

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the period to 31st August 2023

Romsey Methodist Church
The Hundred,
Romsey,
SO51 8BZ

Chair – Rev'd Kate Cambridge (from 1st September 2023)

Membership = 123

The Methodist Church

We take our place as part of the wider Methodist Church, a Christian denomination. The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

Romsey Methodist Church is part of the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Methodist Circuit, within the Southampton District.

Governance

The Church is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

The trustees are members of the Church Council. Members, representatives and Church Stewards are elected at the General Church Meeting. The Church Council meets half-yearly, to review the mission of the church and to discharge its duties as trustees. The Church Council maintains the highest possible standards in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It continues to monitor safeguarding risks, as well as other risks relating to finance and operations and to manage them in as effective a way as possible. In this regard, the Church Council agreed the adoption of ChurchSuite to aid in compliance with data protection regulations (GDPR).

The General Church Meeting meets annually and is an open forum for members of the church to debate issues and also to elect and have representation on the governing body (Church Council).

The Minister (Chair of Trustee Body), Church Stewards (Trustees) and the Treasurer (Trustee) form the Leadership Team and meet monthly. The meetings consider strategy, operational arrangements, and matters arising from the Worship, Finance, Property and Pastoral Groups, together with proposals to the Church Council (Trustee Body). The Chair of the Trustee Body (Revd Gareth Hill) retired on 31st August 2023 and ceased to be a trustee. The Circuit arranged for the Revd Kate Cambridge to be interim Minister and Chair of the Trustee Body from 1st September 2023 until 31st August 2024. Through the Stationing Process a full time presbyter, Revd Andrew de Ville, has been appointed and commence duties on 1st September 2024.

Constitution of Romsey Methodist Church Council (31st August 2023)

Ministers

The Revd Peter Rayson* (Superintendent)
The Revd Gareth Hill* (Retired 31st August 2023)
The Revd Kate Cambridge* (from 1st September)
The Revd Ruth Fry*

Church Stewards	Mrs Linda Pennells	(2021)	Mr Peter Manning*#	(2018)
	Mrs Heather Wilman	(2021)	Mrs Cathryn Simons*	(2018)
	Mr Jason Elkin*	(2018)		
	Dr Peter Jackson*	(2019)		
Church Treasurer	Mr Don Simons*#	(2012)		
Secretary of the Council	Elizabeth Robertson*#	(2021)		
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Mrs Anne Clark*	(1999)		

Constitution of Romsey Methodist Church Council cont./

Circuit Steward	Mrs Julia McKinley
Circuit Lay Employees	Mrs Irene Bourne (Pastoral Assistant) *

Representatives for particular areas of Church life

(maximum in this section under SO is 15)

Action For Children	Mrs Victoria Barker*	(2014)
Churches Together in Romsey		()
Communion Steward	Mr John Pennells	(2021)
Director of Music	Mr Joe Nurse	(2021)
Eco Representative	Mr John Read	(2019)
Local Preacher	Mr Jason Elkin*	(2016)
Pastoral Committee	Mrs Elizabeth Robertson*#	(2018)
Property	Mrs Cathryn Simons*	(2017)
Small Fellowship/Study Groups	Mr Alan Hill*	(2018)
Women's Work in the Church	Mrs Di Sutton	(2013)
Children's and Youth Work (3)	Mrs Meghan Elkin*	(2010)
	Mrs Katie Havelock*	(2016)
	Mrs Sandra Plumb*#	(2016)
Safeguarding	Mrs Marilyn Pack *	
GDPR	Roger Hopper	(2022)

General Church Meeting Representatives

(maximum 15)

Mr Brian Adey	(2016)
Mr Bob Bourne*	(2017)
Dr John Evans*	(2019)
Mrs Helen Dunn*	(2019)
Diane Kingston	(2016)
Mrs Jane Rogers*	(2018)
Mr David Thomson*	(2018)
Mrs Corinne Thomson*	(2019)
Mrs Christine Jackson	(2019)
Mrs Cath Davidson	(2020)
Mr Martin Plumb	(2021)
Mrs Hilary Evans	(2021)
Mrs Heather Nurse	(2021)

Governance as per Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD)

CPD volumes 1 & 2 [<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/governance/cpd/>]

Volume 1 contains the fixed texts, including Acts of Parliament and other legislation, and historic documents.

Volume 2 contains the Deed of Union, Model Trusts, and the standing orders.

Number of Trustees = 37

Minimum number of Trustees required = 7

* denotes Church Council members with a current DBS disclosure obtained for church or circuit purposes.

denotes Authorised Signatory

Purpose

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of –

- the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;
- any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Mission & Vision

Welcome, wonder, worship and wider have been the cornerstones of our developing work. We continue to develop worship to be engaging and accessible to the community together with the opportunity for organisations to use our facilities. We continue to be mindful about the environment and we continue to build upon our Eco credentials for the benefit of the community. During 2023 we further developed the vision, employing a lay Families Pastor to assist us in our mission of increasing our contact and interaction with families attending our various groups and activities.

Objectives & Activities

During 2022/2023 we reviewed our catering activities linked to the community. We decided to cease the provision of 'Make Lunch' for children during the summer holidays as attendance had significantly diminished, following in increase in provision of holiday activities by local schools. We ceased our subscription to TLG Make Lunch and decided to have direct contact with schools for the purpose of understanding the needs of school aged children. We made a grant of £582 to Romsey Primary School & Nursery to help deprived families within their catchment area.

The Beacon Café continues to be very successful with the occasional provision of lunches to support special initiatives. The 'Wednesday' Beacon Café follows an activity for pre-school children (Tune Tots) and is a great success for integrating with families.

The premises are well used by other charities (Counselling Together, Romsey Young Carers, Oasis Christian Trust) and other organisations in the community. Various social events have been held to support fund raising for our designated charities. Planning also commenced to re-establish the Christmas Tree Festival as an opportunity for charities and local organisations to raise funds, as well as supporting our designated charities.

A business case was developed to employ a part time lay Families Pastor for an initial 3 years, commencing on 1st September 2023. A Growing for Mission Fund was developed to receive donations together with a grant from Southampton District to cover the additional costs of this role. A lay Family Pastor has been successfully recruited and employed via the Circuit to avoid additional administration. The Church pays additional Assessment to cover all employment costs associated with the role.

Charities supported: The Church makes annual donations to Methodist Connexional Funds in support of the wider Methodist Church as well as 3 charities through various events, like the Beacon Café. This year, Church Council agreed to continue the support to the international charity 'All We Can', the national charity 'Centre Point' and the local charity, 'Minstead Trust'.

Public Benefit: The church mission is achieved through a wide variety of worship services, fellowship meetings, group activities, learning opportunities, and the presence of the church and its members in the local community. More details can be found on the church website www.romseymethodist.church

Finance & Reserves:

For the financial year to 31st August 2023 the Church Funds grew by £13,383: £3,353 increase in the General Fund and £10,030 in Designated Funds.

Receipts

- Our main source of income remains the regular and committed giving by members and friends – the Offering. This was 1.7% higher than 2021/22. [This includes Gift Aid claimed from HMRC via the Methodist Church Central Bureau]
- Interest on deposits rose to £2,500

- Lettings have continued to be a good source of income at £7,839. Regular users being:-
 - Achoiring Voices
 - Fitzell Roberts School of Dance
 - Romsey Choral Society
 - U3A
- Designated funds grew as a result of additional donations to our Growth Funds which is to be used to fund the Families Pastor now recruited.

Payments

- The largest item of expenditure is the Assessment paid to the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Methodist Circuit - £53,486. A significant amount of the Circuit Assessment is used to pay the stipends and related costs to Ministers, and the upkeep of their manses.
- Donations made by the Church amounted to £10,494 reflecting the ongoing commitment to support others.
- Repairs and Maintenance costs were slightly higher than the previous year but below the budget of £6k. Surplus transferred to the Property Reserve Fund.
- Utilities – increased slightly because of higher energy pricing post April when the previous fixed tariff arrangements came to an end. The church anticipates energy costs of more than 2.5X in the coming year as a result.
- Other Payments – higher [in line with agreed budget] mainly due to increased activity across the Church.

Reserve Policy

General Fund : At our financial year end [31st Aug 2023] our General Fund balance was £ 48,896

We aim to maintain in reserve sufficient money within our general funds to cover approximately three-month's general expenditure [i.e. £18,500] to enable the church to continue its mission should revenues fall away unexpectedly.

We hold approximately £10,000 to cover normal working capital requirements as well as reflecting that a key element of income is Tax recovered (Gift Aid), which is received towards the end of our financial year.

In addition, we budget for the following items of expenditure during the year to 31st August 2024 in support of the work and mission of the Church:

Ads & Publicity	£500
Agreed annual donations to Connexional funds & others	£6,000
Ideas budget	£1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	£6,000
Youth & Children Grant	£500
Predicted 2023/24 shortfall	£5,000

Designated Funds : At our financial year end [31st Aug 2023] our **Designated Funds** total was £54,479

Designated Funds being funds donated for specific projects or allocated by Church Council to cover a specific purpose in support of our mission. At the 31st August 2023 these are specified as below:

Charities Funds Held	£496.54
Growth Fund (Families Pastor)	£42,657.71
Property	£7,330.16
Renewal	£1,532.75
Tiddlywinks	£304.96
WLTD0	£479.21
Thursday Afternoon Fellowship	£590.56
Youth & Children Work	£1,087.36

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Rev'd K Cambridge

Kate Cambridge

Date

21.3.2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ROMSEY

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Winchester, Eastleigh & Romsey	Circuit	Circuit no	26/02
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1193935

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

N/A

(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:

Rev'd Kate Cambridge

Church Stewards:

Cathryn Simons

Ann Cousins

Heather Adey

Jason Elkin

Linda Pennells

Peter Jackson

Peter Manning

Treasurer:

Don Simons

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		68,273		68,273	67,131
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,507		2,507	191
a4	Lettings		7,839		7,839	7,172
a5	Other receipts		13,111	13,528	26,639	47,660
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		91,730	13,528	105,258 (a7)	122,154

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		53,496		53,496	53,496
b3	Donations		10,495	658	11,153	10,950
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		4,445	1,891	6,336	4,503
b5	Utilities (water charges, heating & lighting, Broadband)		3,907		3,907	3,171
b6	Insurance		2,006		2,006	1,760
b7	Other payments		13,494	1,483	14,977	13,141
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		87,843	4,032	91,875 (b9)	87,021

SECTION C						
C1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	3,887	9,496	13,383	35,133.00
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		45,543	44,449	89,992 (c6)	54,859
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	49,430	53,945	103,375	89,992
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(534)	534		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	48,896	54,479	103,375 (c8)	89,992 (c6)

SECTION D				
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		0	0
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		4,729	6,137
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		4,729	6,137
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)		0	0

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 2023 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						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	105,258 (a7)	91,875 (b9)	13,383	(c7)	89,992 (c6)	103,375 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	105,258	91,875	13,383		89,992 (x)	103,375 (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 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	28,744	14,620
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	61,248	88,755
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	89,992 (c6)	103,375 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	89,992 (x)	103,375 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,871,544	2,137,287
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

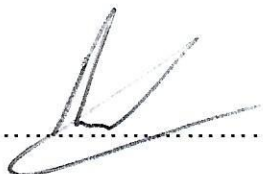
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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 2023 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



Date.....

3rd October 2023

Name and address of treasurer:

Don Simons
Woodley Dene, Braishfield Road,
ROMSEY
SO51 7NZ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 ^{were} ~~were/will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15th Nov 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Kate Cambridge

Name of the Chair of the meeting

KATE CAMBRIDGE

Date

1/11/2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

ROMSEY METHODIST CHURCH

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Romsey Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 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

Name of Church:- **ROMSEY METHODIST CHURCH**
Charity Number 1193935

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 G.A. Wigmore

Name of independent examiner Graham Andrew Wigmore

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Retired Circuit Treasurer

Address 2 Haver Close, Kings Somborne, Stockbridge, Hampshire

..... Post Code SO20 6QF

Date 3rd October 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate