

Registered Charity Number 1134878

SOUTH WEST PENINSULA METHODIST DISTRICT

(Formerly Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District)

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2024



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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Objectives and activities

Objectives

The objectives of the South West Peninsula Methodist District (formerly Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) are those as set out for the Methodist Church of Great Britain in the Deed of Union 1932 and the 1976 Methodist Church Act.

The aim of the Methodist Church is to proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world, and to renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the church.

The charitable objects of the South West Peninsula District (formerly Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) are the purposes of the Methodist Church and these are the advancement of:

- (a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the 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.

Activities

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. We do this through:

Worship: to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring: to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service: to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism: to make more followers of Jesus Christ

The Charities Act 2011 and 'public benefit'

The Trustees of the South West Peninsula District (formerly the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) in the meetings of the District Policy Committee give attention to their responsibility to demonstrate 'public benefit', as defined by the Charities Act 2011. In undertaking this work, they follow the Commission's guidance, which sets out two key principles:

- the organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
- the benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Trustees' particular contribution to the working out of the calling of the Methodist Church is to support and enable the churches and Circuits of the District to call, nurture, challenge and equip disciples to carry forward the work. This is achieved by supporting churches and Circuits across the District to:

- increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love;
- help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care;
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

We consider that, for these reasons, the South West Peninsula District (formerly the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) meets the public benefit requirements.

In detail, the District contributes to the life of the churches and Circuits by:

Worship

- ✓ maintaining oversight of the number and distribution of places of worship in the District
- ✓ working with other Christian denominations in strategic plans for nurturing a Christian presence for worship and service across our region
- ✓ the work of the District Chair and Lay Stationing Representative, recruiting and placing ministers to the ministerial vacancies in the District
- ✓ working together with the Methodist Regional Learning Network to provide opportunities for those leading worship to develop their skills
- ✓ encouraging the development of patterns of worship which meet need, e.g. 'Messy Church' and worship which is accessible to those with particular needs

Learning and Caring

- ✓ working with the Regional Learning Network and others, we encourage and facilitate learning for people in many diverse church roles, both paid and voluntary, both supporting and holding them to account for the work undertaken
- ✓ providing opportunities for reflection, the learning and development of ordained ministers and overseeing the development of those exploring a call to ministry
- ✓ building our partnership with the Cuttack Diocese of the Church of North India to promote better understanding of, and co-operation within, the world-wide church community
- ✓ keeping people safe by ensuring that the Safeguarding training developed by the Methodist Church is rolled out and built upon in every church and providing professional support and expertise on Safeguarding matters
- ✓ promoting throughout the District national guidance on Health and Safety legislation, Employment Law and Data Protection.
- ✓ Continuing our relationship with a Human Resources company to provide human resource advice at a local level to supplement national advice.

Service

- ✓ contributing to the understanding and practice of ministry, with particular concern for rural areas
- ✓ encouraging community engagement, e.g. Christians against Poverty; involvement in Street and School Pastors and Foodbanks. We also commit to measures to combat climate change.
- ✓ Encouraging the engagement of Churches and Circuits in the District with the National Methodist Church's New Places for New People initiative which included the appointment of a New Places for New People Coordinator.
- ✓ promoting good stewardship and wider use of buildings, people, funds and other available resources
- ✓ helping to fund local community outreach initiatives
- ✓ supporting and encouraging awareness of the work of Action for Children, Methodist Homes, All We Can and other social action initiatives.
- ✓ Challenging injustice through involvement in national and international initiatives of the Methodist Church

Evangelism

- ✓ being a Christian presence alongside agricultural communities in our area through the work of our full time Agricultural Support Worker.
- ✓ providing continuing support to the *Transforming Conversation (formerly Christian Communities in Conversation) Project* which seeks to equip congregations to share their faith more readily and effectively in their everyday lives. This includes the funding of two new paid posts for the project.
- ✓ encouraging participation in the new national Growth and Evangelism initiative 'New Places for New People'.
- ✓ providing Seed Corn and Warm Welcome Grants for Circuits and Churches to respond innovatively to the challenges of coping with the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic

Achievements and performance

Achievements

During the Connexional year 2023-2024 the achievement of our objectives have been much less hampered by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, although the effects are still felt.

During the year 2023 – 2024, the District continued conversations with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District and at its' Spring Synod voted to merge with that District. The merger was approved at the Methodist Conference in July 2024 and the South West Peninsula District was formed on the 1st September 2024.

In Worship

We have achieved our objectives in the following ways:

- ✓ continuing to encourage the development of 'online' opportunities for worship, for example 'Zoom' and YouTube services. Shoreline, a purely on-line Church presence in the Exeter Coast and Country Circuit is beginning to have a more District wide and national dimension.
- ✓ reviewing the circumstances and opportunities where churches are threatened with closure to ensure best use of the resources available.
- ✓ we have responded to requests for help in reviewing and developing how individual congregations serve their local communities through worship and action.
- ✓ receiving reports from Ecumenical Officers and identifying local priorities and monitoring local ecumenical projects.
- ✓ where church buildings, either through very high maintenance costs or through a need for substantial investment costs cannot be sustained, encouraging and supporting worship in other public buildings or as house groups.

In Learning and Caring

- ✓ working in partnership with the Regional Learning Network to deliver a range of training opportunities for ministers, lay staff and office holders.
- ✓ ensuring the Ministerial Development Review arrangements are working well and providing an annual Ministerial Retreat.
- ✓ maintaining effective Supervision arrangements for Ministerial staff.
- ✓ aligning the work of the District Safeguarding Officer and District Safeguarding Group with developments led by the Connexional [national] Safeguarding Team.
- ✓ providing advice and guidance to those church communities faced with issues arising from Safeguarding.
- ✓ working together with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District to identify areas of co-operation and benefit.
- ✓ work to implement the response to the General Data Protection Regulations, as led nationally by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

In Service

There is plenty of evidence across the District of continuing and innovative services to communities eg. support to Foodbanks and Food Hubs has increased.

We have achieved our objectives in the following ways:

- ✓ through the District Grants Committee, making grants to enable:
 - the appointment of youth workers, children and family workers, an outreach worker, a university chaplain, a rural support worker and a Methodist Deacon
 - property refurbishment
 - the growth and development of the Transforming Conversation (*Christian Communities in Conversation*) Project.
- ✓ joining with other denominations in the planning and growing of new Christian communities in major housing developments.
- ✓ growing our engagement with the Cuttack Diocese of the Church of North India as part of our investment in the world-wide Church.

- ✓ supporting the appointment of a growing number of lay employee posts within Circuits to support work with children and families; young people and pastoral ministry.
- ✓ working to improve communication across the District by developing an improved website and better use of social media.
- ✓ Following the appointment of a District New Places for New People Coordinator, Churches and Circuits have been encouraged to develop innovative and creative new projects. This started with establishing a District project, Rev. 7, based on a hairdressing salon in Plymouth.

In Evangelism

- ✓ responding to local requests to take stock of local churches activities and effectiveness
- ✓ growing the potential of the Messy Church network to support parents and children and where possible moving activity online.
- ✓ working together with the Connexional Evangelism and Growth Team
- ✓ developing the Transforming Conversation (*Christian Communities in Conversation*) Project giving particular attention to the training and development of facilitators.
- ✓ starting to develop the Evangelism and Growth New Places for New People initiative. A New Places for New People Coordinator was appointed to work across the District and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District and a District New Places for New People Project, Rev 7, based on an intentional faith based community in a hair dressing salon in Plymouth was approved. A Group of people from across both Districts was formed to take the initiative forward.

Performance

The District has continued to support the substantial work started in Churches and Circuits to respond to the constraints and opportunities offered by the impact of the COVID pandemic. At the year end, the impact of the covid lockdown is known and initiatives have been put in place to enable Churches to move forward.

During the year we continued to encourage and strengthen leadership, both at the District level and in Circuit Leadership Teams.

Improvements to the District web site and use of Facebook has been maintained and proved very helpful in 2023-24.

In these ways the District Policy Committee Executive? seeks to demonstrate its accountability as a body of Trustees, on behalf of the District Synod.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to report that during the year to 31st August 2024 the District received incoming resources totalling £522,734 (2023: £379,995). The financial support received from Connexional Funds were used to fund grants and expenditure of £427,915 (2023: £298,573).

More than half of the District funding has come from Circuit Model Trust Funds and the Connexional Advance and Property Fund. These amounts are received annually into our District Advance Fund.

Although this is an unrestricted fund, the South West Peninsula District (formerly the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) has currently chosen to hold these funds solely for the purpose of making grants to projects to further the aims of the Methodist Church and not to use them for District administration and other more general purposes. This year we made grants from this fund totalling £141,531 (2023: £77,000) to churches and Circuits. A further £97,000 (2023: £86,250) has been granted to District projects.

Funding from Circuits has increased by 16% this year (2023 – 21% decrease). We continue to work towards the future, looking to ensure the District is adequately resourced but to also keep in mind the need for the contributions from Circuits to be affordable. In the year to 31st August 2024 the General Fund accumulated a deficit of £34,250 which is in line with our intention to respond to the pressure on Circuit finances. The District proposed to make every effort to reduce overall contributions in real terms after taking into account inflation by passing on the benefit of expected reductions in the Connexional Assessments. , however this was frustrated by recent rises in National Insurance costs.

The Trustees continue to keep the finances of the District and related policies under review especially in the light of the merger with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District on 1st September 2025.

Investment Policy

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). TMCP acts as Custodian Trustee for all real estate held by Districts; all large (over £20k) bequests and for the proceeds of sale of any property formerly owned within the District. These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements in the FTSE100 index. The deposit income mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere.

The South West Peninsula District (formerly the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) Trustees’ investment policy is aligned with that of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations (both negatively and positively) that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church. Short term deposits are lodged directly with the CFB and attract good rates of interest. There are no benchmarks for the expected returns or appreciation on investments at TMCP and CFB.

It is the District’s policy to manage the cash and investment resources of the District so that a rate of return on investment - both by way of dividend and capital appreciation - is obtained at least as good as market rate, considering the District’s low appetite for risk and its ethical preferences.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves of a charity are defined as that part of a charity’s unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity’s purposes. This definition excludes Restricted Funds, although holding such funds may influence a charity’s Reserves Policy. Reserves will also normally exclude tangible fixed assets such as land, buildings and other assets held for the charity’s use. It also excludes amounts designated for essential future spending.

Our General Fund reserves are as follows:	<u>2023/24</u>
	£
Total General Fund value	666,563
Less Funds not freely available	

Land and Buildings held for District use	<u>575,000</u>
Freely available General Fund Reserves	91,563 =====

Our agreed General Fund Reserves Policy is to ensure that we maintain a reserve equal to six months anticipated average expenditure, including Manse maintenance and repair costs. The Trustees consider this the minimum level of Reserves needed to maintain the ongoing financial stability of the District. Based on our expenditure in 2023/24, this requires a reserve of £92.592.

The current General Fund Reserves falls short of this amount by £1,029, which is in line with our policy of keeping the minimum amount in reserve to release as much resource as possible to the circuits.

Unrestricted funds are also held in the District Advance Fund. These designated funds are currently used to make grants in support of personnel and property projects of our churches, Circuits and the District. Where a grant has been approved, the full amount made available is treated as a liability of the District until it is paid. There is no requirement to hold Reserves in this fund. Where there is an amount unallocated at the end of any year, this is carried forward to the next year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The District is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 12th March 2010.

Structure

Circuits are the coordinating charities for local groups of churches; Circuits pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at - or ratified by - the half yearly Circuit Meeting. A District is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits and makes its decisions at the half yearly Synods. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Team implements decisions made by the Conference and is also responsible for the oversight of the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as 'ministers') in individual Circuits within the District.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District, for implementation.
4. The District passes control to Circuits for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards. Authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, Church Stewards and other Officers. This regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

Purpose of the District

The District is an expression, over a wider geographical area than any Circuit, of the Connexional character of the Methodist Church.

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been, since the date of the union, the advancement of:

- a. the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b. any charitable purposes for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local church or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and
- c. any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- d. any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of this District is to advance the mission of the Church in the Plymouth & Exeter District by:

- i. providing opportunities for Circuits to work together and support each other
- ii. offering to Circuits resources of finance, personnel and expertise.

The District serves the local churches and Circuits and the Conference in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church and in programmes of training.

Governance

The District operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Team at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the District.

The members of the District Policy Committee (DPC) are annually appointed by a vote of the Synod for a continuous term not normally exceeding six years. The Chair of District is *ex officio* chair of the DPC. When a position becomes vacant on the DPC, nominations are invited from ministers and lay members of Circuits within the District. The Chair of the District then shares information with nominees as to what the role involves. If a person wishes to be considered for a role, their name and a reasoned statement are considered by the DPC and the District Synod for appointment.

The District Policy Committee normally meets three times per year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It oversees the work of:

- The District Executive
- The District Treasurer
- The District Safeguarding Group
- The District Property Committee
- The District Grants Committee
- Manses Committee
- Chair's Manse Committee
- The Ecumenical Officers
- Transforming Conversation Project Management Committee

- The Rural Support Worker's Management Committee
- The Regional Candidates' Committee
- The District Probationers' Committee
- Local Preachers
- The World Church Committee
- Rural Issues
- The Lay Employment Committee
- Methodist Women in Britain
- Joint working with the Regional Learning Network
- Various Working Groups which worked on the possible merger with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District

The responsibilities of the District Policy Committee

- i. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Methodist Church in the Circuits and local churches and, in particular, to oversee the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist churches and Circuits who may be experiencing exceptional problems
- ii. to encourage inter-Circuit and ecumenical co-operation
- iii. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted by the Synod
- iv. to keep within its purview all District concerns not dealt with elsewhere
- v. to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of Connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind
- vi. constantly to be aware of the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed from within the membership (ordained and lay) of the Methodist churches and Circuits of the District. In making each appointment, care is taken to ensure the new Trustee has the skills and experience needed to fulfil the responsibilities of their role and safer recruitment procedures are followed. Appointments are made by the District Synod following nomination by the District Policy Committee, after a recruitment process has taken place.

During the year, 2022-2023, the District invited Revd Dr Daniel Haylett to be the District Chair for a further 5 years from September 2024. This was approved by the Methodist Conference in June 2023. The District Synod voted that for the year 2023-2024, Revd. Loraine Mellor would serve as Joint Chair of District with Revd. Dr. Dan Haylett serving as Joint Chair of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District.

Please see the Trustees list below.

Reference and Administrative Details

The name of the Charity	South West Peninsula Methodist District
Charity registration number	1134878
Principal Office	The District Office, The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT
Chair of the District	Revd Dr Daniel Haylett
Secretary of the Synod	Ms. Jane Allin
Secretary of the Presbyteral Synod	Rev Paul Smith (Resigned 31/08/2024 Rev Iris Bray (Appointed 01/09/2024)
District Treasurer	Mrs. Marianne Barrett Rogers

Names of Trustees:

The Trustees who served during the period and to the date of this report are:

Rev Dr Daniel R Haylett
Eleanor Jane Allin
Marianne P Barrett Rogers
Susan M Bolt (Resigned 01/09/2024)
Rev Iris Bray (Appointed 01/09/2024)
Rev Simon Clark (Appointed 01/09/2024)
Margaret J Fogarty (Resigned 01/09/2024)
Rev Kevin P Hooke
Sharon A Hurlow
Rev Deborah Kirk
Rev Simon H Leigh (Resigned 01/09/2024)
Mary L McNaughton (Resigned 01/09/2024)
Rev David Miller (Appointed 01/09/2024)
Roy G Mitchell (Resigned 01/09/2024)
Rev Janet Park (Appointed 01/09/2024)
Patrick Reynolds (Appointed 01/09/2024)
Deacon Ruth Richey (Appointed 01/09/2024)
Rev Andrew T Vidamour (Resigned 01/09/2024)

The Managing Trustees for the District are the members of the District Policy Committee.
No Trustee claims exemption from disclosure of his or her name here.

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd. 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church 9 Bonhill Street London EC2A 4PE
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Independent Examiner

Ms Catherine Williams FCA DChA
Westcotts (SW) LLP Chartered Accountants,
47 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1SQ

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on the date below and is signed on their behalf by:



Revd Dr Daniel Haylett
District Chair



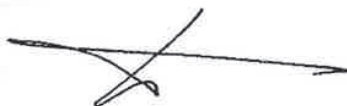
Mrs Marianne Barrett Rogers
District Treasurer

Date: 20 June 2025

Declarations

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the District and that they include all funds under the control of the District Policy Committee.

Signature of Treasurer



Name of Treasurer

Mrs Marianne Barrett Rogers

Address

Lower Buckland Lodge, Poundsgate, Newton Abbot TQ13 7NU

Date: 20th June 2025

Presentation to the District Policy Committee

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the District Policy Committee on 22nd May 2025

Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair

Revd. Daniel Haylett

Date: 20th June 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of South West Peninsula Methodist District

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of South West Peninsula Methodist District for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of South West Peninsula Methodist District 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 South West Peninsula Methodist District'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.

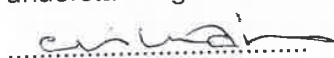
Independent examiner's statement

Since South West Peninsula Methodist District's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 South West Peninsula Methodist District as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



Catherine Williams FCA DChA
Westcotts (SW) LLP
47 Boutport Street
Barnstaple
Devon

EX31 1SQ

Date: 27th June 2025

South West Peninsula Methodist District
 (Formerly Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District)
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)
For the year ended 31st August 2024

		General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (Restricted)	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
Notes		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
		-	-	350	11,645	11,995	6,960
		-	-	-	-	-	-
		10,459	39,648	-	754	50,861	25,882
		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Assessments on Circuits	87,496	-	-	-	87,496	75,000
	From Circuit Model Trust Funds	-	303,090	-	-	303,090	223,429
5	Contribution to the cost of the Chair	47,866	-	-	-	47,866	45,723
	Contributions to other staff costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grants from Connexional Funds	-	-	10,000	8,427	18,427	-
6	Other income	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
	Total	148,821	342,737	10,350	20,826	522,734	379,994
Expenditure							
7	Grants and donations	-	141,531	6,700	17,525	165,756	107,326
8	Salaries and associated costs	113,386	-	15,862	38,857	168,105	132,374
	Property	8,088	-	6,988	-	15,076	13,642
	Office expenses	4,158	-	319	-	4,477	3,555
	Synods, meetings and Conference	7,454	-	-	-	7,454	(3,937)
	Other outgoings	-	-	1,293	-	1,293	230
	Travel expenses	7,947	-	898	4,584	13,429	15,753
	Depreciation	496	-	-	-	496	358
	Ecumenical contributions	4,720	-	-	-	4,720	4,556
	Training and Supervision	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Professional and Administration fees	27,507	1,425	-	660	29,592	22,008
	Other costs	9,316	-	7,097	1,105	17,517	2,707
	Total Expenditure	183,071	142,956	39,156	62,731	427,915	298,572
	Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments	(34,250)	199,782	(28,806)	(41,905)	94,819	81,422
	(Gains)/Losses on investment assets	-	-	-	430	430	(689)
	Net income (expenditure)	(34,250)	199,782	(28,806)	(41,476)	95,249	80,733
10	Transfers between funds	-	(97,000)	72,000	25,000	-	-
	Other Gains or losses	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Net movement in funds	(34,250)	102,782	43,194	(16,476)	95,249	80,733
Reconciliation of funds:							
	Total funds brought forward	700,814	102,971	390,305	112,193	1,306,283	1,225,550
	Total funds carried forward	666,563	205,753	433,499	95,717	1,401,532	1,306,283

South West Peninsula Methodist District
(Formerly Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted £	District Advance Fund Unrestricted £	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Restricted Funds Restricted £	TOTAL 2023/24 £	TOTAL 2022/23 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	1,607				1,607	1,431
Manse		575,000				575,000	575,000
Investments	12				14,753	14,753	14,322
Total Fixed Assets		576,607	-	-	14,753	591,360	590,753
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	13	25,880				25,880	1,177
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Deposits		50,774	369,030	433,499	80,964	934,267	711,056
Cash at Bank and in hand		28,390				28,390	118,534
Total Current Assets		105,044	369,030	433,499	80,964	988,537	830,767
Current Liabilities							
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 year)	14	15,088	57,704			72,792	56,737
Net Current Assets		89,956	311,326	433,499	80,964	915,745	774,030
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		666,563	311,326	433,499	95,717	1,507,105	1,364,783
Long term Liabilities							
Grants payable	14		105,573			105,573	58,500
Net Assets		666,563	205,753	433,499	95,717	1,401,532	1,306,283
Funds of the District							
General Fund		666,563				666,563	700,814
District Advance Fund			205,753			205,753	102,971
Designated Funds	15			433,499		433,499	390,305
Total unrestricted funds		666,563	205,753	433,499	-	1,305,815	1,194,090
Restricted Funds	15				95,717	95,717	112,193
Endowment Funds						-	-
Total Funds		666,563	205,753	433,499	95,717	1,401,532	1,306,283

South West Peninsula Methodist District

(Formerly Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District)

CASHFLOW STATEMENT**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024****For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	2024	2023
<i>Cash generated from operations</i>	95,249	80,733
Surplus		
Net adjustments to cash flows from non-cash item:		
Investment revaluation	(431)	695
Depreciation charge	496	358
	<u>95,314</u>	<u>81,786</u>
Working capital adjustments		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(24,703)	(1,177)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	63,128	28,302
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>133,739</u>	<u>108,911</u>
<i>Cash generated from investing</i>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(672)	(1,789)
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>(672)</u>	<u>(1,789)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>133,067</u>	<u>107,122</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	<u>829,590</u>	<u>722,468</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	<u><u>962,657</u></u>	<u><u>829,590</u></u>

South West Peninsula Methodist District

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) (2019) and in accordance with the 'true and fair override' provision contained therein.

ii Public benefit entity

The South West Peninsula Methodist District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated 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, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the District'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 Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the District is a going concern. Despite the COVID pandemic the Circuits have managed to meet the allocated assessments and early indications suggest that the same will be true in the coming year.

vi Consolidation

The District oversees the work of ministers and lay workers in Churches and Circuits within the District but does not have control over those Circuits or Churches, ministers or lay workers except in extreme circumstances, none of which were applicable. For this reason, the financial statements of the Churches and Circuits within the District are not consolidated into these financial statements.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to the South west Peninsula Methodist District. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers. Details of how the contribution to the cost of the District Chair has been determined appears in Note 5. A similar figure appears in the Expenditure at Note 8.

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

The District acts as agent in four matters:

1. the collection of quarterly assessments from circuits which are paid to the Methodist Church Fund
2. the payment of expenses of delegates from the District to the Methodist Conference
3. the collection taken at the spring synod on behalf of the Methodist Minsters' Children's Relief Fund
4. the cost of ministerial health checks recovered from Circuits

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because there is no obligation on the District to make up any shortfall in assessments from Circuits. Sums received as Circuit assessments cannot be recognised as income in the District as they are the income of the MCF.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) (2019), the time of volunteers is not recognised.

viii Expenditure

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 District to pay out resources.

ix Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the District accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

Where it becomes clear that a payment is possible, not probable, then a liability for the commitment is not recognised and the funding commitment is disclosed as a contingent liability.

x VAT

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

xi Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed value, of which the land component is deemed to be £275,000. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the manse buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xii Investments

The investments of the South West Peninsula Methodist District 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 12. below.

xiii Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the District or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the District. 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 account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiv Loans

Where concessionary loans (*i.e.*, free of interest) are made to (or received by) the District to further its charitable purposes, and are repayable after more than one year, they are initially recognised at the amount paid (or received), with the carrying value adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest, adjusted for any impairment, if necessary.

xv Methodist Church Fund

The District acts as agent for the Methodist Church Fund (MCF) by collecting its assessments on Circuits and does not, therefore, include the assessments in the SOFA. If a Circuit is late in paying its MCF assessment to the District but such sum is received before the quarterly transfer to the MCF, the amount paid late will be shown as a debtor in the District's accounts.

xvii Ministers' manse costs

The District is required to provide accommodation for our ministerial Chair and his / her family. The District bears the cost of repairs, maintenance, building insurance, Council Tax and water charges. These costs are not shown separately as benefits-in-kind for Ministers as HMRC does not seek to tax these receipts in the hands of the Ministers.

2 Comparative Figures

The financial statements on pages 16-17 only show the total comparative figures for 2023. To enable better understanding of the District's financial reporting the Statement of Financial Activity and Balance sheet for 2023 have been reproduced, in full below.

Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)
For the year ended 31st August 2023

		General Fund (Unrestricted)	District Advance Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (Restricted)	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		1,099	-	449	5,412	6,960	27,611
Charitable activities							
Investments		6,258	18,744	-	881	25,882	3,415
Other							
Assessments on Circuits	4	75,000	-	-	-	75,000	95,237
From Circuit Model Trust Funds		-	223,429	-	-	223,429	243,664
Contribution to the cost of the Chair	5	45,723	-	-	-	45,723	42,740
Contributions to other staff costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants from Connexional Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	6	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	3,034
Total		131,080	242,173	449	6,293	379,995	415,701
Expenditure							
Grants and donations	7	7,122	77,000	17,000	6,204	107,326	60,712
Salaries and associated costs	8	102,072	-	-	30,302	132,374	179,852
Property		7,427	-	6,215	-	13,642	20,513
Office expenses		3,555	-	-	-	3,555	5,744
Synods, meetings and Conference		(3,937)	-	-	-	(3,937)	6,468
Other outgoings		1	-	-	230	230	-
Travel expenses		8,182	-	-	7,570	15,753	10,350
Depreciation		358	-	-	-	358	-
Ecumenical contributions		4,556	-	-	-	4,556	4,056
Training and Supervision		-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional and Administration fees		13,694	1,181	-	7,133	22,008	19,977
Other costs		1,327	-	-	1,380	2,707	7,360
Total Expenditure		144,357	78,181	23,215	52,820	298,573	315,032
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments		(13,278)	163,992	(22,766)	(46,527)	81,422	100,669
(Gains)/Losses on investment assets					(688)	(689)	(1,662)
Net income (expenditure)		(13,278)	163,992	(22,766)	(47,215)	80,733	99,007
Transfers between funds	10	(2,700)	(86,250)	59,500	29,450	-	-
Other Gains or losses						-	-
Net movement in funds		(15,978)	77,742	36,734	(17,765)	80,733	99,007
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		716,792	25,229	353,571	129,957	1,225,550	1,126,543
Total funds carried forward		700,814	102,971	390,305	112,193	1,306,283	1,225,550

Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	General Fund Unrestricted £	District Advance Fund Unrestricted £	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Restricted Funds Restricted £	TOTAL 2022/23 £	TOTAL 2021/22 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	1,431				1,431	0
Manse		£75,000				575,000	575,000
Investments	12				14,322	14,322	15,016
Total Fixed Assets		576,431	-	-	14,322	590,753	590,016
Current Assets							
Debtors and Prepayments	13	1,177	-	-		1,177	0
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Deposits		21,909	200,371	390,305	97,871	711,056	614,497
Cash at Bank and in hand		116,534	-	-	-	116,534	107,971
Total Current Assets		141,619	200,971	390,305	97,871	830,766	722,468
Current Liabilities							
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 year)	14	17,237	39,500			56,737	60,935
Net Current Assets		124,383	161,471	390,305	97,871	774,030	661,533
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		700,814	161,471	390,305	112,193	1,364,783	1,251,550
Long term Liabilities							
Grants payable	14	-	58,500	-	-	58,500	20,000
Net Assets		700,814	102,971	390,305	112,193	1,306,283	1,229,550
Funds of the District							
General Fund		700,814	-	-	-	700,814	716,732
District Advance Fund		-	102,971	-	-	102,971	25,229
Designated Funds	15	-	-	390,305	-	390,305	352,571
Total unrestricted funds		700,814	102,971	390,305	-	1,194,090	1,094,532
Restricted Funds	15	-	-	-	112,193	112,193	126,957
Endowment Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds		700,814	102,971	390,305	112,193	1,306,283	1,229,550

3 Assessments on Circuits

The assessment on each Circuit is annually determined by the District. This includes the amount each Circuit is due to pay to the MCF and is calculated by reference to the number of staff in the Circuits and the number of Church members but may also take into account a Circuit's ability to pay.

The District is made up of the following Circuits:

Circuit Name	Circuit No	Circuit Name	Circuit No
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Plymouth and Devonport	24/01	Tiverton and Wellington	24/16
Plymouth Methodist Mission	24/02	South Petherton and Crewkerne	24/18
Exeter, Coast and Country	24/03	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	24/20
Tavistock	24/07	South Molton and Ringsash	24/22
Torbay	24/08	Torridge	24/23
South Devon	24/10	West Devon	24/24
Bude and Holsworthy	24/11	West Somerset	24/25
Taunton Deane and		Ringsash	24/27
South Sedgemoor	24/15	Teignbridge	24/28

4 Contribution to Methodist Church Fund (MCF)

In addition to the assessments on the Circuits to fund the costs of running the District, the District acted as agent for the Methodist Church Fund which levied assessments on the Circuits in this District totalling £510,192 (2022/23: £468,066) all of which were collected or shown as debtors at the end of the year and paid over to the MCF in the year. No balance was held at the end of the year; no fee is received for this service which is performed at nearly nil cost to the District. These sums collected for and remitted to the MCF do not appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

5 Cost of Chair and Trustees

The Chair of District chairs meetings of the District Policy Committee (DPC). The members of the DPC are the trustees of the District. The stipend, employer's NIC and employer's pension contributions of the Chair of District are paid by the Methodist Connexion. The Chair's other costs are met by the District.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Stipend to Chair	36300	34836
Employer's National Insurance Contribution	3754	3481
Apprenticeship levy	182	163
Employer's pension contribution (defined benefit scheme)	7812	7244
Cash cost paid by the Connexion (see, SOFA, line 7)	-47866	-45723
Notional estimate of cost of providing Manse	21000	21000
Chair's expenses	7132	5194
Total cost	28314	26195

Since the stipend-related costs above of £47,866 (2022/23 £45,723) are borne by the Connexion, they appear both in the Income of the District and the Expenditure of the District (See Note 8). The Chair of District is the sole paid key management person but is supported by members of the DPC.

It should be noted that the chair is required to occupy the District manse. The manse is provided by the Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District and the District maintains the property. The sum of £21,000 was determined by enquiry of a local property surveyor in 2017/18. The trustees do not consider that this has changed materially since 2017/8 and so remains unchanged this year. This figure does not appear elsewhere in these accounts. No accrual is made for the Chair's entitlement to a sabbatical as his / her functions are undertaken jointly by the Deputy Chairs at minimal extra cost to the District.

Payment to Trustees

It is District policy to offer to reimburse members of the District Policy Committee (DPC) and others involved in the administration of District affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

The Chair of the District undertakes the primary executive role within the District. Apart from the Chair, no-one on the DPC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the District, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed whenever this was requested.

Most trustees are not employees of the District. Expenses have been reimbursed to 3 (3 in 2023/22) volunteer trustee(s) (members of the DPC) who, in aggregate, have received the following:

	2023/24	2022/23
Travel on District business	1805	473
Administration and other re-imbursed expenses	530	470
	<u>2335</u>	<u>943</u>

The following expenses were paid to the District Chairman, and 2 other trustees who were also District employees:

Travel and hospitality on District business	3944	3358
Administration and other re-imbursed costs	3188	2256
	<u>7132</u>	<u>5194</u>
Total expenses paid to trustees	<u>9467</u>	<u>11001</u>
Total number of trustees paid expenses	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

6 Other income

The District does not currently undertake any fundraising. The "Other Income" shown on the SOFA relates to the use of part of the district office by another local charity.

7 Grants, donations and related Support costs

Grants and donations totalling £107,326 were made during the year (2021/22: £60,712) as shown in the table below.

		2023/24	2022/23
Unrestricted:			
- From DMTF	To Church projects	0	12122
	To Circuit projects	141531	77000
	Returned unused from projects	0	0
	To Circuits for projects with other partners	0	12000
Other	To Church projects	6700	0
Sub total		<u>148231</u>	<u>101122</u>
Restricted:			
- From Cuttack Appeal Fund	To Church of North India	11075	1504
- From Emergency Fund 1	To individuals	3300	2200
- From Training Fund	To individuals	3150	2500
Sub total		<u>17525</u>	<u>6204</u>
Total		<u>165756</u>	<u>107326</u>

In addition, funds were made available from the DAF to support District projects and funds as follows:

Unrestricted			
- Mission support		97000	0
- New Places for New People		0	50000
- Transforming conversation		0	25000
		<u>97000</u>	<u>75000</u>
Total		<u>97000</u>	<u>75000</u>

The Grants Committee is aware that Grant applications must demonstrate public benefit.

The support costs for grant-making to third parties are not significant and so are not separately disclosed.

8 Salaries and associated costs

The salaries and associated costs paid to our chair, two other full time and three part time employees over the last two years were as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
Gross pay	104688	75738
Employer's pension contribution to defined contribution scheme	1532	4511
Employer's National Insurance contribution	13489	6002
Apprenticeship levy	530	400
	120239	86651
Cost of Chair (see Note 4)	47866	45723
Total staff costs	168105	132374
Average weekly contractual hours of Staff members	165	165

Most ordained ministers are members of the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS) which is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers are not employees of the church. However, for simplicity, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions the terms "employer" and employee are used as they would be if the church were an employing body.

The Connexion accounts for the MMPS pension scheme and shows these figures in their annual financial statements. This scheme is currently in deficit but a plan to correct this is in place and is being implemented. Details of the scheme can be found in the Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Other District employees have the option to join our lay employee scheme administered through the Pensions Trust. This is a defined contribution scheme to which both the employee and District contribute.

9 Fees for independent Examination of the accounts

	2023/24	2022/23
Independent Examiners fees for reporting on the accounts	10000	960
Other fees paid to the Independent Examiner		
Total amount paid	10000	750

10 Transfer between funds

The following transfers were made to / (from) the District Designated Funds during the year to 31 August 2024:

	Manse	Mission support fund	Transforming Conversations	Youth	Training	Total
From General Funds						0
From / (To) DAF		97000				97000
Total transferred	0	97000	0	0		97000

The equivalent amounts in the previous year to August 2022 were:

	Manse	New Places for new people	Transforming Conversations	Youth	Training	Total
From General Funds	7500			2000	4450	13950
From / (To) DAF		50000	25000			75000
Total transferred	7500	50000	25000	2000		88950

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Manse	Other land & buildings 7 yr SL	Fixtures, fittings & equipment 5 yr SL	Total
Cost or deemed value				
As at 01/09/2022	575000	98064	7779	680843
Additions/(Disposals)	0	0	672	672
As at 31/08/2023	575000	98064	8451	681515
Accumulated depreciation				
As at 01/09/2022	0	98064	6348	104412
Provided/(Written back)	0	0	496	496
As at 31/08/2023	0	98064	6844	104908
Net Book Value				
As at 31/08/2023	575000	0	1607	576607
As at 31/08/2022	575000	0	1431	576431

The Manse was revalued on 31 August 2015 to fair market value and this is the deemed value included in these accounts. Prior to this the Manse was valued at £313,811 which was its insurance value as at 31 August 2015.

The land component included within the current deemed Manse value is £275,000.

12 Investment Assets

The following investments are held in the Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP) CFB Managed Fixed Interest Fund and the Trustees Interest Fund. These collective investments were revalued on 31 August 2024

	Units	2023/24	2022/23
Trustees interest Fund		5501	5501
CFB Managed Fixed Interest Fund	5251	9252	8821
Total		14753	14322
Income earned on Investments for the year	668	326	326

Change in the carrying value of Investments:

	2023/24	2022/23
Carrying value brought forward	14322	15010
Additions/ disposals and income less expenditure		0
Unrealised net (loss) gain on revaluation	431	-688
Carrying value carried forward at 31 August 2019	14753	14322

13 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
Assessments from Circuits	19119	0
Other debtors and prepayments	6761	1177
Total (net)	25880	1177

14 Creditors and accrued expenses

Amounts due in less than 12 months	2023/2024	2022/2023
Accrued Expenses	15088	17237
Grants payable to third parties	57704	39500
Other Creditors		
	72792	56737
Amounts due in more than 12 months		
Grants payable to third parties	105573	58500

15 Funds in detail

	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers & adjs	Closing Balance
Designated Funds					
<i>Manse Fund</i>					
Running costs, maintenance and repair of the District Manse	12009	350	-6988	0	5371
<i>Rural Chaplaincy Fund</i>					
To Fund the rural chaplaincy co-ordinator project	50000	0	0	-25000	25000
<i>Cuttack Fund</i>					
To facilitate the Cuttack Diocese partnership	11000	0	0	0	11000
<i>Youth Fund</i>					
Ongoing support of youth work and young people in ministry	4554	0	-2293	0	2261
<i>Cranbrook Project</i>					
To support the local ecumenical	24000	0	0	0	24000
<i>Seed Corn Project</i>					
To support post Covid initiatives	10250	0	-5700	0	4550
<i>New Places for New People</i>					
To facilitate bringing the Gospel of Christ to as many people as	150000	10000	-5132	0	154868
<i>Transforming Conversation</i>					
A modern form of the ancient tradition of spiritual conversation which aims to encourage conversations about things that matter	128492	0	-19043	0	109449
Mission Support Fund					

To provide salaries for staff supporting mission in the district	0	0	0	97000	97000
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Total Designated Funds	390305	10350	-39156	72000	433499
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Restricted Funds***Transforming Conversation***

A modern form of the ancient tradition of spiritual conversation which aims to encourage conversations about things that matter

6266	30	-6296	0	0
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Cuttack Fund (restricted)

To facilitate the Cuttack Diocese partnership

1828	0	-675	-23	1130
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Cuttack Appeal

To support work of Cuttack Diocese including the Christian Hospital at Berhampur

7110	3570	-10704	23	0
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Emergency Fund No 1

Benevolent fund for the benefit of ministers and others in need

9791	932	-3960		6763
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Emergency Fund No 2

Support of the widow of Rev I Thompson. Income transferred to EF No1 (see also note 12)

14322	0	0	430	14752
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Extending Discipleship, Exploring Vocation (EDEV)

To fund individual exploration of vocation and discipleship training of lay people

13232	0	0	0	13232
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Ministerial Training Fund

To fund training and ongoing development of ordained ministers

11253	0	-3150	0	8103
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Rural Chaplaincy Fund

Rural chaplaincy project

48391	7866	-37946	25000	43311
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Methodist Action on Poverty

To facilitate projects in areas of special need

0 8427 0 0 8427

Total Restricted Funds

112193 20825 -62731 25430 95717

16 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the end of the year to 31 August 2024 . (Also none at the end of the previous year).

17 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the District trustees are members of both a Methodist church and Circuit within the District and may be trustees in those organisations.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and churches within the District, other Methodist Districts within the United Kingdom, CFB, and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that the South West Peninsula Methodist District has no significant influence over them, nor they over the South west Peninsula Methodist District. They are therefore not considered related parties.

There were no related party transactions other than those disclosed in note 4.

18 Volunteer Contributions

Every entity within the Methodist Church in the United Kingdom is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the church. In the District this contribution is principally serving on committees that deal with mission, manses, finance, policy, property, grants, training, discernment and development. We are grateful to all our volunteers for their help and commitment.

19 Post Balance Sheet events

The trustees of the District are aware that church attendance, having been reduced by the pandemic is, slowly increasing. This has had an impact on the income of churches and Circuits who financially support this charity. Currently there are no indications from Circuits that the assessments, which support the general activities of the district, will not be met in full to the end of 2023/24.

The district also holds sufficient designated funds to support their project workers for at least 12 months and sufficient reserves to fund the general expenditure for at least six months. The trustees will be keeping this under review, as will all the churches, Circuits and other entities that make up the Methodist Connexion.

A resolution was presented to the 2024 Methodist Conference that the merger of the District with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District should be approved to take place with effect from the connexional year commencing 1st September 2024. The two Districts came together on 1st September 2024 under the new name of South West Peninsula Methodist District. As far as the trustees are aware no adjustments in respect of this event need to be