NEWPORT AND LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales · Charity number 1137596

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-08-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	27 Church Road Caldicot Gwent NP26 4HN
Phone	01633764846
Email	sue.keeganvonallmen@methodist.org.uk
Website	www.NLWC.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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 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 subsiduary 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: Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas finacially and with prayer

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Caerphilly
- Herefordshire
- Monmouthshire
- Newport City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£511,889	£414,646	£2,370,946	7
2023-08-31	£598,963	£389,587	£2,273,588	6
2022-08-31	£296,881	£288,411	-	-
2021-08-31	£327,092	£318,227	-	-
2020-08-31	£254,413	£318,921	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANN WALDRON		
Allan Strange		2022-03-17
Ann Langford Mrs		2015-09-01
Ann Margaret Mackie		2022-09-01
BERYL ANN QUINLAN		2023-08-01
Brian Shier-Jones		2022-09-01
CAROL ANNE ALDRIDGE		2012-09-01
Catrin Olive Edwards		2025-06-25
Christine Morgan		2022-09-01
David William Evans		2020-07-01
Deacon John Brobbey		2024-09-01
Dr Robert Andrew Hawksley Goodson		2023-05-01
ELIZABETH JILL ELLIS		1996-09-01
Elizabeth Stewart Chonka		2023-09-01
GARETH EDWARDS		2013-05-30
Gillian Benson		2025-09-01
Hazel Esme Bennett		2010-09-01
Helen Louise Smith		2024-05-01
Ian Griffiths		2024-09-01
JOHN COBBETT HEALEY		
Jacqueline Sian Horrod-Tottem		2023-09-01
Jean Williams		2020-09-01
Jennifer Suter		2024-10-01
KEITH MAURICE HARVEY		
MARGARET NICHOLAS		
MARION EVELYN MARINA EDWARDS		
MIRIAM EVA HAM		2011-06-09

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Name	Role	Appointed
MRS PAM LLOYD		
Margaret Jenkins		2018-09-01
Martin Lougher BSc, BArch		
Michael Gray		
Mike Lavis		2024-04-01
PENNY BLAKEMORE		
Patricia Dicker		2016-09-01
Pauline Margaret Farr		2022-09-01
Priscilla Ruth Musker		2022-05-01
REV Les Jones		2017-09-01
ROBIN THOMAS ALAN HILL		
RUTH GRAY F.C.L.		
Rev ANDREW WEBSTER		2009-09-01
Rev Bethany Willers		2020-09-01
Rev Catherine Louise Lewis		2025-09-01
Roger Bafico		2018-09-01
Roger John Langford		2015-03-01
Rosemary Carnell		2012-09-01
SANDRA HANBURY		
SARAH - JANE JONES MAAT		
SIAN LLEWELYN		
STUART NUTTALL		2016-05-01
Simon David Oram		2019-04-01
Stephen Lawton Marshall		2025-10-22

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NEWPORT AND LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137596

Accounts

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit is part of the Methodist Church in Britain. The Circuit acts as the umbrella body and a resource provider for sixteen Methodist Churches in our area, which covers Newport and parts of South East Wales and Herefordshire.

The Circuit also contains a Local Ecumenical Partnership Church with the URC and the Presbyterian Church of Wales at Dan-y-Graig in Risca.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Aims and organisation (including the Circuit Mission statement)

Further to the Methodist Church's statement "Our Calling" and "Priorities for the Methodist Church", the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit has the following policy:

- To discern the will of God for us a Circuit.
- To support all of the churches within the Circuit and to engage in mission in clearly defined areas where the local Church has a vision for mission.
- To prioritise the work within the Circuit and to resource these priorities.
- To encourage ecumenical activities and have good links with other denominations in the area.

When planning our activities for the year, the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on Charities for the advancement of religion. There is a particular emphasis on impacting on the community beyond the membership of the churches. Many of our church buildings are used by community groups requiring safe and suitable spaces for meetings and the Circuit encourages this. Many of the Churches run groups on the church premises which may not be specifically church orientated but are certainly for the public benefit – examples are Parent and Toddlers Groups, Uniformed Organisations for girls and boys, Coffee Mornings and Luncheon Clubs, Welsh Classes, Kids Theatre groups and much more, which enhance the way of life in the communities in which they are located, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness.

The Circuit prepares a quarterly plan of services and preachers for all our Churches.

The Circuit encourages Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy

The Circuit encourages ecumenical links within the Circuit, not least with regard to its work with and for the smaller chapels in cooperation with a Baptist rural missioner in the northern end of the Circuit, as and when appropriate.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Our Superintendent, Revd. Sue Keegan von Allmen, retired on health grounds in April 2024, and Revd Bethany Willers took over responsibility as Acting Superintendent for the rest of the year.

Revd Kim Kerchal joined the Circuit as a part-time presbyter with effect from 1 September 2023. He has had responsibility for pastoral care at Monmouth, Gwehelog, Broad Oak and Llancloudy. Revd Paul Chesworth, another part-time presbyter, has continued to care for the church at Chepstow.

Our churches have continued to recover slowly after the Covid restrictions of 2020-21 although we have seen evidence of the continuing strain on elderly members of our congregations. Our use of Zoom, which was assisted by grants from the Wales Synod, has allowed those who are still cautious about Covid to join in our worship and our other activities. We have also continued to send out regular printed acts of worship to the many people for whom using technology is difficult.

The Circuit has continued to reach out to our local communities. Several of our Churches have been able to continue running their coffee mornings and offering soup and company to people who would like it. The Beacon Café in Chepstow Methodist Church and the St James's St Kitchen lunch club at Monmouth Methodist Church have both been in operation. Caldicot Methodist Church too has opened its coffee-mornings up for community use. Trellech Methodist Church has been visiting local schools to encourage children to Open The Book.

Economic conditions, with high inflation and rocketing energy prices, have caused major problems for our churches and our communities. Our churches responded by opening our buildings as warm spaces, where people could meet others, keep warm and save on heating bills. Some churches have been involved in inter-denominational initiatives.

Sadly, worship ceased at Langstone Methodist Church, Newport, in July 2023 and the church has now been sold. It brings to a close a long period of Christian witness in this place. Regular worship also ceased at Trellech Methodist Church in August 2024. Trellech will merge with Monmouth Methodist Church in September 2024 and it is hoped that Open The Book sessions will continue in the Trellech schools.

Efforts have continued throughout the year to sell the church of St David's and the Resource Centre in Risca. In the meantime, they have continued to be used by the immediate community.

Last year, a part-time Local Preacher Tutor was appointed to oversee a number of local preachers in training in the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit and the Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit and she continued her work in 2023-24. Her work has been supported by grants from the two Circuits and from Wales Synod Cymru.

We pray that the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit will continue as worshipping people that stay connected to their local communities, attract new people by taking part in online worship, and open their doors to different groups.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Income Trends

The total income of the Circuit was £511,889 in 2023-24, or £299,388 excluding capital receipts. The income of the Circuit in 2022-23 was £598,963 in 2022-23, or £271,963 excluding capital receipts.

The Circuit's main source of funding was the assessments paid by the churches to the Circuit. These assessments are reviewed annually and a budget agreed which is intended to cover the costs of the Circuit in fulfilling its mission, whilst maintaining adequate reserves in line with the Circuit Reserves Policy. Assessments were £245,430 in 2023-24 compared with £232,531 in 2022-23.

The Circuit received £13,250 in income from lettings in 2023-24 compared with £15,000 in 2022-23.

Capital receipts totalling £212,501 were received in 2023-24 from the sale of Langstone Methodist Church, Newport. This compares with capital receipts of £327,000 in 2022-23.

The Circuit employed a part-time presbyter to act as a tutor for local preachers in the Newport & Lower Wye and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuits. The work of the tutor was supported by grants from the Wales Synod Cymru and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit totalling £6,173 in 2023-24 and £6,815 in 2022-23.

Income from monetary investments totalled £25,737 in 2023-24 compared with £11,176 in 2022-23. Other income received in 2023-24 totalled £8,798 compared with £6,441 in 2022-23.

Expenditure Trends

Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers, the maintenance of the manses, other running expenses and making contributions to District, Connexion and other Methodist Funds. Total charitable expenditure during 2023-24 was £414,646 compared with £389,587 in 2022-23.

Salaries and associated costs, which form the largest single element of Circuit expenditure, were £199,368 in 2023-24 compared with £171,084 in 2022-23. The Circuit pays pensions and national insurance contributions, travelling, telephone and other expenses of ministers. In 2023-24 there were three full-time Presbyters in the Circuit (including the Superintendent) and three part-time Presbyters, one of who joined partway through the year. The Circuit also employed a lay part-time Circuit administrator. The average number of staff employed was 7.0 in 2023-24 compared with 6.9 in 2022-23.

The Circuit pays for maintenance, insurance, council tax, water charges, etc. on its manses and on other property. Total expenditure in 2023-24 was £55,005, which included £10,691 on professional and legal fees in connection with the sale of Langstone Methodist Church. Total expenditure in 2022-23 was £59,580, included £18,001 on professional and legal fees and bridging loan interest relating to the sale of properties.

The Circuit made payments to the Wales Synod District and the Methodist Connexion of £122,964 in 2023-24, compared with £131,123 in 2022-23. These payments included Connexional Priority Fund levies in both years on the proceeds of the sale of properties.

During 2023-24, grants and donations totalling £27,000 were approved by the Circuit Meeting, compared with £4,300 in 2022-23. Grants were made of £8,500 for mission related activities and community work with toddlers and children in Chepstow, £18,000 on church property projects and £500 to the Methodist Church Fund for Property.

In 2023-24, the Circuit spent £4,710 on office and administrative costs, and £5,599 on other outgoings. The latter includes the expenses of lay preachers and supernumerary (retired) ministers, who play an important role in ensuring that regular worship takes place at all the Circuit's churches.

Overall, after allowing for gains and losses on investments, income in 2023-24 exceeded expenditure by £97,360. This surplus was largely because of the proceeds of sales of properties. In 2022-23, by comparison, income exceeded expenditure by £209,324, largely for the same reason.

Circuit Properties

At 31 Aug 2024 the Circuit had six properties (the same number as at 31 Aug 2023). Three manses were occupied by ministers; one manse was vacant pending occupation by a minister; one manse was leased to a private tenant; the former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign, which had been used as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas, was now awaiting sale or lease to a local charity.

The combined value of the properties at 31 August 2024 was £1,836,000, the same as at 31 August 2023.

Fund Balances

The General Fund, at 31 August 2024, comprised the Circuit's current and deposit account balances (net of debtors and creditors) of £61,615 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £316,511. Restricted, designated and endowment funds were £156,820 so that total reserves of the Circuit (excluding investments) were £534,946 compared with £436,106 at 31 August 2023.

The overall aim of the Circuit is to have adequate reserves in the General Fund to meet unexpected expenditure. The guidance from Connexion and the Charities Commission suggests that charities should have reserves of about 50% of annual expenditure. As the majority of the income and expenditure of the Circuit is predictable, the Circuit's policy is that reserves should not fall below 40% of annual expenditure.

At 31 August 2024 the Circuit General Fund stood at 129% of annual expenditure. The overall level of the reserves is therefore satisfactory.

Plans for 2024-25

A budget was prepared for 2024-25 on the basis that there would be four full-time ordained ministers and a part-time circuit administrator. Provision was made for anticipated increases in stipends. It was assumed that one manse would be let throughout the year. The budget required assessments to increase by an average of 15.5% compared with 2023-24 in in order to break even. In the event, it has been necessary to accept a smaller increase in assessments, but the Circuit has continued to be a going concern.

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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

Full Name of Charity:	Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1137596
Date of registration:	26 August 2010
Main communication address:	27 Church Road, Caldicot, Monmouthshire, NP26 4HN

The members of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown at Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers in 2023-24

Active Circuit Ministers	Revd B Willers (Acting Superintendent, from Apr 24)	
	Revd S Keegan von Allmen (Superintendent, to Apr 24)	
	Revd L Jones	Revd P Chesworth
	Revd K Kerchal	
Circuit Stewards	Mrs M Ham	Mr K Harvey
	Mrs B Quinlan	Mr R Bafico
	Mrs J Horrod-Tottem	Mr R Langford
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs P Lloyd	
Administrator:	Mrs P M Farr	

Mr R Langford acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Mr R J Lewin, 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow Monmouthshire, NP16 6HN

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Newport and the lower Wye Valley 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

The Circuit aims to achieve this through:

a) The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
b) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
c) The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
d) Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
e) Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
f) Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches were linked to the Circuit in 2023-24

> Bishpool Ringland, Broad Oak, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crosskeys, Earlswood Hope, Earlswood Valley, Gwehelog, Llancloudy, Monmouth, Penycaemawr, Rogiet, St Julian's, Trellech, Trinity Newport

Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP) is also linked to the Circuit.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

> • the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults

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

The Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 40% of normal annual expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

APPENDIX A

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

MEMBERSHIP OF CIRCUIT MEETING 2023-24

MINISTERS

Reverend Susan Keegan von Allmen (to Apr 24)
Reverend Lesley Jones
Reverend Bethany Willers
Reverend Paul Chesworth
Reverend Kim Kerchal

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

None

MINISTERS IN APPOINTMENTS NOT IN CONTROL OF THE CHURCH

Reverend Andrew Webster
Reverend Rachel Frank

LAYWORKERS

Pauline Farr

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miriam Ham
Keith Harvey
Roger Bafico
Jacqueline Horrod-Tottem
Beryl Quinlan
Roger Langford (Treasurer)

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Michael Gray

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Pam Lloyd

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Church 1	Caldicot	Rep 1	Gareth Edwards
		Rep 2	Jack Healey
Church 2	Rogiet	Rep 1	Marion Edwards
		Rep 2	Hazel Bennett
		Rep 3	Jack Healey
Church 3	Earlswood Hope and Valley	Rep 1	vacant

		Rep 2	vacant
Church 4	Penycaemawr	Rep 1	Sandra Hanbury
		Rep 2	Jill Ellis
Church 5	Chepstow	Rep 1	Stuart Nuttall
		Rep 2	Margaret Harvey
		Rep 3	Allan Strange
Church 6	Monmouth	Rep 1	David Evans
		Rep 2	Ann Langford
Church 7	Gwehelog	Rep 1	Margaret Jenkins
		Rep 2	Mrs J Williams
Church 8	Gwern-y-Saint	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 9	Trellech	Rep 1	Pam Lloyd
		Rep 2	Jacqueline Horrod-Tottem
Church 10	Llancloudy	Rep 1	Robin Hill
Church 11	Broad Oak	Rep 1	Robin Hill
Church 12	St Julian's	Rep 1	Simon Oram
		Rep 2	Sian Llewellyn
		Rep 3	Gill Benson
		Rep 4	Edwin Jones
Church 13	Shaftesbury	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 14	Crosskeys	Rep 1	Michael Gray
		Rep 2	Ruth Gray
		Rep 3	Rosemary Carnell
Church 15	Trinity	Rep 1	Miriam Ham
		Rep 2	Brian Shier-Jones
		Rep 3	Martin Lougher
		Rep 4	John Mountford
		Rep 5	Pat Dicker
		Rep 6	Ann Mackie
		Rep 7	Margaret Nicholas
Church 16	St David's	Rep 1	Deb Crahart
		Rep 2	Tim Crahart

Church 17	Bishpool	Rep 1	Penelope Blakemore
			Alf Waldron
		Rep 2	(Deceased)
		Rep 3	Ann Waldron
		Rep 4	Jenny Suter
		Rep 5	Dr Rob Goodson
Church 18	Langstone	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 19	Dan-y-Graig	Rep 1	Carol Aldridge
		Rep 2	Margaret Harrison
		Rep 3	Sarah-Jane Jones

THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist	Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number **1137596**

Wales Synod District	District No / Circuit No	02/19

Ministers	Rev Sue KEEGAN VON ALLMEN
	Rev Bethany WILLERS
	Rev Les JONES
	Rev Paul CHESWORTH
	Rev Kim KERCHAL
Circuit Stewards	Miriam HAM
	Keith HARVEY
	Roger BAFICO
	Beryl QUINLAM
	Jacqueline HORROD-TOTTEM
	Pam LLOYD
	Pauline FARR
	Roger LANGFORD
Circuit Treasurer	Roger LANGFORD

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

Circuit No **02/19**

	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								
1 Donations and legacies	4						**0**	0
2 Income from monetary investments		2,734	20,120	53	2,830		**25,737**	11,176
3 Income from investment properties	5	12,000					**12,000**	2,500
4 Assessments on Churches	6	245,430					**245,430**	232,531
5 Capital Receipts	7		212,501				**212,501**	327,000
6 Grants received	8	6,173					**6,173**	6,815
7 Other charitable income	9	2,909	7,139				**10,048**	18,941
8 **Total income**		**269,246**	**239,760**	**53**	**2,830**	**-**	**511,889**	**598,963**
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations	10	9,500	17,500				**27,000**	4,300
10 Salaries and associated costs	11	199,368					**199,368**	171,084
11 Property maintenance	12	46,852	8,153				**55,005**	59,580
12 Connexional assessment & model trus	13	45,564	57,739				**103,303**	124,369
13 District Assessment & Levy	13	5,740	13,921				**19,661**	6,754
14 Depreciation							**0**	0
15 Office expenses	14	3,706	862		142		**4,710**	4,663
16 Other outgoings	15	5,599					**5,599**	18,837
17 **Total charitable expenditure**		**316,329**	**98,175**	**0**	**142**	**0**	**414,646**	**389,587**
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investmer	16		70			47	**117**	(52)
19 Gains/(losses) on investment propertie	18							0
20 **Net income/(expenditure)**		**-47,083**	**141,655**	**53**	**2,688**	**47**	**97,360**	**209,324**
21 Transfers between funds	17	29,581	(127,419)	100,185	(2,347)		0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)	18							(14,526)
23 **Net movement in funds**		**-17,502**	**14,236**	**100,238**	**341**	**47**	**97,360**	**194,798**
24 Total funds brought forward		1,915,117	302,275	869	54,571	754	**2,273,586**	2,078,788
25 Total funds carried forward		**1,897,615**	**316,511**	**101,107**	**54,912**	**801**	**2,370,946**	**2,273,586**

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** **Circuit No** **02/19**

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2023/24 £	Totals 2022/23 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	19	1,601,000					1,601,000	1,601,000
Investment properties	19	235,000					235,000	235,000
Investments	20		975			624	1,599	1,482
Total fixed assets		**1,836,000**	**975**	**0**	**0**	**624**	**1,837,599**	**1,837,482**
Current Assets								
Debtors	21	14,204					14,204	14,493
Loans by the Circuit	22						0	0
Investments with TMCP	20		315,536	100,155	52,601	177	468,469	351,734
Central Finance Board Deposits	23	61,149		952	2,311		64,412	73,407
Cash at Bank and in hand	23	28,732					28,732	31,334
Total current assets		**104,085**	**315,536**	**101,107**	**54,912**	**177**	**575,817**	**470,968**
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	24	42,470					42,470	34,862
Grants payable within 2024-25	25						0	0
Total current liabilities		**42,470**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**42,470**	**34,862**
Net current assets/liabilities		**61,615**	**315,536**	**101,107**	**54,912**	**177**	**533,347**	**436,106**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,897,615**	**316,511**	**101,107**	**54,912**	**801**	**2,370,946**	**2,273,588**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2024-25	26						**0**	
Loans to the Circuit							**0**	
							0	
Net assets		**1,897,615**	**316,511**	**101,107**	**54,912**	**801**	**2,370,946**	**2,273,588**
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,897,615					1,897,615	1,915,119
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			316,511				316,511	302,275
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				101,107			101,107	869
Total Unrestricted Funds							**2,315,233**	**2,218,263**
Restricted Funds					**54,912**		54,912	**54,571**
Endowment Funds						**801**	801	**754**
Total Funds		**1,897,615**	**316,511**	**101,107**	**54,912**	**801**	**2,370,946**	**2,273,588**

Signed

Circuit Treasurer Roger Langford

Name of Circuit …Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer ……RJL…… Date 5 December 2024……

Name and address of treasurer ……Roger John Langford, Spindlewood, `122 Hereford Road

Monmouth, Monmouthshire …… Post Code NP25 3GD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will * be presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 5 December 2024 ……

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: ……Bethany Willers……

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Bethany Willers …… Date ……26/02/2025……

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages … to …. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit …Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner ……

Name of independent examiner: RAYMOND JOHN LEWIN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate): NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address: 17, WYELANDS VIEW, MATHERN, CHEPSTOW,

MONMOUTHSHIRE, Post Code: NP16 6HN

Date: 3rd FEBRUARY 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Accounts and Accounting Standards

i Accounting standard

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

Ii Public benefit entity

The Newport and Lower Wye (NLW) Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless 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. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

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

v FRS102 SORP2015 [applies to 2016-17 onwards]

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

vi Going concern

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

vii Consolidation

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

viii Income recognition

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

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

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

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds".

- The administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or the Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS 102), module 19.12.

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

ix Expenditure

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

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement if there are no performance conditions, or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

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

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost. Valuations (2015 or later) for the manses have been used as they become available. All valuations are dated 2015 or later. The valuations will be reviewed periodically.

No depreciation is provided on the buildings 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. In the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

xiii(a) Monetary Investments

The Circuit's investments in monetary assets are classified as basic financial instruments under FRS 102. These monetary assets, with the exception of the endowment Charity of William Richards, are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The endowment Charity of William Richards is held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by COIF. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 20 below.

xiii(b) Investment Properties

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

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

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

xv Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises levies against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for *ad hoc* collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church. These are detailed at Note 28 below.

xvi Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is available as a separate document.

xvii Endowment Funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income, the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

xviii Ministers' manse costs

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

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

2. Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): a group (comprising mostly but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day-to-day administration and policy formation of the Circuit. Generally, the CLT comprises the Presbyters and Deacons stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and sometimes other Circuit officers (who may not be trustees)

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

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

Connexional Funds: the designated and/or restricted funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives

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

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: His Majesty's Revenue and Customs

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

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges an auto-enrolment pension scheme for its lay employees

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

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

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

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

INSERT SOFA AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2023-24

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

3. Prior Year

3.1 Restatement of comparative figures

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 [not Section 1A] and the Charities SORP FRS 102, the restatement of comparative items was required. There have been no changes of classification between categories of expenditure in the accounts of 2023-24 compared with those for 2022-23. No restatements were necessary and a reconciliation of opening balances is therefore not required.

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

4. Donations and legacies

No donations or legacies were received in 2023-24 or 2022-23.

5. Income from investment properties

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Lettings - 27 Church Road, Caldicot						-	2,500
Lettings – 5 Charles Close, Monmouth	12,000					**12,000**	-
Total	**12,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12,000**	2,500

The manse at 5 Charles Close, Monmouth, was let to a private tenant from November 2023. The manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot, was let to a private tenant until November 2022 and is now occupied by a minister. Letting income is gross of fees and commission.

6. Assessments on Churches

The following 16 churches were linked to the Circuit during 2023-24:

Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church
Broad Oak Methodist Church
Caldicot Methodist Church
Chepstow Methodist Church
Crosskeys Methodist Church
Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP), Risca
Earlswood Hope Methodist Church
Earlswood Valley Methodist Church
Gwehelog Methodist Church
Llancloudy Methodist Church
Monmouth Methodist Church
Penycaemawr Methodist Church
Rogiet Methodist Church
St Julian's Methodist Church, Newport
Trellech Methodist Church
Trinity Methodist Church, Newport

Each church is assessed for a contribution towards the overall costs of the Circuit. This Assessment on Churches is determined annually by the Circuit and the Churches using a process which takes into account the income of each church, including receipts from lettings, and the number of worshippers.

Langstone Methodist Church closed to regular worship during 2022-23 and no assessments were due from them in 2023-24.

All Churches paid their full annual 2023-24 assessments by 31 August 2024 and their full 2022-23 assessments by 31 August 2023;

Assessments on churches are payable quarterly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date, the sum in question is also treated as a creditor. Such cases are detailed in Notes 21 and 24.

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

7. Capital Receipts

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Sale of Manses							
Gross sales proceeds							407,000
(less) Book Value							(350,000)
Sale of Churches							
Gross sales proceeds		212,501				**212,501**	270,000
Total	**-**	**212,501**		**-**	**-** **-**	**212,501**	327,000

Langstone Methodist Church was sold in January 2024 and the proceeds of the sale were transferred to the Circuit.

In 2022-23, there were capital receipts from two properties. The manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport was sold in December 2022. Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport was sold in January 2023 and the proceeds of the sale were transferred to the Circuit.

8. Grants received

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Wales Synod	3,510					**3,510**	3,510
Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit	2,663					**2,663**	3,505
Total	**6,173**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,173**	6,815

Since December 2022, the Circuit has employed a part-time presbyter to act as a tutor for local preachers in the Newport & Lower Wye and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuits. The work of the tutor has been supported by grants from the Wales Synod Cymru and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit. (See also Note 11.1 below.)

9. Other charitable income

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Letting income	1,250					**1,250**	12,500
Pension Reserve Fund		7,139				**7139**	
Shaftesbury Street funds	81					**81**	5,563
Other income	1,578					**1,578**	878
Total	**2,909**	**7,139**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,048**	18,941

The manse at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow was occupied from November 2022 to November 2023 by a private tenant.

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

In August 2024 the Pension Reserve Fund refunded a donation made by the Circuit in December 2021; see Note 11.2 below.

The funds of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church were distributed by the Church Council to other churches in 2022-23; a residual amount is held by the Circuit as a contingency.

10. Grants and donations given

Grants and donations as listed below were made during the year.

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Circuit Churches:							
Chepstow (Toddler Worker)	3,000					**3,000**	3,000
Chepstow (Early Years Worker)		5,500				**5,500**	-
Trinity (Heating System)	6,000					**6,000**	-
St Julian's (Windows)		12,000				**12,000**	-
Methodist Church Property Fund	500					**500**	500
Other donations						**0**	800
Total	**9,500**	**17,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**27,000**	4,300

The Circuit donated £800 in 2022-23 to Eden Gate, a Newport charity working with the homeless.

11. Salaries and associated costs

11.1 Stipends, salaries and associated costs

	Pres-byters	Lay People	Unres-tricted	CMT Fund	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Gross stipends and salaries	126,907	9,794	136,701					**136,701**	116,999
Employer's NI contributions	10,214	96	10,310					**10,310**	8,678
Pension costs	32,725	588	33,313					**33,313**	27,504
Payroll Bureau fee		480	480					**480**	480
Apprenticeship levy	635	48	683					**683**	584
Travel	8,116	87	8,203					**8,203**	9,258
Telephone	3,276	105	3,381					**3,381**	3,531
Stationing and relocation costs	5,538		5,538					**5,538**	- 2,756
Other expenses	759		759					**759**	1,294
Total	**188,170**	**11,198**	**199,368**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**199,368**	171,084

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Average staff nos employed in year	6.0	1.0	7.0		7.0	6.9
(full-time equivalent staff)	4.3	0.5	4.8		4.8	4.4

In 2023-24 there were three full-time Presbyters in the Circuit (including the Superintendent) and three part-time Presbyters, one of who was the Local Preachers Tutor. The average number of presbyters employed was 6.0 (2022-23: 4.8) or 4.3 full-time equivalents (2022-23: 3.7). The Circuit employed one part-time lay employee, a Circuit administrator; the average number of lay employees was 1.0 (2022-23: 2.1) or 0.5 full-time equivalent staff (2022-23: 0.7).

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

11.2 Pensions costs

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 (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

The Connexion shows the accounts for the MMPS pension scheme in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. There has been an unprecedented change in the valuation of the Pension Schemes since the last valuation three years ago. The long-term strategy of the Pension Trustees to reduce investment risk was achieved in about two years, not the fifteen that had been envisaged. Consequently, it has been possible to reduce the level of funds held in the Pension Reserve Fund and the funds that were voluntarily donated to the Pension Reserve Fund, including a donation of £7,139 from the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit in 2021-22, can now returned to donors with interest.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. The Circuit has complied with government legislation on workplace pensions and lay employees have since May 2016 been enrolled in a National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pensions scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme.

11.3 Cost of superintendent, presbyters and trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other presbyters (except the Local Preachers Tutor) and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs the meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The stipends, employers' National Insurance contributions and pension contributions of the presbyters on the CLT were as follows:

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Cost of Presbyters	2024	2023
Stipends of Presbyters	119,611	97,376
Employers' National Insurance contributions	10,214	8,621
Employer's pension contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme	30,771	25,281
Apprenticeship levy	598	487
Total	**161,195**	**131,765**

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

Each presbyter is entitled to three months' sabbatical leave every seven years. One period of sabbatical leave was taken during the year 2023-24 (2022-23 no sabbaticals). The Circuit does not accrue for holiday pay cover since the remaining staff cover the presbyter's absence as needed without extra pay. Had additional cover been required the cost of this is estimated as £9,901, being the appropriate proportion of a single annual stipend plus NIC, pension and other normally incurred expenses.

11.4 Payments to trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Leadership Team and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

The presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive role within the Circuit. The travel costs of presbyters in attending CLT and other Circuit meetings are included within their overall travel expenses (detailed in Note 11.1) and is not separately determined.

The current Circuit administrator is both a Circuit trustee and an employee of the Circuit, who receives a salary and other employment-related expenses (as detailed in Note 11.1).

Apart from the presbyters and the Circuit administrator, no member of the CLT received payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit in 2023-24. (2022-23: no one).

In addition, CLT and Circuit Meeting members may sometimes be reimbursed for travel or computing costs incurred in the work of the Circuit. In 2023-24 three Circuit Meeting member were reimbursed for travel costs incurred in the work of the Circuit (2022-23: one CLT member).

Trustees' expenses	2024	2023
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	3	1
Total amount paid (£)	231	16

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Some lay preachers and supernumeraries are also Circuit trustees because they attend the Circuit Meeting as nominees from their churches, and any travel costs in attending Circuit Meetings are included within their overall expenses (detailed in Note 15 below).

12. Property expenses

Expenditure on property during the year is shown below.

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Expenditure on Manses:							
Manse maintenance	13,524					**13,524**	16,642
Council Tax	8,140					**8,140**	7,667
Water charges	4,162					**4,162**	4,686
Insurance	3,858					**3,858**	3,063
Gas and electricity	1,420					**1,420**	3,609
Other charges							
Purchases and Sales:							
Legal and Professional Fees	2,538	8,153				**10,691**	13,149
Interest on bridging loan							4,852
Other Property Expenses:							
Quinquennial reviews	9,540					**9,540**	2,580
Castleton graveyard	190					**190**	175
Gwern-Y-Saint church	1,092					**1,092**	1,039
Langstone church	583					**583**	
Shaftesbury Street church							81
Letting expenses	1,805					**1,805**	2.037
Total	**46,852**	**8,153**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**55,005**	**59,580**

During the year the Circuit was responsible for the maintenance of six manses or former manses, for the payment of Council tax and water charges (except where these were paid by a tenant) and for landlord's annual gas inspections and home service agreements. The Circuit also paid the gas and electricity charges on unoccupied properties.

In 2023-24 the Circuit spent £13,524 on manse maintenance. £8,265 was spent on refurbishing the manse in Chepstow in preparation for occupation by a new minister, £3,566 on repairs and maintenance of the manse at Caldicot and £1,693 on maintaining the other properties. (In 2022-23 £9,987 was spent on refurbishing the manse in Caldicot in preparation for occupation by a minister, £5,107 on preparing the manses in Chepstow and Monmouth for occupation by private tenants and £1,548 on maintaining the other properties.)

In 2023-24, the Circuit spent £10,691 on professional and legal fees in connection with the sale of Langstone Methodist Church, Newport and the leasing of St David's, Ty Sign, Risca. (In 2022-23 the Circuit spent £13,149 on professional and legal fees in connection with the sale of the manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport and the sale of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church.)

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

In July 2022, the Circuit took out a bridging loan for £325,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid to help in the purchase of 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone. The loan was repaid in December 2022 following the sale of 608, Chepstow Road, Newport.

Gwern-Y-Saint Methodist Church closed on 7 October 2018 and the Circuit has taken on responsibility for insuring the property.

The manse at 5 Charles Close, Monmouth, was let to a private tenant from November 2023. The manse at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow was occupied by a private tenant from November 2022 to November 2023. The manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot, was let to a private tenant until November 2022 and is now occupied by a minister. An agency was employed to manage the letting of all three manses.

13. Connexional and District assessments and levies

The Connexional and District assessments are paid to the Wales Synod District, which determines the assessment to be paid by each Circuit in accordance with a formula based on the number of presbyters and lay employees in each Circuit (see also Note 1xv).

Connexional assessment and Priority Fund levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Connexional assessment	45,564					**45,564**	43,516
Connexional Priority Fund levy	-	57,739				**57,739**	80,853
Total	**45,564**	**57,739**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**103,303**	**124,369**

The Connexional Priority Fund levy is taken from the proceeds of the sale of former manses or churches. A levy of £57,739 was charged during the current year on the proceeds of sale of Langstone Methodist Church, Newport. (A levy of £80,854 was charged in 2022-23 on the proceeds of sale of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church.)

District assessment and levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
District assessment	5,740					**5,740**	5,484
District Advance Fund levy	-	13,921				**13,921**	1,270
Total	**5,740**	**13,921**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**19,661**	**6,758**

The District Advanced Fund levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit Model Trust Fund account balance at 31 August in the previous financial year.

14. Office and administration costs

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Office and administration costs	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Conference minutes and materials	762					**762**	990
Circuit Stewards' and Circuit officers' expenses	231					**231**	16
Printing, postage, stationery and computing supplies	2,141					**2,141**	1,737
Office equipment							700
Office telephone, broadband and website	90					**90**	356
Independent Examiner's fee	330					**330**	300
TMCP Administration and Investment Management fees	-	862		142		**1,004**	284
Other admin costs	152					**152**	280
Total	**3,706**	**862**	**-**	**142**	**-**	**4,710**	**4,663**

The Circuit office is at Caldicot Methodist Church, where the Circuit uses a room on four mornings a week. The Circuit does not pay rent for use of the room, but pays half of the Church's telephone, broadband and website costs.

During the year the Circuit paid £1,004 to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund, Mary A Curtis Bequest and Kelly Legacy) (2021-22: £284). The fees charged represent a levy of 0.285% on the value of the funds at the beginning of the year. and are allocated among the three funds as shown in the table above.

15. Other outgoings

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Preaching and worship:							
Local preacher's expenses	282					**282**	458
Supernumerary ministers' fees and expenses	4,367					**4,367**	3,204
Other Expenses:							
Training							300
Events							186
Miscellaneous	950					**950**	14,689
Total	**5,599**	**-**	**-**		**-**	**5,599**	18,837

The Circuit offers to reimburse lay preachers and supernumerary ministers for the costs of travel to the churches where they conduct services and supernumerary ministers may also claim a preaching fee.

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

The miscellaneous outgoings in 2022-23 include £14,225 in unused donations to the Newport family worker which were returned to the Synod Advanced Fund and Bishpool and St Julian's Churches when the project closed in that year.

16. Gains and losses on monetary investments

There were total net gains on monetary investments of £117 in 2023-24 compared with net losses of £52 in 2022-23. A detailed breakdown is immaterial. See also Notes 20 and 27 below.

17. Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endo-wment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Interest from CMTF Fund	19,509	(19,509)				**0**	-
Reclassification of Building Reserve Fund			147	(147)		**0**	-
New Designated Funds		(100,000)	100,000			**0**	-
Newport Family Worker	2,200			(2,200)		**0**	-
William Richards Charity	(38)		38			**0**	-
Refurbishment of Hilltop manse	7,910	(7,910)				**0**	-
Total	**29,581**	**(127,419)**	**100,185**	**(2,347)**	**-**	**0**	**0**

During the current year, the interest earned by the Circuit Model Trust Fund was transferred to the general fund. The Building Reserves fund was reclassified as a designated fund rather that a restricted fund and £50,000 was transferred to it from the CMTF. £50,000 was also moved from the CMTF to a new designated fund for mission projects. In addition, £2,200, part of an unused grant to the Newport Family Worker project, was repaid to the Circuit general fund, £38 was transferred to the designated fund for the Charity of William Richards, and £7,910 was transferred from the CMTF to the general fund to cover the costs of refurbishing the manse at Hilltop, Chepstow.

18. Gains and losses on investment properties and other gains and losses

There were no gains or losses in 2023-24. (There were other losses of £14,526 in 2022-23 because of the revaluation of the Circuit property at Thistle Way, Ty Sign, Newport (see Note 19).

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

19. Manses and other property

At 31 Aug 2024 the Circuit had six properties (the same number as at 31 Aug 2023). Three manses were occupied by ministers; the manse at Soane Close, Rogerstone, was vacant pending occupation by a minister; the manse at Charles Close, Monmouth was leased to a private tenant; the former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign had been used as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas but was now awaiting sale or lease to a local charity.

The manse at 5 Charles Close, Monmouth has been classified as an investment property. (see xiiib).

The value of the Resource Centre @ St David's, Ty Sign, was revised in September 2023 in line with a designated adviser's report. This resulted in a revaluation loss of £14,526. The valuation includes the former Church of St David's, Thistle Way, Ty Sign, which is now a Circuit property.

The office equipment in the Circuit office has not been capitalised since the items individually cost less than £1,000 (see xii).

General advice was sought from estate agents in Newport, Monmouth and Abergavenny as to the value of land as a proportion of the total value of residential properties in different parts of the Circuit. Where no other information exists, the value of the manses has been apportioned between land and buildings on the basis of this information.

Recent valuations (2015 or later) are available for the five manses at Charles Close, Monmouth, St Julian's Avenue, Newport, Soane Close, Newport, Church Road, Caldicot and Newport Road, Chepstow, and for St David's Church and Resource Centre, Thistle Way, Ty Sign. These valuations have been taken as the deemed values of these properties.

19.1 Cost or valuation of fixed assets

	Invest-ment Prop-erties		**Land**	**Buildings**	**Other Buildings**	**Other Fixed Assets incl. Vehicles**	**Fixtures, Fittings, etc**	**Assets under constru-ction**	**2024 Total**	**2023 Total**
Balance brought forward	235,000		501,300	949,700	150,000				**1,836,000**	2,220,526
Additions in the year									**0**	
Revaluations										(14,526)
Less: Disposals in the year										(350,000)
Transfers between categories									**0**	0
Balance carried forward	**235,000**		**501,300**	**949,700**	**150,000**				**1,836,000**	1,836,000

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

19.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provision

Basis				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Rate			-	-	-		-		
Balance brought forward	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year									
Revaluations									
Disposals									
Transfers									
Balance carried forward	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

19.3 Net book value

Brought forward	235,000		501,300	949,700	150,000	-	-	-	**1,836,000**	2,200,526
Carried forward	**235,000**		**501,300**	**949,700**	**150,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,836,000**	1,836,000

20. Investment Assets (and TMCP Funds)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund, the Mary A Curtis Bequest and the Kelly Legacy are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds or CFB Managed Mixed Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month or each quarter. 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.

The Charity of William Richards Endowment is invested in the COIF Charities Investment Fund. The Fund is a Common Investment Fund established by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 1993 section 24 and investment in the Fund is only available to charities within the meaning of section 96 of the Charities Act.

Investment Assets and TMCP	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2024 Total**	**2023 Total**
CFB Managed Mixed Funds		975				**975**	905
COIF Charities Investment Fund					624	**624**	577
Total Investment Assets	**0**	**975**	**0**	**0**	**624**	**1,599**	1,482
TMCP Trustees Interest Funds		315,536	100,155	52,601	177	**468,469**	351,734
Total	**0**	**316,511**	**100,155**	**52,601**	**801**	**470,068**	353,216

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

21. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 31 August 2023 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2023 were for events that have been held during 2023-24. Similarly, it is expected that all payments in advance at 1 September 2024 will be expended in 2024-25.

Debtors and Prepayments	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Stipends, pensions and NI paid in advance	13,764					**13,734**	13,805
Accrued Income						**0**	-
Other debtors	440					**440**	688
Total	**14,204**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**14,204**	14,493

22. Loans by the Circuit

The Circuit has no outstanding loans at 31 August 2024 (2023: £0).

23. Central Finance Board and Bank Balances

Monetary balances at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at HSBC Bank Limited are all available on demand without loss of interest or other penalty.

Bank balances and cash in hand	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Central Finance Board Deposits	61,149		952	2,311		**64,412**	73,409
Balance held at HSBC	28,332					**28,332**	31,134
Cash in hand	400					**400**	200
Total	**89,881**	**-**	**952**	**2,311**	**-**	**93,144**	104,743

24. Creditors, accruals and income in advance

All sums accrued at 31 August 2023 were paid before 31 August 2024, except for one donation to the Methodist Church Fund for Property which has been reissued. It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2024 will be paid by 31 August 2025.

Current Liabilities	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow ment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Church assessments paid in advance	39,600					**39,600**	37,839
Assessments paid late						**0**	-
Ministers and staff expenses	263					**263**	682
Other expenses	171					**171**	1,154
Stipends, pension and NI						**0**	-
Taxation and Social Security						**0**	-
Other creditors	2,436					**2,436**	(4,813)
Total	**42,470**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**42,470**	34,862

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

25. Loans to the Circuit repayable in 2024-25

The Circuit had no loans repayable in 2024-25 (2023-24: no loans).

26. Grants payable in 2024-25

The Circuit has established a committee to provides grants to support mission related projects within the Circuit and has set aside a dedicated fund of £50,000 to support mission activity. The Circuit Meeting has also granted £5,500 for a project at Chepstow Methodist Church in 2024-25 and allocated a budget of £1,150 in 2024-25 to support local outreach activity and make small donations. Sufficient funds are available to support these grants and donations.

27. Commitments in 2024-25

In 2024-25 the Circuit has allocated a budget of £11,000 for manse maintenance which will be paid out of the annual receipts of the Circuit.

28. Detailed Analysis of Individual Funds

The individual funds of the Circuit are as follows:

Name	Type	Purpose
General Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Manse Expenses	Designated	Expenditure on purchase or renovation of manses
Fund for Mission Projects	Designated	Expenditure on mission projects.
William Richards (Income)	Designated	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Vera Holt	Restricted	As directed by the Circuit Meeting for youth work and training
Mary A Curtis Bequest	Restricted	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Manse Expenses	Restricted	Expenditure on purchase or renovation of manses (reclassified as a designated fund)
Newport Family Worker	Restricted	Funds of the Newport Family Worker project
Kelly Legacy	Endowment	Maintenance of Castleton graveyard
Charity of William Richards	Endowment	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Summary of Fund Movements - 2023-24

Funds	Balance at 31/8/23	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/24
General Fund	**1,915,117**	269,246	(316,329)	29,581		**1,897,615**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	**302,275**	251,607	(90,022)	(127,419)	70	**316,511**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**2,217,392**	**500,853**	**(406,351)**	**(97,838)**	**70**	**2,214,126**
Manse Expenses	**0**	8		50,147		**50,155**
Fund for Mission Projects	**0**			50,000		**50,000**
William Richards (Income)	**869**	45		38		**952**
Total designated	**869**	**53**	**0**	**100,185**	**0**	**101,107**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	**1,626**	85				**1,711**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	**50,040**	2,704	(142)			**52,602**
Manse Expenses	**147**			(147)		**0**
Newport Family Worker (030)	**2,758**	41		(2,200)		**599**
Total restricted	**69,539**	**2,830**	**(142)**	**(2,347)**	**0**	**54,912**
Kelly Legacy	**177**	9	(9)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	**577**				47	**624**
Total endowments	**754**	**9**	**(9)**	**0**	**47**	**801**
Total of All Funds	**2,273,586**	**503,745**	**(406,502)**	**0**	**117**	**2,370,946**

Summary of Fund Movements - 2022-23 (for comparison)

Funds	Balance at 31/8/22	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/23
General Fund	1,956,818	319,957	(273,042)	(74,090)	(14,526)	**1,915,117**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	50,824	276,775	(99,374)	74,090	(40)	**302,275**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**2,007,642**	**596,732**	**(372,416)**	**0**	**(14,566)**	**2,217,392**
William Richards (Income)	840	29				**869**
Total designated	**840**	**29**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**869**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,867	59	(300)			**1,626**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	48,618	1,561	(139)			**50,040**
Manse Expenses	142	5				**147**
Newport Family Worker (030)	18,912	578	(16,732)			**2,758**
Total restricted	**69,539**	**2,203**	**(17,171)**	**0**	**0**	**69,539**
Kelly Legacy	177	6	(6)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	589				(12)	**577**
Total endowments	**766**	**6**	**(6)**	**0**	**(12)**	**754**
Total of All Funds	**2,078,787**	**598,970**	**(389,593)**	**0**	**(14,578)**	**2,273,586**

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

29. Related Parties

Related parties include the Methodist Connexion and its funds, the Wales Synod District, the Churches within the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit, other Methodist Circuits in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

Year ending 31 August 2024

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.24
Wales Synod Cymru District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		19,661		
Wales Synod Cymru District	Donor	Grant	3,510			
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		103,303		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	245,430			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee	Grant / Donation		26,500		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit	Donor	Grant	2,663			
Pension Reserve Fund	Donor	Grant returned	7,139			
Trust for Methodist Church Purposes	Donee	Admin Charge		1,004		
Total			**258,742**	**150,968**	**0**	**0**

Year ending 31 August 2023

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.23
Wales Synod Cymru District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		6,754		
Wales Synod Cymru District	Donor	Grant	3,510	7,909		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		124,369		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	232,531			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee/ Donor	Grant / Donation		9,616		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit	Donor	Grant	3,305			
Trust for Methodist Church Purposes	Donee	Admin Charge		283		

Year ending 31 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Total	**239,346**	**149,433**	**0**	**0**

None of the Circuit trustees made donations directly to the Circuit in the current year or the previous financial year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Name of Circuit …Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer ……RJL…… Date 5 December 2024……

Name and address of treasurer ……Roger John Langford, Spindlewood, `122 Hereford Road

Monmouth, Monmouthshire …… Post Code NP25 3GD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will * be presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 5 December 2024 ……

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: ……Bethany Willers……

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Bethany Willers …… Date ……26/02/2025……

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages … to …. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit …Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner ……

Name of independent examiner: RAYMOND JOHN LEWIN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate): NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address: 17, WYELANDS VIEW, MATHERN, CHEPSTOW,

MONMOUTHSHIRE, Post Code: NP16 6HN

Date: 3rd FEBRUARY 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

NEWPORT AND LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137596

Accounts

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit is part of the Methodist Church in Britain. The Circuit acts as the umbrella body and a resource provider for seventeen Methodist Churches in our area, which covers Newport and parts of South East Wales and Herefordshire.

The Circuit also contains a Local Ecumenical Partnership Church with the URC and the Presbyterian Church of Wales at Dan-y-Graig in Risca.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Aims and organisation (including the Circuit Mission statement)

Further to the Methodist Church's statement "Our Calling" and "Priorities for the Methodist Church", the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit has the following policy:

- To discern the will of God for us a Circuit.
- To support all of the churches within the Circuit and to engage in mission in clearly defined areas where the local Church has a vision for mission.
- To prioritise the work within the Circuit and to resource these priorities.
- To encourage ecumenical activities and have good links with other denominations in the area.

When planning our activities for the year, the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on Charities for the advancement of religion. There is a particular emphasis on impacting on the community beyond the membership of the churches. Many of our church buildings are used by community groups requiring safe and suitable spaces for meetings and the Circuit encourages this. Many of the Churches run groups on the church premises which may not be specifically church orientated but are certainly for the public benefit – examples are Parent and Toddlers Groups, Uniformed Organisations for girls and boys, Coffee Mornings and Luncheon Clubs, Welsh Classes, Kids Theatre groups and much more, which enhance the way of life in the communities in which they are located, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness.

The Circuit prepares a quarterly plan of services and preachers for all of our Churches.

The Circuit encourages Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy

The Circuit encourages ecumenical links within the Circuit, not least with regard to its work with and for the smaller chapels in cooperation with a Baptist rural missioner in the northern end of the Circuit, as and when appropriate.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

In September 2022 we welcomed our new Superintendent, Revd. Sue Keegan von Allmen, to our Circuit. Rev Sue and her husband moved into the manse purchased for them in Rogerstone, Newport.

In other changes, Rev Bethany Willers took over responsibility for pastoral care at Caldicot, Rogiet, Penycaemawr, Earlswood Valley and Earlswood Hope in addition to her responsibilities at Monmouth, Trellech, Broad Oak, Llancloudy and Gwehelog. Bethany moved her manse from Monmouth to Caldicot.

Churches continue to recover slowly after the Covid restrictions of 2020-21. Our use of Zoom, which was assisted by grants from the Wales Synod, has allowed those who are still cautious about Covid to join in our worship and our other activities. We have also continued to send out regular printed acts of worship to the many people for whom using technology is difficult.

Work continued at the Ty Sign Resource Centre in Risca which is much appreciated by the immediate community, and several successful gatherings were held of Forest Church, a new form of outdoor worship. Trellech Methodist Church has been visiting local schools to encourage children to Open The Book. Unfortunately, the Newport Family Worker project came to an end in October 2022.

The Circuit has continued to reach out to our local communities. Several of our Churches have been able to support their local communities by continuing their coffee mornings and offering soup and company to people who would like it. The Beacon Café in Chepstow Methodist Church and the St James's St Kitchen lunch club at Monmouth Methodist Church have both been in operation. Caldicot Methodist Church too has opened its coffee-mornings up for community use.

Economic conditions, with high inflation and rocketing energy prices, have caused major problems for our churches and our communities. Our churches responded by opening our buildings as warm spaces, where people could meet others, keep warm and save on heating bills. Some churches have been involved in inter-denominational initiatives. We also responded to the urging of The Methodist Council to implement the current Living Wage – an increase of 10% on last year – for all employees as soon as possible.

Sadly, worship ceased at Langstone Methodist Church, Newport, in the summer of 2023 and the church has since been sold. It brings to a close a long period of Christian witness in this place.

In December 2022, a part-time Local Preacher Tutor was appointed to oversee a number of local preachers in training in the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit and the Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit. Her work has been supported by grants from the two Circuits and from Wales Synod Cymru.

We pray that the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit will continue as worshipping people that stay connected to their local communities, attract new people by taking part in online worship, and open their doors to different groups.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Income Trends

The total income of the Circuit was £598,963 in 2022-23, or £271,963 excluding capital receipts. The income of the Circuit in 2021-22 was £296,881.

The Circuit's main source of funding was the assessments paid by the churches to the Circuit. These assessments are reviewed annually and a budget agreed which is intended to cover the costs of the Circuit in fulfilling its mission, whilst maintaining adequate reserves in line with the Circuit Reserves Policy. Assessments were £232,531 in 2022-23 compared with £255,244 in 2021-22.

The Circuit received £15,000 in income from lettings in 2022-23 compared with £14,550 in 2021-22.

Capital receipts totalling £327,000 were received in 2022-23 from the sale of the manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport and the sale of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport. There were no sales in 2021-22.

In 2022-23 the Circuit employed a part-time presbyter to act as a tutor for local preachers in the Newport & Lower Wye and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuits. The work of the tutor was supported by grants totalling £6,815 from the Wales Synod Cymru and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit. In 2021-22 the Circuit and its churches provided £10,000 towards the Newport Family Worker project which is treated as a restricted fund in the Circuit accounts.

Income from monetary investments totalled £11,176 in 2022-23 compared with £1,348 in 2021-22. Other income received in 2022-23 totalled £6,441 compared with £15,739 in 2021-22.

Expenditure Trends

Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers, the maintenance of the manses, other running expenses and making contributions to District, Connexion and other Methodist Funds. Total charitable expenditure during 2022-23 was £389,587 compared with £288,411 in 2021-22.

Salaries and associated costs, which form the largest single element of Circuit expenditure, were £171,084 in 2022-23 compared with £161,708 in 2021-22. The Circuit pays pensions and national insurance contributions, travelling, telephone and other expenses of ministers. In 2022-23 there were three full-time Presbyters in the Circuit (including the Superintendent) and two part-time Presbyters, one of who joined partway through the year. The Circuit also employed three part-time lay employees; a Circuit administrator a mission developer at Ty Sign and a Newport family worker, but the mission developer and the family worker left during the year. The average number of staff employed was 6.9 in 2022-23 compared with 6.5 in 2021-22.

The Circuit pays for maintenance, insurance, council tax, water charges, etc. on its manses and on other property. Total expenditure in 2022-23 was £59,580, which included £13,149 on professional and legal fees in connection with the sales of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church and the manse at Chepstow Road, Newport and £4,852 in interest on a bridging loan which was repaid in December 2022. Total expenditure in 2021-22 was £33,775, including £5,786 on refurbishing the new manse at Rogerstone and £2,838 on professional and legal fees.

The Circuit made payments to the Wales Synod District and the Methodist Connexion of £131,123 in 2022-23, compared with £55,731 in 2021-22. The payments in 2022-23 included a Connexional Priority Fund levy of £80,853 on the proceeds of the sale of Shaftesbury Street Church.

During 2022-23, grants and donations totalling £4,300 were approved by the Circuit Meeting, compared with £21,588 in 2021-22. Grants for mission related activities and community work within

the Circuit included £3,000 for a toddler worker in Chepstow, £800 to Eden Gate, a Newport charity working with the homeless, and £500 to the Methodist Church Fund for Property.

In 2022-23, the Circuit spent £4,663 on office and administrative costs, and £18,837 on other outgoings. The latter includes the expenses of lay preachers and supernumerary (retired) ministers, who play an important role in ensuring that regular worship takes place at all the Circuit's churches, and additional provision was made for pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet churches.

Overall, after allowing for gains and losses on investments, income in 2022-23 exceeded expenditure by £209,324. This surplus was largely because of the proceeds of sales of properties. In 2021-22, by comparison, income exceeded expenditure by £8,378.

Fixed Assets: Properties

At 31 Aug 2023 the Circuit had six properties (one less than at 31 Aug 2022). Three manses were occupied by ministers; one manse was leased to a private tenant; one manse was vacant pending leasing to a private tenant; the former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign, which had been used as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas, was now awaiting sale. The combined value of the properties at 31 August 2023 was £1,836,000 compared with £2,200,526 at 31 August 2022.

Fund Balances

The General Fund, at 31 August 2023, comprised the Circuit's current and deposit account balances (net of debtors and creditors) of £79,119 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £301,370. Restricted, designated and endowment funds were £55,617 so that total reserves of the Circuit (excluding investments) were £436,106.

In July 2022, the Circuit took out a bridging loan of £325,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid to help fund the purchase of the new manse at 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone. The bridging loan was repaid in December 2022 following the sale of 608, Chepstow Road, Newport.

The overall aim of the Circuit is to have adequate reserves in the General Fund to meet unexpected expenditure. The guidance from Connexion and the Charities Commission suggests that charities should have reserves of about 50% of annual expenditure. As the majority of the income and expenditure of the Circuit is predictable, the Circuit's policy is that reserves should not fall below 40% of annual expenditure.

At 31 August 2023 the Circuit General Fund stood at 133% of annual expenditure. The overall level of the reserves is therefore satisfactory.

Plans for 2023-24

A budget was prepared for 2023-24 on the basis that there would be three full-time and two part-time ordained ministers. Provision was made for the costs of lay employees and anticipated increases in stipends. It was assumed that two manses would be let throughout the year. The budget required assessments to increase by an average of 5.2% compared 2022-23 in agreement with the Circuit churches.

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102

Full Name of Charity:	Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1137596
Date of registration:	26 August 2010
Main communication address:	27 Church Road, Caldicot, Monmouthshire, NP26 4HN

The members of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown at Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers in 2022-23

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev S Keegan von Allmen (Superintendent)	
	Rev L Jones	Rev B Willers
	Rev P Chesworth	
Circuit Stewards	Mrs M Ham	Mr K Harvey
	Mr M Strange	Mr M Roberts
	Miss P Blakemore	Mr R Bafico
	Mrs B Quinlan	Mrs J Horrod-Tottem
	Mr R Langford	
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs P Lloyd	
Administrator:	Mrs P M Farr	

Mr R Langford acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Mr R J Lewin, 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow Monmouthshire, NP16 6HN

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Newport and the lower Wye Valley 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

The Circuit aims to achieve this through:

a) The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
b) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
c) The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
d) Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
e) Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
f) Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit…….

> Bishpool Ringland, Broad Oak, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crosskeys, Earlswood Hope, Earlswood Valley, Gwehelog, Langstone, Llancloudy, Monmouth, Penycaemawr, Rogiet, St David's Ty Sign, St Julian's, Trellech, Trinity Newport

Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP) is also linked to the Circuit.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

The Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 40% of normal annual expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

APPENDIX A

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

MEMBERSHIP OF CIRCUIT MEETING 2022-23

MINISTERS

Reverend Susan Keegan von Allmen
Reverend Lesley Jones
Reverend Bethany Willers
Reverend Paul Chesworth

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Reverend Linda Healey

LAYWORKERS

Pauline Farr
Deborah Crahart (to Oct 22)
Tim Crahart (to Aug 23)

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miriam Ham
Keith Harvey
Roger Bafico
Penelope Blakemore
Jacqueline Horrod-Tottem
Beryl Quinlan
Roger Langford (Treasurer)
Mike Strange (Property)
Mike Roberts (Secretary)

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Michael Gray

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Pam Lloyd

<u>CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES</u>

Church 1	Caldicot	Rep 1	Gareth Edwards
		Rep 2	Jack Healey
Church 2	Rogiet	Rep 1	Marion Edwards
		Rep 2	Hazel Bennett
		Rep 3	Jack Healey
Church 3	Earlswood Hope and Valley	Rep 1	Ray Jeremiah

		Rep 2	Avril Smith
Church 4	Penycaemawr	Rep 1	Sandra Hanbury
		Rep 2	Jill Ellis
Church 5	Chepstow	Rep 1	Stuart Nuttall
		Rep 2	Margaret Harvey
		Rep 3	Allan Strange
Church 6	Monmouth	Rep 1	David Evans
		Rep 2	Ann Langford
Church 7	Gwehelog	Rep 1	Margaret Jenkins
		Rep 2	Mrs J Williams
Church 8	Gwern-y-Saint	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 9	Trellech	Rep 1	Pam Lloyd
		Rep 2	Vivienne Casson
		Rep 3	Jacqueline Horrod-Tottem
Church 10	Llancloudy	Rep 1	Arthur Isaac (to Jan 23)
Church 11	Broad Oak	Rep 1	Robin Hill
Church 12	St Julian's	Rep 1	Simon Oram
		Rep 2	Chris Morgan
		Rep 3	Sian Llewellyn
		Rep 4	Gill Benson
		Rep 5	Edwin Jones
Church 13	Shaftesbury	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 14	Crosskeys	Rep 1	Michael Gray
		Rep 2	Ruth Gray
		Rep 3	Rosemary Carnell
Church 15	Trinity	Rep 1	Miriam Ham
		Rep 2	Brian Shier-Jones
		Rep 3	Margaret Nicholas
		Rep 4	Martin Lougher
		Rep 5	John Mountford
		Rep 6	Pat Dicker
		Rep 7	Ann Mackie
Church 16	St David's	Rep 1	Irene Scowcroft

		Rep 2	Deborah Crahart
		Rep 3	Timothy Crahart
Church 17	Bishpool	Rep 1	Penelope Blakemore
		Rep 2	Alf Waldron
		Rep 3	Janice Morgan
		Rep 4	Ann Waldron
		Rep 5	Jenny Suter
		Rep 6	Dr Rob Goodson
Church 18	Langstone	Rep 1	Mike Macleur (to Aug 23)
		Rep 2	Ingrid Smith (to Aug 23)
Church 19	Dan-y-Graig	Rep 1	Carol Aldridge
		Rep 2	Margaret Harrison
		Rep 3	Sarah-Jane Jones

THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist **Circuit**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1137596**

Wales Synod District	**District No / Circuit No**	**02/19**

Ministers	Rev Sue Keegan von Allmen
	Rev Les JONES
	Rev Bethany WILLERS
	Rev Paul CHESWORTH
Circuit Stewards	Miriam HAM
	Keith HARVEY
	Mike STRANGE
	Mike ROBERTS
	Penny BLAKEMORE
	Roger BAFICO
	Breyl QUINLAM
	Jacqueline HORROD-TOTTEM
	Pam LLOYD
	Roger LANGFORD
Circuit Treasurer	Roger LANGFORD

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
1 Donations and legacies	4						**0**	0
2 Income from monetary investments		2,170	6,775	29	2,202		**11,176**	1,348
3 Income from investment properties	5	2,500					**2,500**	14,550
4 Assessments on Churches	6	232,531					**232,531**	255,244
5 Capital Receipts	7	57,000	270,000				**327,000**	0
6 Grants received	8	6,815					**6,815**	10,000
7 Other charitable income	9	18,941					**18,941**	15,739
8 **Total income**		**319,957**	**276,775**	**29**	**2,202**	**-**	**598,963**	**296,881**
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations	10	4,300					**4,300**	21,588
10 Salaries and associated costs	11	168,578			2,506		**171,084**	161,708
11 Property maintenance	12	42,473	17,107				**59,580**	33,775
12 Connexional assessment & model trus	13	43,516	80,853				**124,369**	45,806
13 District Assessment & Levy	13	5,484	1,270				**6,754**	9,925
14 Depreciation							**0**	0
15 Office expenses	14	4,379	145		139		**4,663**	3,370
16 Other outgoings	15	4,312			14,525		**18,837**	12,239
17 **Total charitable expenditure**		**273,042**	**99,375**	**0**	**17,170**	**0**	**389,587**	**288,411**
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investmer	16		(40)			(12)	**(52)**	(92)
19 Gains/(losses) on investment propertie	18							0
20 **Net income/(expenditure)**		**46,915**	**177,360**	**29**	**(14,968)**	**(12)**	**209,324**	**8,378**
21 Transfers between funds	17	(74,090)	74,090				0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)	18	(14,526)					**(14,526)**	14,696
23 **Net movement in funds**		**(41,701)**	**251,450**	**29**	**(14,968)**	**(12)**	**194,798**	**23,074**
24 Total funds brought forward		1,956,818	50,825	840	69,539	766	2,078,788	2,055,714
25 Total funds carried forward		**1,915,117**	**302,275**	**869**	**54,571**	**754**	**2,273,586**	**2,078,788**

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** **Circuit No** **02/19**

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals at 31 Aug 2023 £	Totals at 31 Aug 2022 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	19	1,601,000					1,601,000	1,765,526
Investment properties	19	235,000					235,000	435,000
Investments	20		905			577	1,482	1,534
Total fixed assets		**1,836,000**	**905**	**0**	**0**	**577**	**1,837,482**	**2,202,060**
Current Assets								
Debtors	21	14,493					14,493	12,814
Loans by the Circuit	22						0	0
Investments with TMCP	20		301,370		50,187	177	351,734	98,817
Central Finance Board Deposits	23	68,154		869	4,384		73,407	93,702
Cash at Bank and in hand	23	31,334					31,334	37,298
Total current assets		**113,981**	**301,370**	**869**	**54,571**	**177**	**470,968**	**242,631**
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	24	34,862					34,862	40,903
Loan repayable within 2022-23	25						0	325,000
Total current liabilities		34,862	0	0	0	0	**34,862**	365,903
Net current assets/liabilities		**79,119**	**301,370**	**869**	**54,571**	**177**	**436,106**	**-123,272**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,915,119**	**302,275**	**869**	**54,571**	**754**	**2,273,588**	**2,078,788**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23	26						**0**	
Loans to the Circuit							**0**	
							0	
Net assets		**1,915,119**	**302,275**	**869**	**54,571**	**754**	**2,273,588**	**2,078,788**
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,915,119					1,915,119	1,956,818
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			302,275				302,275	50,825
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				869			869	840
Total Unrestricted Funds							**2,218,263**	**2,008,483**
Restricted Funds					54,571		54,571	69,539
Endowment Funds						754	754	766
Total Funds		**1,915,119**	**302,275**	**869**	**54,571**	**754**	**2,273,588**	**2,078,788**

Signed

Circuit Treasurer

Name of Circuit Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit ..... No...02/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ..... RJL ..... Date...7 December 2023

Name and address of treasurer ..... Roger John Langford, Spindlewood, 122 Hereford Road

MONMOUTH, Monmouthshire ..... Post Code NP25 3GD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/~~will * be~~ presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 7 December 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: Sue Keegan von Allmen

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Sue Keegan von Allmen Date 21/2/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to .... As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit ..... No...02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (~~*insert name of applicable listed body*~~)]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I.C.A.E.W.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have/~~have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner: ..... Mr R J Lewin

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate): NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address: 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire

..... Post Code: NP16 6HN

Date: 25TH JANUARY 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Accounts and Accounting Standards

i Accounting standard

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

Ii Public benefit entity

The Newport and Lower Wye (NLW) Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless 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. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

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

v FRS102 SORP2015 [applies to 2016-17 onwards]

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

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2023, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

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

viii Income recognition

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

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

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

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds".

- The administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or the Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS 102), module 19.12.

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

ix Expenditure

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

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement if there are no performance conditions, or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

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

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost. Recent valuations (2015 or later) for the manses have been used where available and other manses have been taken at their insured values at August 2016. The valuations will be reviewed periodically.

No depreciation is provided on the buildings 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. In the absence of any evidence of

Notes to the Accounts

impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii(a) Monetary Investments

The Circuit's investments in monetary assets are classified as basic financial instruments under FRS 102. These monetary assets, with the exception of the endowment Charity of William Richards, are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The endowment Charity of William Richards is held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by COIF. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 20 below.

xiii(b) Investment Properties

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

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

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

xv Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises levies against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for *ad hoc* collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church. These are detailed at Note 28 below.

xvi Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is available as a separate document.

xvii Endowment Funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income, the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

xviii Ministers' manse costs

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

2. Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): a group (comprising mostly but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day-to-day administration and policy formation of the Circuit. Generally, the CLT comprises the Presbyters and Deacons stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and sometimes other Circuit officers (who may not be trustees)

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

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

Connexional Funds: the designated and/or restricted funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives

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

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: His Majesty's Revenue and Customs

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

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges an auto-enrolment pension scheme for its lay employees

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

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

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

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

INSERT SOFA AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2022-23

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

3. Prior Year

3.1 Restatement of comparative figures

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 [not Section 1A] and the Charities SORP FRS 102, the restatement of comparative items was required. There have been no changes of classification between categories of expenditure in the accounts of 2022-23 compared with those for 2021-22. No restatements were necessary and a reconciliation of opening balances is therefore not required.

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

4. Donations and legacies

No donations or legacies were received in 2022-23 or 2021-22.

5. Income from investment properties

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Lettings - 27 Church Road, Caldicot	2,500					**2,500**	14,550
Total	**2,500**	-	-	-	-	**2,500**	14,550

The manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot, was let to a private tenant until November 2022 and is now occupied by a minister. Letting income is gross of fees and commission.

6. Assessments on Churches

The following 17 churches were linked to the Circuit during 2022-23:

Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church
Broad Oak Methodist Church
Caldicot Methodist Church
Chepstow Methodist Church
Crosskeys Methodist Church
Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP), Risca
Earlswood Hope Methodist Church
Earlswood Valley Methodist Church
Gwehelog Methodist Church
Langstone Methodist Church
Llancloudy Methodist Church
Monmouth Methodist Church
Penycaemawr Methodist Church
Rogiet Methodist Church
St Julian's Methodist Church, Newport
Trellech Methodist Church
Trinity Methodist Church, Newport

Each church is assessed for a contribution towards the overall costs of the Circuit. This Assessment on Churches is determined annually by the Circuit and the Churches using a process which takes into account the income of each church, including receipts from lettings, and the number of worshippers.

Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport and St David's Methodist Church, Ty Sign, Risca closed to regular worship during 2021-22 and no assessments were due from them in 2022-23.

All Churches paid their full annual 2022-23 assessments by 31 August 2023; (£851 of assessments for 2021-22 was not paid until 2022-23).

Assessments on churches are payable quarterly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date, the sum in question is also treated as a creditor. Such cases are detailed in Notes 21 and 24.

7. Capital Receipts

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig nated	Rest-ricted	Endow -ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Chepstow Road, Newport							
Gross sales proceeds	407,000					**407,000**	-
(less) Book Value	(350,000)					**(350,000)**	-
Shaftesbury Street Newport							
Gross sales proceeds		270,000				**-**	-
Total	**57,000**	**270,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**327,000**	0

The manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport was sold in December 2022. Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport was sold in January 2023 and the proceeds of the sale were transferred to the Circuit. (The Circuit had no capital receipts in 2021-22.)

8. Grants received

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow -ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Wales Synod	3,510					**3,510**	-
Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit	3,305					**3,305**	-
NLW Circuit and Churches						**-**	10,000
Total	**6,815**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,815**	10,000

In 2022-23 the Circuit has employed a part-time presbyter to act as a tutor for local preachers in the Newport & Lower Wye and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuits. The work of the tutor has been supported by grants from the Wales Synod Cymru and Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit. (See also Note 11.1 below.)

(The Circuit has also been coordinating a project to employ a lay family worker in some of the churches in Newport. In 2021-22 the project received donations of £3,999 from St Julian's Methodist Church, £2,668 from Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church and £3,333 from the Circuit.)

9. Other charitable income

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow -ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Letting income	12,500					**12,500**	14,328
Shaftesbury Street funds	5,563					**5,563**	-
Other income	878					**878**	1,411
Total	**18,941**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**18,941**	15,739

The manse at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow was occupied since November 2022 by a private tenant. (The same manse was occupied throughout 2021-22 by a former presbyter of the Circuit, whose letting and manse costs were paid by the Methodist Church Fund.)

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

The funds of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church have been distributed by the Church Council to other churches; a residual amount of £5,563 is held by the Circuit as a temporary contingency.

10. Grants and donations given

Grants and donations as listed below were made during the year.

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Circuit Churches:							
Chepstow (Toddler Worker)	3,000					**3,000**	3,000
Chepstow (New Boiler)						**-**	4,500
Bishpool (Roofing)						**-**	2,000
Pension Reserve Fund						**-**	7,139
Newport Family Worker						**-**	3,333
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust						**-**	315
Methodist Church Property Fund	500					**500**	500
Other donations	800					**800**	801
Total	**4,300**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,300**	21,588

The Circuit donated £800 in 2022-23 and 2021-22 to Eden Gate, a Newport charity working with the homeless. For the Pension Reserve Fund, see also Note 11.2.

11. Salaries and associated costs

11.1 Stipends, salaries and associated costs

	Pres-byters	Lay People	Unres-tricted	CMT Fund	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Gross stipends and salaries	102,425	14,574	114,967			2,032		**116,999**	111,808
Employer's NI contributions	8,621	57	8,622			56		**8,678**	8,283
Pension costs	26,639	865	27,392			112		**27,504**	24,037
Payroll Bureau fee		480	480					**480**	480
Apprenticeship levy	512	72	584					**584**	560
Travel	9,197	61	9,258					**9,258**	8,341
Telephone	3,531		3,531					**3,531**	2,723
Stationing and relocation costs	2,756		2,756					**2,756**	- 3,965
Other expenses	988	306	988			306		**1,294**	1,511
Total	**154,669**	**16,415**	**168,578**	**-**	**-**	**2,506**	**-**	**171,084**	161,708

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Average staff nos employed in year	4.8	2.1	6.7	0.2	6.9	6.5
(full-time equivalent staff)	3.7	0.7	4.3	0.1	4.4	4.6

In 2022-23 there were three full-time Presbyters in the Circuit (including the Superintendent) and two part-time Presbyters, one of who joined partway through the year. The average number of presbyters employed was 4.8 (2021-22: 3.5) or 3.7 full-time equivalents (2021-22: 3.3). The Circuit employed three part-time lay employees; a Circuit administrator a mission developer at Ty Sign and a Newport family worker, but the mission developer and the family worker left during the year. The average number of lay employees was 2.1 (2021-22: 3.0) or 0.7 full-time equivalent staff (2021-22: 1.3).

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

11.2 Pensions costs

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 (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

The Connexion shows the accounts for the MMPS pension scheme in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS was in deficit in August 2020 but in surplus in August 2021 and August 2022, and the Pension Reserve Fund has been strengthened with the help of donations from Districts, Circuits and Churches, including a donation of £7,139 from the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit in 2021-22.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. The Circuit has complied with government legislation on workplace pensions and lay employees have since May 2016 been enrolled in a National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pensions scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme.

11.3 Cost of superintendent, presbyters and trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other presbyters (except the Local Preachers Tutor) and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs the meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The stipends, employers' National Insurance contributions and pension contributions of the presbyters on the CLT were as follows:

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Cost of Presbyters	2023	2022
Stipends of Presbyters	97,376	86,894
Employers' National Insurance contributions	8,621	7,918
Employer's pension contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme	25,281	22,542
Apprenticeship levy	487	435
Total	**131,765**	**117,789**

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

Each presbyter is entitled to three months' sabbatical leave every five years. No sabbatical leave was taken during the year 2021-22 (2021-22 no sabbaticals). The Circuit does not accrue for holiday pay cover since the remaining staff cover the presbyter's absence as needed without extra pay. Had additional cover been required, the cost of this is estimated as being the appropriate proportion of a single annual stipend plus NIC, pension and other normally incurred expenses.

11.4 Payments to trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Leadership Team and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

The presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive role within the Circuit. The travel costs of presbyters in attending CLT and other Circuit meetings are included within their overall travel expenses (detailed in Note 11.1) and is not separately determined.

The current Circuit administrator is both a Circuit trustee and an employee of the Circuit, who receives a salary and other employment-related expenses (as detailed in Note 11.1).

Until 1 June 2022 pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet Churches was provided under contract (as detailed in Note 15) by a supernumerary minister who was also a member of the Circuit Meeting. Since 1 June 2022, it has been provided by one of the presbyters.

Apart from the presbyters, the contractors and the Circuit administrator, no member of the CLT received payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit in 2022-23. (One Circuit Meeting member received £630 in 2021-22 for professional services in connection with a quinquennial inspection.)

In addition, CLT and Circuit Meeting members may sometimes be reimbursed for travel or computing costs incurred in the work of the Circuit. In 2022-23 one Circuit Meeting member was reimbursed for travel costs incurred in the work of the Circuit (2021-22: one CLT member).

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Trustees' expenses	2023	2022
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	1	1
Total amount paid (£)	16	50

Some lay preachers and supernumeraries are also Circuit trustees because they attend the Circuit Meeting as nominees from their churches, and any travel costs in attending Circuit Meetings are included within their overall expenses (detailed in Note 15 below).

12. Property expenses

Expenditure on property during the year is shown below.

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Expenditure on Manses:							
Manse maintenance	16,642					**16,642**	9,262
Council Tax	7,667					**7,667**	9,818
Water charges	4,686					**4,686**	3,740
Insurance	3,063					**3,063**	3,136
Gas and electricity	3,609					**3,609**	1,817
Other charges							
Purchases and Sales:							
Legal and Professional Fees	894	12,255				**13,149**	2,838
Interest on bridging loan		4,852				**4,852**	
Other Property Expenses:							
Quinquennial reviews	2,580					**2,580**	630
Castleton graveyard	175					**175**	130
Gwern-Y-Saint church	1,039					**1,039**	949
Shaftesbury Street church	81					**81**	
Letting expenses	2,037					**2,037**	1,455
Total	**42,473**	**17,107**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**59,580**	**33,775**

During the year the Circuit was responsible for the maintenance of six manses or former manses, for the payment of Council tax and water charges (except where these were paid by a tenant) and for landlord's annual gas inspections and home service agreements. The Circuit also paid the gas and electricity charges on unoccupied properties.

In 2022-23 the Circuit spent £16,642 on manse maintenance; £9,987 was spent on refurbishing the manse in Caldicot in preparation for occupation by a minister, £5,107 on preparing the manses in Chepstow and Monmouth for occupation by private tenants and £1,548 on maintaining the other properties. (In 2021-22, £5,786 was spent on refurbishing the manse at 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone in preparation for occupation by a minister and £3,476 on maintaining the other properties.)

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

In 2022-23, the Circuit spent £13,149 on professional and legal fees in connection with the sale of the manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport and the sale of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport. (In 2021-22 the Circuit spent £2,838 on professional and legal fees in connection with the purchase of 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone and the sale of 608 Chepstow Road, Newport.)

In July 2022, the Circuit took out a bridging loan for £325,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid to help in the purchase of 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone. The loan was repaid in December 2022 following the sale of 608, Chepstow Road, Newport.

Gwern-Y-Saint Methodist Church closed on 7 October 2018 and the Circuit has taken on responsibility for insuring the property.

The former manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot was leased to tenants from February 2021. An agency was employed to manage the lease.

13. Connexional and District assessments and levies

The Connexional and District assessments are paid to the Wales Synod District, which determines the assessment to be paid by each Circuit in accordance with a formula based on the number of presbyters and lay employees in each Circuit (see also Note 1xv).

Connexional assessment and Priority Fund levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Connexional assessment	43,516					**43,516**	45,806
Connexional Priority Fund levy	-	80,853				**80,853**	-
Total	**43,516**	**80,853**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**124,369**	**45,806**

The Connexional Priority Fund levy is taken from the proceeds of the sale of former manses or churches. A levy of £80,854 was charged during the current year on the proceeds of sale of Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport. (No levy was charged in 2021-22.)

District assessment and levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
District assessment	5,484					**5,484**	5,772
District Advance Fund levy	-	1,270				**1,270**	4,153
Total	**5,484**	**1,270**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,754**	**9,925**

The District Advanced Fund levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit Model Trust Fund account balance at 31 August in the previous financial year.

14. Office and administration costs

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Office and administration costs	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Conference minutes and materials	990					**990**	621
Circuit Stewards' and Circuit officers' expenses	16					**16**	50
Printing, postage, stationery and computing supplies	1,737					**1,737**	1,524
Office equipment	700					**700**	-
Office telephone, broadband and website	356					**356**	214
Independent Examiner's fee	300					**300**	275
TMCP Administration and Investment Management fees	-	145		139		**284**	603
Other admin costs	280					**280**	83
Total	**4,379**	**145**	**-**	**139**	**-**	**4,663**	**3,370**

The Circuit office is at Caldicot Methodist Church, where the Circuit uses a room on four mornings a week. The Circuit does not pay rent for use of the room, but pays half of the Church's telephone, broadband and website costs.

During the year the Circuit paid £283 to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund, Mary A Curtis Bequest and Kelly Legacy) (2021-22: £603). The fees charged represent a levy of 0.285% on the value of the funds at the beginning of the year. and are allocated among the three funds as shown in the table above.

15. Other outgoings

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Preaching and worship:							
Local preacher's expenses	458					**458**	342
Supernumerary ministers' fees and expenses	3,204					**3,204**	3,557
Pastoral Care						**0**	6,456
Other Expenses:							
Training				300		**300**	-
Events	186					**186**	308
Miscellaneous	464			14,225		**14,689**	1,576
Total	**4,312**	**-**	**-**	**14,525**	**-**	**18,837**	12,239

The Circuit offers to reimburse lay preachers and supernumerary ministers for the costs of travel to the churches where they conduct services and supernumerary ministers may also claim a preaching fee. (Until 1 June 2022, the Circuit established a contract with a supernumerary minister to provide pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet following the retirement of Rev Preben. Since 1 June 2022, it has been provided by one of the Circuit presbyters.)

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

The Newport family worker project closed in 2022-23 and unused donations totalling £14,225 were returned to the Synod Advanced Fund and Bishpool and St Julian's Churches.

16. Gains and losses on monetary investments

There were total net losses on monetary investments of £52 in 2022-23 compared with net losses of £92 in 2021-22. A detailed breakdown is immaterial. See also Notes 20 and 27 below.

17. Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Proceeds of sale of manse at Chepstow Road, Newport	(82,000)	82,000				**0**	-
Refund of NFW Synod grant	7,910	(7,910)				**0**	-
Total	**100,004**	**(70,100)**	**(4)**	**(29,900)**	**-**	**0**	**0**

During the current year, the manse in Chepstow Road, Newport was sold for £407,000. £350,000 was used to repay the bridging loan from Methodist Chapel Aid and £82,000 (gross of fees and interest payments) was transferred to the Circuit Model Trust Fund). In addition, £7910 was repaid to the Synod Advanced Fund as an unused grant to the Newport Family Worker project, repayment being made from the Circuit Model Trust Fund (see Note 15).

18. Gains and losses on investment properties and other gains and losses

There were other losses of £14,526 in 2022-23 because of the revaluation of the Circuit property at Thistle Way, Ty Sign, Newport. (There were other gains of £14,696 in 2021-22 because of the revaluation of the manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport.) (see Note 19).

19. Manses and other property

At 31 Aug 2023 the Circuit had six properties (one less than at 31 Aug 2022). Three manses were occupied by ministers; the manse at Chepstow was leased to a private tenant; the manse at Charles Close, Monmouth was vacant pending leasing to a private tenant; the former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign had been used as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas but was now awaiting sale.

The manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot has been declassified as an investment property with effect from November 2022 and replaced by 8 Soane Close, Monmouth (see xiiib).

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

The value of the Resource Centre @ St David's, Ty Sign, was revised in September 2023 in line with a designated adviser's report. This resulted in a revaluation loss of £14,526. The valuation includes the former Church of St David's, Thistle Way, Ty Sign, which is now a Circuit property.

The office equipment in the Circuit office has not been capitalised since the items individually cost less than £1,000 (see xii).

General advice was sought from estate agents in Newport, Monmouth and Abergavenny as to the value of land as a proportion of the total value of residential properties in different parts of the Circuit. Where no other information exists, the value of the manses has been apportioned between land and buildings on the basis of this information.

Recent valuations (2015 or later) are available for the five manses at Charles Close, Monmouth, St Julian's Avenue, Newport, Soane Close, Newport, Church Road, Caldicot and Newport Road, Chepstow, and for St David's Church and Resource Centre, Thistle Way, Ty Sign. These valuations have been taken as the deemed values of these properties.

19.1 Cost or valuation of fixed assets

	Invest-ment Prop-erties		**Land**	**Buildings**	**Other Buildings**	**Other Fixed Assets incl. Vehicles**	**Fixtures, Fittings, etc**	**Assets under construc-tion**	**2023 Total**	**2022 Total**
Balance brought forward	435,000		507,632	1,097,000	160,894				**2,200,526**	1,760.830
Additions in the year									**0**	425,000
Revaluations			(3,632)		(10,894)				**(14,526)**	14,696
Less: Disposals in the year			(87,500)	(262,500)					**(350,000)**	
Transfers between categories	(200,000)		84,800	115,200					**0**	
Balance carried forward	**235,000**		**501,300**	**949,700**	**150,000**				**1,836,000**	2,200,526

19.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provision

Basis			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Rate		-	-	-		-		
Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year								
Revaluations								
Disposals								
Transfers								
Balance carried forward	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

19.3 Net book value

Brought forward	435,000		507,632	1,097,000	160,894	-	-	-	**2,200,526**	1,760,830
Carried forward	**235,000**		**501,300**	**949,700**	**150,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,836,000**	2,200,526

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

20. Investment Assets (and TMCP Funds)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund, the Mary A Curtis Bequest and the Kelly Legacy are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds or CFB Managed Mixed Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month or each quarter. 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.

The Charity of William Richards Endowment is invested in the COIF Charities Investment Fund. The Fund is a Common Investment Fund established by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 1993 section 24 and investment in the Fund is only available to charities within the meaning of section 96 of the Charities Act.

Investment Assets and TMCP	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2023 Total**	**2022 Total**
CFB Managed Mixed Funds		905				**905**	945
COIF Charities Investment Fund					577	**577**	589
Total Investment Assets	**0**	**905**	**0**	**0**	**577**	**1,482**	1,534
TMCP Trustees Interest Funds		301,370		50,187	177	**351,734**	98,817
Total	**0**	**302,275**	**0**	**50,187**	**754**	**353,216**	100,351

21. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 31 August 2022 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2022 were for events that have been held during 2022-23. Similarly, it is expected that all payments in advance at 1 September 2023 will be expended in 2023-24.

Debtors and Prepayments	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2023 Total**	**2022 Total**
Stipends, pensions and NI paid in advance	13,805					**13,805**	10,959
Accrued Income						**0**	851
Other debtors	688					**688**	1,004
Total	**14,493**	-	-	-	-	**14,493**	12,814

22. Loans by the Circuit

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

The Circuit has no outstanding loans at 31 August 2023 (2022: £0).

23. Central Finance Board and Bank Balances

Monetary balances at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at HSBC Bank Limited are all available on demand without loss of interest or other penalty.

Bank balances and cash in hand	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Central Finance Board Deposits	68,155		869	4,384		**73,409**	93,702
Balance held at HSBC	31,134					**31,134**	37,098
Cash in hand	200					**200**	200
Total	**99,489**	**-**	**869**	**4,384**	**-**	**104,743**	131,000

24. Creditors, accruals and income in advance

All sums accrued at 31 August 2022 were paid before 31 August 2023. Similarly, it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2023 will be paid by 31 August 2024.

Current Liabilities	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow ment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Church assessments paid in advance	37,839					**37,839**	37,582
Assessments paid late						**0**	(2,486)
Ministers and staff expenses	682					**682**	741
Other expenses	1,154					**1,154**	544
Stipends, pension and NI						**0**	-
Taxation and Social Security						**0**	-
Other creditors	(4,813)					**(4,813)**	4519
Total	**34,862**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**34,862**	40,903

25. Loans to the Circuit repayable in 2022-23

The Circuit took out a bridging loan for £325,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid in July 2022 to help in the purchase of 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone. The bridging loan was repaid in December 2022 following the sale of 608, Chepstow Road, Newport. There are no current loans.

26. Grants payable in 2023-24

The Circuit has set up a committee to provides grants to support mission related projects within the Circuit. The Committee has already approved a grant of £3,000 in 2023-24 for a project at Chepstow Methodist Church.. The Circuit has also allocated a budget of £1,150 in 2023-24 to support the night shelters at St Julians and Crosskeys and make small donations. Sufficient funds are available within the General Fund to support these grants.

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

27. Commitments in 2023-24

In 2022-23 the Circuit has allocated a budget of £12,000 for manse maintenance which will be paid out of the annual receipts of the Circuit.

28. Detailed Analysis of Individual Funds

The individual funds of the Circuit are as follows:

Name	Type	Purpose
General Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
William Richards (Income)	Designated	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Vera Holt	Restricted	As directed by the Circuit Meeting for youth work and training
Mary A Curtis Bequest	Restricted	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Manse Expenses	Restricted	Expenditure on purchase or renovation of manses
Newport Family Worker	Restricted	Funds of the Newport Family Worker project
Kelly Legacy	Endowment	Maintenance of Castleton graveyard
Charity of William Richards	Endowment	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting

Summary of Fund Movements - 2022-23

Funds	Balance at 31/8/22	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/23
General Fund	1,956,818	319,957	(273,042)	(74,090)	(14,526)	**1,915,117**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	50,824	276,775	(99,374)	74,090	(40)	**302,275**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**2,007,642**	**596,732**	**(372,416)**	**0**	**(14,566)**	**2,217,392**
William Richards (Income)	840	29				**869**
Total designated	**840**	**29**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**869**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,867	59	(300)			**1,626**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	48,618	1,561	(139)			**50,040**
Manse Expenses	142	5				**147**
Newport Family Worker (030)	18,912	578	(16,732)			**2,758**
Total restricted	**69,539**	**2,203**	**(17,171)**	**0**	**0**	**69,539**
Kelly Legacy	177	6	(6)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	589				(12)	**577**
Total endowments	**766**	**6**	**(6)**	**0**	**(12)**	**754**
Total of All Funds	**2,078,787**	**598,970**	**(389,593)**	**0**	**(14,578)**	**2,273,586**

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Summary of Fund Movements - 2021-22 (for comparison)

Funds	Balance at 31/8/21	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/22
General Fund	1,818,475	285,833	(262,190)	100,004	14,696	**1,956,818**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	133,060	570	(12,642)	(70,100)	(64)	**50,824**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,951,535**	**286,403**	**(274,832)**	**29,904**	**14,632**	**2,007,642**
William Richards (Income)	826	19	(1)	(4)		**840**
Total designated	**826**	**19**	**(1)**	**(4)**	**0**	**840**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,859	8				**1,867**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	48,528	228	(138)			**48,618**
Manse Expenses	30,000	128	(86)	(29,900)		**142**
Newport Family Worker (030)	22,172	10,095	(13,355)			**18,912**
Total restricted	**102,559**	**10,459**	**(13,579)**	**(29,900)**	**0**	**69,539**
Kelly Legacy	177	1	(1)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	617				(28)	**589**
Total endowments	**794**	**1**	**(1)**	**0**	**(28)**	**766**
Total of All Funds	**2,055,714**	**296,882**	**(288,413)**	**0**	**14,604**	**2,078,787**

29. Related Parties

Related parties include the Methodist Connexion and its funds, the Wales Synod District, the Churches within the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit, other Methodist Circuits in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

Year ending 31 August 2023

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.23
Wales Synod Cymru District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		6,754		
Wales Synod Cymru District	Donor	Grant	3,510	7,909		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		124,369		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	232,531			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee/ Donor	Grant / Donation		9,616		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit	Donor	Grant	3,305			
Trust for Methodist Church Purposes	Donee	Admin Charge		283		
Total			**239,346**	**149,433**	**0**	**0**

Year ending 31 August 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Year ending 31 August 2022

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.22
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		9,925		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		45,806		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	255,244			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee/ Donor	Grant / Donation	6,667	9,500		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust	Donnee	Donation		314		
Pension Reserve Fund	Donee	Grant		7,139		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donor	Letting	14.328			
Trust for Methodist Church Purposes	Donee	Admin Charge		603		
Total			**276,239**	**73,787**	**0**	**0**

None of the Circuit trustees made donations directly to the Circuit in the current year or the previous financial year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ..... Date...7 December 2023

Name and address of treasurer ..... Roger John Langford, Spindlewood, 122 Hereford Road

MONMOUTH, Monmouthshire ..... Post Code NP25 3GD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/~~will * be~~ presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 7 December 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Sue Keegan von Allmen Date .....

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to .... As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit ..... No...02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (~~*insert name of applicable listed body*~~ I.C.A.E.W.)]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have/~~have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner: ..... Mr R J Lewin

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate): NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address: 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire

..... Post Code: NP16 6HN

Date: 25th JANUARY 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

NEWPORT AND LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137596

Accounts

Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2021- 2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2022

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist **Circuit**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1137596**

Wales Synod District	**District No / Circuit No**	**02/19**

Ministers	Rev Gordon GRESSWELL
	Rev Les JONES
	Rev Bethany WILLERS
	Rev Paul CHESWORTH (from Mar 22)
	Rev Paula PARISH-FOLEY (URC)
Circuit Stewards	Miriam HAM
	Keith HARVEY
	Mike STRANGE
	Jack HEALEY (to Jun 22)
	Mike ROBERTS
	Roger BAFICO
	Penny BLAKEMORE
	Roger LANGFORD
Circuit Treasurer	Roger LANGFORD

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit is part of the Methodist Church in Britain. The Circuit acts as the umbrella body and a resource provider for eighteen Methodist Churches in our area, which covers Newport and parts of South East Wales and Herefordshire.

The Circuit also contains a Local Ecumenical Partnership Church with the URC and the Presbyterian Church of Wales at Dan-y-Graig in Risca.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Aims and organisation (including the Circuit Mission statement)

Further to the Methodist Church's statement "Our Calling" and "Priorities for the Methodist Church", the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit has the following policy:

- To discern the will of God for us a Circuit.
- To support all of the churches within the Circuit and to engage in mission in clearly defined areas where the local Church has a vision for mission.
- To prioritise the work within the Circuit and to resource these priorities.
- To encourage ecumenical activities and have good links with other denominations in the area.

When planning our activities for the year, the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on Charities for the advancement of religion. There is a particular emphasis on impacting on the community beyond the membership of the churches. Many of our church buildings are used by community groups requiring safe and suitable spaces for meetings and the Circuit encourages this. Many of the Churches run groups on the church premises which may not be specifically church orientated but are certainly for the public benefit – examples are Parent and Toddlers Groups, Uniformed Organisations for girls and boys, Coffee Mornings and Luncheon Clubs, Welsh Classes, Kids Theatre groups and much more, which enhance the way of life in the communities in which they are located, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness.

The Circuit prepares a quarterly plan of services and preachers for all of our Churches.

The Circuit encourages Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy

The Circuit encourages ecumenical links within the Circuit, not least with regard to its work with and for the smaller chapels in cooperation with a Baptist rural missioner in the northern end of the Circuit, as and when appropriate.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Resuming Circuit life in 2021-22 after COVID has been a challenge. Many things needed a lot of encouragement to get going again and some have been taking their time or will not resume at all.

Our use of Zoom, which was assisted by grants from the Wales Synod, has been encouraging, both for Sunday services and for meetings, and it is now being used by some of the smaller churches too. It has allowed those who are still cautious about Covid to join in our worship and our other activities. We have also continued to send out regular printed acts of worship to the many people for whom using technology is difficult.

In Newport the Family Worker continued her work and was able to make several connections once the Covid restrictions eased. Work has continued at the Ty Sign Resource Centre in Risca which is much appreciated by the immediate community, and several successful gatherings have been held of Forest Church, a new form of outdoor worship. Trellech Methodist Church have been visiting local schools to encourage children to Open The Book.

The Circuit has continued to reach out to our local communities. Several of our Churches have been able to support their local communities by continuing their coffee mornings and offering soup and company to people who would like it. The Beacon Café in Chepstow Methodist Church and the St James's St Kitchen lunch club at Monmouth Methodist Church have both also been in operation. Caldicot Methodist Church too has opened its coffee-mornings up for community use.

During the year, after a minister was forced to leave us on health grounds, we welcomed Revd. Paul Chesworth as part-time minister at Chepstow Methodist Church while Revd. Bethany Willers took on part-time responsibility for Caldicot Methodist Church and its adjacent churches. Revd. Bethany and her husband will move their home to the Manse in Caldicot later in the year but, until we are able to secure a part time minister for Monmouth and the other churches in the area, Revd Bethany will continue to oversee their requirements.

During the early part of the year, it was decided to purchase a new Manse which would be nearer the two churches that a new minister would be responsible for in Newport. We were fortunate to purchase one in the Rogerstone area. The purchase was concluded in time for the new Minister to take up her position in September.

This in turn meant that the Manse on Chepstow Road, Newport was no longer required so it was put up for sale. It has now been sold.

The decision was taken during 2022 to cease worship at Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church in Newport. The members who were left felt that they could no longer fill all the roles required. The last service was held there in the summer and the church was later put up for sale. It too has now been sold.

In July 2022 we said good bye to our Superintendent, Revd. Gordon Gresswell. We wish Gordon well as he moves to a Superintendency in Lancashire, and we look forward to welcoming our new Superintendent, Revd. Sue Keegan von Allmen in September.

We pray that the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit will continue as worshipping people that stay connected to their local communities, attract new people by taking part in online worship, and open their doors to different groups.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Income Trends

The total income of the Circuit was £296,881 in 2021-22 compared with £327,092 in 2020-21.

The Circuit's main source of funding was the assessments paid by the churches to the Circuit. These assessments are reviewed annually and a budget agreed which is intended to cover the costs of the Circuit in fulfilling its mission, whilst maintaining adequate reserves in line with the Circuit Reserves Policy. Assessments were £255,244 in 2021-23 compared with £278,589 in 2020-21.

The Circuit received £14,550 in income from lettings in 2021-22 compared with £8,400 in 2020-21.

The Newport Family Worker project is treated as a restricted fund in the Circuit accounts. The project received grants of £10,000 from the Circuit and its churches in 2021-22. It received £20,000 in grants in 2020-21, including a grant of £10,000 from the Wales Synod.

One manse was occupied throughout 2021-22 by a former presbyter of the Circuit, whose letting and manse costs of £14,328 were paid by the Methodist Church Fund.) Other income received in 2021-22 totalled £1,411.

Expenditure Trends

Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers, the maintenance of the manses, other running expenses and making contributions to District, Connexion and other Methodist Funds. Total charitable expenditure during 2021-22 was £288,411 compared with £318,227 in 2020-21.

Salaries and associated costs, which form the largest single element of Circuit expenditure, were £161,708 in 2021-22 compared with £176,740 in 2020-21. The Circuit pays pensions and national insurance contributions, travelling, telephone and other expenses of ministers. In 2021-22 the Circuit had three full-time and one part-time Presbyters and employed three part-time lay employees – a Circuit administrator, a mission developer at Ty Sign and a Newport family worker. The average number of staff employed was 5.5 in 2021-22 compared with 6.8 in 2020-21. One Presbyter left the Circuit on health grounds in August 2021.

The Circuit pays for maintenance, insurance, council tax, water charges, etc. on its manses and on other property. Total expenditure in 2021-22 was £33,775, including £5,786 on refurbishing the new manse at Rogerstone and £2,838 on professional and legal fees in connection with the purchase of the new manse and the sale of 608 another manse in Newport. Total expenditure in 2020-21 was £51,436.

The Circuit made payments to the Wales Synod District and the Methodist Connexion of £55,731 in 2021-22, compared with £57,929 in 2020-21.

During the year, grants and donations totalling £21,588 were approved by the Circuit Meeting, compared with £7,633 in 2020-21. Grants for mission related activities and community work within the Circuit included £3,333 to the Newport Family Worker project and £3,000 for a toddler worker in Chepstow, £6,500 towards church building projects and £800 to Eden Gate, a Newport charity working with the homeless. The Circuit also donated £7,123 to the Pension Reserve Fund and

smaller donations were made to the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust and the Methodist Church Fund for Property.

In 2021-22, the Circuit spent £3,370 on office and administrative costs, and £12,239 on other outgoings. The latter includes the expenses of lay preachers and supernumerary (retired) ministers, who play an important role in ensuring that regular worship takes place at all the Circuit's churches, and additional provision was made for pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet churches.

Overall, after allowing for gains and losses on investments, income in 2021-22 exceeded expenditure by £8.378. In 2020-21 income exceeded expenditure by £64,113. There was a capital gain of £55,000 on investment properties and a surplus of £22,172 on the Newport Family Worker project; ignoring these items, expenditure in 2021-22 exceeded in income by £13,059.

Fixed Assets: Properties

At 31 Aug 2022 the Circuit had seven properties (one more than at 31 Aug 2021). Four manses were occupied by ministers; the manse at Chepstow Road, Newport was vacant and awaiting sale; the manse at Caldicot was leased to a private tenant; the former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign was used as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas. The combined value of the properties at 31 August 2022 was £2,200,526 compared with £1,765,830 at 31 August 2020.

Fund Balances

The General Fund, at 31 August 2022, comprised the Circuit's current and deposit account balances (net of debtors and creditors) of £81,292 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £50,825. During 2021-22, the General Fund decreased by £57,580. Restricted, designated and endowment funds decreased altogether by £33,034 so that total reserves decreased by £90,614. The main reason for these movements was that money was withdrawn from the reserves to help fund the purchase of the new manse at 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone.

In July 2022, the Circuit took out a bridging loan of £325,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid to fund the remaining costs of purchasing the new manse. The loan was repayable after one year. In the event, the bridging loan was repaid in December 2022 following the sale of 608, Chepstow Road, Newport.

The overall aim of the Circuit is to have adequate reserves in the General Fund to meet unexpected expenditure. The guidance from Connexion and the Charities Commission suggests that charities should have reserves of about 50% of annual expenditure. As the majority of the income and expenditure of the Circuit is predictable, the Circuit's policy is that reserves should not fall below 40% of annual expenditure.

At 31 August 2022 the Circuit General Fund stood at 48% of annual expenditure. The overall level of the reserves is therefore satisfactory.

Plans for 2022-23

Circuit financial plans were prepared for 2022-23 on the basis that there would be three full-time and one part-time ordained ministers. Provision was made for the costs of lay employees and anticipated increases in stipends. Allowance was made for the costs of selling 608 Chepstow Road, including interest payments on the bridging loan. It was assumed that letting income would be received from two manses. Assessments were decreased by an average of 3.9% compared with the assessment offers for 2020-21 in agreement with the Circuit churches.

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102

Full Name of Charity:	Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1137596
Date of registration:	26 August 2010
Main communication address:	608 Chepstow Road, Newport, Gwent, NP19 9BZ

The members of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown at Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers in 2021-22

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev G Gresswell (Superintendent)	
	Rev L Jones	Rev B Willers
	Rev P Chesworth (from Mar 22)	Rev P Rose Parish (URC)
	Rev L Healey (to Jun 22)	
Circuit Stewards	Mrs M Ham	Mr K Harvey
	Mr M Strange	Mr M Roberts
	Miss P Blakemore	Mr J Healey (to Jun 22)
	Mr R Bafico	Mr R Langford
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs A McBain	
Administrator:	Mrs P M Farr	

Mr R Langford acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Mr R J Lewin, 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow Monmouthshire, NP16 6HN

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Newport and the lower Wye Valley 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

The Circuit aims to achieve this through:

a) The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
b) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
c) The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
d) Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
e) Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
f) Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit…….

> Bishpool Ringland, Broad Oak, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crosskeys, Earlswood Hope, Earlswood Valley, Gwehelog, Langstone, Llancloudy, Monmouth, Penycaemawr, Rogiet, Shaftesbury Street, St David's Ty Sign, St Julian's, Trellech, Trinity Newport

Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP) is also linked to the Circuit.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

> • the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults

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

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

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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 40% of normal annual expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021-22	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
1 Donations and legacies	4						0	0
2 Income from monetary investments		300	570	19	459		**1,348**	842
3 Income from investment properties	5	14,550					**14,550**	8,400
4 Assessments on Churches	6	255,244					**255,244**	278,589
5 Capital Receipts	7						**0**	0
6 Grants received	8				10,000		**10,000**	23,927
7 Other charitable income	9	15,739					**15,739**	15,334
8 **Total income**		**285,833**	**570**	**19**	**10,459**	**-**	**296,881**	**327,092**
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations	10	14,448	7,139	1			**21,588**	7,633
10 Salaries and associated costs	11	148,353			13,355		**161,708**	176,740
11 Property maintenance	12	32,805	970	-		-	**33,775**	51,436
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	13	45,806					**45,806**	45,582
13 District assessment & levy	13	5,772	4,153				**9,925**	12,347
14 Depreciation							**0**	0
15 Office expenses	14	2,767	379	-	224		**3,370**	2,702
16 Other outgoings	15	12,239					**12,239**	21,787
17 **Total charitable expenditure**		**262,190**	**12,641**	**1**	**13,579**	**0**	**288,411**	**318,227**
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	16		(64)			(28)	-92	248
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	18						0	55,000
20 **Net income/(expenditure)**		**23,643**	**(12,135)**	**18**	**(3,120)**	**(28)**	**8,378**	**64,113**
21 Transfers between funds	17	100,004	(70,100)	(4)	(29,900)		0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)	18	14,696					14,696	0
23 **Net movement in funds**		**138,343**	**(82,235)**	**14**	**(33,020)**	**-28**	**23,074**	**64,113**
24 Total funds brought forward		1,818,475	133,060	826	102,559	794	2,055,714	2,292,953
25 Total funds carried forward		**1,956,818**	**50,825**	**840**	**69,539**	**766**	**2,078,788**	**2,357,066**

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2021/22 £	Totals 2020/21 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	19	1,765,526					1,765,526	1,325,830
Investment properties	19	435,000					435,000	435,000
Investments	20		945			589	1,534	1,625
Total fixed assets		**2,200,526**	**945**	**0**	**0**	**589**	**2,202,060**	**1,762,455**
Current Assets								
Debtors	21	12,814					12,814	11,251
Loans by the Circuit	22						0	0
Investments with TMCP	20		49,880		48,760	177	98,817	210,758
Central Finance Board Deposits	23	71,284		840	21,578		93,702	88,260
Cash at Bank and in hand	23	37,298					37,298	31,759
Total current assets		**121,396**	**49,880**	**840**	**70,338**	**177**	**242,631**	**342,028**
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	24	40,104			799		40,903	48,769
Loan repayable within 2022-23	25	325,000					325,000	0
Total current liabilities		365,104	0	0	799	0	**365,903**	48,769
Net current assets/liabilities		**-243,708**	**49,880**	**840**	**69,539**	**177**	**-123,272**	**293,259**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,956,818**	**50,825**	**840**	**69,539**	**766**	**2,078,788**	**2,055,714**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23	26						**0**	
Loans to the Circuit							**0**	
							0	
Net assets		**1,956,818**	**50,825**	**840**	**69,539**	**766**	**2,078,788**	**2,055,714**
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,956,818					1,956,818	1,818,475
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			50,825				50,825	133,060
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				840			840	826
Total Unrestricted Funds							**2,008,483**	**1,952,361**
Restricted Funds					69,539		69,539	102,559
Endowment Funds						766	766	794
Total Funds		**1,956,818**	**50,825**	**840**	**69,539**	**766**	**2,078,788**	**2,055,714**

Signed RM

Name of Circuit … Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ……RJL…… Date 7 December 2022

Name and address of treasurer …Roger John Langford, Spindlewood, 122 Hereford Road

MONMOUTH, Monmouthshire …… Post Code…NP25 3GD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/~~will~~ * be presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 8 December 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: Susan Keegan von Allmen

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Sue Keegan von Allmen Date 29/3/2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages … to …. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit ..... Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit ..... No...02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* i.e. *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Mr R J Lewin

Name of independent examiner: .....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: F.C.A. E.W. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate): NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address: .....17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire .....

..... Post Code: NP16 6HN

Date: .....6TH FEBRUARY 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2022

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Accounts and Accounting Standards

i Accounting standard

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

Ii Public benefit entity

The Newport and Lower Wye (NLW) Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless 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. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

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

v FRS102 SORP2015 [applies to 2016-17 onwards]

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

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2022, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

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

viii Income recognition

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

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

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

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds".

- The administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or the Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS 102), module 19.12.

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

ix Expenditure

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

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement if there are no performance conditions, or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

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

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost. Recent valuations (2015 or later) for the manses have been used where available and other manses have been taken at their insured values at August 2016. The valuations will be reviewed periodically.

No depreciation is provided on the buildings 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. In the absence of any evidence of

Notes to the Accounts

impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii(a) Monetary Investments

The Circuit's investments in monetary assets are classified as basic financial instruments under FRS 102. These monetary assets, with the exception of the endowment Charity of William Richards, are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The endowment Charity of William Richards is held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by COIF. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 20 below.

xiii(b) Investment Properties

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

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

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

xv Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises levies against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for *ad hoc* collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church. These are detailed at Note 28 below.

xvi Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is available as a separate document.

xvii Endowment Funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income, the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

xviii Ministers' manse costs

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

2. Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): a group (comprising mostly but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formation of the Circuit. Generally, the CLT comprises the Presbyters and Deacons stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and sometimes other Circuit officers (who may not be trustees)

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

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

Connexional Funds: the designated and/or restricted funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives

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

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: His Majesty's Revenue and Customs

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

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges an auto-enrolment pension scheme for its lay employees

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

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

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

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

INSERT SOFA AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2021-22

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

3. Prior Year

3.1 Restatement of comparative figures

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 [not Section 1A] and the Charities SORP FRS 102, the restatement of comparative items was required. There have been no changes of classification between categories of expenditure in the accounts of 2021-22 compared with those for 2020-21. No restatements were necessary and a reconciliation of opening balances is therefore not required.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

4. Donations and legacies

No donations or legacies were received in 2021-22 or 2020-21.

5. Income from investment properties

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Lettings - 27 Church Road, Caldicot	14,550					**14,550**	8,400
Total	**14,550**	-	-	-	-	**14,550**	8,400

The former manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot, has been let to a tenant since February 2021. Letting income is gross of fees and commission.

6. Assessments on Churches

The following 19 churches were linked to the Circuit during 2021-22:

Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church
Broad Oak Methodist Church
Caldicot Methodist Church
Chepstow Methodist Church
Crosskeys Methodist Church
Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP), Risca
Earlswood Hope Methodist Church
Earlswood Valley Methodist Church
Gwehelog Methodist Church
Langstone Methodist Church
Llancloudy Methodist Church
Monmouth Methodist Church
Penycaemawr Methodist Church
Rogiet Methodist Church
Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport
St David's Methodist Church, Ty Sign
St Julian's Methodist Church, Newport
Trellech Methodist Church
Trinity Methodist Church, Newport

Each church is assessed for a contribution towards the overall costs of the Circuit. This Assessment on Churches is determined annually by the Circuit and the Churches using a process which takes into account the income of each church, including receipts from lettings, and the number of worshippers.

All Churches paid their full annual 2021-22 assessments by 31 August 2022 except for one church from which £851 was outstanding (2020-21 £1,207).

Assessments on churches are payable quarterly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date, the sum in question is also treated as a creditor. Such cases are detailed in Notes 21 and 24.

7. Capital Receipts

The Circuit had no capital receipts in 2021-22 or 2020-21.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

8. Grants received

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Wales Synod						-	10,000
NLW Circuit and Churches				10,000		**10,000**	10,000
Caerphilly Council						-	3,927
Total	-	-	-	**10,000**	-	**10,000**	23,927

Since December 2020, the Circuit has been coordinating a project to employ a lay family worker in some of the churches in Newport. In 2021-22 the project received donations of £3,999 from St Julian's Methodist Church, £2,668 from Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church and £3,333 from the Circuit. (In 2020-21 the project received donations of £10,000 from the Wales Synod and £3,333 each from St Julian's Methodist Church, Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church and the Circuit.)

In 2020-21 the Circuit also received £3,927 from St David's Methodist Church, Ty Sign and Caerphilly Council for the improvement of community facilities at The Centre @ St David's, Ty Sign.

9. Other charitable income

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Letting income	14,328					**14,328**	-
Other income	1,411					**1,411**	15,334
Total	**15,739**	-	-	-	-	**15,739**	15,334

The manse at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow was occupied throughout 2021-22 by a former presbyter of the Circuit, whose letting and manse costs were paid by the Methodist Church Fund.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

10. Grants and donations given

Grants and donations as listed below were made during the year.

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Circuit Churches:							
Chepstow (Toddler Worker)	3,000					**3,000**	3,000
Chepstow (New Boiler)	4,500					**4,500**	-
Bishpool (Roofing)	2,000					**2,000**	-
Other Church Projects						**-**	-
Pension Reserve Fund		7,139				**7,139**	-
Newport Family Worker	3,333					**3,333**	3,333
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust	315					**315**	800
The Methodist Church Property Fund	500					**500**	500
Other donations	800		1			**801**	-
Total	**14,448**	**7,139**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**21,588**	7,633

The night shelters at Crosskeys and St Julian's did not run in 2021-22 but the Circuit donated £800 to Eden Gate, a Newport charity working with the homeless. For the Pension Reserve Fund, see also Note 11.2.

11. Salaries and associated costs

11.1 Stipends, salaries and associated costs

	Pres-byters	Lay People	Unres-tricted	CMT Fund	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Gross stipends and salaries	86,894	24,914	100,420			11,388		**111,808**	129,139
Employer's NI contributions	7,918	365	7,918			365		**8,283**	10,277
Pension costs	22,542	1,495	23,354			683		**24,037**	28,885
Payroll Bureau fee		480	480					**480**	480
Apprenticeship levy	435	125	560					**560**	649
Travel	8,316	25	8,341					**8,341**	4,169
Telephone	2,603	120	2,603			120		**2,723**	2,809
Stationing and relocation costs	3,965		3,965					**3,965**	-
Other expenses	712	799	712			799		**1,511**	332
Total	**133,385**	**28,323**	**148,353**	**-**	**-**	**13,355**	**-**	**161,708**	176,740

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

Average staff nos employed in year	3.5	3.0	5.5	1.0	6.5	6.8
(full-time equivalent staff)	3.3	1.3	4.0	0.6	4.6	5.4

In 2021-22 there were three full-time Presbyters in the Circuit (including the Superintendent) and one part-time Presbyter who joined halfway through the year. The average number of presbyters employed was 3.5 (2020-21: 4.0) or 3.3 full-time equivalents (2020-21 4.0). The Circuit employed three part-time lay employees; a Circuit administrator a mission developer at Ty Sign and a Newport family worker. The average number of lay employees was 3.0 (2020:21 2.8) or 1.3 full-time equivalent staff (2020-21 1.4).

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

11.2 Pensions costs

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 (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

The Connexion shows the accounts for the MMPS pension scheme in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS was in deficit in August 2020 but in surplus in August 2021 and August 2022, and the Pension Reserve Fund has been strengthened with the help of donations from Districts, Circuits and Churches, including a donation of £7,139 from the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. The Circuit has complied with government legislation on workplace pensions and lay employees have since May 2016 been enrolled in a National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pensions scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme.

11.3 Cost of superintendent, presbyters and trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs the meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The costs of the presbyters' stipends, employers' National Insurance contributions and pension contributions were as follows:

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

Cost of Presbyters	2022	2021
Stipends of Presbyters	86,894	105,324
Employers' National Insurance contributions	7,918	9,794
Employer's pension contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme	22,542	27,464
Apprenticeship levy	435	530
Total	**117,789**	**143,112**

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

Each presbyter is entitled to three months' sabbatical leave every five years. No sabbatical leave was taken during the year 2021-22 (2020-21 no sabbaticals). The Circuit does not accrue for holiday pay cover since the remaining staff cover the presbyter's absence as needed without extra pay. Had additional cover been required, the cost of this is estimated as being the appropriate proportion of a single annual stipend plus NIC, pension and other normally incurred expenses.

11.4 Payments to trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Leadership Team and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

The four presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive role within the Circuit. The travel costs of presbyters in attending CLT and other Circuit meetings are included within their overall travel expenses (detailed in Note 11.1) and is not separately determined.

The current Circuit administrator is both a Circuit trustee and an employee of the Circuit, who receives a salary and other employment-related expenses (as detailed in Note 11.1).

The Rev Paula Rose Parish is a presbyter of the United Reformed Church and a member of the Circuit Meeting and the CLT. She is reimbursed for the travel costs of attending CLT and other Circuit meetings and for preaching in Methodist churches in the Circuit.

Until 1 June 2022 pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet Churches was provided under contract (as detailed in Note 15) by a supernumerary minister who was also a member of the Circuit Meeting. Since 1 June, it has been provided by one of the presbyters.

Apart from the presbyters, the contractors and the Circuit administrator, no member of the CLT received payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit in 2021-22. One other member of the Circuit Meeting received £630 for professional services in connection with a quinquennial inspection (2020-21: no payments).

In addition, CLT and Circuit Meeting members may sometimes be reimbursed for travel or computing costs incurred in the work of the Circuit. In 2021-22 one CLT member was reimbursed for travel costs incurred in the work of the Circuit (2020-21: no payments).

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

Trustees' expenses	2022	2021
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	1	0
Total amount paid (£)	50	0

Some lay preachers and supernumeraries are also Circuit trustees because they attend the Circuit Meeting as nominees from their churches, and any travel costs in attending Circuit Meetings are included within their overall expenses (detailed in Note 15 below).

12. Property expenses

Expenditure on property during the year is shown below.

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Expenditure on Manses:							
Manse maintenance	9,262					**9,262**	28,910
Council Tax	9,818					**9,818**	10,239
Water charges	3,740					**3,740**	3,757
Insurance	3,136					**3,136**	3,119
Gas and electricity	1,817					**1,817**	1,647
Other charges							
Sale of Manses:							
Legal and Professional Fees	1,868	970				**2,838**	-
Other Property Expenses:							
Quinquennial reviews	630					**630**	1,500
Castleton graveyard	130					**130**	280
Gwern-Y-Saint church	949					**949**	899
Letting expenses - Caldicot	1,455					**1,455**	1,085
Total	**32,805**	**970**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**33,775**	**51,436**

During the year the Circuit was responsible for the maintenance of seven manses or former manses, for the payment of Council tax and water charges (except where these were paid by a tenant) and for landlord's annual gas inspections and home service agreements. The Circuit also paid the gas and electricity charges on unoccupied properties.

In 2021-22 the Circuit purchased a new manse at 8, Soane Close, Rogerstone, Newport. £5,786 was spent on refurbishing this manse in preparation for occupation by a minister and £3,476 on maintaining the other properties. (Total expenditure on manse maintenance in 2020-21 included £10,581 on refurbishing the manse at 27, Church Road, Caldicot and £11,311 on converting the manse at TY Sign into a Mission Resource Centre.)

In 2021-22 the Circuit spent £2,838 on professional and legal fees in connection with the purchase of 8 Soane Close and the sale of 608 Chepstow Road, Newport.

Gwern-Y-Saint Methodist Church closed on 7 October 2018 and the Circuit has taken on responsibility for insuring the property.

Notes to the Accounts

The former manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot was leased to tenants from February 2021. An agency was employed to manage the lease.

13. Connexional and District assessments and levies

The Connexional and District assessments are paid to the Wales Synod District, which determines the assessment to be paid by each Circuit in accordance with a formula based on the number of presbyters and lay employees in each Circuit (see also Note 1xv).

Connexional assessment and Priority Fund levy	**Unres-tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2022 Total**	**2021 Total**
Connexional assessment	45,806					**45,806**	45,582
Connexional Priority Fund levy	-					**-**	-
Total	**45,806**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**45,806**	**45,582**

The Connexional Priority Fund levy is taken from the proceeds of the sale of former manses. No levy was charged during the current year and none in 2020-21

District assessment and levy	**Unres-tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2022 Total**	**2021 Total**
District assessment	5,772					**5,772**	6,417
District Advance Fund levy	-	4,153				**4,153**	5,930
Total	**5,772**	**4,153**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**9,925**	**12,347**

The District Advanced Fund levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit Model Trust Fund account balance at 31 August in the previous financial year.

14. Office and administration costs

Office and administration costs	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2022 Total**	**2021 Total**
Conference minutes and materials	621					**621**	635
Circuit Stewards' and Circuit officers' expenses	50					**50**	-
Printing, postage, stationery and computing supplies	1,524					**1,524**	1,109
Office equipment	-					**-**	-
Office telephone, broadband and website	214					**214**	234
Independent Examiner's fee	275					**275**	275

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

TMCP Administration and Investment Management fees	-	379		224		**603**	434
Other admin costs	83					**83**	15
Total	**2,767**	**379**	**-**	**224**	**-**	**3,370**	**2,702**

The Circuit office is at Caldicot Methodist Church, where the Circuit uses a room on four mornings a week. The Circuit does not pay rent for use of the room, but pays half of the Church's telephone, broadband and website costs.

During the year the Circuit paid £603 to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund, Mary A Curtis Bequest and Kelly Legacy) (2020-21: £434). The fees charged represent a levy of 0.285% on the value of the funds at the beginning of the year. and are allocated among the three funds as shown in the table above.

15. Other outgoings

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Preaching and worship:							
Local preacher's expenses	342					**342**	15
Supernumerary ministers' fees and expenses	3,557					**3,557**	2,386
Circuit Plan and Handbook						**0**	0
Pastoral Care	6,456					**6,456**	17,000
Other Expenses:							
Training						**0**	-
Events	308					**308**	-
URC transport and travel						**0**	436
Miscellaneous	1,576					**1,576**	1,950
Total	**12,239**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12,239**	21,787

The Circuit offers to reimburse lay preachers and supernumerary ministers for the costs of travel to the churches where they conduct services and supernumerary ministers may also claim a preaching fee. Until 1 June 2022, the Circuit established a contract with a supernumerary minister to provide pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet following the retirement of Rev Preben. Since 1 June, it has been provided by one of the Circuit presbyters. The Circuit has also paid Dan-Y-Graig Church a contribution towards the URC minister's telephone and travel costs and other expenses.

16. Gains and losses on monetary investments

There were total net losses on monetary investments of £92 in 2021-22 compared with net gains of £248 in 2020-21. A detailed breakdown is immaterial. See also Notes 20 and 27 below.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

17. Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Funding for purchase of manse at 8 Soane Close	100,000	(70,100)		(29,900)		**0**	-
Other transfers	4		(4)				
Total	**100,004**	**(70,100)**	**(4)**	**(29,900)**	**-**	**0**	**0**

During the current year, £70,100 was transferred from the Circuit Model Trust Fund and £29,900 from the restricted fund for manse expenses to help pay for the new manse at 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone. The other costs of the purchase were covered by a bridging loan (See also Note 25).

18. Gains and losses on investment properties and other gains and losses

There were other gains of £14,696 in 2021-22 because of the revaluation of the manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport (see Note 19).

19. Manses and other property

At 31 Aug 2022 the Circuit had seven properties (one more than at 31 Aug 2021). Four manses were occupied by ministers; the manse at Chepstow Road, Newport was vacant and awaiting sale; the manse at Caldicot was leased to a private tenant; the former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign was used as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas.

The manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot has been classified as an investment property (see xiiib).

The value of the manse at 608 Chepstow Road, Newport was revised in August 2022 in line with a surveyor's report. This resulted in a revaluation gain of £14,696.

The office equipment in the Circuit office has not been capitalised since the items individually cost less than £1,000 (see xii).

General advice was sought from estate agents in Newport, Monmouth and Abergavenny as to the value of land as a proportion of the total value of residential properties in different parts of the Circuit. Where no other information exists, the value of the manses has been apportioned between land and buildings on the basis of this information.

Recent valuations (2015 or later) are available for the six manses at Charles Close, Monmouth, St Julian's Avenue, Newport, Soane Close, Newport, Chepstow Road, Newport, Church Road, Caldicot and Newport Road, Chepstow, and these valuations have been taken as the deemed value of these manses. The former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign has been valued at its insured values at August 2016.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

19.1 Cost or valuation of fixed assets

	Invest-ment Prop-erties		Land	Buildings	Other Buildings	Other Fixed Assets incl. Vehicles	Fixtures, Fittings, etc	Assets under construc-tion	2022 Total	2021 Total
Balance brought forward	435,000		338,958	825,978	160,894				**1,760,830**	1,705.830
Additions in the year			165,000	260,000					**425,000**	
Revaluations			3,674	11,022					**14,696**	55,000
Less: Disposals in the year										
Transfers between categories										
Balance carried forward	**435,000**		**507,632**	**1,097,000**	**160,894**				**2,200,526**	1,760,830

19.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provision

Basis			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Rate		-	-	-		-		
Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year								
Revaluations								
Disposals								
Transfers								
Balance carried forward	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

19.3 Net book value

Brought forward	435,000	338,958	825,978	160,894	-	-	-	**1,760,830**	1,705,830
Carried forward	**435,000**	**507,632**	**1,097,000**	**160,894**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,200,526**	1,760,830

20. Investment Assets (and TMCP Funds)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund, the Mary A Curtis Bequest and the Kelly Legacy are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds or CFB Managed Mixed Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month or each quarter. 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.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

The Charity of William Richards Endowment is invested in the COIF Charities Investment Fund. The Fund is a Common Investment Fund established by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 1993 section 24 and investment in the Fund is only available to charities within the meaning of section 96 of the Charities Act.

Investment Assets and TMCP	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2022 Total**	**2021 Total**
CFB Managed Mixed Funds		945				**945**	1,008
COIF Charities Investment Fund					589	**589**	617
Total Investment Assets	**0**	**945**	**0**	**0**	**589**	**1,534**	1,625
TMCP Trustees Interest Funds		49,880		48,760	177	**98,817**	210,758
Total	**0**	**50,825**	**0**	**48,760**	**766**	**100,351**	212,383

21. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 31 August 2021 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2021 were for events that have been held during 2021-22. Similarly, it is expected that all payments in advance at 1 September 2022 will be expended in 2022-23.

Debtors and Prepayments	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2022 Total**	**2021 Total**
Stipends, pensions and NI paid in advance	10,959					**10,959**	9,057
Accrued Income	851					**851**	1.207
Other debtors	1,004					**1,004**	987
Total	**12,814**	-	-	-	-	**12,814**	11,251

22. Loans by the Circuit

The Circuit has no outstanding loans at 31 August 2022 (2021: £0).

23. Central Finance Board and Bank Balances

Monetary balances at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at HSBC Bank Limited are all available on demand without loss of interest or other penalty.

Bank balances and cash in hand	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2022 Total**	**2021 Total**
Central Finance Board Deposits	71,284		840	21,578		**93,702**	88,260
Balance held at HSBC	37,098					**37,098**	30,933
Balance held at Nationwide						**0**	826
Cash in hand	200					**200**	0
Total	**108,582**	-	**840**	**21,578**	-	**131,000**	120,019

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

During 2021-22 the income funds from the Charity of William Richards were transferred from an account at the Nationwide Building Society to a deposit account at CFB.

24. Creditors, accruals and income in advance

All sums accrued at 31 August 2021 were paid before 31 August 2022. Similarly, it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2022 will be paid by 31 August 2023.

Current Liabilities	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow ment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Church assessments paid in advance	37,582					**37,582**	43,418
Assessments paid late	(2,486)					**(2,486)**	
Ministers and staff expenses	744					**744**	471
Other expenses	544					**544**	1,109
Stipends, pension and NI						**0**	-
Taxation and Social Security						**0**	-
Other creditors	3,720			799		**4,519**	3,771
Total	**40,104**	**-**	**-**	**799**	**-**	**40,903**	48,769

25. Loans to the Circuit repayable in 2022-23

The Circuit took out a bridging loan for £325,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid to help in the purchase of 8 Soane Close, Rogerstone. The loan was repayable in July 2023 (2021: no loans). [In the event, the bridging loan was repaid in December 2022 following the sale of 608, Chepstow Road, Newport.]

26. Grants payable in 2022-23

The Circuit has set up a Committee to provides grants to support mission related projects within the Circuit. The Committee has already approved a grant of £3,000 in 2022-23 for a project at Chepstow Methodist Church.. The Circuit has also allocated a budget of £1,150 in 2022-23 to support the night shelters at St Julians and Crosskeys and make small donations. Sufficient funds are available within the General Fund to support these grants. The Circuit has also allocated £30,000 from the Mary A Curtis Bequest to support an outreach project in Monmouth.

27. Commitments in 2022-23

In 2022-23 the Circuit has allocated a budget of £15,000 for manse maintenance which will be paid out of the annual receipts of the Circuit. The Circuit will fund the costs of the Ty Sign Mission Developer (£8,418) and a Local Preacher Tutor (£3,000) from its General Fund.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

28. Detailed Analysis of Individual Funds

The individual funds of the Circuit are as follows:

Name	Type	Purpose
General Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
William Richards (Income)	Designated	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Vera Holt	Restricted	As directed by the Circuit Meeting for youth work and training
Mary A Curtis Bequest	Restricted	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Manse Expenses	Restricted	Expenditure on purchase or renovation of manses
Newport Family Worker	Restricted	Funds of the Newport Family Worker project
Kelly Legacy	Endowment	Maintenance of Castleton graveyard
Charity of William Richards	Endowment	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting

The movements of monies between the funds of the Circuit are summarised in the tables below.

Summary of Fund Movements - 2021-22

Funds	Balance at 31/8/21	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/22
General Fund	1,818,475	285,833	(262,190)	100,004		**1,942,122**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	133,060	570	(12,641)	(70,100)	(64)	**50,825**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,951,535**	**286,403**	**(274,831)**	**29,904**	**(64)**	**1,992,947**
William Richards (Income)	826	19	(1)	(4)		**840**
Total designated	**826**	**19**	**(1)**	**(4)**	**0**	**840**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,859	8				**1,867**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	48,528	228	(138)			**48,618**
Manse Expenses	30,000	128	(86)	(29,900)		**142**
Newport Family Worker (030)	22,172	10,095	(13,355)			**18,912**
Total restricted	**102,559**	**10,459**	**(13,579)**	**(29,900)**	**0**	**69,539**
Kelly Legacy	177	1	(1)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	617				(28)	**589**
Total endowments	**794**	**1**	**(1)**	**0**	**(28)**	**766**
Total of All Funds	**2,055,714**	**296,881**	**(288,412)**	**0**	**(92)**	**2,064,092**

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

Summary of Fund Movements - 2020-21 (for comparison)

Funds	Balance at 31/8/20	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/21
General Fund	1,771,164	292,978	(300,667)		55,000	**1,818,475**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	168,607	564	(6,267)	(30,000)	156	**133,060**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,939,771**	**293,542**	**(306,934)**	**(30,000)**	**55,156**	**1,951,535**
William Richards (Income)	809	17				**826**
Total designated	**809**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**826**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,857	2				**1,859**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	48,462	163	(97)			**48,528**
Manse Expenses	0			30,000		**30,000**
Newport Family Worker (030)	0	33,368	(11,196)			**22,172**
Total restricted	**50,319**	**33,533**	**(11,293)**	**30,000**	**0**	**102,559**
Kelly Legacy	177	1	(1)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	525				92	**617**
Total endowments	**702**	**1**	**(1)**	**0**	**92**	**794**
Total of All Funds	**1,991,601**	**327,093**	**(318,228)**	**0**	**55,248**	**2,055,714**

29. Related Parties

Related parties include the Methodist Connexion and its funds, the Wales Synod District, the Churches within the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit, other Methodist Circuits in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

Year ending 31 August 2022

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.22
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		9,925		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		45,806		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	255,244			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee/ Donor	Grant / Donation	6,667	9,500		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust	Donnee	Donation		314		
Pension Reserve Fund	Donee	Grant		7,139		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donor	Letting	14.328			
Trust for Methodist Church Purposes	Donee	Admin Charge		603		
Total			**276,239**	**73,787**	**0**	**0**

Year ending 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts

Year ending 31 August 2021

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.21
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		12,347		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		45,582		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	278,589			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee/ Donor	Grant / Donation	6,667	3,000		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust	Donnee	Donation		800		
Wales Synod District	Donor	Grant	10,000			
Total			**295,256**	**62,229**	**0**	**0**

None of the Circuit trustees made donations directly to the Circuit in the current year or the previous financial year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP 2021-22

MINISTERS

Reverend Gordon Gresswell
Reverend Lesley Jones
Reverend Bethany Willers
Reverend Paul Chesworth (from March 2022)
Reverend Paula Parish-Foley

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Reverend Linda Healey

LAYWORKERS

Pauline Farr
Deborah Crahart
Tim Crahart

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Miriam Ham
Keith Harvey
Jack Healey (to June 2022)
Roger Bafico
Penny Blakemore
Roger Langford (Treasurer)
Mike Strange (Property)
Mike Roberts (Secretary)

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Reverend Gordon Gresswell
Michael Gray

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Alison McBain

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Church 1	Caldicot	Rep 1	Bridget Gibbs (now deceased)
		Rep 2	Gareth Edwards
		Rep 3	Jack Healey
Church 2	Rogiet	Rep 1	Marion Edwards
		Rep 2	Hazel Bennett
		Rep 3	Jack Healey
Church 3	Earlswood Hope and Valley	Rep 1	Ray Jeremiah
		Rep 2	Avril Smith
Church 4	Penycaemawr	Rep 1	Sandra Hanbury
		Rep 2	Jill Ellis
Church 5	Chepstow	Rep 1	Keith Harvey
		Rep 2	Stuart Nuttall
		Rep 3	Margaret Harvey

		Rep 4	Jason Yapp (to January 2022)
		Rep 5	Allan Strange (from March 2022)
Church 6	Monmouth	Rep 1	Ann Langford
		Rep 3	Elizabeth Hicks (to September 2021)
		Rep 4	David Evans (from October 2021)
Church 7	Gwehelog	Rep 1	Margaret Jenkins
Church 8	Gwern-y-Saint	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 9	Trellech	Rep 1	Pam Lloyd
		Rep 2	Nassim Hilu (to June 2022)
		Rep 3	Jacqueline Horrod-Tottem (from July 2022)
Church 10	Llancloudy	Rep 1	Arthur Isaac
Church 11	Broad Oak	Rep 1	Robin Hill
Church 12	St Julian's	Rep 1	Simon Oram
		Rep 2	Karen Symonds
		Rep 3	Sian Llewellyn
		Rep 4	Gill Benson
		Rep 5	Edwin Jones
Church 13	Shaftesbury	Rep 1	Gertrude Goma
		Rep 2	Hugh Knoyle
		Rep 3	Malcolm Dean
Church 14	Crosskeys	Rep 1	Michael Gray
		Rep 2	Ruth Gray
		Rep 3	Rosemary Carnell
Church 15	Trinity	Rep 1	Miriam Ham
		Rep 2	Roger Bafico
		Rep 3	Margaret Nicholas
		Rep 4	Martin Lougher
		Rep 5	John Mountford
		Rep 6	Pat Dicker
		Rep 7	Ann Mackie
Church 16	St David's	Rep 1	Irene Scowcroft
		Rep 2	Deborah Crahart
Church 17	Bishpool	Rep 1	Penny Blakemore
		Rep 2	Alf Waldron
		Rep 3	Janice Morgan
		Rep 4	Ann Waldron
		Rep 5	Jenny Suter
Church 18	Langstone	Rep 1	Sue Davies
		Rep 2	Ingrid Smith
Church 19	Dan-y-Graig	Rep 1	Carol Aldridge
		Rep 2	Sarah-Jane Jones

NEWPORT AND LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137596

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist **Circuit**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1137596**

Wales Synod District	**District No / Circuit No**	**02/19**

Ministers	Rev Gordon GRESSWELL
	Rev Les JONES
	Rev Rachel FRANK
	Rev Bethany WILLERS
	Rev Paula PARISH-FOLEY (URC)
Circuit Stewards	Keith HARVEY
	Jack HEALEY
	Mike STRANGE
	Sandra HANBURY (to Jun 21)
	Mike ROBERTS
	Roger BAFICO
	Penny BLAKEMORE
	Roger LANGFORD
	Cliff RANDALL (to Jun 21)
	Miriam Ham (from Jun 21)
Circuit Treasurer	Roger LANGFORD

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit is part of the Methodist Church in Britain. The Circuit acts as the umbrella body and a resource provider for eighteen Methodist Churches in our area, which covers Newport and parts of South East Wales and Herefordshire.

The Circuit also contains a Local Ecumenical Partnership Church with the URC and the Presbyterian Church of Wales at Dan-y-Graig in Risca and provides ministry and support to a Congregational Church at Pontywaun, Risca.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Aims and organisation (including the Circuit Mission statement)

Further to the Methodist Church's statement "Our Calling" and "Priorities for the Methodist Church", the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit has the following policy:

- To discern the will of God for us a Circuit.
- To support all of the churches within the Circuit and to engage in mission in clearly defined areas where the local Church has a vision for mission.
- To prioritise the work within the Circuit and to resource these priorities.
- To encourage ecumenical activities and have good links with other denominations in the area.

When planning our activities for the year, the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on Charities for the advancement of religion. There is a particular emphasis on impacting on the community beyond the membership of the churches. Many of our church buildings are used by community groups requiring safe and suitable spaces for meetings and the Circuit encourages this. Many of the Churches run groups on the church premises which may not be specifically church orientated but are certainly for the public benefit – examples are Parent and Toddlers Groups, Uniformed Organisations for girls and boys, Coffee Mornings and Luncheon Clubs, Welsh Classes, Kids Theatre groups and much more, which enhance the way of life in the communities in which they are located, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness.

The Circuit prepares a quarterly plan of services and preachers for all of our Churches.

The Circuit encourages Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy

The Circuit encourages ecumenical links within the Circuit, not least with regard to its work with and for the smaller chapels in cooperation with a Baptist rural missioner in the northern end of the Circuit, as and when appropriate.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This year was dominated by Covid 19.

The Circuit developed ways of meeting for worship and business; mainly through the Zoom platform that has become part of everyday life. The Connexional year began in September with church buildings opening up with strict health and safety policies and diminished numbers in safe spaced environments. A further lockdown soon took occurred and many plans were once again put on hold as we carefully stepped forward into a new reality.

Our use of Zoom and other online platforms was assisted by grants from the Wales Synod, which allowed new equipment to be purchased to keep people connected. This has been well-received and numbers attending worship on Zoom enabled the praise of God to continue amongst our congregations. Smaller Chapels have been encouraged to join in using Zoom too. We have also sent out regular printed acts of worship to the many people for whom using technology is difficult.

The business of being Trustees has continued with Zoom Meetings and the occasional face-to-face meeting in safely spaced environments, but the year was certainly challenging.

In the Newport area, the Family Worker has continued to make connections, once furlough came to a close, and the Mission Developer in the Risca area has been heavily involved in the Risca Covid Group that has fed, connected, and rallied around the lonely and most vulnerable in these areas of deprivation. The Resource Centre at St David's in Ty Sign, became the epi-centre of meeting and distribution of toiletries, food, tools, and a source of encouragement to the whole community.

Monmouth saw the arrival of the Revd. Bethany Willers and her husband Joel, and they have settled into the life of the Monmouth quickly, with Bethany meeting community leaders and the Methodist Church has made extensive use of Zoom for young people and for other Churches to use, being especially appreciated by Trellech Methodist Church.

Chepstow Methodist Church has kept the Beacon Café open when possible and whilst it has not been as busy as before Covid, this has been a place of community meeting and has helped in building confidence for those reluctant to leave their homes. The Church has fulfilled its role as a community focussed environment. Caldicot Methodist Church has too, opening its coffee-mornings up for community use as soon as safe to do so.

Amidst all of the challenges Covid 19 has brought, the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit has continued to stay connected to its local communities, have continued as worshipping communities with new people taking part in online worship, and has, where possible, opened its doors for different groups involved in trying to get us all through the global pandemic.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Income Trends

The total income of the Circuit was £327,092 in 2020-21 compared with £254,413 in 2019-20.

The Circuit's main source of funding was the assessments paid by the churches to the Circuit. These assessments are reviewed annually and a budget agreed which is intended to cover the costs of the Circuit in fulfilling its mission, whilst maintaining adequate reserves in line with the Circuit Reserves Policy. Assessments were £278,589 in 2020-21 compared with £ 251,607 in 2019-20 and £288,914 in 2018-19. Assessments on churches held up well despite the continuing effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Circuit received £8,400 in income from lettings in 2020-21 and did not undertake any fundraising activities of its own.

Funds of the Newport Family Worker project, totalling £13,364 and previously controlled by Trinity Methodist Church, Newport, were transferred to the Circuit on 30 November 2020. The project received £20,000 in grants in 2020-21. The Newport Family Worker project is treated as a restricted fund in the Circuit accounts.

Expenditure Trends

Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers, the maintenance of the manses, other running expenses and making contributions to District, Connexion and other Methodist Funds. Total expenditure during 2020-21 was £318,227 compared with £318,921 in 2019-20.

Salaries and associated costs, which form the largest single element of Circuit expenditure, were £176,740 in 2020-21 compared with £199,793 in 2019-20. The Circuit pays pensions and national insurance contributions, travelling, telephone and other expenses of ministers. In 2020-21 the Circuit had four Presbyters and employed three part-time lay employees – a Circuit administrator, a mission developer at Ty Sign and, since December 2020, a Newport family worker. The average number of staff employed was 6.8 in 2020-21, the same as in 2019-20.

A significant amount is spent each year on the manses owned by the Circuit and on other property. The Circuit pays for maintenance, insurance, council tax, water charges, etc. Total expenditure in 2020-21 was £51,436, including £10,581 on refurbishing the manse at Caldicot and £11,311 on converting the manse at TY Sign into a Mission Resource Centre. Total expenditure in 2019-20 was £36,703.

The Circuit made payments to the Wales Synod District and the Methodist Connexion of £57,929 in 2020-21, compared with £63,254 in 2019-20.

During the year, grants and donations totalling £7,633 were approved by the Circuit meeting for mission related activities and community work within the Circuit. Grants were made of £3,333 to the Newport Family Worker project and £3,000 for a toddler worker in Chepstow. Donations were made of £800 to the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust and £500 to the Methodist Church Fund for Property. The Circuit normally gives donations towards the cost of winter night shelters supported by churches in Newport and Crosskeys but these did not run in 2020-21.

In 2020-21, the Circuit spent £2,702 on office and administrative costs, and £21,787 on other outgoings. The latter includes the expenses of lay preachers and supernumerary (retired) ministers, who play an important role in ensuring that regular worship takes place at all the Circuit's churches, and additional provision was made for pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet churches following the retirement of Rev Preben Andersen.

Overall, income in 2020-21 exceeded expenditure by £64,113. There was a capital gain of £55,000 on investment properties and a surplus of £22,172 on the Newport Family Worker project. Ignoring these items, expenditure exceeded in income by £13,059, This was primarily because of the expenditure on the manses at Caldicot and Ty Sign, and the shortfall was covered from the Circuit's General Fund. (In 2019-20, overall expenditure exceeded income by £64,511.)

Fixed Assets: Properties

At 31 August 2021, the Circuit had six properties (the same number as at 31 August 2020). Four manses were occupied by ministers. The manse at Caldicot was leased to a private tenant. The former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign has been converted for use as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas. The combined value of the properties at 31 August 2021 was £1,760,830 compared with £1,705,830 at 31 August 2020.

Fund Balances

The General Fund, at 31 August 2021, comprised the Circuit's current and deposit account balances (net of debtors and creditors) of £57,645 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £132,052. During 2020-21, the General Fund decreased by £43,236. Restricted, designated and endowment funds increased altogether by £52,349, so that total reserves increased by £9,113.

The overall aim of the Circuit is to have adequate reserves in the General Fund to meet unexpected expenditure. The guidance from Connexion and the Charities Commission suggests that charities should have reserves of about 50% of annual expenditure. As the majority of the income and expenditure of the Circuit is predictable, the Circuit's policy is that reserves should not fall below 40% of annual expenditure.

At 31 August 2021 the Circuit General Fund stood at 60% of annual expenditure. The overall level of the reserves is therefore satisfactory.

Plans for 2021-22

Circuit financial plans for 2021-22 were prepared on the basis that there would be four full-time ordained staff. Provision was made for anticipated increases in stipends and other costs, and assessments were decreased by an average of 5.3% in agreement with the Circuit churches. In the event, one minister has left the Circuit unexpectedly, so the Circuit starts the year with three ministers, and will look to provide additional resources for pastoral and ministerial care at Chepstow, Caldicot and Rogiet.

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102

Full Name of Charity:	Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1137596
Date of registration:	26 August 2010
Main communication address:	608 Chepstow Road, Newport, Gwent, NP19 9BZ

The members of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown at Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers in 2020-21

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev G Gresswell (Superintendent)	
	Rev L Jones	Rev R Frank
	Rev B Willers	Rev P Rose Parish (URC)
	Rev L Healey	Rev J Rooney
Circuit Stewards	Mr K Harvey	Mr J Healey
	Mr M Strange	Mr M Roberts
	Mrs S Hanbury (to Jun 21)	Miss P Blakemore
	Mr R Bafico	Mr C Randall (to Jun 21)
	Mrs M Ham (from Jun 21)	Mr R Langford
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs A McBain	
Administrator:	Mrs P M Farr	

Mr R Langford acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Mr R J Lewin, 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow Monmouthshire, NP16 6HN

Investment Bankers Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Newport and the lower Wye Valley 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

The Circuit aims to achieve this through:

a) The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
b) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
c) The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
d) Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
e) Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
f) Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit…….

> Bishpool Ringland, Broad Oak, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crosskeys, Earlswood Hope, Earlswood Valley, Gwehelog, Langstone, Llancloudy, Monmouth, Penycaemawr, Rogiet, Shaftesbury Street, St David's Ty Sign, St Julian's, Trellech, Trinity Newport

Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP) is also linked to the Circuit.

Trinity Congregational Church Pontywaun has received ministry and support from the Circuit.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

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

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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 40% of normal annual expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21	Total 2019-20
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
1 Donations and legacies	4						0	0
2 Income from monetary investments		92	564	17	169		**842**	2,806
3 Income from investment properties	5	8,400					**8,400**	0
4 Assessments on Churches	6	278,589					**278,589**	251,607
5 Capital Receipts	7						**0**	0
6 Grants received	8	3,927			20,000		**23,927**	0
7 Other charitable income	9	1,970			13,364		**15,334**	0
8 **Total income**		**292,978**	**564**	**17**	**33,533**	-	327,092	**254,413**
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations	10	7,633					**7,633**	10,049
10 Salaries and associated costs	11	165,544			11,196		**176,740**	199,793
11 Property maintenance	12	51,436					**51,436**	36,703
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	13	45,582					**45,582**	47,322
13 District Assessment & Levy	13	6,417	5,930				**12,347**	15,932
14 Depreciation							**0**	0
15 Office expenses	14	2,268	337		97		**2,702**	3,092
16 Other outgoings	15	21,787					**21,787**	6,030
17 **Total charitable expenditure**		**300,667**	**6,267**	**0**	**11,293**	**0**	318,227	**318,921**
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	16		156			92	**248**	(3)
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	18	55,000					**55,000**	0
20 **Net income/(expenditure)**		**47,311**	**(5,547)**	**17**	**22,240**	**92**	64,113	**(64,511)**
21 Transfers between funds	17		(30,000)		30,000		0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)	18						0	199,963
23 **Net movement in funds**		**47,311**	**(35,547)**	**17**	**52,240**	**92**	64,113	**135,452**
24 Total funds brought forward		1,771,164	168,607	809	50,319	702	1,991,601	1,856,149
25 **Total funds carried forward**		**1,818,475**	**133,060**	**826**	**102,559**	**794**	**2,055,714**	**1,991,601**

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2020/21 £	Totals 2019/20 £	GN
Fixed Assets									
Circuit Manses & Equipment	19	1,325,830					1,325,830	1,705,830	R
Investment properties	19	435,000					435,000	0	R
Investments	20		1,008			617	1,625	1,377	
Total fixed assets		**1,760,830**	**1,008**	**0**	**0**	**617**	**1,762,455**	**1,707,207**	
Current Assets									
Debtors	21	11,251					11,251	12,800	S
Loans by the Circuit							0	0	
Investments with TMCP	20		132,052		78,529	177	210,758	216,394	
Central Finance Board Deposits	23	*64,230*			*24,030*		*88,260*	72,187	T
Cash at Bank and in hand	23	30,933		826			31,759	28,120	
Total current assets		**106,414**	**132,052**	**826**	**102,559**	**177**	**342,028**	**329,501**	
Current liabilities									
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	24	48,769					48,769	45,107	U
Grants payable within 2021-22							0	0	V
Total current liabilities		48,769	0	0	0	0	**48,769**	45,107	
Net current assets/liabilities		**57,645**	**132,052**	**826**	**102,559**	**177**	**293,259**	**284,394**	
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,818,475**	**133,060**	**826**	**102,559**	**794**	**2,055,714**	**1,991,601**	
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)									
Grants payable after 2021-22							**0**	0	V
Loans to the Circuit							**0**	0	
							0	0	
Net assets		**1,818,475**	**133,060**	**826**	**102,559**	**794**	**2,055,714**	**1,991,601**	W
Funds of the Circuit									
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,818,475					1,818,475	1,771,164	
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			133,060				133,060	168,607	W
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				826			826	809	
Total Unrestricted Funds							**1,952,361**	**1,940,580**	
Restricted Funds					102,559		102,559	50,319	
Endowment Funds						794	794	702	
Total Funds		**1,818,475**	**133,060**	**826**	**102,559**	**794**	2,055,714	**1,991,601**	

Signed

R. J. LANGFORD

Circuit Treasurer

10/2/22

Name of Circuit … Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ……RLL…… Date…10 February 2022

Name and address of treasurer … Roger John Langford ……

Spindlewood, 122 Hereford Road, Monmouth …… Post Code…NP25 3GD…

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 26TH MARCH 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ……Gordon Gresswell……

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Gordon Gresswell …… Date 26/03/2022….

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 ~~set out on pages … to …~~. As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit … Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit …… No…02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (~~*insert name of applicable listed body*~~)]. ~~*Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*~~ The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* ie *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* ie *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner ……

Name of independent examiner Mr R J Lewin ……

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner F.C.A. (ICAEW)

Name of firm (where appropriate) NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire ……

…… Post Code NP16 6HN

Date 14/2/2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2021

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Accounts and Accounting Standards

i Accounting standard

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

Ii Public benefit entity

The Newport and Lower Wye (NLW) Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless 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. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

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

v FRS102 SORP2015 [applies to 2016-17 onwards]

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

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

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

viii Income recognition

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

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

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

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds".

- The administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or the Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS 102), module 19.12.

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

ix Expenditure

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

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement if there are no performance conditions, or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

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

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost. Recent valuations (2015 or later) for the manses have been used where available and other manses have been taken at their insured values at August 2016. The valuations will be reviewed periodically.

No depreciation is provided on the buildings 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. In the absence of any evidence of

Notes to the Accounts

impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii(a) Monetary Investments

The Circuit's investments in monetary assets are classified as basic financial instruments under FRS 102. These monetary assets, with the exception of the endowment Charity of William Richards, are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The endowment Charity of William Richards is held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by COIF. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 20 below.

xiii(b) Investment Properties

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

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

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

xv Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises levies against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for *ad hoc* collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church. These are detailed at Note 28 below.

xvi Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is available as a separate document.

xvii Endowment Funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income, the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

xviii Ministers' manse costs

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

2. Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): a group (comprising mostly but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formation of the Circuit. Generally, the CLT comprises the Presbyters and Deacons stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and sometimes other Circuit officers (who may not be trustees)

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

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

Connexional Funds: the designated and/or restricted funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives

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

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

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

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges an auto-enrolment pension scheme for its lay employees

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

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

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

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

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

3. Prior Year

3.1 Restatement of comparative figures

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 [not Section 1A] and the Charities SORP FRS 102, the restatement of comparative items was required. There have been no changes of classification between categories of expenditure in the accounts of 2020-21 compared with those for 2019-20. No restatements were necessary and a reconciliation of opening balances is therefore not required.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

4. Donations and legacies

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Donations						-	-
Legacies						-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0**	**0**

No donations or legacies were received in 2020-21 or 2019-20.

5. Income from investment properties

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Lettings - 27 Church Road, Caldicot	8,400					**8,400**	-
Total	**8,400**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**8,400**	**0**

The former manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot, has been let to a tenant since February 2021. Letting income is gross of fees and commission. The Circuit received no income from investment properties in 2019-20.

6. Assessments on Churches

The following 20 churches were linked to the Circuit during 2020-21:

Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church
Broad Oak Methodist Church
Caldicot Methodist Church
Chepstow Methodist Church
Crosskeys Methodist Church
Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP), Risca
Earlswood Hope Methodist Church
Earlswood Valley Methodist Church
Gwehelog Methodist Church
Langstone Methodist Church
Llancloudy Methodist Church
Monmouth Methodist Church
Penycaemawr Methodist Church
Rogiet Methodist Church
Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport
St David's Methodist Church, Ty Sign
St Julian's Methodist Church, Newport
Trellech Methodist Church
Trinity Congregational Church, Pontywaun
Trinity Methodist Church, Newport

Each church is assessed for a contribution towards the overall costs of the Circuit. This Assessment on Churches is determined annually by the Circuit and the Churches using a process which takes into account the income of each church, including receipts from lettings, and the number of worshippers.

All Churches paid their full annual 2020-21 assessments by 31 August 2021 except for one church from which £1,207 was outstanding.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

Assessments on churches are payable quarterly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date, the sum in question is also treated as a creditor. Such cases are detailed in Notes 21 and 24.

7. Capital Receipts

The Circuit had no capital receipts in 2020-21 or 2019-20.

8. Grants received

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Wales Synod				10,000		**10,000**	-
NLW Circuit and Churches				10,000		**10,000**	-
Caerphilly Council	3,927					**3,927**	-
Total	**3,927**	**-**	**-**	**20,000**	**-**	**23,927**	**0**

Since December 2020, the Circuit has been coordinating a project to employ a lay family worker in some of the churches in Newport. Donations of £20,000 were received in support of the project: £10,000 from the Wales Synod and £3,333 each from St Julian's Methodist Church, Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church and the Circuit.

The Circuit also received £3,927 from St David's Methodist Church, Ty Sign and Caerphilly Council for the improvement of the kitchen and other community facilities at The Centre @ St David's, Ty Sign.

The Circuit received no grants in 2019-20.

9. Other charitable income

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Letting income						**-**	-
Other income	1,970			13,364		**15,334**	-
Total	**1,970**	**-**	**-**	**13,364**	**-**	**15,334**	**0**

Funds of the Newport Family Worker project, totalling £13,364 and previously controlled by Trinity Methodist Church, Newport, were transferred to the Circuit on 30 November 2020.

The Circuit received no other income in 2019-20.

10. Grants and donations given

Grants and donations as listed below were made during the year.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Circuit Churches:							
Chepstow (Toddler Worker)	3,000					**3,000**	3,000
Crosskeys (Night Shelter)						**-**	200
St Julian's (Night Shelter)						**-**	600
Monmouth (Lift Refurbishment)						**-**	6,087
Other Church Projects						**-**	162
Newport Family Worker	3,333					**3,333**	-
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust	800					**800**	-
The Methodist Church Property Fund	500					**500**	-
Other donations						**-**	-
Total	**7,633**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**7,633**	**10,049**

11. Salaries and associated costs

11.1 Stipends, salaries and associated costs

In 2020-21 there were four Presbyters (including the Superintendent), who were all employed full-time, in the Circuit. The average number of presbyters employed was 4.0 (2019-20: 5.0). The Circuit employed three part-time lay employees; a circuit administrator and a mission developer at Ty Sign throughout the year and a Newport Family Worker since December 2020. The average number of lay employees was 2.8 (2019:20 1.8) or 1.4 full-time equivalent staff (2019-20 0.7).

	Full Time	Part Time	Unres-tricted	CMT Fund	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Gross stipends and salaries	105,324	23,815	119,025			10,114		**129,139**	139,909
Employer's NI contributions	9,794	483	9,794			483		**10,277**	11,633
Pension costs	27,464	1,421	28,286			599		**28,885**	34,166
Payroll Bureau fee		480	480					**480**	480
Apprenticeship levy	530	119	649					**649**	699
Travelling:	4,169		4,169					**4,169**	7,297
Telephone	2,809		2,809					**2,809**	3,271
Stationing and relocation costs								**-**	1,340
Other expenses	332		332					**332**	968
Total	**150,422**	**26,318**	**165,544**	**-**	**-**	**11,196**	**-**	**176,740**	**199,793**
Average staff nos employed in year	4.0	2.8	6.0			0.8		6.8	6.8
(full-time equivalent staff)	4.0	1.4	4.8			0.6		5.4	5.7

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

11.2 Pensions costs

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 (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

The Connexion shows the accounts for the MMPS pension scheme in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS was in deficit in August 2020 but a plan to remove the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented and the Pension Reserve Fund is being strengthened.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. The Circuit has complied with government legislation on workplace pensions and lay employees have since May 2016 been enrolled in a National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pensions scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme.

11.3 Cost of superintendent, presbyters and trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs the meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The costs of the presbyters' stipends, employers' National Insurance contributions and pension contributions were as follows:

Cost of Presbyters	2021	2020
Stipends of Presbyters	105,324	127,570
Employers' National Insurance contributions	9,794	11,663
Employer's pension contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme	27,464	33,426
Apprenticeship levy	530	638
Total	**143,112**	**173,297**

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

Each presbyter is entitled to three months' sabbatical leave every five years. During the year 2020-21 there were no sabbaticals (2019-20 one sabbatical of seven weeks). The Circuit does not accrue for holiday pay cover since the remaining staff cover the presbyter's absence as needed without

extra pay. Had additional cover been required, the cost of this is estimated as being the appropriate proportion of a single annual stipend plus NIC, pension and other normally incurred expenses. This estimated cost was £0 in 2020-21 and £4,769 in 2019-20.

11.4 Payments to trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Leadership Team and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

The four presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive role within the Circuit. The travel costs of presbyters in attending CLT and other Circuit meetings are included within their overall travel expenses (detailed in Note 11.1) and is not separately determined.

The current Circuit administrator is both a Circuit trustee and an employee of the Circuit, who receives a salary and other employment-related expenses (as detailed in Note 11.1).

The Rev Paula Rose Parish is a presbyter of the United Reformed Church and a member of the Circuit Meeting and the CLT. She is reimbursed for the travel costs of attending CLT and other Circuit meetings and for preaching in Methodist churches in the Circuit.

Since the retirement of Rev Preben Andersen, pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet Churches has been provided under contract (as detailed in Note 15) by two supernumerary ministers who are also members of the Circuit Meeting.

Apart from the presbyters, the contractors and the Circuit administrator, no member of the CLT received payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit in 2020-21. (In 2019-20, one member of the Circuit Meeting received £1,080 for professional services in connection with the conversion of the Ty Sign manse into a Mission Resource Centre.) In addition, CLT and Circuit Meeting members may sometimes be reimbursed for travel or computing costs incurred in the work of the Circuit, but no reimbursements were paid in 2020-21

Trustees' expenses	2021	2020
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	0	4
Total amount paid (£)	0	222

Some lay preachers and supernumeraries are also Circuit trustees because they attend the Circuit Meeting as nominees from their churches, and any travel costs in attending Circuit Meetings are included within their overall expenses (detailed in Note 15 below).

12. Property expenses

Expenditure on property during the year is shown below.

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Expenditure on Manses:							
Manse maintenance	28,910					**28,910**	11,819

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

Council Tax	10,239				**10,239**	12,737
Water charges	3,757				**3,757**	4,282
Insurance	3,117				**3,117**	2,895
Gas and electricity	1,647				**1,647**	2,049
Other charges						
Sale of Manses: Legal and Professional Fees:					**-**	-
Other Property Expenses:						
Quinquennial reviews	1,500				**1,500**	1,600
Castleton graveyard	280				**280**	390
Gwern-Y-Saint church	899				**899**	907
URC manse expenses					**-**	24
Letting expenses - Caldicot	1,085				**1,085**	-
Total	**51,436**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**51,436**	**36,703**

During the year the Circuit was responsible for the maintenance of six manses or former manses, for the payment of Council tax and water charges (except where these were paid by a tenant) and for landlord's annual gas inspections and home service agreements. The Circuit also paid the gas and electricity charges on unoccupied properties.

Total expenditure on manse maintenance in 2020-21 included £10,581 on refurbishing the manse at 27, Church Road, Caldicot and £11,311 on converting the manse at TY Sign into a Mission Resource Centre. £7,018 was spent on maintaining the other four manses.

Gwern-Y-Saint Methodist Church closed on 7 October 2018 and the Circuit has taken on responsibility for insuring the property.

The current minister of Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP) is a minister of the United Reformed Church. The minister's stipend and associated costs are paid by the URC but the Circuit paid Dan-Y-Graig Church a contribution towards the Council Tax, water charges and insurance costs of the URC minister's manse until September 2019.

The former manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot was leased to tenants from February 2021. An agency was employed to manage the lease.

13. Connexional and District assessments and levies

The Connexional and District assessments are paid to the Wales Synod District, which determines the assessment to be paid by each Circuit in accordance with a formula based on the number of presbyters and lay employees in each Circuit (see also Note 1xv).

Connexional assessment and Priority Fund levy	**Unres-tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2021 Total**	**2020 Total**
Connexional assessment	45,582					**45,582**	47,322
Connexional Priority Fund levy	-					**-**	-
Total	**45,582**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**45,582**	**47,322**

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

The Connexional Priority Fund levy is taken from the proceeds of the sale of former manses. No levy was charged during the current year (2019-20: £0).

District assessment and levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
District assessment	6,417					**6,417**	7,414
District Advance Fund levy	-	5,930				**5,930**	8,518
Total	**6,417**	**5,930**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12,347**	**15,932**

The District Advanced Fund levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit Model Trust Fund account balance at 31 August in the previous financial year.

14. Office and administration costs

Office and administration costs	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Conference minutes and materials	635					**635**	-
Circuit Stewards' and Circuit officers' expenses						**-**	222
Printing, postage, stationery and computing supplies	1,109					**1,109**	1,260
Office equipment	-					**-**	489
Office telephone, broadband and website	234					**234**	222
Independent Examiner's fee	275					**275**	250
TMCP Administration and Investment Management fees	-	337		97		**434**	549
Other admin costs	15					**15**	100
Total	**2,268**	**337**	**-**	**97**	**-**	**2,702**	**3,092**

The Circuit office is at Caldicot Methodist Church, where the Circuit uses a room on four mornings a week. The Circuit does not pay rent for use of the room, but pays half of the Church's telephone, broadband and website costs.

During the year the Circuit paid £434 to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund, Mary A Curtis Bequest and Kelly Legacy) (2019-20: £549). The fees charged represent a levy of 0.200% on the value of the funds at the beginning of the year. and are allocated among the three funds as shown in the table above.

15. Other outgoings

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Preaching and worship:							
Local preacher's expenses	15					**15**	449
Supernumerary ministers' fees and expenses	2,386					**2,386**	3,757
Circuit Plan and Handbook						**0**	131
Pastoral Care	17,000					**17,000**	1,417
Other Expenses:							
Training						**0**	-
Events						**0**	210
URC transport and travel	436					**436**	66
Miscellaneous	1,950					**1,950**	-
Total	**21,787**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**21,787**	**6,030**

The Circuit offers to reimburse lay preachers and supernumerary ministers for the costs of travel to the churches where they conduct services and supernumerary ministers may also claim a preaching fee. The Circuit has established contracts to provide pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet following the retirement of Rev Preben Andersen. The Circuit has also paid Dan-Y-Graig Church a contribution towards the URC minister's telephone and travel costs and other expenses (see Note 12 above).

16. Gains and losses on monetary investments

Total net gains on monetary investments were £248 in 2020-21 compared with net losses of £3 in 2019-20. A detailed breakdown is immaterial. See also Notes 20 and 27 below.

17. Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Funding for future manse expenses		(30,000)		30,000		**0**	-
Total	**-**	**(30,000)**	**-**	**30,000**	**-**	**0**	**0**

During the current year, £30,000 was transferred from the Circuit Model Trust Fund to a new restricted fund for manse expenses to prepare for the potential purchase of a new manse in Newport in 2022.

During 2019-20, £44,600 was transferred from the Circuit Model Trust Fund to the Circuit's general fund to compensate for the Circuit's reduction of assessments on churches in order to strengthen church finances during the coronavirus lockdown.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

18. Gains and losses on investment properties and other gains and losses

There were gains of £55,000 in 2020-21 because of the revaluation of an investment property and other gains of £199,963 in 2019-20 because of the revaluation of two manse (see Note 19).

19. Manses and other property

At 31 Aug 2021 the Circuit had six properties (the same number as at 31 Aug 2020). Four manses were occupied by ministers. The manse at Caldicot was leased to a private tenant. The former manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign has been converted for use as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas.

The manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot has been reclassified as an investment property (see xiiib).

During 2020-21, the value of the manse at 27 Church Road, Caldicot was revised in line with advice from a Chepstow estate agent. This resulted in a revaluation gain of £55,000.

The office equipment in the Circuit office has not been capitalised since the items individually cost less than £1,000 (see xii).

General advice was sought from estate agents in Newport, Monmouth and Abergavenny as to the value of land as a proportion of the total value of residential properties in different parts of the Circuit. The total value of the manses has been apportioned between land and buildings on the basis of this information.

Recent valuations (2015 or later) have been made for the four manses at Charles Close, Monmouth, St Julians Avenue, Newport, Church Road, Caldicot and Newport Road, Chepstow, and these valuations have been taken as the deemed value of these manses. The two manses without any recent valuation have been valued at their insured values at August 2016.

19.1 Cost or valuation of fixed assets

	Invest-ment Prop-erties		Land	Buildings	Other Buildings	Other Fixed Assets incl. Vehicles	Fixtures, Fittings, etc	Assets under construc-tion	2021 Total	2020 Total
Balance brought forward	-		464,358	1,241,472					**1,705,830**	1,505,867
Additions in the year										
Revaluations	55,000								**55,000**	199,963
Less: Disposals in the year										
Transfers between categories	380,000		(125,400)	(415,494)	160,894					
Balance carried forward	**435,000**		**338,958**	**825,978**	**160,894**				**1,325,830**	1,705,830

19.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provision

Basis			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

Rate			-	-	-		-		
Balance brought forward	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year									
Revaluations									
Disposals									
Transfers									
Balance carried forward	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

19.3 Net book value

Brought forward	-		464,358	1,241,472	-	-	-	-	**1,705,830**	1,505,867
Carried forward	**435,000**		**464,358**	**825,978**	**160,894**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,325,830**	1,705,830

20. Investment Assets (and TMCP Funds)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund, the Mary A Curtis Bequest and the Kelly Legacy are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds or CFB Managed Mixed Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month or each quarter. 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.

The Charity of William Richards Endowment is invested in the COIF Charities Investment Fund. The Fund is a Common Investment Fund established by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 1993 section 24 and investment in the Fund is only available to charities within the meaning of section 96 of the Charities Act.

Investment Assets and TMCP	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2021 Total**	**2020 Total**
CFB Managed Mixed Funds		1,008				**1,008**	852
COIF Charities Investment Fund					617	**617**	525
Total Investment Assets	**0**	**1,008**	**0**	**0**	**617**	**1,625**	1,377
TMCP Trustees Interest Funds		132,052		78,529	177	**210,758**	216,394
Total	**0**	**133,060**	**0**	**78,529**	**794**	**212,383**	**217,771**

21. Debtors and Prepayments

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

All sums shown as debtors on 31 August 2020 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2020 were for events that have been held during 2020-21. Similarly, it is expected that all payments in advance at 1 September 2021 will be expended in 2021-22.

Debtors and Prepayments	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Stipends, pensions and NI paid in advance	9,057					**9,057**	11,809
Accrued Income	1,207					**1,207**	0
Other debtors	987					**987**	991
Total	**11,251**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11,251**	**12,800**

22. Loans by the Circuit

The Circuit has no outstanding loans at 31 August 2021 (2020: £0).

23. Central Finance Board and Bank Balances

Monetary balances at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at HSBC Bank Limited are all available on demand without loss of interest or other penalty.

Bank balances and cash in hand	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Central Finance Board Deposits	64,230			24,030		**88,260**	72,187
Balance held at HSBC	30,933					**30,933**	27,311
Balance held at Nationwide			826			**826**	809
Cash in hand						**0**	0
Total	**95,163**	**-**	**826**	**24,030**	**-**	**120,019**	**100,307**

24. Creditors, accruals and income in advance

All sums accrued at 31 August 2020 were paid before 31 August 2021. Similarly, it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2021 will be paid by 31 August 2022.

Current Liabilities	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow ment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Church assessments paid in advance	43,418					**43,418**	40,316
Ministers and staff expenses	471					**471**	603
Other expenses	1,109					**1,109**	151
Stipends, pension and NI						**0**	-
Taxation and Social Security						**0**	-
Other creditors	3,771					**3,771**	4,037
Total	**48,769**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**48,769**	**45,107**

25. Grants payable in 2021-22

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

The Circuit has set up a Committee to provides grants to support mission related projects within the Circuit. The Committee has already approved a grant of £3,000 in 2021-22 for a project at Chepstow Methodist Church. Sufficient funds are available within the General Fund to support all envisaged projects. The Circuit has also allocated a budget of £1,150 in 2021-22 to support the night shelters at St Julians and Crosskeys and make small donations.

26. Commitments in 2021-22

In 2021-22 the Circuit has allocated a budget of £15,000 for manse maintenance which will be paid out of the annual receipts of the Circuit. The Circuit will fund the costs of the Ty Sign Mission Developer (£34,000 over three years) from its General Fund.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

27. Detailed Analysis of Individual Funds

The individual funds of the Circuit are as follows:

Name	Type	Purpose
General Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
William Richards (Nationwide)	Designated	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Vera Holt	Restricted	As directed by the Circuit Meeting for youth work and training
Mary A Curtis Bequest	Restricted	General mission as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Manse Expenses	Restricted	Expenditure on purchase or renovation of manses
Newport Family Worker	Restricted	Funds of the Newport Family Worker project
Kelly Legacy	Endowment	Maintenance of Castleton graveyard
Charity of William Richards	Endowment	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting

The movements of monies between the funds of the Circuit are summarised in the tables below.

Summary of Fund Movements - 2020-21

Funds	**Balance at 31/8/20**	**Income**	**Expend-iture**	**Transfers**	**Gains / Losses**	**Balance at 31/8/21**
General Fund	1,771,164	292,978	(300,667)		55,000	**1,818,475**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	168,607	564	(6,267)	(30,000)	156	**133,060**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,939,771**	**293,542**	**(306,934)**	**(30,000)**	**55,156**	**1,951,535**
William Richards (Nationwide)	809	17				**826**
Total designated	**809**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**826**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,857	2				**1,859**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	48,462	163	(97)			**48,528**
Manse Expenses	0			30,000		**30,000**
Newport Family Worker (030)	0	33,368	(11,196)			**22,172**
Total restricted	**50,319**	**33,533**	**(11,293)**	**30,000**	**0**	**102,559**
Kelly Legacy	177	1	(1)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	525				92	**617**
Total endowments	**702**	**1**	**(1)**	**0**	**92**	**794**
Total of All Funds	**1,856,149**	**320,703**	**(311,839)**	**0**	**248**	**2,055,714**

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

Summary of Fund Movements - 2019-20 (for comparison)

Funds	Balance at 31/8/19	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/20
General Fund	1,578,093	252,113	(303,605)	44,600	199,963	**1,771,164**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	220,353	1,828	(8,959)	(44,600)	(15)	**168,607**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,798,446**	**253,941**	**(312,564)**	**0**	**(199,948)**	**1,939,771**
William Richards (Nationwide)	955	16	(162)			**809**
Total designated	**955**	**16**	**(162)**	**0**	**0**	**809**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,844	13				**1,857**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	54,214	443	(6,195)			**48,462**
Total restricted	**56,058**	**456**	**(6,195)**	**0**	**0**	**50,319**
Kelly Legacy	177	2	(2)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	513				12	**525**
Total endowments	**690**	**2**	**(2)**	**0**	**12**	**702**
Total of All Funds	**1,856,149**	**254,415**	**(318,923)**	**0**	**(199,960)**	**1,991,601**

28. Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations directly to the Circuit in the current year or the previous financial year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Related parties include the Methodist Connexion and its funds, the Wales Synod District, the Churches within the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit, other Methodist Circuits in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

Year ending 31 August 2021

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.19
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		12,347		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		45,582		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	278,589			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee/ Donor	Grant / Donation	6,667	3,000		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		500		
Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust	Donnee	Donation		800		
Wales Synod District	Donor	Grant	10,000			
Total			**295,256**	**62,229**	**0**	**0**

Year ending 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts

Year ending 31 August 2020

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.19
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		15,932		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		47,322		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	251,607			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee	Grant		10,049		
Total			**251,607**	**73,303**	**0**	**0**

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP 2020-21

MINISTERS

Reverend Gordon Gresswell
Reverend Lesley Jones
Reverend Rachel Frank
Reverend Bethany Willers
Reverend Paula Parish-Foley

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Reverend Joe Rooney
Reverend Linda Healey

LAYWORKERS

Pauline Farr
Deborah Crahart
Tim Crahart

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Keith Harvey
Jack Healey
Sandra Hanbury (to June 2021)
Roger Bafico
Penny Blakemore
Cliff Randall (to June 2021)
Miriam Ham (from June 2021)
Roger Langford (Treasurer)
Mike Strange (Property)
Mike Roberts (Secretary)

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Reverend Gordon Gresswell
Michael Gray

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Alison McBain

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Church 1	Caldicot	Rep 1	Bridget Gibbs
		Rep 2	Gareth Edwards
		Rep 3	Jack Healey
Church 2	Rogiet	Rep 1	Marion Edwards
		Rep 2	Hazel Bennett
		Rep 3	Jack Healey
Church 3	Earlswood Hope and Valley	Rep 1	Sylvia Jeremiah
		Rep 2	Ray Jeremiah
		Rep 3	Avril Smith
Church 4	Penycaemawr	Rep 1	Sandra Hanbury
		Rep 2	Jill Ellis

Church 5	Chepstow	Rep 1	Keith Harvey
		Rep 2	Stuart Nuttall
		Rep 3	Margaret Harvey
		Rep 4	Jason Yapp
Church 6	Monmouth	Rep 1	Ann Langford
		Rep 2	Mike Brain
		Rep 3	Elizabeth Hicks
Church 7	Gwehelog	Rep 1	Margaret Jenkins
Church 8	Gwern-y-Saint	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 9	Trellech	Rep 1	Keith Wrightson (now deceased)
		Rep 2	Nassim Hilu
		Rep 3	Pam Lloyd
Church 10	Llancloudy	Rep 1	Arthur Isaac
Church 11	Broad Oak	Rep 1	Robin Hill
Church 12	St Julian's	Rep 1	Eira Reynolds
		Rep 2	Mary Hando
		Rep 3	Sian Llewellyn
		Rep 4	David Benson (now deceased)
Church 13	Shaftesbury	Rep 1	Liz Williams
		Rep 2	Hugh Knoyle
		Rep 3	Malcolm Dean
Church 14	Crosskeys	Rep 1	Michael Gray
		Rep 2	Ruth Gray
		Rep 3	Rosemary Carnell
Church 15	Trinity	Rep 1	Brian Ham (now deceased)
		Rep 2	Miriam Ham
		Rep 3	Roger Bafico
		Rep 4	Margaret Nicholas
		Rep 5	Martin Lougher
		Rep 6	Pat Dicker
Church 16	St David's	Rep 1	Irene Scowcroft
Church 17	Bishpool	Rep 1	Penny Blakemore
		Rep 2	Alf Waldron
		Rep 3	Janice Morgan
		Rep 4	Ann Waldron
		Rep 5	Jenny Suter
Church 18	Langstone	Rep 1	Sally Shea
		Rep 2	Sue Davies
		Rep 3	Ingrid Smith
Church 19	Dan-y-Graig	Rep 1	Carol Aldridge
		Rep 2	Sarah-Jane Jones
		Rep 3	Elaine Baker

NEWPORT AND LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1137596

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2020

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist **Circuit**

Registered Charity - Registration number **1137596**

Wales Synod District	**District No / Circuit No**	**02/19**

Ministers	Rev Gordon GRESSWELL
	Rev Preben ANDERSEN
	Rev Les JONES
	Rev Ruth LOWNSBROUGH
	Rev Rachel FRANK
	Rev Paula PARISH-FOLEY (URC)
Circuit Stewards	Keith HARVEY
	Jack HEALEY
	Mike STRANGE
	Sandra HANBURY
	Mike ROBERTS
	Roger BAFICO
	Penny BLAKEMORE
	Cliff RANDALL
Circuit Treasurer	Roger LANGFORD

NEWPORT & LOWER WYE METHODIST CIRCUIT

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit is part of the Methodist Church in Britain. The Circuit acts as the umbrella body and a resource provider for eighteen Methodist Churches in our area, which covers Newport and parts of South East Wales and Herefordshire.

The Circuit also contains a Local Ecumenical Partnership Church with the URC and the Presbyterian Church of Wales at Dan-y-Graig in Risca and provides ministry and support to a Congregational Church at Pontywaun, Risca.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Aims and organisation (including the Circuit Mission statement)

Further to the Methodist Church's statement "Our Calling" and "Priorities for the Methodist Church", the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit has the following policy:

- To discern the will of God for us a Circuit.
- To support all of the churches within the Circuit and to engage in mission in clearly defined areas where the local Church has a vision for mission.
- To prioritise the work within the Circuit and to resource these priorities.
- To encourage ecumenical activities and have good links with other denominations in the area.

When planning our activities for the year, the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on Charities for the advancement of religion. There is a particular emphasis on impacting on the community beyond the membership of the churches. Many of our church buildings are used by community groups requiring safe and suitable spaces for meetings and the Circuit encourages this. Many of the Churches run groups on the church premises which may not be specifically church orientated but are certainly for the public benefit – examples are Parent and Toddlers Groups, Uniformed Organisations for girls and boys, Coffee Mornings and Luncheon Clubs, Welsh Classes, Kids Theatre groups, work with and for people with learning disabilities and much more, which enhance the way of life in the communities in which they are located, improve wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness.

The Circuit prepares a quarterly plan of services and preachers for all of our Churches.

The Circuit encourages Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy

The Circuit encourages ecumenical links within the Circuit, not least with regard to its work with and for the smaller chapels in cooperation with a Baptist rural missioner in the northern end of the Circuit, as and when appropriate.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

In this strangest of pandemic year's, the Circuit has heeded government advice and changed its structure to promote as much localism as possible, taking away need for unnecessary and long journeys. Zoom has been used extensively and wisely, and a mixed-economy of online and face-to face working is envisaged in many aspects of church life in the future.

The Newport side of the Circuit has divided into Newport East and Newport West, the dividing line being the River Usk. In Newport there is a Family Worker employed to work in the St. Julian's and Trinity Methodist Church. With the division in Newport East and West, the family worker will remain with St. Julian's and come away from Trinity as she works with the Newport East Churches. The Newport East Churches have been involved in a weekly collection for Raven House food bank and weekly on-line Services alongside weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings.

Newport West has been developing the Resource Centre in Ty Sign. Plans for the development of the Centre are going well and we hope to be welcoming the community once it is safe to do so. The Circuit provides a human resource in a paid capacity for 12 hours a week and he has been keeping the community of Ty Sign well informed of developments. Trinity has kept close links to the schools through on-line assemblies and production of videos, as well as online weekly Services which have been well supported and provided much solace to, especially older-single people and widows over this lockdown year.

Lower Wye has seen the departure of Revs Preben Andersen and Ruth Lownsbrough, and the arrival of Rev Bethany Willers from the United States Connexion. She has responsibility in the Monmouth Hub which has maintained two online Services and continued online work with young people.

The Chepstow area has seen online worship in Chepstow and in Caldicot, with online coffee mornings and podcasts which are sent out to encourage people. The Beacon Café in Chepstow has provided a vital community service and there has been good pastoral care given during these strange times.

The Circuit remains committed to being relevant and useful to their local communities. The dividing of the Circuit into four Hubs has helped keep worship and outreach very local, which, in the circumstances has been ideal, and, as we look at reopening all our church buildings to worship and outreach, the Circuit has ensured full risk assessments are up to date and we look ahead in hope of fresh ventures and new life.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Income Trends

The total income of the Circuit was £254,413 in 2019-20 compared with £301,640 in 2018-19.

The Circuit's main source of funding was the assessments paid by the churches to the Circuit. These assessments are reviewed annually and a budget agreed which is intended to cover the costs of the Circuit in fulfilling its mission, whilst maintaining adequate reserves in line with the Circuit Reserves Policy. Assessments were £ 251,607 in 2019-20 compared with £288,914 in 2018-19. The Circuit reduced the assessment on churches in 2019-20 by £44,592 in order to strengthen church finances during the coronavirus lockdown.

The Circuit received no income from lettings in 2019-20 and did not undertake any fundraising activities of its own.

Expenditure Trends

Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers, the maintenance of the manses, other running expenses and making contributions to District, Connexion and other Methodist Funds. Total expenditure during 2019-20 was £318,921 compared with £307,428 in 2018-19.

Salaries and associated costs, which form the largest single element of Circuit expenditure, were £199,793 in 2019-20 compared with £185,074 in 2018-19. The Circuit pays pensions and national insurance contributions, travelling, telephone and other expenses of ministers, and employs two part-time lay employees – a Circuit administrator and, since November 2019, a mission developer at Ty Sign. The average number of staff employed was 6.8 in 2019-20 compared with 5.8 in 2018-19.

A significant amount is spent each year on the manses owned by the Circuit and on other property. The Circuit pays for maintenance, insurance, council tax, water charges, etc. Total expenditure was £36,703 in 2019-20 compared with £36,622 in 2018-19.

The Circuit made payments to the Wales Synod District and the Methodist Connexion of £63,254 in 2019-20, compared with £63,322 in 2018-19.

During the year, grants and donations totalling £10,049 were approved by the Circuit meeting for mission related activities and community work within the Circuit. Grants were made of £6,087 for refurbishing a lift at Monmouth, £3,000 for a toddler worker in Chepstow and £162 towards an Open The Book project with Trellech Primary School. The Circuit also gave donations of £800 towards the cost of winter night shelters supported by churches in Newport and Crosskeys.

In 2019-20, the Circuit spent £3,092 on office and administrative costs, and £6,030 on other outgoings. The latter includes the expenses of lay preachers and supernumerary (retired) ministers, who play an important role in ensuring that regular worship takes place at all the Circuit's 20 churches.

Overall, expenditure in 2019-20 exceeded income by £64,511. This was primarily because of the reduction in assessments as a result of the coronavirus lockdown and an increase of £14,719 in salaries and associated costs. The shortfall in income was covered from the Circuit's General Fund.

Fixed Assets: Manses

At 31 August 2020, the Circuit had six manses (the same number as at 31 August 2019). Four manses were occupied by ministers. The manse at Caldicot was vacant. The manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign is being converted for use as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas. The combined value of the manses at 31 August 2020 was £1,705,830 compared with £1,505,867 at 31 August 2019.

Fund Balances

The General Fund, at 31 August 2020, comprised the Circuit's current and deposit account balances (net of debtors and creditors) of £65,334 and the Circuit Model Trust Fund of £168,607. In the course of the year, the General Fund decreased by £58,638. Restricted, designated and endowment funds decreased altogether by £5,873, so that total reserves fell by £64,511.

The overall aim of the Circuit is to have adequate reserves in the General Fund to meet unexpected expenditure. The guidance from Connexion and the Charities Commission suggests that charities should have reserves of about 50% of annual expenditure. As the majority of the income and expenditure of the Circuit is predictable, the Circuit's policy is that reserves should not fall below 40% of annual expenditure.

At 31 August 2020 the Circuit General Fund stood at 75% of annual expenditure. The overall level of the reserves is therefore satisfactory.

Plans for 2020-21

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there will be four full-time ordained staff. Provision has been made for pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and Rogiet, the costs of lay employees and anticipated increases in stipends. Assessments have been decreased by an average of 5.8% in agreement with the Circuit churches.

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102

Full Name of Charity:	Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit
Registration Charity Number:	1137596
Date of registration:	26 August 2010
Main communication address:	608 Chepstow Road, Newport, Gwent, NP19 9BZ

The members of the Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Full membership is shown at Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers in 2019-20

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev G Gresswell (Superintendent)	
	Rev L Jones	Rev R Frank
	Rev P Andersen	Rev R Lownsbrough
	Rev P Parish-Foley (URC)	
Circuit Stewards	Mr K Harvey	Mr J Healey
	Mr M Strange	Mr M Roberts
	Mrs S Hanbury	Mrs P Blakemore
	Mr R Bafico	Mr C Randall
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs A McBain	
Administrator:	Mrs P M Farr	

Mr R Langford acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year.

Independent examiner	Mr R J Lewin, 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow Monmouthshire, NP16 6HN
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Aims and organisation

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area around Newport and the lower Wye Valley 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

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.
Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership team along with the Local Preachers meeting, the Circuit Finance and Property Committee and the Circuit Policy Committee.

Trustee Training

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

Related Parties

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

The following Methodist Churches are linked to the Circuit…….

> Bishpool Ringland, Broad Oak, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crosskeys, Dan-Y-Graig (LEP), Earlswood Hope, Earlswood Valley, Gwehelog, Langstone, Llancloudy, Monmouth, Penycaemawr, Rogiet, Shaftesbury Street, St David's Ty Sign, St Julian's, Trellech, Trinity Newport

Trinity Congregational Church Pontywaun receives ministry and support from the Circuit.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Finance and Property Committee with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

Safeguarding

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

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

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

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

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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 40% of normal annual expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full Circuit Assessment from churches.

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** Circuit No **02/19**

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2019-20	Total 2018-19
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
1 Donations and legacies	4						0	441
2 Income from monetary investments		506	1,828	16	456		**2,806**	2,971
3 Income from investment properties	5						**0**	0
4 Assessments on Churches	6	251,607					**251,607**	288,914
5 Capital Receipts	7						**0**	0
6 Grants received	8						**0**	0
7 Other charitable income	9						**0**	9,314
8 **Total income**		**252,113**	**1,828**	**16**	**456**	-	**254,413**	**301,640**
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations	10	3,800		162	6,087		**10,049**	9,559
10 Salaries and associated costs	11	199,793					**199,793**	185,074
11 Property maintenance	12	36,703					**36,703**	36,622
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	13	47,322					**47,322**	45,510
13 District Assessment & Levy	13	7,414	8,518				**15,932**	17,812
14 Depreciation							**0**	0
15 Office expenses	14	2,543	441		108		**3,092**	4,954
16 Other outgoings	15	6,030					**6,030**	7,897
17 **Total charitable expenditure**		**303,605**	**8,959**	**162**	**6,195**	**0**	**318,921**	**307,428**
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	16		(15)			12	**(3)**	43
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties								0
20 **Net income/(expenditure)**		**(51,492)**	**(7,146)**	**(146)**	**(5,739)**	**12**	**(64,511)**	**(5,745)**
21 Transfers between funds	17	44,600	(44,600)				0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)	18	199,963					199,963	0
23 **Net movement in funds**		**193,071**	**(51,746)**	**(146)**	**(5,739)**	**12**	**135,452**	**(5,745)**
24 Total funds brought forward		1,578,093	220,353	955	56,058	690	1,856,149	1,861,894
25 Total funds carried forward		**1,771,164**	**168,607**	**809**	**50,319**	**702**	**1,991,601**	**1,856,149**

Name of Circuit **Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit** **Circuit No** **02/19**

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2019/20 £	Totals 2018/19 £
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment	19	1,705,830					1,705,830	1,505,867
Investment properties							0	0
Investments	20		852			525	1,377	1,381
Total fixed assets		**1,705,830**	**852**	**0**	**0**	**525**	**1,707,207**	**1,507,248**
Current Assets								
Debtors	21	12,800					12,800	14,825
Loans by the Circuit	22						0	0
Investments with TMCP	20		167,755		48,462	177	216,394	273,876
Central Finance Board Deposits	23	70,330			1,857		72,187	85,916
Cash at Bank and in hand	23	27,311		809			28,120	33,352
Total current assets		**110,441**	**167,755**	**809**	**50,319**	**177**	**329,501**	**407,969**
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	24	45,107					45,107	59,068
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	0
Total current liabilities		45,107	0	0	0	0	**45,107**	59,068
Net current assets/liabilities		**65,334**	**167,755**	**809**	**50,319**	**177**	**284,394**	**348,901**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,771,164**	**168,607**	**809**	**50,319**	**702**	**1,991,601**	**1,856,149**
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2020-21							**0**	0
Loans to the Circuit							**0**	0
							0	0
Net assets		**1,771,164**	**168,607**	**809**	**50,319**	**702**	**1,991,601**	**1,856,149**
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,771,164					1,771,164	1,578,093
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			168,607				168,607	220,353
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				809			809	955
Total Unrestricted Funds							**1,940,580**	**1,799,401**
Restricted Funds					50,319		50,319	56,058
Endowment Funds						702	702	690
Total Funds		**1,771,164**	**168,607**	**809**	**50,319**	**702**	**1,991,601**	**1,856,149**

Signed

R.J. LANGFORD

Circuit Treasurer

4/1/21

Name of Circuit Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit ..... No 02/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer ..... Date 7 January 2021

Name and address of treasurer ..... Roger John Langford .....

Spindlewood, 122 Hereford Road, Monmouth ..... Post Code... NP25 3GD

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/~~will be~~* presented to the Circuit meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Gordon Gresswell Date 03/02/2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Charity Number 1137596

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages ... to .... As the Circuit's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Circuit's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Circuit ..... No 02/19

Independent Examiner's Statement

The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable* ie *all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable* ie *all R&P accounts.*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner Mr R J Lewin.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner I.C.A.E.W. (F.C.A)

Name of firm (where appropriate) NEWTON GREEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Address: 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire .. Post Code NP16 6HN

Date .....

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Accounts and Accounting Standards

i Accounting standard

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

Ii Public benefit entity

The Newport and Lower Wye (NLW) Methodist Circuit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless 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. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

iv Content

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

v FRS102 SORP2015 [applies to 2016-17 onwards]

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

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2020, the trustees believe that the Circuit is a going concern.

vii Consolidation

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

viii Income recognition

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

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

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

The Circuit acts as agent in two matters:

- the collection from Churches and payment over of their contributions to various Funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church – "Connexional Funds".

- The administration (application, collection and disbursement) of grants requested by Churches within the Circuit from, but not limited to, the District and Connexion.

In all these matters the transactions are not reflected in the SOFA because they are the income of either the Connexion or the Churches as appropriate. Instead the transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts as required by SORP (FRS 102), module 19.12.

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

ix Expenditure

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

x Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement if there are no performance conditions, or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment if it is subject to performance conditions.

xi VAT

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

xii Tangible fixed assets

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

The freehold and/or long leasehold residential property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost. Recent valuations (2015 or later) for the manses have been used where available and other manses have been taken at their insured values at August 2016. The valuations will be reviewed periodically.

No depreciation is provided on the buildings 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. In the absence of any evidence of

Notes to the Accounts

impairment, any depreciation provision for the buildings component of the property would be immaterial. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

xiii(a) Monetary Investments

The Circuit's investments in monetary assets are classified as basic financial instruments under FRS 102. These monetary assets, with the exception of the endowment Charity of William Richards, are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The endowment Charity of William Richards is held in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the valuations, at market value, are those provided by COIF. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 20 below.

xiii(b) Investment Properties

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

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

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

xv Methodist Connexional Funds

The Methodist Church Connexion raises levies against Circuits and these are paid quarterly to their Districts. The Circuits raise assessments against churches in the Circuit. The District quarterly remits to The Methodist Church Fund most of the sum received from Circuits. A small sum is retained by the District to meet its own costs. The Circuit may act as agent for *ad hoc* collections for various funds controlled and administered by The Methodist Church. These are detailed at Note 28 below.

xvi Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is available as a separate document.

xvii Endowment Funds

Where the Circuit holds money that may not be spent and must be retained (as capital) to generate an income, the money or assets to be retained are classified as an Endowment Fund. The capital will be shown in the balance sheet in the column for endowment funds. The income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the terms of the endowment.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

xviii Ministers' manse costs

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

2. Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

CLT (Circuit Leadership Team): a group (comprising mostly but not exclusively) of Circuit trustees responsible for the day to day administration and policy formation of the Circuit. Generally, the CLT comprises the Presbyters and Deacons stationed within the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards and sometimes other Circuit officers (who may not be trustees)

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

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

Connexional Funds: the designated and/or restricted funds held and administered by the Connexion in furtherance of its charitable and mission objectives

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

DAF: District Advance Fund

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

HMRC: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

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

MMPS: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust, the organisation through which the Circuit arranges an auto-enrolment pension scheme for its lay employees

PASLEMC: Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

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

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

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

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

3. Prior Year

3.1 Restatement of comparative figures

In preparing the accounts the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 [not Section 1A] and the Charities SORP FRS 102, the restatement of comparative items was required. There have been no changes of classification between categories of expenditure in the accounts of 2019-20 compared with those for 2018-19. No restatements were necessary and a reconciliation of opening balances is therefore not required.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

4. Donations and legacies

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Donations						-	441
Legacies						-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0**	**441**

No donations or legacies were received in 2019-20.

5. Income from investment properties

The Circuit received no income from investment properties in 2019-20 or 2018-19.

6. Assessments on Churches

The following 20 churches are linked to the Circuit:

Bishpool Ringland Methodist Church
Broad Oak Methodist Church
Caldicot Methodist Church
Chepstow Methodist Church
Crosskeys Methodist Church
Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP), Risca
Earlswood Hope Methodist Church
Earlswood Valley Methodist Church
Gwehelog Methodist Church
Langstone Methodist Church
Llancloudy Methodist Church
Monmouth Methodist Church
Penycaemawr Methodist Church
Rogiet Methodist Church
Shaftesbury Street Methodist Church, Newport
St David's Methodist Church, Ty Sign
St Julian's Methodist Church, Newport
Trellech Methodist Church
Trinity Congregational Church, Pontywaun
Trinity Methodist Church, Newport

Each church is assessed for a contribution towards the overall costs of the Circuit. This Assessment on Churches is determined annually by the Circuit and the Churches using a process which takes into account the income of each church, including receipts from lettings, and the number of worshippers.

The Circuit reduced the assessment on churches by £44,592 to £251,607 (2018-19: £288,914) in order to strengthen church finances during the coronavirus lockdown.

All Churches paid their full annual 2019-20 assessments by 31 August 2020.

Assessments on churches are payable quarterly in advance and are treated as pre-payments on a receivable basis. If any church has not paid its assessment by the due date, the sum in question is also treated as a creditor. Such cases are detailed in Notes 21 and 24.

Gwern-Y-Saint Methodist Church, formerly a Class of Monmouth Methodist Church, closed on 7 October 2018. No assessment was due for this church in 2019-20.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

7. Capital Receipts

The Circuit had no capital receipts in 2019-20 or 2018-19.

8. Grants received

The Circuit received no grants in 2019-20 or 2018-19.

9. Other charitable income

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Lettings - Hilltop, Chepstow						-	7,967
Other income						-	1,347
Total	**0**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0**	**9,314**

The manse at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow, was let to a tenant until the end of April 2019 and has been occupied by a minister since August 2019. Letting income is gross of fees and commission. The Circuit received no other income in 2019-20.

10. Grants and donations given

Grants and donations as listed below were made during the year.

	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Circuit Churches:							
Chepstow (Toddler Worker)	3,000					**3,000**	3,000
Crosskeys (Night Shelter)	200					**200**	250
St Julian's (Night Shelter)	600					**600**	600
Monmouth (Lift Refurbishment)				6,087		**6,087**	-
Ty Sign (Good Neighbour)						-	2,610
Other Church Projects			162			**162**	1,658
The Methodist Church Property Fund						-	1,000
Other donations						-	441
Total	**3,800**	**-**	**162**	**6,087**	**-**	**10,049**	**9,559**

The Circuit provided £162 to Trellech Methodist Church in connection with their Open The Book project with Trellech Primary School.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

11. Salaries and associated costs

11.1 Stipends, salaries and associated costs

In 2019-20 there were 5 Presbyters (including the Superintendent), who were all employed full-time, in the Circuit. The average number of presbyters employed was 5.0 (2018-19: 4.8). The Circuit employed two part-time lay employees; a circuit administrator throughout the year at 15 contractual hours per week (2018-19: 12 months at 15 hours per week) and since November 2019 a mission developer at Ty Sign at 12 contractual hours per week (2018-19: 0 hours per week).

	Full Time	Part Time	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Gross stipends and salaries	127,570	12,339	139,909					**139,909**	125,812
Employer's NI contributions	11,663		11,663					**11,663**	10,961
Pension costs	33,426	740	34,166					**34,166**	31,319
Payroll Bureau fee		480	480					**480**	480
Apprenticeship levy	638	61	699					**699**	696
Travelling:	7,297		7,297					**7,297**	9,798
Telephone	3,271		3,271					**3,271**	3,305
Stationing and relocation costs	1,340		1,340					**1,340**	1,710
Other expenses	968		968					**968**	993
Total	**186,173**	**13,620**	**199,793**	-	-	-	-	**199,793**	**185,074**
Average staff nos employed in year	5.0	1.8	6.8					6.8	5.8
(full-time equivalent staff)	5.0	0.7	5.7					5.7	5.2

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

11.2 Pensions costs

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 (which term includes presbyters and deacons) are not employees of the Church. For simplicity, however, when dealing with National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions, the terms 'employer' and 'employee' are used as they would be in an employing body.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

The Connexion accounts for the MMPS pension scheme and shows the figures in the annual Methodist Church in Great Britain accounts. The MMPS is in deficit but a plan for removal of the deficit has been proposed and is being implemented.

Lay employees are contractually employees and have the option of joining a pension scheme. The Circuit has complied with government legislation on workplace pensions and lay employees have since May 2016 been enrolled in a National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pensions scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme.

11.3 Cost of superintendent, presbyters and trustees

The Superintendent of the Circuit, the other presbyters and the remaining members of the Circuit Leadership Team are considered as Key Management Personnel. The Superintendent chairs the meetings of the CLT and Circuit Meetings. The members of the Circuit Meeting are the trustees of the Circuit. The stipends, employer's NIC, employer's pension contributions and other expenses of the presbyters of the Circuit are paid by the Circuit. The costs of the presbyters' stipends, employers' National Insurance contributions and pension contributions were as follows:

Cost of Presbyters	2020	2019
Stipends of Presbyters	127,570	118,503
Employers' National Insurance contributions	11,663	10,961
Employer's pension contributions to a defined benefit pension scheme	33,426	30,881
Apprenticeship levy	638	650
Total	**173,297**	**160,995**

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

Each presbyter is entitled to three months' sabbatical leave every five years. During the year 2019-20 there was one sabbatical of seven weeks (2018-19 one sabbatical of three months). The Circuit does not accrue for holiday pay cover since the remaining staff cover the presbyter's absence as needed without extra pay. Had additional cover been required, the cost of this is estimated at £4,769 in 2019-20 (being 13.5% of a single annual stipend plus NIC, pension and other normally incurred expenses) and £8,749 in 2018-19.

11.4 Payments to trustees

It is Circuit policy to offer to reimburse members of the Circuit Leadership Team and others involved in the administration of Circuit affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties.

The five presbyters of the Circuit undertake the primary executive role within the Circuit. The travel costs of presbyters in attending CLT and other Circuit meetings are included within their overall travel expenses (detailed in Note 11.1) and is not separately determined.

The current Circuit administrator is both a Circuit trustee and an employee of the Circuit, who receives a salary and other employment-related expenses (as detailed in Note 11.1).

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

The Rev Paula Parish-Foley is a presbyter of the United Reformed Church and a member of the Circuit Meeting and the CLT. She is reimbursed for the travel costs of attending CLT and other Circuit meetings and for preaching in Methodist churches in the Circuit.

Apart from the presbyters and the Circuit administrator, no member of the CLT received payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Circuit in 2019-20 (2018-19: no member, £0). One member of the Circuit Meeting received £1,080 for professional services in connection with the conversion of the Ty Sign manse into a Mission Resource Centre. In addition, certain CLT and Circuit Meeting members were reimbursed for travel or computing costs incurred in the work of the Circuit

Trustees' expenses	2020	2019
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	4	3
Total amount paid (£)	222	382

Some lay preachers and supernumeraries are also Circuit trustees because they attend the Circuit Meeting as nominees from their churches, and any travel costs in attending Circuit Meetings are included within their overall expenses (detailed in Note 15 below).

12. Property expenses

Expenditure on property during the year is shown below.

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Expenditure on Manses:							
Manse maintenance	11,819					**11,819**	12,185
Council Tax	12,737					**12,737**	11,615
Water charges	4,282					**4,282**	3,882
Insurance	2,895					**2,895**	2,913
Gas and electricity	2,049					**2,049**	1,316
Other charges							
Sale of Manses: Legal and Professional Fees:						**-**	-
Other Property Expenses:							
Quinquennial reviews	1,600					**1,600**	2,100
Castleton graveyard	390					**390**	415
Gwern-Y-Saint church	907					**907**	768
URC manse expenses	24					**24**	631
Letting expenses - Hilltop						**-**	797
Total	**36,703**		**-**	**-**	**-**	**36,703**	**36,622**

During the year the Circuit was responsible for the maintenance of six manses or former manses, for the payment of Council tax and water charges (except where these were paid by a tenant) and for landlord's annual gas inspections and home service agreements. The Circuit also paid the gas and electricity charges on unoccupied properties.

Notes to the Accounts

Total expenditure on manse maintenance in 2019-20 included £7,953 on preparing the manse at 5, Charles Close, Monmouth for occupation by a new presbyter; £3,866 was spent on maintaining the other five manses.

Gwern-Y-Saint Methodist Church closed on 7 October 2018 and the Circuit has taken on responsibility for insuring the property.

The current minister of Dan-Y-Graig Church (LEP) is a minister of the United Reformed Church. The minister's stipend and associated costs are paid by the URC but the Circuit has paid Dan-Y-Graig Church a contribution towards the Council Tax, water charges and insurance costs of the URC minister's manse until September 2019.

The manse at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow was leased to tenants between December 2017 and the end of April 2019. An agency was employed to manage the lease.

13. Connexional and District assessments and levies

The Connexional and District assessments are paid to the Wales Synod District, which determines the assessment to be paid by each Circuit in accordance with a formula based on the number of presbyters and lay employees in each Circuit (see also Note 1xv).

Connexional assessment and Priority Fund levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Connexional assessment	47,322					**47,322**	45,510
Connexional Priority Fund levy	-					**-**	-
Total	**47,322**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**47,322**	**45,510**

The Connexional Priority Fund levy is taken from the proceeds of the sale of former manses. No levy was charged during the current year (2018-19: £0).

District assessment and levy	Unres-tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
District assessment	7,414					**7,414**	6,620
District Advance Fund levy	-	8,518				**8,518**	11,192
Total	**7,414**	**8,518**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15,932**	**17,812**

The District Advanced Fund levy is calculated on a sliding scale percentage of the Circuit Model Trust Fund account balance at 31 August in the previous financial year.

14. Office and administration costs

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

Office and administration costs	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Conference minutes and materials	-					-	1,416
Circuit Stewards' and Circuit officers' expenses	222					**222**	382
Printing, postage, stationery and computing supplies	1,260					**1,260**	1,077
Office equipment	489					**489**	650
Office telephone, broadband and website	222					**222**	212
Independent Examiner's fee	250					**250**	250
TMCP Administration and Investment Management fees	-	441		108		**549**	640
Other admin costs	100					**100**	327
Total	**2,543**	**441**	**-**	**108**	**-**	**3,092**	**4,954**

The Circuit office is at Caldicot Methodist Church, where the Circuit uses a room on four mornings a week. The Circuit does not pay rent for use of the room, but pays half of the Church's telephone, broadband and website costs.

During the year the Circuit paid £549 to TMCP, the custodians of the Circuit's investments (Circuit Model Trust Fund, Mary A Curtis Bequest and Kelly Legacy) (2018-19: £640). The fees charged represent a levy of 0.2% on the value of the funds at the beginning of the year. and are allocated among the three funds as shown in the table above.

15. Other outgoings

	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Preaching and worship:							
Local preacher's expenses	449					**449**	472
Supernumerary ministers' fees and expenses	3,757					**3,757**	5,002
Circuit Plan and Handbook	131					**131**	605
Pastoral Care	1,417					**1,417**	-
Other Expenses:							
Training	-					**0**	-
Events	210					**210**	194
URC transport and travel	66					**66**	224
Miscellaneous	-					**0**	1,400
Total	**6,030**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,030**	**7,897**

The Circuit offers to reimburse lay preachers and supernumerary ministers for the costs of travel to the churches where they conduct services and supernumerary ministers may also claim a preaching fee. The Circuit has established contracts to provide pastoral and ministerial care at Caldicot and

Notes to the Accounts

Rogiet following the retirement of Rev Preben Andersen. The Circuit has also paid Dan-Y-Graig Church a contribution towards the URC minister's telephone and travel costs (see Note 12 above).

16. Gains and losses on monetary investments

Total net losses on monetary investments were £3 in 2019-20 compared with net gains of £43 in 2018-19. A detailed breakdown is immaterial. See also Notes 20 and 27 below.

17. Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Funding for future Circuit mission activity	44,600	(44,600)				**0**	-
Funding for future Circuit mission activity						**0**	0
Total	**44,600**	**(44,600)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0**	**0**

During the current year, £44,600 was transferred from the Circuit Model Trust Fund to the Circuit's general fund to compensate for the Circuit's reduction of assessments on churches in order to strengthen church finances during the coronavirus lockdown.

During the previous year (2018-19), £36,000 was transferred from the Circuit Model Trust Fund to the Circuit's general fund to fund Circuit mission activity from 2019-20 on projects including the Toddler Worker at Chepstow Methodist Church and the Mission Enabler at Ty Sign and Risca.

18. Other gains and losses

There were gains of £199,963 in 2019-20 because of the revaluation of two manses (see Note 19) and no gains or losses in 2018-19.

19. Manses and other property

At 31 Aug 2020 the Circuit had six manses (the same number as at 31 Aug 2019). Four manses were occupied by ministers. The manse at Caldicot was vacant. The manse attached to St David's Church, Ty Sign is being converted for use as a Resource Centre for mission in the Ty Sign, Risca and Crosskeys areas.

During 2019-20, the value of the manses at Hilltop, Newport Road, Chepstow and 27 Church Road, Caldicot was revised in line with advice from a Chepstow estate agent. This resulted in a revaluation gain of £199,963.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

The office equipment in the Circuit office has not been capitalised since the items individually cost less than £1,000 (see xii).

General advice was sought from estate agents in Newport, Monmouth and Abergavenny as to the value of land as a proportion of the total value of residential properties in different parts of the Circuit. The total value of the manses has been apportioned between land and buildings on the basis of this information.

Recent valuations (2015 or later) have been made for the four manses at Charles Close, Monmouth, St Julians Avenue, Newport, Church Road, Caldicot and Newport Road, Chepstow, and these valuations have been taken as the deemed value of these manses. The two manses without any recent valuation have been valued at their insured values at August 2016.

19.1 Cost or valuation of fixed assets

	Invest-ment Prop-erties		Land	Buildings	Plant, Machinery and MVs	Fixtures, Fittings, etc	Assets under construc-tion	2020 Total	2019 Total
Balance brought forward	-		398,371	1,107,496				**1,505,867**	1,505,867
Additions in the year									
Revaluations			65,987	133,976				**199,963**	
Less: Disposals in the year									
Transfers between categories									
Balance carried forward	**-**		**464,358**	**1,241,472**				**1,705,830**	1,505,867

19.2 Accumulated depreciation and impairment provision

Basis			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Rate			-	-	-	-			
Balance brought forward	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year									
Revaluations									
Disposals									
Transfers									
Balance carried forward	**-**		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

19.3 Net book value

Brought forward	-		398,371	1,107,496	-	-	-	**1,505,867**	1,505,867
Carried forward	**-**		**464,358**	**1,241,472**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,705,830**	1,505,867

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

20. Investment Assets (and TMCP Funds)

The funds that support the Circuit Model Trust Fund, the Mary A Curtis Bequest and the Kelly Legacy are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds or CFB Managed Mixed Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month or each quarter. 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.

The Charity of William Richards Endowment is invested in the COIF Charities Investment Fund. The Fund is a Common Investment Fund established by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 1993 section 24 and investment in the Fund is only available to charities within the meaning of section 96 of the Charities Act.

Investment Assets and TMCP	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2020 Total**	**2019 Total**
CFB Managed Mixed Funds		852				**852**	868
COIF Charities Investment Fund					525	**525**	513
Total Investment Assets	**0**	**852**	**0**	**0**	**525**	**1,377**	1,381
TMCP Trustees Interest Funds		167,755		48,462	177	**216,394**	273,876
Total	**0**	**168,607**	**0**	**48,462**	**702**	**217,771**	**275,257**

21. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 31 August 2019 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2019 were for events that have been held during 2019-20. Similarly, it is expected that all payments in advance at 1 September 2020 will be expended in 2020-21.

Debtors and Prepayments	**Unres-Tricted**	**CMTF**	**Desig-nated**	**Rest-ricted**	**Endow-ment**	**2020 Total**	**2019 Total**
Stipends, pensions and NI paid in advance	11,809					**11,809**	14,361
Accrued Income	0					**0**	0
Other debtors	991					**991**	464
Total	**12,800**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**12,800**	**14,825**

22. Loans by the Circuit

The Circuit has no outstanding loans at 31 August 2020 (2019: £0).

23. Central Finance Board and Bank Balances

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

Monetary balances at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at HSBC Bank limited are all available on demand without loss of interest or other penalty.

Bank balances and cash in hand	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow-ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Central Finance Board Deposits	70,330			1,857		**72,187**	85,916
Balance held at HSBC	27,311					**27,311**	32,397
Balance held at Nationwide			809			**809**	955
Cash in hand						**0**	0
Total	**97,641**	**-**	**809**	**1,857**	**-**	**100,307**	**119,268**

24. Creditors, accruals and income in advance

All sums accrued at 31 August 2019 were paid before 31 August 2020. Similarly, it is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2020 will be paid by 31 August 2021.

Current Liabilities	Unres-Tricted	CMTF	Desig-nated	Rest-ricted	Endow ment	2020 Total	2019 Total
Church assessments paid in advance	40,316					**40,316**	49,619
Ministers and staff expenses	603					**603**	1,986
Other expenses	151					**151**	600
Stipends, pension and NI						**0**	31
Taxation and Social Security						**0**	0
Other creditors	4,037					**4,037**	6,832
Total	**45,107**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**45,107**	**59,068**

25. Grants payable in 2020-21

The Circuit has set up a Committee to provides grants to support mission related projects within the Circuit. The Committee has already approved a grant of £3,000 in 2020-21 for a project at Chepstow Methodist Church. Sufficient funds are available within the General Fund to support all envisaged projects. The Circuit has also allocated a budget of £1,150 in 2020-21 to support the night shelters at St Julians and Crosskeys and make small donations.

26. Commitments in 2020-21

In 2020-21 the Circuit has allocated a budget of £15,000 for manse maintenance which will be paid out of the annual receipts of the Circuit, and will fund the costs of the Ty Sign Mission Developer (£30,000 over three years) from its General Fund.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

27. Detailed Analysis of Individual Funds

The individual funds of the Circuit are as follows:

Name	Type	Purpose
General Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the circuit meeting
Circuit Model Trust Fund	Unrestricted & Undesignated	General mission as directed by the circuit meeting
William Richards (Nationwide)	Designated	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting
Vera Holt	Restricted	As directed by the Circuit Meeting for youth work and training
Mary A Curtis Bequest	Restricted	General mission as directed by the circuit meeting
Kelly Legacy	Endowment	Maintenance of Castleton graveyard
Charity of William Richards	Endowment	Support for other churches in the Monmouth sector of the Circuit as directed by the Circuit Meeting

The movements of monies between the funds of the Circuit are summarised in the tables below.

Summary of Fund Movements - 2019-20

Funds	**Balance at 31/8/19**	**Income**	**Expend-iture**	**Transfers**	**Gains / Losses**	**Balance at 31/8/20**
General Fund	1,578,093	252,113	(303,605)	44,600	199,963	**1,771,164**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	220,353	1,828	(8,959)	(44,600)	(15)	**168,607**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,798,446**	**253,941**	**(312,564)**	**0**	**(199,948)**	**1,939,771**
William Richards (Nationwide)	955	16	(162)			**809**
Total designated	**955**	**16**	**(162)**	**0**	**0**	**809**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,844	13				**1,857**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	54,214	443	(6,195)			**48,462**
Total restricted	**56,058**	**456**	**(6,195)**	**0**	**0**	**50,319**
Kelly Legacy	177	2	(2)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	513				12	**525**
Total endowments	**690**	**2**	**(2)**	**0**	**12**	**702**
Total of All Funds	**1,856,149**	**254,415**	**(318,923)**	**0**	**(199,960)**	**1,991,601**

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

Summary of Fund Movements - 2018-19 (for comparison)

Funds	Balance at 31/8/18	Income	Expend-iture	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Balance at 31/8/19
General Fund	1,538,714	298,975	(295,596)	36,000		**1,578,093**
Circuit Model Trust Fund	265,888	2,178	(11,724)	(36,000)	11	**220,353**
Total unrestricted & undesignated	**1,804,602**	**301,153**	**(307,320)**	**0**	**11**	**1,798,446**
William Richards (Nationwide)	938	17				**955**
Total designated	**938**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**955**
Vera Holt (CFB 020)	1,831	13				**1,844**
Mary A Curtis Bequest (21224)	53,865	457	(108)			**54,214**
Total restricted	**55,696**	**333**	**(107)**	**0**	**0**	**56,058**
Kelly Legacy	177	1	(1)			**177**
Charity of William Richards	481				32	**513**
Total endowments	**658**	**1**	**(1)**	**0**	**32**	**690**
Total of All Funds	**1,861,894**	**301,641**	**(307,429)**	**0**	**43**	**1,856,149**

28. Related Parties

None of the Circuit trustees made donations directly to the Circuit in the current year or the previous financial year. All of the Circuit trustees are members of one or another Church within the Circuit and may be trustees of their Churches.

Related parties include the Methodist Connexion and its funds, the Wales Synod District, the Churches within the Newport & Lower Wye Circuit, other Methodist Circuits in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

Year ending 31 August 2020

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.19
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		15,932		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		47,322		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	251,607			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee	Grant		10,049		
Total			**251,607**	**73,303**	**0**	**0**

Year ending 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts

Year ending 31 August 2019

Name of Related Party	Relation-ship	Description	Income from Related Party	Payments to Related Party	Loans to Related Party	Amount owed by RP on 31.08.19
Wales Synod District	Donee	Assessment and Levy		17,812		
Methodist Church Connexion	Donee	Assessment		45,510		
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donor	Assessment	288,914			
Churches within NLW Circuit	Donee	Grant		8,118		
Methodist Church Fund for Property	Donee	Donation		1,000		
Total			**288,914**	**72,440**	**0**	**0**

Newport & Lower Wye Methodist Circuit

Appendix A

CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP 2019-20

MINISTERS

Reverend Gordon Gresswell
Reverend Preben Andersen
Reverend Lesley Jones
Reverend Ruth Lownsbrough
Reverend Rachel Frank
Reverend Paula Parish-Foley

MINISTERS IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS

Reverend Joe Rooney

LAYWORKERS

Pauline Farr
Tim Crahart

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Keith Harvey
Jack Healey
Sandra Hanbury
Roger Bafico
Penny Blakemore
Cliff Randall
Roger Langford (Treasurer)
Mike Strange (Property)
Mike Roberts (Secretary)

Circuit Local Preachers & Worship Leaders representatives

Reverend Gordon Gresswell
Michael Gray

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Alison McBain

CIRCUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Church 1	Caldicot	Rep 1	Bridget Gibbs
		Rep 2	Gareth Edwards
		Rep 3	Margaret Andersen
		Rep 4	Jack Healey
Church 2	Rogiet	Rep 1	Marion Edwards
		Rep 2	Beryl Simcock
		Rep 3	Hazel Bennett
		Rep 4	Jack Healey
Church 3	Earlswood Hope and Valley	Rep 1	Sylvia Jeremiah
		Rep 2	Ray Jeremiah
		Rep 3	Avril Smith
Church 4	Penycaemawr	Rep 1	Sandra Hanbury
		Rep 2	Jill Ellis
Church 5	Chepstow	Rep 1	Keith Harvey
		Rep 2	Stuart Nuttall
		Rep 3	Margaret Harvey

		Rep 4	Cliff Randall
		Rep 5	Sue Chimes
Church 6	Monmouth	Rep 1	Ann Langford
		Rep 2	Mike Brain
		Rep 3	Elizabeth Hicks
		Rep 4	Sylvia Williams
Church 7	Gwehelog	Rep 1	Ron Williams (now deceased)
		Rep 2	Margaret Jenkins
Church 8	Gwern-y-Saint	Rep 1	(Closed)
Church 9	Trellech	Rep 1	Keith Wrightson (now deceased)
		Rep 2	Nassim Hilu
		Rep 3	Pam Lloyd
Church 10	Llancloudy	Rep 1	Arthur Isaac
Church 11	Broad Oak	Rep 1	Robin Hill
Church 12	St Julian's	Rep 1	Eira Reynolds
		Rep 2	Mary Hando
		Rep 3	Sian Llewellyn
		Rep 4	David Benson (now deceased)
Church 13	Shaftesbury	Rep 1	Liz Williams
		Rep 2	Hugh Knoyle
		Rep 3	Malcolm Dean
		Rep 4	
		Rep 5	
Church 14	Crosskeys	Rep 1	Michael Gray
		Rep 2	Ruth Gray
		Rep 3	Rosemary Carnell
		Rep 4	
Church 15	Trinity	Rep 1	Brian Ham (now deceased)
		Rep 2	Miriam Ham
		Rep 3	Roger Bafico
		Rep 4	Margaret Nicholas
		Rep 5	Martin Lougher
		Rep 6	Pat Dicker
Church 16	St David's	Rep 1	Irene Scowcroft
		Rep 2	
Church 17	Bishpool	Rep 1	Penny Blakemore
		Rep 2	Alf Waldron
		Rep 3	Janice Morgan
		Rep 4	Ann Waldron
		Rep 5	Jenny Suter
Church 18	Langstone	Rep 1	Sally Shea
		Rep 2	Sue Davies
		Rep 3	Ingrid Smith
Church 19	Dan-y-Graig	Rep 1	Carol Aldridge
		Rep 2	Sarah-Jane Jones
		Rep 3	Elaine Baker