

Annual Report of Otford Methodist Church Year Ending 31st August 2025
Charity No 1204291

Administrative information

Otford Methodist Church

Address

Otford Methodist Church
High Street
Otford
Sevenoaks
TN14 5PH

For correspondence

Minister

Rev J Braund
18 The Old Walk
Otford
Sevenoaks
TN14 5PP

Secretary of Church Council

Mr J Goodburn
39 Wickens Meadow, Rye Lane
Dunton Green
Sevenoaks
TN14 5JB

Objectives and Activities

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 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.

The Church has maintained worship services on Sunday Mornings and a monthly service on Sunday evening. Support has continued to the local primary school through our Bags of Help scheme. Weekday activities have continued for Children through Toast and First Steps. Junior Church has continued on a Sunday morning. Community groups continue to hire the halls.

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance. The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Achievements and Performance

The church has worship services at 10.30am every Sunday and these are broadcast to the internet. There is a healing service at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month. Refreshments are provided for all in the Hall following the morning service.

Junior Church is provided during the 10.30am services for all children, attending the first part of the service before moving to the Church Hall.

Eight fellowship groups meet fortnightly in various locations and at various times of day and evening

Other groups which meet and include members from outside the church:

The Women's Fellowship meets on Wednesday afternoons in term time

First Steps, for parents and children under school age – an ecumenical group meets fortnightly.

Toast Club, for primary school children is held fortnightly during term time in the church hall.

Two Alpha courses were run.

Weekly prayer meetings were held using Zoom. Other types of prayer were run including a day of prayer and a monthly prayer meeting in Church.

Who Let the Dads Out, a monthly meeting for Dads and male carers with primary age and younger children.

Carpenter's Arms a men's group meets occasionally.

Hall Lettings

A considerable number of community groups use the Church hall.

Regular community use includes:

Art Class

Keep fit classes – Serendip

Dance Teacher giving individual lessons

Guides and brownies

Drama Groups

Counselling services

U3A Groups

Review of progress and achievements 2024-25

Money was raised to support Christian Aid, All We Can and Tear Fund.

Cook continue to supply meals to be distributed to those in need. The School continue to identify families in need of groceries.

We now supply up to five families once a fortnight during term time.

Financial Review

The total receipts of the charity amounted to £90,247 with payments of £121,792 (2024: total receipts of £110,228 with payments of £155,112).

Reserves Policy

The policy of the charity as at 31 August 2025 was to have free reserves of £63,000 to fund its work. Unrestricted funds at 31 August 2025 were £39,792 (2024: £71,256) with no restricted funds. As at 31 August 2025 the assets of the charity are not considered to be adequate to fulfil its obligations and the trustees will plan how to raise the shortfall as the church will continue.

Structure, Governance & Management

The charity is an unincorporated charity governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976) adopted 26 October 1976. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 9 August 2023.

Trustees are appointed by the Church Council.

Trustee List

Managing Trustees (Church Council 2024 - 25)

Rev J Braund - Minister

Mr N Rowell – Chief steward

Mr J Ward - Steward

Mr J Goodburn - Church Council Secretary

Mrs A Rowell

Mrs S Goodburn – Steward

Mrs A Knapp – Steward

Rev J Curnow – Supernumerary

Mr A Mitchell – Junior Church

Mrs S Mitchell – Junior Church

Mrs I Goodwin – Pastoral Secretary

Mr M Jones

Miss E Graham

Mrs A Suaznabar

Mrs R Cracknell

Mrs C Oakley – Steward, Treasurer, Safeguarding

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Mr D Baxter

Ms S Wilkins - steward

Mrs S Ward

Mrs J Ball - steward from May 25

Mrs C Cable

Mr F Mair – property

Ms S Cole

Mr M Harris - until December 24

Mr R Paterson – worship

Mrs D Paterson - until December 24

Mrs H Harris - until December 24

Mrs J Pearce

Mrs J Mair

Mr R Evans – Steward

Mrs K Baxter

Rev. Jane Braund

Chair

Date 20-1-26

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Otford Methodist	Church
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025**

Weald of Kent	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/18
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1204291

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

(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:

Jane Braund

Church Stewards:

Nick Rowell	Alison Knap
Carol Oakley	Robin Evans
John Ward	Jane Ball
Shirley Goodburn	Sue Wilkins

Treasurer:

Carol Oakley

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		78,212		78,212	90,849
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,148		1,148	3,074
a4	Lettings		8,386		8,386	9,905
a5	Other receipts		2,501		2,501	6,400
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		90,247		90,247 (a7)	110,228
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		65,141		65,141	64,656
b3	Donations		10,304		10,304	10,360
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		6,037		6,037	46,827
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		11,540		11,540	9,790
b6						23,479
b7	Other payments		28,770		28,770	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		121,792		121,792 (b9)	155,112
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(31,545)		(31,545)	(44,884)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		71,256	81	71,337 (c6)	116,221
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	39,711	81	39,792	71,337
c4	Transfers and adjustments		81	(81)		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	39,792		39,792 (c8)	71,337 (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					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				5,778	3,366
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				5,778	3,366
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)				

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)	90,247	(a7)	121,792	(b9)	(31,545)		(c7)		71,337	(c6)	39,792	(c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	90,247		121,792		(31,545)				71,337	(x)	39,792	(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	46,449		27,592	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	24,888		12,200	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6	Other funds				
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	71,337	(c6)	39,792	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	71,337	(x)	39,792	(y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3,396,279	3,465,000
g3	Other Assets	23,587	26,530
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities	1,230	2,277

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 C. A Oakley Date 20/1/26 ..
Name and address of treasurer CAROL OAKLEY
1 NIGHTINGALE ROAD KENSING SEVENDAKS Post Code TN15 6RU

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were ~~were~~ presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/01/26

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Jane Braund
Name of the Chair of the meeting JANE BRAUND Date 20-1-26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... OTFORD METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1024291

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the OTFORD METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 2 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 OTFORD METHODIST CHURCH

No 120 4291

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 S. Farrer

Name of independent examiner SAMANTHA FARRER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 42A CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, KINGSING.

CEVENGERS, CENT Post Code TN15 6GR

Date 28/01/2026

* delete or circle as appropriate