

The Salisbury Methodist Circuit
(Registered Charity no 1134362)



Trustees' Report
And
Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 August 2024

SALISBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT TRUSTEES'
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Introduction

The Circuit, of 9 churches, (supporting 10 congregations) spans the *land of the five rivers* around the fine cathedral city of Salisbury. From the rugged beauty of Salisbury plain in the north, to the picturesque surroundings of the New Forest National Park in the south, we are blessed with the ever-present reminder of God's power of creation.

The vision of the Salisbury Methodist Circuit is to know for ourselves and to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus by encouraging and enabling the people and churches of the Circuit to serve their communities and the wider world. Our mission priority is to create bubbles of community that offer sanctuary, engagement, and faith encounter.

We will do this by:-

- Being an effective Christian presence in our communities and demonstrating a passion for our faith
- Offering inspiring, welcoming worship and other activities
- Creating an open, caring and supportive environment for all we can reach
- Recognising, respecting and encouraging the gifts of all
- Discerning, training, developing and sharing our gifts and skills across the Circuit
- Deepening our faith and growing in discipleship
- Communicating the good news enthusiastically in ways that make sense to people today
- Embracing new opportunities and reacting positively to change

Review of the year

In September 2023, we said farewell to Ian Hardy, Bob Taylor and Nigel Thorne who had given many years of faithful service as circuit stewards. We were very grateful to them all for their vision and leadership through some very challenging times for the circuit. As Ian had also been the circuit treasurer, we began a new way of working with the new team of circuit stewards supported by a salaried Circuit Bursar to carry out the day-to-day financial activities needed to ensure smooth running of the circuit. In December we also had to say farewell to Jackie Weddell, who stood down as a circuit steward, and we are grateful to her for supporting the new team as they got into their stride in their new roles.

As the new team has come to understand the breadth and extent of the roles they have taken on, we are thankful for the firm foundations created by the previous team. The continued enthusiasm of Revd. Dr Mark Cheetham as Superintendent Minister and Chair of Trustees, and the willingness of the supernumerary ministers who have retired into the circuit to serve the Circuit in part time roles, has enabled us to maintain momentum in renewing our vision and seeking fresh opportunities to be church and serve our communities. As the joining of churches from the former Yeovil and Blackmore Vale circuit was confirmed at the Southampton District April synod, we have enjoyed working with the Rev Denise Binks to begin their integration into the circuit.

Following the closure of the Fordingbridge society in November and the Winterslow society's decision to close their building, we have been considering how to refocus our mission. During the year Danny Miller, the Southampton District Researcher, carried out a study and provided a report to the Circuit Meeting which explored the potential to re-establish a Methodist presence in the Fordingbridge area and the opportunities presented by the new housing developments and the significant military presence in the north of the circuit. This work has been used to inform decisions the Circuit Invitation Committee will be making for requests into this coming year's stationing process. A proposal for developing lay pioneering work in Fordingbridge will be taken to the September Circuit meeting.

The Justice and Peace group's work on issues of national and international significance has raised our awareness of the housing crisis facing many members of the community. The closure of the society at Fordingbridge and the Winterslow Society's decision to move out of their church building has prompted the Circuit Leadership team to look at how the property assets in the circuit might be used to address the need for affordable housing in our communities. Work is beginning, with the support of the connexional property team, to explore opportunities to use our assets to address this significant challenge for society.

The Circuit Justice and Peace group, formed with representatives from several churches, has continued to prompt us to develop our engagement with world issues. Following the appointment of the Circuit ECO champion, a key focus has been the work on developing the ECO circuit and a well-supported ECO fair was held at Amesbury Methodist church. They have now achieved a Bronze Award to join Salisbury's achievement of a Silver Award. Friends at Bemerton are working towards the Bronze level and we look forward to working with the congregations at Motcombe, Tisbury and Bell St. Shaftesbury to further develop this aspect of our life together.

In the Autumn we were delighted to send an enlarged group of young people from around the circuit to the 3Gen conference in Birmingham. Both the young people and their leaders found this an enriching experience and shared some of their insights in a circuit service on their return. An even larger group is hoping to attend in the autumn of 2024.

As we continue to focus on our mission priority of creating bubbles of community that offer sanctuary we are looking forward to establishing an Afghan hub at Amesbury Methodist church, building on the successful model of the Salisbury Ukrainian hub. Whilst looking outwards in this way we have also continued to care for our existing congregations, some of which are recognising that the burden of maintaining old buildings uses energy and resource that could be devoted to the mission of the church. Following the closure of Fordingbridge and Winterslow churches, we hope to sell these properties and release finance to support growth in the circuit. The work begun last year in the village of Quidhampton, which has no church in the village, has been adopted as a class of our Bemerton Church. One of our supernumerary ministers, who lives there, has convened a weekly prayer session in the village pub and begun to hold a monthly service of Holy Communion working with others in the village. The Circuit has welcomed and will support this new faith community and help it develop.

The new work at Quidhampton is ecumenical and we firmly believe that this is key to maintaining a Christian witness in areas where facilities and opportunities for worship are scarce. We continue to value and support our congregations at Pitton, Sandleheath and Woodfalls where worship and all other church activities are planned ecumenically with the local Anglican churches.

As we end this year in our church life we are looking forward to churches in Shaftesbury, Tisbury and Motcombe joining us from September 2024 as the boundaries of local circuits are redrawn to reflect changing patterns of church and community life.

Financial Review

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. In view of the Covid lockdown from early 2020 and the financial impact this had on our church finances we reduced the sums requested from them and agreed to draw from reserves to make up the shortfall. The basis for calculating assessments has now returned to the pre-lockdown formula based on church income and attendance.

Our budget allowed for the receipt of rental income from the two manses which currently are not needed to house presbyters.

Stipends rise each financial year in line with conference approved increases. Our lay employees are paid not less than the 'living wage' and at a rate that is at least comparable with other salaries in the area for work of a similar nature.

In the 2023/2024 accounts :

92% of our income was provided by the local churches.

53% of expenditure was on pay and related costs

17% of expenditure was our contribution to the District, of which part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church

10% of expenditure was on property.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2024 the net current assets of the Circuit's general and designated fund were £228k, giving approximately a year's cover for expenditure. This exceeds our reserves policy.

Plans for 2024/2025

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be 2.5 full time ordained staff, with anticipated cost of living stipend increases, supported by a part time (0.25%) Lay Pastoral Assistant.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS)102

Full Name of Charity: Salisbury Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number: 1134362
Date of registration: 17 February 2010

Main communication address: Salisbury Methodist Church, 26, St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 1EF

The members of the Salisbury Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches. Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Active Circuit Ministers: Rev Dr Mark Cheetham
Rev Steve Hawkes
Rev Anna Bishop (until January 2024)
Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Stewards: Mrs Susan Holmes
Mrs Jacqueline Weddell (until January 2024)
Mrs Fiona Sherman
Mrs Linda Hayman (from March 2024)
Major Tim Casey (from May 2024)

Lay Employees: Mrs Sarah Taylor – Administrator
Mrs Jacqueline Saunders – Lay Pastoral Assistant
Mr. Graham Wilson – Circuit Bursar

Mrs Susan Holmes acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent examiner: Fawcetts Chartered Accountants, Windover House, St Ann's Street, Salisbury SP1 2DR

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

Bankers: CAFBank Ltd

Solicitors: Batt Broadbent Ltd

Salisbury Circuit Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Salisbury for the Methodist Church:

"The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, 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
- e) The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike.
- f) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- g) The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- h) Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- i) Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- j) Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit:

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976) Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting.

Trustee Training:

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related Parties:

The Circuit is part of the Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the circuit: Amesbury, Bemerton, Bourne Valley, Fordingbridge, Salisbury, Sandleheath, Shrewton, Winterslow (incorporating Pitton), Woodfalls.

Risk Management

Major risks have been identified and recorded by the Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on congregations

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Salisbury Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Salisbury Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 3 months' average expenditure plus a manse maintenance reserve of £20,000. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Tasks for the year 2024/2025

Following the decision to incorporate three churches from the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale circuit (Motcombe, Shaftesbury and Tisbury) into the Salisbury circuit, an important focus in the coming year will be to develop an understanding of the needs, opportunities, skills and talents of the churches joining the circuit and to explore how to work together across the rest of the circuit to create an effective Christian presence in the community in the expanded area now covered by the circuit.


In addition

- The circuit leadership team recognises the importance of small groups in building effective relationships to disciple and further develop faith. Building on the experience of Covenant groups at SMC we will explore how this can be supported across the rural parts of the circuit as well as in the larger town and city churches.
- Work completed during 2024 by the District researcher identified the potential for a new expression of church in Fordingbridge following the closure of the church buildings and the dispersal of the worshipping community. Developing the proposed New People/ New Places outreach ideas into a real physical presence will be a significant area of work in the coming year. Identifying the nature of leadership and initiating mechanisms for engagement will be the focus of the first year of this plan.
- Developing our work in the north of the circuit in the areas of new housing, with Army families and the Afghan resettlement scheme will be another priority. Building on the work started in Amesbury we will explore the potential to establish a pioneer Deacon post to support this outreach to new people.
- The issue of homelessness and affordable housing has become an increasing concern in the circuit. Work will be

started to review the use of current circuit and church property and explore how redundant or under used land and buildings can be developed to address the housing issues. The circuit is working with the connexion property team to identify possible partnerships and options to make effective use of current circuit assets. Options for other churches in the circuit will be explored in subsequent years.

- The work of the current Outreach worker at Bemerton and in supporting the Café/ Church on the Green project will be reviewed with the view of consolidating this with the proposed role at Tisbury to develop a circuit based outreach worker.
- The work of the Peace and Justice group in developing the circuit and individual churches' approach to climate justice remains an area for continued development. Supporting churches on their journey to attain appropriate levels in the A Rocha Eco Church accreditation scheme will be the focus of this year's activity.

Name of Circuit: Salisbury						Circuit no:26/12	
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024							
	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and Legacies	3	300,000					300,000
2 Income from monetary investments		1,139	9,324				10,463
3 Income from investment properties	3	30,112					30,112
4 Assessments on Churches	4	182,207					182,207
5 Capital Receipts							
6 Draw down (TMCP)			827				827
7 Other Charitable Income	5						
8 Total income		513,458	10,151				523,609
Expenditure							
9 Grant and Donations	6		24,000				24,000
10 Salaries and associated costs	7	134,953					134,953
11 Property maintenance	8	24,533					24,533
12 Connexional Assessment & model trust levy	9	34,958	7,487				42,445
13 District Assessment & Levy	9	6,622					6,622
14 Depreciation							
15 Office Expenses	10	1,247					1,247
16 Other outgoings	11	18,304					18,304
17 Total charitable expenditure		220,617	31,487				252,104
18 Gains/ Losses on monetary investment							
19 Gains/ Losses on investment properties							
20 Net income/ (expenditure)		292,841	(21,336)				271,505
21 Transfers between funds	12	19,651		(19,651)			0
22 Other gains/ losses							
23 Net movement in funds		312,492	(21,336)	(19,651)			271,505
24 Total Funds brought forward	13	48,771	188,139	19,651			256,561
25 Total funds carried forward		361,263	166,803	0			528,066

Name of Circuit: Salisbury							Circuit No :	26/12
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024								
	Notes to the	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24	Totals 2022/23
	Accounts	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	BS1	1,458,203					1,458,203	1,458,203
Investment properties	BS1	866,797					866,797	566,797
Investments							0	0
Total fixed assets		2,325,000	0	0	0	0	2,325,000	2,025,000
Current Assets								
Debtors	BS2	39,386					39,386	12,599
Investments with TMCP	BS3		166,803				166,803	188,139
Central Finance Board Deposits	BS3	9,729					9,729	59,829
Cash at bank and in hand	BS3	12,148					12,148	19,261
Total current assets		61,263	166,803	0	0	0	228,066	279,828
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)/ Salary accrual								23,267
Grants payable within 2023-24								0
Total current liabilities								23,267
Net current assets/liabilities		61,263	166,803				228,066	256,561
Total assets less current liabilities		2,386,263	166,803	0	0	0	2,553,066	2,281,561
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23							0	
Loans to the Circuit							0	
							0	
Net assets		2,386,263	166,803	0	0	0	2,553,066	2,281,561
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)	BS4	2,386,263					2,386,263	2,073,771
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	BS4		166,803				166,803	188,139
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	BS4							19,651
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,553,066	2,281,561
Restricted Funds					0		0	
Endowment Funds						0	0	
Total Funds		2,386,263	166,803		0	0	2,553,066	2,281,561
					Signed			
								
					Circuit Finance Steward			

THE SALISBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	(a)	(78,549)	(114,721)
Cash flows from investing activities		-	-
Net cash flow from investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(78,549)	(114,721)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023		267,229	381,950
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	(b)	<u><u>188,680</u></u>	<u><u>267,229</u></u>

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the year as per the Statement of Financial Activities	271,505	(104,888)
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	(26,787)	(2,947)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(23,267)	(6,886)
Investment properties - closure of church societies	(300,000)	-
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u><u>(78,549)</u></u>	<u><u>(114,721)</u></u>

b) Cash and cash equivalents consists of:

Cash at bank and in hand	188,680	267,229
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	<u><u>188,680</u></u>	<u><u>267,229</u></u>

The charity has no borrowings or obligations under finance leases therefore a reconciliation of net debt has not been provided.

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Salisbury Methodist Circuit

Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2024

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting Standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

The Salisbury Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless stated otherwise in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

iii 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. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling rounded to the nearest pound,

v FRS102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS 102 and with the FRS 102 SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 (Charities Accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirements of Reg.(8)(5) by following SORP (FRS102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstances.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

The Circuit has denominational regulatory oversight in respect of the work of the Churches within the Circuit but has no legal or operational control of those Churches and their governing bodies except in extreme circumstances. For this reason, the financial statements of Churches within the Circuit are not consolidated into these financial statements.

viii Income recognition

Income is brought into the account when there is entitlement and amount is reliably measured once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other Income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by the Methodist Church – “Connexional Funds”
- the administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP(FRS102), module 19.12

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

ix Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of the agreement to make a grant without performance conditions or as and when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions. When the grant to be accrued is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years, discounted to net present value where the difference is material, is treated as a provision for future commitments in the balance sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years in accordance with the originally agreed terms. In cases where the grant has been charged to one fund but for ease of payment has been transferred to another fund any future payment provision is applied to the fund from which the grant will ultimately be paid.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £250.

The freehold and /or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's insurance reinstatement value as assessed by the representative of Methodist Insurance plc in 2010 and subsequently adjusted up to and including 31 August 2015 or, if acquired after that date, at its insurance reinstatement value at the date of acquisition. No depreciation is provided because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its historical cost and, in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial.

From time to time the Circuit may be required to assume responsibility for Church premises following closure and cessation of worship. This results in the Circuit becoming Managing Trustees for the property. At that time the property is recognised as an asset at its anticipated net sale price as determined by a professional valuation and after taking into account the levy to be charged by the Connexion. Any expenditure on such assets, if held for reinvestment of the proceeds, as the trustees determine, that is likely to enhance sale value is capitalised at the time the expenditure is incurred. Where the proceeds are intended to be spent on activities, the property is included in current assets at the lower of cost and realisable value.

The Circuit has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS 102, as outlined above.

xiii(a) Monetary investments

The Circuit's investments are in monetary assets classified as being financial instruments under FRS 102 and are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 20 below.

xiii(b) Investment Property

From time to time the Circuit may hold residential property (formerly manses) which is surplus to its current staffing requirements. Where this is the case and it is anticipated that the property is unlikely to be used as a manse within a period of two years, the property is classified as Investment Property (whether let out or not) and any lets are at market rates unless there is a compelling reason not to do so in furtherance of the Circuit's charitable objectives. Any such cases are specified in Note 3 below

xiv Receivables and Payables: Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or the amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xv Loans as Basic Financial Instruments

Where concessionary loans (i.e. free of interest) are made to the Circuit to further its charitable purposes, and are repaid after more than one year, they are initially recognised as the amount paid, with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect payment and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, an immediate impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Where loans require the calculation of a discounted cash flow valuation, this will be so marked.

xvi Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises assessments against the Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuit raises assessments against the Churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to the Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from the Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for ad hoc collections for various funds administered by The Methodist Church. These are detailed in Note 11 below.

xvii Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves.

xviii Ministers' manse costs

The Circuit is required to provide accommodation for each minister in the Circuit and their families and this is seen as a benefit to the Circuit. Ministers are expected to occupy the manse provided for them. The Circuit bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, buildings insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These figures are not separately disclosed as benefits-in-kind for ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hand of the ministers.

2 Glossary of terms.

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities.

Church: A group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: A group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30.

Circuit Meeting: The trustees of the Circuit, most of whom are appointed by their local Churches and others by virtue of a role they undertake for the Circuit and/or their local Churches.

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): A group (comprising mostly but not exclusively) of Circuit Trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formation of the Circuit. Generally, the CLT comprises the Presbyters and Deacons stationed within the Circuit and the Circuit Stewards.

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain.

Connexional Funds: The Designated and/or Restricted Funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives.

District: A group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30.

DAF: District Advance Fund.

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Lay employees: Personnel employed by the Circuit on generally accepted commercial employment terms.

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme.

Pensions Trust: The Pensions Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges a pension scheme for its Lay Employees.

Presbyters (including Superintendent): Probationer or Ordained Ministers and/or Deacons who have pastoral and administrative responsibility for the Churches within the Circuit.

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities.

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice.

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds.

3 Income from Donations and Investment Property (SOFA 1 & 3)

The fixed assets of the former Winterslow and Fordingbridge societies have been transferred to the circuit for disposal. The buildings have been valued at £150K each. This amounts to a total of £300k added to the fixed assets of the circuit.

The trustees have determined that the properties at 7 Normandy Way, Fordingbridge and 76A Countess Road, Amesbury are unlikely to be returned to use as manses in the foreseeable future and have therefore classified the same as Investment Properties. Letting income of £30.1k is shown net of fees.

4 Assessments on Churches (SOFA 4)

The Circuit comprises of 9 churches and each is assessed for a contribution to meet the overall net costs of the Circuit. In making its assessment account is taken of the voluntary giving received by each church and the average attendance at Sunday services. The initial assessment is then moderated to take account of local circumstances. The Circuit aims to cover all its net core costs from the Assessment.

5 Grants received (SOFA 7)

No grants were received during this period.

6 Grants and Donations (SOFA 9)

The Grants listed below were made during the year –

Grantee	2024 General Fund £	2024 Circuit Model Trust £	Purpose
Salisbury Methodist Church		9,000	Assist with employment of lay family/outreach worker
Bemerton Methodist Church		9,000	Assist with employment of lay outreach worker
Amesbury Methodist Church		6,000	Funding to repair stonework
Totals		24,000	

7 Stipends, Salaries and Associated Costs (SOFA 10)

Stipends were paid to 4 Presbyters (3.15 fte) and salaries were paid to 3 part time lay employees. The costs associated with this employment amounted to £

	2024 General Fund £	2023 £
Ministers		
Stipends	78,303	88,592
National Insurance Contributions	*6,514	7,304
Apprenticeship Levy	378	410
Pension Fund Contributions	17,537	19,558
Telephone & Broadband	2,663	3,066
Computer allowance	776	
Travelling	5,923	6,015
Assistance with manse energy costs	0	3,000
Sub Total	112,094	127,945
Lay Employees		
Salaries	21,709	11,153
National Insurance Contributions	*	153
Apprentice Levy	80	60
Pension Fund Contributions	0	384
Travelling	1070	1,028
SubTotal	22,859	12,778
Total Stipends, salaries & related costs	134,953	140,723

- Lay Staff NI contributions are included in the Church recharge figure above

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

Pension:

Most ordained presbyters are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MPPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist Ministers (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body. The Connexion accounts for the MPPS and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MPPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented.

Lay Employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme which the Circuit has arranged with TPT Retirement Solutions (formerly The Pensions Trust). This is a defined contribution scheme and Circuit contributes as employer to this scheme.

7a Cost of Superintendent, Presbyters and Trustees.

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other Presbyters and the remaining members of the CLT are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the Presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit.

The manses are provided by the Circuit and the Circuit maintains the property. The value of the Council Tax and water charges paid by the Circuit are not disclosed here as HMRC does not regard this as a benefit-in-kind in the hands of the minister.

Payments to Trustees

It is generally not Circuit policy to reimburse non-presbyteral members of the CLT, Circuit Meeting and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties although certain travelling and administration costs may be reimbursed in relation to specific projects.

The travel costs of Presbyters who attend CLT and Circuit Meetings is included within their overall travel expenses (see note 9) and is not separately determined.

8 Property Expenses. (SOFA 11)

The Circuit is Managing Trustee for 4 manses, 2 of which are occupied by ministers stationed in the Circuit and 2 are let on Assured Shorthold Tenancies. They are also responsible for the two redundant church properties at Fordingbridge and Winterslow. The Circuit is responsible for insurance of the properties and, with the exception of the let manses, Council Tax and water charges.

Manse	Council Tax	Water	Insurance	Maintenance	2024 Total	2023
1 Sycamore Drive	3,282	658		835	4,775	5,410
9 New Zealand Ave	3,437	543		2,975	6,955	5,852
76a Countess Road				5,692	5,692	19,160
7 Normandy Way				961	961	5,030
Unallocated			4,847	1,303	6,150	2,997
Totals	6,719	1,201	4,847	11,766	24,533	38,449

Unallocated costs for maintenance relate to the redundant church properties taken on by the circuit during this financial year.

9 Connexional and District Assessment and Levy (SOFA 12,13 & 16)

The District Assessment is calculated relative to the staffing (Presbyter and Mission staff only) of all Circuits in the Southampton District. This amounted to £41.6k broken down as £35K for the Connexion and £6.6K for the District. Levy on the Circuit Model Trust fund is taken directly from the funds at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and is made up of a Circuit/ District payment of £6948 and an administration charge of £539

	General	CMTF	2024 Total	2023
District Expenses	6,622		6,622	6,220
Methodist Church Fund	34,958		34,958	35,768
Levy on CMTF		7,487	7,487	9,104
Totals	41,580	7,487	49,067	51,092

10 Office & Administration costs (SOFA 15)

Costs include those incurred by presbyters in respect of their home offices and those of other circuit office holders, this amounted to £6.9k.

	General £	CMTF £	2024 Total £	2023
Publications, including Conference Minutes	677		677	336
Postage	72		72	239
Stationery	438		438	1,082
Bank charges	60		60	66
Total	1,247		1,247	2,849

11 Other outgoings (SOFA 16)

Costs include one-off payments for activities to support outreach activities, closure of churches and other permitted activities of the charity.

General Fund

Outgoings	General	CMT	2024 Total	2023
Preaching Fees	517		517	1,275
Church Closure	1,101		1,101	0
Misc	6,996		6,996	2,039
Quinquennial	2,970		2,970	
Youth	6,650		6,650	
Training	70		70	
Total	18,304		18,304	3,314

Designated funds

It has been decided that since certain historical designated funds - Manses maintenance (which has its own SOFA note), Café on the Green and Youth work are all budgeted for and reported separately in the Circuit Accounts and are not Restricted Funds, that the practice of preparing separate designated schedules is no longer necessary and that all the associated transactions will take place via our General Fund.

12 Designated funds (SOFA 21)

Following the change to employing a Circuit bursar and Finance Steward from the previous Circuit Treasurer arrangements, the use of designated funds has ceased. The carried forward balance of £19,651 has been transferred into the General Fund.

13 Brought forward payment (SOFA 24)

This has been adjusted from the previous year total to reconcile with the actual starting balance on the TMCP account of £188,966 on September 1st 2023.

BS1 Manses and Other properties.

Buildings comprise 2 manses and 2 investment properties. The circuit's role as managing trustees for closed churches means from time to time fixed assets from closed societies are transferred to the circuit when those societies accounts are closed. During the year two closed church societies (Fordingbridge and Winterslow) transferred their fixed assets to the circuit. This resulted in a £300k increase to the investment properties over the figures stated in FY23/4. It is intended that those transferred fixed assets will be disposed of in the coming financial year. The valuations for the transferred church buildings are those made by the estate agents handling the sales.

	Residential Land	Manses	Investment Property	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	935,003	523,200	566,797	2,025,000
Adjustment (+)				
Revaluations (+/-)				
Disposals (-)				
Transfers (+/-)			300,000	300,000
Balance carried forward	935,003	523,200	866,797	2,325,000

Net Book Value

Brought forward 01/09/2024	935,003	523,200	566,797	0	0	2,025,000
Carried forward 31/08/2024	1,235,000	523,200	566,797	0	0	2,325,000

BS2 Debtors & Prepayments

It is expected that all sums shown as debtors at 1 September 2024 will be received during the following year.

	General	Designated	2024 Total	2023
Debtors	26,422		26,422	0
Pre-payments				
Stipends, Pension NI	12,964		12,964	10,289
Other prepayments				2,310
Totals	39,386		39,386	12,599

The debtor relates to an outstanding invoice for a quarterly assessment payment from Salisbury Methodist Church of £26422.

BS3&4 Description of Funds

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at CAFBank Ltd are all available on demand and without loss of interest. Following the change to employing a Circuit Bursar and Finance Steward from the previous Circuit Treasurer arrangements, it was felt the practice of preparing separate designated schedules is no longer necessary and that all the associated transactions will take place via our General Fund. Consequently, the use of designated funds has ceased.

	General	Designated	2024 Total	2023
Central Finance Board	9,729		9,729	59,829
CAFBank Ltd	11,118		11,118	18,231
Cash in Hand	30		30	30
Hamptons Int	1,000		1,000	1,000
Totals	21,877		21,877	79,090

Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 31 Aug 2024	2023
General Fund	2,386,263	2,073,771

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit and which have not been designated for other purposes. About 99% of this fund is held as freehold property being manses for the ministers and investment property and, from time to time, redundant chapels in the Circuit. Grants made during the year are shown at paragraph 6. The Circuit Meeting is aware that grant applications must demonstrate public benefit and this is true for this fund.

	Balance at 31 Aug 2024	2023
Circuit Model Trust Fund	166,803	188,139

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Circuit. Its main source of income is formulaically determined contributions from the sale of manses and church buildings in the Circuit.

Although this is technically an Unrestricted Fund under the control of the Circuit Meeting, prior approval is still required from the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes to utilise these funds. Methodist Standing Orders 930, 931 and 917(2) are applicable.

There are no restricted or endowment funds.

Related Parties

Related parties include the Methodist Connexion, The Southampton District and Churches within the Circuit, CFB and TMCP. All financial transactions with these related parties are reported in these accounts.

Agency Collection and Payments

The Circuit has acted as agent in either collection or facilitation of the monies for Methodist charities in previous years. Previously the sums sent to the Circuit by churches were remitted direct to the organisations or funds shown and do not appear elsewhere in these accounts. Following changes to banking arrangements churches now pay monies directly to charities and do not use the circuit for payments.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner examined the Circuit Accounts at their standard professional fees of £800 + VAT and provided no additional services to the Circuit during the year.

Name of Circuit: Salisbury						Circuit No: 26/12	
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023							
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies				622			622
2 Income from monetary investments		2,864	5,833				8,697
3 Income from investment properties	3	16,518		6,832			23,350
4 Assessments on Churches	4	130,581					130,581
5 Capital Receipts							0
6 Grants received	5	5,000					5,000
7 Other charitable income	11	85		1,495			1,580
8 Total income		155,048	5,833	8,949	-	-	169,830
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	6	2,125	28,000				30,125
10 Salaries and associated costs	7	140,723					140,723
11 Property maintenance	8	9,400		35,453			44,853
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	9	35,768					35,768
13 District Assessment & Levy	9	6,220	9,104				15,324
14 Depreciation							0
15 Office expenses	10	2,188	661				2,849
16 Other outgoings	11	2,135		2,941			5,076
17 Total charitable expenditure		198,559	37,765	38,394	0	0	274,718
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-43,511	-31,932	-29,445	0	0	-104,888
21 Transfers between funds		- 10,000	- 12,000	22,000			0
22 Other gains/(losses)							
23 Net movement in funds		-53,511	-43,932	-7,445	0	0	-104,888
24 Total funds brought forward		102,282	232,071	27,096			361,449
25 Total funds carried forward		48,771	188,139	19,651	-	-	256,561

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these 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 Circuit Finance Steward



Date 5th June 2025

Name and address of Circuit Finance Steward: Mrs Susan Holmes, 7 Bishops Mead, Laverstock,
Salisbury SP1 1RU

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit Meeting held on 12th June 2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:



Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev. Dr. Mark Cheetham Date 12th June 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Salisbury Methodist Circuit

Charity number: 1134362

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Salisbury Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balance 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.


Nicholas Jones (FCCA)

Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Fawcetts LLP

Chartered Accountants

Windover House

St Ann Street

Salisbury

SP1 2DR

Date: 24 June 2025

Appendix A

Salisbury Methodist Circuit Meeting Membership for the year-ended 31 August 2024 (including members appointed after year-end):

Ministers:	Revd, Dr Mark Cheetham (chair) Revd. Steve Hawkes
Supernumerary Ministers:	Revd. Cecil King Revd. Christopher Jones Revd. Margaret Jones Revd. Rosemary Fletcher Revd. Philip Richter Revd. Rosemary Richter Revd. Judie Davies Revd. Jane Taylor Revd. Stephen Maunder Revd. Derek Chapman Revd. Dr Philip Luscombe Revd. Dr Peter Ensor Revd. Denise Binks (appointed 1 September 2024)
Lay Pastoral Assistant	Mrs Jacqueline Saunders
Circuit Stewards:	Mrs Susan Holmes (Finance) Mrs Fiona Sherman Mrs Linda Hayman Major Tim Casey
Manse Secretary:	Mr Robert Taylor
Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives:	Mrs Valerie Liversidge Mr Bernard Robert Mr Malcolm Spencer
Circuit Appointed:	Mrs Grace E Chick (Methodist Women in Britain) Mrs Diana Noble (Safeguarding Officer) Mr Nicholas Rutt (Circuit website manager) Mr Jim Gillings (ECO champion)
Circuit Church Representatives:	
Amesbury:	Mrs Lauren Newton Mrs Gillian Cook Mr Derek Fisher
Bemerton:	Mrs Janet Hardy Mrs Moira Burton Mr Ian Hardy
Bourne Valley:	Mrs Joy Davey Mrs Lynne Spring
Pitton:	Mrs Sarah Sankey
Salisbury:	Mr David Booth Mrs Carolyn Clarke Mr Paul Butler Mrs Beverley Turner

Sandleheath:	Mr Melvyn Clark (Resigned March 2024) Mr Andrew Ledger (From March 2024) Mrs Sue Ledger Mrs Sylvia Charlesworth
Shaftesbury (from 1 September 2024):	Ms Dorothy Jones Ms Jo Bathurst
Shrewton:	Mrs Lilian M Foynes Mrs Dianne Robinson
Tisbury (from 1 September 2024):	Ms Christine Fordham Ms Joy Ayles
Woodfalls:	Mr Graham Tanner Mrs Anita Tanner
Winterslow:	Mr Duncan Moody (resigned July 2024) Mr Ivan Moody (resigned July 2024)