



**Plymouth & Exeter District**  
of the Methodist Church



**ASHBURTON**



# **TEIGNBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**



## **Annual Report 2024/25**



## ***Teignbridge Methodist Circuit – 2024/25***



The Teignbridge Methodist Circuit comprises twelve Church Councils, of which Ashburton covers more than one location. The Churches are arranged in four sections as follows:

- **Moorland:** Ashburton, Bovey Tracey, Buckfast and South Brent Methodist Churches
- **Newton Abbot:** The Avenue Church (Methodist with United Reformed) and Shaldon Road Methodist Church.
- **Coastal:** Bishopsteignton, Dawlish, Shaldon and Teignmouth Methodist Churches.
- **Totnes:** Ipplepen and Totnes Methodist Churches

### **Circuit Leadership Team:**

Paid ministers (ordained and lay), with pastoral responsibility/charge during 2024-25

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Rev. Kevin Hooke | • Rev Helen Bell   |
| • Rev. Gill Daniel | • Ms Sharon Hurlow |

### **Circuit Stewards**

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Mr. John Harrison  | • Ms Sheila Bendall     |
| • Mr. Andrew Parsons | • Mrs Nichola Quintence |

**Local Lay Pastor (in training):** Ms Sara Crouch

**Circuit Pastoral Worker:** Mrs Sharon Canning

**Circuit Administrator:** Ms Kay Fice

**Supernumerary Ministers:** In total there are six supernumerary (retired) ministers in the Teignbridge Methodist Circuit, four of whom regularly preach in the circuit's churches.

## Trustees —2024/25

'Trustees serving during the year with specific responsibilities were as follows'

Chair: Rev Kevin Peter Hooke  
 Secretary: Ms Sharon Ann Hurlow  
 Treasurer: Mr John Harrison

### Full list of Trustees

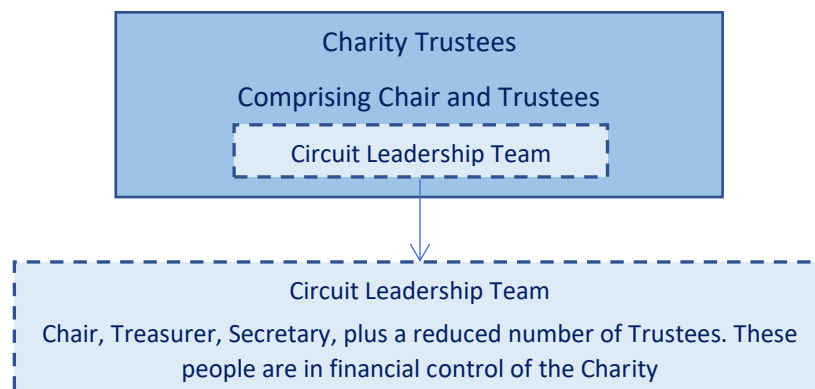
Maria Jeanne	Alsop
Denys Henry	Bament
Marianne Patricia	Barrett Rogers
Arthur Michael	Barrett Rogers
Sheila Margaret	Bendall
Helen Since 1 Sep 2024	Bell
Malcolm John	Benton
Anne Margaret	Berridge
Jane Since 1 Mar 2025	Billing
Jennifer	Bonner
Christian Dafydd Huw Vincent	Canning
Sharon Mildred	Canning
Vincent Graham	Canning
Sara Since 1 Sep 2024	Crouch
Gill Margaret	Daniel
Rosemarie Ann	Dungey
Jill Mary	Elliott
Kay Elizabeth	Fice
Jean	Francis
Ann Rosemary	Golpin
Gillian Elsie	Hardy
Stephen John	Harris
John	Harrison
Jane Ended	Holmes
Geoffrey Martin Kenneth Since 15 Sep 2025	Hobbs
Kevin Peter	Hooke

Carol Ended	Hughes
Sharon Ann	Hurlow
Alan Albert	Johnston
Duncan Alexander	Knight
Stephen Paul	Major
Agnes McKee	McFeat
Alexander Wright	McFeat
Carol Ann	Morgan
Andrew Russell	Parsons
Arthur James Since 1 Sep 2024	Pengelly
Nichola Mary	Quaintance
Rosemary	Quin
Jean Lilian Ann	Sabine
Andrew David	Sinden
Edward John	Stephenson
Patricia May	Stephenson
Patsy Gladys	Tidball
Margaret Helen	Vosper
Serena Anne	Walcot
John	Walton
Paul Stephen Ended	Weir
Anne-Marie Ended	Whiting

## Financial Responsibility

A sub set of the Trustees are set apart to form a group of people who are in financial control of the Charity, with responsibility for the day to day finances, banking and handling of money and assets. The sub set is known locally as “The Circuit Leadership Team”.

Trustees who are not part of the sub set cannot personally, or by their own actions, access or give any direct instructions about Charity money or assets. They can only influence the work of the Charity through full meetings of the Trustees where decisions are by majority vote, whereupon the decisions are passed to the Circuit Leadership Team for implementation.



## Objectives and Activities

We understand that we are not engaging in our mission, but rather participating in God’s mission to all people, in partnership with others and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We also understand that mission is all that we are sent to do by Christ. It includes not only evangelism but also service to our communities, pursuit of social justice and concern for the environment. We are to be signs of and sharers in the Kingdom of God and its values.

We understand that we live with the tensions of being both an inherited church and a 'discipleship movement shaped for mission' and that we need to work creatively with the opportunities and challenges this brings.

As a Circuit we believe that it is therefore our responsibility:

- To manage our resources strategically and prayerfully, to maximise their effectiveness;
- To support the churches in fulfilling their own mission strategies and objectives.

To do so we will:

- Conduct periodic Circuit Reviews to determine the greatest opportunities for growth and outreach

- Maintain appropriate levels of ordained and lay staffing, seeking grant funding as necessary, and deploying them in line with the identified opportunities for growth
- Maintain a balanced Circuit Budget
- Develop appropriate strategic ecumenical partnerships at Circuit level
- Foster Circuit identity and cohesion through Circuit Services and the sharing of information
- Work in partnership with neighbouring Circuits to use resources and expertise efficiently and effectively
- Encourage and support differing expressions of worship alongside traditional forms
- Group churches in ways which encourage the most effective partnerships between them for mission
- Encourage churches to work closely with their own ecumenical partners
- Provide Circuit opportunities for growth in discipleship and missional understanding
- Develop and maintain relationships with other services and organisations serving the wellbeing of our communities

## Achievements and Performance —2024/25

During the year 2024-25 Teignbridge Methodist Circuit continued to provide ministerial leadership to its churches. It gave a significant grant as a partner in the ROC project at Dawlish and one smaller donation to support Ivybridge YFC.

In September 2024, the Circuit welcomed Rev. Helen Bell as minister to the coastal section on a part-time basis, and Sharon Hurlow took over ministry at Bovey Tracey Methodist Church, as well as taking on other duties. The Superintendent Minister also became the Superintendent of the neighbouring South Devon Circuit at the same time, alongside his role as one of the Deputy Chairs of District.

In the autumn of 2024, the South Devon Circuit Meeting voted to make an approach to merge the two Circuits from September 2026, and the Teignbridge Circuit Meeting then in Spring 2025 formally agreed to explore the practicalities and potential of such a merger. The two Circuit Leadership Teams have then been meeting regularly to work at this. Whatever the eventual outcome, there are now joint staff and Local Preachers'/Worship Leaders' meetings.

The Spring 2025 meeting of Church Stewards and Treasurers continued to recognise the financial pressures on the local churches and, as well as agreeing the budget for 2025-26, appointed a sustainability group to look at creating greater viability in the Circuit.

During the year, the Circuit maintained the weekly Sunday Zoom service, which continued as an embedded part of the Circuit's life and witness, enabling a number of people to

attend worship at times when they cannot get to a church building. It also maintained its Circuit plan, allocating Local Arrangement services as equitably as possible across the churches (recognising that some already take responsibility for parts of their worshipping life), and encouraging the skills of local church members in organising and taking part in Local Arrangements. The Circuit continues to encourage and support developing ecumenical connections in many places, but particularly at Ashburton, Bishopsteignton and Ipplepen, alongside the formal L.E.P. with the United Reform Church at The Avenue .

The Circuit has also managed its properties, both those used for Manses and one that is rented out. It continues to use the revenue from the latter to support its ongoing activities. The Circuit continued to take seriously its responsibilities in safeguarding and GDPR matters and to support its Churches to do the same. The Circuit continues to review its Safeguarding policy annually in line with the changing requirements and guidance of the Methodist Church, engages in an annual Safeguarding audit, and supports its local Churches in several ways:

- providing templates for their own policies,
- overseeing DBS and training records,
- offering templates for role descriptions,
- the availability of the Circuit Safeguarding Officer for advice.

In line with Methodist requirements, all those leading worship on the Circuit plan (worship leaders and preachers) have undertaken advanced safeguarding training (either through the Methodist Church or at an equivalent level in the case of some of our regular visitors from our partner denominations).

## Public Benefit

Throughout the year 2024/25 the Trustees of the Teignbridge Methodist Circuit have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have acted accordingly. They are committed to continue to do so in the future.

## Plans for the Future

The Circuit will seek to support those churches as they develop projects for which capital reserve money has been earmarked —such as the building works at Buckfast Chapel. The Sustainability Group will continue to review the viability of churches across the Circuit, seek to encourage change, and make recommendations to the Circuit meeting. The Circuit will continue to explore the possibility of a merger with the South Devon Circuit, and go through the necessary processes to report to District Policy Committee in February 2026. Ongoing missional planning for the future will need to be reviewed in the light of the merger decision but in the meantime the Circuit will continue to encourage Churches to engage with their local communities and keep an overview of the needs of the area.

## Reserves Policy

Our Reserves Policy is to maintain a General Fund value sufficient:

- To hold a reserve for the maintenance of our team of presbyteral ministers of £86,500 to pay for the stipends of two presbyters, including employment costs.
- To hold a reserve for our property maintenance of £ 50,000 for the four manses and a fifth residential property owned by the Circuit.
- We hold a reserve of 50% to cover other running costs, which in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 amounted to £ 72,700

The reserves at year end were set at £ 209,200



Kevin P. Hooke, Superintendent Minister  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Teignbridge Methodist Circuit

Circuit No 37/28

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

	Note	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Designated) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
<b>Income</b>							
Donations and legacies	4	13,589				13,589	140
Income from monetary investments		7,828	7,039	8,632	599	24,098	26540
Income from investment properties	5	12,010				12,010	26598
Assessments on Churches		231,947				231,947	212415
Loan Repayment		0				0	16077
Grants received		0				0	0
Other charitable income	6	3,760				3,760	3777
Sale of Buckfastleigh Methodist Church			20,000			20,000	162982
Miscellaneous Income		4,998				4,998	23
Total income		<b>274,132</b>	<b>27,039</b>	<b>8,632</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>310,402</b>	<b>448,551</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Grants and donations	7	13,240				13,240	69,486
Buckfast Church	8		28,917			28,917	69,486
Salaries and associated costs	9	208,587				208,587	162,111
Property expenses	10	36,704				36,704	42,319
Connexional Funds		3,560				3,560	13,164
District Assessment		61,419				61,419	53,560
TMCP Levy			7,504	7,901		15,406	41,193
Office expenses	11	5,081	510	537		6,128	4,955
Other outgoings	12	9,690				9,690	14,379
Independent Examiner's Fee		600				600	600
Total charitable expenditure		<b>338,882</b>	<b>36,931</b>	<b>8,438</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>384,251</b>	<b>471,253</b>
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Gains/(losses) on investment properties		0	0	0	0	0	21,750
Net income/(expenditure)		-64,749	-9,892	194	599	-73,849	-952
Transfers between funds		48,294		-48,294		0	0
Other gains/(losses)		-300				-300	
Net movement in funds		-16,755	-9,892	-48,100	599	-74,149	-952
Total funds brought forward		1,581,484	156,886	165,190	14,311	1,917,871	1,849,337
Total funds carried forward		<b>1,564,729</b>	<b>146,994</b>	<b>117,090</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>1,843,722</b>	<b>1,848,385</b>



