

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 01/09/2023 – 31/08/24
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 2023/24 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. Churches each provide a report to the Circuit meeting of their work and mission throughout the year, and these are taken into account as we assess the health of the Circuit.
- The Circuit has provided courses for those requiring Safeguarding training, and has ensured that DBS checks have been completed for those whose 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 Circuit Meetings.
- 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, and working towards becoming 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 to build its core team. Members of the Circuit are engaged in the three action groups.
- Several members of the Circuit have engaged with the Faith Rooted Community Organising Training offered through the Connexion, and are finding ways to link FRCO and Citizens in a helpful and accessible way.

Financial review

During the year the Circuit received total receipts of £444,193 (year end 2023 £138,002) and dispersed £254,450 (year end 2023 £160,538)

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 4 freehold properties, 2 being used to house the Ministers of the Circuit and 2 being rented out to supplement the income produced by assessment. Since last year's report, one rented property was sold and the proceeds from the sale are supporting Circuit reserves.

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
*Elaine Dew	*Ian Rossiter
*Jane Allin	*Joanne Rossiter
Gillian Flick	Chris Downing
Merlyn Brown	Janet Sillett
Joanne Pinguenet	Roy Crouch
Sue Parker	Barbara Poole
Margaret Walters	Kevin Boseley

Valerie Pearson	Denise Eggington
Francis Lewis	Michelle Noble
Marlene Burnell	Hazel Jordan
Lynda Kazer	Graham Dickinson
Christopher Mitchell	Anne Jordan
David Clitheroe	Glenys Allinson
Elaine Banks	John Haines
Rev Tony Cox	Rev Michael Parsons
Rev Anthony Huxtable	Rev Robin Hutt
Diana Atkinson	

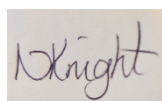
* indicates a member of the Circuit Leadership Team, who as a group manage the Circuit between full Circuit Meetings.

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 24/06/2025

24/06/2025

Appended to this report is the Statement of Financial Activity for the year concerned

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

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

1133126

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

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

Ministers:

Rev Deborah Kirk
Rev Annie Deche

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs Carol Stowe - Senior steward
Mr Ian Rossiter
Mrs Elaine Dew

Treasurer:

Rev. Peter Thomas

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024

Taunton Deane and South
Sedgemoor Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		107,040			107,040	108,874
a3	Capital receipts			309,049		309,049	
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,830	1,009	711	3,550	2,247
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		24,484		70	24,554	27,481
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		133,353	310,058	782	444,193 (a8)	138,602

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		83,389			83,389	86,422
b3	Manse Costs		10,670			10,670	27,450
b4	Administration etc		14,790		60	14,851	7,494
b5	District Assessment		27,944			27,944	27,855
b6	Grants & donations		2,200			2,200	6,500
b7	CPF levy			99,620		99,620	
b8	Other payments		15,777			15,777	4,817
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		154,770	99,620	60	254,450 (b9)	160,538

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(21,417)	210,439	721	189,743	(21,936)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		58,241		21,524	79,765 (c6)	101,701
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	36,824	210,439	22,245	269,508	79,765
c4	Transfers and adjustments		10,651		(10,651)		
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	47,475	210,439	11,594	269,508 (c8)	79,765 (c6)

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

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

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

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
c1						
c2						
c3						
c4						
c5						
c6						
c7						
c8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
c9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	444,193 (a8)	254,450 (b9)	189,743	(c7)	79,765 (c6)	269,508 (c8)
c10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	444,193	254,450	189,743		79,765 (x)	269,508 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward					
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	7,322	3,768
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	51,251	44,039
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	21,191	221,700
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	79,765 (c6)	269,508 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	79,765 (x)	269,508 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		1,499,885
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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

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

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer *Peter Thomas* Date 16th Oct 2024

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 2024 will be presented to the Circuit meeting held on Decedmber 12th 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Deborah Kirk*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Deborah Kirk Date October 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Circuit

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 2024 set out on pages 1 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *D Hawkings*

Name of independent examiner David Hawkings

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner C Math

Name of firm (where appropriate) n/a

Address 5 Hither Acre, ILMINSTER

..... Post Code TA19 9DA

Date 15th October 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate