THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1133077

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-12-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Office Christchurch Chapel Hill Clevedon BS21 7LL
Phone	01275871483
Email	admin@christchurch-clevedon.org.uk
Website	www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in the Christian faith. The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel - that God loves us, Jesus died for us and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1133077

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£286,366	£244,609	-	-
2024-08-31	£308,521	£325,709	-	-
2023-08-31	£299,074	£274,025	-	-
2022-08-31	£295,724	£291,793	-	-
2021-08-31	£279,712	£283,419	-	-
2020-08-31	£304,140	£296,114	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1133077

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALAN CHARLES EMERY		
Alexander Edmund Pett		2018-05-15
Anthony John Hemus		2022-08-12
BRENDA ELIZABETH THOMPSON		
Barbara Hook		2020-09-01
COUNCILLOR SUSAN ANN MASON		
Carolyn Waite		2025-09-04
Cheryl Amanda Gale		2013-12-06
Christine Joyce Legge		2025-09-07
Christine Mary Nutting		2022-09-26
DAVID EDWARD MARKALL		
DEBORAH JANE TOVEY		2025-09-04
David Uncles		2018-09-01
Elizabeth Lynn Marsh		2019-09-01
Heather Mary Bentley		2021-02-01
JULIE ANN BAILEY		2018-05-04
James Richards		2016-04-29
Jane Louise Mason		2024-09-20
Jean Balcombe		2025-09-10
Julia Merrett		2025-03-26
LINDA POWELL		
Malcolm John Fisher		2022-02-24
Margaret Anne Sutherland		2019-05-15
Martin Buckley		2026-03-12
Neville Ferguson Adams		2022-10-25
Nigel Stuart Hardman		2019-05-15
PETER GEOFFREY TODD		

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1133077

Name	Role	Appointed
Philip George Arthur Baldwin		2025-10-09
REV DAVID GEORGE SHARP MA BD		
Rev BRIAN JOHN HUNT		2012-04-05
Rev CAROLE CHALLIS		2022-10-01
Rev DAVID JEFFREY HARRIS MA, DIP TH		
Rev IAN DONALD BOWLEY		
Rev Michael Pullan		2021-08-01
Rev Nick Moxon		2016-09-01
Rev PETER BARCLAY MORTLOCK		
Rev Philip Andrew Edward Challis		2022-09-30
Rev Preben With Andersen		2021-02-18
Rev Sally Ratcliffe		2024-09-01
Richard Hugh Lancaster		2020-09-01
Stephen Charles Ball		2022-10-06
Thomas Roger Calderbank		2019-09-01
VALERIE ANNE SOWERBY		
Wendy Mirams		2025-10-14

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1133077

THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133077

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133077

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

for

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2025

The Trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025.

1 Objectives and activities

In setting the objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting (under the leadership of the Circuit Leadership Team [CLT]), meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charity Act 2011.

Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in Christian faith.

The Gordano Valley Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel; that God loves us, Jesus died for our sins and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives. We seek growth and renewal through the centrality of prayer and scripture, worship, and sacrament.

We aim to do this by:

Passing it on

- By encouraging mission and outreach as an integral part of the life of every Christian and every congregation.
- By offering appropriate pastoral care to those inside and outside the Church.
- By continuing to develop God-glorifying worship and teaching which is engaging and relevant to people of all ages and abilities.

People

- By recognizing that everyone is valuable and has something to offer and by encouraging everyone's gifts.
- By placing a priority on the work with children and young people, while recognizing the needs of all generations.
- By working in local communities to build bridges with those outside Church lives.
- By resourcing ministers and lay staff to work in mission alongside Circuit Stewards and the congregation of the Circuit's churches.
- By working ecumenically and with other circuits where appropriate.
- By identifying and resourcing training needs within the Circuit.

Property

- By prioritising 'good practice' in all things including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, risk assessment, health and safety, employment and trusteeship.
- By making sure that churches in the Circuit are well maintained, well resourced, and welcoming to all through good stewardship of the money and buildings which have been entrusted to us.
- By linking into District and Connexional resources of the Methodist Church.

2 Achievements and performance

The pursuit of growth continues to be the key mission priority, and the Circuit is seeking to put together a new leadership team which focuses on this. A document with the details of this proposal was agreed at the Circuit Meeting in the Spring.

In September 2024 we were delighted to welcome Revd Sally Ratcliffe into the circuit. Sally brings a wealth of experience with a particular passion for church growth.
With Sally's arrival, the structure of the churches was reconfigured thus:

- Nailsea + Backwell + Yatton (overseen by Revd Sally Ratcliffe)
- Portishead High St + Redcliffe Bay + Pill (overseen by Revd Nick Moxon)
- Christchurch LEP + Kenn Rd + superintendency (overseen by Revd Russell Herbert)

The Circuit is now training two local preachers. The Circuit rejoices that at the Methodist Conference in July 2025, one of our previous local preachers and lay workers, Kirsty McGee, was ordained.

Volunteers

Almost all the work undertaken by the churches is that of volunteers, from preaching and leading worship to youth and children's work, pastoral visiting, stewardship of finance and buildings, right through to administration and forming of mission policy. The Circuit continues to seek to engage everyone in the churches to discern their own sense of calling and to live it out in local service.

2.1 Plans for future years

With the reduction from four to three ministers, and the reconfiguration of the circuit, the intention is to appoint lay workers in the Nailsea / Backwell / Yatton section and the Portishead / Redcliffe Bay / Pill section to work alongside the ministers, funded partly by the renting of the spare manse at Yatton. It was decided that a period of discernment would be needed as Nick Moxon and Sally Ratcliffe familiarized themselves with their new sections. It is hoped that as the needs of each church and section becomes clearer, moves will be made to make appropriate lay appointments.

3 Financial review

During the year, the Circuit received total income of £286,366 (2023-24 £308,521) and dispersed £244,609 (2023-24 £325,709). The Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern. Churches meet their assessments, and the Circuit has reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by circuits, for all large (over £20K) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit.

Short term deposits are held in a deposit account at the Central Finance Board (CFB) at rates of interest that reflect the financial market.

3.2 Reserves

The Circuit has agreed to maintain a minimum reserve (measured as total funds less fixed assets) based on four months' expenditure (excluding Ministers' stipends), half of which is to be held by the Circuit with half to be held by circuit churches, plus, ordinarily, around one year's budgeted expenditure on manse maintenance, a £1,000 allowance for mission initiatives and an allowance for future stationing costs.

	2025	2024
Policy Minimum Reserves	£61,780	£54,780
Actual Reserves	£112,547	£70,790

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The Circuit's main source of income is the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit based on unrestricted giving plus Gift Aid and membership, split 60% on income and 40% on membership worked on a three-year average. Part of the assessment paid by churches includes the District assessment on the Circuit in respect of central costs of the Connexion and the District's own costs.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

4.1 Risk

The Circuit is largely risk-free, insofar as its costs are covered by the assessment on local churches. The main financial risk would be a shortfall in income should a church be unable to meet its assessment. During the year the Circuit has reviewed its policies for:

- Safeguarding
- Conflict of Interest
- Risk Management
- Social Media
- Complaints
- Reserves
- Lay Employment
- Methodist Church Privacy Notice
- Privacy Notice and Data Mapping
- Volunteer Management

5 Structure, governance, and management

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2nd December 2009.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made or ratified at the Circuit meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits and Districts.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as managing trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
b. Any charitable purposes 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; and
d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in the Gordano Valley area of North Somerset;

- By providing opportunities for churches to work together and support each other; and
- By offering to churches resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The Circuit serves the local churches, the District and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programs of training.

5.3 Governance

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that if follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

Trustees are members of the Circuit Meeting and are appointed as per the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, Standing order 510. The officers and representatives of the constitutive churches are elected from those respective churches. The circuit officers – namely Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Secretary, Property Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Local Preachers Secretary, and any other officers that may be appointed are nominated and elected by Circuit Meeting members.

The membership of the Circuit Leadership Team includes the ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer who are appointed by vote of the Circuit Meeting for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Superintendent Minister is *ex officio* chair of the CLT. When a position becomes vacant on the CLT nominations are invited from the ministers and lay members of the churches they represent. The Superintendent Minister then shares with them what the role involves. If they wish to be considered for the role, their names are taken to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

The CLT normally meets every two months and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It oversees finance, property, stationing, safeguarding and training. This year the Circuit Meeting approved a briefing document for the CLT to ensure that the Circuit key vision for growth is kept in focus. Details about this are set out below.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Circuit Leadership Team

Historically, key responsibilities of the CLT are:

1. To formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in local churches and to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches having exceptional problems.
2. To encourage ecumenical co-operation.
3. To act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Team by the Circuit Meeting.
4. To keep within its purview all circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere.
5. To contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.
6. To be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

While these key responsibilities remain, the Spring Circuit Meeting agreed that the role of the CLT should be refocused on the development of growth strategy across the circuit, reflecting the priority set out in the circuit mission statement.

In practice, this means that the main function of the CLT will be to discern and map out ways in which the churches might be encouraged, enabled, equipped and resourced to engage more effectively in evangelism, outreach and renewal in order to grow.

The ongoing importance of the Connexional ‘Our Calling’ vision continues to be upheld, with its four-fold emphasis on worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. It is envisaged that the CLT will operate as a creative think-tank for imagining and implementing fresh ways of engaging these things across our churches with growth as the core priority.

6 Reference and administrative details

6.1 Name of the charity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit, sometimes abbreviated to GVMC.

6.2 Charity registration number

1133077, registered in England and Wales on 2nd December 2009.

6.3 Principal Office

The Office, Christchurch, Chapel Hill, Clevedon BS21 7LL. Tel. 01275 871483

www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

6.4 Superintendent Minister's PA

Mrs Kathryn McManus-Jones

6.5 Bankers

NatWest Bank PLC
89 High Street
Weston-super-Mare
North Somerset BS23 1HJ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
25 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SF

6.6 Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

6.7 Independent Examiner

Matthew Bracher BSc FCA
Gravita, Chartered Accountants, Bath House, 6-8 Bath Street, Bristol BS1 6HL

7 Approval

The trustees' report has been approved by the trustees on 25th March 2026 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Rev Nicholas Noxon
Superintendent Minister

David Markall
Circuit Treasurer

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2025

7.1 Names of Trustees

Trustees who served during 2024-25 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Backwell					
Miss V Sowerby	CH		Mrs H Bentley	CH	
Christchurch L.E.P.					
Mrs M Sutherland	CS		Mr A Pett	CH	
Mrs J McManus	CH	To 24/9/24	Mr N Adams	CH	
Mrs C Gale	CMS		Mr J Richards	Add	
Rev C J Legge	Sup	From 7/9/25	Carolyn Waite	CH	From 4/9/25
Deborah Tovey	CH	From 4/9/25			
Kenn Road					
Mrs J Bailey	CH		Mr S Ball	CH	
Mr C G Mills	CH	To 31/8/25	Rev P Andersen	Sup	
Mrs J Merrett	CH	From 26/3/25	Mrs S Bell	CH	To 26/3/25
Mrs W Miriams	CH	From 14/10/25	Mrs J Balcombe	LP	From 10/9/25
Nailsea					
Mr N Hardman	CS		Mr R Lancaster	CH	
Mr P Todd	CH		Mr A Emery	CH	
Mrs M Emery	LP	To 24/3/25	Mr D Markall	CT	
Rev D Sharp	Sup		Rev M Pullan	Sup	
Pill					
Mrs L Powell	CH		Mrs E Marsh	CH	
Portishead					
Rev B Hunt	Sup		Mrs B Thompson	CH	
Rev P Mortlock	Sup		Christine Nutting	CH	
Mr A Hemus	CH				
Redcliffe Bay					
Mr D Uncles	CH		Mrs S Mason	CH	
Rev D Harris	Sup		Mr A Reddrop	CS	To 26/3/25
Mr P G A Baldwin	CS	From 9/10/25			
Yatton					
Mr T R Calderbank	CH		Rev I Bowley	Sup	
Mr M Buckley	Add	To 7/3/25	Mrs J Mason	Add	From 20/9/24
Rev P Challis	Sup		Mr K Woodham	CS	To 31/8/25
Rev C Challis	Sup		Mr M Fisher	CH	
Mrs B Hook	Add		Mr M Buckley	CS	From 27/11/25
Ministers					
Rev R Herbert		To 31/12/25	Rev S Ratcliffe		
Rev N Moxon					

Add	Additional Member	CH	Church Steward/Rep.	CMS	Circuit Meeting Secretary
CS	Circuit Steward	CT	Circuit Treasurer	Sup	Supernumerary Minister
LP	Local Preachers Rep.				

Gordano Valley Circuit

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

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	
		2024-25	2023-24
Income from:		**£**	**£**
Charitable Activities - Assessment on Churches	2	258,960	269,700
Income from Charitable Activities - lettings		13,334	-
Investments		3,849	4,803
Other Income	4	10,223	34,018
Total Income and Endowments		**286,366**	**308,521**
Expenditure on Charitable Activities-			
Management of the Circuit			
Grants and Donations	5	450	800
Salaries and Associated Costs	7	148,449	199,313
Property		34,927	62,546
Office Expenses		4,346	5,735
District Assessment	10	52,140	49,056
Other Outgoings		4,297	8,259
Total Charitable Expenditure		**244,609**	**325,709**
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before Transfers		**41,757**	**(17,188)**
Other gains/losses			
Net movement of funds		**41,757**	**(17,188)**
Total Funds Brought Forward		2,058,646	2,075,834
Total Funds Carried Forward		**2,100,403**	**2,058,646**

Gordano Valley Circuit
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Circuit Manses	BS1	1,987,856	1,987,856
Total Fixed Assets		**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	BS2	11,877	10,782
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	119,778	68,293
Cash at Bank and in Hand	BS3	5,747	15,319
Total Current Assets		**137,402**	**94,394**
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS4	24,855	23,604
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		112,547	70,790
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**2,100,403**	**2,058,646**
Net Assets		**2,100,403**	**2,058,646**
Funds of the Circuit			
General Fund		**2,100,403**	**2,058,646**
Restricted Funds			
Total Funds		**2,100,403**	**2,058,646**

The financial statements have been approved by the Circuit trustees and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Rev Nicholas Moxon David Markall

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

I. Public benefit entity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

II. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. The accruals basis has been used, and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

III. Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable, and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research, and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

IV. Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern. The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

V. Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

VI. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more than likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. The Circuit acts as agent in the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds." In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts.

VII. Donated Goods

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

VIII. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

IX. VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

X. Tangible fixed assets

a. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000.
b. The Freehold property (4 manses) was valued at a deemed cost of £1,945,000 as at 1st September 2015 by professional valuation, plus subsequent additions at a cost of £42,856. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residential fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than its cost to date. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

XI. Basic financial instruments

The charity has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

XII. Debtors and creditors

a. Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
b. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will normally result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

XIII. Short term liquid investments and cash

Cash at bank is held to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due rather than for investment purposes and includes all cash equivalents held in the form of short-term highly liquid investments. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

XIV. Methodist Connexional funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against circuits, and these are paid monthly to their districts. The circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The district remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from circuits. A small sum is retained by the district to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church.

XV. Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families, and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council tax, and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these items for ministers.

2 Assessment on churches

The Circuit comprises eight churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment the budgeted income from investment income and property letting, confirmed external grants and contribution from churches towards the cost of lay employees is considered. The Circuit aims to cover all its core costs from the assessment.

An Assessment on churches is determined by the Circuit each year, using a formula which takes into account the relative number of members in each church and its freewill giving plus gift aid receipts. Assessments on churches are generally paid monthly in advance.

3 Grants received

No grants were received by the Circuit during this period.

4 Other income comprises the following:	**2024/25** £	**2023/24** £
Contribution from churches towards lay workers	9,912	33,754
Contribution from Ministers for private use of telephone and broadband	311	264
Letting of Manse	13,334	-
Total Other income	23,557	34,018

5 Grants and donations

Grants were made in the year totalling £450 (2024 £800).

6 Model Trust

The Circuit does not have a model trust fund balance.

7 Stipends and salaries and associated costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	**2024/25**	**2023/24**
	£	**£**
Gross wages, salaries, and benefits in kind	112,585	149,327
Employer's National Insurance costs	10,863	12,852
Pension costs	18,612	30,112
Other employment costs	6,389	7,022
Total Staff Costs	**148,449**	**199,313**

Ministers' stipends are reviewed annually by the Connexion having regard to average weekly earnings and CPI inflation. No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. No accrual is made for holiday pay as it is immaterial. The holiday year ends on 31 August. Staff are paid at or above the living wage.

	2024/25	**2023/24**
Total number of staff	4	7
Full time equivalent	3.6	5.62

Three (2024 four) trustees were presbyters of the Circuit in receipt of a salary, costs of £125,886 (2024 £149,403), travel costs of £3,077 (2024 £3,316), telephone and broadband costs of £2,512 (2024 £2,898) and training of £80 (2024 £33).

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST. This is a defined contribution scheme, and the Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

8 Payment to Trustees

Payments made to Trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, excluding stipends are as follows:

	2024/25	**2023/24**
Number of Trustees	0	0
Total amount	£0	£0

9 Fee for examination of the accounts

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Independent Examiner for reporting on the accounts	3,330	3,854
Other fees paid to the independent examiner: Accounting Software	173	173

10 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the number of Presbyters and full time equivalent lay staff, less administrative staff, of all Circuits in the Bristol District.

11 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time, and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, training, and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

12 Connected Organisations and Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or the preceding year. All the Circuit trustees are members of a Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches. Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the Bristol District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are therefore, not considered related parties. There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st August 2025.

BS1 Manses & Other Property

Buildings comprise four manses located in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton.

	Property
Cost or valuation	£
Balance brought forward on 1st Sep 2024 at 2015 valuation including additions at cost	1,987,856
Balance carried forward	1,987,856

BS2 Debtors and Prepayments

	2025	2024
Prepayments	£	£
Stipends, Pension & NI	10,912	10,357
Insurance	434	385
Other	531	40
Totals	**11,877**	**10,782**

BS3 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

	2025	2024
	£	£
Central Finance Board	119,778	68,293
NatWest Bank PLC	5,747	15,319
Totals	**125,525**	**83,612**

BS4 Creditors, Accruals, and Income in Advance

	2025	2024
Income in advance	£	£
Assessments in advance	17,221	16,850
Creditors and accruals		
Accounts Examination	3,360	3,300
Accounts payable	4,274	3,454
Totals	**24,855**	**23,604**

Funds handled on behalf of others.

None of the figures tabulated below appear elsewhere in these accounts.

Related Party	Party	Balance at 31/8/24	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31/8/2025
		£	£	£	£
World Mission Fund	Connexion	-	552	552	-

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit (the Circuit) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Circuit 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 applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Circuit 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.

Matthew Bracher BSc FCA
Gravita
Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6 - 8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

Date: 25th March 2026

THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133077

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133077

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

for

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2024

The Trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2024.

1 Objectives and activities

In setting the objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting (under the leadership of the Circuit Leadership Team [CLT]), meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charity Act 2011.

Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in Christian faith.

The Gordano Valley Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel; that God loves us, Jesus died for our sins and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives. We seek growth and renewal through the centrality of prayer and scripture, worship, and sacrament.

We aim to do this by:

Passing it on

- By encouraging mission and outreach as an integral part of the life of every Christian and every congregation.
- By offering appropriate pastoral care to those inside and outside the Church.
- By continuing to develop God-glorifying worship and teaching which is engaging and relevant to people of all ages and abilities.

People

- By recognizing that everyone is valuable and has something to offer and by encouraging everyone's gifts.
- By placing a priority on the work with children and young people, while recognizing the needs of all generations.
- By working in local communities to build bridges with those outside Church lives.
- By resourcing ministers and lay staff to work in mission alongside Circuit Stewards and the congregation of the Circuit's churches.
- By working ecumenically and with other circuits where appropriate.
- By identifying and resourcing training needs within the Circuit.

Property

- By prioritising 'good practice' in all things including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, risk assessment, health and safety, employment and trusteeship.
- By making sure that churches in the Circuit are well maintained, well resourced, and welcoming to all through good stewardship of the money and buildings which have been entrusted to us.
- By linking into District and Connexional resources of the Methodist Church.

2 Achievements and performance

Last year the pursuit of growth was identified as the key mission priority and a number of strategies were put in place to engage this challenge, which have been implemented this year. A series of circuit wide gatherings which draw people from the churches to explore aspects of church growth have been led by Revd Nick Noxon this year. The theme of growth strategy is also more explicitly covered in circuit meetings, as churches are asked to detail steps that they are taking to engage with this. Stories are being shared of various initiatives which represent strides towards growing community engagement.

Two ministers, Revd Deborah Mallett and Revd Jill Flowers, finished their time in the Circuit in August. Earlier in the year the Circuit went through the Methodist stationing process, and we were delighted to be matched with Revd Sally Ratcliffe, beginning in September 2024.

The Circuit continues to train one local preacher.

Volunteers

Almost all of the work undertaken by the churches is that of volunteers, from preaching and leading worship to youth and children's work, pastoral visiting, stewardship of finance and buildings, right through to administration and forming of mission policy. The Circuit continues to seek to engage everyone in the churches to discern their own sense of calling and to live it out in local service.

2.1 Plans for future years

From September 2024 the Circuit will be overseen by 3 ministers, configured thus:

- Nailsea + Backwell + Yatton (overseen by Revd Sally Ratcliffe)
- Portishead High St + Redcliffe Bay + Pill (overseen by Revd Nick Moxon)
- Christchurch LEP + Kenn Rd + superintendency (overseen by Revd Russell Herbert)

The intention is to appoint lay workers in the Nailsea / Backwell / Yatton section and the Portishead / Redcliffe Bay / Pill section to work alongside the ministers, funded partly by the renting of the spare manse at Yatton.

3 Financial review

During the year, the Circuit received total income of £308,521 (2022-23 £299,074) and dispersed £325,709 (2022-23 £274,025). The Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern. Churches meet their assessments, and the Circuit has reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income.

The Circuit has the following principal sources of funds:

- Assessments on churches within the Circuit
- Contributions towards the cost of Lay Workers by churches

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by circuits, for all large (over £20K) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. Currently, the Circuit has no funds lodged with TMCP.

Short term deposits are held in a deposit account at the Central Finance Board (CFB)at rates of interest that reflect the financial market.

3.2 Reserves

The Circuit has agreed to maintain a minimum reserve (measured as total funds less fixed assets) based on four months' expenditure (excluding Ministers' stipends), half of which is to be held by the Circuit with half to be held by circuit churches, plus, ordinarily, around one year's budgeted expenditure on manse maintenance, a £1,000 allowance for mission initiatives and an allowance for future stationing costs.

	2024	2023
Policy Minimum Reserves	£54,780	£46,612
Actual Reserves	£70,790	£87,978

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The Circuit's main source of income is the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit based on freewill giving plus Gift Aid and membership, split 60% on income and 40% on membership worked on a three-year average. Part of the assessment paid by churches includes the District assessment on the Circuit in respect of central costs of the Connexion and the District's own costs.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

4.1 Risk

The Circuit is largely risk free, insofar as its costs are covered by the assessment on local churches. The main financial risk would be a shortfall in income should a church be unable to meet its assessment. During the year the Circuit has reviewed its policies for:

- Safeguarding
- Conflict of Interest
- Risk Management
- Social Media
- Complaints
- Reserves
- Lay Employment
- Methodist Church Privacy Notice
- Privacy Notice and Data Mapping
- Volunteer Management

5 Structure, governance, and management

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2nd December 2009.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made or ratified at the Circuit meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and also is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits and Districts.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as managing trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
b. Any charitable purposes 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; and
d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in the Gordano Valley area of North Somerset;

- By providing opportunities for churches to work together and support each other; and
- By offering to churches resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The Circuit serves the local churches, the District and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programs of training.

5.3 Governance

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that if follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

Trustees are members of the Circuit Meeting and are appointed as per the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, Standing order 510. The officers and representatives of the constitutive churches are elected from those respective churches. The circuit officers – namely Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Secretary, Property Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Local Preachers Secretary, and any other officers that may be appointed are nominated and elected by Circuit Meeting members.

The membership of the Circuit Leadership Team includes the ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer who are appointed by vote of the Circuit Meeting for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Superintendent Minister is *ex officio* chair of the CLT. When a position becomes vacant on the CLT nominations are invited from the ministers and lay members of the churches they represent. The Superintendent Minister then shares with them what the role involves. If they wish to be considered for the role, their names are taken to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

The CLT normally meets every two months and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It overseas finance, property, stationing, safeguarding and training.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Circuit Leadership Team

1. To formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches having exceptional problems.
2. To encourage ecumenical co-operation.
3. To act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Team by the Circuit Meeting.
4. To keep within its purview all circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere.
5. To contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.
6. To be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

6 Reference and administrative details

6.1 Name of the charity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit, sometimes abbreviated to GVMC.

6.2 Charity registration number

1133077, registered in England and Wales on 2nd December 2009.

6.3 Principal Office

The Office
Christchurch
Chapel Hill
Clevedon
BS21 7LL

Tel. 01275 871483
www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

6.4 Superintendent Minister's PA

Mrs Kathryn McManus-Jones

6.5 Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC
89 High Street
Weston-super-Mare
North Somerset BS23 1HJ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
25 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SF

6.6 Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

6.7 Independent Examiner

Matthew Bracher FCA
Gravita, Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol BS1 6HL

7 Approval

The trustees' report has been approved by the trustees on 26th March 2025 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert
Superintendent Minister

David Markall
Circuit Treasurer

7.1 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2023-24 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Backwell					
Miss V Sowerby	CH		Mrs H Bentley	CH	
Christchurch L.E.P.					
Rev R Herbert	Min		Mr A Pett	CH	
Rev C Jennings	Min	To 31/8/24	Mr N Adams	CH	
Mrs M Sutherland	CS		Mr J Richards	Add	
Mrs J McManus	CH	To 24/9/24	Mrs C Gale	CMS	
Kenn Road					
Mrs J Bailey	CH		Mr S Ball	CH	
Mr C G Mills	CH		Rev P Andersen	Sup	
Rev P Challis	Sup		Rev C Challis	Sup	
Mrs W Miriams	CH	To 1/3/24	Mrs S Bell	CH	From 20/2/24
Nailsea					
Mr N Hardman	CS		Mr R Lancaster	CH	
Mr P Todd	CH		Mr A Emery	CH	
Mrs M Emery	LP		Rev D Mallett	Min	To 31/8/24
Rev D Sharp	Sup		Rev M Pullan	Sup	
Mr D Markall	CT		Rev S Ratcliffe	Min	From 1/9/24
Pill					
Mrs L Powell	CH		Mrs E Marsh	CH	
Portishead					
Rev N Moxon	Min		Mrs B Thompson	CH	
Rev P Mortlock	Sup		Christine Nutting	CH	
Rev B Hunt	Sup		Rev A Owen	Sup NV	
Mr A Hemus	CH				
Redcliffe Bay					
Mr D Uncles	CH		Mrs S Mason	CH	
Rev D Harris	Sup		Mr A Reddrop	CS	
Yatton					
Mr T R Calderbank	CH		Rev I Bowley	Sup	
Mr M Buckley	Add		Rev J Flowers	Min	To 31/8/24
Rev A Price	Sup	To 1/12/23	Mr K Woodham	CS	
Mrs B Hook	Add		Mr M Fisher	CH	
Mrs J Mason	Add	From 20/9/24			

Add	Additional Member	CH	Church Steward/Rep.	CMS	Circuit Meeting Secretary
CS	Circuit Steward	CT	Circuit treasurer	Min	Minister
LP	Local Preachers Rep.	Sup	Supernumerary Minister	NV	Non-Voting

Gordano Valley Circuit

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

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	
		2023-24	2022-23
Income from:		**£**	**£**
Charitable Activities - Assessment on Churches	2	269,700	261,540
Income from Charitable Activities			
Investments		4,803	2,623
Other Income	4	34,018	34,911
Total Income and Endowments		**308,521**	**299,074**
Expenditure on Charitable Activities-			
Management of the Circuit			
Grants and Donations	5	800	1,100
Salaries and Associated Costs	7	199,313	201,521
Property		62,546	19,618
Office Expenses		5,735	4,142
District Assessment	10	49,056	44,904
Other Outgoings		8,259	2,740
Total Charitable Expenditure		**325,709**	**274,025**
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before Transfers		**(17,188)**	**25,049**
Other gains/losses			
Net movement of funds		**(17,188)**	**25,049**
Total Funds Brought Forward		2,075,834	2,050,785
Total Funds Carried Forward		**2,058,646**	**2,075,834**

Gordano Valley Circuit
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Circuit Manses	BS1	1,987,856	1,987,856
Total Fixed Assets		**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	BS2	10,782	15,896
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	68,293	89,806
Cash at Bank and in Hand	BS3	15,319	2,904
Total Current Assets		**94,394**	**108,606**
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS4	23,604	20,628
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		70,790	87,978
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**2,058,646**	**2,075,834**
Net Assets		**2,058,646**	**2,075,834**
Funds of the Circuit			
General Fund		**2,058,646**	**2,075,834**
Restricted Funds			
Total Funds		**2,058,646**	**2,075,834**

The financial statements have been approved by the Circuit trustees and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert David Markall

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

I. Public benefit entity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

II. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

III. Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable, and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research, and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

IV. Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern. The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

V. Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

VI. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more than likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. The Circuit acts as agent in the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds". In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts.

VII. Donated Goods

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

VIII. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

IX. VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

X. Tangible fixed assets

a. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.
b. The Freehold property (4 manses) was valued at a deemed cost of £1,945,000 as at 1st September 2015 by professional valuation, plus subsequent additions at a cost of £42,856. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residential fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than its cost to date. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

XI. Basic financial instruments

The charity has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

XII. Debtors and creditors

a. Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
b. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will normally result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

XIII. Short term liquid investments and cash

Cash at bank is held to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due rather than for investment purposes and includes all cash equivalents held in the form of short-term highly liquid investments. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

XIV. Methodist Connexional funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against circuits, and these are paid monthly to their districts. The circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from circuits. A small sum is retained by the district to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church.

XV. Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

2 Assessment on churches

The Circuit comprises eight churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment the budgeted income from investment income and property letting, confirmed external grants and contribution from churches towards the cost of lay employees is considered. The Circuit aims to cover all its core costs from the assessment.

An Assessment on churches is determined by the Circuit each year, using a formula which takes into account the relative number of members in each church and its freewill giving plus gift aid receipts. Assessments on churches are generally paid monthly in advance.

3 Grants received

No grants were received by the Circuit during this period.

4 Other income comprises the following:	**2023/24** £	**2022/23** £
Contribution from churches towards lay workers	33,754	34,668
Contribution from Ministers for private use of telephone and broadband	264	243
Other	-	-
Total Other income	34,018	34,911

5 Grants and donations

Two grants were made in the year totalling £800 (2023 £1,100).

6 Model Trust

The Circuit does not have a model trust fund balance.

7 Stipends and salaries and associated costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	**2023/24**	**2022/23**
	£	**£**
Gross wages, salaries, and benefits in kind	149,327	151,249
Employer's National Insurance costs	12,852	12,933
Pension costs	30,112	30,538
Other employment costs	7,022	6,801
Total Staff Costs	**199,313**	**201,521**

Ministers' stipends are reviewed annually by the Connexion having regard to average weekly earnings and CPI inflation. No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. No accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. The holiday year ends on 31 August. Staff are paid at or above the living wage.

	2023/24	**2022/23**
Total number of staff	7	7
Full time equivalent	5.62	5.75

Four trustees were presbyters of the Circuit in receipt of a salary, costs of £149,403 (2023 - £150,639), travel costs of £3,316 (2023 - £3,455), telephone and broadband costs of £2,898 (2023 - £2,614) and training of £33 (2023 - £0).

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST. This is a defined contribution scheme, and the Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

8 Payment to Trustees

Payments made to Trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, excluding stipends are as follows:

	2023/24	**2022/23**
Number of Trustees	0	0
Total amount	£0	£0

9 Fee for examination of the accounts

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Independent Examiner for reporting on the accounts	3,854	2,670
Other fees paid to the independent examiner: Accounting Software	173	166

10 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the number of Presbyters and full time equivalent lay staff, less administrative staff, of all Circuits in the Bristol District.

11 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time, and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, training, and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

12 Connected Organisations and Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or the preceding year. All the Circuit trustees are members of a Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches. Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the Bristol District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are therefore, not considered related parties. There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st August 2024.

BS1 Manses & Other Property

Buildings comprise four manses located in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton.

	Property
Cost or valuation	£
Balance brought forward on 1st Sep 2023 at 2015 valuation including additions at cost	1,987,856
Balance carried forward	1,987,856

BS2 Debtors and Prepayments

	2024	**2023**
Prepayments	£	£
Stipends, Pension & NI	10,357	13,526
Insurance	385	2,274
Other	40	96
Totals	**10,782**	**15,896**

BS3 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at National Westminster Bank plc are available on demand without loss of interest.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Central Finance Board	68,293	89,806
National Westminster Bank plc	15,319	2,904
Totals	**83,612**	**92,710**

BS4 Creditors, Accruals, and Income in Advance

All sums accrued on 31st August 2024 are expected to be paid before to 31st August 2025.

	2024	2023
Income in advance	£	£
Assessments in advance	16,850	17,775
Creditors and accruals		
Accounts Examination	3,300	2,650
Accounts payable	3,454	203
Totals	**23,604**	**20,628**

Funds handled on behalf of others.

None of the figures tabulated below appear elsewhere in these accounts.

Related Party	Party	Balance at 31/8/23	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31/8/2024
		£	£	£	£
World Mission Fund	Connexion	-	592	592	-
Mission in Britain	Connexion	-	824	824	-
Totals		**-**	**1,416**	**1,416**	**-**

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit (the Circuit) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Circuit 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 applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Circuit 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.

Matthew Bracher FCA
Gravita
Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6 - 8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

Date: .....

THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133077

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133077

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

for

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023.

1 Objectives and activities

In setting the objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting (under the leadership of the Circuit Leadership Team [CLT]), meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charity Act 2011.

Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in Christian faith.

The Gordano Valley Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel; that God loves us, Jesus died for our sins and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives. We seek growth and renewal through the centrality of prayer and scripture, worship, and sacrament.

We aim to do this by:

Passing it on

- By encouraging mission and outreach as an integral part of the life of every Christian and every congregation.
- By offering appropriate pastoral care to those inside and outside the Church.
- By continuing to develop God-glorifying worship and teaching which is engaging and relevant to people of all ages and abilities.

People

- By recognizing that everyone is valuable and has something to offer and by encouraging everyone's gifts.
- By placing a priority on the work with children and young people, while recognizing the needs of all generations.
- By working in local communities to build bridges with those outside Church lives.
- By resourcing ministers and lay staff to work in mission alongside Circuit Stewards and the congregation of the Circuit's churches.
- By working ecumenically and with other circuits where appropriate.
- By identifying and resourcing training needs within the Circuit.

Property

- By prioritising 'good practice' in all things including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, risk assessment, health and safety, employment and trusteeship.
- By making sure that churches in the Circuit are well maintained, well resourced, and welcoming to all through good stewardship of the money and buildings which have been entrusted to us.
- By linking into District and Connexional resources of the Methodist Church.

2 Achievements and performance

Following a very difficult couple of years during Covid, church activity has now more or less resumed across the Circuit, although a significant impact was made on church attendance. For all that, many new people have recently started to join some of the churches (even if they have not yet become members) and there is a fresh energy and renewed desire for growth.

At the start of the Connexional year a Community Outreach Worker was appointed to Kenn Road Church, and as a result a new Sunday afternoon congregation, a midweek café church, and a toddler group have started.

The activity at the new Beacon Hub at Portishead is growing considerably, providing many new opportunities for community engagement.

One person has been accredited as a local preacher in the last year, and the Circuit continues to train one other.

For all the signs of encouragement, a deep concern over membership figures has been expressed, alongside the long-term affordability of a staff team of four ministers (as well as the Connexion-wide availability of ministers). To this end, an extensive consultation took place across the Circuit in order to strategically evaluate the size of the staff team, its deployment and the configuration of churches. As a result, a revised Mission Action Plan has been agreed by the Circuit Meeting, which sets numerical growth as the key priority facing the Circuit. The decision was taken to reduce from 4 to 3 ministers from September 2024.

Volunteers

Almost all of the work undertaken by the churches is that of volunteers, from preaching and leading worship to youth and children's work, pastoral visiting, stewardship of finance and buildings, right through to administration and forming of mission policy. The Circuit continues to seek to engage everyone in the churches to discern their own sense of calling and to live it out in local service.

2.1 Plans for future years

In August 2024 two of the current ministers are due to leave the Circuit. The Circuit Meeting has resolved to seek one new minister to join the team in September 2024. As a result, the Circuit will be overseen by 3 ministers, configured thus:

- Nailsea + Backwell + Yatton
- Portishead High St + Redcliffe Bay + Pill
- Christchurch LEP + Kenn Rd + superintendency

Alongside this, a Mission Action Plan is to be implemented which sets the reversal of numerical decline as the top priority. This Mission Action Plan sets out how the Circuit will seek to nurture a more explicit culture of intentionality towards growth and provide practical means of resourcing it.

3 Financial review

During the year, the Circuit received total income of £299,074 (2021-22 £295,724) and dispersed £274,025 (2021-22 £291,793). The Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern. Churches meet their assessments, and the Circuit has reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income. A review of the basis of sharing the assessment will be undertaken during 2023-24.

The Circuit has the following principal sources of funds:

- Assessments on churches within the Circuit
- Contributions towards the cost of Lay Workers by churches

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by circuits and for all large (over £20K) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. Currently, the circuit has no funds lodged with TMCP.

Short term deposits are held in a deposit account at the Central Finance Board (CFB)at rates of interest that reflect the financial market.

3.2 Reserves

The Circuit has agreed to maintain a minimum reserve based on four months' expenditure (excluding Ministers' stipends), half of which is to be held by the Circuit with half to be held by circuit churches, plus, ordinarily, around one year's budgeted expenditure on manse maintenance, a £1,000 allowance for mission initiatives and an allowance for future stationing costs. Expenditure on manse maintenance in particular in 2022-23 was below budget but will be required instead in 2023-24 and thus a higher level of reserve was in place the year end. The reserves at 31st August were:

	2023	2022
Policy Minimum Reserves	£46,612	£46,612
Actual Reserves	£87,978	£62,929

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The Circuit's main source of income is the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit based on free will giving plus Gift Aid and membership, split 60% on income and 40% on membership worked on a three-year average. Part of the assessment paid by churches includes the District assessment on the Circuit in respect of central costs of the Connexion and the District's own costs.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

4.1 Risk

The Circuit is largely risk free, insofar as its costs are covered by the assessment on local churches. The main financial risk would be a shortfall in income should a church be unable to meet its assessment. During the year the Circuit has reviewed its policies for:

- Safeguarding
- Conflict of Interest
- Risk Management
- Social Media
- Complaints
- Reserves
- Lay Employment
- Methodist Church Privacy Notice
- Privacy Notice and Data Mapping
- Volunteer Management

5 Structure, governance, and management

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2nd December 2009.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made or ratified at the Circuit meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and also is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits and Districts.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
b. Any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
c. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in the Gordano Valley area of North Somerset;

- By providing opportunities for churches to work together and support each other.
- By offering to churches resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The Circuit serves the local churches and the District and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programs of training.

5.3 Governance

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that if follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

Trustees are members of the Circuit meeting and are appointed as per the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, Standing order 510. The officers and representatives of the constitutive churches are elected from those respective churches. The circuit officers – namely Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Secretary, Property Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Local Preachers Secretary, and any other officers that may be appointed are nominated and elected by Circuit Meeting members.

The membership of the Circuit Leadership Team includes the ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer who are appointed by vote of the Circuit Meeting for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Superintendent Minister is *ex officio* chair of the CLT. When a position becomes vacant on the CLT nominations are invited from the ministers and lay members of the churches they represent. The Superintendent Minister then shares with them what the role involves. If they wish to be considered for the role, their names are taken to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

The CLT normally meets every two months and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It overseas finance, property, stationing, safeguarding and training.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Circuit Leadership Team

1. To formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches having exceptional problems.
2. To encourage ecumenical co-operation.
3. To act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Team by the Circuit Meeting.
4. To keep within its purview all circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere.
5. To contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.
6. To be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit, sometimes abbreviated to GVMC.

6.2 Charity registration number

1133077, registered in England and Wales on 2nd December 2009.

6.3 Principal Office

The Office
Christchurch
Chapel Hill
Clevedon
BS21 7LL

Tel. 01275 871483
www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

6.4 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2022-23 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Backwell					
Miss V Sowerby	CH		Mrs C Lomas	CH	To 8/11/22
Mrs H Bentley					
Christchurch L.E.P.					
Rev R Herbert	Min		Mr A Pett	CH	
Rev C Jennings	Min		Mr N Adams	CH	From 25/10/22
Mrs M Sutherland	CS		Mr J Richards	Add	
Mrs J McManus	CH		Mrs C Gale	CMS	
Kenn Road					
Mrs J Bailey	CH		Mr S Ball	CH	From 6/10/22
Mr C G Mills	CH		Rev P Andersen	Sup	
Rev P Challis	Sup	From 30/9/22	Rev C Challis	Sup	From 1/10/22
Mrs W Miriams	CH	From 26/9/22			
Nailsea					
Mr N Hardman	CS		Mr R Lancaster	CH	
Mr P Todd	CH		Mr A Emery	CH	
Mrs M Emery	LP		Rev D Mallett	Min	
Rev D Sharp	Sup		Rev M Pullan	Sup	
Mr D Markall	CT				
Pill					
Mrs L Powell	CH		Mrs E Marsh	CH	
Mr M Burnett	CH				
Portishead					
Rev N Moxon	Min		Mrs B Thompson	CH	
Rev P Mortlock	Sup		Rev H Noel-Smith	Sup	
Rev B Hunt	Sup		Christine Nutting	CH	From 26/9/22
Mrs J Morris-Thurgood	CH	To 15/9/22	Rev A Owen	Sup NV	
Redcliffe Bay					
Mr D Uncles	CH		Mrs S Mason	CH	
Rev D Harris	Sup		Mr A Reddrop	CS	
Yatton					
Mr T R Calderbank	CH		Rev I Bowley	Sup	
Mr M Buckley	Add		Rev J Flowers	Min	
Rev A Price	Sup		Mr K Woodham	CS	
Mrs B Hook	Add		Mr M Fisher	CH	

Add	Additional Member	CH	Church Steward/Rep.	CMS	Circuit Meeting Secretary
CS	Circuit Steward	CT	Circuit treasurer	Min	Minister
LP	Local Preachers Rep.	Sup	Supernumerary Minister	NV	Non-Voting

6.7 Superintendent Minister's PA

Mrs Kathryn McManus-Jones

6.8 Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC 89 High Street Weston-super-Mare North Somerset BS23 1HJ	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE

6.9 Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

6.10 Independent Examiner

Andrew J Jordan FCA
Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

7 Approval

The trustees report was approved by the trustees on 19th September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert	David Markall
Superintendent Minister	Circuit Treasurer

Gordano Valley Circuit

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

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	
		2022-23	2021-22
Income from:		**£**	**£**
Charitable Activities - Assessment on Churches	2	261,540	249,180
Income from Charitable Activities			
Investments		2,623	242
Grants	3		
Other Income	4	34,911	46,302
Total Income and Endowments		**299,074**	**295,724**
Expenditure on Charitable Activities-			
Management of the Circuit			
Grants and Donations	5	1,100	900
Salaries and Associated Costs	7	201,521	208,519
Property		19,618	26,867
Office Expenses		4,142	4,873
District Assessment	10	44,904	48,456
Other Outgoings		2,740	2,178
Total Charitable Expenditure		**274,025**	**291,793**
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) resources before transfers		**25,049**	**3,931**
Other gains/losses			
Net movement of funds		**25,049**	**3,931**
Total funds brought forward		2,050,785	2,046,854
Total funds carried forward		**2,075,834**	**2,050,785**

Gordano Valley Circuit
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Circuit Manses	BS1	1,987,856	1,987,856
Total Fixed Assets		**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	BS2	15,896	14,748
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	89,806	62,728
Cash at Bank and in Hand	BS3	2,904	5,695
Total Current Assets		**108,606**	**83,171**
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS4	20,628	20,242
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		87,978	62,929
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**2,075,834**	**2,050,785**
Creditors and Accruals including any loans (due after more than 1 year)			
Net Assets		**2,075,834**	**2,050,785**
Funds of the Circuit			
General Fund		**2,075,834**	**2,050,785**
Restricted Funds			
Total Funds		**2,075,834**	**2,050,785**

The financial statements were approved by the Circuit Trustees on 19th September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert David Markall

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

I. Public benefit entity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

II. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

III. Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable, and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research, and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

IV. Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

V. Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

VI. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more than likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

The Circuit acts as agent in the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds" In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

VII. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

VIII. VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

IX. Tangible fixed assets

a. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.
b. The Freehold property (4 manses) was valued at a deemed cost of £1,945,000 at 1st September 2015 by professional valuation, plus subsequent additions at a cost of £42,856. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residential fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than its cost to date. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

X. Basic Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

XI. Debtors and Creditors

a. Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
b. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will normally result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

XII. Short term liquid investments and cash

Cash at bank is held to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due rather than for investment purposes and includes all cash equivalents held in the form of short-term highly liquid investments. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

XIII. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against circuits, and these are paid monthly to their districts. The circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from circuits. A small sum is retained by the district to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church.

XIV. Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

2 Assessment on Churches

The Circuit comprises eight churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment the budgeted income from investment income and property letting, confirmed external grants and contribution from churches towards the cost of lay employees is considered. The Circuit aims to cover all its core costs from the assessment.

An Assessment on churches is determined by the Circuit each year, using a formula which takes into account the relative number of members in each church and its freewill giving plus gift aid receipts. Assessments on churches are generally paid monthly in advance and treated as pre-payments in the balance sheet.

3 Grants Received

No grants were received by the Circuit during this period.

4 Other income comprises the following:	**2022/23** £	**2021/22** £
Contribution from churches towards lay workers	34,668	45,895
Contribution from Ministers for private use of telephone and broadband	243	257
Other	-	150
Total Other income	34,911	46,302

5 Grants and Donations

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

Grants totalling £1,100 (2022 £900) to two organisations were made in the year.

6 Model Trust

The Circuit does not have a model trust fund balance.

7 Stipends and Salaries and Associated Costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	**2022/23**	**2021/22**
	£	**£**
Gross wages, salaries, and benefits in kind	151,249	155,449
Employer's National Insurance costs	12,933	14,105
Pension costs	30,538	30,252
Other employment costs	6,801	8,713
Total Staff Costs	**201,521**	**208,519**

Ministers' stipends are reviewed annually by the Connexion having regard to average weekly earnings and CPI inflation. No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. No accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. The holiday year ends on 31 August 2023. Staff are paid at or above the living wage.

	2022/23	**2021/22**
Total number of staff	7	7
Full time equivalent	5.75	6.33

Four trustees are presbyters of the Circuit in receipt of a salary, costs of £150,639 (2022 - £144,416), travel costs of £3,455 (2022 - £2,911), telephone and broadband costs of £2,614 (2022 - £2,654) and training of £0 (2022 - £300).

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST. This is a defined contribution scheme, and the Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

8 Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, excluding stipends are as follows:

	2022/23	**2021/22**
Number of Trustees	0	0
Total amount	£0	£0

9 Fee for examination of the accounts

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Independent Examiner for reporting on the accounts	2,670	2,520
Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor: Accountancy Software	166	152

10 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the number of Presbyters and full time equivalent lay staff, less administrative staff, of all Circuits in the Bristol District.

11 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time, and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, training, and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

12 Connected Organisations and Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or the preceding year. All the Circuit trustees are members of a Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches. Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the Bristol District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are therefore, not considered related parties.

BS1 Manses & Other Property

Buildings comprise of 4 manses located in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton.

	Property
Cost or valuation	£
Balance brought forward on 1st Sep 2022 at 2015 valuation including additions at cost	1.987,856
Balance carried forward	1,987,856

BS2 Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	**2022**
Prepayments	£	£
Stipends, Pension & NI	13,526	12,589
Insurance	2,274	2,159
Other	96	
Totals	**15,896**	**14,748**

BS3 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at National Westminster Bank plc are available on demand without loss of interest.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Central Finance Board	89,806	62,728
National Westminster Bank plc	2,904	5,695
Totals	**92,710**	**62,943**

BS4 Creditors, Accruals, and Income in Advance

All sums accrued at 31st August 2023 are expected to be paid during the year to 31st August 2024.

	2023	2022
Income in advance	£	£
Assessments in advance	17,775	17,440
Creditors and Accruals		
Accounts Examination	2,650	2,500
Accounts payable	203	302
Totals	**20,628**	**20,242**

Funds handled on behalf of others.

None of the figures tabulated below appear elsewhere in these accounts.

Related Party	Party	Balance at 31/8/22	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31/8/2023
		£	£	£	£
World Mission Fund	Connexion	0	1,031	1,031	0
Mission in Britain	Connexion	0	557	557	0
Totals		**0**	**1,588**	**1,588**	**0**

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit (the Circuit) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Circuit 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 applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Circuit 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.

Andrew J Jordan FCA
Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6 - 8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

Date: ...20th December 2023.....

THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133077

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133077

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

for

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2022

The Trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2022.

1 Objectives and activities

In setting the objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting (under the leadership of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charity Act 2011.

Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in Christian faith.

The Gordano Valley Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel; that God loves us, Jesus died for our sins and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives. We seek growth and renewal through the centrality of prayer and scripture, worship, and sacrament.

We aim to do this by:

Passing it on

- By encouraging mission and outreach as an integral part of the life of every Christian and every congregation.
- By offering appropriate pastoral care to those inside and outside the Church.
- By continuing to develop God-glorifying worship and teaching which is engaging and relevant to people of all ages and abilities.

People

- By recognizing that everyone is valuable and has something to offer and by encouraging everyone's gifts.
- By placing a priority on the work with children and young people, while recognizing the needs of all generations.
- By working in local communities to build bridges with those outside Church lives.
- By resourcing ministers and lay staff to work in mission alongside Circuit Stewards and the congregation of the Circuit's churches.
- By working ecumenically and with other circuits where appropriate.
- By identifying and resourcing training needs within the Circuit.

Property

- By prioritising 'good practice' in all things including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, risk assessment, health and safety, employment and trusteeship.
- By making sure that churches in the Circuit are well maintained, well resourced, and welcoming to all through good stewardship of the money and buildings which have been entrusted to us.
- By linking into District and Connexional resources of the Methodist Church.

2 Achievements and performance

Over the last year the churches in the Circuit have gradually and cautiously been returning to pre-Covid activity, reopening the buildings and resuming activity. Sunday worship has gradually been resumed on site, with various restrictions being lifted in carefully monitored stages, with some online presence continuing. Midweek activity has also gradually been returning, and lettings to community groups has slowly started to return. Many members have been very slow to return but have been very carefully watched over pastorally. Conversely, a lot of new people have started coming to some of the churches and are entering into active membership. Challenges remain, not least financial, having suffered much under lockdown, but there are also signs of new growth.

One person has been accredited as a local preacher and is now about to offer for ordination in the Methodist Church. The Circuit continues to train three others – one of whom has just commenced in the last year.

The building project at Portishead, creating a community café and hub on the High Street, has now been completed and is starting to get up and running.

Volunteers

Almost all of the work undertaken by the churches is that of volunteers, from preaching and leading worship to youth and children's work, pastoral visiting, stewardship of finance and buildings, right through to administration and forming of mission policy. The Circuit continues to seek to engage everyone in the churches to discern their own sense of calling and to live it out in local service.

2.1 Plans for future years

1. The circuit has a Mission Action Plan around the four aspects of the Methodist Church 'Our Calling' statement, and this will be used to continue to monitor ongoing work.
2. Over the next 12 months, to strategically evaluate the size of the staff team, its deployment and the configuration of churches, with a view to maximizing the most effective mission strategy, mindful that two of the staff are due to go through the invitations process towards the end of this next year.
3. To continue to develop the growing culture of being outward looking as churches.
4. To help support Portishead High Street in implementing new outreach work now the new building project has been completed.
5. To help support Kenn Road Church in Clevedon as it appoints a new Community Outreach Worker.
6. To ensure that new community engagement / outreach initiatives are sustainable.
7. To continue to grow leadership especially though the vocation of local preachers and worship leaders.
8. To continue to ensure that the Circuit and all the churches within it are kept updated with training and resource for safeguarding.
9. To continue to focus on the priority of growing the work with children and young people across the Circuit, resourcing the churches and making the most of opportunities both in District and Connexional Methodism and the wider Church.
10. To support all eight churches in seeking ways to be Church effectively in a post-lockdown world.

3 Financial review

During the year, the Circuit received total income of £295,724 (2020-21 £279,712) and dispersed £291,794 (2020-21 £283,419). The Trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern. Churches meet their assessments, and the Circuit has reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income. The ongoing financial effects of Covid 19 and the subsequent energy crisis on individual church finances is uncertain with some loss of income from giving and lettings and the effects of rising inflation.

The Circuit has the following principal sources of funds:

- Assessments on churches within the Circuit
- Contributions towards the cost of Lay Workers by churches

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by circuits and for all large (over £20K) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. Currently, the circuit has no funds lodged with TMCP.

Short term deposits are held in a deposit account at the Central Finance Board (CFB)at rates of interest that reflect the financial market.

3.2 Reserves

The Circuit has agreed to maintain a minimum reserve based four months' expenditure (excluding Ministers' stipends), half of which to be held by the Circuit with half to be held by circuit churches, plus approximately one year's budgeted expenditure on manse maintenance, a £1,000 allowance for mission initiatives and an allowance for future stationing costs. The reserves at 31st August were

	2022	2021
Policy Minimum Reserves	£46,612	£45,494
Actual Reserves	£62,929	£58,998

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The Circuit's main source of income is the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit based on free will giving plus Gift Aid and membership, split 60% on income and 40% on membership worked on a three-year average. Part of the assessment paid by churches includes the District assessment on the Circuit in respect of central costs of the Connexion and the District's own costs.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

4.1 Risk

The Circuit is largely risk free, insofar as its costs are covered by the assessment on local churches. The main financial risk would be a shortfall in income should a church be unable to meet its assessment. During the year the Circuit has reviewed its policies for

- Safeguarding
- Conflict of Interest
- Risk Management
- Social Media
- Complaints
- Reserves
- Lay Employment
- Methodist Church Privacy Notice
- Privacy Notice and Data Mapping
- Volunteer Management

5 Structure, governance, and management

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2nd December 2009.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made or ratified at the Circuit meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and also is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits and Districts.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
b. Any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
c. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the Circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in the Gordano Valley area of North Somerset;

- By providing opportunities for churches to work together and support each other
- By offering to churches resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The Circuit serves the local churches and the District and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programs of training.

5.3 Governance

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that if follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

Trustees are members of the Circuit meeting and are appointed as per the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, Standing order 510. The officers and representatives of the constitutive churches are elected from those respective churches. The circuit officers – namely Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Secretary, Property Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Local Preachers Secretary, and any other officers that may be appointed are nominated and elected by Circuit Meeting members.

The membership of the Circuit Leadership Team includes the ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer who are appointed by vote of the Circuit Meeting for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Superintendent Minister is *ex officio* chair of the CLT. When a position becomes vacant on the CLT nominations are invited from the ministers and lay members of the churches they represent. The Superintendent Minister then shares with them what the role involves. If they wish to be considered for the role, their names are taken to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

The CLT normally meets every two months and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It overseas finance, property, stationing, safeguarding and training.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Circuit Leadership Team

1. To formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches having exceptional problems.
2. To encourage ecumenical co-operation.
3. To act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Team by the Circuit Meeting.
4. To keep within its purview all circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere.
5. To contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.
6. To be aware that the stipend of ministers is set currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly earnings index using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion.
7. Constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit, sometimes abbreviated to GVMC.

6.2 Charity registration number

1133077, registered in England and Wales on 2nd December 2009.

6.3 Principal Office

The Office
Christchurch
Chapel Hill
Clevedon
BS21 7LL

Tel. 01275 871483
www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

6.4 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2021-22 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

West Town, Backwell					
Miss V Sowerby	CH		Mrs C Lomas	CH	
Mrs H Bentley					
Christchurch L.E.P.					
Rev R Herbert	Min		Mr A Pett	CH	
Rev C Jennings	Min		Mrs K Dommett	CH	To 15/9/2021
Mrs M Sutherland	CS		Mr J Richards	Add	
Mr D G White	CT	To 15/9/2021	Mrs C Gale	CMS	
Mrs J McManus	CH				
Kenn Road, Clevedon					
Mrs J Bailey	CH		Mr P Evans	CH	To 14/3/2022
Mr C G Mills	CH		Rev P Andersen	Sup	
Nailsea					
Mr N Hardman	CS		Mr R Lancaster	CH	
Mr P Todd	CH		Mr A Emery	CH	
Mrs M Emery	LP		Rev D Mallett	Min	
Rev D Sharp	Sup		Rev M Pullan	Sup	
Mr D Markall	CT				
Pill					
Mrs L Powell	CH		Mrs E Marsh	CH	
Mr M Burnett	CH				
Portishead					
Rev N Moxon	Min		Mrs B Thompson	CH	
Mr K Gathergood	CH	To 9/8/2022	Rev H Noel-Smith	Sup	
Rev P Mortlock	Sup		Rev B Hunt	Sup	
Mrs J Morris-Thurgood	CH		Rev A Owen	Sup NV	
Redcliffe Bay					
Mr D Uncles	CH		Mrs S Mason	CH	
Rev D Harris	Sup		Mrs J Clote (Davis)	CH	To 9/8/2022
Mr A Reddrop	CS				
Yatton					
Mr T R Calderbank	CH		Rev I Bowley	Sup	
Mr M Buckley	Add		Rev J Flowers	Min	
Rev A Price	Sup		Mr K Woodham	CS	
Mrs B Hook	Add		Mr B Patch	CH	To 1/2/2022
Mr M Pryke	CH	To 31/8/2022	Mr Malcolm Fisher	CH	From 24/2/2022

Add	Additional Member	CH	Church Steward/Rep.	CMS	Circuit Meeting Secretary
CS	Circuit Steward	CT	Circuit treasurer	Min	Minister
LP	Local Preachers Rep.	Sup	Supernumerary Minister	NV	Non-Voting

6.7 Superintendent Minister's PA

Mrs Kathryn McManus-Jones

6.8 Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC 89 High Street Weston-super-Mare North Somerset BS23 1HJ	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE

6.9 Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

6.10 Independent Examiner

Andrew Jordan
ICAEW
Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

7 Approval

The trustees report was approved by the trustees on 28th September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert	David Markall
Superintendent Minister	Circuit Treasurer
9th January 2023	9th January 2023

Gordano Valley Circuit

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

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	
		2021-22	2020-21
Income from:		**£**	**£**
Charitable Activities - Assessment on churches	2	249,180	230,982
Income from charitable activities			
Investments		242	86
Grants	3		
Other Income	4	46,302	48,644
Total Income and Endowments		**295,724**	**279,712**
Expenditure on charitable activities-			
Management of the Circuit			
Grants and donations	5	900	100
Salaries and associated costs	7	208,519	206,809
Property		26,867	19,848
Office Expenses		4,873	4,158
District Assessment	10	48,456	51,792
Other outgoings		2,178	712
Total charitable expenditure		**291,793**	**283,419**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		**3,931**	**(3,707)**
Other gains/losses			
Net movement of funds		**3,931**	**(3,707)**
Total funds brought forward		2,046,854	2,050,561
Total funds carried forward		**2,050,785**	**2,046,854**

Gordano Valley Circuit
Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Circuit Manses	BS1	1,987,856	1,987,856
Total fixed assets		**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	BS2	14,748	20,810
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	62,728	58,355
Cash at Bank and in hand	BS3	5,695	4,588
Total current assets		**83,171**	**83,753**
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS4	20,242	24,755
Net Current assets/liabilities		62,929	58,998
Total assets less current liabilities		**2,050,785**	**2,046,854**
Creditors and Accruals including any loans (due after more than 1 year)			
Net assets		**2,050,785**	**2,046,854**
Funds of the Circuit			
General fund (Unrestricted)		2,050,785	39,551
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			2,007,303
Total Unrestricted Funds		**2,050,785**	**2,046,854**
Restricted Funds			
Total Funds		**2,050,785**	**2,046,854**

The financial statements were approved by the Circuit Trustees on 28th September 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert — David Markall

9th January 2023 — 9th January 2023

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit
Notes to the accounts for year ending 31 August 2022

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

The statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities Preparing their Accounts in Accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

I. Public benefit entity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

II. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

III. Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research, and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

IV. Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

V. Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

VI. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more than likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

The Circuit acts as agent in the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds" In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

VII. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

VIII. VAT

The Circuit is not VAT registered. VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

IX. Tangible fixed assets

a. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.
b. The Freehold property (4 manses) were valued at a deemed cost of £1,945,000 as at 1st September 2015 by professional valuation, plus subsequent additions at a cost of £42,856. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residential fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than its cost to date. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

X. Basic Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

XI. Debtors and Creditors

a. Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
b. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will normally result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

XII. Short term liquid investments and cash

Cash at bank is held to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due rather than for investment purposes and includes all cash equivalents held in the form of short-term highly liquid investments. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

XIII. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against circuits, and these are paid monthly to their districts. The circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from circuits. A small sum is retained by the district to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church.

XIV. Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

XV. Funds

Up to 31st August 2021 funds held constituted unrestricted general funds held for any charitable purpose of the Circuit, and unrestricted designated funds held for specific purposes. The trustees have reconsidered the need for separate funds and concluded that designation is no longer required.

XVI. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

2 Assessment on Churches

The Circuit comprises eight churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment the budgeted income from investment income and property letting, confirmed external grants and contribution from churches towards the cost of lay employees is considered. The Circuit aims to cover all its core costs from the assessment.

An Assessment on churches is determined by the Circuit each year, using a formula which takes into account the relative number of members in each church and its freewill giving plus gift aid receipts. Assessments on churches are generally paid monthly in advance and treated as pre-payments in the balance sheet.

3 Grants Received

No grants were received by the Circuit during this period.

4 Other income comprises the following:	**2021/22** £	**2020/21** £
Contribution from churches towards lay workers	45,895	48,334
Contribution from Ministers for private use of telephone and broadband	257	310
Other	150	-
Total Other income	46,302	48,644

5 Grants and Donations

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

Grants totalling £900 to two organisations were made in the year.

6 Model Trust

The Circuit does not have a model trust fund balance. During the year, arising from a right of light issue at Nailsea, compensation of £3,000 was received from a property developer. The Circuit meeting agreed that this sum could be retained by the Nailsea Methodist Church towards lighting improvements. To comply with Standing Orders the £3,000 was passed by Nailsea MC to TMCP, withdrawn from TMCP by the Circuit and paid back to Nailsea MC by the Circuit.

7 Stipends and Salaries and Associated Costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	**2021/22**	**2020/21**
	£	**£**
Gross wages, salaries, and benefits in kind	155,449	156,813
Employer's National Insurance costs	14,105	13,921
Pension costs	30,252	30,364
Other employment costs	8,713	5,711
Total Staff Costs	**208,519**	**206,809**

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. No accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. The holiday year ends on 31 August 2022. Staff are paid at or above the living wage.

	2021/22	**2020/21**
Total number of staff	7	7
Full time equivalent	6.33	6.33

Four trustees are presbyters of the Circuit in receipt of a salary, costs of £144,416 (2021 - £141,795), travel costs of £2,911 (2021 - £1,508), telephone and broadband costs of £2,654 (2021 - £2,463) and training of £300 (2021 - £0).

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST. This is a defined contribution scheme, and the Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

The MMPS is in deficit. The Methodist Conference has put in place a plan for addressing the deficit and is undertaking a review of the scheme during 2022-23.

8 Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, excluding stipends are as follows:

	2021/22	**2020/21**
Number of Trustees	0	0
Total amount	£0	£0

9 Fee for examination of the accounts

	2021/22 £	**2020/21** £
Independent Examiner for reporting on the accounts	2,520	2,496
Other fees (e.g.: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor: Accountancy Software	152	144

10 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the number of Presbyters and full time equivalent lay staff, less administrative staff, of all Circuits in the Bristol District.

11 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time, and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, training, and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

12 Connected Organisations and Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or the preceding year. All the Circuit trustees are members of a Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches. Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the Bristol District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are therefore, not considered related parties.

13 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total 2020-21
Income and Endowments from:		£	£	£
Charitable Activities - Assessment on churches	2	230,982	-	230,982
Income from charitable activities - lettings		-	-	-
Investments			86	86
Grants	3	-	-	-
Other Income	4	48,644	-	48,644
Total Income and Endowments		**279,626**	**86**	**279,712**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Management of the Circuit;				
Grants and donations	5	-	100	100
Salaries and associated costs	7	206,809	-	206,809
Property		14,839	5,009	19,848
Office Expenses		4,158	-	4,158
District Assessment	10	51,792	-	51,792
Other outgoings		712	-	712
Total charitable expenditure		**278,310**	**5,109**	**283,419**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		1,316	(5,023)	(3,707)
Transfers between funds		(11,750)	11,750	-
Net movement of funds		**(10,434)**	**6,727**	**(3,707)**
Total funds brought forward		49,985	2,000,576	2,050,561
Total funds carried forward		**39,551**	**2007,303**	**2,046,854**

BS1 Manses & Other Property

Buildings comprise of 4 manses located in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton.

	Property
Cost or valuation	£
Balance brought forward on 1st Sep 2021 at 2015 valuation plus additions at cost	1.987,856
Balance carried forward	1,987,856

BS2 Debtors and Prepayments

	2022	**2021**
Prepayments	£	£
Stipends, Pension & NI	12,589	11,949
Insurance	2,159	1,970
Council Tax	-	6,360
Other prepayments	-	531
Totals	**14,748**	**20,810**

BS3 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at National Westminster Bank plc are available on demand without loss of interest.

	2022	**2021**
	£	£
Central Finance Board	62,728	58,355
National Westminster Bank plc	5,695	4,588
Totals	**68,423**	**62,943**

BS4 Creditors, Accruals, and Income in Advance

All sums accrued as at 31st August 2022 are expected to be paid during the year to 31st August 2023.

	2022	**2021**
Income in advance	£	£
Assessments in advance	17,440	16,693
Creditors and Accruals		
Accounts Examination	2,500	2,500
Accounts payable	302	5,260
Other	-	302
Totals	**20,242**	**24,755**

BS5 Summary of fund movements

Fund	Balance at 31/8/2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ Losses	Balance at 31/8/2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General	39,551	295,724	291,793	2,007,303		2,050,785
Designated-Manse maintenance	16,332	-	-	(16,332)		0
Designated - Mission	865	-	-	(865)		0
Designated- Stationing	2,250	-	-	(2,250)		0
Designated- Manses Property	1,987,856	-	-	(1,987,856)		0
Total funds	**2,046,854**	**295,724**	**291,793**	**0**	**0**	**2,050,785**

BS5a Comparative movements in funds

Fund	Balance at 31/8/2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ Losses	Balance at 31/8/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General	49,985	279,626	278,310	(11,750)		39,551
Designated-Manse maintenance	10,255	86	(5009)	11,000		16,332
Designated - Mission	965	-	100			865
Designated- Stationing	1500	-	-	750		2,250
Designated- Manses Property	1,987,856	-	-	-		1,987,856
Total funds	**2,050,561**	**279,712**	**283,419**	**0**	**0**	**2,046,854**

BS6 Comparative analysis of net assets between funds

	General	Designated	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,987,856	1,987,856
Current Assets	64,306	19,447	83,753
Current liabilities	(24,755)		(24,755)
Totals	**39,551**	**2,007,303**	**2,046,854**

Funds handled on behalf of others.

None of the figures tabulated below appear elsewhere in these accounts.

Related Party	Party	Balance at 31/8/21	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31/8/2022
		£	£	£	£
World Mission Fund	Connexion	654	1,936	2,590	0
Mission in Britain	Connexion	-	566	566	0
Totals		**654**	**2,502**	**3,156**	**0**

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit (the Circuit) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Circuit 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 applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Circuit 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.

Andrew Jordan
ICAEW
Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6 - 8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

Date: ...27th January 2023.....

THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133077

Accounts

R**EGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1133077**

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

for

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2021

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Outreach, community engagement and aspiring towards Church growth continue to be the emphasis in the culture that is being nurtured in the eight churches across the circuit.

1 Objectives and activities

In setting the objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting (under the leadership of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charity Act 2011.

Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in Christian faith.

The Gordano Valley Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel; that God loves us, Jesus died for our sins and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives. We seek growth and renewal through the centrality of prayer and scripture, worship, and sacrament.

We aim to do this by:

Passing it on

- By encouraging mission and outreach as an integral part of the life of every Christian and every congregation.
- By offering appropriate pastoral care to those inside and outside the Church.
- By continuing to develop God-glorifying worship and teaching which is engaging and relevant to people of all ages and abilities.

People

- By recognizing that everyone is valuable and has something to offer and by encouraging everyone's gifts.
- By placing a priority on the work with children and young people, while recognizing the needs of all generations.
- By working in local communities to build bridges with those outside Church lives.
- By resourcing ministers and lay staff to work in mission alongside Circuit Stewards and the congregation of the Circuit's churches.
- By working ecumenically and with other circuits where appropriate.
- By identifying and resourcing training needs within the Circuit.

Property

- By prioritising 'good practice' in all things including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, risk assessment, health and safety, employment and trusteeship.

- By making sure that churches in the Circuit are well maintained, well resourced, and welcoming to all through good stewardship of the money and buildings which have been entrusted to us.
- By linking into District and Connexional resources of the Methodist Church.

2 Achievements and performance

Covid-19 has meant that all eight of the church buildings have been closed for a large amount of the last year. This has meant that Sunday services and midweek church activities on site have been very limited. Lettings to community groups has also been restricted, and this has had an impact on revenue. For all that, the churches have adapted and found creative ways of working. Much pastoral work has been carried out by phone. Most meetings have been taking place using online platforms such as Zoom.
All four sections have been doing services on-line, and strategy is being drawn up for continuing and growing engagement with contact made online during this time.
One person has candidated for ordination in the Methodist Church and has been accepted for training. The circuit continues to train four others for local preaching.
The building project at Portishead has commenced – this will create a community café and hub for the church on the High Street.

Volunteers

Almost all of the work undertaken by the churches is that of volunteers, from preaching and leading worship to youth and children's work, pastoral visiting, stewardship of finance and buildings, right through to administration and forming of mission policy. The circuit continues to seek to engage everyone in the churches to discern their own sense of calling and to live it out in local service.

2.1 Plans for future years

1. The circuit has now created and approved a Mission Action Plan around the four aspects of the Methodist Church 'Our Calling' statement – this will form the basis of ongoing work.
2. To continue to develop the growing culture of being outward looking as churches.
3. To support the church at Portishead High Street as it implements new outreach work as the building project comes to completion.
4. To ensure that new community engagement / outreach initiatives are sustainable.
5. To continue to grow leadership especially though the vocation of local preachers and worship leaders.
6. To continue to ensure that the Circuit and all the churches within it are kept updated with training and resource for safeguarding.
7. To continue to focus on the priority of growing the work with children and young people across the Circuit, resourcing the churches and making the most of opportunities both in District and Connexional Methodism and the wider Church.
8. To support all eight churches in seeking ways to be Church effectively in a post-lockdown world.

3 Financial review

During the year, the Circuit received total income of £279,712 (2019-2020 £304,140) and dispersed £283,419 (2019-20 £296,114).
The trustees of the Circuit have every reason to believe that the Circuit is a going concern, principally because churches continue to meet their assessments and the Circuit has adequate reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. The ongoing financial effects of Covid 19 on individual church finances is uncertain with loss of income through giving and lettings. During the year the budget was reviewed and adjusted downwards by meeting of church treasurers in line with decreased income due to the effects of the pandemic on overall income.

The Circuit has the following principal sources of funds:

- Assessments on Churches within the Circuit
- Grants from District (Nil this year)
- Contributions towards the cost of Lay Workers by Churches

These sums are used to administer the Circuit and to provide grants to churches and individuals in the Circuit so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the Circuit by bringing more people to Christ or by providing facilities that might enable this to happen.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by circuits and for all large (over £20K) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE 100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates elsewhere. GVMC trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable to the Methodist Church.

The Circuit has no funds lodged with TMCP now.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract rates of interest that reflect the financial market.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuits policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the Circuits low appetite for risk. The interest rate achieved on CFB deposits has been at 0.68% for the year. The rate in August 2020 was 0.70%.

3.2 Reserves level and policy

At the September Circuit Meeting the following Reserve Policy was approved:

The minimum policy level of readily available part of the Circuits General Fund is such as to cover 4 months of the coming year's budget less the salary costs of the presbyters. This would be held 50% by

the Circuit and 50% by the Churches in the Circuit. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

	2021-22	2020-21 (Amended during the year)
Budget	£299,331	£295,682
Less Presbyters Salary Costs	£143,052	£141,744
	£156,279	£153,938
Reserve Level (4 Months)	£52,093	£51,312
Circuit	**£26,047**	**£25,656**
Churches	£26,046	£25,656

The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

Free Reserves	£
Total Funds	2,046,854
Less Designated Funds	19,447
Less Designated Manses Property Fund	1,987,856
Free Reserves	**39,551**

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The Circuit's main source of income was the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit based on free will giving plus Gift Aid and on membership. Split 60% on income and 40% on membership worked on a three-year moving average. This was used to defray most of the cost of administering the Circuit. This sum amounted to £230,982 (2019-20 £251,448).

The Circuit holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive monthly contributions from churches within the Circuit which are payable to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the District within one month. Funds received by the Circuit as agent are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the Circuit incurs no cost through this arrangement.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

4.1 Risk

The Circuit is largely risk averse but especially in making grants to entities embarking on new and imaginative initiatives, the Circuit is prepared to underwrite considerable risks.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in costs terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by not taking them or by setting up control systems that timeously report any significant change in the risk.

4.2 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 Gordano Valley 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 Gordano Valley Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

5 Structure, governance, and management

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2nd December 2009.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made or ratified at the Circuit meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and also is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits and Districts.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
b. Any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
c. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in the Gordano Valley area of North Somerset

- By providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- By offering to churches resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The Circuit serves the local churches and the District and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programs of training.

5.3 Governance

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that if follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

Trustees are members of the Circuit meeting and are appointed as per the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, Standing order 510. The officers and representatives of the constitutive churches are elected from those respective churches. The circuit officers – namely Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Secretary, Property Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Local Preachers Secretary, and any other officers that may be appointed are nominated and elected by Circuit Meeting members.

The membership of the Circuit Leadership Team includes the ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer who are appointed by vote of the Circuit Meeting for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Superintendent Minister is *ex officio* chair of the CLT. When a position becomes vacant on the CLT nominations are invited from the ministers and lay members of the churches they represent. The Superintendent Minister then shares with them what the role involves. If they wish to be considered for the role, their names are taken to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

The CLT normally meets every two months and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It overseas finance, property, stationing, safeguarding and training.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Circuit Leadership Team

1. To formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches having exceptional problems.
2. To encourage ecumenical co-operation.
3. To act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Team by the Circuit Meeting.
4. To keep within its purview all circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere.
5. To contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.
6. To be aware that the stipend of ministers is set currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly earnings index using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion.
7. Constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit, sometimes abbreviated to GVMC.

6.2 Charity registration number

1133077, registered in England and Wales on 2nd December 2009.

6.3 Principal Office

The Office
Christchurch
Chapel Hill
Clevedon
BS21 7LL

Tel. 01275 871483
www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

6.4 Superintendent Minister

Revd. Dr Russell Herbert

6.5 Circuit Treasurer

Mr David Markall (appointed 15/9/2021) Mr D G White (resigned 15/9/2021)

6.6 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2020-21 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

West Town/Backwell					
Miss V Sowerby	CH		Mrs C Lomas	CH	
Mrs P Marchant	CH				
Christchurch L.E.P.					
Rev R Herbert	Min		Mr A Prett	CH	
Rev C Jennings	Min		Mrs K Dommett	CH	
Mrs M Sutherland	CS		Mr L Turner	CH	To 10/2/2021
Mr D G White	CT	To 15/9/2021	Mr J Richards	Add	
Mrs C Gale	CMS		Mrs J McManus	CH	
Kenn Road, Clevedon					
Mrs J Bailey	CH	,	Mr P Evans	CH	From 1/5/2021
Mrs S Lillington	CH	To 10/5/2021	Mr G Roberts	CT	To 10/5/2021
Mr C G Mills	CH		Rev P Andersen	Sup	From 01/09/2020
Nailsea					
Mr N Hardman	CS	.	Mr R Lancaster	CH	
			Mr P Todd	CH	
Mr A Emery	CH		Mrs M Emery	LP	
Mr D Markall	CT		Rev D Mallett	Min	
Rev M Pullan	Sup	From 1/9/2021	Rev D Sharp	Sup	
Pill					
Mrs L Powell	CH		Mrs E Marsh	CH	
Mr M Burnett	CH				
Portishead					
Rev N Moxon	Min		Mrs B Thompson	CH	
Mr K Gathergood	CS	To 15/3/2021	Rev B Hunt	Sup	
Mrs J Morris-Thurgood	CH		Rev P Mortlock	Sup	
Rev Heather Noel-Smith	Sup		Rev Ann Owen	Sup, NV	
Redcliffe Bay					
Mr D Uncles	CH		Mrs S Mason	CH	
Rev D Harris	Sup		Mrs J Clote(Davis)	CH	
Mr A Reddrop	CS	From 10/5/2021			
Yatton					

Mr T R Calderbank	CH		Rev I Bowley	Sup	
Mr M Buckley	Add		Mr R Eeles	CH	To 30/11/2020
Mr M Pryke	CH	From 1/9/2021			
Mrs A Hawkins	CH	To 31/8/2021	Rev J Flowers	Min	
Rev A Price	Sup		Mr K Woodman	CS	
Mrs B Hook	Add		Mr B Patch	CH	

Reference

Add	Additional Member	CH	Church Steward/Rep.	CMS	Circuit Meeting Secretary
CS	Circuit Steward	CT	Circuit Treasurer	MIN	Minister
LP	Local Preachers Rep.	Sup	Supernumerary Minister	NV	Non Voting

6.7 Superintendent Minister's PA

Mrs. Kathryn McManus-Jones

6.8 Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC 89 High Street Weston-super-Mare North Somerset BS23 1HJ	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE

6.9 Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

6.10 Independent Examiner

Geoffrey Speirs FCA
ICAEW
Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

7 Approval

The trustees report was approved by the board of trustees on 16th September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert — David Markall

8 November 2021 — 1 November 2021

Name of Circuit: Gordano Valley Circuit Number: 07/15

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

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total 2020-21	Total 2019-20
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable Activities - Assessment on churches	2	230,982		230,982	251,448
Income from charitable activities - lettings				0	0
Investments			86	86	407
Grants	3				
Other Income	4	48,644		48,644	52,285
Total Income and Endowments		**279,626**	**86**	**279,712**	**304,140**
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Management of the Circuit;					
Grants and donations	5		100	100	5,506
Salaries and associated costs	6	206,809		206,809	205,650
Property	9	14,839	5,009	19,848	26,912
Office Expenses		4,158		4,158	4,494
District Assessment	10	51,792		51,792	52,046
Other outgoings		712		712	1,506
Total charitable expenditure		**278,310**	**5,109**	**283,419**	**296,114**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		1,316	-5,023	-3,707	8,026
Transfers between funds		-11,750	11,750		
Reclassification of funds					
Other gains/losses					
Net movement of funds		**-10,434**	**6,727**	**-3,707**	**8,026**
Total funds brought forward		49,985	2,000,576	2,050,561	2,042,535
Adjustment					
Total funds carried forward		**39,551**	**2,007,303**	**2,046,854**	**2,050,561**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			
		General	Designated Funds	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Circuit Manses	BS1		1,987,856	1,987,856	1,987,856
Total fixed assets		**0**	**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS2	20,810		20,810	20,083
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	38,908	19,447	58,355	64,503
Cash at Bank and in hand	BS3	4,588		4,588	3,732
Total current assets		**64,306**	**19,447**	**83,753**	**88,318**
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS4	24,755		24,755	25,613
Net Current assets/liabilities		39,551	19,447	58,998	62,705
Total assets less current liabilities		**39,551**	**2,007,303**	**2,046,854**	**2,050,561**
Creditors and Accruals including any loans (due after more than 1 year)					
Net assets		39,551	2,007,303	2,046,854	2,050,561
Funds of the Circuit	BS5				
General fund (Unrestricted)		39,551			49,985
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)					
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			2,007,303		2,000,576
Total Unrestricted Funds		**39,551**	**2,007,303**	**2,046,854**	**2,050,561**
Restricted Funds					
Total Funds		**39,551**	**2,007,303**	**2,046,854**	**2,050,561**

Approval

The financial statements were approved by the Circuit Board of Trustees on and were signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert — David Markall

08 November 2021 — 01 November 2021

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

I. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities Preparing their Accounts in Accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

II. Public benefit entity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

III. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

IV. Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

V. Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern. However, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have a profound impact on the global economy and may in turn affect the charity. The trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. The charity holds unrestricted, general reserves of £39,551 and designated reserves that can be drawn down if necessary, of £19,447. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

VI. Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

VII. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more than likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as agent in the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds"

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

VIII. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

IX. VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

X. Tangible fixed assets

a. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.
b. The Freehold property (4 manses) are valued at deemed cost of £1,945,000, as at 1st September 2015 by professional valuation, plus subsequent additions at a cost of £42,856.
c. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residential fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than its cost to date. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

XI. Basic Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

XII. Debtors and Creditors

a. Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
b. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will normally result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

XIII. Short term liquid investments and cash

Cash at bank is held to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due rather than for investment purposes and includes all cash equivalents held in the form of short-term highly liquid investments. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

XIV. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against circuits and these are paid monthly to their districts. The circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church.

XV. Funds

The funds held constitute:
General Funds held for any charitable purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted.

Designated funds held for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone.

XVI. Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

XVII. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

2 Assessment on Churches

The Circuit comprises 8 churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment the budgeted income from investment income and property letting, confirmed external grants and contribution from churches towards the cost of lay employees is considered. The Circuit aims to cover all its core costs from the assessment.

An Assessment on churches is annually determined by the Circuit using a formulaic method which takes into account the relative number of members in each church and its freewill giving plus gift aid receipts. Assessments on churches are monthly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date the sum in question is treated as a debtor.

3 Grants Received

No grants were received by the Circuit during this period.

4

Other income comprises the following:	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Contribution from churches towards lay workers	48,334	51,481
Contribution for private use of telephone and broadband by Ministers	310	304
Contribution to fencing at Clevedon Manse		500
Total Other income	48,644	52,285

5 Grants and Donations

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

The Circuit Meeting usually approves payments to Connexional Funds from Circuit funds:

No significant grants or donations were made this year due to loss of income by churches in the Circuit from the effects of Covid 19 and the need to reduce Circuit expenditure.

The Circuit made no transfers to its Mission Fund in the year (usually £62.50 per quarter) Grants totalling £100 to one group were made in the year.

6 Stipends and Salaries and Associated Costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	**2020/21**	**2019/20**
	£	**£**
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	156,813	156,664
Employer's National Insurance costs	13,921	12,009
Pension costs	30,364	29,918
Other employment costs	5,711	8,059
Total Staff Costs	**206,809**	**205,650**

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. The holiday year ends on 31 August 2021. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

	2020/21	2019/20
Total number of staff	7	7
Full time equivalent	6.33	6.33

4 trustees are presbyters of the Circuit in receipt of a salary, costs of £141,795 (2020 - £137,994), travel costs of £1,508 (2020 - £3,472), telephone costs of £2,463 (2020 - £2,630) and training of £0 (2020 - £150).

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term

includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST. This is a defined benefit scheme and the Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both pension schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for the removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented.

7 Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, excluding stipends are as follows:

	2020/21	**2019/20**
Number of Trustees	0	1
Total amount	£0	£41

In the prior year expense payments primarily related to reimbursement for travel and stationery costs

8 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Independent Examiner for reporting on the accounts	2,496	2,496
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor: Accountancy Software	144	137

9 Property Expenses

The Circuit is the Managing Trustee for 4 manses which are occupied by ministers stationed in the Circuit. The Circuit is responsible for the payment of council tax, water charges and insurance.

The cost of ongoing maintenance and improvements to all properties is funded through a Designated 'Manse Maintenance Fund' and a transfer of £2,750 p.a. per manse is made from the General Fund, Interest received from Central Finance Board Deposit is credited to this account. The level of transfer is reviewed by the Trustees each year. The work outstanding at Clevedon last year has been partially completed, the front steps have been reconfigured, but the installation of a handrail is still outstanding. Servicing of gas installations and sundry small repairs have been made during the year.

10 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the number of Presbyters and lay staff f.t.e., less administrative staff of all Circuits in the Bristol District. Membership numbers are no longer used to calculate the Assessment.

11 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total 2019-20
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable Activities - Assessment on churches	2	251,448		251,488
Income from charitable activities - lettings				0
Investments			407	407
Grants	3			
Other Income	4	51,785	500	52,285
Total Income and Endowments		**303,233**	**907**	**304,140**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Management of the Circuit;				
Grants and donations	5	5,015	491	5,506
Salaries and associated costs	6	205,650		205,650
Property	9	14,478	12,434	26,912
Office Expenses		4,494		4,494
District Assessment	10	52,046		52,046
Other outgoings		1,506		1,506
Total charitable expenditure		**283,189**	**12,925**	**296,114**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		20,044	-12,018	8,026
Transfers between funds		-13,000	13,000	
Net movement of funds		**7,044**	**982**	**8,026**
Total funds brought forward		42,941	1,999,584	2,042,535
Total funds carried forward		**49,985**	**2,000,576**	**2,050,561**

BS1 Manses & Other Property

Buildings comprise of 4 manses located in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton and were professionally valued to determine deemed cost as at 31 August 2015.

	Property
Cost or valuation	
Balance brought forward on 1 September, at cost	1.987,856
Balance carried forward	1,987,856

BS2 Debtors and Prepayments

	General	Designated	Total 2021	2020
Prepayments				
Stipends, Pension & NI	11,949		11,949	11,808
Insurance	1,970		1,970	1,881
Council Tax	6,360		6,360	5,856
Other prepayments	531		531	528
Totals	**20,810**		**20,810**	**20,083**

BS3 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at National Westminster Bank plc are all available on demand without loss of interest. The split of these balances across General and Designated Funds is arbitrary but wherever possible balances are not shown as negative.

	General	Designated	Total 2021	2020
Central Finance Board	38,908	19,447	58,355	64,503
National Westminster Bank plc	4,588		4,588	3,732
Totals	**43,496**	**19,447**	**62,943**	**68,235**

BS4 Creditors, Accruals, and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued as at 31st August 2021 will be paid during the year to 31st August 2022.

	General	Designated	Total 2021	2020
Income in advance				
Assessments in advance	16,693		16,693	16,894
Creditors and Accruals				
Accountancy cost	2,500		2,500	2,500
Accounts payable	5,260		5,260	5,991
Others	302		302	228
Totals	**24,755**		**24,755**	**25,613**

BS5 Summary of fund movements

Fund	Balance at 31/9/2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Balance at 31/8/2021
General	49.985	279,626	-278,310	--11,750		39,551
Designated -Manse maintenance	10,255	86	-5009	11,000		16,332
Designated - Mission	965		-100			865
Designated - Stationing	1500			750		2,250
Designated Manses Property	1,987,856					1,987,856
Total General and designated	**2,050,561**	**279,712**	**-283,419**	**0**	**0**	**2,046,854**
Total funds	**2,050,561**	**279,712**	**-283,419**	**0**	**0**	**2,046,854**

Manse Maintenance – Receives quarterly transfers of £2,750 (2020 £3000) from the General Fund based on the number of manses and against this is charged routine maintenance, repairs and as the need arises, and renovation of fittings. The cost of quinquennial inspections is also charged to this fund.

Mission Fund – No quarterly transfers of £62.50 were made to the fund this year but a payment of £100 was made to one group.

Manses Property Fund

This fund represents fair value of manses held by the Circuit.

BS5a Comparatives for movements in funds

Fund	Balance at 31/9/2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Balance at 31/8/2020
General	42,941	303,233	-283,189	-13,000		49,985
Designated -Manse maintenance	9,782	907	-12434	12,000		10,255
Designated - Mission	1,206		-491	250		965
Designated - Stationing	750			750		1,500
Designated Manses Property	1,987,856					1,987,856
Total General and designated	**2,042,535**	**304,140**	**-296,114**	**0**	**0**	**2,050,561**
Total funds	**2,042,535**	**304,140**	**-296114**	**0**	**0**	**2,050,561**

BS6 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	General	Designated	Total 2021
Tangible fixed assets	0	1,987,856	1,987,856
Investments			
Current Assets	64,306	19,447	83,753
Current liabilities	-24,755		-24755
Creditors due after one year	0	0	0
Totals	**39,551**	**2,007,303**	**2,046.854**

BS6a Comparative analysis of net assets between funds.

	General	Designated	Total 2020
Tangible fixed assets	0	1,987,856	1,987,856
Investments			0
Current Assets	75,598	12,720	88,318
Current liabilities	-25,613		-25,613
Creditors due after one year			0
Totals	**49,985**	**2,000,576**	**2,050,561**

BS7 Connected Organisations and Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or the preceding year. All the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees in their Churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the Bristol District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are therefore, not considered related parties.

Funds handled on behalf of others.
None of the figures tabulated below appear elsewhere in these accounts.

Names of related parties	Party	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments	Balance at 31/8/2021
JMA	Connexion				
World Mission Fund	Connexion	1,872	1,218		-654
Mission in Britain Fund	Connexion	582	582		
Totals		**2,454**	**1,800**	**0**	**-654**

BS8 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time, and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Circuit to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

BS9 Independent Examiner

An accrual of £2,500 has been made for the fee of the Independent Examiner.

The Independent Examiner provided accounting software services during the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity'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 charity'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 statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity 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 other than that set out below 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.

Matter of concern identified
The Trustees' view on the impact of Covid-19 is disclosed on page 3 of the Trustees' Report and in the accounting policies note. However, not all future events or conditions can be predicted. The Covid-19 viral pandemic is one of the most significant economic events for the UK with unprecedented levels of uncertainty of outcomes. It is therefore difficult to evaluate all of the potential implications on the charity.

Geoffrey Speirs FCA
ICAEW
Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol BS1 6HL

8 October 2021

THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1133077

Accounts

Registered Charity No. 1133077

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST August 2020

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Outreach, community engagement and aspiring towards Church growth continue to be the emphasis in the culture that is being nurtured in the eight churches across the circuit.

1 Objectives and activities

In setting the objectives and planning our activities, the Circuit Meeting (under the leadership of the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), meets twice in each year, has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charity Act 2011.

Our aim is to encourage and enable people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, and to learn and grow in Christian faith.

The Gordano Valley Circuit is committed to celebrating and sharing the good news of the Gospel; that God loves us, Jesus died for our sins and is risen, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength and inspiration in our daily lives. We seek growth and renewal through the centrality of prayer and scripture, worship, and sacrament.

We aim to do this by:

Passing it on

- By encouraging mission and outreach as an integral part of the life of every Christian and every congregation.
- By offering appropriate pastoral care to those inside and outside the Church.
- By continuing to develop God-glorifying worship and teaching which is engaging and relevant to people of all ages and abilities.

People

- By recognizing that everyone is valuable and has something to offer and by encouraging everyone's gifts.
- By placing a priority on the work with children and young people, while recognizing the needs of all generations.
- By working in local communities to build bridges with those outside Church lives.
- By resourcing ministers and lay staff to work in mission alongside Circuit Stewards and the congregation of the Circuit's churches.
- By working ecumenically and with other circuits where appropriate.
- By identifying and resourcing training needs within the Circuit.

Property

- By prioritising 'good practice' in all things including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, risk assessment, health and safety, employment and trusteeship.

- By making sure that churches in the Circuit are well maintained, well resourced, and welcoming to all through good stewardship of the money and buildings which have been entrusted to us.
- By linking in to District and Connexional resources of the Methodist Church.

2 Achievements and performance

All eight of the church buildings have been closed for half of the last year because of the Covid-19 situation. All have adapted to this and found creative ways of working. Pastoral work has been carried out by phone and pastoral visiting teams have been ensuring that regular contact has been maintained especially with those who have been isolated. Most meetings have been taking place using online platforms such as Zoom. All four sections have been doing services on-line. As plans are made to re-open the buildings in October, it is intended that on-line services will continue as they have proved to be a means of outreach into the local communities and beyond. Across the circuit various forms of community engagement have been taking place, such as delivering food to households in financial hardship.

One person has now completed their training as an accredited Local Preacher and is now candidating for ordination in the Methodist Church. The circuit continues to train four others for local preaching.

Volunteers

Almost all of the work undertaken by the churches is that of volunteers, from preaching and leading worship to youth and children's work, pastoral visiting, stewardship of finance and buildings, right through to administration and forming of mission policy. The circuit continues to seek to engage everyone in the churches to discern their own sense of calling and to live it out in local service.

2.1 Plans for future years

1. The staff team is in the process of shaping a Mission Action Plan around the four aspects of the Methodist Church 'Our Calling' statement.
2. To continue to develop the growing culture of being outward looking as churches.
3. To support the church at Portishead High Street in its vision for redeveloping its premises in order to engage the community more effectively.
4. To ensure that new community engagement / outreach initiatives are sustainable.
5. To continue to grow leadership especially though the vocation of local preachers and worship leaders.
6. To continue to ensure that the Circuit and all the churches within it are kept updated with training and resource for safeguarding.
7. To continue to focus on the priority of growing the work with children and young people across the Circuit, resourcing the churches and making the most of opportunities both in District and Connexional Methodism and the wider Church.
8. The appointment of one of the ministerial staff, Revd Nick Moxon was reviewed in the summer and the recommendation will be made to the Circuit Meeting that this be extended for a further five years from September 2021.
9. A sum of £11,000 has been budgeted for manse maintenance in the coming year.

3 Financial review

During the year, the Circuit received total income of £304,140 (2018-19 £289,855) and dispersed

£296,114 (2018-19 £288,049).

The trustees of the Circuit have every reason to believe that the Circuit is a going concern, principally because Churches continue to meet their assessments and the Circuit has adequate reserves to cover a shortfall in anticipated income. There are no subsidiary undertakings. The ongoing financial effects of Covid 19 on individual church finances is uncertain with loss of income through giving and lettings. A meeting of church treasurers and ministers will convene in October to assess the current situation and ongoing budget.

The Circuit has the following principal sources of funds:

- Assessments on Churches within the Circuit
- Grants from District (Nil this year)
- Contributions towards the cost of Lay Workers by Churches

These sums are used to administer the Circuit and to provide grants to Churches and individuals in the Circuit so that they may embark on or continue with projects that fulfil the mission of the Circuit by bringing more people to Christ or by providing facilities that might enable this to happen.

3.1 Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as custodian trustee for all real estate held by circuits and for all large (over £20K) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned by the Circuit. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE 100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates elsewhere. GVMC trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable to the Methodist Church.

The Circuit has no funds lodged with TMCP now.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest.

There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB. It is the Circuits policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the Circuit so that a rate of return on investment – both by way of dividend and capital appreciation is obtained at least as good as market rate considering the Circuits low appetite for risk. The interest rate achieved on CFB deposits has been at 0.68% for the year. The rate in August 2020 was 0.70%.

3.2 Reserves level and policy

At the September Circuit Meeting the following Reserve Policy was approved:

The minimum policy level of readily available part of the Circuits General Fund is such as to cover 4 months of the coming year's budget less the salary costs of the presbyters. This would be held 50% by the Circuit and 50% by the Churches in the Circuit. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and/or to be able, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

	2020-21	2019-20
Budget	£301,680	£318,354
Less Presbyters Salary Costs	£141.744	£137,067
	£111,564	£181,287
Reserve Level (4 Months)	£37,188	£60,429
Circuit	**£18,594**	**£30,215**
Churches	£18,594	£30,214

The reserves held at the end of the year were as follows:

Free Reserves	£
Total Funds	2,050,561
Less Designated Funds	12,720
Less Designated Manses Property Fund	1,987,856
Free Reserves	**49,985**

3.3 Collaborative arrangements with connected charities

The Circuit's main source of income was the assessments obtained from each church within the Circuit based on free will giving plus Gift Aid and on membership. Split 60% on income and 40% on membership worked on a three-year moving average. This was used to defray most of the cost of administering the Circuit. This sum amounted to £251,448 (2018-19 £245,532).

The Circuit holds no funds as custodian trustee. It does, however, receive monthly contributions from churches within the Circuit which are payable to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF). These sums are collected as agent for the MCF and are passed to the District within one month. Funds received by the Circuit as agent are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements because the funds are not within its control. No fee is earned in respect of this agency arrangement and the Circuit incurs no cost through this arrangement.

4 Trustees' responsibilities

4.1 Risk

The Circuit is largely risk averse but especially in making grants to entities embarking on new and imaginative initiatives, the Circuit is prepared to underwrite considerable risks.

Risks are managed by being aware of them, quantifying their impact not only in costs terms but in possible reputational or structural damage, laying them off through an insurer and minimising them by not taking them or by setting up control systems that timeously report any significant change in the risk.

4.2 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 Gordano Valley 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 Gordano Valley Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

5 Structure, governance, and management

The Circuit is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2nd December 2009.

5.1 Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of Churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made or ratified at the Circuit meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly synods. The Methodist conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and also is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits and Districts.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit meeting passes regulatory control down to church councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Circuit

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of the union the advancement of:

a. The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
b. Any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
c. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
d. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of the circuit is to advance the mission of the Church in the Gordano Valley area of North Somerset

- By providing opportunities for Churches to work together and support each other
- By offering to churches resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The Circuit serves the local churches and the District and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programs of training.

5.3 Governance

The Circuit operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that if follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Circuit.

Trustees are members of the Circuit meeting and are appointed as per the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, Standing order 510. The officers and representatives of the constitutive churches are elected from those respective churches. The circuit officers – namely Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Secretary, Property Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Local Preachers Secretary, and any other officers that may be appointed are nominated and elected by Circuit Meeting members.

The membership of the Circuit Leadership Team includes the ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Treasurer who are appointed by vote of the Circuit Meeting for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Superintendent Minister is *ex officio* chair of the CLT. When a position becomes vacant on the CLT nominations are invited from the ministers and lay members of the churches they represent. The Superintendent Minister then shares with them what the role involves. If they wish to be considered for the role, their names are taken to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

The CLT normally meets every two months and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It overseas the work of the Evangelism Enabler, finance, property, stationing, safeguarding and training.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Circuit Leadership Team

1. To formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in local churches and, in particular, to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist local churches having exceptional problems.
2. To encourage ecumenical co-operation.
3. To act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the Team by the Circuit Meeting.
4. To keep within its purview all circuit concerns not dealt with elsewhere.
5. To contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.
6. To be aware that the stipend of ministers is set currently by reference to the change over a year in the Consumer Price Index and to the annual change in the Average Weekly earnings index using a formula that was agreed by the Methodist Conference for all ministers within the Connexion.
7. Constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

6 Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the charity

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit, sometimes abbreviated to GVMC.

6.2 Charity registration number

1133077, registered in England and Wales on 2nd December 2009.

6.3 Principal Office

The Office
Christchurch
Chapel Hill
Clevedon
BS21 7LL

Tel. 01275 871483
www.gordanovalleymethodists.info

6.4 Superintendent Minister

Revd. Dr Russell Herbert

6.5 Circuit Treasurer

Mr David Graham White

6.6 Names of Trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2019-20 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

West Town/Backwell					
Mr B Kemmish	CH	To 31/8/2020	Mrs C Lomas	CH	
Mrs P Marchant	CH		Miss V Sowerby	CH	
Christchurch L.E.P.					
Mr D Eggleston	Add	To 31/8/2020	Rev R Herbert	Min	
Rev C Jennings	Min		Mrs K Dommett	CH	
Mrs M Sutherland	CS		Mr L Turner	CH	
Mr A Pett	CH				
Mr D G White	CT		Mr J Richards	CH	
Mrs C Gale	CMS		Mrs J McManus	CH	From 10/09/2019
Kenn Road, Clevedon					
Mrs J Bailey	CH	,	Mrs N Burge	CH	To 10/5/2020
Mrs S Roberts	CH	To 10/5/2020	Mr G Roberts	CT	
Mr C G Mills	CH		Mrs M Mills	CH	To 31/8/2020
Mrs S Lillington	CH	From 10/5/2020			
Nailsea					
Mr N Hardman	CS	.	Mr R Lancaster	CH	From 1/9/2020
Mrs J Payne	CH	To 31/8/2020	Mr P Todd	CH	
Mr A Emery	CH		Mrs M Emery	LP	
Mr D Markall	CH		Rev D Mallett	Min	
			Rev D Sharp	Sup	
Pill					
Mrs L Powell	CH				
Mr M Ferguson	CH	To 31/8/2020	Mrs E Marsh	CH	From 1/9/2019
Portishead					
Rev N Moxon	Min		Mrs S Clarke	Add	To 31/8/2020
Mr K Gathergood	CS		Rev B Hunt	Sup	
Mrs J Morris-Thurgood	CH		Rev P Mortlock	Sup	
Mrs B Thompson	CH		Rev Ann Owen	Sup	From 1/9/2019
Rev Heather Noel-Smith	Sup				
Redcliffe Bay					
Mr D Uncles	CH	From 18/9/2019	Mrs S Mason	CH	

Rev D Harris	Sup		Mrs J Clote(Davis)	CH	
Yatton					
Mr T R Calderbank	CH		Rev I Bowley	Sup	
Mr M Buckley	Add		Mr R Eeles	CH	
Mr A Williams	CS	To 10/2/2020	Mr A Osborne	CH	To 31/8/2020
Mrs A Hawkins	CH		Rev J Flowers	Min	
Rev A Price	Sup		Mr K Woodman	CS	From 10/2/2020
Mrs B Hook	Add	From 15/5/2020	Mr B Patch	CH	From 1/9/2020

Reference

Add	Additional Member	CH	Church Steward/Rep.	CMS	Circuit Meeting Secretary
CS	Circuit Steward	CT	Circuit treasurer	MIN	Minister
LP	Local Preachers Rep.	Sup	Supernumerary Minister		

6.7 Superintendent Minister's PA

Mrs. Kathryn McManus-Jones

6.8 Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC 89 High Street Weston-super-Mare North Somerset BS23 1HJ	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE

6.9 Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

6.10 Independent Examiner

Geoffrey Speirs FCA
ICAEW
Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

7 Approval

The trustees report was approved by the board of trustees on 15th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert — David Graham White

Date — Date

Name of Circuit: Gordano Valley

Circuit Number: 07/15

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

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total 2019-20	Total 2018-19
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable Activities - Assessment on churches	2	251,448		251,448	245,532
Income from charitable activities - lettings				0	0
Investments			407	407	359
Grants	3				
Other Income	4	51,785	500	52,285	43,964
Total Income and Endowments		**303,233**	**907**	**304,140**	**289,855**
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Management of the Circuit;					
Grants and donations	5	5,015	491	5,506	5,760
Salaries and associated costs	6	205,650		205,650	210,613
Property	9	14,478	12,434	26,912	16,978
Office Expenses		4,494		4,494	3,847
District Assessment	10	52,046		52,046	48,132
Other outgoings		1,506		1,506	2,719
Total charitable expenditure		**283,189**	**12,925**	**296,114**	**288,049**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		20,044	-12,018	8,026	1,806
Transfers between funds		-13,000	13,000		
Reclassification of funds					
Other gains/losses					
Net movement of funds		**7,044**	**982**	**8,026**	**1,806**
Total funds brought forward		42,941	1,990,145	2,042,535	2,040,729
Total funds carried forward		**49,985**	**1,991,127**	**2,050,561**	**2,042,535**

Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Circuit Number: 07/15

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			
		General	Designated Funds	Totals 2020	Totals 2019
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Circuit Manses	BS1		1,987,856	1,987,856	1,987,856
Total fixed assets		**0**	**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**	**1,987,856**
Current Assets					
Debtors	BS2	20,083		20,083	19,775
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	51,783	12,720	64,503	60,497
Cash at Bank and in hand	BS3	3,732		3,732	-186
Total current assets		**75,598**	**12,720**	**88,318**	**80,086**
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	BS4	25,613		25,613	25,407
Net Current assets/liabilities		49,985	12,720	62,705	54,679
Total assets less current liabilities		**49,985**	**2,000,576**	**2,050,561**	**2,042,535**
Creditors and Accruals including any loans (due after more than 1 year)					
Net assets		49,985	2,000,576	2,050,561	2,042,535
Funds of the Circuit	BS5				
General fund (Unrestricted)		49,985			42,941
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)					
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			2,000,576		1,999,594
Total Unrestricted Funds		**49,985**	**2,000,576**	**2,050,561**	**2,042,535**
Restricted Funds					
Total Funds		**49,985**	**2,000,576**	**2,050,561**	**2,042,535**

Approval

The financial statements were approved by the Circuit Board of Trustees on 15th March 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Revd Dr Russell Herbert

David Graham White

Date

Date

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

I. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities Preparing their Accounts in Accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

II. Public benefit entity

The Gordano Valley Methodist circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

III. Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

IV. Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

V. Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern. However, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have a profound impact on the global economy and may in turn affect the charity. The trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. The charity holds unrestricted, general reserves of £49,985 and designated reserves that can be drawn down if necessary of £12,720. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

VI. Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

VII. Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement, and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more than likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as agent in the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds"

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or Churches as appropriate. Instead, the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts.

In accordance with the charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

VIII. Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

IX. VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

X. Tangible fixed assets

a. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.
b. The Freehold property (4 manses) are valued at deemed cost of £1,945,000, as at 1st September 2015 by professional valuation, plus subsequent additions at a cost of £42,856.
c. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residential fair value of the manse building (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year end) to be not less than its cost to date. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.
d. The Circuit makes use of the deemed cost transitional provisions of FRS102 SORP2015.

XI. Basic Financial Instruments

The charity has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

XII. Debtors and Creditors

a. Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.
b. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will normally result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

XIII. Short term liquid investments and cash

Cash at bank is held to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due rather than for investment purposes and includes all cash equivalents held in the form of short-term highly liquid investments. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value

XIV. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against circuits and these are paid monthly to their districts. The circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church.

XV. Funds

The funds held constitute:
General Funds held for any charitable purpose of the Circuit which are unrestricted.

Designated funds held for specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone.

XVI. Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, council Tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of ministers.

XVII. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

2 Assessment on Churches

The Circuit comprises 8 churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment the budgeted income from investment income and property letting, confirmed external grants and contribution from churches towards the cost of lay employees is considered. The Circuit aims to cover all its core costs from the assessment.

An Assessment on churches is annually determined by the Circuit using a formulaic method which takes into account the relative number of members in each church and its freewill giving plus gift aid receipts. Assessments on churches are monthly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date the sum in question is treated as a debtor.

3 Grants Received

No grants were received by the circuit during this period.

4

Other income comprises the following:	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Contribution from churches towards lay workers	51,481	43,660
Contribution for private use of telephone and broadband by Ministers	304	304
Contribution to fencing at Clevedon Manse	500	
Total Other income	52,285	43,964

5 Grants and Donations

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that payment is probable.

The Circuit Meeting has approved the following payments to Connexional Funds from Circuit funds:

Bristol Methodist Centre	£800
Methodist Fund for Property	£2,375
Methodist Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons	£1,140
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Fund	£700

In addition, the Circuit transfers £62.50 per quarter to its Mission Fund and grants totalling £491 to two groups were made in the year.

6 Stipends and Salaries and Associated Costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:	**2019/20**	**2018/19**
	£	**£**
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	156,664	156,577
Employer's National Insurance costs	12,009	12,325
Pension costs	28,918	29,369
Other employment costs	8,059	12,667
Total Staff Costs	**205,650**	**210,613**

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. The holiday year ends on 31 August 2020. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

	2019/20	2018/19
Total number of staff	7	10
Full time equivalent	6.33	7.5

4 trustees are presbyters of the Circuit in receipt of a salary, costs of £137,994 (2019 - £133,516), travel costs of £3,472 (2019 - £4,536), telephone costs of £2,630 (2019 - £2,976) and training of £150 (2019 - £960).

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

On the other hand lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with NEST. This is a defined benefit scheme and the Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

The Connexion accounts for both pension schemes and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for the removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented.

7 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting, this excludes stipends.

	2019/20	2018/19
Number of Trustees	1	1
Total amount	£41	£39

Trustee expenses

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel and stationery costs

8 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2019/20 £	2018/19 £
Independent examiner's for reporting on the accounts	2,496	2,424
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor: Accountancy Software	137	121

9 Property Expenses

The Circuit is the Managing Trustee for 4 manses which are occupied by ministers stationed in the Circuit. The circuit is responsible for the payment of Council tax, water charges and insurance.

The cost of ongoing maintenance and improvements to all properties is funded through a Designated 'Manse Maintenance Fund' and a transfer of £3,000 p.a. per manse is made from the General Fund, Interest received from Central Finance Board Deposit is credited to this account. The level of transfer is reviewed by the trustees each year. The work outstanding at Clevedon last year to reconfigure the front steps and install a handrail is still to be completed. Sundry work in the kitchen and a replacement cooker at Nailsea manse. To assist the family at Portishead a stud wall was removed and at Yatton attention was given to the shower and replacing a gas fire which had ended its permitted life.

10 District Assessment

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the proportion of Church members and staffing (Presbyters and lay staff f.t.e., less administrative staff) of all Circuits in the Bristol District. 50% of the overall cost is calculated using relative membership proportions and 50% using relative staffing proportions.

11 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total 2018-19
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable Activities - Assessment on churches	2	245,532		245,532
Income from charitable activities - lettings				0
Investments			359	359
Grants	3			
Other Income	4	43,964		43,964
Total Income and Endowments		**289,496**	**359**	**289,855**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Management of the Circuit;				
Grants and donations	5	4,894	866	5,760
Salaries and associated costs	6	210,613		210,613
Property	9	13,934	3,044	16,978
Office Expenses		3,847		3,847
District Assessment	10	48,132		48,132
Other outgoings		2,719		2,719
Total charitable expenditure		**284,139**	**3,910**	**288,049**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		5,357	-3,551	1,806
Transfers between funds		-13,000	13,000	
Net movement of funds		**-7,643**	**9,449**	**1,806**
Total funds brought forward		50,584	1,990,145	2,040,729
Total funds carried forward		**42,941**	**1,999,594**	**2,042,535**

BS1 Manses & Other Property

Buildings comprise of 4 manses located in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton and were professionally valued to determine deemed cost as at 31 August 2015.

	Property
Cost or valuation	
Balance brought forward on 1 September, at cost	1.987,856
Balance carried forward	1,987,856

BS2 Debtors and Prepayments

	General	Designated	Total 2020	2019
Prepayments				
Stipends, Pension & NI	11,808		11,808	11,494
Insurance	1,881		1,881	1,811
Council Tax	5,856		5,856	5,600
Other prepayments	538		538	870
Totals	**20,083**		**20,083**	**19,775**

BS3 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at National Westminster Bank plc are all available on demand without loss of interest. The split of these balances across General and Designated Funds is arbitrary but wherever possible balances are not shown as negative.

	General	Designated	Total 2020	2019
Central Finance Board	51,783	12,720	64,503	60,497
National Westminster Bank plc	3,732		3,732	-186
Totals	**55,515**	**12,720**	**68,235**	**60,311**

BS4 Creditors, Accruals, and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued as at 31st August 2020 will be paid during the year to 31st August 2021.

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit
Notes to the accounts for year ending 31 August 2020

	General	Designated	Total 2020	2019
Income in advance				
Assessments in advance	16,894		16,894	16,788
Creditors and Accruals				
Accountancy cost	2,500		2,500	2,500
Accounts payable	5,991		5,991	5,911
Others	228		228	208
Totals	**25,613**	**0**	**25,613**	**25,407**

BS5 Summary of fund movements

Fund	Balance at 31/9/2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Balance at 31/8/2020
General	42,941	303,233	-283,189	-13,000		49,985
Designated -Manse maintenance	9,782	907	-12,434	12,000		10,255
Designated - Mission	1,206		-491	250		965
Designated - Stationing	750			750		1,500
Designated Manses Property	1,987,856					1,987,856
Total General and designated	**2,042,535**	**304,140**	**-296,114**	**0**	**0**	**2,050,561**
Total funds	**2,042,535**	**304,140**	**-296,114**	**0**	**0**	**2,050,561**

Manse Maintenance – Receives quarterly transfers of £3,000 from the General Fund based on the number of manses and against this is charged routine maintenance, repairs and as the need arises, and renovation of fittings. The cost of quinquennial inspections is also charged to this fund.

Mission Fund – Receives quarterly transfers of £62.50 from the General Fund and against this, grants are made to Churches, groups or individuals for the furtherance of the Circuits mission within the Gordano Valley Circuit.

Manses Property Fund

This fund represents fair value of manses held by the Circuit.

BS5a Comparatives for movements in funds

Fund	Balance at 31/9/2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Balance at 31/8/2019
General	50,584	289,496	-284,139	-13,000		42,941
Designated -Manse maintenance	467	359	-3044	12,000		9,782
Designated - Mission	1,822		-866	250		1,206
Designated - Stationing				750		750
Designated Manses Property	1,987,856					1,987,856
Total General and designated	**2,040,729**	**289,855**	**-288,049**	**0**	**0**	2,042,535
Total funds	**2,040,729**	**289,855**	**-288049**	**0**	**0**	**2,042,535**

BS6 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	General	Designated	Total 2020
Tangible fixed assets	0	1,987,856	1,987,856
Investments			
Current Assets	75,598	12,720	88,318
Current liabilities	-25,613		-25,613
Creditors due after one year			
Totals	**49,985**	**2,000,576**	**2,050,561**

BS6a Comparative analysis of net assets between funds.

	General	Designated	Total 2019
Tangible fixed assets	0	1,987,856	1,987,856
Investments			0
Current Assets	67,720	12,424	80,144
Current liabilities	-24,436	-971	-25,407
Creditors due after one year			0
Totals	**43,284**	**1,999,309**	**2,042,593**

BS7 Connected Organisations and Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations direct to the Circuit during the year or the preceding year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees in their Churches.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, the Bristol District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the Circuit has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over the Circuit. They are therefore, not considered related parties.

Funds handled on behalf of others.
None of the figures tabulated below appear elsewhere in these accounts.

Names of related parties	Party	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments	Balance due(from)/to the Circuit at 31/8/2020
JMA	Connexion	88	88		
World Mission Fund	Connexion	1,220	1,220		
Mission in Britain Fund	Connexion	627	627		
Totals		**1,935**	**1,935**	**0**	**0**

BS8 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Circuit the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Circuit that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Circuit to value the non-monetary contributions to the Circuit in monetary terms.

BS9 Independent Examiner

An accrual of £2,500 has been made for the fee of the Independent Examiner.

The Independent Examiner provided Accounting software services during the year.

The Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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 statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity 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 other than that set out below 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.

Matter of concern identified

The Trustees' view on the impact of Covid-19 is disclosed on page 3 of the Trustees' Report and in the accounting policies note. However, not all future events or conditions can be predicted. The Covid-19 viral pandemic is one of the most significant economic events for the UK with unprecedented levels of uncertainty of outcomes. It is therefore difficult to evaluate all of the potential implications on the charity.

Geoffrey Speirs FCA G.P. Speirs

ICAEW
Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants
Bath House
6-8 Bath Street
Bristol
BS1 6HL

Date 1 March 2021