



Fareham Methodist Church

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended

31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Church Council Meeting has given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing our objectives and conforms to the Charities Act 2011.

Our Mission as a local church of the East Solent and Downs Circuit is to pursue the Mission of God through worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

This is done for as many people as possible within the Fareham area through the provision of Christian Worship, spiritual development and pastoral care both to church members and to the wider communities in which the church is located.

Fareham Methodist Church supports the advancement of the Christian Faith through ecumenical liaison with other Christian groups in Fareham.

Achievements and performance

Current year

Attendance at Sunday services runs at an average of approximately 60 per week, this was confirmed by way of a weekly count of attendees during October 2025. The majority of regular church attendees now donate by standing order which has meant that income from giving is now more predictable. There are a few who regularly use the card machine located in the Welcome Area. Church services are streamed to Youtube, these attract viewers of the 'Livestream' as well as people who view the service after the event.

Various weekday activities continue to take place in the life of the church with many offering outreach opportunities to the local community. This has become an increasingly important aspect of Church Life at Fareham. Mini Market on a Monday and Coffee Morning on a Thursday are vibrant outreach activities presenting an opportunity to engage in Christian conversations. The monthly Messy Church continued through the year although since the year end this activity is being re-designed to run during holiday periods only.

In December 2024 PV panels were placed on the roof of the Wickham Room. These started exporting energy in February. Also, in December an area of 'Green Roof' was installed over the vestry. Both of these contribute to the Church's reduced environmental impact. During the year, in recognition of this improvement, the Church was awarded Eco Church Bronze by A Rocha.

In the early part of this Church year two new large screens were installed at the front of the church. This now means that the centre drop down screen is only used for film evenings. As a result the stained glass window is now on view. In Spring 2025 the Church hosted Synod for the Southampton District. The event was a great success and the Trustees are grateful for the support received from volunteers from neighbouring churches in the circuit.

The Church continues to make donations to other charities and through social events raise money for various appeals.

Future years

- To continue to focus on mission activity as an open and inclusive church and lead new people into faith and so grow the number of Christians.
- To focus on worship and spiritual development and continue the use of technology to stream services to people who cannot access the premises
- To continue to work with Christians Together in Fareham to promote Christianity in the Borough.
- To provide pastoral support to those in need.
- To continue to demonstrate our commitment to improving the environment by using resources available through the Eco Church project.

Financial review

Income and expense

During the year the Church received total income of £118,667 (2023-24 £91,416) and made payments of £109,263 (2023-24: £106,255). No bequests were received in the year. Funds held at TMCP in Trust Number 21694 stands at £8,807. Total restricted reserves held in endowment funds at TMCP amount to £15,965. The interest from these funds is paid into the General Fund as it is received.

Unrestricted reserves carried forward were £100,830 (2024-25: £91,104). £1,175 of these reserves are restricted. £56,547 are designated: £500 for benevolence payments; £282 in an asylum fund; £9,214 in the Organ and Keyboard Fund; £35,000 in the Major Property Repair Fund; £2,744 bequests held within church accounts and £8,807 as bequests held at TMCP for longer term or specific use.

The trustees of the Church have every reason to believe that the Charity is a going concern, principally because the majority of the donated income is not reliant on attendance within the church building but is paid directly to the church accounts by standing order. There are no subsidiary undertakings. The proportion of income that is from lettings has reduced from previous years and the Trustees are aware that this income cannot be relied on as fully secure. However the Trustees are confident that there are sufficient reserves to cover any reduction in lettings in the medium term.

Remuneration policy

The church currently has two employees, a cleaner working 11 hours per week and a caretaker working 4 hours per week. Both posts are paid the Real Living Wage set annually by the Living Wage Foundation. Pay reviews are normally undertaken with effect from 1st April each year with rates set by the Managing Trustees at the Church Council prior to this date.

Investment Policy and Performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP).

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and attract interest. The Trustees are not minded to invest in higher risk funds.

Reserves level and policy

The General Fund contains five designated funds, the Benevolence Fund, a fund for Organ and Musical Instruments, a fund to support asylum seekers, a special projects fund, and a

Fareham Methodist Church
Year ended 31 August 2025

fund for Major Property Repair. It also contains restricted bequests held in the general account and unrestricted bequests held in Trust number 21694 at TMCP and in the church accounts.

- ❖ Since in accordance with its stewardship policy, the church does not take separate collections for benevolence, a benevolence reserve is maintained in the General Fund for disbursement at the discretion of the minister.
- ❖ Church Council agreed that the church should start to build up a reserve to go towards replacement of the organ and other major musical instruments in the future. The designation of this fund is Organ and Keyboard with an ultimate target fund of £20,000.
- ❖ The major property reserve was re-assessed in October 2021 and a target property reserve has been set at £40,000 to cover major repair, renewals and improvements not included in the operating costs of the Church. This is designated CAPEX within the budget set each year. There is budgeted expenditure in the next 12 months of £5,000. The Quinquennial did not indicate any short-term major spend requirements.
- ❖ Previous bequests held in church funds amount to £3,369.

Withdrawal of money from the Designated Funds, restricted and unrestricted bequests requires Managing Trustee approval.

The remainder of the funds are held as Free Reserves. The target is for free reserves to cover approximately 6 months of operating costs with a target range of 40%-60%

Designated Funds:

Benevolence	£ 500
Asylum fund	£ 282
Organ and Keyboard	£ 9,214
Major Property Repair (target £40k)	£35,000
Unrestricted bequests@ TMCP	£ 8,807
Unrestricted bequests held in accounts	£ 2,744
Restricted bequests/gifts not yet expended	£ 625

Free Reserve:	£42,508 – 49.1%
	operating costs

[forecast operating costs 2025/26 = £86,293]

Trustees' responsibilities

For each financial year ending on 31st August the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees must:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently using the accruals method
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- follow applicable accounting standards
- prepare accounts to comply with the Charities SORP

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for

safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Church's policy is to adhere to the Methodist Church's policy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults. A Safeguarding Officer is appointed. The Circuit provides regular safeguarding training that can be accessed by the church as required. The Safeguarding Officer keeps records of training and ensures that this is up to date.

The Church does not hold any funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Structure, governance and management

The Church is an unincorporated association and is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union and the Model Trust Deeds of the Methodist Church and was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 2 February 2009. Prior to this the charity had an excepted registration.

Structure

The Church is one of a number that make up the East Solent and Downs Circuit.

The Circuit is the coordinating charity and pay the stipends of the ministers and employ lay staff to serve the Churches in the Circuit; most decisions are made at or ratified by the Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit is part of the Southampton District which is the coordinating charity for a group of contiguous Circuits. District decisions are made at the half yearly synod to which the Circuit appoints both lay and ordained representatives. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits.
3. Connexional decisions are passed via Districts to Circuits for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
4. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and this regulatory authority is then exercised by Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

Governance

The Church operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Church.

Reference and Administrative Details

Name of the charity

Fareham Methodist Church.

Charity registration number

1127814, registered in England and Wales

Principal Office

Fareham Methodist Church
Kings Road
Fareham
PO16 0NU

Minister with pastoral oversight

Revd Pauline Crispin

Church Treasurer

Mr Michael Petter

Names of trustees

The following served as trustees throughout part or all of the year 2024-25 or were trustees at the time of this report being approved:

Mrs	Sally	Bland	
Mr	Mark	Brooks	
Mr	Nigel	Cox	
Revd	Pauline	Crispin	
Mrs	Patricia	Crocker	
Ms	Rachel	Davies	
Mrs	Linda	Foster	
Mr	Kevin	Foster	
Mrs	Jill	Groom	
Mrs	Edith	Livingstone	
Mrs	Audrey	Mann	
Mr	Peter	Moody	
Mrs	Heather	Murphy	
Mrs	Jean	Petter	
Mr	Michael	Petter	
Mr	Robert	Temple	
Mr	Simon	Potter	
Mrs	Margaret	Shepherd	
Mr	Michael	Shepherd	
Mrs	Catherine	Stevenson	
Mrs	Roberta	Watson	
Mrs	Margaret	Wheeler	
Mr	Christopher	Woodhams	
Mrs	Lin	Woodhams	

Fareham Methodist Church
Year ended 31 August 2025

No trustee claims exemption from disclosure of his or her name here.

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

Investment managers and custodian trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

Independent Examiner

Mrs Margaret Heathcote
19/21 High Street
Emsworth
Hants
PO10 7AQ

Approvals

The Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements were approved by the Church Council Meeting on 12th February 2026.

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Fareham Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

East Solent & Downs	Circuit	Circuit no.	26/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1127814

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

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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Revd. Pauline Crispin

Church Stewards:

Mrs Jean Petter
Miss Rach Davies
Mrs Audrey Mann
Mr Chris Woodhams
Mr Michael Shepherd

Treasurer:

Mr Mike Petter

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds incl Trust No 21694	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	1				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		63,104		63,104	61,602
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,826		3,826	3,539
a4	Lettings		17,067		17,067	12,806
a5	Other receipts	2	34,670		34,670	13,469
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		118,667		118,667 (a7)	91,416

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		51,408		51,408	49,164
b3	Donations	3	2,623		2,623	3,375
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	4	9,078		9,078	24,959
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	5	13,166		13,166	12,547
b6	Caretaking & Cleaning	6	11,668		11,668	10,540
b7	Other payments	2	21,320		21,320	5,670
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		109,263		109,263 (b9)	106,255

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	9,404		9,404	(14,839)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		82,576	8,807	91,383 (c6)	105,943
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	91,980	8,807	100,787	91,104
c4	Transfers and adjustments				43 (c7)	279
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	91,980	8,807	100,830 (c8)	91,383 (c6)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		1,107		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations incl TLC		3,392		3,517
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations incl TLC		3,349		2,410
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	1,150		1,107

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Flower Fund	20	192	(172)		345	173
e2	Friday Lunches	1,785	1,799	(14)		34	20
e3	Junior Church		3	(3)		174	171
e4	Mini Market	2,044	2,247	(203)		363	160
e5	Parent & Toddler	528	582	(54)		166	112
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	4,377	4,823	(446)		1,082 (e11)	636 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	118,667 (a7)	109,263 (b9)	9,404	43 (c7)	91,383 (c6)	100,830 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	123,044	114,086	8,958	43	92,465 (x)	101,466 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	22,179	38,804
f3 Bank Deposit Account	30,227	21,046
f4 Central Finance Board	30,170	32,173
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	8,807	8,807
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	91,383 (c6)	100,830 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,082 (e11)	636 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	92,465 (x)	101,466 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	15,965	15,965
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3,426,350	3,542,825
g3 Other Assets	172,477	178,340
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer *mpetter* Date *12 Feb 2026*

Name and address of treasurer: Michael Petter.
4 Romyns Court, Fareham, PO14 1NB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *P. Crispin*

Name of the Chair of the meeting *Rev. PAULINE CRISPIN* Date *12 Feb 2026*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Fareham Methodist Church

Charity Number 1127814

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the *FAREHAM METHODIST CHURCH* Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages *1.* to *3.* As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner M. Heathcote

Name of independent examiner M. V. Heathcote

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner None

Name of firm (where appropriate) East Solent and Downs Methodist Circuit

Address 19-21 High Street, Emsworth

..... Post Code PO10 7AP

Date 10th December 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

Notes accompanying Accounts for Year ended 31st August 2025

1. Both the General Fund and Trust No. 21694 are unrestricted.
Trust No. 21694 consists of Model Trust bequests.

2. **Other Receipts and Other Payments**

<u>Receipts</u>	Weekday activity	7133
	Mini market: £2392	
	Messy Church: £137	
	Holiday at Home: £258	
	Coffee Centre: £1950	
	Friday lunch: £890	
	parent & Toddler £120	
	Shirley stall £300	
	Bazaar: £910	
	Contactless £176	
	Organ & Keyboard fund donations	385
	Environmental fund	3767
	Sunday lunch donations	160
	Contactless	94
	Sunday coffee donations	150
	Env Grant	12734
	AV Grant	2000
	Asylum support	182
	Flower fund	50
	PRF refund	8000
	Other	15
		34670

<u>Payments</u>		
	Messy Church	166
	Copying, Copyright & Website	1367
	Environmental projects	15073
	AV projects	3969
	Bank & contactless fees	168
	Benevolence payments	95
	Other incl expenses	482
		21320

3. **Donations**

	Advance payment Gift Aid	128
	World Missions	800
	Mission in Britain	500
	Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons	250
	Fund for human need	200
	BRF	200
	Friends of homeless in Fareham	200
	Christians Together in Fareham	195
	Masonic car parking	150
		2623

4. **Repairs**

	Boiler service & repair	340
	Fire alarm and extinguishers	280
	Electrical work & certification	4155
	AST Door entry system & repairs to doors	1315
	Sound desk screens	248
	New fridge	289
	New water heater	408
	Blind in church	86
	Carpet cleaner	93
	Decoration	1601
	Plumbing repairs	132
	General repairs <£75	131
		9078

FAREHAM METHODIST CHURCH
Notes accompanying Accounts for Year ended 31st August 2025 continued

5	Utilities	Broadband	440	
		Gas	1944	
		Electricity	6794	
		BT	62	
		Insurance	3926	
				13166
6	Caretaking and cleaning			
		Wages	9779	
		Janitorial supplies	729	
		PHS	940	
		Window clean	220	
				11668
7.	General Fund at 31st August 2025			
		Running Costs Reserve	42508	
		Benevolence Reserve	500	
		Asylum Fund	282	
		Organ & Keyboard reserve	9214	
		Environmental Fund	0	
		Major Repairs Reserve	35000	
		Unrestricted bequests @ TMCP	8807	
		Unrestricted bequests in account	2744	
		Restricted bequests in account	625	
		Restricted fund TLC	1150	
				100830
8.	Appeals for External Organisations			
		Action for Children	1018	
		All We Can	629	
		Youth Options	316	
		Two Saints	195	
		Christian Aid Week	255	
		Step by Step collected TLC	900	
		World Mission Fund JMA	36	
				3349
9.	The investment shown in Section G is Trust No. 17856 and Trust No. 22184 with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (Charity No. 1136358).			
10.	The Buildings and "other assets" (contents and organ) are valued at the sums for which they are insured. The sums insured are increased annually according to appropriate indices.			

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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Signature of independent examiner *M. V. Heathcote*

Name of independent examiner *M. V. Heathcote*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *None*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *East Solent and Downs Methodist Circuit*

Address *19-21 High Street, Emsworth*

..... Post Code *PO10 7AP*

Date *10th December 2025*

* delete or circle as appropriate