



Church Members' Meeting

22 February 2026

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Prayer
- Introduction and Purpose of Meeting
 - New Members
- Review of 2025
 - Our prayers
 - Sunday mornings
 - Home Fellowship
 - Children's Ministry
 - Baptisms
 - Christianity Explored
 - Women's Away Day
- Plans for 2026
 - New Youth class

- Update on Building Acquisition
- Financial Update
- Church Needs and Prayer Requests
- Questions & Open Forum
- Closing Prayer

Introduction

- We intend to have six-monthly Members' Meetings going forward, which will be in January and July.
- The next one will be on 12 July.
- This schedule aligns with our reporting obligations to the Charity Commission.

Purpose

- The purpose is to come together to reflect on the church's last six months, and to share plans for the coming months. We will communicate any changes we are planning to implement.
- As this is the first, we will review 2025.

Members

The church currently has 21 members.

Review of 2025

Our Prayers

We have prayed for many people and situations last year, and we have seen God move in remarkable ways.

Linda previously went through our answered prayers in January. We aim to review our prayers from the previous 6 months at each meeting going forwards.

Our Sunday Morning Studies

Below is a review of our key Bible studies in 2025. We introduced a new online sermon hosting platform last year, on which (nearly) all of our studies can be found. The site is available on our website, and the direct URL is <https://sermons.theupperroomfellowship.church>.

Matthew

During our Sunday services, our primary series has been continuing through Matthew's Gospel. In 2025 we studied from Matthew 17 through 26, which covered many important moments. We began with the Transfiguration of Christ, saw Him skilfully answer verbal traps laid for Him by the Jewish leadership, saw His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and then give several parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. We saw the challenging Olivet Discourse where Jesus gives crucial details about how things will end.

Samuel

Our secondary series has been continuing through First and Second Samuel. Our first message in 2025 was Tony's message from 1 Samuel 24, and we covered through to 2 Samuel 12 by the end of the year. In these chapters we followed David as he fled from Saul while Saul himself sank into madness and ultimately fell in battle as God prophesied. David became king at last and established Jerusalem.

The Understanding the Bible

We ran a five-part special series in 2025 which was focused on the Bible. The purpose was to bring trust, confidence and understanding of the Bible. The five sermons were:

- The History of God's Revelation – how God has communicated with mankind through history.
- The History of Scripture – how the Bible was written, the languages used, and how the texts have been preserved through the ages.
- From Manuscripts to Modern – the art and science of translating ancient languages into modern English.
- The Nature and Reliability of Scripture – the meaning of inerrancy, how the canon was formed, and some supernatural proofs of its divine origin.
- The Bible for Everyone – how we approach the Bible to study it, and an encouragement that God intends it to be read and understood by everybody.

In addition to our sermons we have had our scripture readings and brief exposition in the Book of Psalms.

Home Fellowship Series

In our home fellowship we have been studying through the book of Genesis. This series began as a review of Creation, but we chose to continue the journey through the book. By the end of 2025 we reached Genesis 27.

Children's Studies

Our Children's Church is aimed at children in school year 1 and above.

For our children we have a subscription to The Gospel Project for Kids. This is a series that covers the entire Bible every three years, looking at the plan of redemption. This year our studies have covered the kingdom period into the Prophets.

Baptisms

By God's grace we had two baptism services in 2025.

- 2 February - Harper
- 7 September – Marie, Amy and Harry

Christianity Explored

We ran a Christianity Explored course in April 2025.

Women's Away Day

We held our first Women's Away Day on 11 October. Linda led the day based on the theme Cease Striving, studying Psalm 46.

Carol Service

We held our annual carol service on 20 December which was attended by several visitors.

Plans for 2026

2026 is already underway. We do not set plans in stone, but leave space for the Spirit to guide us. However, here are our teaching plans as they stand.

Sunday Services

We will likely complete our studies in Matthew's Gospel by May or June. We feel led to do a short series on the Jewish Feasts, considering their prophetic relevance. After that we are praying about the next series. We are considering the books of Daniel or Revelation at present.

Our studies in 2 Samuel will continue and, unless the Lord leads us somewhere else, we will continue into 1 Kings.

Once we've completed the Psalms for our scripture reading, we are currently planning to read some of the smaller epistles.

Every fourth Sunday will be our week for taking Communion together.

Children's Ministry

As we have previously announced, we are launching a new Youth Bible Study series. Starting in March, we will alternate each week between our current Children's Church and our new Youth series. 1st March will be Children's Church. 8th will be our first Youth.

The new Youth Bible Study will be open to children in school year 7 or 8, however the content will be aimed at children in year 9 and above.

The children's ministries do need more people to be involved. We will be introducing rotas soon so if you are willing to join a rota as a helper for either group, please let Sabrina or Ali know. If you would like to take on a teaching role, please let us know too.

Children's Church

Children's church will continue in the same format, using the Gospel Project for Kids curriculum and being aimed between year 1 and year 9. Children in years 7 and 8 will be able to attend either or both of our classes. The youth studies require children to be willing and able to sit and partake in more mature conversation.

On the Youth study weeks, the younger children will be provided tables to sit upstairs in main meeting. It will be parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide things that will keep them quiet during the sermon and sit with their children where necessary.

Youth Bible Study

Those attending youth bible study will be expected to sit for a 45 minute study time and we hope they will all participate in the conversation. We will aim to provide the subject matter for the next session in advance. We will ask the youth to look into it and perhaps bring their thoughts and contributions along. There will however be no pressure applied, just encouragement to dig into the bible themselves at home.

The aim and heart is to equip our older teens who are about to enter the more adult, challenging and tempting world. Therefore, parents should be aware that some more mature topics will come out in youth study. Again, we will endeavour to make parents aware beforehand. Parents can withdraw their children from any session they feel may be too mature for them. We will always approach these subjects with sensitivity and aim to keep studies age appropriate.

Other Events

Christianity Explored has already been running in January. We intend to run the course whenever there is a desire for it. Baptism services will happen again whenever there is demand – and may God grant that many will want to be baptised this year!

We would like to run another Women's Away Day in 2026, and of course our carol service will be held at Christmas.

We also discussed the possibility of running a Men's Away Day and would like to understand if there is interest.

New Building

We have been offered a gift of a new church building. The building is West End Free Church, Beacon Road, West End, SO30 3BQ and is about a mile away from Gordon Hall.

The building is currently owned by Life Church, who are graciously giving it to us as a gift. The building is currently in a

state of disrepair and it will require a lot of work to restore it to use.

The leadership of The Upper Room Fellowship have agreed to receive this gift and are working with a Christian solicitor to complete the transfer. The building also comes with a significant fund of money which is reserved for the restoration of the building.

This is a serious and significant matter for us as a fellowship. We welcome your thoughts, questions, suggestions and – above all – prayers as we move forward. The building will certainly require many months – probably over a year – of work. During this time we will also need to continue paying rent at Gordon Hall.

There is a friend to many in the fellowship, Glenn, who lives very locally and has been diligently working to restore the hall. We intend to allow him to continue overseeing the project under our supervision.

Finance Update

The fellowship is 100% funded by your kind gifts and donations. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports us financially. Our outgoings are as low as possible and we have been amazed by your giving which has exceeded our costs. This gives us a good buffer for looking ahead, especially as we take on the new overheads that owning a building will bring.

Income

These figures are rounded to the nearest £100.

We received a total of £12,000 of gifts. Because many of you have declared you are able to Gift Aid, we received a further £1,700 back.

Thus our total income was £13,700.

Expenses

Our total outgoing were £8,400. The biggest expenses:

- Rent: £4,300
- Equipment: £1,700 – we bought a laptop, projector and mixer last year.
- Licenses: £900 – this includes our Lifeway subscription and software to run the screen.
- Internet and Communication: £400 – this is mostly for our website.

The operating cost for our fellowship is £160 per week.

Note: the church has no paid staff.

Church Needs and Prayer Requests

- Pray for us, the church leadership, as we seek to lead under Christ. May we never lose our focus on keeping the teaching of the Bible and pastoral support as our two highest priorities.
- Pray for the building transfer and for wisdom as we proceed.

- The children and youth ministries need more people to support them. Please do pray about getting involved.
- We are looking for one or two more people to learn how to support the audio and worship ministry.
- We are looking for professional support with managing our finances. This is likely to be a significant new expense. We believe this is required as acquiring a building will incur financial reporting obligations none of the trustees have done before, as well as generally increasing the workload.
- We continue to pray that God will increase the team of Elders.

Next Meeting

The next Members' Meeting is scheduled for 12 July 2026.