

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT

ACCRUALS ACCOUNTS
2024-25

For the year ended 31 August 2025



Part of the Southampton District (26/09)

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Introduction

The Poole Bay Methodist Circuit was formed on 1st September 2014 from the joining together of the former Bournemouth and Poole & Swanage Circuits. The Circuit originally consisted of 12 Churches located in South Dorset spanning from Swanage to Southbourne, which operated under 9 Church Trustee bodies. With the closure of Wareham church in 2019 and Kinson & Lytchett Matravers churches in 2024, the Circuit now consists of 8 active Churches (exc. St Georges) which operate under 6 Trustee bodies.

Aims and Organisation

The mission of the Circuit is to encourage, facilitate, enable and resource the local Churches to be a Christian discipleship movement within their local communities and in the power of the Holy Spirit to spread God's message of love through action and word.

Review of the year

Income trends

Total income for the Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2025 of £377,410 compared with last year's amount of £417,808, a decrease of £40,398. The reduction of income was due to lower legacy receipts of -£10,334, lower interest on deposits of -£22,422 and lower church assessments of -£16,747 offset by an increase in other income of £9,105.

Circuit income was primarily drawn from the Assessments of £206,960 paid by the Circuit Churches, was -£16,747 lower than last year's amount of £223,707. Poole Methodists received an assessment subsidy of £34,376 (60%).

Rental income, which relates to the rental of unoccupied manses of £69,398, was £7,298 higher than the last year's amount of £62,100.

Income received from Circuit bank balances held at Central Finance Board and TMCP of £76,458 was -£22,422 lower than last year's receipts of £98,880 due to lower bank balances held by the Circuit and a reduction in interest rates (see note 12 – page 26).

Expenditure trends

Total expenditure for the Circuit for the year ended 31st August 2025 of £581,061 compared to last year's amount of £588,925 (exc. Property transactions), a decrease of -£7,864.

Total annual stipends & lay employee salary costs of £282,633 during the period were £18,868 higher than the previous year total costs of £263,765 due to annual increases to wages and an increase in Employers National insurance rates in April 2025. During the period there continued to be 5 full time Ministers and 1 part-time Minister.

During the year, the Circuit contributed a total of £122,655 (£102,969 previous year exc. voluntary pension contribution refund of £26,100) to the Southampton Methodist District, District Methodist

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Advanced Fund and Methodist Church Fund, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

It was agreed at the Circuit Meeting held on 17th September 2024 the balance of the interest free loan to Poole Methodists of £64,000 was to be written off and the balance of the church's 2023-24 Assessment of £41,194 was to be subsidised by the Circuit.

Sale of fixed assets

There were no manse sales during the year. It was agreed to sell the Browning Avenue manse once vacated by the departing Superintendent at the Circuit Meeting held on 10th June 2025.

Purchase of fixed Assets

There were no manse purchases during the year.

Church property matters

The sale of Wareham Church has been ongoing since it was closed in August 2019, with no interested parties at the year end. Refer to contingent assets note in the accounts (page 19).

Lytchett Matravers Church & Kinson Church both closed in July/August 2024. During the year the Circuit received the Lytchett Matravers closing church funds of £2,305. Kinson Church closing church funds were transferred to Bournemouth Methodists.

Expenses incurred by the closed churches are covered by the Circuit. Total insurance costs of £13,343 and other costs relating to utilities & maintenance etc of £8,996 were incurred during the year.

It is the intention of the Trustees to sell both Kinson church and Lytchett Matravers church.

Fund balances

As at 31st August 2025 the net current assets of the Circuit were £1,599,412 of which £1,424,234 were unrestricted (exc. designated funds), giving 33 months of cover for total expenditure at current expenditure levels.

Activities

September 2024 to 31 August 2025

During the period, Church life has been busy with various activities and events held by the churches i.e. Bible study sessions, Messy Church and Eco Church. 'Daisy Chains' a group for children and families with special needs met during the school holidays.

The Circuit Youth Group is held at The Spire, Poole, it is a circuit wide group welcoming young people from across the churches. The group attended the 3Generate in October where young people explore what it means to take their next steps in living a Methodist way of life.

Same sex marriage licences for all the churches were applied for during August 2025.

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St Georges continues to be used by the Bournemouth Foodbank who help those in the community in need of their services. Faithworks Wessex continued to work out of Winton Church to support addiction and poverty for those people in Bournemouth, and Poole. Weekly worship services continue to be held at St George's Chapel.

Stationing - The Circuit was delighted to be matched with a new minister for Bournemouth starting in September 2025.

After 13 years with Poole Bay Circuit, Rev'd Tony Cavanagh's Superintendency finished in August 2025. From September 2025, the Superintendency will be shared by Rev'd Karen James and Rev'd Sarah Knebel.

A retired minister has continued to assist the ministry part-time and a lay pastor continues to give his time to help. Both roles providing invaluable support.

As per previous years, the Circuit has been able to finance two deacons to work with the local communities in Bournemouth and Poole, however, both deacons stationing finished in August 2025 with one transferring to another circuit and one retiring. There were no new deacons to replace the outgoing ones, so stationing is planned to start again in January 2026. After a break, the retiring deacon will rejoin later in 2025 and pick up some of the work on a part-time basis.

Plans for 2025/26

The Trustees continue to recognise the need to regularly review the Circuit's structure and resources with the aim to provide future stability for the Circuit and its Churches and the need to monitor the finances of its Churches which will affect the future income of the Circuit.

- Meeting in groups is vital to offer support and social contact.
- Be wise with resources – people, skills, money.
- Repurposing of buildings which can be difficult to maintain and not always essential for worship.
- Working with others is the only way forward – Circuit, ecumenical partners, partners in mission.
- Become a hybrid church using Zoom, streamed services, recorded services and face to face worship to include everyone.
- Focus on the younger generation.

The safeguarding training requirements of individuals will continue to be monitored on a regular basis throughout 2025/26.

Wesley's Café @ The Spire and the Welcome Inn Café @ Victoria Park were incorporated on 28th August 2025, to start trading from 1st September 2025 and 1st March 2026 respectively. 'The Spire Management Group Trading Ltd' at Poole Methodists and 'Bournemouth Methodist Church Trading Ltd' at Bournemouth Methodists are both a company limited by shares. The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Board is the sole £1 shareholder and holds the share as nominee and on trust for the unincorporated charities.

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Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025 have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2019 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 - the Charities SORP (FRS102).

Full name of charity: Poole Bay Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number :1136518

Date of registration; 22nd June 2010

Main contact address: The Circuit Office, c/o Winton Methodist Church, Heron Court Road, Bournemouth, BH9 1DE.

The members of the Poole Bay Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of Circuit office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the local Churches.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Circuit Ministers *Rev Tony Cavanagh (Superintendent)*

Rev Karen James

Deacon Suzie Viana

Deacon Gill Judge

Rev Chris Moreton

Circuit Officers Mrs Christine Snape

Mr Terry Fish

Mr David Downing

Miss Sarah Joy

Dr Julian Tawn

Dr Rebecca Thompson

Mrs Sheila Slattery

Circuit Office Staff

Michelle Dobson, Office Administrator

Louise Tidd, Circuit Finance Administrator

Kim Ashley, Church Finance Administrator (joined 1 March 2025)

Karen Price, Property Administrator (left 31 May 2025)

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Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
	Trustees for the Methodist Church Purposes
Auditor	PKF Francis Clark

Circuit Trustees who served during the period 1 Sept 2024 to 31 August 2025 (with start and end dates, where applicable)

Ministers	Elected	Resigned
Rev Tony Cavanagh (Superintendent)	01.09.2015	31.08.2025
Deacon Suzie Viana	01.09.2015	31.08.2025
Rev Karen James	17.09.2019	
Deacon Gill Judge	01.09.2020	31.08.2025
Rev Sarah Knebel	01.09.2024	

Circuit Stewards

Mr David Downing	05.12.2023
Miss Sarah Joy	13.09.2022
Dr Julian Tawn	03.12.2019
Dr Rebecca Thompson	11.06.2024
Mrs Sheila Slattery	17.09.2024

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Rev Karen James	10.04.2020
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Circuit Meeting Secretary

Mrs Christine Snape (Upton)	14.03.2017
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Local Preachers Secretary

Dr Terry Fish	15.09.2020	31.08.2025
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<u>Circuit Church Representatives</u>	Elected	Resigned
Bournemouth		
Mrs Lesley Fernand	17.10.2017	31.03.2025
Mr Tony Fernand	17.10.2017	
Mr Alan McCoy	01.09.2015	
Mrs Ros Murray	01.09.2015	
Mrs Anita Hazell	23.05.2019	
Mr Paul Thompson	14.02.2022	
Mrs Elizabeth Graham	31.03.2025	
Broadstone		
Mrs Edwina Gould	11.06.2019	
Mrs Judith Hewins	01.09.2015	
Mrs Sylvia Kingston	14.05.2023	
Poole		
Ms Denise Gibbs	12.06.2018	01.09.2024
Mr Gerald Beddard	13.09.2022	
Mr Eifron Hopper	26.10.2022	
Mr Ron Balmer	17.09.2024	
Swanage		
Mr Robert Taylor	01.09.2016	
Mrs Annie Fellows	22.10.2020	

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	Elected	Resigned
Upton		
Mrs Katrin Harwood	01.09.2015	
Mrs Sue McCormick	01.09.2016	
Mrs Moira Thompson	02.05.2019	
Wool		
Mr Christopher Melhuish	01.09.2015	
Mrs Eileen Osgood	09.12.2015	

Aims and Organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Bournemouth, Poole and Purbeck District 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.

Activities

The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

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The large majority of the charity's Trustees take on their responsibility on a voluntary basis. Trustees rely heavily on members of the Circuit Churches to volunteer for specific roles, such as Circuit Stewardships and Local Preachers Trainer.

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 with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD) as last updated on 25 June 2024.

Day to day management of the Circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers Meeting and the Circuit Finance Group.

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" available to all new Circuit meeting members as induction to their roles as Trustees.

All members of the Circuit Meeting are Trustees of the Poole Bay Methodist Circuit. The membership of the Circuit Meeting is prescribed in the Standing Orders of the Constitutional Practice and discipline of the Methodist Church. Under the Standing Orders all the Circuit's Ministers and Circuit's Stewards are ex officio members of the Circuit Meeting. The Poole Bay Methodist Circuit has further agreed that the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and Local Preacher's secretary are also members and that if possible, each Church can provide 4 representatives, elected from those Churches.

The managing Trustees must operate within the guidelines of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church lays down how the Circuit should run, and the Methodist Church provides guidance on many of the policies required, such as Safeguarding, employment, recruitment etc.

The remuneration for the Circuit's Ministers is set by Methodist Conference each year. Lay employee's remuneration is discussed by the Circuit Finance Group and a recommendation is put forward to the managing Trustees with the annual budget. The Methodist Church supports the Living Wage Foundation.

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:- Broadstone, Kinson (closed), Lytchett Matravers (closed), Poole Town, St George's, Swanage, Trinity, Upton, Victoria Park, Winton and Wool.

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The four Churches of St George's, Trinity, Victoria Park and Winton, operate under one governance structure of the Bournemouth Methodists.

Please refer to the following notes to the accounts: 17. Related Parties Transactions on page 28.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Office Team and have been reviewed by the Circuit's Trustees.

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 to detect trends as part of the Circuit's risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Environmental or External factors

Pandemic

Government safeguarding and other guidelines would be followed by the Circuit. Assistance in the form of grants for loss of income may be available to the churches within the Circuit.

Other external factors

Changes to government policy which may result in a negative impact to the charity i.e. change of regulations, law, taxation. To address this risk the Trustees ensure they remain up to date with changes in legislation and engage professional advisors where appropriate.

Governance Risks

The Trustees may lack relevant skills or commitment. The Circuit may find it difficult to fill these roles. To address this risk the Methodist Church of Great Britain provides guidance for managing trustees on its website and via the Constitutional Practice & Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church.

Operational Risks

Employment issues such as the ability to recruit or retain key staff. To address this risk the Methodist Church of Great Britain provides recruitment advice via its Safer Recruitment guidelines.

Business continuity issues such as the occurrence of incidents that limit the Circuit office's ability to operate as normal. To mitigate these risks the office has surplus IT equipment, up to date antivirus protection is used, storage is mainly server based and office data regularly backed up to a hard drive.

Financial Risks

Loss of assessment income from churches resulting from a fall in church membership numbers and/or the ability to fill key Trustees roles. Also, the loss of income from the closure of a church. To mitigate this the Trustee may consider the option to repurpose a church building for the use of another charitable organisation. The Circuit reserves are monitored by the Trustees. Church Treasurers monitor Church finances and make savings where possible.

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Control Risk

Risk of budgets being inaccurate. To address this risk actual costs are measured against budgeted costs by the Financial Administrator bi-annually or more regularly if required.

Inherent Risks

Identifying probable and possible risks the Circuit may face. To address these risks the Methodist Church publish newsletters on its website. Regular office zoom meetings are held to discuss and agree the best course of action to take to reduce risks.

Compliance Risks

Potential non-compliance with legislation. To mitigate this risk by following up to date guidance issued by the Methodist Church and the Charities Commission.

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

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The Poole Bay Methodist Circuit is committed to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Churches. The Poole Bay 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 in its General Fund a minimum sum equivalent to 6 month's budgeted expenditure i.e. £268,761 (25/26 budget), in line with the Methodist Church of Great Britain and as recommended by the Southampton District.

The Trustees consider this sufficient to meet any unforeseen time of major expenditure in the short term and for funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise in the short term and for funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from Churches. The net current assets in the general fund balance at 31st August 2025 were £1,028,685.

During the period other funds also held and not included in unrestricted free reserves are:

Property Fund

A property fund of £5,338,000 has been established, equivalent to the value of the Circuit manses held within fixed assets. The manses were valued at market value as at 31st August 2025 (see note 10. Page 24).

Circuit Model Trust

Circuit Model Trust monies are unrestricted and can be used for a variety of purposes. The Trust is held by the Trustees for the Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. Closing Balances at 31st August 2025 of £395,549.

Designated Funds

Designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the trustees have earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the trustees if they later decide that the charity should not proceed or continue with the project for which the funds were designated.

The Circuit holds designated funds to be held to cover the costs for Education & Youth, Equipment, Mission & Outreach, Training, Ministers, Lay Employees and Manse repairs.

The closing balance of designated funds as at 31st August 2025 was £171,874.

Rev Robert Ferguson Trust

The Rev Robert Ferguson Trust is a restricted fund. It is a legacy left to the Circuit for the support of retired Methodist Ministers. The closing balance was £2,346.

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Food Bank

The Food Bank monies were donated by the Church members for the specific funding of the Food Banks, this fund was closed during 2024. The closing balance was £9 cash float to be used to purchase goods for Bournemouth Foodbank.

Benevolent

The Benevolent Fund is a donation from the family of a past member to be used at the discretion of the Superintendent Minister, for those in need. The balance was £0.

Ford Trust

An Endowment Fund bequeathed to the Circuit or it's Churches that have since closed. The use of the interest is unrestricted. The Market Value at 31st August 2025 was £949.

Wareham Bequest

A fixed interest fund bequeathed to Wareham Church and transferred to the Circuit on closure of the Church. The use of the fund is unrestricted and both capital and interest can be withdrawn. The Market Value of the investment at 31st August 2025 was £222.

The Circuit Model Trust and designated funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the Trustees retain for circuit activities, without restricting and committing the funds legally.

Trustee Responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales required the Trustees of Poole Bay Methodist to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware;
and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The charity seeks to comply with the requirements of UK legislation, the Charity Commission and the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church in all areas of its dealings.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting period beginning on or after 1st January 2019.

The Trustees approved this report on 3rd March 2026. The report was signed on their behalf by

Karen James and Sarah Knebel

Joint Superintendents and Chairs of the Circuit Meeting

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024-25 £	Total 2023-24 £
Income and Endowments from:								
Legacies & Donations	4	20,976		690			21,666	32,000
Income from monetary investments	5	47,871	28,478		65	44	76,458	98,880
Assessments on Churches	6	206,960					206,960	223,707
Other Charitable Income	7	72,326			-		72,326	63,221
Total income		348,133	28,478	690	65	44	377,410	417,808
Expenditure on:								
Donations	8	-		-			-	30,250
Salaries, NIC & Pension costs	9	153,140		129,493			282,633	263,765
Property maintenance & other costs		11,117		61,113			72,230	71,932
Expenditure on sale of property	10	-	-				-	6,063
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	10	-	-				-	155,287
Office expenses		3,050		1,457			4,507	2,528
Telephone and Travel		12,476		4,088			16,564	16,936
Insurance, Utilities etc.		40,063		7,605			47,668	30,206
District Assessment & Levy		8,160		6,156			14,316	12,396
Methodist Church Fund		43,080		32,508			75,588	39,396
Contributions to District Advance Fund			32,751				32,751	25,077
Professional fees	9	17,578	-				17,578	12,549
Other outgoings		5,232	1,993	9,531	467	3	17,226	19,890
Write off - balance of Poole Methodists Loan	17	-					-	64,000
Total charitable expenditure		293,896	34,744	251,951	467	3	581,061	750,275
Net expenditure		54,237	-6,266	-251,261	-402	41	-203,651	-332,467
Transfers between funds	15	-23,754	-211,359	235,019	94	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/losses:								
Losses/Gains on revaluation of investments	11	-5					-5	10
Losses on revaluation of fixed assets	10	-480,500	-				-480,500	-180,000
Net movement in funds		-450,022	-217,625	-16,242	-308	41	-684,156	-512,457
Total funds brought forward		6,816,929	613,174	188,116	2,663	908	7,621,790	8,134,247
Total funds carried forward		6,366,907	395,549	171,874	2,355	949	6,937,634	7,621,790

* 2024 SOFA is shown in the notes to the accounts on page 21.

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Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed Assets								
Land & Buildings	10	5,338,000					5,338,000	5,818,500
Investments Funds	11	222					222	227
Total fixed assets		5,338,222	0	0	0	0	5,338,222	5,818,727
Current Assets								
Debtors and Prepayments	12	14,680		-			14,680	52,926
Loan by the Circuit to Poole Methodists		0					0	0
Cash at Bank and in hand		18,264		-	928		19,192	30,338
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes - Deposit Fund		60,919	395,549	-	1,427	949	458,844	622,921
Central Finance Board Deposits		950,749		174,769			1,125,518	1,140,705
Total current assets		1,044,612	395,549	174,769	2,355	949	1,618,234	1,846,890
Current Liabilities								
Creditors and Accruals (due in under 1 yr)	13	15,927	-	2,895			18,822	23,827
Total current liabilities		15,927	0	2,895	0	0	18,822	23,827
Net current assets		1,028,685	395,549	171,874	2,355	949	1,599,412	1,823,063
Total assets less current liabilities		6,366,907	395,549	171,874	2,355	949	6,937,634	7,641,790
Loans and creditors due after 1 year								
Grants payable after 24-25	13	0					0	20,000
Net assets		6,366,907	395,549	171,874	2,355	949	6,937,634	7,621,790
Funds of the Circuit								
Unrestricted funds	15	6,366,907	395,549	171,874			6,934,330	7,618,219
Restricted funds					2,355		2,355	2,663
Endowment funds						949	949	908
Total Funds		6,366,907	395,549	171,874	2,355	949	6,937,634	7,621,790

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Poole Bay Circuit

Circuit No 26 09

Statement of cashflow		2025	2024
	Note	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	16	-266,868	-354,777
Interest received		<u>76,458</u>	<u>98,880</u>
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>-190,410</u>	<u>-255,897</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		<u>0</u>	<u>412,500</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		-190,410	156,603
Cash and cash equivalents at 01/09		<u>1,793,964</u>	<u>1,637,361</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31/08		<u>1,603,554</u>	<u>1,793,964</u>
Cash at bank and in hand		1,144,710	1,171,043
Short term deposits		458,844	622,921
Cash and cash equivalents at 31/08		<u>1,603,554</u>	<u>1,793,964</u>

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting framework and accounting policies

1. Basis of accounting

Poole Bay Methodist Circuit is a registered charity, registration number 1136518, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the charity is given in the trustees' report on page 5 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees Annual Report.

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 (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

2. Public benefit entity

The Poole Bay Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

3. Accounting policies

Basis

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

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In the opinion of the Trustees, with proactively managing cash-flow the charity has sufficient working capital to continue to meet its financial obligations and pay its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future and therefore the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. The accounts are expressed in £Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

FRS102 SORP2019

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2019.

Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Assessment income received from Churches is also included on this basis. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Expenditure

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

Donations

Donations made by the Circuit are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the donation is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

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

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at the current market values. All properties are owned by the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Circuit Trustees are the Managing Trustees. In adherence to Methodist regulations, each property is surveyed by a qualified surveyor every five years and property inspections are carried out by the Circuit. The results of these surveys form the basis of the planning and budgeting for remedial works along with regulatory requirements such as boiler inspections and electrical testing.

During 2019/20 there was an accounting policy change to the method used to value the manse properties from insurance valuation to the use of market values. The market values are reviewed annually to reflect the current market.

Contingent Assets

Wareham Church was closed in June 2019. The Church was put up for sale on the open market, an offer was accepted during 2020 pending planning permission which was declined in December 2023 and the offer was withdrawn. A further offer was accepted during 2025 which has subsequently been withdrawn. Wareham Church has been disclosed in the accounts as a contingent asset due to uncertainty of the sale of the church building, current volatility on the property market and ability to quantify the capital amount to be received in the future by the Circuit. The church is currently on the open market for £325,000. In December 2025, the Surveyor has recommended selling the church at auction.

Kinson Church and Lytchett Matravers Church were both closed in July/August 2024. It is the intention of the Trustees that these churches are to be put up for sale on the open market. These churches have been included as a contingent asset as at 31st August 2025.

Kinson Church was initially valued at around £1M in May 2025, however, due to questions on what could be done with the building & land and an unstable development market Thornes, the Circuit's designated Surveyors have reassessed the situation and revised the market value to £600,000 in December 2025.

Lytchett Matravers Church is still to be valued by a designated adviser/surveyor; however, it is a cobb building which may restrict redevelopment and the ability to secure a mortgage on.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Under Standing Order 970, the CPF levy (Connexional Priority Fund) shall be charged on all capital money arising from a sale. The amount of levy chargeable is nil on the first £20,000, 20% on any excess over £20,000 up to £100,000 and 40% on any excess over £100,000 (Standing Order 972).

Investment Properties

Investment properties – no property is currently deemed to not be held for the long-term purposes of the charity.

Investments

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

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at realisable values.

Creditors

Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply or amount advanced to the Circuit. Subsequently, creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid.

Loans

Concessionary loans include those receivable from/ made to third parties which are interest free or below market rates and are made to advance charitable purposes. All loans are measured at cost, less impairment.

Pensions

Most ordained presbyters and deacons are members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS). This is a defined benefit scheme. The Supreme Court held in 2014 that Methodist ministers 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. Lay employees, however, are contractually employees and have the option of joining The Pensions Trust. This is a defined contribution scheme. The Connexion accounts for MMPS and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church of Great Britain accounts.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the group.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

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 £	Total 2022-23 £
Income and Endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	4	32,000					32,000	-
Income from monetary investments	5	53,256	45,508		70	46	98,880	52,309
Assessments on Churches	6	223,707					223,707	329,864
Other Charitable Income	7	62,469			752		63,221	55,794
Total income		371,432	45,508	-	822	46	417,808	437,967
Expenditure on:								
Donations	8	250		30,000			30,250	37,273
Salaries, NIC & Pension costs	9	146,478		117,287			263,765	251,991
Property maintenance & other costs		11,706		60,226			71,932	47,143
Expenditure on sale of property	10	-	6,063				6,063	6,732
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	10	-	155,287				155,287	-
Office expenses		2,528					2,528	2,498
Telephone and Travel		12,934		4,002			16,936	17,468
Insurance, Utilities etc.		27,010		3,196			30,206	34,889
District Assessment & Levy		7,332		5,064			12,396	12,156
Methodist Church Fund		12,624		26,772			39,396	60,192
Contributions to District Advance Fund			25,077				25,077	37,059
Professional fees	9	10,834	1,715				12,549	8,994
Other outgoings		6,094	1,447	8,162	4,185	2	19,890	10,132
Write off - balance of Poole Methodists Loan	16	64,000					64,000	-
Total charitable expenditure		301,790	189,589	254,709	4,185	2	750,275	526,527
Net expenditure		69,642	-144,081	-254,709	-3,363	44	-332,467	-88,560
Transfers between funds	15	-458,959	255,326	203,633	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/losses:								
Gains/Losses on revaluation of investments	11	10					10	-17
Losses on revaluation of fixed assets	10	-180,000	-				-180,000	-456,000
Net movement in funds		-569,307	111,245	-51,076	-3,363	44	-512,457	-544,577
Total funds brought forward		7,384,484	501,929	239,192	6,026	2,616	8,134,247	8,678,824
Prior period adjustment to funds b/fwd	11	1,752				-1,752	-	-
Total funds carried forward		6,816,929	613,174	188,116	2,663	908	7,621,790	8,134,247

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

4. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donation - Youth	500				500	0
District Grant - God Squad	190				190	0
Irene G. Darlington Bequest	20,976				20,976	32,000
Total	21,666	-	-	-	21,666	32,000

5. Income from monetary investments	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board CFB	46,345				46,345	52,703
TMCP	1,470	28,478	65	44	30,057	46,018
CAF	56				56	159
Total	47,871	28,478	65	44	76,458	98,880

6. Assessments on Churches	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bournemouth Methodists	86,936				86,936	85,268
Broadstone	48,028				48,028	47,106
Kinson (closed)	0				0	22,131
Lytchett Matravers (closed)	0				0	6,066
Poole	22,917				22,917	15,000
Swanage	26,679				26,679	26,166
Upton	16,591				16,591	16,273
Wool	5,809				5,809	5,697
Total	206,960	-	-	-	206,960	223,707

Note: Bournemouth Methodists include: St George's, Trinity, Victoria Park and Winton churches.

7. Other Charitable Income	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lettings (Fernside Road)	19,275				19,275	18,600
Lettings (Headswell Avenue)	19,350				19,350	18,600
Lettings (St Lukes Road to 4 July 2025)	19,973				19,973	24,000
Lettings (Cherry Hill Grove from August 2024)	10,800				10,800	900
Lytchett Matravers Church closure	2,305				2,305	0
Other	623				623	1,121
Total	72,326	-	-	-	72,326	63,221

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

8 Donations and Grants	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donation to Southampton District - leaving gift for Chair	0				0	250
Grant to Welcome Inn Café @ Victoria Park, Bournemouth Methodists	0				0	30,000
Total	0	0	0	0	0	30,250

9. Salaries & Associated Costs

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind

Employer's National Insurance costs

Pension costs

Administration costs inc. apprenticeships levy

Total staff costs

Stipends

Stipends - housing/living allowance

Total (Inc. stipends)

2025 Total	2024 Total
£	£
43,149	34,511
2,771	1,076
2,020	2,050
1,880	1,483
49,820	39,120
228,342	220,614
4,471	4,031
282,633	263,765

Stipend salaries relate to the employees of the central Methodist and costs are recharged to Poole Bay Circuit. No employees earn in excess of £60,000.

Average number of lay employees employed during the year were:

Average Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number of lay employees employed during the year were:

Average number of Ministers stationed during the year were:

Average Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number of Ministers

3	3
1.4	1.0
6	6
5.5	5.5

Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting. Trustees are also authorised to purchase items for the Church's use and were reimbursed the cost of those items.

This year	Last year
£ 14,185	15,244

Number of trustees who were paid expenses

8	6
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Nature of the expenses : Mileage, Telephone, business Expenses incurred by Ministers and Stewards and the cost of small tokens to Circuit Stewards and Ministers. Also, reimbursement of allowable expenses relating to the manses.

Total amount paid

£ 14,185	15,244
----------	--------

Professional Fees

Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts

Other professional fees (legal & other fees on purchase/sale of church/manse)

Other professional fees (eg: legal fees)

Total Fees

£ 10,448	9,450
£ 50	1,715
£ 7,080	1,384
£ 17,578	12,549

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Manse £	Other non investment land and buildings £	Total £
Balance brought forward	5,818,500	0	5,818,500
Additions			0
Revaluations (+/-)	-480,500		-480,500
Disposals (-)			0
Transfers * (+/-)			0
Balance carried forward	5,338,000	0	5,338,000

Net book value

Brought forward	5,818,500	0	5,818,500
Carried forward	5,338,000	0	5,338,000

The Manse properties have been revalued at Market Value on 31st August 2025 based on Zoopla estimates as at 20th January 2026 (17 September 2025 valuations updated).

If the Manse properties had continue to be revalued on 31st August 2025 based on the insurance valuations of £5,063,817 provided by Methodist Insurance in October 2025 the total valuation would have been £274,183 lower than by using market values.

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
Disposal of fixed assets	£	£	£	£	£	£
Disposal of Wimborne Road manse *		0			0	0
Disposal of York Road manse **		0			0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

* There was no profit/loss on disposal on the sale of Wimborne Road manse reported in the YE23-24 accounts, the market valuation was held at sale price of £450,000 per previous year's balance sheet.

** There was no profit/loss on disposal on the sale of York Road manse reported in the YE24-25 accounts, the market valuation was held at sale price of £455,000 per previous year's balance sheet.

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	Endowment	2025 Total	2024 Total
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	£	£	£	£	£	£
TMCP Levy on sale of property - York Road *		0			0	155,287
Selling costs i.e. estate agents fees, ACS fees		0			0	6,063
Total	0	0	0	0	0	161,350

* Connexional Priority Fund levy was applied to sale of York Road manse as it was not a replacement project.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

11. Investments

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund and the Manses Fund are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with Charity Law and Methodist Law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements

	This year £	Previous year £
CFB investment fund - Managed Fixed Interest	222	227
Change in investment values	£	£
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	227	217
Net: (loss)/gain on revaluation	-5	10
Carrying (market) value at end of year	222	227

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

12. Analysis of current assets

Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Prepayments	13,097	18,888
Accrued income - bequest	976	32,000
Other church debtors - church wages	0	1,677
Other debtors	607	361
Total debtors and prepayments	14,680	52,926

Analysis of cash at bank

Bank balance held in CAF Current Account	19,184	30,266
Bank balance held in CFB Ops and Reserves	1,125,518	1,140,705
Bank balance held in TMCP Funds - Poole Bay	333,063	553,348
Bank balance held in TMCP Fund - Poole Bay Reserves	62,486	59,826
Bank balance held in TMCP Fund - Robert Ferguson Trust	1,427	1,366
Bank balance held in TMCP Fund - Various Bequests	55,030	1,842
Bank balance held in TMCP Fund - Fords' Trusts	949	908
Bank balance held in TMCP Fund - Legacy Wareham	28	19
Bank balance held in TMCP Fund - E D Clarke	5,861	5,612
Cash held - Foodbank	8	72
Total Cash and Bank	1,603,554	1,793,964

13. Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors

Sundry Creditors	15,863	13,050
Creditors - Church	2,959	0
Creditors - Other Church re: Foodbank	0	777
Creditors - Welcome Inn Café @ Victoria Park - 24/25 Grant	0	10,000
Long term creditors - Welcome Inn Café @ Victoria Park - 25/26 & 26/27 Grant *	0	20,000
Total Creditor and Accruals	18,822	43,827

* Long term creditor - £20k payment was b/fwd so all remaining grant was paid during 24-25

14. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

At the 31st August 2025 the Circuit has no capital commitments.
No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2025.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

15. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements

Unrestricted Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
General	958,730	325,686	-293,872	-23,754		966,790	General Mission
Wareham	19	8				27	General Mission
Eva Doris Clark	5,611	268	-18			5,861	From Corfe Mullen - general mission
Various Bequests	33,842	22,171	-6			56,007	For general purposes
Property	5,818,500				-480,500	5,338,000	Provision of Manses for Minister use
Poole Bay Model Trust Fund	613,174	28,478	-34,744	-211,359		395,549	Mission
Education & Youth Fund (designated)	3,651	690	-1,944			2,397	Education & Youth - God Squad
Equipment (designated)	5,502		-1,457	250		4,295	Provision of Equipment
Mission & Outreach (designated)	20,167		-36			20,131	Various mission & outreach projects
Ministers removal (designated)	-6,458		-6,846	13,304		0	To assist ministers when moving
Deacons Fund (designated)	17,059		-122,278	123,175		17,956	To cover future Deacons costs
Lay Employee Fund (designated)	45,577		-57,991	62,290		49,876	To cover Lay employee costs
Manse Repairs (designated)	101,144		-61,113	36,000		76,031	To cover manse repair costs
Training (designated)	1,474		-286			1,188	Training
Totals	7,617,992	377,301	-580,591	-94	-480,500	6,934,108	

Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Rev. Robert Ferguson Trust	2,285	65	-4		2,346	To support retired Ministers
Int. Org. Food Bank	72	0	-63		9	Internal Org. provide food to those in poverty
Benevolent	306		-400	94	0	Superintendents discretion for those in need
Totals	2,663	65	-467	94	2,355	

Endowment Fund

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
Fords Trust - Endowment	908	44	-3	949

Investment Fund

Fund Name	How the Capital is invested	Opening Value	Current Value	Revaluation	What was income used for
Wareham Bequests -unrestricted CFB Mngd Fixed Interest investment fund	Trustee for Methodist Purposes	227	222	-5	added/deducted to fund value
Totals		227	222	-5	

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

16. Reconciliation of net income & expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net Movement in funds per SOFA	-684,156	-512,457
Interest receivable	-76,458	-98,880
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	480,500	180,000
Losses/(gains) on investments	5	-10
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	38,246	53,165
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	-25,005	23,405
Net cash outflow from operating activities	-266,868	-354,777

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2019.

17. Related party transactions

This year

Name of related party	Relationship	Description of transaction	Repayment due date	Amount B/Fwd	Loan write off	Amounts owed by related party on 31-Aug-2025
				£	£	£
Poole Methodists	Circuit Church	Non-secured loan	written off	64,000	64,000	0
Total				64,000	64,000	0

Other:

A total amount of £490 was paid to 3 outgoing Ministers in recognition of their contribution to the Circuit Ministry.

Last year

Name of related party	Relationship	Description of transaction	Repayment due date	Amount B/Fwd	Loan write off	Amounts owed by related party on 31-Aug-2024
				£	£	£
Poole Methodists *	Circuit Church	Non-secured loan	written off	64,000	0	64,000
Total				64,000	0	64,000

* Circuit Trustees agreed to write off the remaining balance of the interest free loan to Poole Methodists of £64,000 at the Circuit Meeting held on 17th September 2024.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

DECLARATIONS

Financial Representative

I can confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of the Financial Representative

Louise Tidd

Date: 16 February 2026

Name

Louise Tidd

Address

Poole Bay Methodist Circuit
The Circuit Office
C/o Winton Methodist Church
Heron Court Road
Bournemouth
BH9 1DE

Presentation to the Circuit Meeting for approval.

I confirm that the accounts have been presented to the Circuit Meeting on the 3rd March 2026 and were approved.

Signatures of the Joint Chairs of the meeting

Name of the Joint Chairs at the meeting

Rev'd K James & Rev'd S Knebel

Date

3rd March 2026

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Poole Bay Methodist Circuit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Poole Bay Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its results for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the financial statements.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Poole Bay Methodist Circuit

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 13, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity. We gained an understanding of the Charity and the sector in which the Charity operates as part of this assessment to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. As part of this, we reviewed the Methodist Church website for an indication of any regulations in place and discussed these with the relevant individuals responsible for compliance. The key regulations we identified were Charity legislation, health and safety regulations and employment law. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP - FRS 102.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue trading and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

- Enquiries of management and trustees regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations that could affect the financial statements. As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud.

POOLE BAY METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Poole Bay Methodist Circuit

- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and whether there were any serious incident reports made during the year.
- Discussed with management if any health and safety incidents have been recorded during the year.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non-compliance or legal costs in respect of non-compliance.
- Reviewed Board minutes.
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.
- Audited the risk of fraud in revenue recognition, including verification of church assessments to board papers and circuit church accounts filed with the Charity Commission.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate omissions, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are also less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustees those matters we are required to state to Trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Francis Clark LLP

Francis Clark LLP, Statutory Auditor
Towngate House
2-8 Parkstone Road
Poole
Dorset
BH15 2PW

Date:

Francis Clark LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.