

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the period to 31st August 2025

Romsey Methodist Church
The Hundred,
Romsey,
SO51 8BZ

Chair – Revd Andrew de Ville

Membership = 116

The Methodist Church

We take our place as part of The Methodist Church of Great Britain, 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 use of ChurchSuite to support compliance with data protection regulations (GDPR) as well as enhancing operations across all children's groups enabling the Church to 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. At The General Church Meeting, held 2nd July 2025, it was agreed to re-shape the Leadership Team, comprising of two teams, Church Stewards and a Development Team. This is to be developed and implemented in the year 2025/26.

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.

Constitution of Romsey Methodist Church Council

November 2025

Ministers
The Revd Peter Rayson* (Superintendent)
The Revd Andrew De Ville*
The Revd Rachael Hawkins*

Church Stewards
Mrs Linda Pennells (2021)
Mrs Heather Wilman# (2021)
Mr Jason Elkin* (2018)

Mrs Cathryn Simons* (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)

Circuit Steward Mr Tim Clifford (2023)

Families Pastor Mrs Maggie Blair* (2023)

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)
GDPR Mr Roger Hopper* (2022)
Local Preacher Mr Jason Elkin* (2016)
Small Fellowship/Study Groups Mr Alan Hill (2018)

General Church Meeting Representatives

(maximum 15)

Mrs Helen Dunn* (2019)
Mrs Corinne Thomson* (2019)
Mrs Christine Jackson (2019)
Mr John Read (2024)

Women's Work in the Church

Pastoral Committee Mrs Elizabeth Robertson*# (2018)
Property Mrs Cathryn Simons* (2017)
Children's and Youth Work (3) Mrs Meghan Elkin* (2010)
Ms Katie Simons* (2016)
Mrs Sandra Plumb*# (2016)
Safeguarding Mrs Marilyn Pack* (2023)

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 = 38

Minimum number of Trustees required = 7

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

denotes Bank Authorised Signatory

Vision & Mission

Following a period of prayerful discernment, the Leadership Team refreshed our Church Vision, 'Building a Community for Christ', for the next season of mission and ministry. This updated model was adopted by the General Church Meeting in July 2025.

Our Vision: To build a Christ-centred community that flourishes across generations.

Our Mission: We will live out this vision by:

- Investing in family ministries that evolve alongside the people they serve.
- Creating intentional, intergenerational worship that unites all ages.
- Nurturing deeper spirituality through consistent prayer and Biblical study.
- Providing high-quality relational hospitality that moves beyond "radical" welcome to personal connection.

Safeguarding:

The Church is committed to ensuring that safeguarding is foundational to the ministry it is involved in. The Church Safeguarding Officer's role ensures that safer recruitment practices are followed; appropriate training is undertaken; and an annual review of the Church Safeguarding Policy is undertaken.

Public Benefit:

The trustees of The Methodist Church have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in compliance with its duties under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Church exists, inter alia, to:

1. increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love;
2. help people learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care; and
3. be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

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

Objectives & Activities:

Family Ministries,

As the appointment of a Families Pastor develops across the second year within the church community, we have been seeing the impact of this ministry and where growth in not only activities but also numbers attending has been occurring. Working with the existing teams and new volunteers to provide a wide range of activities has been a strength of the role and part of the success. The continued developments of family provision on Sundays through Funday Sunday, Cogs and the IG services have seen marked growth in the number of families attending. No longer is it unusual to have a few families at worship, but it becomes unusual if only a few families are present.

Building on the existing church community ventures like Tune and Story Tots as well as the Beacon Café means the church has been able to prioritise a ministry to families during school holidays, valued by the community, the church has become a hub for families in the area during the holidays.

With the growth in numbers as well as ages of the children across all groups we have begun to explore how we grow and offer for the juniors and teenagers. A few specific one off events like pancake breakfast have been successful. But the restriction of the part time hours for the Families Pastor has limited the momentum of this across the year.

Support to Who Let the Dads Out group as well as the Church Toddler group continues to see these well attended and linking with the families has provided several pastoral support opportunities of the church and especially the Family Pastor.

Keeping connected to the wider church there are many events that link all ages and parts of the community together, these opportunities have occurred most often during the seasons of Christmas and Easter with the extra activities and services being well supported and received.

School links continue to develop as well as initiatives such as Parenting for Faith Courses and the national Prayer Month for Toddler groups.

Looking into the next year we know that the Families Pastor role will need to be developed for the expansion into offering regular activities for juniors and teenagers as well as to keep up with growth across the church.

More information about these activities can be seen at www.romseymethodist.church/children-families/

In addition, we proactively use social media in order to achieve our Mission objectives and to share ideas & events.

Creating intentional, intergenerational worship that unites all ages: this is more than just having children and adults worshipping in the same space; it is the art of weaving together all people – regardless of age – into a joint act of worshipping and praising God. This has required us to consider liturgy, music and activities which will hold both the child's wonder and an adult's wisdom within the one act of worship. This is something which we continue to reflect on and challenges ourselves about.

Nurturing deeper spirituality through consistent prayer and Biblical study: where we continue to reflect on how we enable and develop a deeper spirituality for all ages through consistent prayer and Biblical study.

Providing high-quality relational hospitality that moves beyond "radical" welcome to personal connection: A cornerstone of our approach. We look to deliver relational hospitality at every opportunity, from Sunday worship, to our bi-weekly café and curious cafés, to larger events and festivals, like the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

Beacon Café (member of Chatty Café scheme) 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, and during school holidays 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.

The premises are well used by other charities (Romsey Young Carers, Oasis Christian Trust who are offered the use of our premises free-of-charge) as well as other organisations in the community. Various social events have been held to support fund raising for our designated charities. In December we held our Christmas Tree Festival which was an opportunity for charities and local organisations to raise funds. This event raised just over £2,000 split 50:50 between the Church and the charities represented.

Key Charities supported: The Church makes annual donations to Methodist Connexional Funds in support of the wider Methodist Church as well as 3 nominated charities through various activities, like the Beacon Café. This year, Church Council agreed to continue the support to the international charity 'All We Can', the national charity 'MHA' and the local charity, 'Romsey Young Carers'.

In addition, we made a grant of £1,394.50 to Halterworth School, Romsey to help provide for the needs of vulnerable families within their catchment area.

Net Zero Carbon Pathway: At Romsey Methodist we try to ensure we consider our environment as part of every decision we make, from what soap we use in the bathrooms to replacing our windows. We care about our planet and know that working to protect it is part of our service to God.

Under the [A Rocha Eco Church scheme](#), in 2016 we achieved a Bronze Award, a Silver Award in 2017 and a Gold Award in 2020. This journey included updating the heating, insulation, double glazing and the installation of solar panels.

In March 2025 Church Council agreed that our next step would be to undertake a 360 Carbon review using the Climate Stewards Carbon 360 exercise, calculating our carbon footprint across Energy, Travel, Food, Expenditure and waste. This established total emissions of 20.06 tCO₂ for the year and, under the scheme, we made an offset payment of £458.23 to Climate Stewards, supporting community forestry, water filter, and cookstove projects in Ghana, Kenya, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda.

Finance & Reserves:

For the financial year to 31st August 2025 the Church Funds grew by £22,000.

The surplus on the General Fund of £15,105 was primarily driven by:-

- Increased offering £4k
- General donations of £5k in memory of loved ones passed
- Invoices for Quinquennial Survey & Electric Inspection, totalling £4.5k, received after year-end

The surplus on Designated Funds of £7,378 was primarily driven by donations to the Growth fund of £15,000 [of which £12,000 made in memory of loved ones passed]

Our Designated Fund, 'Growing for Mission' was developed to receive donations to support the Families Ministry and this, along with an annual grant of £5,000 received from the Southampton District, has enabled 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.

Reserve Policy

General Fund:

At our financial year end [31st Aug 2025] our General Fund balance was £63,925

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 2026 in support of the work and mission of the Church:

Ads & Publicity	£500
Agreed donations to Connexional funds & others	£6,500
Ideas budget	£1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	£10,000
Transfer to Growth Fund	£6,000
Transfer to Property Fund	£6,000

Designated Funds:

At our financial year end [31st Aug 2025] our **Designated Funds** total was £72,188

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 2025 these are specified as below:

Children & Families	£3,192
Growth Fund (<i>Families Pastor funding</i>)	£54,458
Property Reserve	£14,001
Thursday Afternoon Fellowship	£537

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Revd Andrew de Ville

Date



12 March 2026

CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ROMSEY

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

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

1193935

If not a registered charity His 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

Treasurer:

Don Simons

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		78,246		78,246	74,351
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,694		4,694	4,560
a4	Lettings		7,980		7,980	8,159
a5	Other receipts		22,361	30,791	53,152	48,860
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		113,281	30,791	144,072 (a7)	135,930

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		55,824	16,978	72,802	71,518
b3	Donations		11,243	250	11,493	11,797
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		5,980	2,928	8,908	17,444
b5	Utilities (water charges, heating & lighting, Broadband)		7,286		7,286	7,143
b6	Insurance		2,121		2,121	2,066
b7	Other payments		15,722	3,257	18,979	15,707
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		98,176	23,413	121,589 (b9)	125,675

SECTION C						
Re	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	15,105	7,378	22,483	10,255
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		59,020	54,610	113,630 (c6)	103,375
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	74,125	61,988	136,113	113,630
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(10,200)	10,200	0 (c7)	
			63,925	72,188	136,113 (c8)	113,630 (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			2,791	4,729	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,791	4,729	
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 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						
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)	144,072 (a7)	121,589 (b9)	22,483	113,630 (c6)	136,113 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	144,072	121,589	22,483	113,630 (x)	136,113 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS			

Rev **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	14,718	27,507
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	98,912	108,606
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	113,630 (c6)	136,113 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	113,630 (x)	136,113 (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)	2,201,404
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

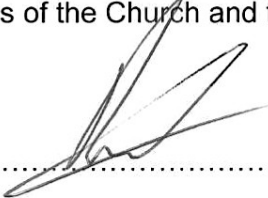
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

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 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  Date... 02.10.25

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 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 06.11.25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting **Rev'd Andrew de Ville** Date 06.11.25

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 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

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 CHURCH TREASURER

Address 2 HAYES CUSE, KINGS SOMERNE

..... STOCKBRIDGE Post Code SO206QF

Date 2ND OCTOBER 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate