



Annual Report **2017**

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Methodist Insurance PLC specialises in the insurance of property and liability risks carried by churches belonging to the Methodist community and its associated organisations.

The Company aims to provide a first class service to all clients, to satisfy their needs and expectations and to deal promptly and responsibly with their claims.

As part of its Christian witness, the Company's investment portfolio is constructed on a basis consistent with the moral stance and teachings of the Methodist Church.

Methodist Insurance PLC

Officers and Professional Advisers

Directors

D. S. Walton DL, LLB *Chairman*
A. G. Gibbs MA, FCA *Deputy Chairman*
M. G. Angell ACII
Revd. L. J. Barriball
C. H. Boothman FRICS, MACostE
J. M. Coates ACII
D. M. Crompton ACII
Revd. P. H. Davis BA
J. M. Hamilton BSc (Econ), FIA

Company Secretary

Mrs R. J. Hall FCIS

CEO

M. G. Angell ACII

Auditor

KPMG LLP

Registered Office

Beaufort House,
Brunswick Road,
Gloucester, GL1 1JZ

Head Office

St. Ann's House
St. Ann's Place
Manchester, M2 7LP
Tel: 0161 833 9696
Fax: 0161 833 1287

Company Registration Number

00006369

Directors' Biographies

D. S. Walton DL, LLB Chairman

Business and Development Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 2003

Chairman of the Board since 2012

Qualified as a solicitor and is a partner in DWF LLP. Former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference (2008-9) and chair of the Methodist Council (2009-12). He chairs the Law & Polity Committee of the Methodist Church and the Monitoring Group set up by the Anglican and Methodist Churches in 2015. He is also a trustee of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust.

A. G. Gibbs MA, FCA Deputy Chairman

Chair of Investment Committee, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 1991

After graduating from Cambridge University, Andrew qualified as a chartered accountant in 1971 and spent four years working for Save the Children in Bangladesh and the Methodist Church in Côte d'Ivoire. On return to the UK he worked in investment management for the Church of England and Charities. He retired as Chief Executive of CCLA Investment Management in 2005. Andrew has been involved in the Methodist Church locally and nationally, having completed a six year term as Connexional Treasurer. He is now treasurer of his local church.

M. G. Angell ACII

Chief Executive Officer

First appointed to the Board in 2015

Michael, a qualified chartered insurer, is CEO of Methodist Insurance PLC and Church Operations Director of Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. He has over 30 years' experience in the faith sector of the insurance industry. Michael is a director on the Board of Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services Limited and a former director of The Baptist Insurance Company plc. Outside work Michael is a keen sportsman and is chairman of the Gloucestershire Lawn Tennis Association and a councillor of the National LTA. He is also chairman of his local national league rugby club, Old Patesians RFC and is actively involved in his local church.

Revd. L. J. Barriball

Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 2005

Superintendent of Bolton Methodist Mission and trustee of the Simeon Centre and Trustee of the Destitution Project (Bolton). She has a background in accountancy and business management before becoming a Methodist Minister. Linda's focus is finance, grant making and customer service recognising the immense work of lay people in the church.

C. H. Boothman FRICS, MACostE

Chair of Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, Investment Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 1993

Appointed to the Board as a property valuation consultant. Colin is a lifelong Methodist and qualified as a chartered surveyor in 1976 and was a partner in Gleeds Construction Consultants responsible for the North West and latterly regional director for the Asia Pacific business. Former governor of Altrincham Grammar School and chair of the Development Company.

J. M. Coates ACII

Business and Development Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 2009

John is a chartered insurer and worked most recently as director of Church operations for Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc before he retired in 2015 and was appointed a non-executive director. He is an Honorary Lay Canon at Gloucester Cathedral, a member of The Dean and Chapter and a Director of Gloucester Cathedral Enterprises Ltd.

D. M. Crompton ACII

Business and Development Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 2009

David is a Chartered Insurance Broker and an associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute. He is owner and managing director of an insurance broking company. David has a lifelong involvement with the Methodist Church and serves both his local Methodist Church and Circuit in various positions. He is also trustee of a local charity and former school governor.

Directors' Biographies

Revd. P. H. Davis BA

Chair of Business and Development Committee

First appointed to the Board in 2006

Since 2014 he has chaired the Business and Development Committee. A Methodist Presbyterian with over 30 years' experience of circuit ministry 20 of them as superintendent. He has, and continues to serve on several Connexional committees. He was appointed chair of the Lancashire District in 2013.

J. M. Hamilton BSc (Econ), FIA

Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee member, Investment Committee member

First appointed to the Board in 2005

He is a retired actuary, having worked for thirty years for Britannic Assurance plc, followed by a period in consultancy. He is a director of Epworth Investment Management Ltd and a trustee and director of Carers Trust Solihull.

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's review of business operations

The Company has seen a solid performance for the year, despite the continued market pressure as competitors enter the market place and in particular the Faith forum. The performance for the year was largely attributable to the continuation of benign claims activity, which was also prominent during 2016. With the one small exception of storm Doris in February 2017 there were no other notable weather activates experienced during the year.

The year continued to see political instabilities, as the government worked through negotiations with the European Union to agree a viable transition deal in readiness for our ultimate exit date in March 2019. These have had a varying impact on the economy and the investment markets and as a Board we will continue to monitor what impacts and opportunities such events may bring in the coming year.

The detailed financial results show a turnover of £9,724,985 (2016: £9,602,766) resulting in an operating profit of £4,248,631 (2016: £4,066,442). This profit arises from a positive result on underwriting of £2,442,635 (2016: £2,337,842) and a net investment return of £1,805,998 (2016: £1,720,930). The Company successfully embedded Solvency II and during the year submitted their first full set of financial and operational reports under this regime.

At 31 December 2017, as has been the case for many years, the Company's capital position remained very strong, with £20,716,013 (2016: £20,604,247) in financial investments net of derivative liabilities, a total that changed little over the year. This was because, although investment income (a combination of net income and capital appreciation, less investment expenses) totalled £1,805,998 (2016: £1,720,930), there was a substantial sale of investments in December to enable the charitable grant payment to be implemented before the end of the year.

2017 was a year in which all the main asset classes produced a positive return: the market index total return on UK conventional gilts was 2.0%, while on UK equities the total return, which includes dividend income, was 13.0%; for overseas equities, the total return was 13.3%. Collectively, after expenses, the total return on financial investments for the year is estimated at about 8.7%. Over the past three calendar years, the cumulative total return after expenses is estimated at 18.7%, which compares favourably with the prudential objective of making a positive return (i.e. a return in excess of 0%) over all rolling periods of three years.

The Company's investments and cash available for long term investment are managed by Sarasin & Partners. The managers are given discretion in the choice of investments and in asset allocation within prescribed parameters. The performance of the managers is measured against agreed benchmarks based upon market indices. In 2017, performance was mixed, but overall was close to the benchmarks.

At the year end, considering the funds held by the Investment Manager, 37% of the Company's portfolio was invested in bonds, chiefly short and medium dated conventional and index linked gilts, together with some corporate and overseas bonds. 32% of these assets (including some cash) were held in a distinct portfolio to meet our prudential capital adequacy requirements as an insurance company. 53% of the Company's investments were split between UK equities (25%) and overseas equities (28%) which together constituted the bulk of the Uncommitted Capital Portfolio. The remaining 10% held by the Manager was in cash and other investments.

Following the Company's strong performance we have been able to pay grants totalling £4,000,000 (2016: £4,000,100) resulting in retained profit of £248,631 (2016: £66,342) before tax.

We remain committed to supporting the Methodist Church, in both the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as its wider community and we were pleased to have such a positive response to our Church Community Award which drew over 150 applications from a wide variety of churches doing outstanding outreach work.

We are grateful to all the administration staff in Manchester and Gloucester who continue to provide the Company with such a high standard of service, which continues to receive praise from our customers. Once again I would also like to record my appreciation to my fellow directors for their continuing support.

David S. Walton
Chairman on behalf of the Directors

Methodist Insurance PLC

Strategic Report

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Objective and strategy

Methodist Insurance PLC (the Company) is a public limited company incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom, authorised and regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The objective of the Company is to be the first choice insurer for Methodist churches by running an ethical and profitable general insurance company helping communities to create safe environments for worship, witness and service. This is to be achieved by underwriting its cost of risk and providing risk management advice. The Company looks to maintain their strong capital position allowing them to continue on an ongoing basis to provide these services at a competitive cost along with reinvesting in the Methodist community via the provision of grants.

Business model

The principal activity of the Company is the transaction of fire, accident and ancillary liability insurance. The Company provides insurance and risk management advice for churches.

All insurance risks undertaken by the Company since 1998 are reinsured with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, except eligible terrorism risks which are reinsured with Pool Re. It is anticipated that the activities of the Company will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

To help generate sustainable operating profits, the Company looks to achieve an effective cost base in providing its customers with the highest quality of service be it in buying services or making claims. To this endeavour the Company has outsourced its operational activities to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, enabling the Company to provide its customers with a service from highly trained staff who are experts in their field at a competitive cost.

The Board monitor the service levels provided through the outsourced agreement on a monthly basis to ensure they meet expectations and that the Company is receiving value for money. These measures include but are not limited to telephony statistics, customer satisfaction, quotes issued and conversion to policies.

Review of business performance

The results of the Company for the year are shown in the statement of profit or loss on page 14.

Premium growth

Gross written premiums increased to £9,724,985 (2016: £9,602,766) representing an increase of 1.3% on the previous year. Premium increase can be attributed to the cessation of the planned premium reductions on church business and the overall impact of inflation.

Claims ratio

Our claims ratio (incurred claims to earned premiums) of 15.1% (2016: 12.7%) shows a 2.4 point increase on the previous year. The key driver for this variance has been an increase in large claims, however, the overall claims performance has benefited by a second year of relatively benign claims activity.

Profit commission

The reinsurance treaty with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office continues. The profit commission receivable for the year based on the sharing of the net underwriting result was £2,243,975 (2016: £2,318,233) with the key driver being another year of low attritional claims experience.

Investment return

Following an upturn in the stock market during 2017 the Company's underlying investments delivered a positive return. The Company continues to monitor and review the investment strategy to ensure a balance between potential reward and future losses. The net investment return was £1,805,998 (2016: £1,720,930).

Grants

The aim of the Company and the directors continues to be to support Methodist organisations. During 2017 charitable grants of £4,000,000 (2016: £4,000,100) were paid. This sum is largely made available as grants for circuits, districts and other bodies with Methodist values at their centre.

Strategic Report

Retained profits

The factors outlined above have all had an influence on the results for the year. A profit before tax of £248,631 (2016: £66,342). After the impact of tax the amount of retained earnings has increased by £267,174 (2016: £227,710 increase). The Company remains well capitalised as examined in note 4.

The directors consider that the Company is well placed to perform satisfactorily in the future.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties are:

- the Company has adverse development protection cover from Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. The Company is exposed to the risk of claims being incurred above the current level of provisions, up to the point at which the reinsurance cover takes effect;
- the impact on profit commission if there are underwriting losses or significantly adverse claims experience. This is disclosed further under note 3 – Insurance risk;
- investment returns and the security of the investment portfolio. Financial risk is discussed in more detail in note 4 - Financial risk and capital management; and
- the reliance on Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc from an operational perspective. This is highlighted further in note 4.

Non-financial information statement

As an authorised insurance entity the Company is covered by sections 414CA and 414CB of the Companies Act 2006 (CA 2006). The Company has opted to take exemption in accordance with subsection 4(b) of s.414CA, and has not prepared the non financial information statement in the strategic report as it has no employees.

By order of the board

Mrs R. J. Hall
Secretary
26 April 2018

Directors' Report

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Future prospects

It is anticipated that the activities of the company will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

Going concern

The Company reinsures all of its current business, except for terrorism cover, with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, who also provide administrative services within a profit share arrangement. Therefore, except for investment, credit and counterparty risk, and the adverse development of certain pre - 1998 insurance risks, its financial risks are ultimately borne by the Ecclesiastical group, which has considerable financial resources. As a consequence, the directors believe the group is well placed to manage such risks in the foreseeable future, despite the current uncertain economic outlook. The directors also consider they have provided adequately for risks not reinsured with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc and, as such, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Annual Report and financial statements.

Dividends

The directors recommend the payment of dividends on the amounts paid up on the Company's ordinary shares, for the year ended 31 December 2017, absorbing the sum of £188 (2016: £188). This equates to a dividend of 1p per share (2016: 1p per share).

Political Donations

The Company did not make any contributions for political purposes in the current or prior year.

Directors

The directors of the Company at the date of this report are stated on page 2.

Revd. P. H. Davis and Revd. L. J. Barriball retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Company has made qualifying third party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its directors which were in place throughout the year and remain in force at the date of this report.

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, International Accounting Standard 1 requires that directors:

- properly select and apply accounting policies;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs are insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity's financial position and financial performance; and
- make an assessment of the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the CA 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Directors' Report

Auditor and the disclosure of information to the auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the Company's auditor, each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with Section 418 of the CA 2006.

In accordance with Section 489 of the CA 2006, a resolution proposing that KPMG LLP be re-appointed as auditor of the company will be put to the annual general meeting.

By order of the board

Mrs R. J. Hall
Secretary
26 April 2018

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Methodist Insurance PLC

1. Our opinion is unmodified

We have audited the financial statements of Methodist Insurance Plc ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Profit and Loss, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Equity, and the related notes, including the accounting policies in note 1.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of Company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion. Our audit opinion is consistent with our report to the audit committee.

We were appointed as auditor by the directors before 30 June 1986. The period of total uninterrupted engagement is for more than the 32 financial years ended 31 December 2017. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and we remain independent of the Company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities. No non-audit services prohibited by that standard were provided.

Overview		
Materiality	£120,000 (2016:£275,000)	
Financial statements as a whole	1% (2016: 2.3%) of Gross written premiums and commission income	
Risks of material misstatement		vs 2016
Recurring risks	Insurance contract liabilities	◀▶

2. Key audit matters: our assessment of risks of material misstatement

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) identified by us, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. We summarise below the key audit matters unchanged from 2016, in decreasing order of audit significance, in arriving at our audit opinion above, together with our key audit procedures to address those matters and, as required for public interest entities, our results from those procedures. These matters were addressed, and our results are based on procedures undertaken, in the context of, and solely for the purpose of, our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and consequently are incidental to that opinion, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Independent Auditor's Report

	The risk	Our response
Insurance contract liabilities (£22 million; 2016: £23.5 million) <i>Refer to Report, page 21 (accounting policy) and page 35 (financial disclosures).</i>	Subjective valuation The valuation of insurance contract liabilities requires significant judgement and actuarial expertise. The calculation of the actuarial best estimate and the margin over best estimate uses historical data, which is sensitive to external inputs and requires assumptions to be made in respect of current and future experience. Small changes in the assumptions and estimates used to value the insurance contract liabilities can have a significant impact on the overall liability valuation. Specifically, the pre-July 1998 insurance contract liabilities create the most significant risk of material misstatement as reinsurance thresholds in relation to those liabilities have not been reached. There is significant uncertainty in relation to the calculation of these liabilities as they relate to claims of abuse and these claim levels may be volatile.	Our procedures included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodology choice: our actuarial specialists performed an independent assessment of management's methodologies. - Our actuarial expertise: using our own actuarial specialists, inspecting the claims reserving report and evaluating and challenging the assumptions relating to current and future experience, including cost inflation and industry trends, and margin estimates. This is done by comparing them to expectations based on the Company's historical experience, current trends and our own industry knowledge. - Assessing transparency: assessing the Company's disclosures relating to the insurance contract liabilities, in particular in relation to key and sensitive assumptions. Our results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We found the valuation of the insurance contract liabilities to be acceptable.

3. Our application of materiality and an overview of the scope of our audit

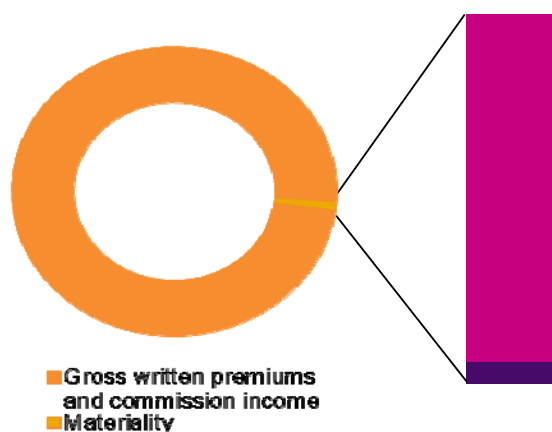
Materiality for the financial statements as a whole was set at £120k (2016: £275k), determined with reference to a benchmark of Gross written premiums and commission income, of which it represents 1% (2016: 2.3%).

We agreed to report to the Audit Risk and Compliance Committee any corrected or uncorrected identified misstatements exceeding £6k (2016: £13.8k), in addition to other identified misstatements that warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

Our audit of the company was undertaken to the materiality level specified above and was all performed at the Company's registered office in Gloucester and head office in Manchester.

Gross written premiums and commission income
 £12,100,000 (2016: £12,000,000)

Materiality
 £120,000 (2016: £275,000)



£120,000

Whole financial statements materiality (2016: £275,000)

£6,000

Misstatements reported to the audit risk and compliance committee (2016: £13,800)

Independent Auditor's Report

4. We have nothing to report on going concern

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We have nothing to report in these respects.

5. We have nothing to report on the strategic report and the directors' report

The directors are responsible for the strategic report and the directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover those reports and we do not express an audit opinion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the strategic report and the directors' report and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in those reports;
- in our opinion the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion those reports have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

6. We have nothing to report on the other matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

7. Respective responsibilities

Directors' responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 8, the Directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or other irregularities (see below), or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud, other irregularities or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

Irregularities – ability to detect

Our audit aimed to detect non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations (irregularities) that could have a material effect on the financial statements. We identified relevant areas of laws and regulations from our sector experience, through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards).

We had regard to laws and regulations in areas that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting (including related company legislation) and taxation legislation. We considered the extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statements items.

Independent Auditor's Report

In addition we considered the impact of laws and regulations and certain aspects of company legislation recognising the financial and regulated nature of the Company's activities. With the exception of any known or possible non-compliance, and as required by auditing standards, our work in respect of these was limited to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence. We considered the effect of any known or possible non-compliance in these areas as part of our procedures on the related financial statements items.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

As with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

8. The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alain de Braekeleer

(Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

1 Sovereign Square

Sovereign St.

Leeds, LS1 4DA

26 April 2018

Methodist Insurance PLC

Statement of Profit or Loss

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Revenue			
Gross written premiums	5	9,724,985	9,602,766
Outward reinsurance premiums	5	(9,724,985)	(9,602,766)
Net change in provision for unearned premiums	5	-	-
Net earned premiums	5	-	-
Commission income	6	2,376,753	2,443,102
Net investment return	7	1,805,998	1,720,930
Total revenue		4,182,751	4,164,032
Expenses			
Claims and change in insurance liabilities	8	(1,468,610)	(1,291,431)
Reinsurance recoveries	8	1,810,032	1,516,441
Commissions and other acquisition costs	9	(89,650)	(100,106)
Other operating and administrative expenses	10	(185,892)	(222,494)
Total operating expenses		65,880	(97,590)
Operating profit	11	4,248,631	4,066,442
Charitable grants	14	(4,000,000)	(4,000,100)
Profit before tax		248,631	66,342
Tax credit	15	18,731	69,475
Profit attributable to equity holders		267,362	135,817

All of the amounts above are in respect of continuing operations.

Methodist Insurance PLC

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Profit for the year after tax	267,362	135,817
Other comprehensive income		
Actuarial losses relating to pension fund	-	(163,931)
Change in asset ceiling	-	256,012
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss	-	92,081
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	-	92,081
Total comprehensive income for the year	267,362	227,898

Methodist Insurance PLC

Statement of Financial Position

at 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Assets			
Pension assets	17	-	144,263
Financial investments	18	20,721,884	20,654,735
Reinsurers' share of insurance contract liabilities	22	14,190,814	15,094,430
Current tax recoverable		6,904	7,414
Other assets	19	1,131,430	1,259,834
Cash and cash equivalents	20	4,170,621	4,069,355
Total assets		40,221,653	41,230,031
Equity			
Share capital	21	112,500	112,500
Retained earnings		17,247,787	16,980,613
Total shareholders' equity		17,360,287	17,093,113
Liabilities			
Insurance contract liabilities	22	22,025,109	23,524,418
Deferred tax liabilities	23	96,891	115,622
Other liabilities	24	739,366	496,878
Total liabilities		22,861,366	24,136,918
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities		40,221,653	41,230,031

The financial statements of Methodist Insurance PLC, company registration number 00006369, on pages 14 to 40 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 26 April 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

D. S. Walton *Chairman*

C. H. Boothman *Director*

Methodist Insurance PLC

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Share capital £	Retained earnings £	Total £
At 1 January 2016	112,500	16,752,903	16,865,403
Profit for the year	-	135,817	135,817
Other comprehensive income	-	92,081	92,081
Dividends	-	(188)	(188)
At 31 December 2016	112,500	16,980,613	17,093,113
Profit for the year	-	267,362	267,362
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Dividends	-	(188)	(188)
At 31 December 2017	112,500	17,247,787	17,360,287

Methodist Insurance PLC

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
Profit before tax	248,631	66,342
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Net fair value gains on financial investments	(1,230,038)	(1,451,996)
Income from investments	(592,295)	(590,357)
<i>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</i>		
Net decrease in insurance contract provisions	(1,499,309)	(3,169,914)
Net decrease in reinsurers' share of contract provisions	903,616	2,798,939
Net decrease/(increase) in other assets	245,895	(78,387)
Net increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	242,488	(1,195,914)
Cash used by operations	(1,681,012)	(3,621,287)
Dividends received	476,410	406,392
Interest received	142,657	180,812
Income tax received/(paid)	510	(880)
Net cash used by operating activities	(1,061,435)	(3,034,963)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Sales of financial investments	5,514,890	22,631,898
Purchases of financial investments	(4,352,001)	(21,389,047)
Net cash from investing activities	1,162,889	1,242,851
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid to company's shareholders	(188)	(188)
Net cash used by financing activities	(188)	(188)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	101,266	(1,792,300)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4,069,355	5,861,655
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	4,170,621	4,069,355

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in preparing the Company's financial statements are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently throughout the current and prior financial year.

Basis of preparation

The Company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRSs as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and endorsed by the EU. The accounting policies set out below have been applied. The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for the revaluation of certain financial instruments.

The Company has elected not to produce consolidated financial statements. The subsidiary disclosed in note 27 is dormant, having not traded since incorporation. The exemption in CA 2006 s405(2) is taken as the subsidiary is not material to the financial statements.

The directors consider they have provided adequately for risks not reinsured with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc and, as such, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

In accordance with IFRS 4, *Insurance Contracts*, the Company has applied existing accounting practices for insurance contracts, modified as appropriate to comply with the IFRS framework and applicable standards.

New and revised standards

The Standards adopted in the current year are either outside the scope of company transactions or do not materially impact the Company.

The following Standards were in issue but not yet effective and have not been applied in these financial statements.

Accounting Standard	Key requirements	Expected impact on financial statements	Effective date
IFRS 9, <i>Financial Instruments</i>	Provides a new model for the classification and measurement of financial instruments, a single, forward-looking 'expected loss' impairment model and a reformed approach to hedge accounting.	It is expected that equity instruments will continue to be measured at fair value through profit or loss. There is a possibility that the measurement of certain debt instruments will change to amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income, although this is being assessed. The Company is eligible for and will adopt the deferral approach, which gives a temporary exemption from applying IFRS 9 until the effective date of 'IFRS 17, Insurance contracts'.	Annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. Although can be deferred until 2021 for insurers.
IFRS 15, <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	Establishes principles for reporting useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers.	Insurance contracts are outside the scope of the Standard. The treatment of non-insurance fee and commission income under the Standard has been assessed and is not expected to have a significant impact on the financial statements.	Annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accounting Standard	Key requirements	Expected impact on financial statements	Effective date
IFRS 17, <i>Insurance Contracts</i>	Requires insurance liabilities to be measured at a current fulfillment value and provides a more uniform measurement and presentation approach for all insurance contracts. These requirements are designed to achieve the goal of a consistent, principle-based accounting for insurance contracts.	IFRS 17 is a comprehensive new accounting standard for insurance contracts covering recognition and measurement, presentation and disclosure. The standard was issued in May 2017 as replacement for 'IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts' and the impact of the standard on the financial statements is still being assessed. The Company expects to be able to use the simplified premium allocation approach to the majority of its insurance contracts, which applies mainly to short-duration contracts.	Applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2021 (subject to EU endorsement).

The other Standards in issue but not yet effective are not expected to materially impact the Company.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results ultimately may differ from those estimates.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling using an average exchange rate, as a proxy for the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the statement of profit or loss. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are translated at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined.

Product classification

Contracts under which the Company accepts significant insurance risk from another party (the policyholder) by agreeing to compensate the policyholder or other beneficiary if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholder, are classified as insurance contracts. Contracts that do not transfer significant insurance risk are classified as investment or service contracts. All contracts offered by the Company meet the definition of an insurance contract.

Premium income

Premiums are shown gross of commission paid to intermediaries and accounted for in the period in which the risk commences. Estimates are included for premiums not notified by the year end and provision is made for the anticipated lapse of renewals not yet confirmed. The proportion of premiums written in a year which relates to periods of risk extending beyond the end of the year are carried forward as unearned premiums.

Premiums written are shown net of insurance premium taxes. Outward reinsurance premiums are accounted for in the same accounting period as the premiums for the related direct insurance.

Fee and commission income

Fee and commission income primarily comprises reinsurance commissions receivable and is recognised on the trade date.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Net investment return

Investment income consists of dividends and interest receivable for the year, realised gains and losses, unrealised gains and losses including currency translation movements on fair value investments, less investment expenses and charges. Dividends on equity securities are recorded as revenue on the ex-dividend date, interest income is recognised as it accrues.

Realised gains or losses represent the difference between the net sales proceeds and purchase price or, if previously valued, the valuation at the last year end date. Unrealised gains and losses represent the difference between the valuation of investments at the year end date and their purchase price or, if they have been previously valued, their valuation at the last year end date.

Claims

General insurance claims incurred include all losses occurring during the year, whether reported or not, related handling costs, a reduction for the value of salvage and other recoveries, and any adjustments to claims outstanding from previous years.

Insurance contract liabilities

(i) Outstanding claims provisions

General insurance outstanding claims provisions are based on the estimated ultimate cost of all claims incurred but not settled at the year end date, whether reported or not. Significant delays are experienced in the notification and settlement of certain types of general insurance claims, particularly in respect of liability business, the ultimate cost of which cannot be known with certainty at the year end date. Any estimate represents a determination within a range of possible outcomes. Claims provisions are not discounted.

(ii) Provision for unearned premiums

The proportion of written premiums, gross of commission payable to intermediaries, attributable to subsequent periods is deferred as a provision for unearned premiums. The change in this provision is taken to the statement of profit or loss in order that revenue is recognised over the period of risk.

(iii) Liability adequacy

Provision for unexpired risks is made where it is anticipated, on the basis of information available at the year end date, that claims and administrative expenses are expected to exceed unearned premiums, after taking account of future investment income. Unexpired risks are assessed separately for each class of business. Surpluses and deficits are offset where business classes are considered to be managed together.

Reinsurance

The Company has a reinsurance treaty with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc whereby all business accepted by the company after July 1998 is fully reinsured with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc with the exception of terrorism cover which is reinsured through Pool Re. Reinsurance premiums are accounted for at the time the business is written by the Company. The Company's and the reinsurers' share of claims are recognised at the time the claims are notified or earlier by way of a provision for claims incurred but not reported.

The Company has protection cover with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc that limits the Company's liability to adverse development in historical claims.

If a reinsurance asset is impaired, the Company reduces the carrying amount accordingly and recognises that impairment loss in the statement of profit or loss. A reinsurance asset is impaired if there is objective evidence that, as a result of an event occurring after initial recognition, the Company may not receive all the amounts due to it under the terms of the contract, and the impact of the event on the amounts that the Company will receive can be reliably measured.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Financial instruments

IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* requires the classification of certain financial assets and liabilities into separate categories for which the accounting requirement is different.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and liabilities, and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value. Their subsequent measurement depends on their classification:

- Financial instruments designated as at fair value through profit or loss and available-for-sale financial assets are subsequently carried at fair value. Changes in the fair value of available-for-sale financial assets are recognised in other comprehensive income, all other changes in fair value are recognised through profit or loss in the period in which they arise; and
- All other financial assets and liabilities are held at amortised cost, using the effective interest method.

The directors consider that the carrying value of those financial assets and liabilities not carried at fair value in the financial statements approximates to their fair value.

Offset of financial assets and financial liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position, when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial investments

The Company classifies its quoted investments as financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss, as these investments are managed, and their performance evaluated, on a fair value basis.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on the trade date, which is the date that the Company commits to purchase or sell the assets, at their fair value adjusted for transaction costs. Investments classified at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently carried at fair value, with changes in fair value recognised through profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

The fair values of investments are based on quoted bid prices.

Derivative financial investments

Derivative financial instruments include foreign exchange contracts. All derivatives are initially recognised in the statement of financial position at their fair value, which usually represents their cost, if any, including any premium paid, and are subsequently remeasured at their fair value. All derivatives are carried as assets when the fair values are positive and as liabilities when the fair values are negative.

The notional or contractual amounts associated with derivative financial instruments are not recorded as assets or liabilities in the statement of financial position as they do not represent the fair value of these transactions.

Receivables arising from insurance and reinsurance contracts

Receivables arising from insurance and reinsurance contracts are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. Interest income on receivables is recognised on the effective interest rate basis.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made. Where the Company expects a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset when the reimbursement is virtually certain.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Company recognises a provision for onerous contracts when the expected benefits to be derived from a contract are less than the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract.

Contingent liabilities are disclosed if the future obligation is probable but the amount cannot be reliably estimated.

Employee benefits

The Company previously had exposure to a defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable salary for which Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc was the sponsoring employer. The assets of the scheme were held separately from those of the Company. The pension obligation was discharged in 2015.

In accordance with IAS 19 (Revised), current and past service costs, gains and losses on curtailments and settlements and net interest expense or income (calculated by applying a discount rate to the net defined benefit liability or asset), are recognised through profit or loss. Actuarial gains or losses are recognised in full in the period in which they occur in other comprehensive income.

Income tax

Income tax comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the statement of profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income, in which case it is recognised in other comprehensive income.

Current tax is the expected tax payable/(receivable) on the taxable result for the period and any adjustment to the tax payable in respect of previous periods.

Deferred tax is provided in full on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for tax purposes. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates expected to apply when the related deferred tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled based on tax rates and law which have been enacted or substantively enacted at the year end.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Appropriations

Dividends on ordinary shares are recognised in equity in the period in which they are approved by members.

2 Critical accounting estimates, and judgements in applying accounting policies

The Company makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates and judgements are regularly reviewed and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The ultimate liability arising from claims made under general business insurance contracts

The estimation of the ultimate liability arising from claims made under general business insurance contracts is a critical accounting estimate. The amount that the Company will ultimately pay with respect to such contracts is uncertain and will vary with the total number of claims made on each class of business, the amounts that claims settle for and the timings of payments.

The uncertainties surrounding the estimates of claims payments for the various classes of business are discussed further in note 3. General business insurance liabilities include a margin for risk and uncertainty in addition to the best estimates for future claims. The sensitivity of profit or loss in changes to the ultimate settlement cost of claims reserves is presented in note 22.

Notes to the Financial Statements

3 Insurance risk

The risk under any one insurance contract is the possibility that the insured event occurs and the uncertainty of the amount of the resulting claim. By the very nature of an insurance contract, this risk is unpredictable and difficult to quantify with certainty.

The principal risk that the Company faces under its insurance contracts is that the actual claims and benefit payments exceed the carrying amount of the insurance liabilities, which may occur if the frequency or severity of claims and benefits are greater than estimated. Insurance events are unpredictable and the actual level of claims and benefits may vary from year to year from the estimate established using statistical techniques.

Experience shows that the larger and more diversified the portfolio of similar insurance contracts, the smaller the variability about the expected outcome will be. As a niche market operator the Company's opportunity to diversify the type of insurance risks is limited, however, some diversity is achieved by the geographical spread of its business.

General business risks

General insurance business classes written include property and liability. Property cover mainly compensates the policyholder for damage suffered to their properties or for the value of property lost. Property may also include cover for pecuniary loss through the inability to use damaged insured properties. Liability insurance contracts protect policyholders from the liability to compensate injured employees (employers' liability) and third parties (public liability). Injury, death or incapacity as a result of an unforeseen event is covered by the accident class of business.

In all operations pricing controls are in place, underpinned by sound statistical analysis, market expertise and appropriate external consultant advice. The Company manages risks to limit severity through its underwriting strategy, a comprehensive reinsurance programme and proactive claims handling.

Frequency and severity of claims

(i) *Property classes*

For property insurance contracts, the number of claims made can be affected by weather events, changes in climate and crime rates. Individual claims can vary in amount since the properties insured are diverse in both size and nature. The cost of repairing property varies according to the extent of damage, cost of materials and labour charges.

Climate change may give rise to more frequent and severe extreme weather events, such as river flooding, hurricanes and drought, and their consequences, for example, subsidence claims.

The maximum claim payable is limited to the sum insured. The Company has the right to re-price the risk on renewal. It also has the ability to impose deductibles, reject fraudulent claims and pursue third parties for payment of some or all costs. These contracts are underwritten on a reinstatement basis or repair and renovation basis as appropriate. Costs of rebuilding properties, of replacement or indemnity for contents and time taken to restart operations for business interruption are the key factors that influence the level of claims. Individual large claims are more likely to arise from fire, storm or flood damage. The greatest likelihood of an aggregation of claims arises from weather related events.

(ii) *Liability classes*

For liability insurance contracts, the frequency and severity of claims can be affected by several factors. The most significant are the increasing level of awards for damages suffered and the increase in the number of cases that were latent for a long period of time. Inflation, from these and other sources, is a significant factor due to the long period typically required to settle these claims.

The Company has the right to re-price the risk on renewal. It also has the ability to impose deductibles, reject fraudulent claims and pursue third parties for payment of some or all costs. The severity of bodily injury claims is highly influenced by the value of loss of earnings and the future cost of care.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Concentrations of risk

The underwriting strategy is designed to ensure that the underwritten risks are well diversified by type, amount of risk and geographical spread. The Company protects its gross underwriting exposure through the use of a comprehensive programme of reinsurance. The concentration of insurance risk for the financial year before and after reinsurance by territory in relation to the type of risk accepted is summarised below, with reference to written premiums:

			Type of risk			Total £
			Property £	Liability £	Accident £	
2017						
United Kingdom	Gross		7,027,359	1,978,855	315,735	9,321,949
	Net		-	-	-	-
Eire	Gross		264,572	127,748	10,716	403,036
	Net		-	-	-	-
Total	Gross		7,291,931	2,106,603	326,451	9,724,985
	Net		-	-	-	-
2016						
United Kingdom	Gross		7,093,628	1,818,224	302,008	9,213,860
	Net		-	-	-	-
Eire	Gross		260,460	118,596	9,850	388,906
	Net		-	-	-	-
Total	Gross		7,354,088	1,936,820	311,858	9,602,766
	Net		-	-	-	-

Sources of uncertainty in the estimation of future claim payments

(i) Property classes

The property classes give rise to a variety of different types of claims including fire, business interruption, weather damage, subsidence and theft. There can be variability in both the number of claims in each period and the size of those claims. If a weather event happens near the end of the financial year, then the uncertainty about ultimate claims cost in the financial statements is much higher because there is insufficient time for adequate data to be received to assess the final cost of claims.

Claims payment, on average, occurs within a year of the event that gives rise to the claim, however there is variability around this average with larger claims typically taking longer to settle.

Subsidence claims are difficult to predict because the damage is often not apparent for some time. Changes in soil moisture conditions can give rise to changes in claims volume over time. The ultimate settlements can be small or large with a greater risk of a settled claim being re-opened at a later date.

(ii) Liability classes

The settlement value of claims arising under public and employers' liability is particularly difficult to predict. There is uncertainty as to whether any payments will be made and if they are, the amount and timing of the payments. Key factors driving the high levels of uncertainty include the late notification of possible claim events and the legal process.

Late notification of possible claims necessitates the holding of provisions for incurred claims that may only emerge some years into the future. In particular the effect of inflation over such a long period can be considerable and is uncertain. A lack of comparable past experience makes it difficult to quantify the number of claims and, for certain types of claims, the amounts for which they will ultimately settle. The legal and legislative framework continues to develop, having a consequent impact on the uncertainty as to the length of the claims settlement process and the ultimate settlement amounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Claims that may arise from the liability portfolios include damage to property, physical injury, disease and psychological trauma. The exposure profile of the Company is different from most other commercial lines insurance companies as it has lower exposure to industrial risks, where uncertainty is higher. Therefore, claims for industrial diseases are less common for the Company than injury claims such as slips, trips and back injuries.

Claims payment, on average, occurs about three years after the event that gives rise to the claim. However, there is significant variability around this average.

Note 22 presents the development of the estimate of ultimate claim cost for public and employers' liability claims occurring in a given year. This gives an indication of the accuracy of the estimation technique for incurred claims.

(iii) Sources of uncertainty

The ultimate settlement cost of incurred general insurance claims is inherently uncertain. Such uncertainty includes:

- whether a claim event has occurred or not and how much it will ultimately settle for;
- variability in the speed with which claims are notified and in the time taken to settle them, especially complex cases resolved through the courts;
- changes in the business portfolio affecting factors such as the number of claims and their typical settlement costs, which may differ significantly from past patterns;
- new types of claim, including latent claims, which arise from time to time;
- changes in legislation and court attitudes to compensation, which may apply retrospectively;
- the way in which certain reinsurance contracts (principally liability) will be interpreted in relation to unusual and latent claims where aggregation of claimants and exposure over time are a factor; and
- whether all such reinsurances will remain in force over the long term.

(iv) Prudence in the provisions for outstanding claims

The Company has taken into account the uncertain nature of claims reporting and settlement when provisioning for outstanding claims.

(v) Special provisions for latent claims

The public and employers' liability classes can give rise to very late reported claims, which are often referred to as latent claims. These can vary in nature and are difficult to predict. They typically emerge slowly over many years. The Company has taken a prudent approach to reflect this uncertainty and believes that it holds adequate reserves for latent claims that may result from exposure periods up to the reporting date.

4 Financial risk and capital management

The Company is exposed to financial risk through its financial assets, financial liabilities, reinsurance assets and insurance liabilities. In particular the key financial risk is that the proceeds from its financial assets are not sufficient to fund the obligations arising from its insurance contracts. The most important components of financial risk are interest rate risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, currency risk, and equity price risk.

There has been no change from the prior period in the financial risks that the Company is exposed to, or the manner in which it manages and measures these risks.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Categories of financial instruments

	Financial assets		Financial liabilities		Non-financial assets and liabilities	Total
	Designated at fair value	Loans and receivables	Designated at fair value	at cost		
As at 31 December 2017	£	£	£	£	£	£
Financial investments	20,698,048	-	-	-	998	20,699,046
Other assets	-	1,127,696	-	-	3,734	1,131,430
Cash and cash equivalents	-	4,170,621	-	-	-	4,170,621
Other liabilities	-	-	(5,871)	(369,275)	(364,220)	(739,366)
Total	20,698,048	5,298,317	(5,871)	(369,275)	(359,488)	25,261,731
Net other liabilities						(7,901,444)
Net assets						17,360,287
As at 31 December 2016						
Financial investments	20,652,502	-	-	-	998	20,653,500
Other assets	-	1,256,184	-	-	3,650	1,259,834
Cash and cash equivalents	-	4,069,355	-	-	-	4,069,355
Other liabilities	-	-	(50,487)	(139,552)	(306,839)	(496,878)
Total	20,652,502	5,325,539	(50,487)	(139,552)	(302,191)	25,485,811
Net other liabilities						(8,392,698)
Net assets						17,093,113

Fair value hierarchy

The fair value measurement basis used to value financial assets and financial liabilities held at fair value is categorised into a fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: fair values measured using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. This category includes listed equities in active markets, listed debt securities in active markets and exchange traded derivatives.

Level 2: fair values measured using inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices). This category includes listed debt or equity securities in a market that is not active and derivatives that are not exchange traded.

Level 3: fair values measured using inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs). This category includes unlisted equities, including investments in venture capital, and suspended securities.

All financial investments held by the Company and designated at fair value are classified as level 1 except for derivative financial instruments which are classified as level 2.

The derivative financial instruments are foreign currency forward contracts and are valued using observable exchange rates and rates corresponding to the maturity of the contract. At 31 December 2017, £22,838 (2016: £1,235) of derivative financial instruments were included in financial investments and £5,871 (2016: £50,487) included in Other Liabilities.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Interest rate risk

The table below summarises the maturity dates at the year end for those financial assets that are exposed to interest rate risk.

	Maturing within:			Total £
	1 year £	1-5 years £	More than 5 years £	
As at 31 December 2017				
Debt securities	452,246	2,744,384	3,190,967	6,387,597
Other assets including insurance receivables	805,229	-	-	805,229
Cash and cash equivalents	4,170,621	-	-	4,170,621
	5,428,096	2,744,384	3,190,967	11,363,447
As at 31 December 2016				
Debt securities	709,329	2,694,272	2,853,958	6,257,559
Other assets including insurance receivables	672,140	-	-	672,140
Cash and cash equivalents	4,069,355	-	-	4,069,355
	5,450,824	2,694,272	2,853,958	10,999,054

General business insurance liabilities and reinsurers' share of insurance liabilities are not directly sensitive to the level of market interest rates, as they are undiscounted and contractually non-interest bearing. Furthermore, these liabilities and assets do not have maturity dates hence are not included in the above tables.

Credit and operational risk

The Company has exposure to credit risk, which is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when due.

Key areas where the Company is exposed to credit risk are:

- reinsurers' share of insurance liabilities (excluding provision for unearned premiums) and amounts due from reinsurers in respect of claims already paid;
- amounts due from insurance intermediaries and policyholders;
- corporate bond counterparty default; and
- amounts due from Ecclesiastical Insurance Office under the Joint Administration Agreement and Reinsurance Treaty.

The carrying amount of financial assets represents the Company's maximum exposure to credit risk.

The Company uses reinsurance to manage insurance risk, with all business accepted by the Company fully reinsured with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, with the exception of terrorism cover which is reinsured through Pool Re. This does not, however, discharge the Company's liability as primary insurer. If a reinsurer fails to pay a claim for any reason, the Company remains liable for the payment to the policyholder. Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc mitigates its own insurance risk through a comprehensive programme of reinsurance. Its Reinsurance Security Committee assesses, monitors and approves the creditworthiness of its reinsurers reviewing relevant credit ratings provided by the recognised credit rating agencies, as well as market information and other publicly available data. At the date of this report Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc has credit ratings of A- (stable outlook) with Standard and Poors, and A (stable outlook) with AM Best.

The Company's credit risk policy details prescriptive methods for the collection of premiums and control of intermediary and policyholder debtor balances. The level and age of debtor balances are regularly assessed via monthly credit management reports. These reports are scrutinised to assess exposure in respect of aged or outstanding balances. These accounts are primarily brokers, which are in turn monitored via credit reference agencies and considered to pose minimal risk of default.

The Company has no material concentration of credit risk in respect of amounts due from insurance intermediaries and policyholders due to the well-diversified spread of such debtors.

The current fixed interest portfolio consists of a range of fixed interest instruments including government securities, corporate loans and bonds, overseas bonds, preference shares and other interest bearing securities.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Company has outsourced its day to day operations to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. Inadequate oversight of daily operational administration, potentially resulting in inadequate record keeping, incorrect payments to customers or general poor underwriting and administrative performance, may lead to regulatory censure and customer dissatisfaction. This operational risk is managed by having dedicated resources within Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, with close monitoring of performance against agreed service levels and specific business continuity plans.

Liquidity risk

The Company is exposed to daily calls on its available cash resources mainly from claims arising from insurance contracts. Liquidity risk is the risk that funds may not be available to pay obligations when due. The Company has robust processes in place to manage liquidity risk and has adequate access to funding in case of exceptional need. Sources of funding include cash balances that are realisable on demand and other readily marketable assets.

Financial liabilities of the Company all mature within one year. An estimate of the timing of the net cash outflows resulting from insurance contracts is provided in note 22.

Currency risk

The Company operates in the UK and Eire. Its exposure to foreign exchange risk arises from recognised assets and liabilities denominated in euros.

The Company's exposure to foreign currency risk within the investment portfolios arises from purchased investments that are denominated in currencies other than sterling. The Company's primary currency risks are designated in euros and US dollars. The carrying amount of those net assets before the mitigating effect of forward currency transactions are summarised below:

	2017	2016
	£	£
US \$	5,023,902	4,918,837
Euro	1,941,098	2,023,202

This exposure is reduced through the use of forward currency transactions. The underlying value of these instruments are \$2,342,700 (2016: \$2,570,700) and €694,300 (2016: €857,300)

Equity price risk

The Company is exposed to equity securities price risk from its investments which are classified at fair value through profit or loss.

Further details of the value of each type of investment that is exposed to equity price risk is included in note 18 to the financial statements.

Market risk sensitivity analysis

The sensitivity of profit to movements on market risk variables (comprising interest rate, currency and equity price risk), each considered in isolation, is shown in the following table:

Variable	Change in variable	Potential increase/ (decrease) in profit after tax	
		2017	2016
		£	£
Interest rate risk	-100 basis points	273,808	239,268
	+100 basis points	(267,558)	(248,575)
Currency risk	-10.0%	(324,496)	(329,812)
	+10.0%	324,496	329,812
Equity price risk	-10.0%	(1,155,569)	(1,151,595)
	+10.0%	1,155,569	1,151,595

Other equity reserves would not be affected by movements on market risk variables.

The following assumptions have been made in preparing the above sensitivity analysis:

- the value of fixed income investments will vary inversely with changes in interest rates;
- currency gains and losses will arise from a change in the value of sterling against all other currencies moving in concert; and
- change in profit is stated net of tax at the blended rate of 19.25% (2016: 20.00%).

Notes to the Financial Statements

Capital management

The Company is subject to insurance solvency regulations, and capital is managed and evaluated on the basis of regulatory capital. The Company's objectives when managing capital are:

- to comply with the regulator's capital requirements of the insurance market in which the Company operates; and
- to safeguard the Company's ability to continue to meet stakeholders' expectations.

The Company is required to comply with rules issued by the PRA and FCA. With effect from 1 January 2016 a new Europe-wide regulatory capital regime (Solvency II) was adopted by the PRA. Both quarterly and annual quantitative returns are submitted to the PRA in addition to a qualitative report, the Regular Supervisory Report (RSR) which is expected to be a triennial requirement. A further report, the Solvency and Financial Condition Report (SFCR) is produced annually and must be published on the company website.

The Company has adopted the Solvency II standard formula approach to determine its solvency capital requirement (SCR). Economic capital is the Company's own internal view of the level of capital required, and this measure is an integral part of the Own Risk and Solvency Report (ORSA) which is a private, internal forward looking assessment of own risk, as required as part of the Solvency II regime. Risk appetite is set such that the target level of economic capital is always higher than the regulatory SCR.

5 Net insurance premium

	2017	2016
	£	£
Gross written premiums	9,724,985	9,602,766
Change in the gross provision for unearned premiums	(111,634)	347,805
Gross earned premiums	9,613,351	9,950,571
Outward reinsurance premiums	(9,724,985)	(9,602,766)
Change in the provision for unearned premiums, reinsurers' share	111,634	(347,805)
Reinsurers' share of earned premiums	(9,613,351)	(9,950,571)
Net written premiums	-	-
Net earned premiums	-	-

6 Commission income

	2017	2016
	£	£
Reinsurance commissions and profit commission	2,361,295	2,426,009
Other commissions	15,458	17,093
	2,376,753	2,443,102

7 Net investment return

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Investments at fair value through profit or loss:</i>		
- dividend income	474,662	423,269
- interest income	108,408	138,260
<i>Other investments:</i>		
- cash and cash equivalents income	17,118	59,893
- other income received	5,300	16,821
Investment income	605,488	638,243
Fair value gains on investments at fair value through profit or loss	1,318,857	1,199,605
Investment expenses	(118,347)	(116,918)
Net investment return	1,805,998	1,720,930

Included within cash and cash equivalents income are exchange gains of £13,193 (2016: £47,886 gains).

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Claims and change in insurance liabilities and reinsurance recoveries

	2017	2016
	£	£
Gross claims paid	3,098,156	4,188,702
Gross change in the provision for claims	(1,629,546)	(2,897,271)
Claims and change in insurance liabilities	1,468,610	1,291,431
Reinsurers' share of claims paid	(2,843,885)	(4,042,737)
Reinsurers' share of change in the provision for claims	1,033,853	2,526,296
Reinsurance recoveries	(1,810,032)	(1,516,441)
Claims and change in insurance liabilities, net of reinsurance	(341,422)	(225,010)

9 Commissions and other acquisition costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Commission paid	89,650	100,106

10 Other operating and administrative expenses

	2017	2016
	£	£
Directors' emoluments	68,094	67,971
Legal and professional fees	23,309	(56,883)
Pension scheme administration costs	-	151,217
Other expenses	94,489	60,189
	185,892	222,494

Legal and professional fees includes an expenses reimbursement of £nil (2016: £70,993) in respect of the closure of the defined benefit pension scheme.

11 Operating profit

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Operating profit has been arrived at after (crediting)/charging:</i>		
- Net foreign exchange gains	(13,193)	(47,886)
- Directors' emoluments	68,094	67,971

12 Auditor's remuneration

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Fees payable to the company's auditor for:</i>		
- The audit of the Company's annual accounts	39,000	34,000
- Audit related assurance services	28,000	33,000

Audit related assurance services represents the audit of regulatory returns.

13 Employee information

As all management services are provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc under the terms of the Joint Administration Agreement, the Company has no employees.

Methodist Insurance PLC

Notes to the Financial Statements

14 Charitable grants

	2017	2016
	£	£
Charitable grants to Methodist funds and organisations	4,000,000	4,000,000
Charitable grants to other organisations	-	100
	4,000,000	4,000,100

15 Tax

	2017	2016
	£	£
UK corporation tax for the current financial year	-	-
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	-	-
Total current tax charge	-	-
Other deferred taxation charges	(18,731)	(59,192)
Impact of change in tax rate on deferred tax provision	-	(10,283)
Tax credit	(18,731)	(69,475)

Tax on the Company's profit before tax differs from the United Kingdom blended rate of corporation tax of 19.25% (2016: 20.00%) for the reasons set out in the following reconciliation:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Profit before tax	248,631	66,342
Tax calculated at the UK rate of 19.25% (2016: 20.00%).	47,861	13,268
<i>Factors affecting charge for the period:</i>		
Income not taxable	(108,298)	(65,185)
Unrealised gains on investments crystallising	2,479	10,446
Excess charitable donations and expenses not deductible for tax purposes	39,227	35,546
Impact of change in deferred tax rate	-	(10,283)
Utilisation of brought forward tax losses	-	(53,267)
Tax credit	(18,731)	(69,475)

A change in the UK standard rate of corporation tax from 20% to 19% became effective from 1 April 2017. Where appropriate, current tax has been provided at a blended rate of 19.25% for the current year and a blended rate of 20.00% for the prior year. A further reduction in the rate of corporation tax to 17% will become effective from April 2020. Deferred tax has been provided at a rate of 17% (2016: 17%).

16 Appropriations

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Amounts recognised as distributions to equity holders in the period:</i>		
Dividends	188	188

This equates to a dividend of 1p per share (2016: 1p).

Notes to the Financial Statements

17 Pension asset

Previously the Company had exposure to a defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable salary. On 1 July 2015 the process to wind up the defined benefit scheme commenced, the scheme's defined benefit obligations were fully discharged on 18 December 2015 and the scheme's final accounts were prepared to 30 June 2016.

The amounts recognised in the scheme are as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Present value of funded obligations	-	-
Fair value of scheme assets	-	288,526
Surplus in the scheme	-	288,526
Restriction to net asset due to recoverability	-	(144,263)
Net asset in the statement of financial position	-	144,263

The movement in the statement of financial position asset is as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
As at 1 January	144,263	192,725
Share of distribution of surplus	(144,263)	-
Amounts charged to profit or loss	-	(140,543)
Amounts recognised in other comprehensive income	-	92,081
As at 31 December	-	144,263

The wind-up of the scheme has been completed and the amount of surplus, net of tax has been finalised. The surplus, shared equally between the Company and the sponsoring employer, Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, was received in the third quarter of 2017.

The amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss and the statement of comprehensive income in respect of the Company's pension scheme are as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Analysis of amounts charged to statement of profit or loss</i>		
Interest income on scheme assets	-	10,674
Administration cost	-	(151,217)
Total included in other operating and administrative expenses	-	(140,543)
<i>Analysis of amounts included in the statement of comprehensive income</i>		
Return on scheme assets, excluding interest income	-	(163,931)
Change in asset ceiling	-	256,012
Total included in other comprehensive income	-	92,081

There was no defined benefit obligation in the current or prior year. The movement in the fair value of scheme assets over the year is as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Scheme assets</i>		
As at 1 January	288,526	593,000
Interest income	-	10,674
Return on scheme assets, excluding interest income	-	(163,931)
Administration cost	-	(151,217)
Surplus transferred to sponsoring employer	(288,526)	-
As at 31 December	-	288,526

Methodist Insurance PLC

Notes to the Financial Statements

Asset ceiling

As at 1 January	(144,263)	(400,275)
Change in asset ceiling	-	256,012
Share of distribution of surplus	144,263	-
As at 31 December	-	(144,263)

History of scheme assets and liabilities:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£	£
Fair value of scheme assets	-	288,526	593,000	2,918,000	2,947,000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	-	-	-	(2,355,000)	(2,259,000)
Surplus	-	288,526	593,000	563,000	688,000

In the prior year the scheme assets were held as cash.

18 Financial investments

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Financial investments at fair value through profit or loss</i>		
Equity securities:		
- listed	14,310,451	14,394,943
Debt securities:		
- government bonds	6,237,747	6,111,217
- listed	149,850	146,342
Derivative financial instruments	22,838	1,235
<i>Investments in group undertakings</i>		
Shares in subsidiary undertakings	998	998
Total financial investments	20,721,884	20,654,735

Other than investments in group undertakings, all financial investments are current.

19 Other assets

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Receivables arising from insurance and reinsurance contracts:</i>		
- due from contract holders	989,366	872,717
- due from agents, brokers and intermediaries	46,843	194,215
<i>Other receivables:</i>		
- accrued interest	39,508	64,532
- other prepayments and accrued income	55,713	128,370
	1,131,430	1,259,834

Other assets are all current, and due to their short term nature, the above carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

The receivables arising from insurance and reinsurance contracts - due from agents, brokers and intermediaries comprises £46,843 (2016: £2,340,162) receivables net of £nil (2016: £2,145,947) payables.

At 31 December 2017, £nil (2016: £614) of receivables were past due and not impaired. No impairment charges have been recognised in the current or prior year.

Notes to the Financial Statements

20 Cash and cash equivalents

	2017	2016
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	524,211	391,198
Short term bank deposits	3,646,410	3,678,157
	4,170,621	4,069,355

The above carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

21 Called up share capital

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Issued, allotted and fully paid:</i>		
18,750 ordinary shares of £6, each fully paid	112,500	112,500

On winding up of the Company, shareholders are only entitled to receive the amount paid-up in cash, excluding any amount credited as paid-up resulting from the capitalisation of any reserves or profits of the Company. They have no further right to participate in the surplus assets of the Company.

The remaining surplus is to be distributed to or for the benefit of the Methodist Church, as defined and constituted under the Methodist Church Act 1976 or the Methodist Church in Ireland, as the company, in general meeting on the recommendation of the directors, shall determine.

22 Insurance liabilities and reinsurance assets

Claims outstanding

	2017	2016
	£	£
<i>Gross</i>		
Claims outstanding	16,320,071	17,938,053
Unearned premiums	5,705,038	5,586,365
Total gross insurance liabilities	22,025,109	23,524,418

Recoverable from reinsurers

Claims outstanding	8,485,776	9,508,065
Unearned premiums	5,705,038	5,586,365
Total reinsurers' share of insurance liabilities	14,190,814	15,094,430

Net

Claims outstanding	7,834,295	8,429,988
Unearned premiums	-	-
Total net insurance liabilities	7,834,295	8,429,988

Gross insurance liabilities

Current	8,313,556	8,151,216
Non-current	13,711,553	15,373,202
	22,025,109	23,524,418

Reinsurance assets

Current	8,313,556	8,151,216
Non-current	5,877,258	6,943,214
	14,190,814	15,094,430

Notes to the Financial Statements

General business insurance contracts

(i) Reserving methodology

Reserving for insurance claims is a complex process and the Company adopts recognised actuarial methods, and, where appropriate, other calculations and statistical analysis. Actuarial methods used include chain ladder and the Bornhuetter-Ferguson methods.

Chain ladder methods extrapolate paid amounts, incurred amounts (paid claims plus case estimates), the number of claims or average cost of claims, to ultimate claims based on the development of previous years. This method assumes that previous patterns are a reasonable guide to future developments. Where this assumption is felt to be unreasonable, adjustments are made or other methods such as Bornhuetter-Ferguson are used. The Bornhuetter-Ferguson method places more credibility on expected loss ratios for the most recent loss years. For smaller portfolios the materiality of the business and data available may also shape the methods used in reviewing reserve adequacy.

The selection of results for each accident year and for each portfolio depends on an assessment of the most appropriate method. Sometimes a combination of techniques is used.

(ii) Calculation of uncertainty margins

To reflect the uncertain nature of the outcome of the ultimate settlement cost of claims, and to ensure prudent provisions are made, an addition is made to the most likely outcome. The addition for prudence is assessed primarily by the Thomas Mack actuarial method, based on at least the 75th percentile confidence level for each portfolio. For smaller portfolios where the Thomas Mack method cannot be applied, provisions have been calculated at a level intended to be equally prudent. Where the standard methods cannot allow for changing circumstances then additional uncertainty margins are added and are typically expressed as a percentage of outstanding claims. This approach generally results in a favourable release of provisions in the current financial year, arising from the settlement of claims relating to previous financial years, as shown in part (viii) of the note.

(iii) Calculation of special provisions for latent claims

The Company adopts commonly used industry methods including those based on claims frequency and severity and benchmarking.

(iv) Assumptions

The Company follows a process of reviewing its reserves for outstanding claims on a quarterly basis. This involves an appraisal of each portfolio with respect to ultimate claims liability for the recent exposure period as well as for earlier periods, together with a review of the factors that have the most significant impact on the assumptions used to determine the reserving methodology. The work conducted on each portfolio is subject to an internal peer review and management sign-off process.

The most significant assumptions in determining general insurance reserves are the anticipated number and ultimate settlement cost of claims, and the extent to which reinsurers will share in the cost. Factors which influence decisions on assumptions include legal and judicial changes, significant weather events, other catastrophes, subsidence events, exceptional claims or substantial changes in claims experience and developments in older or latent claims. Significant factors influencing assumptions about reinsurance are terms of the reinsurance treaties, the anticipated time taken to settle a claim and the incidence of large individual and aggregated claims.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The technical provisions for claims have been estimated in accordance with the methods set out in the accounting policies note 1. Claims outstanding are affected by significant uncertainties in relation to the calculation of child abuse claims in children's homes. Such claims, relating to incidents over the last sixty years have emerged during the last fifteen years and are likely to take some years to resolve. The methods used to calculate these provisions are similar to other claims provisions and they include an estimate for claims incurred but not reported.

Of the total claims provision £3,438,351 (2016: £4,083,382) gross and £3,438,351 (2016: £4,083,382) net after assumed reinsurance recoveries relate to this matter.

The claims provision is particularly sensitive to the number of assumed abuse claims that are incurred but not reported. Some sensitivity exists over the calculation of the amount of such claims, however, there is less uncertainty over the amount compared with the number because of the experience of the cost of settled claims.

(v) Change in assumptions

There are no significant changes in assumptions.

(vi) Sensitivity of results

The ultimate amount of claims settlement is uncertain and the Company's aim is to reserve at a prudent level.

If final settlement of insurance claims reserved for at the year end turns out to be 10% higher or lower than that included in these financial statements, the following loss or profit will be realised:

	2017		2016	
	Gross £000	Net £000	Gross £000	Net £000
Liability	1,322	743	1,411	799
Property	269	-	338	-

(vii) Claims development tables

The nature of insurance business is that claims may take a number of years to settle and before the final liability is known. The following table shows the development of the estimate of ultimate gross claims cost for these classes across all territories. Due to the reinsurance arrangements in place, no meaningful net claims development can be provided.

	2008 £000	2009 £000	2010 £000	2011 £000	2012 £000	2013 £000	2014 £000	2015 £000	2016 £000	2017 £000	Total £000
Estimate of ultimate claims:											
At end of year	7,441	4,756	6,271	6,148	6,205	4,289	5,158	7,472	3,764	3,666	
One year later	6,327	3,905	5,526	4,653	4,914	3,208	4,064	6,667	2,953		
Two years later	6,100	3,708	4,811	4,604	4,518	3,466	3,596	5,858			
Three years later	5,896	3,692	4,832	3,764	3,967	2,807	3,547				
Four years later	5,779	3,578	4,687	3,724	3,706	3,029					
Five years later	5,830	3,615	4,547	3,730	3,648						
Six years later	5,878	3,682	4,708	3,687							
Seven years later	6,086	3,625	4,665								
Eight years later	6,167	3,563									
Nine years later	6,177										
Current estimate of ultimate claims	6,177	3,563	4,665	3,687	3,648	3,029	3,547	5,858	2,953	3,666	40,793
Cumulative payments to date	(5,994)	(3,457)	(4,562)	(3,529)	(3,553)	(2,240)	(2,950)	(3,868)	(1,879)	(1,058)	(33,090)
Outstanding liability	183	106	103	158	95	789	597	1,990	1,074	2,608	7,703
Liability in respect of earlier years											8,209
Internal claims handling reserve											408
Total gross liability included in insurance liabilities in the statement of financial position											16,320
Reinsurers' share of contract provisions											(8,486)
Total net liability											7,834

Notes to the Financial Statements

(viii) Movements in insurance liabilities and reinsurance assets

	Gross £	Reinsurance £	Net £
<i>Claims outstanding</i>			
At 1 January 2017	17,938,053	(9,508,065)	8,429,988
Exchange differences	11,564	(11,564)	-
Cash (paid)/received for prior year claims settled in the year	(2,040,045)	1,785,774	(254,271)
Change in prior year liabilities/reinsurance assets	(2,198,019)	1,856,597	(341,422)
Prior year liabilities/(reinsurance assets) at 31 December 2017	13,711,553	(5,877,258)	7,834,295
Current year claims/(recoveries)	3,666,629	(3,666,629)	-
Cash (paid)/received for current year claims settled in the year	(1,058,111)	1,058,111	-
Current year liabilities/(reinsurance assets) at 31 December 2017	2,608,518	(2,608,518)	-
At 31 December 2017	16,320,071	(8,485,776)	7,834,295
<i>Provision for unearned premiums</i>			
At 1 January 2017	5,586,365	(5,586,365)	-
Exchange differences	7,039	(7,039)	-
Movement in the year	111,634	(111,634)	-
At 31 December 2017	5,705,038	(5,705,038)	-
<i>Claims outstanding</i>			
At 1 January 2016	20,785,217	(11,984,254)	8,800,963
Exchange differences	50,107	(50,107)	-
Cash (paid)/received for prior year claims settled in the year	(2,989,166)	2,843,201	(145,965)
Change in prior year liabilities/reinsurance assets	(2,472,956)	2,247,946	(225,010)
Prior year liabilities/(reinsurance assets) at 31 December 2016	15,373,202	(6,943,214)	8,429,988
Current year claims/(recoveries)	3,764,387	(3,764,387)	-
Cash (paid)/received for current year claims settled in the year	(1,199,536)	1,199,536	-
Current year liabilities/(reinsurance assets) at 31 December 2016	2,564,851	(2,564,851)	-
At 31 December 2016	17,938,053	(9,508,065)	8,429,988
<i>Provision for unearned premiums</i>			
At 1 January 2016	5,909,115	(5,909,115)	-
Exchange differences	25,055	(25,055)	-
Movement in the year	(347,805)	347,805	-
At 31 December 2016	5,586,365	(5,586,365)	-

The net liability for unearned premium is £nil as the Company's provision is exactly matched by the corresponding reinsurers' share asset.

Notes to the Financial Statements

23 Deferred tax

An analysis and reconciliation of the movement of the key components of the net deferred tax liability during the current and prior reporting period is as follows:

	Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss £	Capital allowances in excess of depreciation £	Total £
At 1 January 2016	177,999	7,098	185,097
Credit to income	(59,192)	-	(59,192)
Credit to income resulting from reduction in tax rate	(9,889)	(394)	(10,283)
At 31 December 2016	108,918	6,704	115,622
Credit to income	(18,731)	-	(18,731)
At 31 December 2017	90,187	6,704	96,891

24 Other liabilities

	2017 £	2016 £
Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations	244,402	23,092
Other creditors	390,485	324,684
Derivative liabilities	5,871	50,487
Amounts owed to related parties	998	998
Accruals	97,610	97,617
	739,366	496,878
Current	738,368	495,880
Non-current	998	998

The above carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

The creditors arising out of reinsurance operations comprises £2,720,249 (2016: £23,092) payables net of £2,475,847 (2016: £nil) receivables.

25 Capital commitments

At 31 December 2017 there were £nil (2016: £nil) outstanding contracts for capital expenditure.

Notes to the Financial Statements

26 Related party transactions

The Company has a reinsurance treaty with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc whereby all business accepted by the Company is fully reinsured with Ecclesiastical with the exception of terrorism cover which is reinsured through Pool Re. Reinsurance premiums are accounted for at the time the business is written by the Company. The Company's and the reinsurers' share of claims are recognised at the time the claims are notified or earlier by way of a provision for claims incurred but not reported.

The Company operates a Joint Administration Agreement with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc under which all administration expenses are borne by Ecclesiastical.

The Company ceded premiums net of claims paid and commissions to the value of £6,716,717 (2016: £5,384,047) during the year to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, which also bore expenses of the Company's business of £1,862,801 (2016: £1,788,171). The reinsurers' share of technical provisions due from Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc as at 31 December 2017 is £14,144,516 (2016: £15,050,351) which consists of £5,658,739 (2016: £5,542,286) of unearned premium and £8,485,777 (2016: £9,508,065) of outstanding claims. At 31 December 2017 £265,993 was due from Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (2016: £157,011 due to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc). Information about key management personnel compensation is provided in note 10 to the financial statements.

Transactions and services with related parties are made on commercial terms. The Company has a letter of credit with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc for £2,000,000 (2016: £2,000,000) in respect of reinsurance amounts recoverable. Other amounts outstanding are unsecured, are not subject to guarantees, and will be settled in cash. No provisions have been made in respect of these balances.

27 Subsidiary undertakings

The Company's interest in subsidiary undertakings at 31 December 2017 is as follows:

	Share Capital	Holding
Methodist Insurance Services Limited	Ordinary shares	99.8%

The subsidiary is incorporated in England and Wales, is dormant, having not traded since incorporation, and is not material to the Company's accounts.



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