

THE GWENT HILLS AND VALES CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1st SEPTEMBER 2023 – 31st AUGUST 2024

Introduction

The Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit of the Methodist Church came into being as the result of a decision by the Wales Synod of the Methodist Church and was formally acknowledged on 1st September 2009. At the beginning of the year under review, the Circuit consisted of twenty-three churches located across several valleys in south Wales and extending north-east to the border with England.

The Circuit's trustees are the members appointed by the twenty-three churches to the Circuit Meeting, which gathers three times a year, to discuss and make decisions on matters pertaining to the life and work of the Circuit.

Aims and Organization

The Circuit leadership is provided by a team consisting of four ordained ministers. We continue to receive significant assistance from ministers retired from the full-time work, but who are still active in leadership. Five lay persons have been appointed as circuit stewards, and three other lay persons have specific responsibility for finance, property, and the work of local preachers. Administrative services are available to the Leadership Team and the Circuit through a part-time Administrator paid by the Circuit, a post which was filled in March 2021.

In considering its aims, the Circuit Leadership Team has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Hence the Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit exists to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ through providing opportunities for worship, mission, and evangelism. Since its inception, the circuit has made mission a priority, with churches being challenged to undertake outreach on a regular basis. There is a particular emphasis on impacting the community beyond the membership of the churches. The Circuit has responsibility for finance related to the upkeep of ministers and their homes (manses), and the support of mission-related activities across the Circuit.

The individual churches do much of the day-to-day planning of events and projects to support these aims, but the Circuit has set certain priorities and placed emphasis on certain activities to encourage them to carry out their mandate.

Review of the Year

The Circuit ensures that services of worship take place regularly in all its churches and that buildings and ministers are available for special services, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. Wherever possible, services are offered to appeal to various groups within society such as children, families, and adults with learning difficulties. Services are routinely led by lay (Local) Preachers as well as ordained ministers. During this Connexional year two Local Preachers received authorisations to preside at the Lord's Supper and there were three new Local Preachers in training. Some of the churches registered their buildings for the marriage of same sex couples. Some of the churches have achieved 'Bronze Eco-Church' accreditation in their efforts to work towards the Methodist Church's Net Zero target (2030). Another of the Circuit churches continues to host a large and growing Tongan congregation which meets regularly for worship and also contributes to mission and outreach in the local community.

Practices which began as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (namely services by Zoom and the distribution by post or email of sermons and service sheets to those who are housebound) have continued and are regarded as a positive outcome of an otherwise difficult time. There now exists within the Circuit a 'Zoom community' which meets weekly for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship. The digital platform has enabled people from all over the world to join in the activities, along with local people of different denominations and those with no regular church connections. The practice of using Zoom for trustee meetings has ceased since the end of the pandemic but Zoom continues to be used for meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team.

Pastoral visiting by both lay people and ordained staff happens regularly across the Circuit and some members (who due to age or infirmity cannot come to church) receive Holy Communion at home or in residential care. Pastoral care and support is also provided through telephone calls, email and letter. The Circuit produces a quarterly newsletter – The Vine – which facilitates communication across the Circuit, shares

good news and promotes issues of current concern/interest within the wider Methodist Church.

The Circuit has encouraged all churches to consider their environmental impact and to work wherever possible towards carbon neutrality by 2030. Some of the churches have engaged in the Eco-Church programme and/or undertaken environmental impact assessments of their buildings. The Circuit has supported churches in this through its 'Green Strategy'.

Most churches provide outreach to their local community through weekly coffee mornings, helping to reduce social isolation and, during a period of rising energy costs, offering 'Warm Spaces' to those experiencing 'fuel poverty'. Most churches also support local Foodbanks.

The Circuit and individual churches have supported (through prayer and financial giving) the work of their members overseas, notably on 'Mercy Ships' (providing medical assistance to developing countries), the 'Project Misa Lole' (sending furniture to Tongan churches affected by the tsunami of 2022), and 'Love Zimbabwe' (providing support for community development and the relief of poverty).

The Circuit continued the implementation of 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' (EDI) training for ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Circuit and Church stewards, and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. The Circuit appointed an EDI Officer.

Income Trends

The Circuit income is primarily drawn from assessments paid by the circuit churches, totalling £270,772. Total income for the year was £348,717. Of this, £45,000 was the return of a prior year donation to the Methodist Church Pension Reserve Fund plus £3,852 interest. This was found to be no longer required following an actuarial review of the fund. A grant of £10,000 was received from the Methodist Church New Places for New People Fund to support rugby outreach work with children.

Expenditure Trends

Stipend expenditure has increased each financial year in line with increases approved by the Methodist Conference.

The expenditure budget approved for the year was £314,844. This was to be funded as follows:

Average of 3 previous years' budget surpluses from reserves	£18,169
Subsidy from reserves to assist churches post COVID	£25,915
Assessment on churches	£270,760

The actual spend against budget for the year was £303,213. The main components of the £11,631 underspend were:

Pension budget formula error	£1,953
Travel and Relocation	-£4,876
Manses R & M	-£4,390
Council Tax - single occupancy discounts	-£3,721
Contribution to Castle St Electrical remedial work	£1,400
Print Stationery Post	-£2,138
Other	£141
Total Expenditure Variance	-£11,631

21.4% of expenditure was the Circuit's contribution to the District and Connexion, of which a significant part is used to fund the work of the wider Methodist Church.

Fund Balances

As of 31st August 2024, the net current assets of the Circuit were £269,264 giving approximately 9 months' cover for expenditure. This is a reduction of £245,040 partly due to the purchase of a replacement manse prior to the sale of resulting surplus property. The trustees are making reserves available for church and circuit mission projects, and the improvement of Varteg Cemetery to bring it to a safe and sustainable condition.

Plans for 2024/25

Circuit financial plans for 2024/25 have been prepared based on an on-going, full-time ordained staff of four, a part-time administrator and cost of living stipend increases.

This resulted in a budget of £310,088. Of this, £21,379 was to be funded from prior years' surpluses held in reserves.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st 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 (FRSSE) 2015.

Full Name of Charity: Gwent Hills and Vales Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1140255

Date of Registration: 2009

Main Communication Address: Circuit Office, Castle Street Methodist Church, Castle Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5EE

The members of the Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by local churches.

Circuit Ministers and Officers

Active Ministers: Rev. Catherine Brobbey, Rev. Stephen Boxall,

Rev. Lorette Hinson, Rev. Andrea Sims

Supernumerary Ministers: Rev Anthony Gregory, Deacon Gwenllian Knighton,

Rev Roy Watson

Retail Chaplain: Mrs Celia Price

Circuit Finance Officer: Mr Ken Bailey

Circuit Property Steward: Mrs. Jan Jackson

Circuit Local Preachers Secretary: Miss Margaret Webber

Circuit Stewards: Miss Jane Evans; Mr Gareth Holyfield; Mrs Karen Jones;
Mrs Siân Millar; Mrs Rachel Rimmer; Mrs Gillian Timm

Circuit Administrator: Ms Joanna Saunders

Circuit Treasurer: Mr Ken Bailey functioned as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the circuit during the year.

Independent Examiner: Newton Green & Co, 17 Wyelands View, Mathern, Chepstow NP16 6HN

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Objectives and Purpose

The charity objective is to function as a resource provider for the Methodist Church within the area around the valleys of south-east Wales.

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 organization 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.

Also, the organization 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 and the Circuit Finance and Property Committees.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the 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 Cymru and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The following Methodist churches are linked to the Circuit at the end of the reporting period: Abergavenny, Beaufort Hill, Bedwas, Blackwood, Blaenau Gwent, Blaina, Cwmcelyn, Fairhill, Garndiffaith, Glasbury, Hope, Llanelly Hill, Llanyrafon, Nantyglo, Pontllanfraith, Pontnewynydd, Race, St. James, Tredegar, Trinity, Tyllwyn, Upper *Swmbrân, Wesley Place.*

Risk Management

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

There is a regular annual review process undertaken.

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 people 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 Gwent Hills and Vales 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 Gwent Hills and Vales 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.

Supervision

The Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit fully embraces the requirements of the Methodist Church's Supervision Policy 2021. Supervision in the Methodist Church is an exploratory and reflective process. Every ordained minister is required to meet one-

on-one for an hour and a half with a trained, resourced, and approved supervisor to reflect on their vocation and practice at least six times per year. Others with significant pastoral responsibility are encouraged to be in supervision.

GDPR

The Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of government legislation, and guidance and good practice as provided by the Methodist Church TMCP, in the circuit and in the churches. The Gwent Hills and Vales 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 responsibilities as required by the GDPR.

Reserves Policy

In September 2021 the Trustees voted to amend the Reserves Policy to the following:

1. To hold a minimum sum equivalent to twelve months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on manses and 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. This was increased from six to twelve months by the Circuit Meeting on 10th September 2020 in response to the additional risks posed by the COVID pandemic. In order to achieve this minimum, at the start of each Quarter (1st September, December, March and June) 15 months' expenditure should be in reserve, as church assessments are due at the end of each quarter, one quarter in advance.
2. To hold £100,000 against future requirements for remedial work to boundary and internal walling at Varteg Cemetery.
3. Any remaining reserves are available for Circuit or Church mission projects which may include related building maintenance or improvement works.

Report approved at Circuit Meeting held on 12th June 2025 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by its Chair, Rev Catherine Brobbey

SIGNATURE:

C Brobbey

DATE:

12/6/25

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Gwent Hills & Vales	Circuit
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

Wales Synod	District	Circuit no	2/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1140255

If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Ministers:

Rev C Brobbey
Rev S Boxall
Rev A Sims
Rev L Hinson

Circuit Stewards:

J Evans
G Holyfield
J Jackson
K Jones
S Millar
R Rimmer
G Timm
M Webber

Treasurer:

K Bailey

Name of Circuit

Gwent Hills & Vales

Circuit No

02/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	3(m)	1,107	48,852	-	10,200	-	60,159
2 Income from monetary investments		5,780	11,530	-	475	-	17,786
3 Income from investment properties	3(k)	-	-	-	-	-	0
4 Assessments on Churches		270,772	-	-	-	-	270,772
5 Capital Receipts	3(g)	-	-	-	-	-	0
6 Grants received		-	-	-	-	-	0
7 Other charitable income		-	-	-	-	-	0
8 Total income		277,659	60,382	-	10,675	-	348,717
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	3(d)	-	-	3,455	-	-	3,455
10 Salaries and associated costs	6	205,649	-	-	-	-	205,649
11 Property maintenance		37,012	-	16,757	-	-	53,769
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy		52,388	983	-	-	-	53,371
13 District Assessment & Levy		7,172	17,121	-	-	-	24,293
14 Depreciation	3(f), 9	678	-	-	-	-	678
15 Office expenses		4,661	-	-	-	-	4,661
16 Other outgoings		10,855	-	-	5,559	-	16,414
17 Total charitable expenditure		318,415	18,104	20,212	5,559	-	362,290
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	11,030	-	-	-	11,030
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	3(l)	- 94,205	98,987	-	-	-	4,782
20 Net income/(expenditure)		- 134,961	152,295	- 20,212	5,116	-	2,239
21 Transfers between funds	13	342,600	- 342,600	-	-	-	0
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	0
23 Net movement in funds		207,639	- 190,305	- 20,212	5,116	-	2,239
24 Total funds brought forward		1,466,960	344,943	195,578	8,111	-	2,015,592
25 Total funds carried forward		1,674,599	154,638	175,366	13,227	-	2,017,830

Name of Circuit

Gwent Hills & Vales

Circuit No

02/13

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

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust		Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
	£	(Unrestricted)	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Donations and legacies	7,963	-	-	-	250	-	8,213
2 Income from monetary investments	4,810	7,173	-	-	407	-	12,390
3 Income from investment properties	3,740	-	-	-	-	-	3,740
4 Assessments on Churches	268,544	-	-	-	-	-	268,544
5 Capital Receipts	88,594	-	-	-	-	-	88,594
6 Grants received	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
7 Other charitable income	60	-	-	-	-	-	60
8 Total income	373,712	7,173	-	-	657	-	381,541
Expenditure							
9 Grants and donations	2,000	-	-	2,250	-	-	4,250
10 Salaries and associated costs	182,534	-	-	-	-	-	182,534
11 Property maintenance	38,861	-	-	1,260	-	-	40,121
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy	50,032	535	-	-	-	-	50,567
13 District Assessment & Levy	6,852	6,878	-	-	-	-	13,730
14 Depreciation	678	-	-	-	-	-	678
15 Office expenses	5,331	-	-	-	-	-	5,331
16 Other outgoings	7,771	-	-	-	3,159	-	10,930
17 Total charitable expenditure	294,058	7,412	3,510	3,159	-	-	308,139
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	1,865	-	-	-	-	1,865
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	- 82,728	155,760	-	-	-	-	73,032
20 Net income/(expenditure)	- 3,075	157,385	- 3,510	- 2,501	-	-	148,299
21 Transfers between funds	- 100,000	-	100,000	-	-	-	0
22 Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
23 Net movement in funds	- 103,075	157,385	96,490	- 2,501	-	-	148,299
24 Total funds brought forward	1,570,034	187,558	99,088	10,612	-	-	1,867,293
25 Total funds carried forward	1,466,960	344,943	195,578	8,111	-	-	2,015,592

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	3(f), 9	1,577,236					1,577,236	1,241,087
Investment properties	3(g), 10	85,000					85,000	173,594
Investments	3(h)		97,637				97,637	86,607
Total fixed assets		1,662,236	97,637	0	0	0	1,759,873	1,501,288
Current Assets								
Debtors	3(i)	40,503					40,503	46,691
Loans by the Circuit	11			3,285			3,285	3,285
Investments with TMCP			57,001				57,001	258,336
Central Finance Board Deposits		3,284		90,947	5,965		100,195	157,807
Cash at Bank and in hand		36,429		81,135	7,263		124,827	116,167
Total current assets		80,217	57,001	175,366	13,227	0	325,812	582,286
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	3(j)	67,855					67,855	67,982
Grants payable within 2022-23							0	0
Total current liabilities		67,855	0	0	0	0	67,855	67,982
Net current assets/liabilities		12,362	57,001	175,366	13,227	0	257,957	514,303
Total assets less current liabilities		1,674,599	154,638	175,366	13,227	0	2,017,830	2,015,592
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23							0	0
Loans to the Circuit	11						0	0
Net assets		1,674,599	154,638	175,366	13,227	0	2,017,830	2,015,592
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,674,599					1,674,599	1,466,960
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			154,638				154,638	344,943
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	12			175,366			175,366	195,578
Total Unrestricted Funds							2,004,603	2,007,480
Restricted Funds	12				13,227		13,227	8,111
Endowment Funds						0	0	0
Total Funds		1,674,599	154,638	175,366	13,227	0	2,017,830	2,015,592

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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 *Ken Bailey* Date *03/04/25*

Name and address of treasurer: Ken Bailey, Pembroke House, Lower Park Terrace, Pontypool..
..... Post Code: NP4 6LB

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: 12th June 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: *C Brobbey*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Catherine Brobbey..... Date: *12/6/25*

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the

Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit

Charity Number 1140255

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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

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 and 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the 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.....

..... Post Code: NP16 6HN...

Date: ...1st APRIL 2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Notes to the Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit Accounts 2023-24

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds are money received to be spent for a defined purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

(a) Basis

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

(b) Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resource, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources Expended

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

(d) Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

The following grants were made:

Grant to Trinity Abersychan for fencing work

£2,480

Grant to St James's for exterior painting

£975

Total

£3,455

(e) VAT

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

(f) Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2024 deemed values, of which the land component of Manses value is deemed to be £250,000. 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. Any depreciation would not be material. The properties have been reviewed for impairment.

(g) Investment Properties

At the start of the year the Circuit was responsible for 4 empty chapels: Pontypool, Panteg, Abertillery and Trinant. They were shown as Investment Properties on the prior year balance Sheet. During the year no additional chapels became the circuit's responsibility. During the year Abertillery and Trinant were sold. Abertillery realised the balance sheet value. Trinant realised more than the Balance Sheet valuation which is shown on the SOFA as a Gain on Investment Property. The other 2 properties were unsold at the end of the year and are shown in Investments Properties on the year-end Balance Sheet. The financial treatment of the 4 properties is summarised below:

	Balance Sheet Brought Forward	Surveyor Valuation	Estimated Expenses	Estimated CPF Levy	Capital Receipt SOFA row 5	Sale Price	Expenses	CPF Levy	Gain/(Loss) SOFA row 19	Balance Sheet Carried Forward
Pontypool	£0				£0					£0
Panteg	£85,000				£0					£85,000
Abertillery	£46,594				£0	£64,000	-£10,090	-£7,316	£0	£0
Trinant	£42,000				£0	£60,200	-£5,988	-£7,430	£4,782	£0
Total	£173,594				£0				£4,782	£85,000

Pontypool Chapel became unused during 2021-22 further to the Circuit Trustees agreeing that the church cease to meet (minute 5.2 of 17/03/2022). The Trustees approved the disposal of the property (minute 6.1 of 16/03/2023). The land is leasehold. It has not yet been possible to obtain a valuation. No Capital Receipt has been recorded to date and there is no value included in Investment Properties on the Balance Sheet.

Panteg Chapel became unused during 2021-22. The Circuit Trustees agreed that the church cease to meet, and that the property be sold (minute 6.2 16/03/2023). The property is expected to be sold in 2025.

Abertillery Chapel became unused during 2021-22 further to the Circuit Trustees agreeing that the church cease to meet (minute 5.1 of 17/03/2022). The Trustees approved the sale of the property (minute 6.2.2 of 17/03/2022). The property was sold in October 2023 for £64,000 realising £46,594 net of levy and expenses. This was the value held on the balance sheet so there was no gain or loss.

Trinant Chapel became unused during 2021-22 further to the Circuit Trustees agreeing that the church cease to meet (minute 5.1 of 09/06/2022). Trustees approved the sale of the property (minute 6.2.2 of 08/09/2022). The property was sold in February 2024 for £65,000 realising £46,782 net of levy and expenses. This is a gain of £4,782 against the balance sheet valuation.

Five Manses are held for the long-term purposes of the charity.

(h) Investments

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

(i) Debtors

Debtors comprise:

Prepayment of September 2024 stipends in August 2024:	£13,764
Insurance, utility, and essential maintenance costs of closed Chapels to be funded from proceeds of sale:	£26,740
Total	£40,503

(j) Creditors

Creditors comprise:

1st quarter 2023/24 assessment received from most churches in August 2023:	£63,457
Property maintenance:	£262
Minister and preacher expenses claimed after year end:	£3,411
Receipts for others:	£410
HMRC:	£310
Bank charges:	£5
Total	£67,855

(k) Income from Investment Properties

There was no income from investment properties during the year.

(l) Gains/(losses) on investment properties

Abertillery chapel was sold for £64,000. The value of legal and agents fees was paid into the General Fund with the balance paid into the Model Trust. A levy was taken for the Connexional Priority Fund in accordance with Standing Orders. Since closure the Circuit had spent £5,070 on insurance, utility, legal and maintenance costs. The property had been valued on the Balance Sheet at £46,594. The net gain on sale was therefore £0 as detailed below and shown on the SOFA row 19.

<u>Item</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Model Trust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sale Price	£7,419	£56,581	£64,000
Legal and agent's fees	-£5,019		-£5,019
Connexional Priority Fund Levy		-£7,316	-£7,316
Insurance, utility, legal and maintenance costs	-£5,070		-£5,070
Balance sheet valuation	-£46,594		-£46,594
Total Gain	-£49,264	£49,264	£0

Trinant chapel was sold for £65,000. The value of legal and agent's fees was paid into the General Fund with the balance paid into the Model Trust. A levy was taken for the Connexional Priority Fund in accordance with Standing Orders. Since closure the Circuit had spent £5,910 on insurance, utility, legal and maintenance costs. The property had been valued on the Balance Sheet at £42,000. The net gain on sale was therefore £4,712 as detailed below and shown on the SOFA row 19.

Sale Price	£7,847	£57,152	£65,000
Legal and agent's fees	-£4,877		-£4,877
Connexional Priority Fund Levy		-£7,430	-£7,430
Insurance, utility, legal and maintenance costs	-£5,910		-£5,910
Balance sheet valuation	-£42,000		-£42,000
Total Gain	-£44,940	£49,721	£4,781

(m) Donations

The following donations were received:

From:

Fairhill Methodist Church
St James Methodist Church
Methodist Church Pension Reserve Fund
Methodist Church Pension Reserve Fund
Methodist Church New Place for New People Fund
Upper Trosnant Baptist Church
Total

For:

General fund (continued 2022-2 assessment value)
General fund (overpayment of assessment)
Repayment of donation made in Nov 2021
Interest on donation made in Nov 2021
Rugby Outreach expenses (restricted)
Market Chaplaincy Expenses (restricted)

Value:

£1,104
£3
£45,000
£3,852
£10,000
£200
£60,159

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit Meeting. This excludes stipends.

Trustee expenses were:

	2023/24	2022/23
Number of Trustees	17	11
Total amount	£20,647	£16,944

Expense payments primarily relate to reimbursement for travel, postage, stationery and printing costs.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	375	330
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	NIL	NIL

6 Paid employees (excluding stipendiary ministers' costs of £165,149)

Staff Costs paid during the year:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind
Employer's National Insurance costs
Pension costs
Total staff costs

	2023/24	2022/23*
£	15,641	14,341
£	903	734
£	939	860
£	17,483	15,935
	1	1

* 2022/23 Gross and Total over-reported by £2,023 last year

Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year (rounded to nearest whole number):

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

There were no capital commitments at 31st August 2024

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2024

£	0	0
£	0	0

8 Money received and passed on to External Organisations

Balance brought forward from last year

Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations

Balance carried forward

	2023/24	2022/23
£	45	3,725
£	3,312	5,312
£	-2,947	-8,992
£	410	45

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward	0	1,240,070	173,594	1,017	0	1,414,681
Additions	0	336,827	0	0	0	336,827
Revaluations (+/-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals (-)	0	0	-88,594	0	0	-88,594
Transfers * (+/-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	1,576,897	85,000	1,017	0	1,662,914

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	0	0	0	-1,017	0	-1,017
Depreciation charge for year (-)	0	0	0	-678	0	-678
Revaluations (+/-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers* (+/-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance carried forward	0	0	0	-1,695	0	-1,695

Net book value

Brought forward	0	1,240,070	173,594	1,017	0	1,414,681
Carried forward	0	1,576,897	85,000	339	0	1,662,236

Manse:

Blaina manse was purchased during the year replacing Brynmawr manse which is being sold. Valuations have been compared with online sources. Average sale values of neighbouring properties in 2024 total £1,783,750.

Other buildings:

Abertillery and Trinant Chapels were sold during the year. The circuit continued to be responsible for Panteg and Pontypool chapels which it is seeking to sell. See note 3(g) for further detail.

10 Investment assets

Abertillery and Trinant Chapels were sold during the year. The circuit continued to be responsible for Panteg and Pontypool chapels which it is seeking to sell. See note 3(g) for further detail.

The circuit has no common investment fund holdings

11 Loans

At 31st August 2024 a loan of £3,285 to Blaenau Gwent Methodist Church was outstanding.

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Fund for Youth Work (Restricted)	8,110	475	2,622	0	5,963	Youth work (note 1)
Donation from Trosnant Baptists	0	200	100	0	100	Pontypool Market Chaplaincy
Grant from New Places for New People	0	10,000	2,837	0	7,163	Rugby Outreach
Total Restricted Funds	8,110	10,675	5,559	0	13,227	
Varteg Reserve (Designated)	97,828	0	16,757	0	81,071	Major repairs Varteg Cemetery (note 2)
Church Mission Projects (Designated)	97,750	0	3,455	0	94,295	To support church projects (note 3)
Total Designated Funds	195,578	0	20,212	0	175,366	

Notes:

1. The CFB3 account was inherited from the old Islwyn Circuit and is a restricted fund. Circuit Meeting minute 5.1(a) of 18/03/2021 refers. Incoming resources were £250 donation and £407 interest.
2. The Trustees decided to reserve £100,000 against likely future major maintenance expenditure at Varteg Cemetery. Circuit Meeting minute 5.1.2 of 10/09/2020 refers. These funds were transferred in 2021-22.
3. Trustees decided to allocate £100,000 to support church mission projects in accordance with the Circuit Strategy 2021-2026 and the supporting Funding for Church Project Policy. Circuit Meeting minutes 2.2 and 2.3 of 09/09/2021 refer. These funds were transferred in 2022-23.

Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2022-2023

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance	Purpose of the fund
Fund for Youth Work (Restricted)	10,612	657	3,159	0	8,110	Youth work (note 1)
Total Restricted Funds	10,612	657	3,159	0	8,110	
Varteg Reserve (Designated)	99,088	0	1,260	0	97,828	Future major repairs to Varteg Cemetery (note 2)
Church Mission Projects (Designated)	0	100,000	2,250	0	97,750	To support church projects (note 3)
Total Designated Funds	99,088	100,000	3,510	0	195,578	

13 Transfers

The following transfers took place from the Model Trust Fund to the General Fund:

Blaina manse was purchased for £333,000 with funds from the Model Trust. It is now held as an asset in the General Fund. £9,600 was transferred from the Model Trust to fund work on the Varteg Cemetery walls.

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 *Ken Bailey* Date *03/04/25*

Name and address of treasurer: Ken Bailey, Pembroke House, Lower Park Terrace, Pontypool..
..... Post Code: NP4 6LB

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: 12th June 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: *C Brobbey*

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Catherine Brobbey..... Date: *12/6/25*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit

Charity Number 1140255

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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

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 and 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the 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.....

..... Post Code: NP16 6HN...

Date: ...1st APRIL 2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate