

## **South Molton & Ringsash Methodist Circuit Annual Report 2024-25**

### **Introduction**

The South Molton & Ringsash Methodist Circuit (referred to in this report as the Circuit) is based in a rural area of North Devon with the market town of South Molton at its centre.

### **Aims and organisation**

Our mission statement seeks to share the love of God with our communities.

There are 7 places of worship in the area connected to our Circuit: -

Brayford Methodist Church

Burrington Methodist Church

Chittlehampton Methodist Church

Kings Nympton Methodist Church

North Molton Methodist Church

South Molton Methodist Church

And the Circuit has an ecumenical arrangement with the Anglican's at Filleigh which is based at the Parish Church, St Pauls.

The Circuit continues with a quarterly preaching plan to ensure that regular acts of worship take place to support our local communities. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend these services

The following activities take place to further the objectives set out above: -

- 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.

The Governing Document of the Charity is the Deed of Union of the Methodist Church 1932 and the Methodist Church Act 1976. The purposes of the Methodist Church are, and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union, the advancement of:

The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church; any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church.

## Financial review of the year

### Income trends

Sale of Molemead (former manse at North Molton) at £390000 on 12/09/24 less: -

Solicitor Fees (£950 plus VAT)	£	1,140.00
Solicitor Fees (Charity Commission Order Application) £750 Plus VAT	£	900.00
Solicitor Fees (Abortive Sale) £350 Plus VAT	£	420.00
Estate Agent Fees	£	4,914.00
CHAPS Fee	£	36.00
Repayment Methodist Chapel Aid Bridging Loan of £250000- 8 Limekilns, South Molton ( Manse purchased in Aug 2023 for £460000, £14677 interest on the loan paid in the 2023-24 financial year).	£	253,315.91
Land Registry Official Copies	£	9.00
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	£	260,734.91

**Balance paid into our Circuit TMCP account. No levy to pay to Connexion as it is a replacement project.**

---

£	<b>129,265.09</b>
---	-------------------

---

Circuit income is primarily drawn from the assessment paid by the Circuit churches. The rental income relates to the rental of the former manse Locarno, Chulmleigh. Currently after management fee is £1320 per month. Other income is generated from interest earned. A refund on council tax was received this year on Wesley House due to its change of use.

### Expenditure trends

The main expenditure relates to the stipend of the presbyter, salary of the administrator, together with related employment costs, including the reimbursement of travelling and other preaching costs, in this year totaling £53282. Stipends have increased annually in line with conference approved percentages which in this year was 3.06%. Any lay employees are paid, in accordance with Methodist Standing Orders, no less than the hourly rates set by the Living Wage Foundation. Other costs include the annual contribution to the District of £23502 which represented 20% of expenditure.

Other expenditure included improvements made to the former manse Wesley House, South Molton. This building has now been given change of use from residential to non-residential. Used for meeting rooms, office and storage.

### Fund balances

As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 the net current assets of the Circuit current accounts including the balance in our CFB account were £85808 of which £20000 is designated funds. This gives the Circuit the required reserve required for 6 months expenditure.

## Designated Funds

CFB account - £20000 allocated to the Chittlehampton project

Circuit TMCP account - £20720 allocated to the Chittlehampton project.

- £73000 towards the mission of the Circuit. (Balance remaining from the sale of Ashreigney Zion Chapel).

Note: Preparation for sale of the Chittlehampton cottage next to the chapel owned by the Methodist Church (project ID 48809) had final consent from TMCP in May 2022. This is to support the refurbishment of the Chittlehampton Methodist Church. Two interest free loans of £25000 in 2020 and £25000 in 2022 were agreed by the Circuit to support this project when required. To be repaid to the Circuit on the sale of the cottage and/or schoolroom. In 2020, £5000 of the £25000 was loaned to the Chittlehampton Methodist account. The balance of the first loan remaining in our CFB account. The second amount of £25000 (second loan agreed in March 2022) was linked to our Circuit TMCP account. Of which £4280.79 was transferred to the Chittlehampton Methodist account on 27/02/25.

## Future plans

Circuit financial plans for the coming year have been prepared on the basis that there remains one full time Superintendent Minister and a part time administrator. The financial budget and church assessments will be based on the assessments required by District plus other expenses which would normally increase in line with the % increase in the stipend. In principle it has been agreed in the following year to employ a part time Youth Worker and a part time Pioneer Community Worker but this will depend on funding.

## Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 will be independently examined and prepared as recommended by Charity law.

Full Name of Charity: South Molton & Ringsash Methodist Circuit

Registration Charity Number: 1168118

Main communication address: Wesley House, North St, South Molton EX36 3AW

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

List Circuit trustees at the end this report.

## Circuit Ministers and Officers

Circuit Superintendent Minister:      Revd Anna Flindell

Circuit Office & Finance Administrator:      Mrs A Vellacott

Circuit Stewards                      Mr Martyn Short

   Mrs Monica Fry

The Circuit Leadership Team are responsible for the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Circuit during the year. This is supported by the Circuit Office & Finance Administrator.

Examiner: Elizabeth Stock. Devon Bookkeeper Ltd, 71 East St, South Molton. EX36 3DQ

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB)

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

Current accounts: Lloyds Bank

### **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. The Circuit Local preachers committee and property committee are also involved in management decisions and report to the Circuit meeting.

### **Trustee Training**

There are a range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Circuit including the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church'.

### **Related Parties**

The Circuit is part of the South West Peninsula Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

### **Risk Management**

The major risks are identified by the Circuit Leadership Team with action taken when necessary.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on an ongoing 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 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 Molton & Ringsash 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 6 months' normal expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on property and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, fund regular expenditure in the event of any income shortfall.

## LIST OF 37 CIRCUIT TRUSTEES

CHRISTOPHER JOHN BALE	Trustee
-----------------------	---------

---

STELLA MAY CHAPPLE	Trustee
--------------------	---------

---

REVD ANNA FLINDELL	Superintendent
--------------------	----------------

---

MONICA FRY	Circuit Steward
------------	-----------------

---

JEAN MILDON	Trustee
-------------	---------

---

MORLEY CHAPPLE	Trustee
----------------	---------

---

MICHAEL GEORGE HOLLAND	Trustee
------------------------	---------

---

ROSELLA LILIAN TURNER	Trustee
-----------------------	---------

---

BRIAN JOHN AYRE	Trustee
-----------------	---------

---

DANIEL NICHOLAS SMITH	Trustee
-----------------------	---------

---

PAMELA JOY PARKHOUSE	Trustee
----------------------	---------

---

ANSTICE RUTH GOVIER	Trustee
---------------------	---------

---

GERALD WILLIAM WALDON	Trustee
-----------------------	---------

---

MARTIN ROGER HICKMAN BA	Trustee
-------------------------	---------

---

SUSAN ELAINE RADLEY BED HONS                      Trustee

JOSEPHINE MARY TURNER                      Trustee

WENDY MAY SUMMERS                      Trustee

DEREK WILLIAM SUMMERS                      Trustee

MICHAEL TERENCE COURTNEY                      Trustee

ROSEMARIE JEAN COURTNEY                      Trustee

WILLIAM JOHN THORNE                      Trustee

SHEILA COLLIER                      Trustee

CHRISTINE MARY HOLLAND                      Trustee

BETTY PAUL MAAT                      Trustee

JOYCE EVANS                      Trustee

MARTYN BERNARD SHORT                      Circuit Steward

SUSAN GLADYS PROCTER                      Trustee

PEARL LATHAM                      Trustee

ROSEMARY RUTH KNIGHTS                      Trustee

SIDNEY JOHN CHAPPLE                      Trustee

DOREEN MARY LAKE

Trustee

ARTHUR SYDNEY VENNER MILDON

Trustee

MARTIN DAVIES

Trustee

GWENDOLINE MAY KINGDON

Trustee

PHYLLIS GLORIA MANNING

Trustee

DAVID HAROLD HOOPER

Trustee

RAYMOND JOHN KINGDON

Trustee



**CIRCUIT  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

South Molton & Ringsash Methodist

Circuit

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2025**

South West Peninsula Methodist

District

Circuit no

37/22

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1168118

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:

Revd Anna Flindell

Circuit Stewards:

Martyn Short

Monica Fry

Treasurer: Circuit Stewards

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

South Molton & Ringsash  
Methodist

Circuit

SECTION A			Un - restricted Funds	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a2	Assessment/Share		88,395			88,395	80,142
a3	Capital receipts			129,265		129,265	
a4	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,599	5,198		7,797	4,222
a5	Grants						
a6	Other receipts		25,574			25,574	16,592
a7	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>116,568</b>	<b>134,464</b>		<b>251,032 (a8)</b>	<b>100,956</b>

SECTION B							
	PAYMENTS						
b2	Stipends, salaries, NIC, Pension and travel costs		46,871			46,871	44,309
b3	Manse Costs		35,097			35,097	45,912
b4	Administration etc		10,000	23		10,022	8,198
b5	District Assessment		23,502			23,502	20,960
b6	Grants & donations		2,000			2,000	
b7	Contributions to District Advance Fund			176		176	
b8	Other payments		2,706	4,281		6,987	6,519
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>120,176</b>	<b>4,480</b>		<b>124,656 (b9)</b>	<b>125,898</b>

SECTION C							
	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR						
c1		(a7-b9)	(3,608)	129,983		126,375	(24,942)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		38,978	40,495		79,473 (c6)	104,415
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	<b>35,370</b>	<b>170,478</b>		<b>205,848</b>	<b>79,473</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>35,370</b>	<b>170,478</b>		<b>205,848 (c8)</b>	<b>79,473 (c6)</b>

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				793		
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				793		
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1 + d2 - d3)</b>						



## 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 Youth					0	0
e2 Circuit Choir	1,612	1,320			2,419	2,711
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,612	1,320	292		2,419 (e11)	2,711 (e12)
Circuit accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	251,032 (a8)	124,656 (b9)	126,375	(c7)	79,473 (c6)	205,848 (c8)
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT</b>	<b>252,643</b>	<b>125,976</b>	<b>126,667</b>		<b>81,892 (x)</b>	<b>208,559 (y)</b>
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

## SECTION F

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## CIRCUIT - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	16,593	18,886
f3 Bank Deposit Account	7,499	1,024
f4 Central Finance Board	48,324	65,898
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	7,057	120,040
f6 Other funds		
<b>f7 SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>79,473 (c6)</b>	<b>205,848 (c8)</b>
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance totals above) (e12)	2,419 (e11)	2,711 (e12)
<b>f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CIRCUIT</b>	<b>81,892 (x)</b>	<b>208,559 (y)</b>

## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land and Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,078,500	1,688,500
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	5000	9280
g5 Other Liabilities	250,000	0

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 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 Circuit Steward .....



Date... 4/3/2026

Name and address ..... Martyn Short

Catham Farm, Burrington, Umberleigh, EX37 9JT

### Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be\* presented to the Circuit meeting held on ... 04/03/2026 .

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



Name of the Chair of the meeting .... Revd Anna Flindell

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... South Molton &amp; Ringsash Methodist Circuit

Charity Number .. 1168118

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ~~South Molton & Ringsash Methodist~~ <sup>SOUTH MOLTON & RINGSASH METHODIST</sup> Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2025 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 

Name of independent examiner ELIZABETH STOLK

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FICB

Name of firm (where appropriate) THE DEVON BOOKKEEPER LIMITED

Address 71 EAST STREET

SOUTH MOLTON Post Code EX36 3DCQ

Date 9 February 2026

\* delete or circle as appropriate