



The Methodist Church

Annual Report of the West Somerset Circuit (37/25)

1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025

Reference and administrative details

- The West Somerset Circuit of the Methodist Church is a Registered Charity, No 1134273.
- **Correspondence Addresses:**
Circuit Office
Minehead Methodist Church
7 The Avenue
Minehead
Somerset
TA24 5AY
wsmc2425@gmail.com

Managing Trustees

Jean Armin
Rev Chloe Kingdon
Andrew Branfield
Tim Hedgecock
Margaret Hill
Rev Andrew Day
Margaret Lintern
Margaret Nevell
Christine Hope
Elizabeth Westlake
Marilyn Jennings

Alison Robinson
Howard Mounfield
Sue Rose
Rev Jane Sperring
Gill Tapp
Haydn Sperring
Clive Wooldridge
Rev. Linda Barriball
Clive Longhurst
Rev Carol Gill

Acronyms used in this report are as follows:

WSC – West Somerset Circuit
CLT – Circuit Leadership Team
CLPD – Continuing Local Preacher Development
LA – Local Arrangement
LP – Local Preacher
WL – Worship Leader

Membership of the Methodist Church in West Somerset Circuit

115 members as of 5/2/25

Structure, governance and management

Circuit Staff

Presbyters

Rev Andrew Day

Rev Chloe Kingdon (Authorised to serve)

Administrator

Priscilla Woodhall

Community Worker - Penny Williams

Outreach worker - Jess James

Circuit Stewards

Clive Wooldridge (Personnel)

Clive Longhurst (Mission)

Tim Hedgecock (Finance)

Rev Jane Sperring

Leadership structure

Circuit Meeting (Three meetings per year)

All presbyters

All Supernumeraries

All Circuit Lay Employees

All Circuit Stewards

All fully accredited Local Preachers

All Circuit Officers

For each church, as appointed by their Church Council:

1 Church Steward and the Church Treasurer, plus additional representatives:

Alcombe 7 (including Bossington 2 and Timberscombe 2)

Minehead 6

Watchet 8 (including Brendon Hill 1)

Porlock 3

CLT (Nine meetings per year)

All presbyters appointed to the circuit

All Circuit Stewards

Staff Meeting (Weekly)

All presbyters appointed to the circuit

All Circuit Lay Pastoral Employees

Activities

• The WSC Mission Statement

'We are committed to working together as a Circuit to enable personal growth and every church to be a place of welcome, love and acceptance in the name of Jesus Christ.'

WSC is run according to the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. (Registered Charity No. 1132208.)

WORSHIP

1. WSC produces in each quarter a plan for the worship of the whole circuit. The plan is produced by the ministers, assisted by the circuit administrator. The circuit administrator is responsible for gathering plan dates from preachers and churches and for circulating the plan after it has been finalised. The ministers are responsible for planning all communion services and other 'specials.'
2. All preachers (and visiting preachers, if applicable) are asked how many services they wish to take on each plan.
3. The LPs meet four times a year:
 - a) In September - the Annual Rededication of LPs takes place at this meeting
 - b) In November
 - c) In March
 - d) In June
4. All LP Meetings are chaired by the circuit superintendent. Other circuit officers include...
 - a) Jean Armin as LP Secretary
 - b) Mentors are appointed for all LPs on note and on trial by the LP Meeting.
5. The Circuit seeks to encourage and foster links with ecumenical partners, wherever possible.
6. Local church dedications (e.g. workers with children and young people, pastoral visitors etc) take place in each church at an appropriate time, decided by the respective Church Council.

PASTORAL CARE

The circuit superintendent minister has pastoral charge of congregations in Alcombe, Porlock and Watchet, The section minister has pastoral charge of Minehead and Brendon Hill. Pastoral care is carried out by the ministers. Minehead has a successful pastoral group system and other churches will refer to Rev Andy, Rev Chloe and in Watchet, Rev Jane who work together to ensure that pastoral care is given.

DISCIPLESHIP, NURTURE and LEARNING

Discipleship, Nurture and Learning in WSC covers a wide range of activities, which include...

- a) A regular pattern of worship, prayer and bible study across the circuit, including rites of passage: baptisms, weddings and funerals
- b) Circuit services
- c) Circuit and church events for fellowship, fun and fundraising
- d) Training for workers with children and young people
- e) Summer 'Holiday Club,' toddler groups and work with local schools
- f) Safeguarding training, in person and on-line
- g) Special worship occasions
- h) Courses which help people understand the Bible
- j) Courses which help people relate their faith to current events and issues in our society.
- k) 'Friendship Centre' at Alcombe
- l) Little Fishes toddlers' groups in Minehead, Alcombe and Williton

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

WSC is committed to support, encourage and challenge the local churches in their life and mission. Evangelism and outreach are about having a presence in each neighbourhood as ambassadors for Christ; being salt and light in our communities. This involves making connections with the various groups who use our premises and moving outside the church buildings to make connections with the local community. The circuit also draws attention to and supports other charitable agencies, such as Action for Children, MHA, All We Can etc. Minehead is a fairtrade church and hold Eco Church Bronze status. We are looking to expand these circuit wide.

PERSONNEL

This area of life within WSC is best considered using three distinct headings...

1. Safeguarding

Rev Chloe Kingdon is the Circuit Safeguarding Officer who liaises between District, Circuit and individual churches on matters relating to safeguarding, and keeps the Circuit Meeting and the individual church councils (via the church reps) up to date with any changes in legislation and procedures. She also sits on the DSG and leads both foundation and advanced training courses around the district. Each church holds a copy of the current Methodist Safeguarding Policy document and adopt a One Church policy each year. Safeguarding records are up to date, and all trustees are DBS checked and hold advanced CSS certificates according to charity commissions guidelines.

2. Lay Employment

Clive Wooldridge, Circuit Steward, and the ministers oversee Lay Employment in WSC. They are responsible for ensuring that all matters relating to the employment of lay circuit staff and lay people employed by individual churches comply with current legislation and are 'safely recruited.' The District Lay Employment Secretary is informed of all proposed new employment and employee changes in WSC. Records are kept up to date by Rev Chloe Kingdon.

3. Invitations/stationing

Rev Jane Sperring, Circuit Steward, is responsible for organising and overseeing the invitation process, as and when required. The invitation committee is appointed by the Circuit Meeting annually in the spring and will usually include at least two Circuit Stewards. The invitation committee adheres to the current Connexional guidelines.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Circuit staff and LPs have a key role in communication as they travel around WSC. There is a Circuit magazine, 'The Messenger', published ten times per year. This magazine is a showcase for Circuit events. WSC produces a directory and a preacher's handbook to disseminate information and to aid communication. WSC has developed its own website, www.westsomersetmethodists.org.uk, Chaz Hardiman is the webmaster.

The Circuit Administrator has a key role in communicating with all the churches. Every circuit group and every church has a responsibility to aid communication and dissemination of information around the circuit.

PROPERTY

The CLT have a team approach to property matters, and are assisted by Rev Linda Barriball.

Achievements and performance

- **Main achievements of the year**

Central records have been revised according to GDPR. Members and adherents have submitted both emergency contacts and next of kin details which are held securely.

The Circuit Plan continues to be published quarterly.

Minehead is an eco-church and working towards their Gold status. Part of this is the development of a friendship garden which is regularly used by the toddlers and available for hire. The garden has a sensory trail, opportunities for growing plants and vegetables alongside many eco factors such as hedgehog house, bug hotels and wild gardens.

The CLT continues to oversee lay employment in the circuit. Priscilla Woodhall continued in her role of Circuit Administrator and leader of Little Fishes, assisted by Hannah Shippey. Penny Williams, our community worker supports the circuit with the 'Friendship Centre.'

Jess James, Outreach Worker Supports the life of the Circuit, particularly amongst youngsters in the east of the Circuit.

The circuit continues to support the district initiative 'Christian Communities in Conversation,' led by Lynne Wooldridge.

Aims and Objectives for SMC during the period 01 09 25 – 31 08 26

1. To continue developing WSC since becoming a 'One-Church' circuit in September 2022, particularly by streamlining day to day finance.
2. To continue to review the circuit staff and volunteer roles ensuring that any boundary drifting is recognised and contracts and role descriptions are updated accordingly.
3. To continue to hold a regular study group for LPs and WLs throughout the year

Financial Review

Separate attachment

Public benefit statement

The trustees of WSC have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the charity commission in exercising their responsibilities.

This annual report has been approved by the West Somerset Circuit Meeting held on 5th March 2026.

SignedA DAY..... (Chair of the Circuit Meeting)



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

West Somerset	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025**

South West Peninsula	District	Circuit no	37/25
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134273

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

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(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. Andy Day

Circuit Stewards:

Clive Longhurst
Rev. Jane Sperring
Clive Wooldridge

Treasurer:

Tim Hedgecock

Statement of Financial Activity for the year ended 31st August 2025

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Assessments from churches		145,874			145,874	111,500
Capital receipts	4		100,000		100,000	
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,884	7,199	45	12,128	15,143
Donations and legacies	5	452		16	468	1,614
Other charitable income	6	5,404	324		5,728	16,715
TOTAL INCOME		156,614	107,523	61	264,198	144,972
EXPENDITURE						
Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs	10	71,632	58,674	195	130,501	106,966
Manse Costs		17,043			17,043	16,347
Administration etc		14,336	614	3	14,953	21,246
District Assessment		30,591	21,305		51,896	33,860
Grants & donations			13,900	16	13,916	16,223
Other payments		6,220	8,503	456	15,179	7,371
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		139,822	102,996	670	243,488	202,013
Gains/ losses(-) on investments	7		-24		-24	49
NET INCOME/ EXPENDITURE (-) FOR YEAR		16,792	4,503	-609	20,686	-56,992
Transfers between funds						
Revaluation of properties		58,211			58,211	27,394
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		75,003	4,503	-609	78,897	-29,598
Total Funds brought forward		1,372,869	189,315	6,928	1,569,112	1,598,710
Total Funds carried down		1,447,872	193,818	6,319	1,648,009	1,569,112

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2025

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
FIXED ASSETS						
Circuit Manses and Equipment	11	1,342,268			1,342,268	1,284,057
Investments	12		1,019		1,019	1,043
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		1,342,268	1,019		1,343,287	1,285,100
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors & Payments in Advance		6,855	644	4	7,503	6,554
Investments with TMCP			177,039	977	178,016	188,947
Central Finance Board Deposits		99,749	16,129	5,467	121,345	77,897
Cash at bank and in hand		2,285			2,285	12,877
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	13	108,889	193,812	6,448	309,149	286,275
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors		3,285	1,013	129	4,427	2,263
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	14	3,285	1,013	129	4,427	2,263
NET CURRENT ASSETS / LIABILITIES		105,604	192,799	6,319	304,722	284,012
TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,447,872	193,818	6,319	1,648,009	1,569,112
TOTAL FUNDS (from Statement of Financial Activities)		1,447,872	193,818	6,319	1,648,009	1,569,112

Signed:


Tim Hedgecock
Treasurer

Date

5.3.26


Rev. Andrew Day
Superintendent Minister/ Chairman of Circuit Meeting

Date

5.3.26

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS102, the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Public Benefit Entity

West Somerset Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under FRS 102

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds are funds held for a narrower purpose. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year and the manse is shown at their insurance value, including contents. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

Income Recognition

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.

Resource 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 commitment of 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 and operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year, the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000.

The freehold and/ or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at its insurance reinstatement value at the date of the financial statements, except where a property is surplus to requirements when it is shown at the estimated resale value as assessed by the TMCP approved surveyor. No depreciation is provided because in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

Investment Properties

No property is currently deemed to not be held for the long term investment purposes of the charity.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Creditors

Creditors include expenses paid after the year end but incurred before the year end.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the Circuit's ability to continue.

West Somerset Methodist Circuit		Circuit No. 37/25			
		General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/25 Total 2023/24
4. Capital Receipts					
Sale of Roadwater Chapel			£100,000		£100,000
Total capital receipts		£0	£100,000	£0	£100,000 £0
5. Donations and legacies					
Donations		£452	£0	£16	£468 £1,614
Legacies					£0
Total donations & legacies		£452	£0	£16	£468 £1,614
6. Other charitable income					
Manse rental income		£4,659	(Unrestricted)		£4,659 £12,980
Photocopying income		£360			£360
Messenger donations					£0 £32
Funding for layworker					£0 £3,288
Bossington income		£385			£385 £415
Reimbursement of fees etc			£324		£324
Total other charitable income		£5,404	£324	£0	£5,728 £16,715
7. Investment income					
TMCP gains/ losses(-) on revaluation			(Unrestricted)		
			£24		-£24 £49
Total investment income		£0	£24	£0	-£24 £49



Total	Total
2024/25	2023/24

8. Payments to Trustees

Payments made to Trustees for additional services with the agreement of the Circuit Meeting

Number of Trustees who were paid expenses	2	3
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Expense payments relate mainly to travel, phone, broadband and stationery items

Total amount paid	£1,291	£4,687
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9. Fees for Independent Examination of the accounts

Independent Examiner's fees	£1,200	£1,020
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Other fees (payroll services)		£114
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Total fees for independent examiners	£1,200	£1,134
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10. Staff Costs

	Ministers	Lay Workers	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Gross stipends, salaries and benefits in kind	£53,148	£53,357	£106,505	£88,491
Employer's National Insurance Costs	£5,371	£3,789	£9,160	£6,237
Pension Costs	£9,926	£876	£10,802	£13,426
Total staff costs	£68,445	£58,022	£126,467	£108,153

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Manse	Fixtures & Fittings	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Balance brought forward	£1,234,057	£50,000	£1,284,057	£1,256,663
Additions			£0	
Revaluations	£58,211		£58,211	£27,394
Disposals			£0	
Balance carried down	£1,292,268	£50,000	£1,342,268	£1,284,057

Values relate to 13 King Edward Road, Minehead and 59A Doniford Road, Watchet

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at its insurance reinstatement value at the date of the financial statements. No depreciation is provided because in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

12. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund are held by TMCP. These are regarded as medium to long-term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including legacies, endowments and accumulated funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees, who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements

	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange	£1,019	£1,043
Total	£1,019	£1,043

Change in Investment values

	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
Carrying (market value) at beginning of year	£1,043	£1,972
Add additions to investments at cost		
Less disposals at carrying value		£978
Net gain/ (loss) on revaluation	£23	£49
Total	£1,020	£1,043



Total	Total
2024/25	2023/24

13. Analysis of current assets

Balance at NatWest	£2,264	£12,857
Balance at CFB	£121,345	£77,897
Balance at TMCP	£178,017	£188,947
Balance held by solicitors		
Debtors	£7,503	£6,554
Cash in hand	£20	£20
Total current assets	£309,149	£286,275

14. Analysis of current liabilities

Trade creditors	£4,427	£2,263
Other creditors	£0	
Total current liabilities	£4,427	£2,263

15. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

As at 31st August 2025 the Circuit had no capital commitments
No contingent liabilities were identified as at 31st August 2025

Statement of Financial Activity for the year ended 31st August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2023/24
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Assessment from churches		111,500			111,500
Capital receipts					0
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,637	10,454	52	15,143
Donations and legacies	4	37		1,577	1,614
Other charitable income	5	16,715			16,715
TOTAL INCOME		132,889	10,454	1,629	144,972
EXPENDITURE					
Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		89,437	17,529		106,966
Manse Costs		16,347			16,347
Administration etc		20,623	620	3	21,246
District Assessment		25,492	8,368		33,860
Grants & donations		2,500	10,000	3,723	16,223
Other payments		5,333	2,038		7,371
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		159,732	38,555	3,726	202,013
Gains/ losses(-) on investments			49		49
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) FOR YEAR		-26,843	-28,052	-2,097	-56,992
Transfers between funds		-2,500		2,500	0
Revaluation of properties		27,394			27,394
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-1,949	-28,052	403	-29,598
Total Funds brought forward		1,374,818	217,367	6,525	1,598,710
Total Funds carried down		1,372,869	189,315	6,928	1,569,112

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Total 2023/24
FIXED ASSETS					
Circuit Manises and Equipment	11	1,284,057			1,284,057
Investments	12		1,043		1,043
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		1,284,057	1,043	0	1,285,100
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors & Payments in Advance		5,614	936	4	6,554
Investments with TMCP		344	187,626	977	188,947
Central Finance Board Deposits		71,950	0	5,947	77,897
Cash at bank and in hand		12,877			12,877
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	13	90,785	188,562	6,928	286,275
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors		1,973	290		2,263
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	14	1,973	290	0	2,263
NET CURRENT ASSETS / LIABILITIES		88,812	188,272	6,928	284,012
TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,372,869	189,315	6,928	1,569,112
TOTAL FUNDS (from Statement of Financial Activities)		1,372,869	189,315	6,928	1,569,112

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Accruals 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 *T. Hedgecock* Date..... *5.3.26*

Name and address of treasurer Tim Hedgecock, 3 Mount Royal, Weirfield Road

Minehead, Somerset Post Code TA24 5QF

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 5th March 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Andrew Day*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Andrew Day Date *5.3.26*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

West Somerset Circuit

Charity Number .1134273

AS

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the West Somerset Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages ... to 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

Name of independent examiner

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

Post Code

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to ... 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).