## Teignbridge Methodist Circuit

Circuit No 37/28

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Designated) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024/25 £	Totals 2023/24 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>							
Circuit Manses & Equipment	13	1,008,296				1,008,296	1,008,296
Investment properties	14	346,750				346,750	346,750
Investments						0	0
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>1,355,046</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,355,046</b>	<b>1,355,046</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Debtors		17,300				17,300	13,612
Loans by the Circuit		0				0	0
Investments with TMCP			146,994	144,944		291,938	322,076
Central Finance Board Deposits		154,109			14,910	169,019	233,887
Cash at Bank and in hand		21,802				21,802	29,951
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>193,211</b>	<b>146,994</b>	<b>144,944</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>500,059</b>	<b>599,526</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		11,383				11,383	36,701
Grants payable within 2021/22						0	0
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>11,383</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,383</b>	<b>36,701</b>
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>		<b>181,828</b>	<b>146,994</b>	<b>144,944</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>488,676</b>	<b>562,825</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>1,536,874</b>	<b>146,994</b>	<b>144,944</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>1,843,722</b>	<b>1,917,871</b>
<b>Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)</b>							
Grants payable after 2021/22						0	0
Loans to the Circuit						0	0
						0	0
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,536,874</b>	<b>146,994</b>	<b>144,944</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>1,843,722</b>	<b>1,917,871</b>
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,536,874				1,536,874	1,581,484
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)				144,944		144,944	165,190
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		<b>1,536,874</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,944</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,681,818</b>	<b>1,746,674</b>
Designated Funds			146,994			146,994	156,886
Restricted Funds	15				14,910	14,910	14,311
Endowment Funds						0	0
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>1,536,874</b>	<b>146,994</b>	<b>144,944</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>1,843,722</b>	<b>1,917,871</b>

Signed  
Circuit Treasurer
  
 John Harrison

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Teignbridge Methodist Circuit**  
**Charity number 1134246**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Teignbridge Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, as set out on pages 9—13.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)

As the charity 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 2011 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 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.

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.

*C.W. Lillington*

Clare Lillington FMAAT  
Raddon Station Hill  
Chudleigh  
Newton Abbot  
TQ13 OEE

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## **Teignbridge Methodist Circuit**

### **Circuit No 37/28**

## **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025**

### **1 Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2015 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102—the Charities SORP (FRS102) (2019).

### **2 Funds**

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted; the Circuit Model Trust Fund, which has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as Unrestricted and Restricted Funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment Funds.

### **3 Accounting policies**

#### **Basis**

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at fair value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis, to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

#### **Incoming Resources**

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### **Resources Expended**

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources

#### **Grants**

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make payment.

#### **VAT**

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

<b>4 Donations &amp; Legacies</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Donations including gift aid	9,589	140
Gift for Church Repairs	4,000	0
Collection	0	0
Gift Aid Received	0	0
	<b>13,589</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>5 Income from properties</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
4 Jacks Close	0	15,348
46 Kingsdown Crescent	10,200	9,950
Illesington Graveyard	1,810	1300
	<b>12,010</b>	<b>26,598</b>
<b>6 Other charitable income</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Publications	200	17
Connexional Funds	3,560	3,760
	<b>3,760</b>	<b>3,777</b>
<b>7 Grants &amp; Donations</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
ROC Dawlish Project	12,000	12,000
Buckfastleigh Chapel Lintels	0	30,869
Plymouth & Exeter District benevolent fund	140	140
Cuttack	100	
Ivybridge Youth For Christ bus	1,000	1,000
Corbyn Fund	0	9,400
	<b>13,240</b>	<b>69,486</b>
<b>8 Buckfast Methodist Church</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>New</b>
Holne War Memorial	600	
Buckfast Chapel Ramp	9,317	
Buckfast Operating Costs	19,000	
(Analysis started in 2024-25)	<b>28,917</b>	

*This note shows income and expenditure relating to Buckfast Methodist Church and Designated Funds held by Teignbridge Circuit. Buckfast Church have no TMCP account in their own name, and the activities are connected to funds from the Sale of assets from Buckfastleigh and Scoriton Chapels when they were known as Buckfastleigh Methodist Church*

<b>9 Paid employees</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Staff costs incurred during the year were:		
Gross salaries and benefits in kind - Ministers	115,535	75,024
- Others	82,578	77,895
Travelling Expenses	10,474	9,192
	<b>208,587</b>	<b>162,111</b>

No employee was paid at a rate of more than £ 60,000 per annum

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Average number of full time equivalent employees	4.96	5

<b>10 Property Expenses</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Water rates	2,274	1,763
Council Tax	10,537	9,287
Manses	15,200	25,773
Insurance	4,350	4,228
Building surveys	975	0
Church repairs	0	0
Let properties	3,369	1,269
	<b>36,705</b>	<b>42,319</b>

<b>11 Office Expenses</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Telephone	3,032	3,031
Printing	584	584
Publications	984	182
Wages charges	480	480
TMCP Charges	1,047	679
Bank Charges	0	0
	<b>6,127</b>	<b>4,955</b>

<b>12 Other outgoings</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Supernumerary fees	1,755	2,114
Local Preachers Costs	36	0
Non Employee travel expenses	2,215	1,249
Training	1,486	907
Ilslington graveyard	885	720
Miscellaneous	1,263	1,304
Corbyn fund	0	0
Stationing, removal expenses etc	1,245	7,438
Apprentice levy	804	648
	<b>9,690</b>	<b>14,379</b>

**13 Tangible Fixed Assets Cost  
Manse**

	31/08/2025	Add/Disp	31/08/2024
35 Valley Close	130,000		130,000
135 Churchfields Drive	325,000		325,000
12 Moorlands Close	75,000		75,000
4 Jacks Close	478,296		478,296
	<u>1,008,296</u>		<u>1,008,296</u>

**14 Investment Property**

	Fair Value 31/08/2023	Fair Value 31/8/2024	Revaluation	Fair Value 31/8/2025
Dawlish	325,000	346,750	0	346,750
	<u>325,000</u>	<u>325,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>346,750</u>

**15 Restricted Funds**

	As at 31/08/2025	Interest Allocated	Funds Expended	As at 31/08/2024
Corbyn Fund	14,910	599	0	14,311

**16 Payments to Trustees**

All of the paid employees are also trustees. There are 3 Presbyters, 1 lay minister, 1 local Lay Pastor in training (part time), 1 lay pastoral assistant (part time), and 1 administrator (part time). The administrator's cost is shared with a Circuit Church. Some supernumerary Ministers and Local Preachers are trustees who receive fees and /or expenses for taking services in the Circuit. No trustee is paid for services rendered in the capacity of a trustee. Expenses payments made to trustees are to reimburse expenditure incurred on behalf of the circuit

	2025 2025 £	2025 Number of Trustees	2024 £	2024 Number of Trustees
Supernumerary fees	970	3	1013.95	4
Travel	12,085	10	9,624	8
Other	476	4	4,503	4
	<u>13,531</u>		<u>15,141</u>	

**17 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities**

At 31st August 2025 there are no capital commitments (Nil)

No contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2025 (Nil)

**18 Fees for Examination of Accounts**

	2025	2024
Examiners Fees	600	600