

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 01/09/2024 – 31/08/25
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 2024/25 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 £150,338 (year end 2024 £444,193) and dispersed £169,421 (year end 2024 £254,450)

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.

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	Jill Darby
*Rev Annie Deche	Anne Jordan
*Carol Stowe	Christopher Mitchell
*Ian Rossiter	Lynda Kazer
*Elaine Dew	Margaret Walters
*Rev Peter Thomas	Barbara Poole
Diana Atkinson	Kevin Boseley
Hazel Jordan	Stephen Wright
Graham Dickinson	Merlyn Brown

Gillian Flick	Joanne Pinguenet
Chris Downing	Marlene Burnell
Francis Lewis	*Joanne Rossiter
Michelle Noble	Denise Eggington
Roy Crouch	John Haines
*Jane Allin	Elaine Banks
Sue Parker	David Clitheroe
Valerie Pearson	*Joanne Rossiter
Rev Robin Hutt	

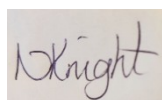
* indicates a member of the Circuit Leadership Team, who as a group manage the Circuit between full Circuit Meetings.

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 24/06/2026

24/06/2026

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	15/37
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025**

South West Peninsula	District	Circuit no	15/37
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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:

Ian Rossiter
Carol Stowe
Elaine Dew

Treasurer:

Rev Peter Thomas

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

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		112,101		112,101	107,040
a3	Capital receipts					309,049
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,140	9,690	10,919	3,550
a5	Grants		1,000		1,000	
a6	Other receipts		26,318		26,318	24,554
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		140,559	9,690	150,338 (a8)	444,193

SECTION B		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		96,071		96,071	83,389
b3	Manse Costs		11,268		11,268	10,670
b4	Administration etc		4,878	684	5,598	14,851
b5	District Assessment		31,336	8,022	39,358	27,944
b6	Grants & donations		4,500		4,500	2,200
b7	transfer					99,620
b8	Other payments		12,588	38	12,626	15,777
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		160,641	8,706	169,421 (b9)	254,450

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(20,082)	984	15	(19,083)	189,743
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		47,475	210,439	11,594	269,508 (c6)	79,765
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	27,393	211,422	11,609	250,425	269,508
c4	Transfers and adjustments		11,609		(11,609)	0 (c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	39,002	211,422		250,425 (c8)	269,508 (c6)

SECTION D		Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
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 2025 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
a1						
a2						
a3						
a4						
a5						
a6						
a7						
a8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	(e12)
a9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)					
	150,338 (a8)	169,421 (b9)	(19,083)	0 (c7)	269,508 (c6)	250,425 (c8)
a10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT					
	150,338	169,421	(19,083)	0	269,508 (x)	250,425 (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 2025

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1		
f2	3,768	6322.21
f3		
f4	44,039	32680.23
f5	221,700	211422.48
f6		
f7	269,508 (c6)	250,425 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	269,508 (x)	250,425 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1		
g2	1,499,885	
g3		
g4		
g5		

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)

Name of Circuit ...Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor ... No...15/37.

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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 Oct 2025

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 2025 will be presented to the Circuit meeting held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Deborah Kirk*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Deborah Kirk Date

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

Name of Circuit ...Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor No ...15/37....

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner 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 16th October 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

