

Methodist Church South West Wales Circuit Annual Report Sept 2023 – Aug 2024

Introduction

Welcome to our report. The South West Wales Circuit is set in a beautiful area and includes the Pembrokeshire National Park, much lovely countryside and a large number of beaches. We are blessed indeed to live and work in this area. Everything we do is driven by our faith in Jesus Christ and we all strive to meet the aims of our organisation as set out below.

Aims and organisation

This circuit is committed to the aims of “A discipleship movement shaped for mission” and seeks in its strategic planning and daily ministry, lay and ordained, to welcome and engage with people of all ages, without discrimination and irrespective of faith or no faith.

Within the twelve churches that make up the circuit, we seek to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate, within a variety of worship styles, God’s unconditional love.

We aim to help people to grow together and learn from each other, as we explore faith and spirituality in a variety of contexts.

The circuit is passionate about community outreach, demonstrated by the projects which have been initiated and are run collaboratively during the week in order to meet a variety of spiritual, social, additional and emotional needs.

Charity objective is to act as a Resource provider within the area of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire 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.

Brief financial review of the year

Income trends

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches. Contributions from churches has stabilised. The Pioneer Minister, Diaconal post is fully Grant this year received money from 2 separate Methodist Funds and the Deacon based in Llanelli is 50% funded through a Synod Grant. The rental income of £15,412 included in 'other receipts', relates to the rental of a manse as a holiday let. £ 16,164 was received into the TMCP Model Trust Fund having been returned from the Methodist Pension Fund.

Expenditure trends

Stipend expenditure increases each financial year in line with Conference approved increases, and the Circuit also employs a part time Administrator on the Living Wage. 16.6% of normal expenditure is the Circuit 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 at 31 August 2024 the net current assets in the General Fund of the Circuit were £117,511. This includes a total of £24,254 grant funding remaining for the missional Deacon Project at the end of the 5 year funding period. Permission is being sought to carry this money forward to partially fund this thriving mission work following the re-invitation of the Missional Deacon. The deficit in the general funds is offset by the interest received primarily from the Model Trust Fund giving a net receipt of £3,741. An outstanding loan of £10,000 made to Hall St, Llanelli 20 years ago has been written off by agreement at the Circuit Meeting. The financial position of the Circuit at the end of the financial year is in line with the Budget, due to reduced Ministers' stipend and reduced expenses as a result of changed working practices, alongside reduced income from churches, whilst the Circuit Model Trust has £505,968.

Plans for 2024/25

The Circuit was unsuccessful in the 2023/24 Methodist Stationing process and as a result the Circuit financial plans for the coming year were prepared on the basis that there would be two full time and two part time ordained staff with anticipated cost of living stipend increases. This year's ministry team is as follows; Superintendent, 1 paid Supernumerary (0.2 FTE), 1 full time Deacon (50% Grant funded), and 1 part time Deacon (0.49 FTE 50% Grant funded). The Circuit is re-entering the Stationing process for 2024/25 for a part time presbyter to serve churches in the west of the Circuit. An Admin Support Assistant is employed for 10 hours per week.

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 using Receipts and Payments on the Standard Form of Accounts.

Full Name of Charity: Methodist Church South West Wales Circuit

Registration Charity Number: ...1144953.....

Date of registration 7th December 2011

Main communication address 112 Felinfoel Rd, Llanelli, SA15 3JS

The members of the South West Wales Methodist Circuit meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of circuit office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the local churches.

Fully membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Circuit Ministers and officers

Active Circuit Ministers	Rev Geoffrey Hays
	Rev.Stella Hayton (Authorised Presbyter)
	Rev John Hayton (Authorised Presbyter)
	Rev Hugh-John Wilson (0.2 FTE)
	Deacon Jonathan Miller
	Deacon Katherine Hays (0.49 FTE)
Circuit Stewards	Ms Sharon Knox
	Ms Anne Worker
	Mrs Ann Maggs
	Mrs Margaret Birch
	Mr Graham Hobbs
	Mrs Jane Hobbs
Administrator:	Ms Miriam Moules
Treasurer:	Mrs Margaret Birch
Independent examiner	Mr Nigel Roberts

11 Penbryn Avenue
Carmarthen, SA31 3DH

Investment Bankers : Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Bank: CAF Bank (Charities Aid Foundation)

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.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the circuit, specifically 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is available on the Methodist Church website for 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:

Burry Port
Carew, Wesley,
Carmarthen Wesley
Haverfordwest, Albany (Methodist and URC)
Kidwelly, Trinity
Llanelli, Hall St (Methodist and URC)
Milford Haven, Christ Church (Methodist and URC)
Pembroke Ferry, Trinity
Saundersfoot
Stepaside
Tenby, St John's (Methodist and URC)
The Church without Walls (St Clears Mission)

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team 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 South West Wales 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 South West Wales 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 six months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on menses 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. In addition, the Circuit has agreed from last year to keep £50,000 in reserve to provide either loans or grants to Circuit Meeting approved projects. Additional monies in TMCP Model Trust are also held in reserve to cover the expected Ministerial appointments from Sept 2025 if there is a shortfall in church assessments.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

South West Wales	Circuit
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

Wales Synod	District	Circuit no	2 20
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1144953

If not a registered charity **His 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 Geoff Hays
Deacon Kathy Hays
Deacon Jon Miller

Circuit Stewards:

Ms Sharon Knox
Mrs Ann Maggs
Mr Ian Ledgard
Mrs Margaret Birch

Treasurer:

Mrs Margaret Birch

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	Assessment/Share		126,336			126,336	127,020
a3	Capital receipts						141,402
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		9,986	24,978		34,964	16,917
a5	Grants		1,118		37,220	38,338	63,491
a6	Other receipts		20,811	16,164		36,975	30,209
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		158,251	41,142	37,220	236,613 (a8)	379,039

SECTION B							
	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		62,184		53,381	115,565	144,589
b3	Manse Costs		13,477		3,789	17,266	16,249
b4	Administration etc		11,505	1,411		12,916	14,996
b5	District Assessment		38,588			38,588	36,852
b6	Grants & donations			25,831		25,831	38,841
b7	Epenses on other Circuit Property		19,922			19,922	19,678
b8	Other payments		1,937		847	2,784	3,872
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		147,613	27,242	58,017	232,872 (b9)	275,077

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	10,638	13,900	(20,797)	3,741	103,962
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year					619,736 (c6)	515,774
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	10,638	13,900	(20,797)	623,477	619,736
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	10,638	13,900	(20,797)	623,477 (c8)	619,736 (c6)

SECTION D						
	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)					
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations					
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations					
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)					

SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORTING TO THE CIRCUIT MEETING

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Circuit accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Circuit Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross receipts and payments totals of the Circuit. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold of £250,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the Circuit and connected Circuit Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	236,613 (a8)	232,872 (b9)	3,741	(c7)	619,736 (c6)	623,477 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	236,613	232,872	3,741		619,736 (x)	623,477 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	17,302	15,537
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	110,467	101,974
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	491,971	505,968
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL	619,740 (c6)	623,479 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	619,740 (x)	623,479 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	3,590	3,630
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,072,543	1,472,121
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	11,500	1,500
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only CFB Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trust accounts this is inserted in line f5)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment 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 *M. Birch* Date 04.01.25

Name and address of treasurer Margaret Birch

Bry Y Mor, Pembrey Rd, Kidwelly, SA17 4TF

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Circuit meeting held on 12.03.25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Geoffery Hays*

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... Rev Geoffery Hays

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

South West Wales Methodist Circuit

Charity Number . 1144953

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the South West Wales Methodist Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 2 to 3. 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

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.

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

Nigel Roberts

Name of independent examiner

Nigel Roberts

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

*ASSOCIATE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF BANKERS*

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

*11 Penryn Avenue Carmarthen*Post Code *SA31 3DH*

Date

05/03/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
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Deacon Jon Miller

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Name of the Chair of the meeting ... Rev Geoffery Hays

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Charity Number . 1144953

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Independent Examiner's Statement

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Signature of independent examiner

Nigel Roberts

Name of independent examiner

Nigel Roberts

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

ASSOCIATE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF BANKERS

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

11 Penryn Avenue Carmarthen

Post Code SA31 3DH

Date

05/03/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate