

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024

### A. Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name	Wrexham Methodist Circuit
Registered Charity Number	1132841
Principal Address	Wrexham Methodist Church, Regent Street, Wrexham. LL11 1RY

### B. Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
How is the charity constituted	Act of Parliament
Trustee selection methods	Trustees are selected according to standing order 510 from 'The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church'.
Structure	Part of Wales Synod Cymru; accountable to the Methodist Conference

### C. Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church;</li><li>b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;</li><li>c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;</li><li>d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.</li></ul>
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects	<p>The circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of the 8 Methodist churches and chapels in its geographical area. These acts of worship are open to all.</p> <p>The circuit supports the Open the Book initiative and teams serve several local schools around the circuit. The circuit also runs and supports two successful after-school drop-ins in Llangollen and at the 'Tin Can' (the old Rhosnesni chapel), the latter being undertaken in partnership with the Church Army. A parent and toddler group is run in Wrexham. Some of our churches run successful Community Coffee Mornings which are a much-valued meeting place for people from the wider community. Most of our churches make their church halls available to their local communities as a resource. Many churches collect for the local foodbank. A variety of other charities are supported by the efforts of individual churches. Also during the year volunteers from the circuit have worked as prison chaplains, pastoral visitors, hospital volunteers, volunteer drivers, and as helpers in the town's Foodbank. We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.</p>

## D. Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The circuit exists to resource and support its churches in their mission to the communities in which they are situated. Worship takes place in all but one church weekly on a Sunday and one church has a worship service once a month. Most of our services are in the morning, although but one church has afternoon worship. The circuit is conscious that our worship has tended for obvious reasons to be concentrated on a Sunday. However there are an increasing number of members who are required to work on a Sunday so the Circuit has been exploring options to hold occasional services at other times with a view to making these a more regular occurrence. There are also occasional Sunday evening services. In addition we continue to offer online worship via Zoom each week. Numbers attending the online worship have declined but it still provides a valuable function to enable those who cannot access our buildings to be part of a weekly worship service and fellowship.

Worship was conducted by the full time presbyter, five supernumerary presbyters, nine fully accredited active local preachers and one preacher in training. Additionally five worship leaders were available to support preachers or lead non preaching services in their own church. We have also been grateful for the support of several ministers and local preachers who have come from other denominations or from other circuits.

The Circuit appointed a new full-time presbyter, the Rev James Eaton-Challinor, who will also act as Superintendent Minister. The staffing of the Circuit for the year was the full-time presbyter, two supernumerary presbyters working one day per week each under a letter of understanding from the Circuit and with delegated authority under SO 502 1 (b) (ii) to chair church councils and other meetings associated with the churches that they hold pastoral oversight of. A further Supernumerary presbyter provided pastoral support at Overton with the business of the managing trustees e.g. church councils being undertaken by the Superintendent. In addition we have a just over half time youth and children's worker, two lay pastoral assistants who work one day each and a part time administrator (4 hours per week). Also there is one voluntary lay pastoral assistant. Having reduced its staffing considerably (from two and a half full time ministers to one) over the past two years the Circuit is going through a period of adjustment. The Managing Trustees will continue to reflect on the right mix of staffing roles to ensure the Circuit is able to successfully undertake its charitable aims, subject to the financial constraints that the Circuit and its individual churches face.

At the start of the Covid pandemic the Circuit ministers produced a weekly newsletter including pastoral reflections. This was emailed or posted to members across the Circuit and beyond. This kept members informed of news and developments. The reduction in ministerial staffing in the Circuit meant that at the end of the year this was

discontinued. However the Circuit also recognised that not having an active website was a significant block to both efficient communication within the Circuit and the missional activities of the Circuit (a number of churches have their own websites). We worked with a company who have produced websites for a large number of Circuits across the Connexion and so have extensive experience of the particular needs of the Methodist Church. The new website was expected to be live in Autumn 2024. Occasional newsletters and pastoral letters continued to be sent out for, particularly relating to major Christian festivals.

Ruabon and Rhosymedre Methodist Churches have been under the pastoral oversight of a Supernumerary Minister since September 2022. The two churches have been working more closely together during this time including regular joint services which alternate between the two buildings. A number of joint meetings of the churches have also been held during this time. During this year the two churches have resolved to become 'one church on two sites' i.e. a single set of managing trustees will become responsible for the governance of the church. From September 2024 the two will become known as 'Wynnstay Methodist Church' and it is envisaged the worship will be continued on both sites for the foreseeable future although this will be kept under review by the Wynnstay's church council.

Wrexham Methodist Church's site in Regent Street, Wrexham, needs a considerable amount of work done to bring it up to a suitable standard for on-going mission and ministry. The Church Council applied to the local authority for pre-planning permission on alterations to Rhosddu Chapel, which is a class of Wrexham Methodist Church. The proposed alterations were drawn up by an architect and involved a small extension and internal alterations. However the local authority advised that without an additional 14 parking spaces this would be refused and there is currently no separate parking and no land on which to put a car park.

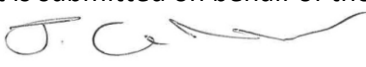
The sale process for the redundant chapel at Brymbo continued throughout the year and the managing trustees have entered into a contract, to sell the property to Wales and West Housing Association. This is subject to Wales and West Housing obtaining planning permission for the development. At the end of the year, the property was still in the care of the Circuit and the planning process is ongoing.

A group of young people from the after school drop in at Llangollen went to 3Generate, the Methodist Church's annual children and young people's gathering at the NEC in Birmingham as part of a large group from across Wales Synod Cymru. They were accompanied by the Circuit children and young people's worker and a number of volunteers from the Circuit. Additionally, many of these young people plus others took part in the 'Big Day Out' organised by Momentwm, the district young people's organisation, which was again an opportunity to meet and get to know better other young people from across Wales.

	Churches across the Circuit have continued to support social and charitable initiatives including supporting local food banks, supporting the roofless, collections for specific charities and groups to combat loneliness amongst the elderly. Many of the people in our congregations continue to live out their Christian discipleship through their own volunteering with many organisations in their own community.
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<b>E. Financial Review</b>	
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves.	The Reserves Policy for the Wrexham Methodist Circuit is to hold a sum equivalent to 50% of a normal year's expenditure – i.e. approximately £70,000. This is deemed sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, the funding of planned activities in the event of the closure of a large church or an inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None
Overview of the accounts	In the 2023/24 accounts: 70% of the Circuit's income was provided by the local churches, and an additional 6% came in the form of grant support from the Wales Synod Cymru of the Methodist Church with the rental income making up the majority of the remainder. 56% of the Circuit's expenditure was on ministerial stipends, lay worker salaries and related costs, and a further 20% was our contribution to the Synod, of which part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church. Manses accounted for a further 13% of costs.

<b>F. Further Information</b>	None
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<b>G. Declaration</b>
<p>This report is submitted on behalf of the trustees by:</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Reverend James Eaton-Challinor, Superintendent Minister, Wrexham Methodist Circuit</p>

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Wrexham Circuit	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024**

Wales	District	Circuit no	2./26
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**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

1132841

If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**

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

Ministers:

Rev James Eaton-Challinor	

Circuit Stewards:

Tim Guy	
David Millington	
Norman Pybus	
Meryl Thomas	

Treasurer:

Sarah Haywood	
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SECTION A		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share	100,437			100,437	96,690
a3	Capital receipts					
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,521	2,605		5,126	3,268
a5	Grants	9,000			9,000	9,000
a6	Other receipts	29,873			29,873	22,929
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>141,831</b>	<b>2,605</b>		<b>144,436 (a8)</b>	<b>131,887</b>

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS	£	£	£	£	£
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	79,976			79,976	72,140
b3	Manse Costs	18,022			18,022	23,734
b4	Administration etc	4,062	141		4,203	4,094
b5	District Assessment	26,836	1,233		28,069	27,583
b6	Grants & donations	2,479			2,479	
b7	revaluation adjust					98
b8	Other payments	7,408			7,408	11,407
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>138,783</b>	<b>1,374</b>		<b>140,157 (b9)</b>	<b>139,056</b>

SECTION C		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	£	£	£	£	£
	(a7-b9)	3,048	1,231		4,279	(7,169)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	55,134	49,342		104,476 (c6)	111,645
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>58,182 (c1+c2)</b>	<b>50,573</b>		<b>108,755</b>	<b>104,476</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>58,182 (c3+c4)</b>	<b>50,573</b>		<b>108,755 (c8)</b>	<b>104,476 (c6)</b>

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)</b>					

## SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

## SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1					1,465	1,465
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					1,465 (e11)	1,465 (e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	144,436 (a8)	140,157 (b9)	4,279	(c7)	104,476 (c6)	108,755 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	144,436	140,157	4,279		105,941 (x)	110,220 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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

## SECTION F

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	5,121	4,865
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	50,013	53,316
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	49,342	50,572
f6	Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL		104,476 (c6)	108,753 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)		1,465 (e11)	1,465 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT		105,941 (x)	110,218 (y)

## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,425,074	1,824,124
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

## Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer ..... *S. Haywood* ..... Date ..... *23/11/24* .....

Name and address of treasurer ..... Mrs S Haywood

41 Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Wrexham LL12 8LH

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on *19/03/25* .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... *J. Eaton* .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting *JAMES EATON - CHALLINOR* Date *19/03/25* .....

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

..... wrexham

Charity Number . 1132841

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... *WREXHAM* ..... Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages *1* to *3*. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

\* delete or circle as appropriate



**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner ..... 

Name of independent examiner ..... ANTHONY LEWIS

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FCCA ACA

Name of firm (where appropriate) MB COXCEY & CO LTD

Address 25 GROSVENOR ROAD

WREXHAM Post Code LL11 1BT

Date 27 MAY 2025

\* delete or circle as appropriate