

Royston Methodist Church
Annual Report and Financial Statements for
the year ending 31st August 2025

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Charity Information

Trustees

Minister

Revd Charity Nzegwu

Stewards

Gill Grainger

James Hindley

Geoff Grainger

Dave Aggett

Margaret Tillson

Sue Walter

Treasurer

James Browne (*appointed 1st September 2024*)

Other Members of Church Council

Ann Keep

Jennie Harris

Sue Watson

Cathy Black

Joan Germany (*resigned 20th February 2025*)

Joyce Goodall

Laura Hindley

Paul Harris

Jeff Maddin

Tony Garrick

Tess Maddin

Joan Munden

Karen Shepherd

Brian Norwood

Nick Keep

Non-trustee Members of Church Council

Elsie Salmon (Circuit steward)

Charity registration number: 1207017

Independent Examiner: The Accountancy Practice, Royston

Bankers: Barclays PLC

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

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street

London
EC2A 4PE

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Deed of Union and Methodist Church Act, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Background

This is the annual report and financial statements of Royston Methodist Church in Royston, Hertfordshire.

Achievements and Performance

Royston Methodist Church had a membership of 66 with 47 adherents. We have welcomed new members who have moved to the area or transferred from other churches and held baptisms. The normal attendance at our main Sunday Service at 10.30 (based on the October 2024 count) is 62. This includes the people attending on Zoom. We transmit most of our services and have a few people attending each week by Zoom. These people vary and are normally members of our own congregation who are feeling less well or unable to travel to the service that day.

We also have a number of extra services mostly in Advent, Lent and Easter. Our minister, Rev Charity Nzegwu, returned from sabbatical leave in November 2024.

We have an active programme of Youth Work using self-employed Professional Youth Workers to run a monthly Messy Church, weekly First Friends (Carer and toddler group) and a Holiday Club in October half term. We continue to hear many reports of how families have been helped and supported by attending the First Friends group and they recommend it to their friends. Messy Church continues to be a popular and accessible form of worship.

We run a number of activities: coffee mornings on Saturdays as well as after the service on Sunday, a monthly Sunday Lunch, Ladies Group, a regular singing group (Andante) and Bible study on Zoom. The premises are let to a number of charities, organisations and businesses including AA, Homestart, Guides and exercise and dance classes.

The church has undertaken a refurbishment project over the past few years. The last phase, installing a larger refitted kitchen, was completed this year. The new facilities have been well received by our church family and the local community.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31st August 2025, the trustees were required to prepare receipts and payments accounts, as its income was below the threshold for accruals accounting. This is likely to be the case for next year.

The church made a deficit on the General Fund of £6,983 (2024: £1,109). Unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2025 were £74,682 (2024: £100,659). Total reserves stood at £75,189 (2024: £118,956). Balances on the Restricted Funds at year end 2025 were: Benevolence Fund £508, Property Fund £0.

Reserves Policy

Royston Methodist Church adopted a Reserves Policy in 2024. The Royston Methodist Church policy document itself sets out the rationale for the reserves policy, and identifies the requirement for two reserves: a General Reserve and a Property Reserve. In summary, the policy is that:

We aim to maintain a General Reserve of about six months expenditure, or £ 29,000

We aim to maintain a Property Reserve of £20,000.

The church exceeded this balance at all times in 2024-25.

A similar policy will be proposed for 2025-26 at the November Church Council Meeting.

Aims, Objects and Organisation

Our objectives are summarised in our mission statement:

Royston Methodist Church proclaims the message of God's love through Christ by worshipping, growing and learning as a community of disciples. We aim to be open and caring, responsive to each other and to local and global concerns. We seek to build a closer partnership with other churches both locally and within the wider Methodist family.

Royston Methodist Church is governed and managed in accordance with the standing orders of the Methodist Church. The church is led by a minister who chairs the Church Council, the governing body. The members of the Church Council, excluding representatives of external organisations, are the trustees of the charity. Members of the Church Council are chosen by one of the following processes; (1) Ministers appointed to the church by the Methodist Church (2) ordinary members elected by the annual General Church Meeting (3) stewards of the church, elected by the annual General Church Meeting (4) ex officio officers of the church, such as the treasurer, who are appointed by the Church Council itself (5) representatives from the Methodist Church in the local circuit.

The Church Council normally meets four times a year and receives reports from officers and organisations within the church. Day-to-day management is devolved to the minister, stewards, the Finance & Property Committees, the Pastoral Committee, and the officers of the church, such as Pastoral Secretary, Treasurer and Property Steward.

Trustees other than the minister must all be members of Royston Methodist Church. They serve for a maximum of six years in a role, but may be appointed beyond this time by annual election with a 75% majority, in accordance with Methodist standing orders.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding what activities the Church should undertake.

Key Management Personnel

The trustees consider they are the key management and are not remunerated. In accordance with Methodist Discipline, all ministers are provided with a manse and a stipend by the circuit to which they are stationed. The stipend and manse are the means to provide the minister with the material support necessary to fulfil God's mission. The provision of a stipend and manse is not considered to be a personal benefit or payment for services provided, but must be declared. For further details please see - President of the Methodist Conference v Preston [2013] UKSC 27.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources, and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provision of the Deed of Union. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 20th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Trustee



Statement of Financial Activities

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Royston Methodist Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		47,512	2,603	50,116	111,357
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,663		2,663	4,659
a4	Lettings		7,372		7,372	7,682
a5	Other receipts		6,141	12,813	18,954	34,442
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		63,688	15,416	79,105 (a7)	158,140

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		42,588	42,588	40,010	
b3	Donations		280	1,528	2,001	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		9,652	50,672	131,775	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		7,089	7,089	6,920	
b6	Youth work		5,349	5,349	5,766	
b7	Other payments		5,714	5,714	6,504	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		70,671	52,200	122,871 (b9)	192,976

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(6,983)	(36,784)	(43,767)	(34,836)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		100,659	18,297	118,956 (c6)	153,793
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	93,676	(18,487)	75,189	118,956
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(18,994)	18,994	(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	74,682	508	75,189 (c8)	118,956 (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		67		407
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		67		407
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 Ladies Group	98	85	13		115	129
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	98	85	13		115 (e11)	129 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	79,105 (a7)	122,871 (b9)	(43,767)	(c7)	118,956 (c6)	75,189 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	79,203	122,956	(43,753)		119,071 (x)	75,318 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	32	34
f2 Bank Current Account	60,058	9,696
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	58,865	65,459
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	118,956 (c6)	75,189 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	115 (e11)	129 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	119,071 (x)	75,318 (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)	1,990,559	2,042,320
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)

Notes to the Financial Statements

- The Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The Restricted funds are:

Benevolence Fund holds money from which the Minister can make donations to individuals in need as set out in the Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) Section 651 (2025 Edition).

Sundry Donations Fund holds restricted donations and grants for church activities such as Pastoral Care, Junior Church and minor property projects that fall on the General Fund. It also acts as a holding fund for legacies as the spending of these is restricted by having to apply to TMCP. When the specified expenditure has occurred, the amount is transferred to the General Fund (or Property Fund in the case of some legacies).

Property Fund holds donations and grants and makes expenditure for specific property projects. At the end of the project the Church Council normally resolves to remove any deficit in the Property Fund from the General Fund.

JMA Fund holds donations and proceeds from fundraising made for Junior Missions for All (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/junior-mission-for-all/>). The balance is sent to the Methodist Fund for World Mission, normally at year end.

2. Offerings and tax recoverable

Since March 2020 we have not taken a weekly collection at services. Most people donate by standing order, others give regular monthly cheques and others contribute on a more irregular basis. "Donations at Events" covers the money donated at events where a charge is not made, such as coffee on Saturday and Sunday, Messy Church and First Friends. This is eligible for Gift Aid Small Donations. It does not include activities with a ticket price such as the monthly Sunday Lunch.

General Fund		2024-25	2023-24
General Donations (Cash and Cheques)	£	7,276	6,795
Standing Orders	£	26,595	26,930
Donations at Events	£	4,540	4,483
Tax reclaimed	£	9,101	9,673
TOTAL	£	47,512	47,881
Restricted Funds			
Property Fund			
General Donations	£	0	52,739
Tax reclaimed	£	0	9,138
Sundry Donations Fund			
General Donations	£	1,500	250
JMA Fund			
General Donations	£	1,103	1,348
Benevolence Fund			
General Donations	£	0	2
OVERALL Restricted TOTAL	£	2,603	63,477

3. Interest. The General Fund Interest was from the CFB Deposit Account.

4. Other Receipts

General Fund		2024-25	2023-24
Fund Raising Receipts	£	6,121	5,500
Other Income	£	20	127
TOTAL	£	6,141	5,627
Restricted Funds	£		

Property Fund			
Fund Raising Receipts	£		
Grants Received	£	12,023	28,000
Legacies	£		
Sundry Donations Fund			
Fund Raising Receipts	£		
Grants Received	£		
Legacies	£		461
JMA Fund			
Fund Raising Receipts	£	290	353
Benevolence Fund			
Grants Received	£	500	
OVERALL Restricted TOTAL	£	12,813	28,814

Fund Raising Receipts include income from events such as the monthly Sunday Lunches, May Fayre, Tunes and Spoons and the Aquathon.

Other income in 2024-25 includes payments for private printing.

5. Related Parties and Trustee Payments (Circuit Assessment or Share)

8 Trustees were reimbursed for receipted expenses, totalling £3,593 in 43 transactions. This mostly relates to raw materials for catering, but includes other items, for example for property repairs, books and flowers

No trustee received a salary, honorarium, travel expenses or payment for services.

However, our largest payments from the General fund (Total £42,588) are to the Cambridge Methodist Circuit (Related Party – Charity no 1134226). This is in part to pay for the salaries, travel expense and accommodation of the Ministers in the Circuit which include the Chair of our Trustees.

We received a Grant of £12,023 from the Cambridge Methodist Circuit (from the proceeds of churches and manses that have been sold) towards the Property Project. If the Royston Methodist Church were to be dissolved, then the remaining assets would normally revert to the Cambridge Methodist Circuit. The JMA Fund pays to a Fund of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The Cambridge Methodist Circuit pays a contribution to the East Anglia District of the Methodist Church (Related Party – Charity no 1129451), who in turn make a contribution to the Methodist Church in Great Britain (Related Party – Charity no 1132208). Some of Trustees are also Trustees of the Circuit, District and Methodist Church in Great Britain. Ministerial Trustees of the Circuit usually chair the Church Council in the absence of the Chair of Trustees.

The Methodist Insurance Company (Insurers), All We Can (the operating name of Methodist Relief and Development Fund (Charity 29161)), and Action For Children (Charity 1097940) have historic and ongoing links with the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

6. Donations

The donations from the General Fund are: Everychild £180 and Homestart £100 (From Tunes and Spoons Event). The Donations from the Restricted Funds are £1,393 from the JMA Fund to the Methodist Fund for World Mission and £135 from the Benevolence Fund.

7. Property Costs (Repairs and Maintenance and Utilities)

The church changed gas and electricity suppliers from EOn to Octopus Energy on 1 April 2025. The underpayment for gas usage highlighted in last year's report was addressed at the end of the contract with an additional payment of £1,996. We are yet to be billed by Octopus for our usage since April so there remains a significant underpayment for gas and electricity.

The Restricted Fund Expenditure in Repairs and Maintenance relate to the Property Fund.

Most of this relates to the Property project, which was carried out in two Phases over July-Sept 2023 and 2024. This falls awkwardly for year end, but minimised the disruption to our lettings and youth activities which mainly take place in school terms. For information, below is set out the expenditure in phases over multiple financial years.

The remaining £8,960 of Restricted Fund Expenditure in Repairs and Maintenance in 2024-25 relates to the replacement of the boiler which took place in October 2024.

	Expenditure	Income					
		Donations and Gift Aid	Fund Raising	Grants	Transfer From Bequest	Transfer From General Fund	Total income
Design							
2018-19		£300	£3,290				£3,590
2019-20	£5,481	£398	£5,161				£5,559
2020-21	£7,520					£3,852	£3,852
TOTAL	£13,001						£13,001
			Balance in Property Fund				£0
Phase 1	Unisex Cubicles, 2nd Accessible Lavatory, Platform Lift						
2021-22	£0	£160					£160
2022-23	£44,657	£28,120	£899	£10,000	£56,750		£95,769
2023-24	£75,763			£18,000			£18,000
2024-25						£6,491	£6,491
TOTAL	£120,420						£120,420
Phase 2	Expanding Kitchen into Ladies Lavatory						
2023-24	£48,588	£61,877		£10,000	£1,356		£73,233
2024-25	£41,712			£12,023		£5,044	£17,067
TOTAL	£ 90,300						£ 90,300
Phase 1 and 2 Total	£ 210,720						£210,720
			Balance in Property Fund				£0

8. Other Payments

General Fund		2024-25	2023-24
Catering	£	2,677	2,636
Photocopying and Printing	£	1,016	1,490
Worship Expenses (Candles, Licences etc)	£	549	1,261
Telephone and Broadband	£	925	871
Admin Expenses	£	200	200
Postage	£	68	36
Fund Raising Costs	£	178	10
Other Costs	£	100	
TOTAL		5,714	6,504

Other Costs in 2024-25 represents a donation from the church towards the Superintendent's leaving gift.

9. Transfers Between Funds

From Sundry Donations Fund		2024-25	2023-24
To Property (Bequest)	£		1,356
To General (Donation for Youth Work)	£	500	250
To General (Grant for Materials for Youth Work) (Barnados/HCC)	£		40
To General (Grant for new shed for Toys) (Ensum Brown)	£		100
To General (Donation towards cost of defibrillator)	£	1,000	
From General Fund		2024-25	2023-24
To Property (contribution from general fund towards Property Project and boiler replacement)	£	20,494	
TOTAL	£	21,994	1,746

10. Agency Collections

Cash Collections were made for the following causes and passed on by cheque. Some donations were made by cheque direct to the charity by the donor. These are not included here as they did not pass through the accounts.

Action For Children (Christmas Card)	£67
TOTAL	£67

11. Internal Organisations

The Ladies House Group collects small amounts of money at their meetings to cover costs such as speaker expenses or materials. They present a simple form of accounts to the Church Finance Committee.

12. Building Valuation

The value of the buildings is shown at the Insurance Value recommended by the Methodist Insurance Company. A Risk Management Surveyor from MIC last visited in May 2023 and MIC increases the value in line with their assessment of inflation of costs.

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 1/10/2025

Name and address of Treasurer: James Browne

16 Layston Park, Royston

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 20th November 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Kevin Highfield Date: 17/11/25

Independent Examiner's Report

Charity Number 1207017

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Royston Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages to . 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

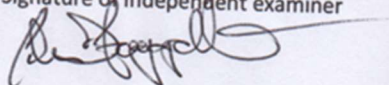
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- ~~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



Name of independent examiner: John David Froggett

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: F.A.I.A

Name of firm (where appropriate): The Accountancy Practice

Address: 41 High Street, Royston, Herts, SG8 9AW

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate