

**Trustees' Annual Report for the period 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023**  
**Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit**

**Objectives and activities**

The purposes of the Methodist Church are the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and 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.

**The mission statement of TDSS Circuit is** 'To be Pilgrim People – on a journey: honouring God, sharing our faith, respecting and helping all.'

Our circuit priorities: worked out through the Circuit Meeting and the Circuit Leadership Team are:

- God-centred worship and prayer
- Action to help where there is need
- Developing confidence to share our faith with others
- Encouraging fresh ways of being church
- Care, respect, inclusion and love for all
- Belief that we have a future

The Circuit acts as an umbrella body for the 7 Methodist Churches, which fall within the Circuit's area. The Circuit produces a quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place at each of those 7 churches. These are open to all people without charge.

**Achievements and Performance.**

The trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular their guidance on charities for the advancement of religion, when planning their activities. The actions taken by the circuit meet the requirement for there to be an identifiable public benefit or benefits and that such benefit is to the public or a section of the public.

During the 2022/23 financial year the Circuit has used its funds raised from the churches in the following ways:

- Our ministers together with local preachers provide regular Sunday worship in our churches. Such services are freely available to their local communities and every effort is made to make the experience of worship welcoming and meaningful to visitors.
- The Circuit encourages its churches to regularly review their position in their communities, and envision new ways of engaging and connecting with new people.
- The Circuit has provided courses for those requiring Safeguarding training, and has ensured that DBS checks have been completed for those whose voluntary posts require them. The Circuit has adopted and regularly reviews its Safeguarding Policy - covering both children and vulnerable adults - and has ensured that each church regularly reviews its own Policy.
- The Circuit continues to support local churches in their work with young people.
- The Circuit has carried out its oversight of the churches through 4 meetings of the Circuit

- There is a regular review process carried out by the Leadership Team to ensure that the Charity is fulfilling its objectives.
- Risks to the Circuit are considered by the Circuit Leadership Team (\*see below) who oversee the day to day running of the charity and report to the full meeting of Trustees. Professional advice is taken as required.
- A Church and Community worker is employed by one of the churches, to manage the lettings of the building, to engage with the local community, and to support the minister in the day to day life of the church.
- An Administrator is employed by the Circuit to assist the churches in their publicity, to respond to requests from the District, and to support the Staff team and CLT.
- The Circuit continues to prioritise the commitments of Our Calling and A Methodist Way of Life as it encourages its members to grow in discipleship and share God's love in their contexts.
- The Circuit supports its churches in Circuit accreditations, including recognition as a Real Living Wage Employer, developing its work with Citizens Somerset, and working towards application as an EcoCircuit.
- The Circuit continues to work, as one of the Founder member institutions of Citizens Somerset, to support the campaigns and actions of the local chapter, and more members are engaged in the three action groups.

### **Financial review**

During the year the Circuit received total receipts of £138,602 (year end 2022 £135,241.00) and dispersed £160,538 (year end 2022 £144,478.00)

The trustees of the Circuit have oversight of the finances held, and the assessments required from the churches. Each church continues to meet their assessment.

The Circuit currently holds 5 freehold properties, 2 being used to house the Ministers of the Circuit and 3 being rented out to supplement the income produced by assessment. Expenses on manses and let properties has been high this year. At the time of this report, one of the previously let properties has been put up for sale and we are moving towards a successful outcome. Proceeds from this sale will support Circuit reserves for the next few years.

The Circuit has the following principal sources of funds:

- Assessments on Churches within the Circuit
- Interest on investments
- Rents paid for the additional properties owned and rented out.

These sums are used primarily to cover the various expenses of the Circuit budget, including the ministers' stipends.

### **Reserves Policy**

- The Reserves Policy for the Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Circuit is to hold liquid assets equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and to be able to continue in the short term funding planned activities in the event of the closure of a large church or an inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.
- It is necessary to hold sufficient working capital to enable the quarterly payment of stipends and business expenses for 2 paid ministers, to fund any lay workers, and to cover our contribution to the District and the Connexion.
- Details of funds materially in deficit. There are none.

## **Structure governance and management**

### **Description of the charity's trusts**

<i>Type of governing document</i>	Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
<i>How the charity is constituted</i>	Act of Parliament
<i>Trustee selection methods</i>	Appointed by local churches and existing trustees. Ministers are automatically trustees
<i>Additional governance issues</i>	None
<i>Induction/Training</i>	A range of guidance is produced by Methodist Connexion. Leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to each trustee.
<i>Structure</i>	Part of the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District. Accountable to the Methodist Conference.
<i>Related Parties</i>	None

### **Reference and administration details**

<i>Charity Name</i>	Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit.
<i>Registered Charity Number</i>	1133126.
<i>Charity's Principal Address</i>	36 Craig Lea, Taunton, TA2 7SY (Superintendent's home address)

#### *Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity.*

The Charity Trustees are the members of the Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Circuit Meeting. This comprised during the year of this report.

*Rev Deborah Kirk	*Peter Thomas
*Rev Annie Deche	*Carol Stowe
*Richard Sillett	*Ian Rossiter
Michelle Noble	Joanne Pinguenet
Francis Lewis	Chris Downing
Marlene Burnell	*Elaine Dew
Gillian Flick	Janet Sillett
Merlyn Brown	Roy Crouch
Sue Parker	*Jane Allin
Margaret Walters	Barbara Poole
Valerie Pearson	Kevin Boseley
John Haines	*Joanne Rossiter
Graham Dickinson	Rev Anthony Huxtable

Christopher Mitchell	Rev Robin Hutt
Lynda Kazer	Rev Tony Cox
David Clitheroe	Rev Michael Parsons
Anne Jordan	Elaine Banks
Hazel Jordan	Denise Eggington
Glenys Allinson	Diana Atkinson

\* indicates a member of the Circuit Leadership Team, who as a group manage the Circuit between full Circuit Meetings.

*Custodian trustees*

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Manchester

### **Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Full name(s)	Deborah Mary Kirk	Natalie Knight
Position	Superintendent Minister	Circuit Secretary
Date	06.06.24	

Appended to this report is the Statement of Financial Activity for the year concerned together with the Balance Sheet at year end.

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

TAUNTON DEANE AND SOUTH SEDGEMOOR	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2023**

PLYMOUTH AND EXETER	District	Circuit no	24/15
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**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

1133126

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

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

Ministers:

Rev Deborah Kirk
Rev Annie Deche

Circuit Stewards:

Carol Stowe
Ian Rossiter
Elaine Dew

Treasurer:

Peter Thomas
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SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		108,874			108,874	105,427
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,295	0	952	2,247	261
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		27,481			27,481	29,553
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>137,650</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>138,602 (a8)</b>	<b>135,241</b>

SECTION B							
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		86,422			86,422	82,396
b3	Manse Costs		27,450			27,450	15,435
b4	Administration etc		7,494			7,494	2,863
b5	District Assessment		27,853	2		27,855	30,038
b6	Grants & donations		6,500			6,500	2,500
b7							
b8	Other payments		4,659		158	4,817	11,247
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>160,378</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>160,538 (b9)</b>	<b>144,478</b>

SECTION C							
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a7-b9)	(22,728)	(2)	794	(21,936)	(9,237)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		60,146	98	41,457	101,701 (c6)	110,938
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	<b>37,418</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>42,251</b>	<b>79,765</b>	<b>101,701</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments		20,823	(96)	(20,727)		
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>58,241</b>		<b>21,524</b>	<b>79,765 (c8)</b>	<b>101,701 (c6)</b>

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

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

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

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	138,602 (a8)	160,538 (b9)	(21,936)	(c7)	101,701 (c6)	79,765 (c8)
e10	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT</b>					
	138,602	160,538	(21,936)		101,701 (x)	79,765 (y)
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			

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

**SECTION F**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	9,452	7,322
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	51,015	51,251
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	41,234	21,191
f6 Other funds		
f7 <b>SUB TOTAL</b>	101,701 (c6)	79,765 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 <b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT</b>	101,701 (x)	79,765 (y)

**SECTION G**

**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,668,635	
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *Pete J Thomas* Date 26/10/23

Name and address of treasurer Peter Thomas.....  
8 Irwell Green,  
TAUNTON, Somerset ..... Post Code TA1 2TA

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 5/10/23

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Deborah Kirk*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Deborah Kirk Date XX / 10/23

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

### Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor

Charity Number 1133126

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 5. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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



### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *David Hawkings*

Name of independent examiner David Hawkings

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner C Math

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address 5 Hither Acre

ILMINSTER, Somerset

Post Code TA19 9DA

Date 4/10/23