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev KEVIN PETER HOOKE	Chair	2024-09-01
Barbara Jannette Lily Welcomme		2023-09-01
Bob Hamblin		2012-09-01
DAVID CHARLES MORGAN		
David Monk		2013-09-01
Elizabeth Paisley		2019-09-01
Erica Ann Jordan		2023-09-01
Greta Margaret Wills BSc		2011-09-01
Rachel Ann Mitchell		2017-09-12
Roy Mitchell		2024-09-01
SUSAN JANET MORGAN		2017-09-12
Sally Irene Sargeant BSc		2012-09-01
Sandra Pauline Litchfield		2010-09-01

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SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132517

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Standard form of Accounts
and Trustees Annual Report
(Circuit Receipts and Payments)

South Devon Methodist Circuit
For the Year ended 31 August 2025

Ministers

Revd. Kevin Hooke
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Mrs. Susan Morgan

Treasurer

Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit number 37/10
Part of the Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District
Charity Registration number 1132517

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st August 2025

Objectives and Activities

The calling of our churches and Circuit is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We understand that we are not engaging in our mission but participating in God's mission to all people, in partnership with others and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We do this through:

- **Worship** - In our worship we meet God as we intentionally recognise His presence and celebrate His love for us and for all His creation.
- **Learning and Caring** - As Christian communities we help and encourage one another to learn about Jesus and to grow more like Him as we support and care for each other.
- **Service** - Our churches are part of a network of organisations and people in the South Hams. We strive to be good neighbours to all, to help those in need and to challenge injustice.
- **Evangelism** - As we celebrate the Good News of all that Jesus has done for us and live lives reflecting His love, we hope that others will choose to join us in following Him.

Worship and Learning

This year we have continued to support the churches in the Circuit and those who worship with them. Alongside our "in person" services we have continued to provide home worship sheets for those unable to join us for worship. We hope that this will enable everyone to still feel part of our church family.

As well as our usual Sunday and Home Worship services, other opportunities we now offer to help ourselves and others encounter God include:

- **Sacred Space** – a monthly ecumenical prayer time held in Chillington Church. This offers a quiet time for personal refreshment and space to grow spirituality, followed by coffee.
- **Hope Cove Chapel is open for prayer** - We open Hope Cove most days, for both local people and visitors, offering the opportunity to pause and find peace in our little chapel.
- **Weekly fellowship time and coffee** on Friday mornings at Kingsbridge.
- **For Children and Families** - Bible based craft activities at the Ark (parent and toddler group) and pre-school worship services for our neighbours at the Tresillian Day Nursery. **Café church**, with a focus on activities for all ages is now a regular feature in our worship calendar at Chillington.
- **Taize Style Worship** – A time of prayerful song and meditation is offered quarterly at Hope Cove.
- **Joining with other churches in Kingsbridge** to provide a number of special events through the year, including a weekend of biblical teaching and Good Friday walk of witness.
- **A growing Knit and Natter group** in Chillington and a craft and fellowship group in Kingsbridge.
- **"Sea Sunday" outdoor service at Hope Cove**, followed by a cream tea for residents and visitors was attended by over 50 people as well as the Kingsbridge Silver Band.
- **Our Circuit prayer list**, where we share names of those who have asked us to pray for them and also news of where we have seen God at work answering them, has been much appreciated.

In addition, we offered reflections and teaching on the gospel of John from the beginning of July, using our own "Bible Month" resources as the basis of our worship over a six week period.

Caring for One Another

We have continued to distribute pastoral letters by post and email monthly this year. These continue to be well received and our thanks go to our Lay Minister (Rachel Mitchell), other ministers and Local Preachers for all the care, thought and prayer that has gone into preparing them.

We also take every opportunity to care for each other. However, with aging congregations and fewer people, the care we can offer is limited. So, we do what we can and are ready to be signposts to other sources of help when we are not able to offer all that is needed.

As part of our caring for one another and those around us, we continue to support our volunteers and ask that they are suitably checked and trained in Safeguarding. We recognise the importance of ensuring we are all aware of our responsibilities to keep everyone safe (including our volunteers) and to ensure our volunteers know where to seek further advice, if the need arises.

Other Activities that benefit our communities

We do all we can to support our churches and encourage them to offer what they can to their communities. We have also continued to work with groups who regularly use our buildings, to enable them to continue their activities safely. These activities include:

- Opportunities to meet friends old and new at coffee mornings, craft groups, men's breakfasts, ladies lunches, and other regular events.
- Hope Cove community events that bring visitors and the resident communities together.
- Weekly table tennis groups.
- Toddler, parent and carer group at Kingsbridge.
- Offering our facilities at Kingsbridge, and being part of the team for an initiative called "Soul Food." This provides meals in the school holidays for families where one or more children would usually receive free school meals. The meals are provided on a take-away or eat-in basis.
- Providing space for other local groups and organisations to meet. This includes three choirs, Slimming World, Kingsbridge Arts society and WI, line dancing, yoga, and Kingsbridge Compassionate café.
- Supporting local charities including Kingsbridge Foodbank, Hope Cove private lifeboat and the *Wordwise* Christian bookshop as well as raising awareness of our Circuit charity and fundraising for them.

Achievements and Performance

We have regularly provided people to lead worship in all our churches and continued to be part of the district initiative which shares responsibility for Home Worship Sheets. We also continue to encourage the stewards in our churches to take responsibility for some acts of worship during the year, giving thanks for the way many people have been encouraged through them. Our thanks also go to our local preachers (accredited and in training) who have offered their time and skills so generously.

In September 2024 we decided that we would make three local groups our charities for 2025. These groups, which are active within our immediate communities, are:

- Kingsbridge Compassionate Café
- The Coleridge Bus
- Devon Mind (particularly the "chill the mind" cold-water swimming project)

Our fundraising started in December 2024, but due to storm Darragh, our first major fundraising event was cancelled. Our circuit meeting then agreed that we would extend the period over which we would raise funds for these charities by a month, so realigning our fundraising year with the calendar year. Future years will also now follow the calendar year.

A mixture of fundraising and donations by churches and the circuit have meant that, by 31 August 2025, we had sent a total of £4861 to support these projects. By the same date in 2024 we had sent £4068 to The Leprosy Mission (TLM was last year's charity). A further £1551 was raised after August 2024 for TLM.

We were very pleased to welcome Revd. Kevin Hooke as our new Superintendent from the 1st September 2024. Revd. Hooke is already Superintendent of the Teignbridge Circuit, and will split his time between Teignbridge, our circuit, and the South West Peninsula District (where he is a Deputy Chair).

Our Superintendent has been supported throughout the year by our resident Lay Minister and our Circuit Administrator. They have continued to cover many of the varied management tasks across the circuit, as well as their general administration and ministerial roles. Whilst this has freed up time for the members of our churches to care for one another and those around them, we recognise that asking our paid staff to be responsible for the circuit in this way does not sit well within our Methodist structures or ethos. Also, we know that this is not sustainable in the longer term.

Under Kevin's guidance we have therefore moved forward in our plans to explore a merger with the Teignbridge Circuit. This has led us to formally approach the Teignbridge Circuit, to see if a merger might be of value to both these circuits, and what this might look like.

Our special thanks go to everyone who has continued to give time, prayer, and financial support to the circuit and the churches it represents, especially those who have continued whilst also battling their own health issues.

Financial Review

The accounts of the Circuit are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts for the year totaled £87,488 (2024: £82,031). This includes:

- Letting income of £55,000 (2024: £50,780). This includes letting the Manse which would ordinarily be occupied by our Lay Minister. Under an agreement made in 2021 our minister now provides her own local accommodation and her salary has been adjusted to reflect this.
- Fundraising for the Circuit Charity of £2661 (2024: £1.801).

Payments for the year totaled £92,446 (2924: £81,427). The increase over and above the expected inflationary rise relates mainly to:

- Additional property maintenance costs of £4,334
- £5,000 paid to Teignbridge in recognition of the work of Revd. Kevin in our circuit. Previously the district provided superintendency cover without any charge.
- Other ministerial and administrative staff costs as the changes to National Insurance (that came into effect from April 2025) were added to the annual uplift in pay-rates already agreed.

Overall, this year there was a deficit of £4958 (2024: surplus of £604). This was better than expected as the original budget for 2025 showed a deficit of £11,000. The deficit has been taken from our reserves.

At the end of the year, our total cash funds (reserves) amounted to £156,279 (2024: £161,237).

Reserves

The Reserves Policy indicates that the Circuit should hold the equivalent of at least six months expenditure (£46K). We also hold a Property Reserve for major works to buildings of £50K and a Redundancy Reserve of £10K. In addition, we have Property Maintenance and other designated funds of approximately £10K.

This indicates we should maintain reserves of approximately £116K.

At the year end, the Trustees were aware that our current unrestricted reserves were in excess of the Reserves Policy by approximately £40K and are continuing to review how to best use the funds we hold, whilst continuing to operate within the aims of the Circuit.

Plans for the Future

We continue to consider how we, as a Circuit, can best celebrate God in our communities and respond to the needs we see, both locally and further afield. By making best use of the resources we have, we aim to enable our churches, and the people connected with them, to thrive and grow closer to God.

Overall, we hope that we will continue to offer our distinctive "Methodist" Christianity in Chillington, Kingsbridge and Hope Cove, recognising that this may mean we need to collaborate with others.

Since the year end our leadership team has been working closely with the team in the Teignbridge Circuit with a hope that our two circuits will merge at the end of August 2026. The resolutions needed to make this happen need to be passed at church, circuit, district and national levels. At the time of writing these have been passed at church and circuit levels. We await the approval of the district synod in April and the national conference at the end of June.

We move forward in faith.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Circuit is led by the Circuit Leadership Team which is made up of ministerial and lay members, supported by our part-time Administrator. During 2024/5 the ministerial staff were:

- The Revd. Kevin Hooke who is also the Circuit Superintendent.
- Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our lay minister, who has special dispensation to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion and is the 'authorised person' for weddings at Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Alongside the ministerial staff, the Circuit is reliant on church members who have voluntarily taken on significant roles within the leadership of the Circuit. Special thanks are expressed to Mr. Robert Hamblin and Mrs. Susan Morgan for their ongoing involvement as Circuit Stewards and to Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley who represents Chillington within our leadership team.

The Leadership Team is answerable to the Circuit Meeting.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Officers and Trustees of the Circuit. In performing their duties, the Officers and Trustees keep in mind their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership and staff of the Circuit. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure that any new Trustee have the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruiting procedures are followed.

Please see the following section for details of our Trustees.

Reference and Administration

The name of the Charity	South Devon Methodist Circuit
Charity registration number	1132517
Principal Office	100 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AW
Superintendent Ministers	Revd. Kevin Hooke
Lay Minister	Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Circuit Meeting Secretary	* (see below)
Circuit Administrator	Mrs. Fiona Van Es
Circuit Safeguarding officer	* (see below)
Circuit Property Manager	Mr. Roy Mitchell

Roles annotated * are now fulfilled by our Circuit Administrator, with help from our Lay Minister, the Circuit Leadership Team and the safeguarding officer of the Teignbridge Circuit.

Names of Trustees:

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Revd. Kevin Hooke
Mrs. Erica Jordan
Mrs. Sandra Litchfield
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Mr. Roy Mitchell
Mr. David Monk
Mr. David Morgan
Mrs. Susan Morgan
Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley
Mrs. Sally Sargeant
Mrs. Barbara Welcomme
Mrs. Greta Wills

Treasurer - In 2021 Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our Lay Minister, and an existing Trustee, temporarily took over the financial management of the Circuit in 2021. From September 2024 this has been recognised in Rachel's remuneration. Due to her other roles, Rachel does not consider it appropriate for her to be a signatory on the Circuit bank accounts. The Trustees have agreed this arrangement.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:

K Hooke

Revd. Kevin Hooke
Superintendent Minister

RJ Hamblin

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Circuit Steward

Date: 13/4/26

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Assessments		23,000			**23,000**	22,000
Capital receipts						
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,830	3,800		**6,630**	7,294
Rental Property income		55,000			**55,000**	50,780
Other receipts	1	197		2,661	**2,858**	1,957
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**81,027**	**3,800**	**2,661**	**87,488**	**82,031**
PAYMENTS						
Ministerial Staff Costs	2	47,328			**47,328**	38,446
District Assessment		7,647			**7,647**	6,372
Administration and Office costs	3	13,498	265		**13,763**	14,263
Worship and Discipleship		1,727			**1,727**	1,667
Grants and donations	4	2,730	2,038	2,661	**7,429**	10,736
Property costs		14,277			**14,277**	9,943
Other payments		275			**275**	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**87,482**	**2,303**	**2,661**	**92,446**	**81,427**
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		**(6,455)**	**1,497**		**(4,958)**	**604**
Total funds brought forward from last year		79,720	81,517	-	161,237	160,633
Sub total		**73,265**	**83,014**	**-**	**156,279**	**161,237**
Transfers and adjustments						
Ubrealised gain (loss) on investments						
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**73,265**	**83,014**	**-**	**156,279**	**161,237**

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2025

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT CASH AND INVESTMENT FUNDS HELD					
Cash at Bank	11,645			**11,645**	13,260
Central Finance Board Cash balance	61,620			**61,620**	66,460
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Cash balances		83,014		**83,014**	81,517
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Investment funds					
	73,265	83,014		**156,279**	161,237
Total Funds held by internal organisations				**0**	0
Total as at 31 August 2025	73,265	83,014		**156,279**	161,237
Total as at 31 August 2024	79,720	81,517		**161,237**	160,633

The summary of Circuit Funds as at the end of 31st August 2024 is as reported to the Circuit Meeting. Included within general funds are £11,327 designated funds (2023: £8227) which have been set aside for specific purposes. There were no Internal Organisation Funds to report in 2023 or 2024. If there had been any Internal Organisation Funds these would be restricted Funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

OTHER ASSETS AND LIBILITIES

	Notes		
Land and Buildings		**1,228,104**	1,228,104
Loan to Circuit Church			
Other Liabilities - HMRC payroll taxes (paid quarterly)	2 & 3	**(1,499)**	(1,451)
		1,226,605	1,226,653

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31 August 2025

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
1 OTHER RECEIPTS					
Church Contribution to phone costs	161			161	126
Donations towards costs of HWS				0	30
Refund re circuit property	36			36	0
Charity Fundraising (from churches)			2,661	2,661	1,801
	197	0	2,661	2,858	1,957

The charity fundraising and loan repayements are not, by their nature, income of the Circuit.

2 MINISTERIAL STAFF COSTS					
Salary (incl housing allowance)	34,451			34,451	31,331
Employers NI and Apprenticeship	4,055			4,055	3,217
Ministers Pension	2,061			2,061	1,880
Superintendancy charges	5,000			5,000	0
Travel, Training & Retreat costs	2,155			2,155	2,061
HMRC creditor B/F	1,474			1,474	1,431
HMRC creditor C/F	(1,868)			(1,868)	(1,474)
	47,328	0	0	47,328	38,446

3 ADMINISTRATION AND CIRCUIT OFFICE COSTS					
Administration staff costs	11,253			11,253	10,192
HMRC creditor B/F	25			25	20
HMRC creditor C/F	(146)			(146)	(25)
Office utilities and phone	991			991	1,038
Administration and stationery	645			645	692
Professional fees and Insurance	610	265		875	1,987
Advertising and website	120			120	120
Other Sundry expenses					239
	13,498	265	0	13,763	14,263

4 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS					
District Levy (CMTF)		2,038		2,038	1,988
Circuit Charity - Donation	2,200			2,200	4,200
Circuit Charity - Church Fundraising			2,661	2,661	3,768
Other Grants and Donations	530			530	780
	2,730	2,038	2,661	7,429	10,736

Our circuit charity fundraising totalled £2661 in the year to 31 August. In addition we donated a further £2200 to our circuit charities. These amounts were paid out to the charities we supported before the year end. The comparative figures include the money raised and donated in both 2023 and in 2024.

5 RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Charity Fundraising	0	0
Restricted Funds at TMCP and CFB	0	0
	0	0

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Declarations

Treasurer

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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: *RA Mitchell* Date: 23rd September 2025

Name Mrs R A Mitchell

Address Kingfishers, Mill Court, Frogmore, Kingsbridge. TQ7 2PB

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to and approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 23rd September 2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: *K Hooke* Date: 23 September 2026

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev'd Kevin Hooke

Address: 135 Churchfields Drive, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot. TQ13 9QZ

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit

This report is on the Circuit 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 audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility, as independent examiner to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions givn by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5) (b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Circuit number 37/10 (previously 24/10)

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination of the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025. 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 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 DJ Cotton

Name of independent examiner David John Cotton

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address: Morgans Accountants Ltd, Duke Court, Bridge Street, Kingsbridge TQ7 1HX

Date: 02/06/2026

SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132517

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Standard form of Accounts
and Trustees Annual Report
(Circuit Receipts and Payments)

South Devon Methodist Circuit
For the Year ended 31 August 2024

Ministers

Revd. Daniel Haylett (to 31 August 2024)
Revd. Kevin Hooke (from 1st September 2024)
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Mrs. Susan Morgan

Treasurer

Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit number 24/10
Part of the Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District
Charity Registration number 1132517

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st August 2024

Objectives and Activities

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- **Joining with other churches in Kingsbridge** to provide a number of special events through the year, including a weekend of biblical teaching and Good Friday walk of witness.
- **A growing Knit and natter group** in Chillington to complement the existing group in Kingsbridge.
- **"Sea Sunday" outdoor service at Hope Cove**, followed by a cream tea for residents and visitors was attended by over 50 people as well as the Kingsbridge Silver Band.
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We also take every opportunity to care for each other. However, with aging congregations and fewer people, the care we can offer is limited. So, we do what we can and are ready to be signposts to other sources of help when we are not able to offer all that is needed.

As part of our caring for one another and those around us, we continue to support our volunteers and ask that they are suitably checked and trained in Safeguarding. We recognise the importance of ensuring we are all aware of our responsibilities to keep everyone safe (including our volunteers) and to ensure our volunteers know where to seek further advice, if the need arises.

All our active local preachers and others in our leadership teams renewed their Advanced Safeguarding training in June 2024, when we were pleased to host a district safeguarding course.

Other Activities that benefit our communities

We have done all we are able to support our churches and encourage them to offer what they can to their communities. We have also continued to work with groups who regularly use our buildings, to enable them to continue their activities safely. These activities include:

- Opportunities to meet friends old and new at coffee mornings, craft groups, men's breakfasts and other regular events.
- Hope Cove community events that bring visitors and the resident communities together.
- Monthly walking and weekly table tennis groups.
- Toddler, parent and carer group at Kingsbridge.
- Offering our facilities at Kingsbridge, and being part of the team for an initiative called "Soul Food." This provides meals in the school holidays for families where one or more children would usually receive free school meals. The meals are provided on a take-away or eat-in basis.
- Providing space and so enabling other local groups and organisations to meet.
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Achievements and Performance

We have regularly provided people to lead worship in all our churches and continued to be part of the district initiative which shares responsibility for Home Worship Sheets. We also continue to encourage the stewards in our churches to take responsibility for some acts of worship during the year, giving thanks for the way many people have been encouraged through them. Our thanks also go to our local preachers (accredited and in training) who have offered their time and skills so generously.

In September 2023 we chose "The Leprosy Mission" as our charity for 2024. We have taken time to learn about all they do and encouraged our members to pray for them. A mixture of fundraising and donations from churches and a circuit donation have meant that, by 31 August 2024, we had sent them £4068 to support their life-changing work. A further £1551 has been raised since the end of August, making the total raised £5619. We give thanks for all they do to help some of the most forgotten people of our world today.

We have continued to think about how we can better connect with the people on the edges of our worshipping communities and started to think more intentionally about our connections with the wider Methodist church family too. We recognised that, as a very small circuit, and having recently said goodbye to some key voluntary personnel, we may may need to work more closely with one or more neighbouring circuits if we are to offer our churches the support they need.

Alongside this, our superintendent minister, Revd. Dan Haylett (who is also our district chair) confirmed he would not be able to continue in his circuit role after the end of August 2024. After due consideration the Circuit leadership were pleased to invite Revd. Kevin Hooke to replace him as our superintendent minister from September 2024. Kevin is already the superintendent minister for the Teignbridge circuit and will continue in that role, alongside being our superintendent.

To better support our churches, the circuit leadership have also decided to explore how these two circuits can work more closely with each other and whether a merger might be of value to both circuits. This will be one of the major considerations for the circuit leadership in the year to come.

There have been no other changes to the circuit staffing, or their responsibilities. By covering many of the administrative tasks of the churches and circuit, our paid staff continue to focus on freeing up time for our churches and members to care for one another and those around them, in Jesus' name.

Our special thanks go to everyone who has continued to give time, prayer, and financial support to the circuit, especially those who have continued whilst also battling their own health issues. We hope and pray that 2024/5 will bring more stability on both an individual basis and as a circuit, allowing us all to move forward into the future with confidence and hope.

Financial Review

The accounts of the Circuit are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts for the year totaled £82,031 (2023:81,059). This includes:

- Letting income of £50,780 (2023: £52,740). This includes letting the Manse which would ordinarily be occupied by our Lay Minister. Under an agreement made in 2021 our minister now provides her own local accommodation and her salary has been adjusted to reflect this.
- Fundraising for the Circuit Charity of £1.801 (2023: £2,108).

Payments for the year totaled £81,427 (2023: £64,355). A very significant part of this increase relates to the delayed payment of grants and donations to our circuit charity, resulting in two years charity fundraising and donations being accounted for in 2024. There were also significant increases in salary costs and property costs. Included are:

- Ministerial Costs. These include minster travel, training, retreat, and other sundry ministerial expenses as well as salary and pension costs.
- Administration and Office costs. The increase here reflects a further increase in hours worked by our administrator plus the cost of quinquennial inspections.
- Other Property Costs. These include the maintenance and insurance costs of let properties. This year one property was vacant for a period, while we completed some refurbishment and internal redecoration. The costs here were lower than expected due to much of the work being done by our property manager.
- Charity grants and donations totalling £8,748 (2023: £240). Following a change in the charity year, the 2023 fundraising and donations were not paid over until November 2023. The 2024 charity donations, and fundraising to the end of July were paid to our new charity before the end of August 2024.

Overall, this year there was a surplus of £604 (2023: £16,704).

We have now released all our small historic restricted funds and paid the capital to the beneficiaries identified, which include Kingsbridge Methodist Church and the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At the end of the year, our total cash funds amounted to £161,237 (2023: £160,633).

Reserves

The Reserves Policy indicates that the Circuit should hold the equivalent of at least six months expenditure (£40,714). Alongside this we also hold a Property Reserve for major works to buildings of £50,000; a Redundancy Reserve of £8,790; a Property Maintenance Fund of £9,580 and a Mission Reserve of £5,000 (so

that we can fulfil our current commitments). This indicates we should maintain reserves of approximately £114K.

At the year end, the Trustees were aware that our current unrestricted reserves were in excess of the Reserves Policy by approximately £47K and are continuing to review how to best use the funds we hold, whilst continuing to operate within the aims of the Circuit. One way in which we will be using some of these funds is to cover the future costs of our new superintendency arrangement. In 2024/5 this will be in the region of £5000.

Plans for the Future

We continue to consider how we, as a Circuit, can best celebrate God in our communities and respond to the needs we see, both locally and further afield. By making best use of the resources we have, we aim to enable our churches, and the people connected with them, to thrive and grow closer to God.

Overall, we hope that we will continue to offer our distinctive "Methodist" Christianity in Chillington, Kingsbridge and Hope Cove, recognising that this may mean we need to collaborate with others.

We move forward in faith.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Circuit is led by the Circuit Leadership Team which is made up of ministerial and lay members, supported by our part-time Administrator. During 2023/24 the ministerial staff were:

- The Revd. Dr. Daniel Haylett, Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District, who is also the Circuit Superintendent.
- Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our lay minister, who has been granted special dispensation to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion and is the 'authorised person' for weddings at Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Alongside the ministerial staff, the Circuit is reliant on church members who have voluntarily taken on significant roles within the leadership of the Circuit. Special thanks are expressed to Mr. Robert Hamblin and Mrs. Susan Morgan for their ongoing involvement as Circuit Stewards and our Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs. Helen Hibbard, who are all valued members of our Circuit Leadership Team. Grateful thanks also go to Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley who represents Chillington.

The Leadership Team is answerable to the Circuit Meeting.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Officers and Trustees of the Circuit. In performing their duties, the Officers and Trustees keep in mind their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership and staff of the Circuit. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure that any new Trustee have the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruiting procedures are followed.

Please see the following section for details of our Trustees.

Reference and Administration

The name of the Charity	South Devon Methodist Circuit
Charity registration number	1132517
Principal Office	100 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AW
Superintendent Ministers	Revd. Daniel Haylett (to 31 August 2024)
	Revd. Kevin Hooke (from 1st September 2024)

Lay Minister	Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Circuit Meeting Secretary	* (see below)
Circuit Administrator	Mrs. Fiona Van Es
Circuit Safeguarding officer	Mrs. Carole Knights (to 31 August 2024) *
Circuit Property Manager	Mr. Roy Mitchell

Roles annotated * are now fulfilled by our Circuit Administrator, with help from our Circuit Leadership Team and the support of church safeguarding officers.

Names of Trustees:

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Revd. Daniel Haylett (resigned 31 August 2024)
Revd. Kevin Hooke (appointed 1st September 2024)
Mrs. Erica Jordan
Mrs. Sandra Litchfield
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Mr. Roy Mitchell (appointed 1st September 2024)
Mr. David Monk
Mr. David Morgan
Mrs. Susan Morgan
Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley
Mr. John Sargeant (resigned 31 August 2024)
Mrs. Sally Sargeant
Mrs. Barbara Welcomme
Mrs. Greta Wills

Treasurer - In 2021 Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our Lay Minister, and an existing Trustee, temporarily took over the financial management of the Circuit in 2021. From September 2024 this has been recognised in Rachel's remuneration. Due to her other roles, Rachel does not consider it appropriate for her to be a signatory on the Circuit bank accounts. The Trustees have agreed this arrangement.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:

K Hooke

Revd. Kevin Hooke
Superintendent Minister

RJ Hamblin

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Circuit Steward

Date: 13th March 2025

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Assessments		22,000			**22,000**	22,510
Capital receipts						
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,095	4,199		**7,294**	3,561
Rental Property income		50,780			**50,780**	52,740
Other receipts	1	156		1,801	**1,957**	2,248
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**76,031**	**4,199**	**1,801**	**82,031**	**81,059**
PAYMENTS						
Ministerial Staff Costs	2	38,446			**38,446**	36,058
Manse Costs						
District Assessment		6,372			**6,372**	5,222
Administration and Office costs	3	14,036	227		**14,263**	11,355
Worship and Discipleship		1,667			**1,667**	1,177
Grants and donations	4	4,980	1,988	3,768	**10,736**	2,227
Property costs		9,943			**9,943**	7,220
Other payments	4					1,096
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**75,444**	**2,215**	**3,768**	**81,427**	**64,355**
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		**587**	**1,984**	**(1,967)**	**604**	**16,704**
Total funds brought forward from last year		79,133	79,533	1,967	160,633	144,120
Sub total		**79,720**	**81,517**	**-**	**161,237**	**160,824**
Transfers and adjustments						
Ubrealised gain (loss) on investments						(191)
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**79,720**	**81,517**	**-**	**161,237**	**160,633**

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2024

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT CASH AND INVESTMENT FUNDS HELD					
Cash at Bank	13,260			**13,260**	26,315
Central Finance Board Cash balance	66,460			**66,460**	54,785
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Cash balances		81,517		**81,517**	79,533
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Investment funds					
	79,720	81,517		**161,237**	160,633
Total Funds held by internal organisations				**0**	0
Total as at 31 August 2024	79,720	81,517		**161,237**	160,633
Total as at 31 August 2023	79,133	79,533	1,967	**160,633**	144,120

The summary of Circuit Funds as at the end of 31st August 2024 is as reported to the Circuit Meeting. Included within general funds are £11,327 designated funds (2023: £8227) which have been set aside for specific purposes. There were no Internal Organisation Funds to report in 2023 or 2024. If there had been any Internal Organisation Funds these would be restricted Funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31 August 2024

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
1 OTHER RECEIPTS						
Church Contribution to phone costs	126				126	
Donations towards costs of HWS	30				30	140
Charity Fundraising (from churches)				1,801	1,801	2,108
	156	0		1,801	1,957	2,248

The charity fundraising and loan repayements are not, by their nature, income of the Circuit.

2 MINISTERIAL STAFF COSTS						
Salary (incl housing allowance)	31,331				31,331	29,054
Employers NI and Apprenticeship	3,217				3,217	2,941
Ministers Pension	1,880				1,880	1,743
Travel, Training & Retreat costs	2,061				2,061	2,344
HMRC creditor B/F	1,431				1,431	1,407
HMRC creditor C/F	(1,474)				(1,474)	(1,431)
	38,446	0		0	38,446	36,058

3 ADMINISTRATION AND CIRCUIT OFFICE COSTS						
Administration staff costs	10,192				10,192	8,225
HMRC creditor B/F	20				20	0
HMRC creditor C/F	(25)				(25)	(20)
Office utilities and phone	1,038				1,038	1,008
Administration and stationery	692				692	623
Professional fees and Insurance	1,760	227			1,987	764
Advertising and website	120				120	100
Other sundry expenses	239				239	655
	14,036	227		0	14,263	11,355

4 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS						
District Levy (CMTF)		1,988			1,988	1,987
Circuit Charity - Donation	2,200		2,000		4,200	0
Circuit Charity - Church Fundraising				3,768	3,768	240
Other Grants and Donations	560		220		780	0
Restricted fund - transfer to beneficiary					0	1,096
	2,760	1,988	2,220	3,768	10,736	3,323

The donations to our Circuit charities include both the money raised and donated in 2023 for Devon Air ambulance (total value £3967) and £4001 which we have sent to The Leprosy Mission during this financial year. The £240 shown as paid in 2023 was the balance held at the beginning of that year for our previous charity, the Hospital in Berhampur.

5 RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Charity Fundraising	0	1,967
Restricted Funds at TMCP and CFB	0	0
	0	1,967

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Declarations

Treasurer

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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: *RA Mitchell*

Name Mrs. R A Mitchell
Address Kingfishers, Mill Court, Frogmore, Kingsbridge. TQ7 2PB

Date: 13th March 2025

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to and approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 13th March 2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: *Kevin Hooke*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd. Kevin Hooke
Address: 135 Churchfields Drive, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot. TQ13 9QZ

Date: 13th March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit

This report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility, as independent examiner 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.

Name of Circuit: South Devon Methodist Circuit No: 24/10

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 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 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.

D J Cotton

Signature of independent examiner ……

Name of independent examiner: Mr. David John Cotton

Address: Morgan Accountants Ltd, Duke Court, Bridge Street, Kingsbridge. TQ7 1HX

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Date: 16/4/25

SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132517

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Standard form of Accounts
and Trustees Annual Report
(Circuit Receipts and Payments)

South Devon Methodist Circuit
For the Year ended 31 August 2023

Ministers

Revd. Daniel Haylett
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Mrs. Susan Morgan

Treasurer

Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit number 24/10
Part of the Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District
Charity Registration number 1132517

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st August 2023

Objectives and Activities

The calling of our churches and Circuit is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We understand that we are not engaging in our mission but participating in God's mission to all people, in partnership with others and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We do this through:

- **Worship** - In our worship we meet God as we intentionally recognise His presence and celebrate His love for us and for all His creation.
- **Learning and Caring** - As Christian communities we help and encourage one another to learn about Jesus and to grow more like Him as we support and care for each other.
- **Service** - Our churches are part of a network of organisations and people in the South Hams. We strive to be good neighbours to all, to help those in need and to challenge injustice.
- **Evangelism** - As we celebrate the Good News of all that Jesus has done for us and live lives reflecting His love, we hope that others will choose to join us in following Him.

Worship and Learning

This year we have continued to support the churches in the Circuit and those who worship with them. Alongside our "in person" services we have continued to provide home worship sheets for those unable to join us for worship. We hope that this will enable everyone to still feel part of our church family.

Alongside our Sunday and home worship services, other opportunities we now offer to help ourselves and others encounter God include:

- **Sacred Space** – a monthly ecumenical prayer time held in Chillington Church. This offers a quiet time for personal refreshment and space to grow spirituality, followed by coffee.
- **Hope Cove open for prayer** - We open Hope Cove most days, for both local people and visitors, offering the opportunity to pause and find peace in our little chapel.
- **Weekly fellowship time and coffee** on Friday mornings at Kingsbridge.
- **For Children and Families** - Bible based craft activities at the Ark (parent and toddler group) and pre-school worship services for our neighbours at the Tresillian Day Nursery. We also offer occasional opportunities for families in Chillington to "Explore" together some of Jesus teaching and find out about his love for us.
- **Joining with other churches in Kingsbridge** to provide a number of special events through the year, including a weekend of biblical teaching and Good Friday walk of witness.
- **A growing Knit and natter group** in Chillington to complement the existing group in Kingsbridge.
- **"Sea Sunday" outdoor service at Hope Cove**, followed by a cream tea for residents and visitors was attended by over 50 people as well as the Kingsbridge Silver Band.
- **Our Circuit prayer list**, where we share names of those who have asked us to pray for them and also news of where we have seen God at work answering them, has been much appreciated.

In addition, we offered reflections and teaching on the letter of James throughout June, using our own "Bible Month" resources as the basis of our worship over a five week period.

Caring for One Another

We have continued to distribute pastoral letters by post and email monthly this year. These continue to be well received and our thanks go to our Lay Minister (Rachel Mitchell), other ministers and Local Preachers for all the care, thought and prayer that has gone into preparing them.

We also take every opportunity to care for each other. However, with aging congregations and fewer people, the care we can offer is limited. So, we do what we can and are ready to be signposts to other sources of help when we are not able to offer all that is needed.

As part of our caring for one another and those around us, we continue to support our volunteers and ask that they are suitably checked and trained in Safeguarding. We recognise the importance of ensuring we are all aware of our responsibilities to keep everyone safe (including our volunteers) and to ensure our volunteers know where to seek further advice, if the need arises.

All our preachers have completed the Advanced safeguarding training within the last 4 years.

Other Activities that benefit our communities

We have done all we are able to support our churches and encourage them to offer what they can to their communities. We have also continued to work with groups who regularly use our buildings, to enable them to continue their activities safely. These activities include:

- Opportunities to meet friends old and new at coffee mornings, craft groups, men's breakfasts and other regular events.
- Hope Cove community events that bring visitors and the resident communities together.
- Monthly walking and weekly table tennis groups.
- Toddler, parent and carer group at Kingsbridge.
- Volunteering for the Chillington village youth club.
- Providing space and so enabling other local groups and organisations to meet.
- Supporting local charities including Kingsbridge Foodbank, Hope Cove private lifeboat and the *Wordwise* Christian bookshop as well as raising awareness of our Circuit charity and fundraising for them.

We have also been pleased to offer our facilities at Kingsbridge for a new ecumenical church-based initiative called "Soul Food" which provides meals in the school holidays for families where one or more children would usually receive free school meals. The meals are provided on a take-away or eat-in basis.

Achievements and Performance

We continue to regularly offer people to lead worship in all our churches and to be part of the district initiative which shares responsibility for Home Worship Sheets. We have also encouraged the stewards in our churches to take responsibility for some acts of worship during the year. Our thanks go to our local preachers (accredited and in training) who have offered their time and skills so generously.

We have strengthened the contact we have with some of the people on the edges of our worshipping communities and started to think more intentionally about other contacts we have.

We have continued to find ways to raise funds for our Circuit Charity which, this year, has been Devon Air Ambulance. Fundraising has included coffee mornings and cream teas, donations, special services, and an open church event before Christmas (as part of a wider community event). The Circuit also agreed to give a further £2000 to the Charity.

We have also helped raise funds for Christian Aid, holding a fabulous live concert in May, taking up collections and by organizing collections at our local supermarkets in Christian Aid week.

The year under review has not always been an easy year. With fewer people able and willing to fulfill the key roles in the Circuit, more has been taken on by our existing Circuit Officers, Church Stewards, Lay Minister

and Circuit Administrator. We have invited our Lay Minister Mrs. Rachel Mitchell to continue with us for a further three years, but recognise that she is still responsible for the roles she "temporarily" stepped into in 2021 – and which take her away from her primary role of ministry.

As churches and as a Circuit, this continues to challenge us; how do we need to change to better enable our mission as well as making the best use of the ministerial resources we have? Under the leadership of our Circuit Superintendent, the Rev'd Dan Haylett, our Circuit organizational structures have been reviewed and some possible different ways of working together identified. We see though, that resourcing and making these changes may not be easy, and will take time.

Special thanks go to everyone who has continued to give time and financial support to the circuit, especially those who have continued whilst also battling their own health issues. We hope and pray that 2023/4 will bring better health to many.

Financial Review

The accounts of the Circuit are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts for the year totaled £81.059 (2022:75,827). This includes:

- Letting income of £52,740 (2022: £46,580). This includes letting the Manse which would ordinarily be occupied by our Lay Minister. Under an agreement made in 2021 our minister now provides her own local accommodation and her salary has been adjusted to reflect this.
- Fundraising for the Circuit Charity of £2,108 (2022: £2,930).

Payments for the year totaled £64,355 (2021: £73,740). This relates mainly to salaries and property costs. Included are:

- Ministerial Costs. These include minster travel, training, retreat and other sundry ministerial expenses as well as salary and pension costs.
- Administration and Office costs. The increase here relates to higher office heating costs in 2022/3 and a review of the administrator's salary (implemented May 2022).
- Other Property Costs. These include the maintenance and insurance costs of the Manse which is now let on a residential lease. This year the expenditure was lower than is usual.
- Charity Fundraising of £240 (2022: £4,583). We have changed our charity year so that it now starts in December. This means that the funds raised and set aside for Devon Air Ambulance were not paid out until November 2023. The £240 paid out this year was the balance of the money due to the Christian Hospital in Berhampur, India (our 2022 charity).

Overall, this year there was a surplus of £16704 (2022: £2,087).

We have now released all our small historic restricted funds and paid the capital to the beneficiaries identified, which include Kingsbridge Methodist Church and the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At the end of the year, our total cash funds amounted to £160,633 (2022: £144,120).

Reserves

The Reserves Policy indicates that the Circuit should hold the equivalent of at least six months expenditure (£32,177). Also, that we hold a Property Reserve for major works to buildings of £50,000; a Redundancy Reserve of £7,748; a Property Maintenance Fund of £9,000 and a Mission Reserve of £5,000 (so that we can fulfil our current commitments). This indicates we should maintain reserves of approximately £104K.

At the year end, the Trustees were aware that our current unrestricted reserves were in excess of the Reserves Policy by approximately £55K and are continuing to review how to best use the funds we hold whilst continuing to operate within the aims of the Circuit.

Plans for the Future

We continue to consider how we, as a Circuit, can best celebrate God in our communities and respond to the needs we see, both locally and further afield. By making best use of the resources we have, we aim to enable our churches, and the people connected with them, to thrive and grow closer to God.

Overall, we hope that we will continue to offer our distinctive "Methodist" Christianity in Chillington, Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Circuit is led by the Circuit Leadership Team which is made up of ministerial and lay members, supported by our part-time Administrator. During 2022/23 the ministerial staff were:

- The Revd. Dr. Daniel Haylett, Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District, who is also the Circuit Superintendent.
- Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our lay minister, who has been granted special dispensation to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion and is the 'authorised person' for weddings at Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Alongside the ministerial staff, the Circuit is reliant on church members who have voluntarily taken on significant roles within the leadership of the Circuit. Special thanks are expressed to Mr. Robert Hamblin and Mrs. Susan Morgan for their ongoing involvement as Circuit Stewards and our Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs. Helen Hibbard, who are all valued members of our Circuit Leadership Team. Grateful thanks also go to Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley who represents Chillington.

The Leadership Team is answerable to the Circuit Meeting.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Officers and Trustees of the Circuit. In performing their duties, the Officers and Trustees keep in mind their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership and staff of the Circuit. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure that any new Trustee have the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruiting procedures are followed.

Please see the following section for details of our Trustees.

Reference and Administration

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Principal Office	100 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AW
Superintendent Ministers	Revd. Daniel Haylett
Lay Minister	Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Circuit Meeting Secretary	Mrs. Helen Hibbard (resigned 31 August 2023) (not replaced)
Circuit Administrator	Mrs. Fiona Van Es
Circuit Safeguarding officer	Mrs. Carole Knights
Circuit Property Manager	Mr. Roy Mitchell

Names of Trustees:

Mrs. Barbara Allen
Mr. Robert Hamblin
Revd. Daniel Haylett
Mrs. Helen Hibbard (resigned 31 August 2023)
Mrs. Erica Jordan
Mrs. Carole Knights (resigned 1st January 2023)
Mrs. Sandra Litchfield
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Mr. David Monk
Mr. David Morgan
Mrs. Susan Morgan
Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley
Mr. John Sargeant
Mrs. Sally Sargeant (appointed 29th September 2022)
Mrs. Greta Wills

Treasurer - In 2021 Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our Lay Minister and an existing Trustee, temporarily took over the financial management of the Circuit in 2021. Due to her other roles, Rachel does not consider it appropriate for her to be a signatory on the Circuit bank accounts. The Trustees have agreed this arrangement.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:

D Haylett

Revd. Daniel Haylett
Superintendent Minister

RJ Hamblin

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Circuit Steward

Date: 20th March 2024

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Assessments		22,510			**22,510**	25,490
Capital receipts						
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,081	2,467	13	**3,561**	518
Rental Property income		52,740			**52,740**	46,580
Other receipts	1	140		2,108	**2,248**	3,239
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**76,471**	**2,467**	**2,121**	**81,059**	**75,827**
PAYMENTS						
Ministerial Staff Costs	2	36,058			**36,058**	34,451
Manse Costs						
District Assessment		5,222			**5,222**	5,797
Administration and Office costs	3	11,129	226		**11,355**	9,734
Worship and Discipleship		1,177			**1,177**	1,087
Grants and donations	4		1,987	240	**2,227**	6,135
Property costs		7,220			**7,220**	10,839
Other payments	4			1,096	**1,096**	5,697
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**60,806**	**2,213**	**1,336**	**64,355**	**73,740**
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		**15,665**	**254**	**785**	**16,704**	**2,087**
Total funds brought forward from last year		63,468	79,470	1,182	144,120	142,465
Sub total		**79,133**	**79,724**	**1,967**	**160,824**	**144,552**
Transfers and adjustments						
Ubrealised gain (loss) on investments			(191)		**(191)**	(432)
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**79,133**	**79,533**	**1,967**	**160,633**	**144,120**

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2023

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT CASH AND INVESTMENT FUNDS HELD					
Cash at Bank	24348		1,967	**26,315**	35,759
Central Finance Board Cash balance	54,785			**54,785**	28,891
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Cash balances		79,533		**79,533**	77,003
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Investment funds					2,467
	79,133	79,533	1,967	**160,633**	144,120
Total Funds held by internal organisations				**0**	0
Total as at 31 August 2023	79,133	79,533	1,967	**160,633**	144,120
Total as at 31 August 2022	63,468	79,470	1,182	**144,120**	142,465

The summary of Circuit Funds as at the end of 31st August 2023 is as reported to the Circuit Meeting. There were no Internal Organisation Funds to report in 2022 or 2023. If there were any Internal Organisation Funds these would be restricted Funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

OTHER ASSETS AND LIBILITIES

	Notes		
Land and Buildings		**1,228,104**	1,228,104
Loan to Circuit Church			16
Other Liabilities - HMRC payroll taxes (paid quarterly)	2 & 3	**(1,451)**	(1,407)
		1,226,653	1,226,713

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31 August 2023

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
1 OTHER RECEIPTS					
Minister's Council Tax Refunded				0	309
Donations towards costs of HWS	140			140	0
Charity Fundraising (from churches)			2,108	2,108	2,930
	140	0	2,108	2,248	3,239

The charity fundraising and loan repayements are not, by their nature, income of the Circuit.

2 MINISTERIAL STAFF COSTS					
Salary (incl housing allowance)	29,054			29,054	27,847
Employers NI and Apprenticeship	2,941			2,941	2,843
Ministers Pension	1,743			1,743	1,671
Travel, Training & Retreat costs	2,344			2,344	2,119
HMRC creditor B/F	1,407			1,407	1,378
HMRC creditor C/F	(1,431)			(1,431)	(1,407)
	36,058	0	0	36,058	34,451
3 ADMINISTRATION AND CIRCUIT OFFICE COSTS					
Administration staff costs	8,225			8,225	7,016
HMRC creditor C/F	(20)			(20)	0
Office utilities and phone	1,008			1,008	563
Administration and stationery	623			623	765
Professional fees and Insurance	538	226		764	644
Advertising and website	100			100	100
Circuit equipment				0	134
Other sundry expenses	655			655	512
	11,129	226	0	11,355	9,734
4 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS					
District Levy (CMTF)		1,987		1,987	2,045
Circuit Charity - Donation				0	2,000
Circuit Charity - Church Fundraising			240	240	4,583
Other Grants and Donations				0	2,090
Restricted fund - transfer to beneficiary			1,096	1,096	1,098
Paid on behalf of Circuit Church				0	16
	0	0	1,336	3,323	11,832

In December 2022 our Circuit Charity changed from the Hospital in Berhampur to Devon Air Ambulance and the balance of money due to the hospital (£240) was paid to them. It was agreed to donate £2000 to our new charity, but this, and the other money raised, was not paid across until November 2023.

5 RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Charity Fundraising	1,967	99
Restricted Funds at TMCP and CFB	0	1,087
	1,967	1,186

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Declarations

Treasurer

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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: RA Mitchell Date: 20 March 2024

Name Mrs R A Mitchell

Address Kingfishers, Mill Court, Frogmore, Kingsbridge. TQ7 2PB

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to and approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 20th March 2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: Dan Haylett Date: 20 March 2024

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev'd Daniel Haylett

Address: 18 Velwell Road, Exeter, Devon. EX4 4LE

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit

This report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility, as independent examiner to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions givn by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5) (b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Circuit number 24/10

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination of the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2023. 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 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 ..... N Holmes

Name of independent examiner ..... Mr Nigel Holmes

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: ACMA, CGMA

Address: Early Sunrise, Coombe Road, Shaldon, Devon. TQ14 0EX

Date: 11th May 2024

SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132517

Accounts

The Methodist Church
Standard form of Accounts
and Trustees Annual Report
(Circuit Receipts and Payments)

South Devon Methodist Circuit
For the Year ended 31 August 2022

Ministers

Revd. Graham Thompson (until 31 August 2022)
Revd. Daniel Haylett (from 1st September 2022)
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards

Mr. Robert Hamblin
Mrs. Susan Morgan

Treasurer

Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit number 24/10
Part of the Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District
Charity Registration number 1132517

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st August 2022

Objectives and Activities

The calling of our churches and Circuit is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We understand that we are not engaging in our mission but participating in God's mission to all people, in partnership with others and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We do this through:

- **Worship** - In our worship we meet God as we intentionally recognise His presence and celebrate His love for us and for all His creation.
- **Learning and Caring** - As Christian communities we help and encourage one another to learn about Jesus and to grow more like Him as we support and care for each other.
- **Service** - Our churches are part of a network of organisations and people in the South Hams. We strive to be good neighbours to all, to help those in need and to challenge injustice.
- **Evangelism** - As we celebrate the Good News of all that Jesus has done for us and live lives reflecting His love, we hope that others will choose to join us in following Him.

Worship and Learning

This year we have continued to support the churches in the Circuit and those who worship with them. Alongside our "in person" services we have continued to provide home worship sheets for those unable to join us for worship or still unsure about meeting with others. From September 2022 these will be sent out monthly, along with a pastoral letter from our ministry team, church family news and prayer list. We hope that this will enable everyone to still feel part of our church family.

We have been very pleased to welcome a number of new members this year.

Alongside our Sunday and home worship services, other opportunities we now offer to help ourselves and others encounter God include:

- Our monthly ecumenical prayer time called 'Sacred Space' at Chillington. This offers a quiet time for personal refreshment and space to grow spirituality, followed by coffee.
- We open Hope Cove most days, for both local people and visitors, offering the opportunity to pause and find peace in our little chapel.
- Our fortnightly house group at Kingsbridge has restarted on Tuesday evenings. Also, our weekly fellowship time and coffee on Friday mornings.
- Bible based craft activities at the Ark (parent and toddler group) and pre-school worship services for our neighbours at the Tresillian Day Nursery.
- Joining with other churches in Kingsbridge to provide a number of special events through the year, including a weekend of biblical teaching and Good Friday walk of witness.
- At Chillington, a new group for families called "Explorers" now meets bi-monthly.
- In July, our outdoor "Sea Sunday" service at Hope Cove, followed by a cream tea for residents and visitors was attended by over 60 people as well as the Kingsbridge Silver Band.
- Our Circuit prayer list, where we share names of those who have asked us to pray for them and also news of where we have seen God at work answering them, has been much appreciated.

In addition, we offered reflections and teaching on the book of Isaiah throughout July and August, using our own "Bible Month" resources as the basis of our worship over a six week period.

Caring for One Another

We have continued to distribute pastoral letters by post and email twice a month this year. These have been well received and our thanks go to our Lay Minister (Rachel Mitchell), other ministers and Local Preachers for all the care, thought and prayer that has gone into preparing them.

We have also been delighted to have many more occasions when we can meet in person. However, we are aware that the Covid pandemic, and particularly the lockdowns, have had a lasting effect on many people inside and outside our church family. We are therefore continually looking at how we can best support one another and offer our hope to the communities around us.

As part of our caring for one another and those around us, we continue to support our volunteers and ask that they are suitably checked and trained in Safeguarding. We recognise the importance of ensuring we are all aware of our responsibilities to keep everyone safe (including our volunteers) and to ensure our volunteers know where to seek further advice, if the need arises.

Over the last 12 months we have identified the need for a number of volunteers to renew their Foundation level safeguarding training or move on to doing the Advanced level. An "in person" Foundation training evening was held in September 2022, which was well attended, and Advanced training is now underway online. All our preachers have completed the Advanced safeguarding training within the last 4 years.

This year we have also been pleased to support Revd. Graham Thompson in his final year with us. During this time, he has been preparing both to move to a new part of the country and to take up the role of President of the Methodist Conference. Graham, we hope and pray you will find your year as President a real blessing, just as we are sure you will be a blessing to those who meet you.

Other Activities that benefit our communities

We have done all we are able to support our churches and encourage them to offer what they can to their communities. We have also continued to work with groups who regularly use our buildings, to enable them to continue their activities safely. These activities include:

- Opportunities to meet friends old and new at coffee mornings, craft groups, men's breakfasts and other regular events.
- Hope Cove community events that bring visitors and the resident communities together.
- Monthly walking and weekly table tennis groups.
- Toddler, parent and carer group at Kingsbridge.
- Volunteering for the Chillington village youth club.
- Providing space for other local groups and organisations to meet.
- Platinum Jubilee books entitled "Our faithful Queen" were distributed to local groups and made available at our own celebrations, including cream teas and a fabulous flower festival.
- Supporting local charities including Kingsbridge Foodbank, Cornelius Trust housing association, Hope Cove private lifeboat and the *Wordwise* Christian bookshop as well as raising awareness of our Circuit charity and fundraising for them.

We have also been pleased to offer our facilities at Kingsbridge for a new ecumenical church-based initiative called "Soul Food" which provides meals in the school holidays for families where one or more children would usually receive free school meals. The meals are provided on a take-away or eat-in basis.

Achievements and Performance

The year under review has been a year in which we have been rediscovering our confidence in gathering together, as we learn to live with Covid. For some the opportunities to gather have been welcomed while others have remained cautious. We have remembered what we used to do but have also seen that we now have fewer resources and need to learn to live with this too.

As churches and as a Circuit, we have said goodbye to people who, until recently, have taken responsibility for some of our key management roles. Replacing them has been difficult and so our Lay minister has temporarily stepped into some of these responsibilities. This has then asked us to consider how we may need to change to better understand and enable our mission as well as making the best use of the ministerial resources we have.

Alongside this we have continued to encourage one another, listen for God's voice and welcome new people into our churches. In Kingsbridge new stewards were added to our church leadership team and they, with the existing stewards have taken increased responsibility for the building management as well as helping to shape the character of the Kingsbridge church.

Our smaller churches in Chillington and Hope Cove have been challenged by the suggestion from Conference that, to be sustainable, all of our churches should have at least 12 members. They have each been pleased to officially welcome a number of new members over the last 12 months, some of whom were brought into our communities during Covid.

This year we have restarted a number of activities that had stopped during the Covid period as well as starting at least one new initiative. We continue to hold in our minds the sustainability of all we do and, for the first time, we set aside a specific Sunday to help us focus on our response to climate change.

We have continued to find ways to raise funds for our Circuit Charity which, this year, has been the project to build a new Christian Hospital in Berhampur. Fundraising has included coffee mornings and cream teas, donations, jubilee events, special services, an open church day before Christmas (as part of a wider community event) and a flower festival. The Circuit also agreed to give a further £2000 to the Charity.

The Circuit staffing and leadership structures have remained stable, but Rev'd Graham Thompson's time with us came to an end on 31st August 2022. On the 1st September we welcomed Rev'd Dan Haylett as our new superintendent minister and look forward to working together with him in Christ's service.

Financial Review

The accounts of the Circuit are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts for the year totaled £75,827 (2021: £63,912). This includes:

- Letting income of £45,680 (2021: £33,700). This has further increased in 2021-22 following the new arrangement with the Lay Minister, whereby she and her husband have vacated the Circuit house provided and moved to their own property. This has also reduced our property costs.
- Fundraising for the Circuit Charity of £2,930 (2021: £2,993).

Payments for the year totaled £73,740 (2021: £67,318). This relates mainly to salaries and property costs. Included are:

- Ministerial Costs. This year was the first full year where our Lay Minister received a housing allowance as well as a salary. Last year she received a housing allowance for just two months.
- Other Property Costs. These now include the maintenance and insurance costs of the Manse which is now let on a residential lease. The circuit no longer pay the council tax or other costs related to providing housing for the Lay Minister.
- Charity Fundraising of £4,583. This includes £1,752 raised in 2020/21 as well as £2,831 raised this year. A further £99 is yet to be forwarded to the hospital project fund.

Overall, this year there was a surplus of £2,087 (2021: deficit of £3,406).

We continue to review our funds and explore ways to release and/or use our historic restricted funds. £1083 is still to be released. When released, these funds will need to be transferred from the Circuit to the church/fund for whose benefit they are held.

At the end of the year, our total cash funds amounted to £144,120 (2021: £142,465).

Reserves

The Reserves Policy indicates that the Circuit should hold the equivalent of at least six months expenditure (£36,420). Also, that we hold a Property Reserve for major works to buildings of £50,000; a Redundancy Reserve of £4,866; a Property Maintenance Fund of £8,000 and a Mission Reserve of £5,000 (so that we can fulfil our current commitments). This indicates we should maintain reserves of approximately £105K.

At the year end, the Trustees were aware that our current unrestricted reserves were in excess of the Reserves Policy by approximately £38K and are continuing to review how to best use the funds we hold whilst continuing to operate within the aims of the Circuit.

Plans for the Future

We continue to consider how we, as a Circuit, can best celebrate God in our communities and respond to the needs we see, both locally and further afield. By making best use of the resources we have, we aim to enable our churches, and the people connected with them, to thrive and grow closer to God.

Overall, we hope that we will continue to offer our distinctive "Methodist" Christianity in Chillington, Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Circuit is led by the Circuit Leadership Team, which is made up of ministerial and lay members, supported by our part-time Administrator. During 2021/22 the ministerial staff were:

- The Revd. Canon Graham Thompson, Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District, who is also the Circuit Superintendent.
- Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our lay minister, who has been granted special dispensation to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion and is the 'authorised person' for weddings at Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Alongside the ministerial staff, the Circuit is reliant on church members who have voluntarily taken on significant roles within the leadership of the Circuit. Special thanks are expressed to Mr. Robert Hamblin and Mrs. Susan Morgan for their ongoing involvement as Circuit Stewards and our Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs. Helen Hibbard, who are all valued members of our Circuit Leadership Team. Grateful thanks also go to Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley who represents Chillington.

The Leadership Team is answerable to the Circuit Meeting.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Trustees of the Circuit. In performing their duties, the Trustees keep in mind their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership and staff of the Circuit. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure that any new Trustee have the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruiting procedures are followed.

Please see the following section for details of our Trustees.

Reference and Administration

The name of the Charity	South Devon Methodist Circuit
Charity registration number	1132517
Principal Office	100 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AW
Superintendent Ministers	Revd. Canon Graham Thompson (until 31st August 2022)
	Revd. Daniel Haylett (from 1st September 2022)
Lay Minister	Mrs. Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Meeting Secretary	Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Circuit Administrator	Mrs. Fiona Van Es
Circuit Property Manager	Mr. Roy Mitchell
Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. Carole Knights

Names of Trustees:

Mrs. Barbara Allen (appointed 16th March 2022)
Mr. Peter Bolt
Mrs. Gillian Butt (resigned 31 August 2022)
Mr. Robert Hamblin
Revd. Daniel Haylett (from 1st September 2022)
Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Mr. Ken Johnson (resigned 29th September 2021)
Revd. Margaret Johnson (resigned 29th September 2021)
Mrs. Erica Jordan (appointed 16th March 2022)
Mrs. Carole Knights (resigned 1st January 2023)
Mrs. Sandra Litchfield
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Mr. David Monk
Mr. David Morgan
Mrs. Susan Morgan
Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley
Mr. John Sargeant
Mrs. Sally Sargeant (appointed 29th September 2022)
Revd. Canon Graham Thompson (until 31st August 2022)
Mrs. Greta Wills

Treasurer - In 2021 Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our Lay Minister and an existing Trustee, temporarily took over the financial management of the Circuit. Due to her other roles, Rachel does not consider it appropriate for her to be a signatory on the Circuit bank accounts. The Trustees have agreed this arrangement.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:

Dan Haylett

Revd. Daniel Haylett
Superintendent Minister

Helen Hibbard

Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Circuit Meeting Secretary

Date: 29th September 2022

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Assessments		25,490			**25,490**	25,400
Capital receipts						
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		122	386	10	**518**	353
Rental Property income		46,580			**46,580**	33,700
Other receipts	1	309		2,930	**3,239**	4,459
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**72,501**	**386**	**2,940**	**75,827**	**63,912**
PAYMENTS						
Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	2	34,451			**34,451**	23,526
Manse Costs						9,717
District Assessment		5,797			**5,797**	6,671
Administration and Office costs	3	9,495	233	6	**9,734**	9,349
Worship and Discipleship		1,087			**1,087**	2,363
Grants and donations	4	4,090	2,045		**6,135**	3,095
Other property costs		10,839			**10,839**	10,768
Other payments	4	16		5,681	**5,697**	1,829
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**65,775**	**2,278**	**5,687**	**73,740**	**67,318**
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		**6,726**	**(1,892)**	**(2,747)**	**2,087**	**(3,406)**
Total funds brought forward from last year		56,742	81,794	3,929	142,465	145,927
Sub total		**63,468**	**79,902**	**1,182**	**144,552**	**142,521**
Transfers and adjustments						
Ubrealised gain (loss) on investments			(432)		**(432)**	(56)
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**63,468**	**79,470**	**1,182**	**144,120**	**142,465**

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2022

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT CASH AND INVESTMENT FUNDS HELD					
Cash at Bank	35,660		99	**35,759**	25,009
Central Finance Board Cash balance	27,808		1,083	**28,891**	33,485
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Cash balances		77,003		**77,003**	79,975
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Investment funds		2,467		**2,467**	3,996
	63,468	79,470	1,182	**144,120**	142,465
Total Funds held by internal organisations				**0**	0
Total as at 31 August 2022	63,468	79,470	1,182	**144,120**	142,465
Total as at 31 August 2021	56,742	81,794	3,929	**142,465**	145,927

The summary of Circuit Funds as at the end of 31st August 2022 is as reported to the Circuit Meeting. This shows there were no Internal Organisation Funds to report in 2022 or 2021. If there were any Internal Organisation Funds these would be restricted Funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

OTHER ASSETS AND LIBILITIES

	Notes		
Land and Buildings		**1,228,104**	1,228,104
Loan to Circuit Church		**16**	0
Other Liabilities - HMRC payroll taxes (paid quarterly)	2	**1,407**	(1,378)
		1,229,527	1,226,726

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31 August 2022

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
1 OTHER RECEIPTS					
Minister's Council Tax Refunded	309			309	0
Loan repayments from church				0	1,466
Charity Fundraising (from churches)			2,930	2,930	2,993
	309	0	2,930	3,239	4,459

The charity fundraising and loan repayements are not, by their nature, income of the Circuit.

2 MINISTERIAL STAFF COSTS					
Salary (incl housing allowance)	27,847			27,847	20,528
Employers NI and Apprenticeship	2,843			2,843	1,724
Ministers Pension	1,671			1,671	1,269
Travel, Training & Retreat costs	2,119			2,119	690
HMRC creditor B/F	1,378			1,378	693
HMRC creditor C/F	(1,407)			(1,407)	(1,378)
	34,451	0	0	34,451	23,526

3 ADMINISTRATION AND CIRCUIT OFFICE COSTS					
Administration staff costs	7,016			7,016	6,605
Office utilities and phone	563			563	490
Administration and stationery	765			765	884
Professional fees and Insurance	409	233	6	648	609
Advertising and website	100			100	118
Circuit equipment	134			134	549
Other sundry expenses	202			202	95
	9,189	233	6	9,428	9,350

4 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS					
District Levy (CMTF)		2,045		2,045	2,095
Circuit Charity - Donation	2,000			2,000	1,000
Circuit Charity - Church Fundraising			4,583	4,583	1,829
Other Grants and Donations	2,090			2,090	0
Restricted fund - transfer to beneficiary			1,098	1,098	0
Paid on behalf of Circuit Church	16			16	0
	4,106	0	5,681	11,832	4,924

The Circuit Charity supported in 2021-22 is a project to rebuild the Christian Hospital in Berhampur, India. Each church sends the funds they raise to the Circuit who then forward them on to the charity. The charity payments in 2020-21 were made to our previous charity, Children's Hospice South West.

5 RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Charity Fundraising	99	1,752
Restricted Funds at TMCP and CFB	1,087	2,177
	1,186	3,929

The Circuit has continued to progress the release of its small historic Restricted Funds held at TMCP and hope to finally complete this in 2022-23.

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Declarations

Treasurer

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.

RA Mitchell

Signature of treasurer: ……..……..

Name: Mrs. R A Mitchell
Address: Kingfishers, Mill Court, Frogmore, Kingsbridge. TQ7 2PB

Date:

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to and approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 29th September 2022.

Dan Haylett

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: …….

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Revd. Daniel Haylett
Address: 18 Velwell Road, Exeter, Devon. EX4 4LE

Date:

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit

This report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility, as independent examiner 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.

Name of Circuit: . South Devon Methodist Circuit . No: 24/10

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 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: . N Holmes .

Name of independent examiner: Mr. Nigel Holmes

Address: Early Sunrise, Coombe Road, Shaldon, Devon. TQ14 0EX

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: ACMA. CGMA

Date: 28 March 2023

SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132517

Accounts

South Devon Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st August 2021

Objectives and Activities

The calling of our churches and Circuit is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We understand that we are not engaging in our mission but participating in God's mission to all people, in partnership with others and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We do this through:

- **Worship** - In our worship we meet God as we intentionally recognise His presence and celebrate His love for us and for all His creation.
- **Learning and Caring** - As Christian communities we help and encourage one another to learn about Jesus and to grow more like Him as we support and care for each other.
- **Service** - Our churches are part of a network of organisations and people in the South Hams. We strive to be good neighbours to all, to help those in need and to challenge injustice.
- **Evangelism** - As we celebrate the Good News of all that Jesus has done for us and live lives reflecting His love, we hope that others will choose to join us in following Him.

Worship and Learning

This year we have continued to support the churches in the Circuit as they have navigated the ever-changing Covid restrictions. In September, October and December 2020 communal worship in our buildings was permitted, but in November and from January until Easter restrictions meant that we were unable to offer any "in person" services. Online (Zoom) services continued throughout much of the year, and we also continued to send out weekly worship sheets and pastoral letters to our congregations by email and by post.

At the end of the year the decision was taken to reduce our weekly mailings of home worship resources to twice a month and to collaborate with other Circuits in producing weekly home worship sheets. From September 2021, we have prepared two worship sheets each month and been able to use sheets produced by others for the remaining weeks.

Other opportunities to encounter and worship God offered in the Circuit offered during the year included:

- When permitted, our monthly ecumenical prayer time called 'Sacred Space' was restarted at Chillington. This offers time for personal refreshment and space to grow spirituality.
- Our churches were opened for private prayer when we were unable to meet for worship.
- Hope Cove remained open daily for both local people and visitors, offering the opportunity to pause and find peace in our little chapel.
- Occasional "Family and Friends" services continued Chillington.
- An online "lockdown" nativity service on Zoom.
- Holy Week daily reflections prepared by our Local Preachers and a prayer garden at Chillington.
- Outdoor "Sea Sunday" songs of praise service at Hope Cove, followed by a take-away cream tea for residents and visitors in July.

We also offered reflections and teaching on the story of Joseph (as told in the book of Genesis) throughout July, using this as the basis of all our worship resources and our "in person" services

throughout the month. This replaced the Connexional suggestion of the Gospel of Mark for *Bible Month 2021*.

Caring for One Another

We have continued to distribute weekly pastoral letters by post and email this year. These have been well received and our thanks go to our Lay Minister (Rachel Mitchell), other ministers and Local Preachers for all the care, thought and prayer that has gone into preparing them.

We have continued to keep in touch with one another by telephone, and in person when possible. This has been a hard year for many people, and we have sought to support one another practically, emotionally and spiritually wherever we can. Now, with the promise of vaccines and boosters, we hope that 2022 will enable us to meet socially again and change the way we care for one another.

As part of our caring for one another and those around us, we continue to support our volunteers and ask that they are suitably checked and trained in Safeguarding. Even though we have not been meeting in person for much of the year, we still recognise the importance of ensuring we are all aware of our responsibilities to keep everyone safe and of our responsibility to ensure our volunteers know where to seek further advice, if the need arises.

Other Activities that Benefit our Communities

We have done all we can to support our churches and enable them to offer what they can to their communities. However, the age of our congregations and the restrictions placed on us means that we have had to streamline what we offer. We have been working with groups who regularly use our buildings, to enable them to restart their activities safely, as this has become possible.

The activities we have or hope to restart soon are:

- Opportunities to meet friends old and new at coffee mornings, craft groups, men's breakfasts, village lunches and other occasional events.
- Hope Cove community events that bring visitors and the resident communities together.
- Monthly walking and weekly table tennis groups.
- Toddler, parent and carer groups at Chillington and Kingsbridge.
- Volunteering for the Chillington village youth club.
- Providing space for other local groups and organisations to meet.
- Supporting local charities including Kingsbridge Foodbank, Cornelius Trust housing association, Hope Cove private lifeboat and the *Wordwise* Christian bookshop.

We have also been pleased to offer our facilities at Kingsbridge for a new church-based initiative called "Soul Food" which provides meals in the school holidays for families where one or more children would usually receive free school meals. The meals are provided on a take-away or eat-in basis.

Achievements and Performance

The year under review has been a period of continual change which has presented many challenges. It started with a return to "in person" worship that was welcomed by many but not all, especially as there were still restrictions such as the wearing of masks and requirements to be socially distanced. Circuit staff spent a significant amount of time ensuring that the worship spaces we offered were safe and complied with government guidance. One change later in the year, which was warmly welcomed, was the ability to sing hymns together outside, without masks. This meant that many of our "in person" services finished outside the church buildings, with enthusiastic hymn singing!

In Chillington and Hope Cove, where the congregations are small, our numbers soon returned to pre-pandemic levels. At Kingsbridge, however, many remained cautious and average congregations by the end of August were still only half the pre-pandemic levels.

We have continued to find ways to raise funds for our Circuit Charities. Due to the restrictions, the Circuit agreed to extend the time spent fundraising for our 2020 charity until the end of April 2021 and agreed that we would also raise funds for our new 2021 charity for an extended time. Fundraising has required us to think creatively and has included making masks to sell in a local village shop and take-away cream teas.

Our charity fundraising and donations this year were as follows:

- Children's Hospice South West (CHSW - 2020 Charity) £1,241
- The Christian Hospital in Berhampur, India (2021/22 charity) £1,752
- A further £1000 was donated to CHSW from Circuit reserves.

The Circuit staffing and leadership structures have remained stable which has enabled our team relationships to grow. None of our staff were furloughed through the pandemic.

Financial Review

The accounts of the Circuit are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts for the year totaled £63,912 (2020: £61,861). There are a number of notable changes reflected in these figures:

- The final loan repayments from the Kingsbridge church of £1,466 (2019: £10,969) have now been received. This loan has been fully repaid.
- In 2020 the Circuit reduced the Assessments that it levies on the three churches by 25%. This was in recognition of the difficulties experienced due to the pandemic. There has been no reduction in 2021.
- The letting income has increased this year following a new arrangement with the Lay Minister whereby she has vacated her Manse and moved to her own property.

Payments for the year totaled £67,318 (2019: £55,811). This relates mainly to salaries and property costs as follows:

- Salaries. The Circuit Administrator's salary was increased (from September 2020) to reflect the additional hours agreed last year.
- The Lay Minister's stipend also increased in July to reflect the new working arrangement outlined above.
- Exceptional maintenance work was completed at the Manse and rental properties this year. In 2020 we recognised that our spending on property was very low and would need to be higher this year if we were to properly maintain all our properties.

Overall, even with the increased income this year, there was a deficit of £3,406 this year (2020 resulted in a surplus of £6,050).

Throughout the year, and even in lockdown, our charity fundraising activities have continued. The receipts from the churches have this year been included in our receipts and payments described above. We have raised £2,993 for our charities this year (2020: £2,838) to which we have added a further £1,000 from Circuit funds.

We continue to review our funds and explore ways to release and/or use our historic restricted funds. During 2021 we were able to release £3,665 from historic restrictions and these are now included in the Circuit's unrestricted funds. £2,177 is still to be released. When released, these

funds will need to be transferred from the Circuit to the church/fund for whose benefit they are held. We hope to complete this process next year.

At the end of the year, our total cash funds amounted to £142,465 (2020: £145,927).

Reserves

The Reserves Policy indicates that the Circuit should hold the equivalent of at least six months expenditure (£33,650). Also, that we hold a Property Reserve for major works to buildings of £50,000; a Redundancy Reserve of £2,000; a Property Maintenance Fund of £8,000 and a Mission Reserve of £5,000 (so that we can fulfil our current commitments). This indicates we should maintain reserves of approximately £98,000.

At the year end, the Trustees were aware that our current unrestricted reserves were in excess of the Reserves Policy by approximately £46,000 and are continuing to review how to best use the funds we hold whilst continuing to operate within the aims of the Circuit.

Plans for the Future

We continue to consider how we, as a Circuit, can best respond to the needs we see, both locally and further afield, using the resources we have and how we can enable our churches to thrive and grow. As part of this we will need to explore how the decisions of the 2021 Methodist Conference will impact our churches. In particular, the decision to increase the minimum membership from 6 to 12 will impact our smaller churches.

We will also need to look at how and when we can reopen the buildings safely to community groups in 2022.

Overall, we hope that we will continue to offer our distinctive "Methodist" Christianity in Chillington, Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Circuit is led by the Circuit Leadership Team which is made up of ministerial staff and lay members, who are supported by our part-time Administrator. The ministerial staff are:

- The Revd. Canon Graham Thompson, Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District, who is also the Circuit Superintendent.
- Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our lay minister, who has been granted special dispensation to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion and is the 'authorised person' for weddings at Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Alongside the ministerial staff, the Circuit is reliant on church members who have voluntarily taken on significant roles within the leadership of the Circuit.

Special thanks are expressed to Mr. Robert Hamblin and Mrs. Susan Morgan for their ongoing involvement as Circuit Stewards and to Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley who joined the Circuit Leadership Team as a representative of the church in Chillington.

The Leadership Team is answerable to the Circuit Meeting.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Trustees of the Circuit. In performing their duties, the Trustees keep in mind their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership and staff of the Circuit. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure that any new Trustee have the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruiting procedures are followed.

Please see the following section for details of our Trustees.

Reference and Administration

The name of the Charity	South Devon Methodist Circuit
Charity registration number	1132517
Principal Office	100 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AW
Superintendent Minister	Revd. Canon Graham Thompson
Circuit Meeting Secretary	Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. Martyn Butt (resigned 31st March 2021) *
Circuit Administrator	Mrs. Fiona Van Es
Circuit Property Manager	Mr. Roy Mitchell
Names of Trustees:	Mr. Ian Addis Mrs. Barbara Allen (appointed 16th March 2022) Mr. Peter Bolt Mrs. Gillian Butt Mr. Martyn Butt (resigned 31st March 2021) Mr. Robert Hamblin Mrs. Helen Hibbard Mr. Ken Johnson (resigned 29th September 2021) Revd. Margaret Johnson (resigned 29th September 2021) Mrs. Carole Knights (appointed 1st September 2021) Mrs. Sandra Litchfield Mrs. Rachel Mitchell* Mr. David Monk Mr. David Morgan Mrs. Susan Morgan Mr. Barrie Newey Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley Mrs. Mary Sanders (resigned 31st August 2021) Mr. John Sargeant Mrs. Sally Sargeant (resigned 29th September 2021) Revd. Canon Graham Thompson Mrs. Greta Wills

*Following the resignation of Mr. Martin Butt as Treasurer, Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, an existing Trustee, took over the financial management of the Circuit. However, as Rachel is also an employee and minister in the Circuit, she does not consider it appropriate for her to be a signatory on the Circuit bank account. The Trustees have agreed this arrangement.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:

G Thompson

Revd. Canon Graham Thompson
Superintendent Minister

H.S. Hibbard

Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Circuit Meeting Secretary

Date: 16th March 2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

South Devon Methodist Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District	Circuit no 24/10

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1132517

Ministers:

Rev. Graham Thompson

Mrs Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards:

Mr Robert Hamblin

Mrs Sue Morgan

Treasurer:

Mrs Rachel Mitchell

Charity number 1132517

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total this year	Total last year
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Assessment/Share		25,400			**25,400**	17,618
Capital receipts					**0**	0
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		48	292	13	**353**	1,072
Rental property income		33,700			**33,700**	29,364
Other receipts	1	1,466		2,993	**4,459**	13,807
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**60,614**	**292**	**3,006**	**63,912**	**61,861**
PAYMENTS						
Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	2	23,526			**23,526**	22,335
Manse Costs		9,717			**9,717**	4,418
District Assessment		6,671			**6,671**	6,465
Administration and Circuit Office	3	9,170	168	11	**9,349**	7,703
Worship and Discipleship		2,363			**2,363**	1,834
Grants & Donations	4	1,000	2,095		**3,095**	4,635
Other Property Costs		10,768			**10,768**	6,171
Other payments	4			1,829	**1,829**	2,250
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**63,215**	**2,263**	**1,840**	**67,318**	**55,811**
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		**(2,601)**	**(1,971)**	**1,166**	**(3,406)**	**6,050**
Total funds brought forward from last year		55,693	83,818	6,416	145,927	139,877
Sub total		**53,092**	**81,847**	**7,582**	**142,521**	**145,927**
Transfers and adjustments	5	3,650	15	(3,665)	**0**	
Unrealised gain (loss) on investments			(68)	12	**(56)**	
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**56,742**	**81,794**	**3,929**	**142,465**	**145,927**

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT CASH AND INVESTMENT FUNDS HELD					
Cash at Bank	23,257		1,752	**25,009**	19,822
Central Finance Board Cash balance	33,485			**33,485**	36,359
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Cash balances		78,896	1,079	**79,975**	89,746
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Investment funds		2,898	1,098	**3,996**	
	56,742	81,794	3,929	**142,465**	145,927
Total Funds held by internal organisations				**0**	0
Total as at 31 August 2021	56,742	81,794	3,929	**142,465**	145,927
Total as at 31 August 2020	55,693	83,818	6,416	**145,927**	139,877

The summary of Circuit Funds as at the end of 31st August 2021 is as reported to the Circuit Meeting. This shows there were no Internal Organisation Funds to report in 2020 or 2021. If there were any Internal Organisation Funds these would be restricted Funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

OTHER ASSETS AND LIBILITIES

	Notes		
Land and Buildings		**1,228,104**	1,228,104
Loan to Circuit Church		**0**	1,466
Other Liabilities - HMRC payroll taxes (paid quarterly)	2	**(1,378)**	(693)
		1,226,726	1,228,877

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
1 OTHER RECEIPTS					
Loan repayments from church	1,466			1,466	10,969
Charity Fundraising (from churches)			2,993	2,993	2,838
	1,466	0	2,993	4,459	13,807

The amounts included in other receipts are not, by their nature, income of the Circuit.

2 MINISTERIAL STAFF COSTS					
Salary	20,528			20,528	18,645
Employers NI and Apprenticeship	1,724			1,724	1,512
Pension	1,269			1,269	1,291
Travel & Training	690			690	924
HMRC creditor B/F	693			693	656
HMRC creditor C/F	(1,378)			(1,378)	(693)
	23,526	0	0	23,526	22,335

3 ADMINISTRATION AND CIRCUIT OFFICE COSTS					
Administration staff costs	6,605			6,605	4,228
Office utilities and phone	490			490	1,733
Administration and stationery	884			884	810
Professional fees and Insurance	429	168	12	609	442
Advertising and website	118			118	354
Circuit equipment (laptop)	549			549	0
Other sundry expenses	95			95	136
	9,170	168	12	9,350	7,703

4 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS					
District Levy (CMTF)		2,095		2,095	2,135
Circuit Charity - Donation	1,000			1,000	2,500
Circuit Charity - Church Fundraising			1,829	1,829	2,250
	1,000	0	1,829	4,924	6,885

The Circuit Charity supported in 2019-20 was Children's Hospice South West (CHSW). At the beginning of 2020-21 the trustees decided to extend our support of CHSW until May 2021. Then, from May 2021 until November 2022, the Circuit has adopted a project to rebuild the Christian Hospital in Berhampur, India as their new charity. Each church sends the funds they raise to the Circuit who then forward them on to the charity.

5 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Restricted Funds as at 31 August 2020 of £6416 included two historic funds (£5828) which the Charity Commission would define as of "small value". The restriction on one of these funds was removed during the year and £3665 was transferred to general funds. We hope to clear the second fund in 2021-22 by transferring the balance to Methodist charitable funds not under the control of the South Devon Circuit.

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

Declarations

Treasurer

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: RA Mitchell Date: 16th March 2022

Name Mrs R A Mitchell

Address Kingfishers, Mill Court, Frogmore, Kingsbridge. TQ7 2PB

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 were presented to and approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 29th September 2021.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting G Thompson

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd Graham Thompson

Date 16th March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit

This report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility, as independent examiner to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions givn by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5) (b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

Year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit (Cont'd)

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 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	*NHolmes*
Name of independent examiner	Nigel Robert Holmes
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner	ACMA CGMA
Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A	
Address Early Sunrise, Coombe Road, Shaldon, Devon	TQ14 0EX
Date	23-Apr-22

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

South Devon Methodist Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District	Circuit no 24/10

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1132517

Ministers:

Rev. Graham Thompson

Mrs Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards:

Mr Robert Hamblin

Mrs Sue Morgan

Treasurer:

Mrs Rachel Mitchell

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

Declarations

Treasurer

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: RA Mitchell Date: 16th March 2022

Name Mrs R A Mitchell

Address Kingfishers, Mill Court, Frogmore, Kingsbridge. TQ7 2PB

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 were presented to and approved by the Circuit Meeting held on 29th September 2021.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting G Thompson

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd Graham Thompson

Date 16th March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit

This report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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It is my responsibility, as independent examiner to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions givn by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5) (b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

Year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Circuit (Cont'd)

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 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.

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Signature of independent examiner	*NHolmes*
Name of independent examiner	Nigel Robert Holmes
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner	ACMA CGMA
Name of firm (where appropriate)	N/A
Address	Early Sunrise, Coombe Road, Shaldon, Devon TQ14 0EX
Date	23-Apr-22

SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132517

Accounts

CIRCUIT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
SOUTH DEVON CIRCUIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District

Circuit number: 24/10

Charity Registration number 1132517

Ministers:

Rev Graham Thompson

Mrs Rachel Mitchell

Circuit Stewards:

Mr Robert Hamblin

Mrs Sue Morgan

Treasurer:

Mr Martyn Butt

South Devon Methodist Circuit
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2020

Objectives and activities

The year under review has been very mixed. Activities proceeded normally until the restrictions caused by Covid19 meant that all churches closed from 23rd March 2020. Worship went online and other activities were postponed or slowly found new ways of developing. Respite from lockdown in the summer months saw some public worship begin but in ways that were compliant with the Government restrictions at the time. Other activities did not fully recommence. Even so, we continue to keep our objectives and agreed mission statement (below) under review.

The calling of our churches and Circuit is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We understand that we are not engaging in our mission but participating in God's mission to all people, in partnership with others and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We do this through:

- **Worship** - In our worship we meet God as we intentionally recognise His presence and celebrate His love for us and for all His creation.
- **Learning and Caring** - As Christian communities we help and encourage one another to learn about Jesus and to grow more like Him as we support and care for each other.
- **Service** - Our churches are part of a network of organisations and people in the South Hams. We strive to be good neighbours to all, to help those in need and to challenge injustice.
- **Evangelism** - As we celebrate the Good News of all that Jesus has done for us and live lives reflecting His love, we hope that others will choose to join us in following Him.

Worship and Learning

The three churches that comprise the South Devon Circuit were open every Sunday for public worship up to the 22nd March 2020.

Once the Government imposed a nationwide lockdown, worship changed from being face-to-face to virtual and at home. Weekly service sheets were prepared and distributed by e-mail and post. From Easter onwards, Circuit Sunday morning services were also held via the *Zoom* internet platform, so offering another way to worship together. These services used the same worship material as that prepared for the home worship sheets with the hope that this would foster a sense of all worshipping together, even though we could not gather in our churches.

Other opportunities to encounter and worship God offered in the Circuit (before lockdown) included:

- Monthly 'Messy Church' at Kingsbridge.
- Monthly ecumenical prayer time called 'Sacred Space' which is run at Chillington by Revd. Margaret Johnson. This offers time for personal refreshment and space to grow spirituality.
- Group activities including Bible studies, Advent lunches, a house group and other prayer opportunities.
- Offering an open space for our community to find God. Hope Cove is open daily and both local people and walkers on the coastal path value the chance to pause and find peace in our little chapel.

- Monthly "Family and Friends" services at Chillington.

Although we have not been able to continue with these activities through lockdown we were pleased to be able to use our worship sheets throughout June (which we designated as bible month) to take a fresh look at what we could learn from the book of Ruth.

Caring for one another

The people in all of our churches are keen to do what they can to care for each other. In recent years this has mainly been on an informal basis. However, once we were unable to gather together for worship new ways to keep in contact were needed. A new network of pastoral contacts was established with the aim of keeping in touch with everyone in our church communities. This allowed us to be much more intentional in how we cared for one another. Most people received a weekly phone call from their contact throughout lockdown.

Alongside this pastoral network a pastoral letter has been distributed with the home worship sheets each week. The letter, usually written by our Lay Minister, also includes church family news, prayer requests, other useful community information and requests for help.

Other activities which benefit our communities and others

Each of our churches continued to develop new and existing links with the range of communities it serves. Although these activities had to stop in March, we have done all we can to enable our churches to re-open as soon as safely possible. Some of the ways we have served our neighbours are:

- Opportunities to meet friends old and new at coffee mornings, craft groups, men's breakfasts, village lunches and other occasional events.
- Hope Cove community events that bring visitors and the resident communities together.
- Monthly walking and weekly table tennis groups.
- Toddler, parent and carer groups at Chillington and Kingsbridge.
- Volunteers for the Chillington village youth club.
- Ensuring all our volunteers are suitably checked and trained in Safeguarding. Also, ensuring they know where to seek further advice, if the need arises.
- Providing space for other local groups and organisations to meet.
- Supporting local charities including Kingsbridge Foodbank, Cornelius Trust housing association, Hope Cove private lifeboat and the Wordwise Christian bookshop.
- Fundraising for others. In 2020 we raised and donated £5,338 for our Circuit charity, which this year was Children's Hospice South West (CHSW). Due to the Covid restrictions we have agreed to continue to raise funds for CHSW until the end of April 2021. Alongside this we have also agreed that, for the next 18 months (from May 2021) our next Circuit charity will be the Christian Hospital in Berhampur, Odisha, India.

Achievements and performance

The year under review has been a period of consolidation followed by a period of innovation and development (from March 2020 onwards). Consolidation came as a result of the reshaping of the Circuit structure (see the section on structure, governance and management below), whilst other foci were required once the pandemic lead to the closure of our facilities.

The worship arrangements made in response to the Covid restrictions meant that we have been in contact with everyone within the network of the Circuit and have been able to draw some closer to the centre of our activities. The worship sheets and pastoral letters have been well received and quite a number of people have felt that this time has been one where their faith has been deepened.

A few new people have joined our churches this year and we have renewed contact with others who had moved away from regular church life because of age, infirmity or a loss of interest. We hope to build on these developments once a vaccine allows face-to-face contact to resume.

The staffing and leadership structures have remained stable which has enabled our team relationships to grow. The working hours of the part-time Circuit Administrator have also been increased which has enabled us to better support our churches and help them to comply with both church and legal obligations.

Our overall membership has remained steady and we continue to work with each church to support their weekly worship and mission opportunities within the wider community.

Financial review

The accounts of the Circuit are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts for the year totalled £61,861 (2019: £58,593). This included a loan repayment from our Kingsbridge church of £10,969 (2019: £1794). This remaining £1466 of this loan will be repaid in 2020-21.

The assessments for 2019-20 were budgeted to be £24000. However, due to the uncertainty created by Covid it was decided to not collect one quarter's assessment. It is anticipated that this will be a one-off arrangement.

Payments for the year totalled £55,811 (2019: £60,258). The reduction is partly a reflection of the reduced amount of building maintenance possible in 2019-20. We anticipate that there will be increased work needed in subsequent years.

Set against the reduction in property maintenance, we saw an increase in administration costs. Partway through 2018-19 we employed a Circuit administrator and at the beginning of 2019-20 further increased her hours. Throughout lockdown she remained employed and has been invaluable in helping with many tasks including the reopening our churches over the summer. The increase in our administration costs reflects her additional employment costs.

Throughout the year, and even in lockdown, our charity fundraising activities have continued. The receipts from the churches have this year been included in our receipts and payments described above. We have raised £2838 for our Charity this year (2019: £2,085) to which we have added a further £2,500 from Circuit funds.

We continue to review our funds and are exploring ways to release and/or use our historic restricted funds. At the end of the year, we were still holding £5828 (2019: £6714) in these historic funds as well as £588 of charity fundraising.

At the end of the year our total cash funds amounted to £145,927 (2019: £139,877).

Reserves

The Reserves Policy indicates that the Circuit should hold the equivalent of at least six months expenditure (£30,000). Also, that we hold a Property Reserve for major works to buildings of £50,000; a Redundancy Reserve of £2,000; a property maintenance Fund of £5260 and a Mission Reserve of £5,000 (so that we can fulfil our current commitments). This indicates we should maintain reserves of approximately £92K.

At the year end, the Trustees were aware that our current unrestricted reserves were in excess of the Reserves Policy by approximately £47K and are continuing to review how to best use the funds we hold whilst continuing to operate within the aims of the Circuit charity.

Plans for the future

In addition to continuing to support the churches of our Circuit in their worship and service, the Circuit Leadership Team plan to provide new opportunities to support those within our faith communities to live out their discipleship.

A variety of events were planned for 2019-20 but, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several have now been put on hold. In the short term, the main focus of the Circuit will be how it can support the churches and other local organisations through this difficult time and reopen when allowed to.

During the year to 31st August 2020 we discussed "God in love unites us", which is the Methodist Church's report on our understanding of relationships and marriage. We sought to inform our members of the content of the report, the legal framework in which it sits and to ask them how they responded to the recommendations made. The discussions were difficult for some and differing views were respected during our discussions. At a special meeting in March 2020 the Circuit expressed its mind on these matters and submitted a report to the District Synod. Following a number of Covid related delays, we now understand this will be discussed at the 2021 Spring district synod and then taken to conference in 2021 so that the Methodist Church can determine a response to these important issues.

We continue to consider how we, as a Circuit, can best respond to the needs we see, both locally and further afield, using the resources we have and how we can enable our churches to thrive and grow.

Structure, governance and management

The Circuit is led by the Circuit Leadership team which is made up of ministerial staff and lay members. The ministerial staff are:

- The Revd. Canon Graham Thompson, Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District, who is also the Circuit Superintendent.
- Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, our lay minister who has been granted special dispensation to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion and is the 'authorised person' for weddings at Kingsbridge and Hope Cove.

Alongside the ministerial staff, the Circuit is reliant on church members who have voluntarily taken on significant roles within the leadership of the Circuit. Special thanks are expressed to Mr. Robert Hamblin and Mrs. Susan Morgan for their ongoing involvement as Circuit Stewards. Particular thanks to Mr. Martyn Butt (Circuit Treasurer) and Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley who joined the Circuit Leadership Team in September 2019. The Leadership Team is answerable to the Circuit Meeting.

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Trustees of the Circuit. In performing their duties, the Trustees keep in mind their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership and staff of the Circuit. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure that any new Trustee has the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruiting procedures are followed. Please see the Trustees list below.

Reference and administration

The name of the Charity	South Devon Methodist Circuit
Charity registration number	1132517
Principal Office	100 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1AW
Superintendent Minister	Revd. Canon Graham Thompson
Circuit Secretary	Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Circuit Treasurer	Mr. Martyn Butt (appointed 1st September 2019)

Names of Trustees:

Mr. Ian Addis
Mr. Peter Bolt
Mrs. Gillian Butt
Mr. Martyn Butt (appointed 1st September 2019)
Mr. Robert Hamblin
Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Mr. Ken Johnson
Revd. Margaret Johnson
Mrs. Sandra Litchfield
Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
Mr. David Monk
Mr. David Morgan
Mrs. Susan Morgan
Mr. Barrie Newey
Mrs. Elizabeth Paisley (appointed 1st September 2019)
Mrs. Mary Sanders
Mr. John Sargeant
Mrs. Sally Sargeant
Revd. Canon Graham Thompson
Mrs. Greta Wills

Changes in trustees from 1st September 2019 up to the date on which this report was approved are noted above. All the other Trustees served throughout the period from 1st September 2019 to the date of this report.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:

Graham Thompson

Revd. Canon Graham Thompson
Superintendent Minister

Helen Hibbard

Mrs. Helen Hibbard
Circuit Secretary

Date: 17th March 2021

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

SECTION A RECEIPTS	Note	General Funds (unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals this year £	Totals last year £
Assessment/Share		17,618			**17,618**	23,928
Capital receipts						
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		278	718	76	**1,072**	1,101
Rental property income		29,364			**29,364**	29,685
Other receipts	1	10,969		2,838	**13,807**	3,879
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**58,229**	**718**	**2,914**	**61,861**	58,593
SECTION B **PAYMENTS**						
Ministerial Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension, training and travel	2	22,335			**22,335**	21,319
Manse Costs		4,418			**4,418**	7,817
District Assesssment		6,465			**6,465**	6,096
Administration and Circuit Office	3	7,520	171	12	**7,703**	4,842
Worship and Discipleship		1,834			**1,834**	2,114
Grants & Donations	4	2,500	2,135		**4,635**	4,880
Other Property Costs		6,171			**6,171**	11,105
Other payments	4			2,250	**2,250**	2,085
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**51,243**	**2,306**	**2,262**	**55,811**	60,258
SECTION C **NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**		**6,986**	**(1,588)**	**652**	**6,050**	(1,665)
Total funds brought forward from last year		47,563	85,600	6,714	139,877	136,578
Sub total		**54,549**	**84,012**	**7,366**	**145,927**	134,913
Transfers and adjustments	5	1,144	(194)	(950)		4,964
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		**55,693**	**83,818**	**6,416**	**145,927**	139,877

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT CASH FUNDS HELD					
Bank Current Account	19,822			19,822	1,063
Central Finance Board	35,771		588	36,359	47,545
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	100	83,818	5,828	89,746	91,269
SUB TOTAL	55,693	83,818	6,416	145,927	139,877
Total funds held by Internal Organisations				0	0
	55,693	**83,818**	**6,416**	**145,927**	**139,877**

The Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 is as reported to the Circuit Meeting. This shows there were no Internal Organisation Funds to report in 2020 or 2019. If there were any Internal Organisation Funds these would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose.

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Land and Buildings	1,228,104	1,228,104
Loan to Circuit church	1,466	12,436
Other Liabilities	0	0
	1,229,570	1,240,540

The land and buildings are included above at an approximation of market value.

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	General Funds (unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
1 OTHER RECEIPTS					
Loan repayments from church	10,969			**10,969**	1,794
Charity Fundraising (from churches)			2,838	**2,838**	2,085
	10,969	**0**	**2,838**	**13,807**	**3,879**

The amounts included in other receipts are not, by their nature, income of the Circuit.

2 MINISTERIAL STAFF COSTS PAID					
Salary	18,645			**18,645**	18,070
Employers NI and Apprenticeship charge	1,475			**1,475**	352
Pension	1,291			**1,291**	913
Travel & Training	924			**924**	1,983
	22,335	**0**	**0**	**22,335**	**21,319**

3 ADMINISTRATION AND CIRCUIT OFFICE COSTS					
Administration staff costs	4,228			**4,228**	1,420
Office utilities and phone	1,733			**1,733**	968
Administration and stationery	810			**810**	789
Professional fees and Insurance	259	171	12	**442**	230
Advertising and website	354			**354**	736
Circuit equipment (projector)					340
Other sundry expenses	136			**136**	359
	7,520	**171**	**12**	**7,703**	**4,842**

4 GRANTS, DONATIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS					
District Levy (CMTF)		2,135		**2,135**	2,380
Circuit Charity - Donation	2,500			**2,500**	2,500
Circuit Charity - Church Fundraising			2,250	**2,250**	2,085
	2,500	0	2,250	6,885	6,965

The Circuit Charity supported in 2019-20 was Children's Hospice South West. In 2018/19 it was Mercy Ships. Each church transfers the funds they raise to the Circuit who then forward them on to the charity.

5 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Restricted Funds shown in these accounts include two historic funds which the Charity Commission would define as of "small value". The Circuit leadership team are exploring ways to release or utilise these funds.

SOUTH DEVON METHODIST CIRCUIT

Charity number: 1132517

Circuit No: 24/10

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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 *Martyn Butt* Date: 17 March 2021

Name of treasurer: Martyn Butt

Address: 33 Highfield Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1JR

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 will be presented to the Circuit meeting held on 17 March 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Graham Thompson* Date: 17 March 2021

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Graham Thompson

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South Devon Methodist Circuit

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the South Devon Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 2 to 9. 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.

Name of Circuit South Devon Methodist Circuit (number 24/10)

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 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 NRHolmes

Name of independent examiner Nigel Robert Holmes

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACMA CGMA

Address Early Sunrise, Coombe Road, Shaldon, Devon

Post Code TQ14 0EX

Date 17th May 2021