



WEY VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT  
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

To 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

## **Administrative Information**

Wey Valley Methodist Circuit consists of 13 churches, from Walton-on-Thames in the north to Cranleigh in the south.

The Circuit is a registered charity number 1137300.

The full correspondence addresses of the 13 churches in the Circuit are:

Addlestone Methodist Church, 71 Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2AR

Byfleet Methodist Church, Rectory Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7LL

Cranleigh Methodist Church, 188 High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8RL

Godalming United Church, Bridge Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3DU

Guildford Methodist Church, at St Mary's, Quarry Street, Guildford, Surrey, GUI 3TY

Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey, GU21 2DR

Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, Surrey, GUI 2SH

St Michael's Ecumenical Church, Dartmouth Avenue, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5PJ

Stoughton Methodist Church, Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 9PT

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church, Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2SR.

West Horsley Methodist Church, 97 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6DD

Weybridge Methodist Church, Heath Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8TB

Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4LH

The full correspondence addresses of the six manses in the Circuit are:

8 Eastgate Gardens, Guildford, Surrey, GUI 4AZ

Epworth, Charterhouse Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2AL

72 Collingwood Crescent, Boxgrove Estate, Guildford, GUI 2PF

48 Lane End Drive, Knaphill, Surrey, GU21 2QG

2 Clements Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 3LY

36 Woodham Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4DP

A seventh property at 288 Albert Drive, Sheerwater, Surrey, GU21 5JX is owned jointly between the Methodist Church and the Diocese of Guildford.

Correspondence for the Circuit should be addressed to the Superintendent Minister or the Circuit Administrator, Ms Sue Howson, Circuit Office, Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive, GUI 2SH, email: [circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk)

## **Circuit Meeting Members (Managing Trustees)**

Circuit Meeting membership is made up of the ministerial team, supernumerary ministers, circuit officers, and representatives from the churches. Guidance on procedure and membership is taken from the Methodist Church Constitutional Practice and Discipline and the Circuit Constitution.

*Chair* — Superintendent Minister, Rev Keith Beckingham

*Secretary* — Jenny Jackson

*Ministers* — Rev Asif Das, Rev David Faulkner, Rev Paul Hulme, Rev Sydney Samuel Lake

*Supernumerary Ministers* — Rev Peter Hills, Rev Barrie Tabraham, Rev J Allan Taylor

*District Refugee and Interfaith Advisor* — Rev Claire Hargreaves

*Circuit Stewards* — Philip Beastall, Helen Belsham, David Lander, Carole Steele, Roger Stickland (Treasurer until January 2019), Dave Paterson (Treasurer from January 2019), James Strawson, Linda Weedon

*Property Secretary* — George Hammond (until February 2019)

*Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Secretary* — Lyn McKay

*Safeguarding Officer* — Margaret Woolcock

*Lay Worker (Circuit Appointed Pastoral Assistant)* — Eileen Macdonald

*Lay Worker Representative* — Allison Jackson

### *Church Representatives:*

Addlestone — Daphne Platt, Rebecca Strong

Byfleet — Vaughan Starkey, Margaret Watts

Cranleigh — Adriaan Berrevoets, Glenda Sewell

Godalming — Alison Briscoe, Richard Gidlow, Sylvia Kelley, Alan Steele,

Guildford — David Birch, Michael Lee

Knaphill — Shirley Chase, Lynda Shore, Linda Todd

Merrow — Hugh Bradley, Graham Long, Joan Tabraham

St Michael's Sheerwater - Peter Francis

Stoughton — Jean Champion, Marion Tismond

Walton-on-Thames — Duncan Curtis, Ross Richardson

West Horsley — Margaret Faulkner, Ruth Isaac

Weybridge — Robert Lewis, Carol Smith

Trinity, Woking — David Broadley, John Nelson, Jean Normington, Sue Waddell

### *Reps to Synod:*

Philip Beastall, Margaret Faulkner, Nan Macfarlane\*, John Nelson, Carole Steele, Margaret Watts, Linda Weedon.

\* after Nan Macfarlane died in 2018 Lyn McKay stepped in as a substantive member.

Number of Members in Circuit

789

The membership figures for each church are those returned as at 1 November 2018. (In brackets are the membership figures for each church returned as at 1 November 2017).

Addlestone Methodist Church	26	(25)
Byfleet Methodist Church	69	(78)
Cranleigh Methodist Church	46	(46)
Godalming United Church	145	(147)
Guildford Methodist Church	35	(36)
Knaphill Methodist Church	82	(92)
Merrow Methodist Church	74	(75)
St Michael's Ecumenical Church, Sheerwater	22	(28)
Stoughton Methodist Church	31	(32)
Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church	69	(72)
West Horsley Methodist Church	19	(21)
Weybridge Methodist Church	28	(28)
Trinity Methodist Church, Woking	143	(148)

## **Aims and Organisation**

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit formation was approved by the Methodist Conference in July 2016.

Under the auspices and governance of the Methodist Church it has its' own constitution. Oversight of the circuit is exercised through the Chair of the South East District of the Methodist Church.

### **Circuit Mission Statement:**

The Circuit commits to lead and support local churches in releasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit to allow modelling of Christ-like lives, so that the good news of God's love can be witnessed in all areas of worship, fellowship and outreach.

We aim to do this by:

- Supporting opportunities for worship and faith sharing.
- Encouraging sharing of gifts — both talents and material resources.
- Promoting the passing on of experience in all areas of church life through resource groups.
- Facilitating training.

Ministers work as a team with pastoral charge of independent sections. They meet regularly for support and prayer, and regularly with lay members of the leadership team for strategic planning and updates on developments around circuit business. Communication is facilitated through the quarterly Circuit newsletter, the Circuit website and the Circuit Annual Report.

The following are Trust activities as approved by the Circuit Meeting:

- a) To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love through the provision of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike
- b) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups to encourage growth and learning through mutual support and care
- c) Develop an attitude of service that enables members to stand alongside those in need
- d) Promote activities that create opportunities for others to explore Christianity

### **Objectives for 2019/20**

In addition to supporting its continued regular activities, the Circuit in 2019/20 will:

- Assist presbyters who may need to take additional pastoral charge through a time of Connexional ministerial shortage
- Help all circuit leaders to use their particular gifts in the life of the circuit
- Explore opportunities of employing lay workers to assist with specific areas of church life
- Assist all churches with building projects in order to keep the focus on mission
- Make connections between churches facing similar issues, challenges and opportunities.

- Continue to develop an atmosphere of open trusted communication across the circuit and churches
- Provide a range of relevant and accessible training
- Help all circuit churches to celebrate the ethos of Methodism, particularly the open, inclusive and connexional approach
- Continue to develop a five-year Strategic Staffing Plan and review manse provision in the light of this.

## **Review of Progress and Achievements 2018/19**

The Circuit came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016. The circuit continued to work at pulling the circuit together to work as one. To this end more circuit led services, training and events were co-ordinated by the leadership team to encourage interaction of churches in the circuit.

The development of a five-year Strategic Staffing Plan was disrupted by the unexpected early retirement of a minister which left a vacancy in one of our larger churches which had to be covered by the Superintendent Minister with the help of supernumerary ministers. The Methodist Church of Great Britain continues to experience difficulties in filling ministerial appointments, and this has impacted on the Wey Valley Circuit.

The Circuit Grants Committee has continued to support churches with building projects, with criteria including the identification of the mission objective in any development. Major property schemes were undertaken at Cranleigh Methodist Church and St Mary's, Guildford.

The Circuit was supportive of the development of ambitious mission plans at Trinity, Woking.

The Finance, Mission, Property and Safeguarding resource groups continued to operate successfully. Of particular note was the Mission Group which organised the Circuit Mission Day in October, Circuit Prayer Vigil in November and Circuit Mission Supper in February. The Worship Group met once in this year and it was decided that the next meeting would be called when required. Similarly, the Youth and Children's Work and Communications groups did not meet but receive regular electronic updates.

Starting in September 2018 The Big Read, encouraged and supported participation in a long-term act of worship – to begin reading the Bible from cover to cover one chapter a day.

Training has been offered to all churches, including face-to-face and online training and topics were varied; from an organ workshop, to health and safety basics to display screen equipment.

Work has been carried out to all manses requiring maintenance during the year and the vacant manse at 36 Woodham Road, Woking has been let out.

The ministers are supported by their own monthly meetings, supervision on a regular as required basis, and by the regular meetings of the Circuit Leadership team.

The Circuit's quarterly magazine, The Wey Forward, continued to be the focus of communications within the Circuit. The Circuit's website [www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk](http://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk) provided information on the life of the Circuit and its churches to both those involved and the general public. The quarterly preaching plan continued to be available here too.

To provide full administrative support for the Circuit, the Circuit Administration Officer and PA to the Superintendent, continued working five mornings a week from the Circuit Office at Merrow Methodist church. The office also provides a useful location for Circuit committee meetings.

The Circuit also employs a part time (4 hours per week) Safeguarding Administrator, based at Walton who meets periodically with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, and the Assistant Circuit Safeguarding Officer. This Circuit Safeguarding Team meets with the Superintendent Minister and the District Safeguarding Officer as required. The local Church Safeguarding Officers meet every six months with the Circuit Safeguarding Team. The Safeguarding Team are assisted by the Superintendent Minister and District staff in keeping DBS checks current.

## Financial Reports and Schedules

### Wey Valley Circuit Reserves Policy

The Wey Valley Circuit is part of the Methodist Church Registered Charity no 1132208. The Methodist Church is divided into 30 districts and each District is divided into Circuits. The Wey Valley Circuit is part of the South East District and has responsibility for 13 Methodist churches. The circuit has five primary goals:

1. To ensure that all churches under its control have the correct governance structures in place as prescribed by the Methodist Church of Britain standing orders and the Charities commission.
2. To appoint and allocate minister(s) to the Circuit, within its financial capabilities, and then allocate pastoral care of the 13 local churches to each of its' appointed ministers. Where there are insufficient ministers to provide the required services that suitably qualified lay volunteer staff are in place.
3. To provide serviced housing for all appointed minister(s) in accordance with standing orders guidance.
4. To provide leadership and direction for churches to facilitate bringing members of the churches within the Circuit into a deeper fellowship with Christ.
5. To manage funds built up over time due to sale of Churches, manses, donations and the like. These funds where they exceed the reserve limits will be paid to churches, on receipt of an approved application, to fund repairs and projects at a church level.

The Circuit receives its income from the churches who contribute a fixed quarterly amount which is based on a formula which amongst other factors considers the size of the church, the ability of the church to pay and the percentage of a minister's time allocated to the church. The circuit draws up a budget annually which estimates the level of expenditure expected in the following year. The circuit has three main areas of expense:

1. Payment of Ministerial staff payroll costs
2. Payment of services, rates and repairs on the houses allocated to ministers
3. Payment of lay staff members and office costs relating to the Circuit Office

To achieve its' objectives the Circuit needs to ensure that it has sufficient funds to cover the ministerial salaries, ministerial housing costs and Circuit office costs so it can continue to provide the local churches with the ministerial staff to ensure that local churches can continue to serve their local community. As the Circuits' income is paid quarterly by each church the requirement for each church to hold sufficient reserves to cover their running costs and circuit assessment is a key part of the reserving policy. Mindful of our Biblical responsibility not to hoard it is important that this be balanced with a sense that we need to be forward looking and plan for known events and responsibility for others (including employees) is important. So the circuit has set in place a requirement for churches to hold 6 months running and assessment costs in reserves. Currently all churches adhere to this policy.

At a circuit level we have a reserves policy which requires us to hold 6 months reserves of the previous years running costs adjusted for any new known expenditure or adjusted for any one-off expenditure items in the previous year. The circuit is currently complying with this policy. Where

churches are struggling to meet their assessments the circuit will reserve a further 6 months of that churches assessment.

#### Overview of reserves and expenditure

	2019	2018	Change
Reserves exclude Property	749,775	792,970	(43,195)
Yearly Expenses	434,192	515,798	(81,606)
Expense cover in reserves	1.73 times	1.54 times	

The Circuit has reserves in excess to meet the Reserve Requirements of 6 months. The Circuit has not been made aware of any churches that will default on their current assessments.

#### Financial Strategy

The financial strategy of the Circuit is driven by the overall mission aims.

Specifically, we aim to:

- Support the ongoing activities of circuit churches by providing financial assistance where needed to address urgent issues that are restricting or threatening the continuance of activities.
- Providing adequate reserves to cover the obligations of the circuit whilst providing stability in the individual church contributions to the overall cost. In line with guidance, we are aiming to hold a general reserve representing 6 months expenditure. Current reserves are in excess of this figure, but this is to cover a number of years when we anticipate running at a deficit.
- Utilising the opportunity of having some rental income until the end of 2019 to create a development fund to support specific activities.
- Selling property which is no longer needed or unsuitable to provide a capital fund for major projects. At the end of the financial year, we are also holding large balances which have been designated for projects at Guildford St Mary's and Cranleigh.
- During the year the circuit assumed a formal maintenance responsibility for the priest's house at 288 Albert Drive, Sheerwater the ownership of which is shared between Methodist Trustees and the Diocese of Guildford.
- Hold a reserve for manse repairs and refurbishments to smooth the impact on any particular year to a maximum of £80,000.

As the significant sums currently held by the circuit are designated for specific projects or to cover for planned changes, the investment policy is for low risk and funds are held in cash.

## Financial Information

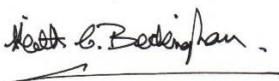
The circuit continues to achieve an overall financial healthy position. This is the third year of the Wey Valley Circuit and we have continued to manage to draw on the best practices from the two previous circuits (Woking & Walton and Guildford).

General Fund	5,180,835	Above the target 6 months average of three-year expenditure
Unallocated Capital	85,629	Used during the year to fund church refurbishment and maintenance projects. Subject to annual levy if not used on specific needs
Manse Property Reserve	48,826	Used during the year to fund church property expenditure
Refugees reserve	3,569	Used to support refugees in need within the Circuit in conjunction with local authorities
University Chaplaincy Fund	7,500	Reserved to for use by the chaplaincy team with Circuit trustee approval
Total Unrestricted Funds	£ 5,326,359	

The financial statements are below.

These include the manses which are held in the circuit accounts under a responsibility delegated from the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) from whom approval must be sought when disposal or short-term rental is recommended by the Circuit Meeting. Methodist properties originally held in a variety of trusts where transferred to TMCP by an Act of Parliament.

Approved by the trustees on 25 March 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Keith C. Beckingham  
Chair of the Trustees