

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 manse 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.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st August

2022

2021

INCOME

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

EXPENDITURE

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

Excess Expenditure over Income

(4811)

29437

RECONCILIATION

Balances as at 1st September 2021

NatWest Account	41577.65
CFB Account	52927.51
Prepayments	6119.81
Loan - Buckland Brewer	7000.00

107624.97

Creditors 26630.09

80994.88

Less: Excess Expenditure over Income 4811.07

76183.81

Balances as at 31st August 2022

NatWest Account	41750.24
CFB Account	43375.71
Prepayments	6424.29
Loan - Buckland Brewer	5000.00

96550.24

Creditors 20366.43

76183.81

Circuit Model Trust Fund

Opening Balance	271398.80
Interest	1094.50

272493.30

Annual District Levy	11604.91
TMCP Charge	773.49
Transfer to Pension Reserve Fund	4000.00
Transfer to General Fund	45000.00

61378.40

Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022 **211114.90**

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/>
Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022		<u><u>1300.85</u></u>

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/>
Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022		<u><u>2263.18</u></u>

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/>
Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022		<u><u>2010.76</u></u>

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
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		104792.76
Losses on Investments	180.05	
TMCP Charge	297.25	
Transfer to General Fund	196.71	
	<hr/>	674.01
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Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022		104118.75
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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
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Closing Balance as at 31st August 2022		138627.36
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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	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income						
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						
8 Total income	121,855	1,095	20,150	90	2,914	146,104
Expenditure						
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
17 Total charitable expenditure	192,175	16,379	2,199	16	415	211,184
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	180		-	202	7,156	-7,538
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-70,500	-15,284	17,951	-128	-4,657	-72,618
21 Transfers between funds	47,555	45,000	-	52	2,503	0
22 Other gains/(losses)						
23 Net movement in funds	-22,945	-60,284	17,951	-180	-7,160	-72,618
24 Total funds brought forward	1,226,177	271,399	69,120	5,755	145,787	1,718,238
25 Total funds carried forward	1,203,232	211,115	87,071	5,575	138,627	1,645,620

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

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Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021/22	Totals 2020/21
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Circuit Manses & Equipment	680,000					680,000	680,000
Investment properties	430,000					430,000	430,000
Investments	1,029				106,753	107,782	115,118
Total fixed assets	1,111,029	0	0	0	106,753	1,217,782	1,225,118

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Current Assets

Debtors	6,424					6,424	6,120
Loans by the Circuit	5,000					5,000	7,000
Investments with TMCP	36,019	211,115	67,071	5,575	31,874	351,654	412,122
Central Finance Board Deposits	43,376					43,376	52,927
Cash at Bank and in hand	21,750		20,000			41,750	41,578
Total current assets	112,569	211,115	87,071	5,575	31,874	448,204	519,747

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Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	20,366					20,366	26,630
Grants payable within 2021-22						0	
Total current liabilities	20,366	0	0	0	0	20,366	26,630
Net current assets/liabilities	92,203	211,115	87,071	5,575	31,874	427,838	493,117

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Total assets less current liabilities	1,203,232	211,115	87,071	5,575	138,627	1,645,620	1,718,235
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)

Grants payable after 2021-22						0	
Loans to the Circuit						0	
Net assets	1,203,232	211,115	87,071	5,575	138,627	1,645,620	1,718,235

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Funds of the Circuit

General Fund (Unrestricted)	1,203,232					1,203,232	1,226,177
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		211,115				211,115	271,399
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			87,071			87,071	69,120
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,501,418	1,566,696
Restricted Funds				5,575		5,575	5,755
Endowment Funds					138,627	138,627	145,787
Total Funds	1,203,232	211,115	87,071	5,575	0	1,645,620	1,718,238

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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
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
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 Total income	124,672	1,321	710	59	1,882	128,644
Expenditure						
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
17 Total charitable expenditure	212,340	23,062	5,256	11	260	240,929
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	23		499	17,670	18,146
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-87,691	-21,741	-4,546	547	19,292	-94,139
21 Transfers between funds	121,655	-	120,000	-	33	1,622
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds	33,964	-141,741	-4,546	514	17,670	-94,139
24 Total funds brought forward	1,192,213	413,140	73,666	5,241	128,117	1,812,377
25 Total funds carried forward	1,226,177	271,399	69,120	5,755	145,787	1,718,238

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>
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* 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