

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the period to 31st August 2024

Romsey Methodist Church
The Hundred,
Romsey,
SO51 8BZ

Chair – Revd Andrew de Ville (from 1st September 2024)

Membership = 118

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 rollout of additional modules in Church Suite has enhanced our operations across all children's groups and we can now manage registrations, communicate with parents, and advertise sessions effectively.

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 Revd Kate Cambridge acted as 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 commenced duties on 1st September 2024.

Constitution of Romsey Methodist Church Council (1st September 2024)

Ministers

The Revd Peter Rayson* (Superintendent)
The Revd Andrew de Ville (from 1st September 2024)
The Revd Kate Cambridge* (1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024)
The Revd Ruth Fry*

Constitution cont./

Church Stewards

Mrs Linda Pennells	(2021)	Mr Peter Manning*#	(2018)
Mrs Heather Wilman	(2021)	Mrs Cathryn Simons*	(2018)
Mr Jason Elkin*	(2018)	Mrs Ann Cousins*	(2023)

Church Treasurer Mr Don Simons*# (2012)

Secretary of the Council Elizabeth Robertson*# (2021)

Pastoral Committee Secretary Mrs Anne Clark* (1999)

Families Pastor Mrs Maggie Blair* (2023)

Circuit Steward Mr Tim Clifford

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 Champion	Mrs Heather Nurse*	(2023)
Local Preacher	Mr Jason Elkin*	(2019)
GDPR	Mr Roger Hopper*	(2022)
Pastoral Committee	Mrs Elizabeth Robertson*#	(2018)
Property	Mrs Cathryn Simons*	(2017)
Small Fellowship/Study Groups	Mr Alan Hill*	(2018)
Children's and Youth Work (3)	Mrs Meghan Elkin*	(2010)
	Mrs Katie Simons*	(2016)
	Mrs Sandra Plumb*#	(2016)
Safeguarding	Mrs Marilyn Pack *	

General Church Meeting Representatives

(maximum 15)

Mrs Helen Dunn*	(2019)
Mrs Corinne Thomson*	(2019)
Mrs Christine Jackson	(2019)
Mr John Read	(2024)
Mrs Cath Davidson	(2020)
Mr Martin Plumb*	(2021)
Mrs Hilary Evans*	(2021)
Mr David Renouf	(2022)
Mrs Janet Renouf	(2022)
Prof Ian Robinson	(2022)
Mrs Sue Finney	(2023)

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 = 12

* 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 –

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

Following the fundraising in 2022/23 the decision was taken to employ a part time lay Families Pastor with the appointment of Maggie Blaire commencing on 1st September 2023. A Designated Fund, 'Growing for Mission' was developed to receive donations and this, along with an annual grant (for 5 years) of £5,000 received from the Southampton District, enable us to cover the additional costs of this role. The Families Pastor is employed via the Circuit to avoid additional administration and the Church pays additional Assessment to cover all employment costs associated with the role.

This appointment has already had a positive impact on the work of the Church with new activities and initiatives providing more opportunities to welcome families. More information about these activities can be seen on our website www.romseymethodist.church/children-families/

The Beacon Café continues to be very successful. The 'Wednesday' Beacon Café follows an activity for pre-school children (Tune Tots and Story Tots) and has been a great success. Throughout the summer we also provided crafts and other activities on Wednesdays and Fridays to run in conjunction with the Beacon Café. These programs were well-received by families, providing a consistent space for connection and support.

Sunday mornings – Children of God (COGs) We now offer tailored input for upper and lower COGs groups, allowing children to explore stories and faith at age-appropriate levels while fostering friendships and community. Our Sunday mornings consistently welcome a good number of families.

The premises are well used by other charities (Counselling Together, Romsey Young Carers, Oasis Christian Trust) as well as other organisations in the community. Various social events have been held to support fund raising for our designated charities. In December 2023 we held our first Christmas Tree Festival since COVID which was an opportunity for charities and local organisations to raise funds, as well as supporting our designated charities.

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'.

In addition, we made grants of £582 each to Cupernham Infants School and Cupernham Junior School to help provide for the needs of vulnerable families within their catchment area.

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 2024 the Church Funds grew by £10,254 with an increase in the General Fund of £9,285 and £970 increase in Designated Funds.

General Fund

Income up £12k primarily due to an increase in Offerings (incl. Gift Aid) of £6k and sundry donations of £4.5k. The Beacon Café saw growth of £1.3k with the inclusion of children's activities on Wednesdays adding a boost. In addition, the return of our previous donation to the Pension Reserve fund plus sale of tickets for the Alun Newman event added a further £1k

Expenditure increased as expected by £7.5k primarily because of the increase in Circuit Assessment and also the increase in Utility prices.

Designated Funds

Income of £31k – key items being Growth fund [£9k] being donations received for the Families Pastor role along with £5k District grant], and Property Fund [£19.5k] being donations received for the new windows along with District grant of £4.8k .

Expenditure £30k – key items being salary/pension etc for the Families Pastor role [£15k], and payment of £12k re cost of the new windows (final instalment of £3k paid in 2024/25).

Reserve Policy

General Fund:

At our financial year end [31st Aug 2024] our General Fund balance was £59,020

We aim to maintain a contingency reserve of £20,000 within our general funds (approximately three-month's expenditure) 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 at the end of our financial year in August.

In addition, we budget for the following items during the year to 31st August 2025 in support of the work and mission of the Church:

Ads & Publicity	£500
Agreed donations to Connexional funds & others	£6,000
Ideas budget	£1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	£9,000
Youth & Children Grant	£500
To be transferred to Growth Fund	£10,000

Designated Funds:

At our financial year end [31st Aug 2024] our **Designated Funds** total was £54,610

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 2024 these are specified as below:

Growth Fund (Families Pastor)	£35,992
Property	£15,434
Renewal	£1,533
Tiddlywinks	£262
WLTD0	£533
Thursday Afternoon Fellowship	£442
Youth & Children Work	£413

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Revd Andrew de Ville



Date 27th March 2025

CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ROMSEY

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

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 Andrew de Ville

Church Stewards:

Cathryn Simons

Ann Cousins

Heather Adey

Jason Elkin

Linda Pennells

Peter Manning

Treasurer:

Don Simons

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	74,351		74,351	68,273
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	4,560		4,560	2,507
a4	Lettings	8,159		8,159	7,839
a5	Other receipts	17,481	31,379	48,860	26,639
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	104,551	31,379	135,930 (a7)	105,258

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	55,824	15,694	71,518	53,496
b3	Donations	11,437	360	11,797	11,153
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	5,292	12,152	17,444	6,336
b5	Utilities (water charges, heating & lighting, Broadband)	7,143		7,143	3,907
b6	Insurance	2,066		2,066	2,006
b7	Other payments	13,504	2,203	15,707	14,977
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	95,266	30,409	125,675 (b9)	91,875

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
Re	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	9,285	970	10,255	13,382.83
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	48,896	54,479	103,375 (c6)	89,992
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	58,181	55,449	113,630	103,375
c4	Transfers and adjustments	839	(839)	0 (c7)	
		59,020	54,610	113,630 (c8)	103,375 (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	3,464	4,729
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,464	4,729
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	0	0

ROMSEY

Church

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 2024 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)	135,930 (e7)	125,675 (b9)	10,255	103,375 (c6)	113,630 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	135,930	125,675	10,255	103,375 (x)	113,630 (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 2024	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	14,620	14,718
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	88,755	98,912
Pet		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	103,375 (c6)	113,630 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	103,375 (x)	113,630 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,137,287	2,201,404
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)

Name of Church: **Romsey Methodist Church**

No 30620

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 23.09.24

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 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 07.11.24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev'd Andrew de Ville

Date 07.11.24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

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 2024 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. Wigney

Name of independent examiner GRAND ANNE WIGNEY

Relevant profession RETIRED CHURCH TREASURER

Address 2 HAZEL CLOSE, KINGS SOMERSET

..... STOCKBRIDGE Post Code SP20 6QF

Date 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate