

Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit
Charity No 1134882
Report of the Trustees For The Year
Ended 31st August 2025

The Trustees submit their annual report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Legal and administrative information

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of the Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which the Methodist Church acts. The constitutional practice and discipline of the Methodist Church governs the activities of the Circuit.

On 12th March 2010 the Circuit registered as a separate charity under the Charities Act 2006 and has been allocated the Registered Number 1134882.

Superintendent Minister: Rev Howard Long

Circuit Address: Swansea and Gower Circuit Office, Mumbles Methodist Church, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4DH

Organisational Structure

The Swansea and Gower Circuit is made up of eleven churches. These are - Pitton, Horton, Reynoldston, Murton, Mumbles, Uniting Church Sketty, Brunswick, Penlan, Wesley, Morriston, Clydach. There are approximately 455 members, numerous worshipping adherents and community contacts.

There are 8 members of staff. These are Rev Howard Long – Superintendent Minister, Rev Andrew Walker, Rev Louise Gough, Rev Andrew Pearce (Associate Minister – Anglican) Rev Betty McNiven (Associate Minister – Anglican) and Lay Workers – Huw Davies, Heather Davies, Elizabeth Wheeler and Louise Davies (Circuit Admin)

Other office holders (voluntary) include

Circuit Stewards – Mrs Heather Coleman, Mrs Grace Coleman (Treasurer), Mrs Lynne Taylor, Mr Colin Everett and Circuit Meeting Secretary Eleanor Cuthill

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Managing Trustees. During the year 2024/25 the following people served as members of the Circuit Meeting.

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP

STAFF

Revd Howard Long
Rev. Andrew Walker
Rev Louise Gough
Rev Andrew Pearce – Associate Presbyterian
Rev Betty McNiven – Associate Presbyterian

LAY WORKERS

Mr Huw Davies – Ogof Adullam
Mrs Heather Davies – Ogof Adullam
Mrs Elizabeth Wheeler – Ogof Adullam

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Louise Davies

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Rev. Pam Cram – Missions Secretary/MWiB
Rev. Margaret Adams

CIRCUIT ROLES

Mrs Nancy Owens – Circuit Meeting Secretary (part year)
Miss Eleanor Cuthill – Circuit Meeting Secretary (part year)
Mrs Grace Coleman – Circuit Treasurer
Mrs Heather Coleman – Circuit Steward
Mrs Lynne Taylor – Circuit Steward
Mr Colin Everett – Circuit Steward/Property
Mrs Win Hawkins Local Preachers Secretary
Miss Janet Neilson – Art Serve Representative
Mr Jeff Coleman – Circuit Archivist
Mrs Pat Davies – Circuit Safeguarding
Mrs Sandra Pengelly – Circuit MHA representative
Mrs Gill Worrall – Circuit Action for Children representative

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Brunswick Kathleen Jones, Sybil Smith, Malcolm Grimley
Clydach Marilyn Harry, Alan Cram
Horton Hildegard Roberts, Peter Scott, Audrey Hinnells
Morrison Eleanor Cuthill (part year) Irene Harrison, Janice Heslop
Mumbles Mark Puntan, David Boakes, Caroline Buckler, Geoff Maddock, Cynthia Mumford
Murton Ruth Painter, Marjorie Probert, Susan Billington
Penlan Blodwen O'Connor
Pitton Selina Taylor, Isobel Everett, Carolyn Jenkins
Reynoldston Ian Campbell
Sketty Jon Dyer, Sandra Cuthill, Les Want, Alan Jones
Wesley Elaine Davies, Brinley Jones, Maureen Escourt

Mission and Purpose

The Circuit is constituted to advance the mission of the Methodist Church in the Swansea and Gower area by providing opportunities for churches to work together and support each other. It does this by offering resources and expertise which may not be available locally. The Circuit also services the local churches in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programmes of training.

Priorities for the Methodist Church

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor in Britain and worldwide
- Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
- Encouraging fresh ways of being Church
- Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

Swansea and Gower Circuit Policy

As a Circuit we affirm the Priorities of the Methodist Church and seek to:

- Express the Gospel through worship, word and action in ways that will speak to the needs and culture of the people around us.
- Nurture Christian understanding and lifestyle through fellowship groups, study groups and prayer groups in the Churches.
- Encourage growth in church membership through worship and evangelism, mission and pastoral care.
- Support existing chaplaincies and develop other chaplaincy work wherever possible.
- Work in partnership with other churches wherever possible in order for us to share in God's mission more effectively.
- Play a full part in the work of the Methodist Church in Wales while being inspired and challenged as part of the worldwide Church of Christ.
- Be sensitive to environmental issues and be good stewards of our natural resources.

Review of the Year

Staffing: The lay workers, Huw Davies, Heather Davies and Elizabeth Wheeler were made redundant following the closure of the Ogof Adullam project this year. All other staffing remained unchanged. Rev Louise Gough took a sabbatical during the year.

Circuit Leadership Team: The CLT is made up of all staff (lay and ordained) and 4 circuit stewards Heather Coleman (UCS) Grace Coleman (Morrison) Lynne Taylor (Pitton) and Colin Everett (Pitton).

Circuit Strategy: The strategy document was reviewed periodically by the Circuit Leadership Team.

MDR: Ministerial Development Review: This was ongoing throughout the year

Safeguarding: Training sessions continued throughout the circuit. The Annual Safeguarding Policy for the circuit as well as the annual circuit audit was agreed.

EDI – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Mandatory training sessions took place throughout the circuit.

Local Preachers: The Local Preachers met regularly online for mutual support, continuing development and LP/WL business.

Bible Month: The circuit supported Bible Month in June concentrating on the Gospel of John

Penlan: Penlan Church Council (made up of trustees from other churches) continued to oversee the property and mission of the church.

Property: The Murton fellowship continued to work towards the sale of their chapel and the development of the hall into a multi-purpose worship/community centre. The work on Sketty manse was completed. A number of Quinquennial reports were completed throughout the year.

Eco Grants: The circuit continued to offer grants to support churches as they work to become more environmentally friendly.

Outreach: Messy Church and a number of Alpha Courses were held throughout the circuit.

Wales Methodist Synod. The circuit was fully represented at all Synod meetings that took place throughout the year including the annual Synod (Sept 2024), Ministerial Synod (March 2025) and the Synod Policy Committee (Online). The Superintendent Minister chaired the Synod Schemes and Grants committee which met online three times during the year.

In the course of the year the Swansea and Gower Circuit has:

- Prepared the preaching plan and organised acts of worship both online and in person
- Arranged four Circuit Meetings dealing with business relating to the Circuit and formulated plans for the future including agreeing the budget and church assessments for the financial year 2025/26

- Completed an annual GDPR and Safeguarding audit
- Arranged EDI Training for all Staff and Office Holders.
- Arranged 2 meetings of the Circuit Mission Committee
- Arranged 6 meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team
- Each minister received regular supervision
- Arranged 4 meetings of the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders as well as various study sessions

SWANSEA & GOWER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals This Year	Previous Year Totals
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Assessment or Share	204,325				204,325	197,833
Capital Receipts						
Interest and Investment Income	911	10,427			11,338	14,972
Grants	4,000				4,000	4,000
Profit on Sale of Buildings	0				0	0
Other Income	20,901		49,231		70,132	40,296
Total Incoming Resources	230,137	10,427	49,231	0	289,795	257,101
Stipends, Salaries, NIC & Pension costs	107,575	18,701			126,276	128,365
District Assessment	39,844				39,844	40,162
Methodist Church Fund	5,148				5,148	5,194
Telephone & Travel	6,511				6,511	7,295
Insurance, Utilities etc	12,554				12,554	18,466
Maintenance on Manses	15,243	30,000			45,243	25,435
Other Expenditure	32,072				32,072	30,662
Grants & Donations	0	29,811			29,811	26,000
Professional Fees	0	0			0	0
CPF Levy	0	10,958			10,958	11,977
Contributions to District Advance Funds	0				0	0
Total Resources Expended	218,947	89,470	0	0	308,417	293,556
Net Incoming Resources	11,190	-79,043	49,231	0	-18,622	-36,455
Total Funds Brought Forward	656,164	253,102	0			945,721
Funds transfer	0	0	0			
Total Funds Carried Forward at Year End	667,354	174,059	49,231	0	-18,622	909,266

SWANSEA & GOWER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals This Year	Previous Year Totals
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets						
Manse Chapels and Churches	4,040,000				4,040,000	580,979
Total Fixed Assets	4,040,000	0	0	0	4,040,000	580,979
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments	10,457		0		10,457	10,636
Central Finance Board and Trustees for Methodist Purposes Deposit	19,927	174,059			193,986	272,165
Cash at Bank and in Hand	74,931		49,467		124,398	65,556
Total Current Assets	105,315	174,059	49,467	0	328,841	348,357
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 year)	18,941		236		19,177	20,070
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	86,374	174,059	49,231	0	309,664	328,287
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	4,126,374	174,059	49,231	0	4,349,664	909,266
Loans and creditors due after 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provision for liabilities and charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Assets	4,126,374	174,059	49,231	0	4,349,664	909,266
Funds of the Circuit						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	667,353		49,231		716,584	656,164
Revaluation Reserve	3,459,021				3,459,021	0
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)		174,059			174,059	253,102
Total Funds	4,126,374	174,059	49,231	0	4,349,664	909,266

To Be Approved by the Swansea & Gower Circuit on 26th May 2026 and signed on their behalf

Rev. Howard Long



Grace Coleman

Registered Charity No. 1134882

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees of Swansea & Gower Methodist Circuit (Charity Number 1134882)

I report on the circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners' Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 21/04/2026

Name: CARL WEST

Relevant professional qualification or Body: ACA

Address: 29 YSTRAD ROAD
FFORESTACH
SWANSEA
SA5 4LH