

Methodist Church South West Wales Circuit Annual Report Sept 2024 – Aug 2025

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 declined by £5,154. The Pioneer Minister, Diaconal

post has been partially funded by the £24,254 remaining from the initial 5-year Mission and Outreach project based in St Clears. A donation of £30,000 (recorded in restricted 'Other Receipts') was received from a Circuit Member along with instructions, to be used for the support of the Pioneer Mission post over the 5-year period of re-invitation, (Sept 2024- Aug 2029). The Deacon based in Llanelli is 50% funded through a Synod Grant. The rental income of £20,822 included in 'other receipts', relates to the rental of a manse as a holiday let.

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. 16.60% 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. There was electrical work carried out on the Manse used as a Holiday let to comply with Fire Regulations and increased laundry and cleaning costs in line with the increase in lettings.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2025 the net current assets in the General Fund of the Circuit were £102,176. The deficit in the general funds (£15,221) is primarily due to several Circuit churches no longer able to maintain previous levels of Assessment. The deficit in the Model Trust Fund (£6,930) is due to the Levy contribution to the Methodist Advance Fund (£26,881) being offset £21,495 interest. The small deficit in Restricted Funds is due to the Grants for mission used for stipends being offset by the donation to be used over 5 years for support of the Mission Deacon. Giving an overall deficit of £22,260. 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 £499,038 and the total funds held by the Circuit at 31st August are £601,214.

Plans for 2025/26

The Circuit was unsuccessful in the 2024/25 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 (approx. 50% Grant funded using previously agreed grant funding), and 1 part time Deacon (0.49 FTE 50% Grant funded). The Circuit is re-entered and has been successful in the Stationing process for 2025/26 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 2025 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 2026 and the shortfall in church assessments.

Geoffrey J Hays
11.3.26

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

South West Wales

Circuit

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

Wales Synod

District

Circuit no

2 20

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1144953

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

(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 Geoffery Hays

Deacon Kathy Hays

Deacon Jon Miller

Circuit Stewards:

Ms Sharon Knox

Mrs Margaret Birch

Mrs Ann Maggs

Ms Anne Worker

Mrs Jane Hobbs

Mr Graham Hobbs

Treasurer:

Mrs Margaret Birch

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

South West Wales

Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		121,182			121,182	126,336
a3	Capital receipts						
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		6,743	21,495	156	28,394	34,964
a5	Grants				10,402	10,402	38,338
a6	Other receipts		27,419		30,000	57,419	36,975
a7	TOTAL RECEIPTS		155,344	21,495	40,558	217,397 (a8)	236,613

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		78,034		40,656	118,690	115,565
b3	Manse Costs		16,626			16,626	17,266
b4	Administration etc		8,993	1,544	11	10,548	12,916
b5	District Assessment		38,316			38,316	38,588
b6	Grants & donations		55	26,881		26,936	25,831
b7	Expenses on other Circuit Property		14,878			14,878	19,922
b8	Other payments		13,663			13,663	2,784
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		170,565	28,425	40,667	239,657 (b9)	232,872

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a7-b9)	(15,221)	(6,930)	(109)	(22,260)	3,741
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year					623,477 (c6)	619,736
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	(15,221)	(6,930)	(109)	601,217	623,477
c4	Transfers and adjustments						
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	(15,221)	(6,930)	(109)	601,217 (c8)	623,477 (c6)

SECTION D					
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			55	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			55	
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 2025 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					
e9	Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)				(e11)	(e12)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT	217,397 (a8)	239,657 (b9)	(22,260)	623,477 (c6)	601,217 (c8)
		217,397	239,657	(22,260)	623,477 (x)	601,217 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS			

Continue on a separate
sheet if necessary and bring
the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025

f1	Cash in hand
f2	Bank Current Account
f3	Bank Deposit Account
f4	Central Finance Board
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
f6	Other funds
f7	SUB TOTAL
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT

OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
15,537	16,180
101,974	85,996
505,968	499,038
623,479 (c6)	601,214 (c8)
(e11)	(e12)
623,479 (x)	601,214 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

g1	Investments (include Endowments)
g2	Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)
g3	Other Assets
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end
g5	Other Liabilities

At	At
1 September 2024	31 August 2025
3,630	3,616
1,472,121	1,534,951
1,500	1,350

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)

Name of Circuit SOUTH WEST WALES No. 2/20

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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. D 04.10.25

Name and address of treasurer Margaret Birch

Brynymor, Pembrey Rd, Kidwelly SA 17 4TF

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 11.3.26

Signature of the Chair of the meeting G. 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 ...2/20.....

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 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

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.

X 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 OF CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *N/A*

Address *11 PENBRYN AVENUE*

..... *CARMARTHEN* Post Code *SA31 3DU*

Date *9/3/26*

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STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
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Name and address of treasurer Margaret Birch

Brynymor, Pembrey Rd, Kidwelly SA 17 4TF

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

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Charity Number ...2/20.....

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Signature of independent examiner *Nigel Roberts*

Name of independent examiner *Nigel Roberts*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *ASSOCIATE OF CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *N/A*

Address *11 PENBRYN AVENUE*

..... *CARMARTHEN* Post Code *SA31 3DU*

Date *9/3/26*

* delete or circle as appropriate