

# TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1132638

## Details

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Other names	BIDEFORD AND SHEBBEAR METHODIST CIRCUIT, BIDEFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-11-10
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Webbery Cross Cottage Webbery Bideford EX39 4PU
Phone	01271858534
Email	<a href="mailto:ELSIE.POTTER@BTINTERNET.COM">ELSIE.POTTER@BTINTERNET.COM</a>
Website	<a href="http://torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk">torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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**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:** The Torrridge Methodist Circuit provides ministers for the Methodist Churches within its area and co-ordinates church activities across the area.

## Classification

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- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£323,742	£264,136	-	-
2024-08-31	£243,839	£249,373	-	-
2023-08-31	£183,868	£211,256	-	-
2022-08-31	£187,496	£192,307	-	-
2021-08-31	£244,463	£215,026	-	-
2020-08-31	£185,001	£165,967	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anthea Sussex		2024-11-20
BRIAN REGINALD CHAPPLE		
Beryl Oke		2016-12-08
DAVID COURTNEY WATSON		
David Bryan Ley		2016-01-28
Deacon Deborah Marsh		2026-03-01
ELSIE IRENE POTTER		
FRANK LEWIS WATSON		2012-04-23
HILDA MARY HARRIS		2012-04-23
IRIS MAY CHAPPLE		2012-04-23
Jacqueline Rose Watson		2012-04-23
Jennifer Thurston		2019-06-13
John Babb		2024-11-20
Judith Irene Ross		2020-03-11
Judith Marie Quance		2012-06-11
Julian Allin		2023-06-22
MARGARET CISSIE REED		
MAUREEN LETITIA ELLIS		2012-04-23
MICHAEL DAVID STEVENS		
PHILIP JOHN SQUIRE		
ROSANNA MARGARET STEVENS		
ROY ARTHUR STANLEY JOHNS		2012-09-14
RUTH ANN BLAKE		2012-04-23
Rev ANDREW THOMAS VIDAMOUR		2018-09-01
Rev Paul Booth		2023-06-22
SARAH ANNE RICHARDS		2018-06-14
SARAH LYNIA BADHAM		2016-10-07

Name	Role	Appointed
SHEILA ANN BABB		2017-12-08
STUART JOHN FAULKNER		2012-04-23
VALERIE ROSE PEARD		2012-04-23
VICTOR JOHN HANCOCK		
Vivienne Phyllis Sheriff		2018-06-14

**TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132638

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# Accounts

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# **Trustees Annual Report - The Torrington Methodist Circuit**

## **For the year ended 31 August 2025**

### **Introduction**

The Charity is constituted according to the approved governing document issued by the Methodist Conference.

Trustees are appointed by the churches in the Circuit, voted by Circuit Meeting and by virtue of position held, e.g. Ministers.

### **Aims and Organisation**

The aim of the charity is the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

*Mission Statement: We are the Christian people of the Torrington Methodist Circuit, working to deepen our love of God through worship, service and nurturing new disciples of Jesus Christ.*

### **Review of the Year**

Activities undertaken — The ministers of the Circuit provide Christian services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals for the benefit of the general public, together with appropriate counselling.

We also have eight fully trained Local Preachers, who take Worship Services, with one more still in training. There is also a supernumerary minister who also takes worship services. Every month, via *Zoom*, there is a service to enable those who are physically unable to attend a church, to take part in worship.

Worship Services are published in the monthly newsletter which is distributed to all members.

Unfortunately, two chapels have been closed due to the lack of officers to undertake the required roles.

As planned, the Superintendent Minister retired at the end of the year.

We have now appointed a Deacon from the Methodist Diaconal Order, who will begin service with us from March 2026.

We again had multigenerational events on a farm for Palm Sunday afternoon, and also at Christmas – which again included a live donkey – with an age range from a few weeks to well into the 90's. We seek to continue to expand this work.

There are also numerous Coffee mornings around the Circuit each month which are a chance for local people to meet and share together.

A number of organisations use our premises; some providing an important social function. We seek to engage with them in their work.

We also seek to interact with our local communities.

### **Income Trends**

Circuit income is mainly derived from the Assessments paid annually by each of the churches. Every year a new budget is agreed, and Assessments are then reviewed. Unfortunately, due to the reducing number of chapels, Assessment income is falling. However, the eventual sale of these chapels will produce a useful boost to Circuit funds. Rental income is received from one property within the Circuit. Interest is received from trust funds held within TMCP.

### **Expenditure Trends**

Ministerial stipends rise each financial year in line with Conference approved increases.

The sum of £37,917 was this year's annual contribution to the District and Connexional Funds. A significant part of which is used for the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Salaries are paid to the Circuit Lay Minister and the Circuit Manager, with annual cost of living rises as appropriate. The Families and Children's Worker is paid for hours worked, and any expenses incurred.

To assist the churches to meet their Assessment costs, money can be withdrawn from the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

### **Funds held as a Custodian**

Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted	£332849
Trust Funds	Restricted	£231206

### **Plans for the Future**

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be one Deacon and one Presbyterian on 80% time. There will also be one full-time Circuit Lay Minister a Circuit Manager, and we will continue to have a Families Worker who will work on

an ad-hoc basis. We also anticipate cost of living Stipend increases, combined with an increase in the Assessment paid to the District.

To encourage members to engage with the calling of the Methodist Church — which is, to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission — the Ministers continue to hold the following sessions:

Circuit Meeting — Quarterly

Quiet morning/Time for God — Monthly

### **Basis of Preparation and Legal Framework**

The Charity's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

Full Name of Charity:	The Torrridge Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1132638
Date of Registration:	10th November 2009
Main communication address:	Hillcrest, Horwood, Bideford EX39 4PB.

The members of the Torrridge Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

### **Circuit Ministers and Officers**

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Rob Blackhall Rev Andrew Vidamour
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Circuit Lay Minister	Mr Frank Watson
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Stewards	Mrs Rose Peard Mrs Elsie Potter Mrs Hilda Harris Mrs Jenny Thurston Mr Dave Watson
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Circuit Manager	Mrs Sarah Richards
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Circuit Treasurer	Rev Paul Booth
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Independent Examiner

Rev Graham Thompson  
46 Mayfield Way  
North Walsham  
NR28 0DQ

Investment Bankers

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.  
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Retail Banker:

NatWest.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

### **Risk Management**

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis. This is done to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

### **Safeguarding**

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.

The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Torrridge Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance, and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Torrridge Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure everyone is clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable. All officers in the churches and in the Circuit must attend a training course as soon as they are appointed.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st August

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Assessments	104604	114593
Interest on Investments (net)	4545	10097
Lettings	3716	8849
Transfers from Circuit Model Trust Fund	200000	110000
Bequest – Jean Taylor	2000	-
Collection for Easter Offering	527	-
Connexional Grant	8000	-
Donations	350	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	323742	243839
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Ministerial Stipends	77079	83261
Circuit Lay Employees	58631	52475
Circuit Family Worker	3525	2538
District Assessment	37917	33988
Travelling Expenses	4525	4836
Preaching Costs	1134	1258
Stationery, Software, Postage and Printing	6308	6423
Telephone and Internet	2086	1684
Insurance	8946	6561
Graveyard Maintenance (net)	118	1040
Quinquennial Inspections	414	806
Property Costs - Lettings	5555	5424
Manse Maintenance	31541	8676
Electrical and Asbestos Surveys	2268	12118
Office Rent and Accommodation	3277	-
Council Tax	5387	4440
Water Rates	1177	733
Legal and Professional Fees	536	5306
Closed Churches and Other Property Costs	11410	6037
Training	220	315
Hospitality and Gifts	550	177
Grant - Northam	-	10000
Mission Fund (net)	386	583
Easter Offering	527	-
Equipment Repairs and Renewals	251	311
Bank Charges	167	150
Miscellaneous	201	233
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	264136	249373
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Surplus Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>59606</b>	<b>(5534)</b>
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## RECONCILIATION

### Balances as at 1st September 2024

NatWest Account	23949.40
CFB Account	34490.75
Debtors and Prepayments	6335.23
Loan - Buckland Brewer	5000.00

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69775.38

Creditors and Accruals

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26513.54

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43261.84

Add: Surplus Income over Expenditure

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59606.58

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**102868.42**

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### Balances as at 31st August 2025

NatWest Account	77172.86
CFB Account	49992.59
Debtors and Prepayments	3647.89
Loan - Buckland Brewer	5000.00

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135813.34

Creditors and Accruals

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32944.92

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**102868.42**

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## Closed Churches and Other Property Costs

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Sheepwash	7804	2982
Thornhillhead	4556	3055
Alwington	(6643)	-
Suomi Cottage	2294	-
Lake	3399	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>11410</b>	<b>6037</b>
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Torrige Methodist Circuit

**Circuit Model Trust Fund**

Opening Balance		57846.26
Interest		5098.72
Property Sales (Alwington; Suomi & Field)		615896.61
		<hr/>
		678841.59
Annual District Levy	1446.16	
TMCP Charge	188.00	
Transfer to General Fund	170000.00	
CPF Levies on Sales	174358.64	
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		345992.80
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>		<b>332848.79</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

**Funds Held by TMCP**

Fund 5232 - William Pett Bequest Cemetery Fund

*Set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard but could be used for any other graveyard.*

Opening Balance		1411.00
Interest and Dividends		46.94
Gains on Investments		1.43
		<hr/>
		1459.37
TMCP Charge		4.59
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>		<b>1454.78</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 10087 - Annie G. Ford Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Siloam graveyard only.*

Opening Balance		2334.73
Interest and Dividends		49.26
Gains on Investments		4.31
		<hr/>
		2388.30
TMCP Charge	7.59	
Transfer to General Fund	41.67	
	<hr/>	
		49.26
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>		<b>2339.04</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

**Funds Held by TMCP (continued)**

Fund 22443 - Margaret Joan Tribble Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Bradford graveyard.*

Opening Balance	2175.49
Interest	103.75
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	2279.24
TMCP Charge	7.07
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>	<b>2272.17</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 22610 - Rowden Graveyard Fund

*Fund set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard.*

Opening Balance	20520.08
Interest	976.70
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	21496.78
TMCP Charge	66.69
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>	<b>21430.09</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 12022 - Various Bequests

*For the support of graveyards but balance can be used for other Methodist purposes.*

Opening Balance	104090.92
Interest and Dividends	4145.90
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	108236.82
TMCP Charge	338.30
Transfers to General Fund	33807.60
Losses on Investments	22.72
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	34168.62
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>	<b>74068.20</b>
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Torridge Methodist Circuit

**Funds Held by TMCP** *(continued)*

Fund 13031 – Miss Mary Lemon Bequest

*For the support of Ministers appointed to serve in the Torridge Circuit*

Opening Balance		142002.14
Interest and Dividends		3816.08
Gains on Investments		203.30
		<hr/>
		146021.52
TMCP Charge	461.51	
Transfer to General Fund	3354.57	
	<hr/>	3816.08
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2025</b>		<b>142205.44</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torridge Methodist Circuit**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Torridge Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2025

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

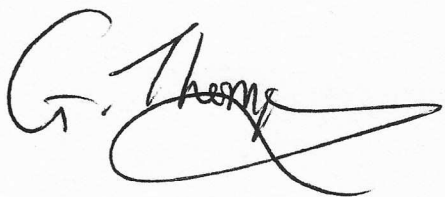
### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Thompson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Name:** Revd. Graham Thompson

**Address:** 46 Mayfield Way  
North Walsham  
NR28 0DQ

**Date:** 6th February 2025

Torridge Circuit

**Designated Funds 2024-25**

	<u>Bradford G'yard</u>	<u>Rowden G'yard</u>	<u>Siloam G'yard</u>	<u>Ben. Fund</u>	<u>Youth Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Bal.	23461	29623	4139	571	3190	933	61917
Income	-	2385	100	-	-	-	2485
Expenditure	1235 *	1254 *	-	22	-	386	2897
Closing Balance	<u>22226</u> =====	<u>30754</u> =====	<u>4239</u> =====	<u>549</u> =====	<u>3190</u> =====	<u>547</u> =====	<u>61505</u> =====

\* Expenditure includes year end Creditors

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024/25	Totals 2023/24	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	680,000					680,000	680,000	R
Investment properties	130,000					130,000	430,000	R
Investments	978				110,331	111,309	111,129	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>810,978</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>110,331</b>	<b>921,309</b>	<b>1,221,129</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>								
Debtors	3,648					3,648	6,335	S
Loans by the Circuit	5,000					5,000	5,000	
Investments with TMCP	11,585	332,849	61,505	27,496	31,874	465,309	219,251	T
Central Finance Board Deposits	49,992					49,992	34,491	
Cash at Bank and in hand	77,173					77,173	23,949	
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>147,398</b>	<b>332,849</b>	<b>61,505</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>601,122</b>	<b>289,026</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	32,945					32,945	26,513	U
Grants payable within one year						0		V
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>32,945</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,945</b>	<b>26,513</b>	
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>	<b>114,453</b>	<b>332,849</b>	<b>61,505</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>568,177</b>	<b>262,513</b>	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>925,431</b>	<b>332,849</b>	<b>61,505</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>142,205</b>	<b>1,489,486</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>	
<b>Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)</b>								
Grants payable after one year						0		V
Loans to the Circuit						0		
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>925,431</b>	<b>332,849</b>	<b>61,505</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>142,205</b>	<b>1,489,486</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>	W
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	925,431					925,431	1,195,436	W
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		332,849				332,849	57,846	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			61,505			61,505	61,917	
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>						<b>1,319,785</b>	<b>1,315,199</b>	
Restricted Funds				27,496		27,496	26,441	
Endowment Funds					142,205	142,205	142,002	
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>925,431</b>	<b>332,849</b>	<b>61,505</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,489,486</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>	

## Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
1 Donations and legacies		300		665	500		1,465
2 Income from monetary investments		5,528	6,553		1,260	4,773	18,114
3 Income from investment properties		8,849					8,849
4 Assessments on Churches		114,593					114,593
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income			4,000				
<b>8 Total income</b>		<b>129,270</b>	<b>10,553</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>147,021</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
9 Grants and donations		10,000		583			10,583
10 Salaries and associated costs		138,274					138,274
11 Property maintenance		33,061					33,061
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		33,988	5,671				39,659
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		8,418					8,418
16 Other outgoings		24,305	466	1,705	70	382	26,928
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>248,046</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>256,923</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		47		415	223	7,908	8,593
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>-118,729</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>-1,208</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>12,299</b>	<b>-101,309</b>
21 Transfers between funds		114,450	110,000		59	4,391	0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>		<b>-4,279</b>	<b>-105,584</b>	<b>-1,208</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>7,908</b>	<b>-101,309</b>
24 Total funds brought forward		1,199,715	163,430	63,125	24,587	134,094	1,584,951
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,195,436</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024-25 £
<b>Income</b>							
1	Donations and legacies	2,350		2,485			4,835
2	Income from monetary investments	1,148	5,099		1,177	3,816	11,240
3	Income from investment properties	3,716					3,716
4	Assessments on Churches	104,604					104,604
5	Capital Receipts		269,041				269,041
6	Grants received	8,000					8,000
7	Other charitable income	527					527
8	<b>Total income</b>	<b>120,345</b>	<b>274,140</b>	<b>2,485</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>401,963</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
9	Grants and donations						0
10	Salaries and associated costs	139,235					139,235
11	Property maintenance	51,302					51,302
12	Connexional assessment & model trust levy		59,617				59,617
13	District Assessment & Levy	37,917	1,446				39,363
14	Depreciation						0
15	Office expenses	8,645					8,645
16	Other outgoings	26,625	188	2,897	86	461	30,257
17	<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>263,724</b>	<b>61,251</b>	<b>2,897</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>328,419</b>
18	Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	- 23			6	203	186
19	Gains/(losses) on investment properties	-	67,886				-67,886
20	<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>-143,402</b>	<b>145,003</b>	<b>-412</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>3,558</b>	<b>5,844</b>
21	Transfers between funds	126,603	130,000		42	3,355	0
22	Other gains/(losses)						
23	<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-270,005</b>	<b>275,003</b>	<b>-412</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>5,844</b>
24	Total funds brought forward	1,195,436	57,846	61,917	26,441	142,002	1,483,642
25	<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>925,431</b>	<b>332,849</b>	<b>61,505</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>142,205</b>	<b>1,489,486</b>

## Declarations and Scrutiny

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

*Paul Booth*

..... Date..... 10/3/26

Name and address of treasurer

Paul Booth  
Hillcrest  
Horwood  
Bideford  
EX39 4PB

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm the at the annual report and accounts for the year ended were presented to the

Circuit meeting held on 10/03/2026.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

*Revd A L Flindell*

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Reverend A L FLINDELL

**TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132638

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# Accounts

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# Trustees Annual Report - The Torrridge Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2024

## Introduction

The Charity is constituted according to the approved governing document issued by the Methodist Conference.

Trustees are appointed by the churches in the Circuit, voted by Circuit Meeting and by virtue of position held, e.g. Ministers.

## Aims and Organisation

The aim of the charity is the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

**Mission Statement:** We are the Christian people of the Torrridge Methodist Circuit, working to deepen our love of God through worship, service and nurturing new disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Review of the Year

Activities undertaken — The ministers of the Circuit provide Christian services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals for the benefit of the general public, together with appropriate counselling.

We also currently have seven fully trained Local Preachers, who take Worship Services, with two more in training.

A Church Council reorganisation took place last year and is now up and running and working well, having reduced the number of meetings required per year.

Worship Services are published in the monthly newsletter which is distributed to all members.

Sadly, four of our churches have now ceased to conduct Worship Services.

The Superintendent Minister has notified his intention to retire early at the end of the Methodist Year, August 2025.

Our other Minister has moved to three-quarters time.

We have appointed a full time Circuit Lay Minister. The role involves conducting services, pastoral visiting and other duties determined by the Superintendent Minister.

The Circuit Administrator has now been promoted to full time Circuit Manager. The new role includes property matters and some financial duties.

We also engage the services on a part time basis, of a self-employed Families Worker.

We have sought to develop ministry with young people and families. This has been with Parents and Toddlers groups, with Messy Church and with Toddlers Tune Times (a sing along with small children and their families).

We had multigenerational events on a farm on Palm Sunday afternoon, and also at Christmas – which included a live donkey – with ages ranging from a few weeks into the 90s.

This is work we are seeking to expand.

There are also numerous Coffee mornings around the Circuit – a chance for people to meet and share together.

A number of organisations use our premises; some providing a real social function. We seek to engage with them in their work.

We also seek to interact with our local communities, supporting and hosting events such as a service for the Local Hospice, as well as a Defibrillator Training event.

### **Income Trends**

Circuit income is mainly derived from the Assessments paid annually by each of the churches. Every year a new budget is agreed, and Assessments are then reviewed.

Because of the reducing number of Chapels, Assessment income is falling compared to previous years. However, the eventual sale of the chapels that have ceased to hold Worship Service will produce a useful boost to Circuit funds. Rental income is received from one property within the Circuit, with another being close to sale.

Interest is received from trust funds held with TMCP.

### **Expenditure Trends**

Ministerial stipends rise each financial year in line with Conference approved increases.

The sum of £33,988 was this year's annual contribution to the District and Connexional Funds. A significant part of which is used for the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Salaries are paid to the Circuit Lay Minister and the Circuit Manager, with cost of living rises as appropriate. The Families and Children's Worker is paid for hours worked and any expenses.

To assist the churches to meet their Assessment costs, money can be withdrawn from the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

### **Funds held as a Custodian**

Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted	£57,846
Trust Funds	Restricted	£230,360

## Plans for the Future

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be one Deacon and one Minister on three-quarters time. There will be one full-time Circuit Lay Minister, a Circuit Manager, and we will continue to have a Families Worker who will work on an ad-hoc basis. We also anticipate cost of living Stipend increases, combined with an increase in the Assessment paid to the District.

To encourage members to engage with the calling of the Methodist Church — which is, ***to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission*** — the Ministers continue to hold the following sessions:

Circuit Meeting — Quarterly

Quiet morning/Time for God — Monthly

## Basis of Preparation and Legal Framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

Full Name of Charity: The Torridge Methodist Circuit  
Registration Charity Number: 1132638  
Date of Registration: 10th November 2009  
Main communication address: Hillcrest, Horwood, Bideford EX39 4PB.

The members of the Torridge Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

## Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Rob Blackhall Rev Andrew Vidamour
Circuit Lay Minister	Mr Frank Watson
Stewards	Mrs Rose Peard Mrs Elsie Potter Mrs Hilda Harris Mrs Jenny Thurston Mr Dave Watson
Circuit Manager	Mrs Sarah Richards

Circuit Treasurer	Rev Paul Booth
Independent Examiner	Rev Graham Thompson 46 Mayfield Way North Walsham NR28 0DQ
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.
Retail Banker:	NatWest.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

### **Risk Management**

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis. This is done to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

### **Safeguarding**

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.

The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Torrington Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance, and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Torrington Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure everyone is clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable. All officers in the churches and in the Circuit must attend a training course as soon as they are appointed.

Torridge Methodist Circuit

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st August

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Assessments	114593	106925
Interest on Investments (net)	10097	5420
Lettings	8849	11163
Transfers from Circuit Model Trust Fund	110000	45000
Grant Refund - Youth Genesis	-	14659
Other Youth Work Refunds (net)	-	251
Benevolent Fund	-	50
Donations	300	400
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	243839	183868
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Ministerial Stipends	83261	77139
Circuit Lay Employees	52475	37041
Circuit Family Worker	2538	2077
District Assessment	33988	27853
Travelling Expenses	4836	5899
Preaching Costs	1258	932
Stationery, Software, Postage and Printing	6423	5327
Telephone and Internet	1684	2903
Insurance	6561	3183
Graveyard Maintenance (net)	1040	1640
Quinquennial Inspections	806	2253
Property Cost - Lettings	5424	-
Manse Maintenance	8676	5478
Electrical and Asbestos Surveys	12118	-
Transfer of Legacy to TMCP	-	18550
Council Tax	4440	4217
Water Rates	733	552
Clovelly Project (net)	-	8306
Legal and Professional Fees	5306	-
Sheepwash Costs	2982	-
Thornhillhead Costs	3055	2652
Training	315	450
Hospitality and Gifts	177	81
Grant - Northam	10000	-
Mission Fund (net)	583	3806
Equipment Repairs and Renewals	311	-
Bank Charges	150	52
Miscellaneous	233	865
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	249373	211256
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>(5534)</b>	<b>(27388)</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Torridge Methodist Circuit

## RECONCILIATION

**Balances as at 1st September 2023**

NatWest Account	17480.37
CFB Account	43903.67
Prepayments	7266.96
Loan - Buckland Brewer	5000.00
	<hr/>
	73651.00
Creditors	24855.47
	<hr/>
	48795.53
Less: Excess Expenditure over Income	5533.69
	<hr/>
	<b>43261.84</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Balances as at 31st August 2024**

NatWest Account	23949.40
CFB Account	34490.75
Prepayments	6335.23
Loan - Buckland Brewer	5000.00
	<hr/>
	69775.38
Creditors	26513.54
	<hr/>
	<b>43261.84</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

## Circuit Model Trust Fund

Opening Balance		163430.21
Interest		6553.34
Pension Reserve Fund - Refund		4000.00
		<hr/>
		173983.55
Annual District Levy	5671.51	
TMCP Charge	465.78	
Transfer to General Fund	110000.00	
	<hr/>	
		116137.29
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>57846.26</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Torrige Methodist Circuit

## Funds Held by TMCP

Fund 5232 - William Pett Bequest Cemetery Fund

*Set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard but could be used for any other graveyard.*

Opening Balance		1305.33
Interest and Dividends		53.76
Gains on Investments		55.63
		<hr/>
		1414.72
TMCP Charge		3.72
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>1411.00</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 10087 - Annie G. Ford Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Siloam graveyard only.*

Opening Balance		2167.07
Interest and Dividends		65.46
Gains on Investments		167.66
		<hr/>
		2400.19
TMCP Charge	6.18	
Transfer to General Fund	59.28	
	<hr/>	65.46
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>2334.73</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 22443 - Margaret Joan Tribble Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Bradford graveyard.*

Opening Balance		2069.57
Interest and Dividends		111.82
		<hr/>
		2181.39
TMCP Charge		5.90
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>2175.49</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Torrige Methodist Circuit

**Funds Held by TMCP** *[continued]*

Fund 22610 - Rowden Graveyard Fund

*Fund set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard.*

Opening Balance		19045.35
Interest and Dividends		1029.01
Bequest		500.00
		<hr/>
		20574.36
TMCP Charge		54.28
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>20520.08</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 12022 - Various Bequests

*For the support of graveyards but balance can be used for other Methodist purposes.*

Opening Balance		104044.34
Interest and Dividends		5491.27
Gains on Investments		46.58
		<hr/>
		109582.19
TMCP Charge	296.53	
Transfer to General Fund	5194.74	
	<hr/>	5491.27
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>104090.92</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

Fund 13031 - Miss Mary Lemon Bequest

*For the support of Ministers appointed to serve in the Torrige Circuit*

Opening Balance		134093.77
Interest and Dividends		4773.38
Gains on Investments		7908.37
		<hr/>
		146775.52
TMCP Charge	382.17	
Transfer to General Fund	4391.21	
	<hr/>	4773.38
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2024</b>		<b>142002.14</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

**Torrige Circuit**

**Designated Funds 2023-24**

	<u>Bradford G'yard</u>	<u>Rowden G'yard</u>	<u>Siloam G'yard</u>	<u>Ben. Fund</u>	<u>Youth Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Bal.	24676	29498	4089	571	3190	1516	63540
Income	-	615	50	-	-	-	665
Expenditure	1215 *	490	-	-	-	583	2288
Closing Balance	<u>23461</u> =====	<u>29623</u> =====	<u>4139</u> =====	<u>571</u> =====	<u>3190</u> =====	<u>933</u> =====	<u>61917</u> =====

\* Expenditure includes year end Creditors

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
1 Donations and legacies	300		665	500		1,465
2 Income from monetary investments	5,528	6,553		1,260	4,773	18,114
3 Income from investment properties	8,849					8,849
4 Assessments on Churches	114,593					114,593
5 Capital Receipts						0
6 Grants received		4,000				0
7 Other charitable income						
8 <b>Total income</b>	<b>129,270</b>	<b>10,553</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>147,021</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
9 Grants and donations	10,000		583			10,583
10 Salaries and associated costs	138,274					138,274
11 Property maintenance	33,061					33,061
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
13 District Assessment & Levy	33,988	5,671				39,659
14 Depreciation						0
15 Office expenses	8,418					8,418
16 Other outgoings	24,305	466	1,705	70	382	26,928
17 <b>Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>248,046</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>256,923</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	47		415	223	7,908	8,593
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
20 <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>-118,729</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>-1,208</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>12,299</b>	<b>-101,309</b>
21 Transfers between funds	114,450	110,000		59	4,391	0
22 Other gains/(losses)						
23 <b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-4,279</b>	<b>-105,584</b>	<b>-1,208</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>7,908</b>	<b>-101,309</b>
24 Total funds brought forward	1,199,715	163,430	63,125	24,587	134,094	1,584,951
25 <b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,195,436</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

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Totals 2022/23	£

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24
£	£	£	£	£	£

Notes to the Accounts

	680,000	430,000	1,001	1,111,001	0	0	110,128	110,128	1,221,129	680,000	430,000	111,129	1,213,173
<b>Fixed Assets</b>													
Circuit Manses & Equipment	680,000												680,000
Investment properties	430,000												430,000
Investments	1,001						110,128	110,128	111,129				103,173
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>1,111,001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>110,128</b>	<b>110,128</b>	<b>1,221,129</b>	<b>1,221,129</b>	<b>1,221,129</b>	<b>1,221,129</b>	<b>1,213,173</b>

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	6,335	5,000	41,173	34,491	23,949	110,948	57,846	61,917	26,441	31,874	289,026	7,267	5,000	322,982	43,904	17,480	396,633	
<b>Current Assets</b>																		
Debtors	6,335																	7,267
Loans by the Circuit	5,000																	5,000
Investments with TMCP	41,173						57,846	61,917	26,441	31,874	219,251							322,982
Central Finance Board Deposits	34,491										34,491							43,904
Cash at Bank and in hand	23,949										23,949							17,480
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>110,948</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>289,026</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>289,026</b>	<b>396,633</b>	<b>396,633</b>	<b>396,633</b>	<b>396,633</b>	<b>396,633</b>	<b>396,633</b>	

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	26,513	26,513	84,435	1,195,436	57,846	61,917	26,441	142,002	1,483,642	24,855	24,855	371,778	1,584,951
<b>Current liabilities</b>													
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	26,513												
Grants payable within 2022-23													
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>26,513</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,513</b>	<b>24,855</b>
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>	<b>84,435</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>262,513</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>262,513</b>	<b>371,778</b>	<b>371,778</b>

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	1,195,436	57,846	61,917	26,441	142,002	1,483,642
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>1,195,436</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>

1,584,951

	1,195,436	57,846	61,917	26,441	142,002	1,483,642
<b>Long term liabilities</b>						
(due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2022-23						
Loans to the Circuit						
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,195,436</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>

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	1,195,436	57,846	61,917	26,441	142,002	1,483,642
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,195,436					
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		57,846				
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			61,917			
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>1,195,436</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>
Restricted Funds						
Endowment Funds						
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,195,436</b>	<b>57,846</b>	<b>61,917</b>	<b>26,441</b>	<b>142,002</b>	<b>1,483,642</b>

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**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Notes to the accounts		Circuit Model Trust		Designated Funds (unrestricted)		Restricted Funds		Endowment Funds		Total 2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>												
1 Donations and legacies	400		950									1,350
2 Income from monetary investments	4,391			5,973		667				4,160		15,191
3 Income from investment properties	11,163											11,163
4 Assessments on Churches	106,925											106,925
5 Capital Receipts												0
6 Grants received												0
7 Other charitable income	14,910											
<b>8 Total income</b>	<b>137,789</b>		<b>950</b>	<b>5,973</b>		<b>667</b>		<b>4,160</b>				<b>149,539</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>												
9 Grants and donations	2,500		3,806									6,306
10 Salaries and associated costs	116,257											116,257
11 Property maintenance	15,683											15,683
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy												0
13 District Assessment & Levy	27,853			8,056								35,909
14 Depreciation												0
15 Office expenses	8,436											8,436
16 Other outgoings	19,329			602		16		395				22,882
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>190,058</b>		<b>6,346</b>	<b>8,658</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>395</b>				<b>205,473</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	74					128		4,533				-4,735
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties												
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>-52,343</b>		<b>-5,396</b>	<b>-2,685</b>		<b>523</b>		<b>-768</b>				<b>-60,669</b>
21 Transfers between funds	48,826			45,000		18,550		18,489		3,765		0
22 Other gains/(losses)												
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-3,517</b>		<b>-23,946</b>	<b>-47,685</b>		<b>19,012</b>		<b>-4,533</b>				<b>-60,669</b>
24 Total funds brought forward	1,203,232		87,071	211,115		5,575		138,627				1,645,620
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,199,715</b>		<b>63,125</b>	<b>163,430</b>		<b>24,587</b>		<b>134,094</b>				<b>1,584,951</b>

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torridge Methodist Circuit**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Torridge Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2024

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

### **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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

**Signed:**



**Name:** Revd. Graham Thompson

**Address:** 46 Mayfield Way  
North Walsham  
NR28 0DQ

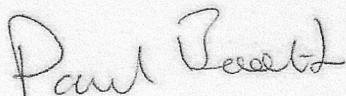
**Date:** 11th January 2025

Name of Circuit: Torr ridge Methodist Circuit 37/21

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer.



Date 4/3/25

Name and address of treasurer

Paul Booth

Hillcrest

Horwood

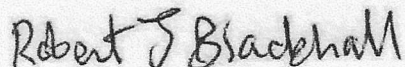
Bideford

EX39 4PB

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 4/3/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd Robert J Blackhall

**TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132638

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# Accounts

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# Trustees Annual Report - The Torrridge Methodist Circuit

For the year ended 31 August 2023

## Introduction

The Charity is constituted according to the approved governing document issued by the Methodist Conference.

Trustees are appointed by the churches in the Circuit, voted by Circuit Meeting and by virtue of position held, e.g. Ministers.

## Aims and organisation

The aim of the charity is the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

Mission Statement: We are the Christian people of the Torrridge Methodist Circuit, working to deepen our love of God through worship, service and nurturing new disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Circuit has ten thousand pounds (£10,000) set aside for Mission activities. On production of a completed application form, prepared by the leadership team, individual churches may access an amount for their mission. Local churches are able to contribute to the mission fund as and when they are able, or desire.

## Review of the year

Activities undertaken — The ministers of the Circuit provide Christian services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals for the benefit of the general public together with appropriate counselling. With the Covid situation much improved we have been able to resume face to face meetings. Holy Communion has now become possible. Meetings, such as Church Councils and Circuit Meetings, are now being conducted face to face.

Church Councils have been reorganised into groups so that there will be more "working together". This has enabled us to reduce the number of Church Council meetings from fourteen down to five, leaving more time for mission work.

Worship services are published in the monthly newsletter which is emailed to those who have email (only 45% of the members have access to internet) and posted to the rest. Three of our churches are in the process of closing, because there are insufficient members to fill the required offices. The buildings will eventually be sold, and this has created quite a workload

for those involved, not least of all because of the need to follow the rules and regulations with regard to checking for and dealing with asbestos.

Our Lay Pastoral Assistant will shortly become a full time Circuit Lay Minister. In this role he will assist with duties such as pastoral visiting, and other duties as determined by the Superintendent Minister. The part time Circuit administrator will become the full time Circuit Manager. The new role will include some property matters and some financial duties. We also employ a part time Families Worker.

We have sought to develop ministry with young people and families. This has been with Parents and Toddlers groups, with Messy Church and with Toddlers Tune Times (a sing along with small children and their families). We also had a multigenerational event on a farm on Palm Sunday afternoon with ages ranging from a few weeks into the 90s. Worship and Hot Cross buns were shared by all.

Similarly, after Covid we were again able to meet together in a barn for a Live Nativity; donkeys, sheep and a live Baby Jesus included. This is work we are seeking to expand.

There are numerous Coffee mornings around the Circuit – a chance for people to meet and share together.

A number of organisations uses our premises; some providing a real social function. We seek to engaged with them in their work.

We seek to interact with our local community, supporting community events and hosting events such as the service for the Local Hospice; as well as a Defibrillator Training event.

### **Income trends**

Circuit income is mainly derived from the Assessments paid by each of the churches. Every year a new budget is agreed, and Assessments are then reviewed.

Because of the reducing number of Chapels, Assessment income is falling, compared to previous years.

Rental income is still received from two properties within the Circuit.

Interest is received from trust funds held with TMCP.

## Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends rise each financial year in line with Conference approved increases.

The sum of £27,853 was this year's Circuit contribution to the District and Connexional funds, a significant part of which is used for the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Salaries are paid to the Lay Pastoral Assistant, the Circuit Administrator, and the Families and Children Worker.

To assist the churches to meet their Assessment costs it was agreed to draw the sum of £45,000 from reserves.

## Funds held as a custodian

Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted	£163,430
Trust Funds	Restricted	£158,681

## Plans for the future

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be one full time Minister and one at three-quarters time. There will be one full-time Circuit Lay Minister, a Circuit Manager, and we will continue to have a Families Worker who will work on an ad-hoc basis. It also anticipates cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the Assessment paid to the District.

To encourage members to engage with the calling of the Methodist Church — which is, to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission — the Ministers continue to hold the following sessions:

Circuit consultation — Quarterly

Quiet morning/Time for God — Monthly

## Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

Full Name of Charity: The Torridge Methodist Circuit  
Registration Charity Number: 1132638  
Date of Registration: 10th November 2009

Main communication address: Hillcrest, Horwood, Bideford EX39 4PB.

The members of the Torridge Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

### **Circuit Ministers and Officers**

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev Rob Blackhall  
Rev Andrew Vidamour

Circuit Lay Pastoral Assistant: Mr Frank Watson

Stewards: Mrs Rose Peard  
Mrs Elsie Potter  
Mrs Hilda Harris  
Mrs Jenny Thurston  
Mr Dave Watson

Circuit Administrator Mrs Sarah Richards

Name of Treasurer acting as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year: Elsie Potter.

Independent Examiner: Revd Graham Thompson  
46 Mayfield Way  
North Walsham  
NR28 0DQ

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church  
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Retail Banker: NatWest

### **Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

## **Risk Management**

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis. This is done to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

## **Safeguarding**

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.

The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Torrridge Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance, and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Torrridge Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure everyone is clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable. All officers in the churches and in the Circuit must attend a training course as soon as they are appointed.

## Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

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Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st August

INCOME

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assessments	106925	110424
Interest on Investments (net)	5420	1271
Lettings	11163	10306
Transfers from Circuit Model Trust Fund	45000	45000
Legacy - Rowden Graveyard	-	20000
Grant Refund - Youth Genesis	14659	-
Other Youth Work Refunds (net)	251	-
Benevolent Fund	50	-
Donations	400	495
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	183868	187496

EXPENDITURE

Ministerial Stipends	77139	74702
Circuit Lay Employees	34950	33520
Circuit Family Worker	2077	1605
Apprenticeship Levy & NEST Pension	2091	2049
District Assessment	27853	24743
Travelling Expenses	5899	5151
Preaching Costs	932	948
Stationery, Software, Postage and Printing	5327	7083
Telephone and Internet	2903	2539
Insurance	3183	2928
Graveyard Maintenance (net)	1640	1615
Quinquennial Inspections	2253	2434
Property Maintenance - Lettings	-	10558
Manse Maintenance	5478	9256
Transfer of Legacy to TMCP	18550	-
Council Tax	4217	4053
Water Rates	552	674
Hire of Office Space	500	-
Clovelly Project (net)	8306	1108
Thornhillhead Costs	2652	-
Training	450	564
Hospitality and Gifts	81	778
Benevolent Fund	-	330
Grants	-	4999
Mission Fund (net)	3806	104
Bank Charges	52	-
Miscellaneous	365	566
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	211256	192307

**Excess Expenditure over Income**

(27388)

(4811)

# RECONCILIATION

**Balances as at 1st September 2022**

NatWest Account		41750.24
CFB Account		43375.71
Prepayments		6424.29
Loan - Buckland Brewer		5000.00
		96550.24
Creditors		20366.43
		<b>76183.81</b>
Less: Excess Expenditure over Income		27388.28
		<b>48795.53</b>

**Balances as at 31st August 2023**

NatWest Account		17480.37
CFB Account		43903.67
Prepayments		7266.96
Loan - Buckland Brewer		5000.00
		73651.00
Creditors		24855.47
		<b>48795.53</b>

## Circuit Model Trust Fund

Opening Balance		211114.90
Interest		5972.74
		217087.64
Annual District Levy	8055.75	
TMCP Charge	601.68	
Transfer to General Fund	45000.00	
	53657.43	
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>		<b>163430.21</b>

## Funds Held by TMCP

Fund 5232 - William Pett Bequest Cemetery Fund

*Set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard but could be used for any other graveyard.*

Opening Balance		1300.85
Interest and Dividends		40.08
		1340.93
Losses on Investments	31.89	
TMCP Charge	3.71	
		35.60
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>		<b>1305.33</b>

Fund 10087 - Annie G. Ford Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Siloam graveyard only.*

Opening Balance		2263.18
Interest and Dividends		66.77
		2329.95
Losses on Investments	96.11	
TMCP Charge	6.45	
Transfer to General Fund	60.32	
		162.88
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>		<b>2167.07</b>

Fund 22443 - Margaret Joan Tribble Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Bradford graveyard.*

Opening Balance		2010.76
Interest and Dividends		64.54
		2075.30
TMCP Charge		5.73
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>		<b>2069.57</b>

## Funds Held by TMCP *[continued]*

### Fund 22610 - Daisy Watkins Bequest

*Fund set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard.*

Transfer from Circuit Funds	18550.00
Interest and Dividends	495.36
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>	<b>19045.36</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

### Fund 12022 - Various Bequests

*For the support of graveyards but balance can be used for other Methodist purposes.*

Opening Balance	104118.75
Interest and Dividends	3290.65
	<hr/>
	107409.40
Losses on Investments	74.41
TMCP Charge	296.74
Transfer to General Fund	2993.91
	<hr/>
	3365.06
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>	<b>104044.34</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

### Fund 13031 – Miss Mary Lemon Bequest

*For the support of Ministers appointed to serve in the Torridge Circuit*

Opening Balance	138627.36
Interest and Dividends	4160.28
	<hr/>
	142787.64
Losses on Investments	4533.59
TMCP Charge	395.09
Transfer to General Fund	3765.19
	<hr/>
	8693.87
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2023</b>	<b>134093.77</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

## **Donations**

The Circuit's General Fund received £2,107 from churches that was then transferred to one of the charitable funds operated by the Methodist Church or other charities – as follows:

Connexional Property Fund	£185	All We Can	£662
Fund for the Support of Presbyters & Deacons	£135	World Mission Fund	£585
Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust	£20	2Wish	£500
Plymouth & Exeter District Benevolent Fund	£20		

These monies include £622 sent to All We Can to support the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)		Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)		Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		Restricted Funds		Endowment Funds		Totals 2022/23		Totals 2021/22	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>														
Circuit Manses & Equipment	680,000											680,000		680,000
Investment properties	430,000										430,000		430,000	
Investments	954							102,219			102,219		107,782	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>1,110,954</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102,219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,213,173</b>		<b>1,217,782</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>														
Debtors	7,267											7,267		6,424
Loans by the Circuit	5,000											5,000		5,000
Investments with TMCP	39,965		163,430		63,125		24,587		31,875			322,982		351,654
Central Finance Board Deposits	43,904											43,904		43,376
Cash at Bank and in hand	17,480											17,480		41,750
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>113,616</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>63,125</b>	<b>24,587</b>	<b>31,875</b>	<b>396,633</b>					<b>448,204</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>														
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	24,855											24,855		20,366
Grants payable within 2022-23												0		0
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>24,855</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,855</b>					<b>24,855</b>		<b>20,366</b>
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>	<b>88,761</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>63,125</b>	<b>24,587</b>	<b>31,875</b>	<b>371,778</b>					<b>427,838</b>		<b>427,838</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>1,199,715</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>63,125</b>	<b>24,587</b>	<b>134,094</b>	<b>1,584,951</b>					<b>1,645,620</b>		<b>1,645,620</b>
<b>Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)</b>														
Grants payable after 2022-23														
Loans to the Circuit														
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,199,715</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>63,125</b>	<b>24,587</b>	<b>134,094</b>	<b>1,584,951</b>					<b>1,645,620</b>		<b>1,645,620</b>
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>														
General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,199,715											1,199,715		1,203,232
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		163,430										163,430		211,115
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				63,125								63,125		87,071
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>				<b>63,125</b>			<b>1,426,270</b>					<b>1,426,270</b>		<b>1,501,418</b>
Restricted Funds					24,587							24,587		5,575
Endowment Funds						134,094						134,094		138,627
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,199,715</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>63,125</b>	<b>24,587</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,584,951</b>					<b>1,645,620</b>		<b>1,645,620</b>

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023**

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
1 Donations and legacies	400		950			1,350
2 Income from monetary investments	4,391	5,973		667	4,160	15,191
3 Income from investment properties	11,163					11,163
4 Assessments on Churches	106,925					106,925
5 Capital Receipts						0
6 Grants received						0
7 Other charitable income	14,910					
<b>8 Total income</b>	<b>137,789</b>	<b>5,973</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>149,539</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
9 Grants and donations	2,500		3,806			6,306
10 Salaries and associated costs	116,257					116,257
11 Property maintenance	15,683					15,683
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
13 District Assessment & Levy	27,853	8,056				35,909
14 Depreciation						0
15 Office expenses	8,436					8,436
16 Other outgoings	19,329	602	2,540	16	395	22,882
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>190,058</b>	<b>8,658</b>	<b>6,346</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>205,473</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	74			128	4,533	-4,735
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>-52,343</b>	<b>-2,685</b>	<b>-5,396</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>-768</b>	<b>-60,669</b>
21 Transfers between funds	48,826	45,000	18,550	18,489	3,765	0
22 Other gains/(losses)						
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-3,517</b>	<b>-47,685</b>	<b>-23,946</b>	<b>19,012</b>	<b>-4,533</b>	<b>-60,669</b>
24 Total funds brought forward	1,203,232	211,115	87,071	5,575	138,627	1,645,620
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,199,715</b>	<b>163,430</b>	<b>63,125</b>	<b>24,587</b>	<b>134,094</b>	<b>1,584,951</b>

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022**

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021-22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
1 Donations and legacies	495		20,150			20,645
2 Income from monetary investments	630	1,095		90	2,914	4,729
3 Income from investment properties	10,306					10,306
4 Assessments on Churches	110,424					110,424
5 Capital Receipts						0
6 Grants received						0
7 Other charitable income						
<b>8 Total income</b>	<b>121,855</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>20,150</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>146,104</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
9 Grants and donations	6,619	4,000	434			11,053
10 Salaries and associated costs	111,876					111,876
11 Property maintenance	29,903					29,903
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
13 District Assessment & Levy	24,743	11,605				36,348
14 Depreciation						0
15 Office expenses	9,695					9,695
16 Other outgoings	9,339	774	1,765	16	415	12,309
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>192,175</b>	<b>16,379</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>211,184</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	180	-	202	-	-7,538
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	-70,500	-15,284	17,951	-128	-4,657	-72,618
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>47,555</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>
21 Transfers between funds						
22 Other gains/(losses)						
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-22,945</b>	<b>-60,284</b>	<b>17,951</b>	<b>-180</b>	<b>-7,160</b>	<b>-72,618</b>
24 Total funds brought forward	1,226,177	271,399	69,120	5,755	145,787	1,718,238
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,203,232</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>138,627</b>	<b>1,645,620</b>

Torrige Circuit

**Designated Funds 2022-23**

	<u>Bradford G'yard</u>	<u>Rowden G'yard</u>	<u>Siloam G'yard</u>	<u>Ben. Fund</u>	<u>Youth Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Bal.	25751	48118	4169	521	3190	5322	87071
Income	-	800	100	50	-	-	950
Expenditure	1235 *	1125	180	-	-	3806	6346
Transfer to TMCP		18550					18550
Closing Bal.	<u>24516</u>	<u>29243</u>	<u>4089</u>	<u>571</u>	<u>3190</u>	<u>1516</u>	<u>63125</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

\* Expenditure includes year end Creditors

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torridge Methodist Circuit**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Torridge Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2023

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

### **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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Thompson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Name:** Revd. Graham Thompson

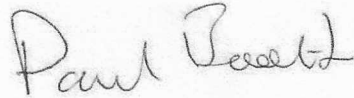
**Address:** 46 Mayfield Way  
North Walsham  
NR28 0DQ

**Date:** 10th November 2023

## Declarations and Scrutiny

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



..... Date...20/11/2023 ..

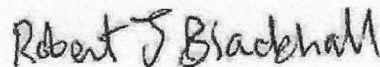
Name and address of treasurer.

Paul Booth  
Hillcrest  
Horwood  
Bideford  
EX39 4PB

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Robert J Blackhall 22/11/2023

**TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132638

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees Annual Report**

**For the year ended 31 August 2022**

### **Introduction**

The Charity is constituted according to the approved governing document issued by the Methodist Conference.

Trustees are appointed by the churches in the Circuit, voted by Circuit Meeting and by virtue of position held, e.g. Ministers.

### **Aims and organisation**

The aim of the charity is the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

***Mission Statement: We are the Christian people of the Torridge Methodist Circuit, working to deepen our love of God through worship, service and nurturing new disciples of Jesus Christ.***

The Circuit has ten thousand pounds (£10,000) set aside for Mission activities. On production of a completed application form, prepared by the leadership team, individual churches may access an amount for their mission. Local churches are able to contribute to the mission fund as and when they are able, or desire.

### **Review of the year**

Activities undertaken – Normally, the ministers of the Circuit provide Christian services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals for the benefit of the public together with general appropriate counselling. Covid 19 restrictions are still limiting hospital, sick and pastoral visiting but to a lesser degree. The Covid situation has stabilised, and this has enabled more face to face meetings to take place. Holy Communion has now become possible. Meetings, such as Church Councils and Circuit Meetings, are now being conducted face to face. Church Council meetings have been reorganised so that there will be more “working together” throughout the Circuit. Weekly services are published in the monthly newsletter which is emailed to those who have email (only 45% of the members have access to internet) and posted to the rest. Two of our churches have had to close, because there are insufficient members to fill the required offices. This has contributed to a reduction in the overall number of services.

### **Income trends**

Circuit income is mainly derived from the Assessments paid by each of the churches. Each year a new budget is agreed, and Assessments are then reviewed.

Because of the reduced number of services, income is down compared to previous years; however, an increasing number of members are now paying by direct debit or cheque, and this has helped to improve the situation.

Rental income is received from two properties within the Circuit. Interest is received from TMCP trust funds.

## Expenditure trends

Ministerial stipends rise each financial year in line with Conference approved increases.

A sum of £24,743 is the Circuit's contribution to the District and Connexional funds, a significant part of which is used for the work of the wider Methodist Church.

We employ a full time Lay Pastoral Assistant, a part-time Circuit Administrator and a Families Worker who is deployed on an ad hoc basis.

To assist the churches to meet their Assessment costs it was agreed to draw the sum of £45,000 from reserves.

## Funds held as a custodian

Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted	£211,115
Trust Funds	Restricted	£144,175

## Plans for the future

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there continues to be two full time ordained staff, one full-time Pastoral Worker, a Circuit Administrator and one part-time Families Worker. It also anticipates cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the Assessment paid to the District.

To encourage members to engage with the calling of the Methodist Church – which is, ***to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission*** – the Ministers have been holding the following sessions:

- Ways of Worship – quarterly
- Circuit consultation – quarterly
- Quiet morning/Time for God – monthly

## Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

Full Name of Charity: *The Torridge Methodist Circuit*

Registration Charity Number: *1132638*

Date of Registration: *10th November 2009*

Main communication address: *Webbery Cross Cottage, Webbery, Bideford, EX39 4PU*

The members of the Torridge Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

## **Circuit Ministers and Officers**

Active Circuit Ministers      *Revd Robert Blackhall – Superintendent Minister*  
*Revd Andrew Vidamour*

Lay Pastoral Worker      *Mr Frank Watson*

Circuit Stewards      *Mrs Rose Peard*  
*Mrs Elsie Potter*  
*Mrs Beryl Oke*  
*Mrs Hilda Harris*  
*Mrs Jenny Thurston*  
*Mr Dave Watson*

Administrator      *Mrs Sarah Richards*

Name of Treasurer acting as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

*Mrs Elsie Potter*

Independent Examiner:      *Revd Graham Thompson*  
*Cornerstone Cottage*  
*The Street*  
*North Walsham*  
*NR28 0AD*

Investment Bankers      *Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church*  
*Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes*

Retail Banker:      *NatWest*

## **Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

## **Risk Management**

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis. This is done to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

## **Safeguarding**

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in

Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.

the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Torridge Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Torridge Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure everyone is clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable. All officers in the churches and in the Circuit must attend a training course as soon as they are appointed.

Torridge Methodist Circuit

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st August

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Assessments	110424	112037
Interest on Investments (net)	1271	221
Lettings	10306	10605
Transfers from Circuit Model Trust Fund	45000	120000
Legacy - Rowden Graveyard	20000	-
Donations	495	1600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	187496	244463
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Ministerial Stipends	74702	74679
Circuit Administrator	9543	9463
Circuit Pastoral Worker	23977	10237
Circuit Family Worker	1605	-
Apprenticeship Levy & NEST Pension	2049	654
District Assessment	24743	28521
Travelling Expenses	5151	1505
Preaching Costs	948	694
Stationery, Software, Postage and Printing	7083	8260
Graveyard Maintenance (net)	1615	667
Quinquennial Inspections	2434	850
Property Maintenance - Lettings	10558	-
Manse Maintenance	9256	2245
Shebbear Manse Costs	-	(394)
Council Tax	4053	3900
Water Rates	674	711
Telephone and Internet	2539	3906
Insurance	2928	2851
Training	564	-
Hospitality and Gifts	778	310
Benevolent Fund	330	(340)
Recruitment Costs	-	426
Grants	4999	60976
Mission Fund (net)	104	3804
PPE and Office Equipment	73	437
Clovelly Project (net)	1108	500
Miscellaneous	493	164
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	192307	215026
<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>(4811)</b>	<b>29437</b>

## RECONCILIATION

### Balances as at 1st September 2021

NatWest Account	41577.65
CFB Account	52927.51
Prepayments	6119.81
Loan - Buckland Brewer	7000.00
	<hr/>
	107624.97
Creditors	26630.09
	<hr/>
	<b>80994.88</b>
Less: Excess Expenditure over Income	4811.07
	<hr/>
	<b>76183.81</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

### Balances as at 31st August 2022

NatWest Account	41750.24
CFB Account	43375.71
Prepayments	6424.29
Loan - Buckland Brewer	5000.00
	<hr/>
	96550.24
Creditors	20366.43
	<hr/>
	<b>76183.81</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

## Circuit Model Trust Fund

Opening Balance	271398.80
Interest	1094.50
	<hr/>
	272493.30
Annual District Levy	11604.91
TMCP Charge	773.49
Transfer to Pension Reserve Fund	4000.00
Transfer to General Fund	45000.00
	<hr/>
	61378.40
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022</b>	<b>211114.90</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Torridge Methodist Circuit**

**Funds Held by TMCP**

**Fund 5232 - William Pett Bequest Cemetery Fund**

*Set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard but could be used for any other graveyard.*

Opening Balance		1333.02
Interest and Dividends		21.97
		<hr/>
		1354.99
Losses on Investments	50.34	
TMCP Charge	3.80	
	<hr/>	54.14
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022</b>		<b><u><u>1300.85</u></u></b>

**Fund 10087 - Annie G. Ford Bequest**

*Fund set up for the benefit of Siloam graveyard only.*

Opening Balance		2414.89
Interest and Dividends		58.62
		<hr/>
		2473.51
Losses on Investments	151.71	
TMCP Charge	6.88	
Transfer to General Fund	51.74	
	<hr/>	210.33
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022</b>		<b><u><u>2263.18</u></u></b>

**Fund 22443 - Margaret Joan Tribble Bequest**

*Fund set up for the benefit of Bradford graveyard.*

Opening Balance		2007.05
Interest and Dividends		9.43
		<hr/>
		2016.48
TMCP Charge		5.72
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022</b>		<b><u><u>2010.76</u></u></b>

## Torridge Methodist Circuit

### Funds Held by TMCP *[continued]*

#### Fund 12022 - Various Bequests

*For the support of graveyards but balance can be used for other Methodist purposes.*

Opening Balance		104298.80
Interest and Dividends		493.96
		<hr/>
		104792.76
Losses on Investments	180.05	
TMCP Charge	297.25	
Transfer to General Fund	196.71	
	<hr/>	674.01
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022</b>		<b>104118.75</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

#### Fund 13031 – Miss Mary Lemon Bequest

*For the support of Ministers appointed to serve in the Torridge Circuit*

Opening Balance		145787.85
Interest and Dividends		2914.43
		<hr/>
		148702.28
Losses on Investments	7156.16	
TMCP Charge	415.48	
Transfer to General Fund	2503.28	
	<hr/>	10074.92
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022</b>		<b>138627.36</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

## Donations

The Circuit's General Fund received £4,040 from churches that was then transferred to one of the charitable funds operated by the Methodist Church - as follows:

Connexional Property Fund	£185	All We Can	£2,938
Fund for the Support of Presbyters & Deacons	£10	World Mission Fund	£540
Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust	£20	Mission in Britain	£192
Plymouth & Exeter District Benevolent Fund	£30		
Ministerial Training Fund	£125		

These monies include £2,898.20 sent to All We Can to support the Ukraine Emergency Appeal.

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022**

Notes to the accounts	Circuit Model					Total 2021-22
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
1 Donations and legacies	495		20,150			20,645
2 Income from monetary investments	630	1,095		90	2,914	4,729
3 Income from investment properties	10,306					10,306
4 Assessments on Churches	110,424					110,424
5 Capital Receipts						0
6 Grants received						0
7 Other charitable income						
<b>8 Total income</b>	<b>121,855</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>20,150</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>146,104</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
9 Grants and donations	6,619	4,000	434			11,053
10 Salaries and associated costs	111,876					111,876
11 Property maintenance	29,903					29,903
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy						0
13 District Assessment & Levy	24,743	11,605				36,348
14 Depreciation						0
15 Office expenses	9,695					9,695
16 Other outgoings	9,339	774	1,765	16	415	12,309
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>192,175</b>	<b>16,379</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>211,184</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	180			202	7,156	-7,538
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	-70,500	-15,284	17,951	-128	-4,657	-72,618
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>47,555</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>0</b>
21 Transfers between funds						
22 Other gains/(losses)						
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-22,945</b>	<b>-60,284</b>	<b>17,951</b>	<b>-180</b>	<b>-7,160</b>	<b>-72,618</b>
24 Total funds brought forward	1,226,177	271,399	69,120	5,755	145,787	1,718,238
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,203,232</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>138,627</b>	<b>1,645,620</b>

**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022**

Notes to the Accounts	GN					Totals 2020/21 £
	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Circuit Manses & Equipment	680,000					680,000
Investment properties	430,000					430,000
Investments	1,029			106,753		115,118
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>1,111,029</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106,753</b>		<b>1,225,118</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Debtors	6,424					6,424
Loans by the Circuit	5,000					7,000
Investments with TMCP	36,019	211,115	67,071	5,575	31,874	412,122
Central Finance Board Deposits	43,376					52,927
Cash at Bank and in hand	21,750		20,000			41,578
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>112,569</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>519,747</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>						
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	20,366					26,630
Grants payable within 2021-22						
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>20,366</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,630</b>
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>	<b>92,203</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>31,874</b>	<b>493,117</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>1,203,232</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>138,627</b>	<b>1,718,235</b>
<b>Long term liabilities</b>						
(due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2021-22						
Loans to the Circuit						
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,203,232</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>138,627</b>	<b>1,645,620</b>
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,203,232					1,203,232
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		211,115				211,115
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			87,071			87,071
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>			<b>87,071</b>			<b>1,501,418</b>
Restricted Funds				5,575		5,755
Endowment Funds					138,627	145,787
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,203,232</b>	<b>211,115</b>	<b>87,071</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,718,238</b>

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
<b>Income</b>							
1 Donations and legacies		1,600		710			2,310
2 Income from monetary investments		430	1,321		59	1,882	3,692
3 Income from investment properties		10,605					10,605
4 Assessments on Churches		112,037					112,037
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income							
<b>8 Total income</b>		<b>124,672</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>128,644</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
9 Grants and donations		60,976		3,464			64,440
10 Salaries and associated costs		95,727					95,727
11 Property maintenance		10,163					10,163
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		28,521	22,236				50,757
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		12,603					12,603
16 Other outgoings		4,350	826	1,792	11	260	7,239
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>212,340</b>	<b>23,062</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>240,929</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	23		499	17,670	18,146
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-87,691	-21,741	-4,546	547	19,292	-94,139
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>121,655</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>0</b>
21 Transfers between funds							
22 Other gains/(losses)							
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>		<b>33,964</b>	<b>-141,741</b>	<b>-4,546</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>17,670</b>	<b>-94,139</b>
24 Total funds brought forward		1,192,213	413,140	73,666	5,241	128,117	1,812,377
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,226,177</b>	<b>271,399</b>	<b>69,120</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>145,787</b>	<b>1,718,238</b>

Torridge Circuit

**Designated Funds 2021-22**

	<u>Bradford G'yard</u>	<u>Rowden G'yard</u>	<u>Siloam G'yard</u>	<u>Ben. Fund</u>	<u>Youth Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Bal.	26941	28433	4279	851	3190	5426	69120
Income	-	20050	100	-	-	-	20150
Expenditure	1190 *	365 *	210	330	-	104	2199
Closing Bal.	<u>25751</u>	<u>48118</u>	<u>4169</u>	<u>521</u>	<u>3190</u>	<u>5322</u>	<u>87071</u>

\* Expenditure includes year end Creditors

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ..... *E. J. Potter* ..... Date *21/3/23* .....

Name and address of treasurer Elsie Potter, Webbery Cross, Webbery, Bideford, EX39 4PU

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 21st March 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Robert J Blackhall*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Robert J Blackhall 21/3/2023

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Torridge Circuit

.....SEE SEPARATE SHEET.....

Charity Number .....

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages ... to .... As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

\* delete or circle as appropriate

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torridge Methodist Circuit**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Torridge Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2022

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

### **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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

**Signed:**



**Name:** Revd. Canon Graham Thompson

**Address:** Cornerstone Cottage  
The Street  
Knapton  
North Walsham  
NR28 0AD

**Date:** 5th January 2023

**TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1132638

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# Accounts

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## Trustees Annual Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

### Introduction

The Charity is constituted according to the approved governing document issued by the Methodist Conference.

Trustees are appointed by the Churches in the Circuit, voted by Circuit Meeting and by virtue of position held, e.g. Ministers.

### Aims and organisation

The aim of the charity is the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

***Mission Statement: We are the Christian people of the Torridge Methodist Circuit, working to deepen our love of God through worship, service and nurturing new disciples of Jesus Christ.***

The Circuit has ten thousand pounds (£10,000) set aside for Mission activities. On production of a completed application form, prepared by the leadership team, individual churches may access an amount for their mission. Local churches are able to contribute to the mission fund as and when they are able, or desire.

### Review of the year

Activities undertaken – Normally, the ministers of the Circuit provide religious services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals for the benefit of the public together with general appropriate counselling. Covid 19 restrictions are still limiting hospital, sick and pastoral visiting. However, the Covid situation has improved and this has enabled some face to face meeting to take place. The regular monthly prayer meetings are still being conducted via Zoom. Holy Communion has now become possible. Some meetings, such as Church Councils and Circuit Meetings, are now being conducted face to face and also on Zoom which allows members to choose how they attend. Weekly services are published in the monthly newsletter which is emailed to those who have email (only 45% of the members have access to internet) and posted to the rest.

### Income trends

Circuit income is mainly derived from the assessments paid by each of the churches. Each year a new budget is agreed, and assessments are then reviewed. Because of the reduced number of services income is still down; however, an increasing number of members are now paying by direct debit or cheque, and this has improved the situation. Rental income is received from two properties within the Circuit. Interest is received from TMCP trust funds.

## Expenditure trends

Stipends rise each financial year in line with Conference approved increases.

A sum of £28,520 is the Circuit's contribution to the District and Connexional fund, a significant part of which is used for the work of the wider Methodist Church.

To assist the churches to meet their assessment costs it was agreed to pay the sum of £15,000 from reserves.

## Funds held as a custodian

Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted	£271,399
Trust Funds	Restricted	£110,054

## Plans for the future

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there continues to be two full time ordained staff, one full-time Pastoral worker and one part-time Families worker. It also anticipates cost of living stipend increases combined with an increase in the assessment paid to the district.

A study/training time will be started on a monthly basis to encourage those who lead worship. Subjects covered include using PowerPoint, encouraging mission and service and sharing resources.

## Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102.

Full Name of Charity: *The Torridge Methodist Circuit*

Registration Charity Number: *1132638*

Date of registration .....

Main communication address: *Webbery Cross Cottage, Webbery, Bideford, EX39 4PU*

The members of the Torridge Methodist Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

## **Circuit Ministers and Officers**

Active Circuit Ministers      *Rev Robert Blackhall – Superintendent Minister*

*Rev Andrew Vidamour*

Lay Pastoral Worker      *Mr Frank Watson*

Circuit Stewards      *Mrs Rose Peard*

*Mrs Elsie Potter*

*Mrs Beryl Oke*

*Mrs Hilda Harris*

*Mrs Jenny Thurston*

*Mr Dave Watson*

*Administrator              Mrs Sarah Richards*

Name of treasurer acting as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

*Mrs Elsie Potter*

Independent examiner:      *Revd Graham Thompson*

*18 Velwell Road*

*Exeter*

*EX4 4LE*

Investment Bankers      *Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church*

*Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes*

Current Account      *NatWest*

## **Reserves Policy**

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

## **Risk Management**

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis. This is done to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

## Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.

the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The Torridge Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Torridge Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure everyone is clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable. All officers in the churches and in the Circuit must attend a training course as soon as they are appointed.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st August

2021

2020

### INCOME

Assessments	112037	89850
Interest on Investments (net)	221	884
Lettings	10605	8967
Transfers from Circuit Model Trust Fund	120000	85000
Donations	1600	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	244463	185001

### EXPENDITURE

Ministerial Stipends	74679	92208
Circuit Administrator	9463	8415
Circuit Pastoral Worker	10237	-
NEST - Circuit Staff Pension Scheme	654	-
District Assessment	28521	28745
Travelling Expenses	1505	4488
Preaching Costs	694	1216
Stationery, Software, Postage and Printing	8260	7906
Graveyard Maintenance (net)	667	1275
Quinquennial Inspections	850	-
Manse Maintenance	2245	1998
Shebbear Manse Costs	(394)	1998
Council Tax	3900	3739
Water Rates	711	761
Telephone and Internet	3906	3163
Insurance	2851	3581
Training	-	204
Hospitality and Gifts	310	359
Benevolent Fund	(340)	500
Recruitment Costs	426	-
Grants	60976	4796
Mission Fund (net)	3804	190
PPE and Office Equipment	437	123
Clovelly Project (net)	500	135
Miscellaneous	164	167
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	215026	165967

**Surplus Income over Expenditure**

29437

19034

**Torridge Methodist Circuit**

**RECONCILIATION**

**Balances as at 31st August 2020**

NatWest Account	20186.44
CFB Account	44137.78
Prepayments	6525.39
Loan - Buckland Brewer	7000.00
	<hr/>
	77849.61
Creditors	26292.18
	<hr/>
	<b>51557.43</b>
Add: Surplus Income over Expenditure	29437.45
	<hr/>
	<b>80994.88</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Balances as at 31st August 2021**

NatWest Account	41577.65
CFB Account	52927.51
Prepayments	6119.81
Loan - Buckland Brewer	7000.00
	<hr/>
	107624.97
Creditors	26630.09
	<hr/>
	<b>80994.88</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Circuit Model Trust Fund**

Opening Balance	413139.79
Interest	1320.77
	<hr/>
	414460.56
Annual District Levy	22235.48
TMCP Charge	826.28
Transfer to General Fund	120000.00
	<hr/>
	143061.76
	<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2021</b>	<b>271398.80</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Torridge Methodist Circuit**

**Funds Held by TMCP**

**Fund 5232 - William Pett Bequest Cemetery Fund**

*Set up for the benefit of Rowden graveyard but could be used for any other graveyard.*

Opening Balance		1196.91
Interest and Dividends		14.23
Gains on Investments		124.27
		<hr/>
		1335.41
TMCP Charge		2.39
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2021</b>		<b>1333.02</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

**Fund 10087 - Annie G. Ford Bequest**

*Fund set up for the benefit of Siloam graveyard only.*

Opening Balance		2040.35
Interest and Dividends		37.62
Gains on Investments		374.54
		<hr/>
		2452.51
TMCP Charge	4.08	
Transfer to General Fund	33.54	
	<hr/>	37.62
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2021</b>		<b>2414.89</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

**Fund 22443 - Margaret Joan Tribble Bequest**

*Fund set up for the benefit of Bradford graveyard.*

Opening Balance		2004.33
Interest and Dividends		6.73
		<hr/>
		2011.06
TMCP Charge		4.01
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2021</b>		<b>2007.05</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

## Torridge Methodist Circuit

### **Funds Held by TMCP [continued]**

#### Fund 12022 - Various Bequests

*For the support of graveyards but balance can be used for other Methodist purposes.*

Opening Balance		104322.09
Interest and Dividends		355.09
		<hr/>
		104677.18
Losses on Investments	23.29	
TMCP Charge	208.64	
Transfer to General Fund	146.45	
	<hr/>	378.38
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2021</b>		<b>104298.80</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

#### Fund 13031 – Miss Mary Lemon Bequest

*For the support of Ministers appointed to serve in the Torridge Circuit*

Opening Balance		128116.75
Interest and Dividends		1882.08
Gains on Investments		17666.77
		<hr/>
		147665.60
TMCP Charge	256.23	
Transfer to General Fund	1621.52	
	<hr/>	1877.75
		<hr/>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st August 2021</b>		<b>145787.85</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

## **Donations**

During the year, the Circuit made a number of Donations. Large gifts were given to enable the ministry of the District Rural Support Worker (£40,000) and Youth Genesis (£20,000). Smaller gifts were made to the Royal British Legion, the District Benevolent Fund, Methodist Homes, the South West Heritage Centre and the Family Friendly Churches Trust.

The General Fund also received £415 from churches that was then transferred to one of the charitable funds operated by the Methodist Church.

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
1 Donations and legacies		1,600		710			2,310
2 Income from monetary investments		430	1,321		59	1,882	3,692
3 Income from investment properties		10,605					10,605
4 Assessments on Churches		112,037					112,037
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income							
8 <b>Total income</b>		<b>124,672</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>128,644</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
9 Grants and donations		60,976		3,464			64,440
10 Salaries and associated costs		95,727					95,727
11 Property maintenance		10,163					10,163
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0
13 District Assessment & Levy		28,521	22,236				50,757
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		12,603		1,792	11	260	12,603
16 Other outgoings		4,350	826				7,239
17 <b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>212,340</b>	<b>23,062</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>240,929</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	23		499	17,667	18,143
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-87,691	-21,741	-4,546	547	19,289	-94,142
20 <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>121,655</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>0</b>
21 Transfers between funds							
22 Other gains/(losses)		33,964	-141,741	-4,546	514	17,667	-94,142
23 <b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>1,192,213</b>	<b>413,140</b>	<b>73,666</b>	<b>5,241</b>	<b>128,117</b>	<b>1,812,377</b>
24 Total funds brought forward		1,226,177	271,399	69,120	5,755	145,784	1,718,235
25 <b>Total funds carried forward</b>							

# Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

GN

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2019/20 £
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Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2020/21 £
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R

Circuit Manses & Equipment	680,000					680,000
Investment properties	430,000					430,000
Investments	1,209				113,909	115,118
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>1,111,209</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113,909</b>	<b>1,225,118</b>

R

	680,000					680,000
	430,000					430,000
	97,474					97,474
	<b>1,207,474</b>					<b>1,207,474</b>

S

Debtors	6,120					6,120
Loans by the Circuit	7,000					7,000
Investments with TMCP	33,973	271,399	69,120	5,755	31,875	412,122
Central Finance Board Deposits	52,927					52,927
Cash at Bank and in hand	41,578					41,578
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>141,598</b>	<b>271,399</b>	<b>69,120</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>31,875</b>	<b>519,747</b>

T

	6,525					6,525
	7,000					7,000
	553,346					553,346
	44,138					44,138
	20,186					20,186
	<b>631,195</b>					<b>631,195</b>

U

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	26,630					26,630
Grants payable within 2020-21						0
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>26,630</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,630</b>
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>	<b>114,968</b>	<b>271,399</b>	<b>69,120</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>31,875</b>	<b>493,117</b>

V

	26,292					26,292
	26,292					26,292
	<b>604,903</b>					<b>604,903</b>

W

	1,812,377					1,812,377
--	-----------	--	--	--	--	-----------

V

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2020-21						0
Loans to the Circuit						0
						0
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,226,177</b>	<b>271,399</b>	<b>69,120</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>145,784</b>	<b>1,718,235</b>

W

	1,812,377					1,812,377
--	-----------	--	--	--	--	-----------

W

General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,226,177					1,226,177
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		271,399				271,399
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			69,120			69,120
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>			<b>69,120</b>			<b>1,566,696</b>
Restricted Funds				5,755		5,755
Endowment Funds				145,784		145,784
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,226,177</b>	<b>271,399</b>	<b>69,120</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,718,235</b>

W

	1,192,213					1,192,213
	413,140					413,140
	73,666					73,666
	<b>1,679,019</b>					<b>1,679,019</b>
	5,241					5,241
	128,117					128,117
	<b>1,812,377</b>					<b>1,812,377</b>

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020**

	Notes to the accounts	Circuit Model					Total 2019-20
		General Fund (Unrestricted)	Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
1 Donations and legacies		300		514	2,000		2,814
2 Income from monetary investments		857	2,646		63	2,211	5,777
3 Income from investment properties		8,967					8,967
4 Assessments on Churches		89,850					89,850
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received							0
7 Other charitable income			150				150
<b>8 Total income</b>		<b>99,974</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>107,558</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
9 Grants and donations		6,747					6,747
10 Salaries and associated costs		101,839					101,839
11 Property maintenance		12,077					12,077
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		120,465					120,465
13 District Assessment & Levy		28,745	12,055				40,800
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses		11,192					11,192
16 Other outgoings		5,353	555	2,629	6	260	8,803
<b>17 Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>286,418</b>	<b>12,610</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>301,923</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments					49	1,728	-1,777
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							-8,836
<b>20 Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>-195,280</b>	<b>-9,964</b>	<b>-1,965</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>-204,978</b>
21 Transfers between funds			145,699			37	1,951
22 Other gains/(losses)							0
<b>23 Net movement in funds</b>		<b>-338,991</b>	<b>135,735</b>	<b>-1,965</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>-1,728</b>	<b>-204,978</b>
24 Total funds brought forward		1,531,204	277,405	75,631	3,270	129,845	2,017,355
<b>25 Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,192,213</b>	<b>413,140</b>	<b>73,666</b>	<b>5,241</b>	<b>128,117</b>	<b>1,812,377</b>

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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 ..... *E.S. Potter* ..... Date *10 March 22* .....

Name and address of treasurer Mrs Elsie Potter

.....Webbery Cross Cottage, Webbery, Bideford, Devon..... Post Code EX39 4PU

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... *Robert J Blackhall* .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd Robert Blackhall

Date ..... *10/3/22* .....

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....**SEE SEPARATE SHEET**.....

Charity Number .....

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to .... As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torridge Methodist Circuit

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Torridge Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2021

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

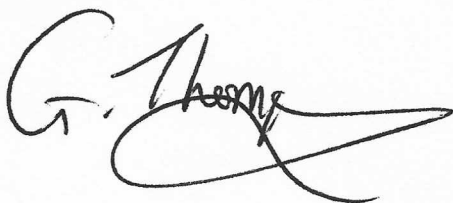
## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Thompson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Name:** Revd. Canon Graham Thompson

**Address:** 18 Velwell Road  
Exeter  
EX4 4LE

**Date:** 14th January 2022

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Torrridge Methodist Circuit**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Torrridge Circuit (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2021

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

### **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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

**Signed:**



**Name:** Revd. Canon Graham Thompson

**Address:** 18 Velwell Road  
Exeter  
EX4 4LE

**Date:** 14th January 2022