

Client: **Ruislip Methodist Church**

Project Address: **Ickenham Road, Ruislip, HA4 7BZ**

Project Description: **Creation of a “Community Refreshment Space” with minor external changes to the building, with new entrance and new window**

Document Title: **Heritage Statement**

Date: **14th December 2025**



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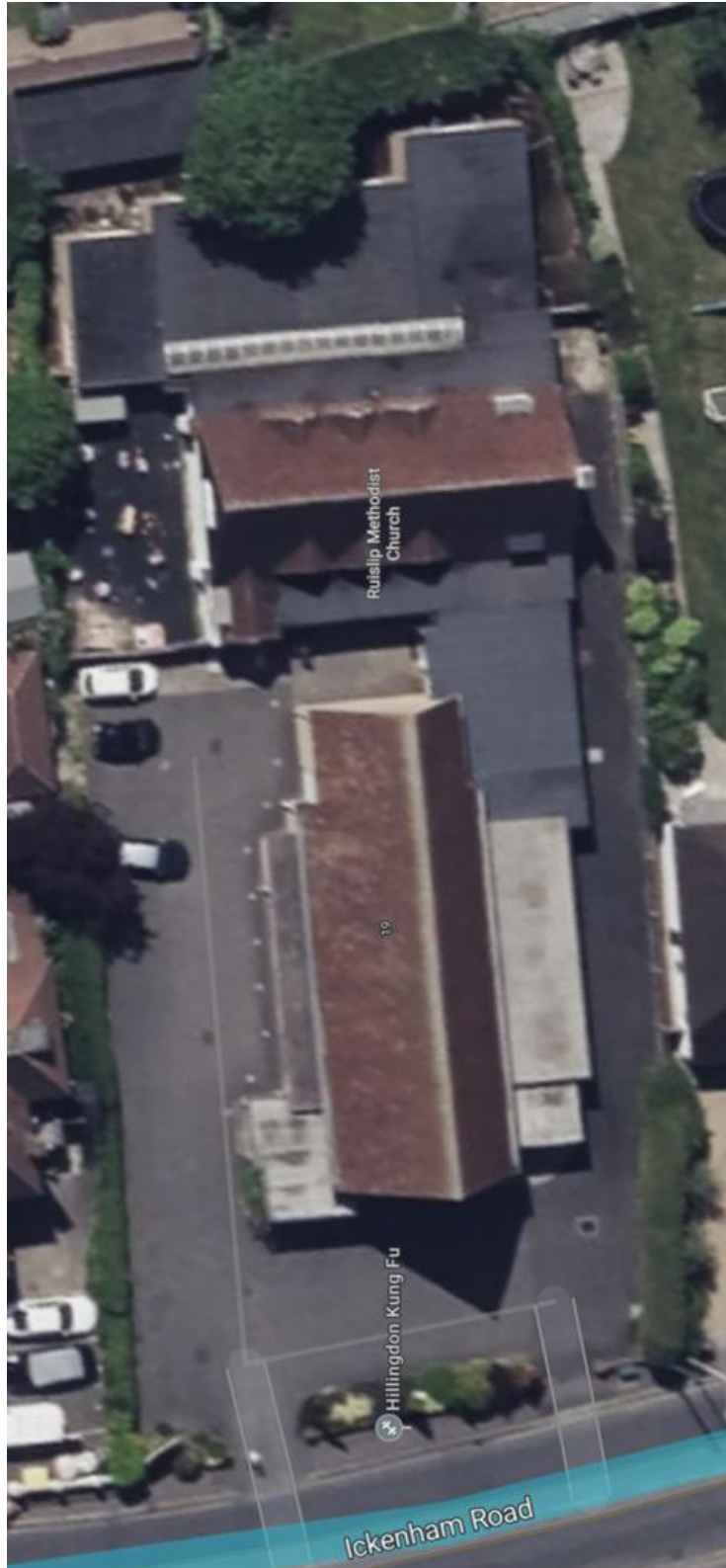
Unit 28, Peerglow Industrial Estate,
Olds Approach,
Watford, Hertfordshire.
WD18 9SR

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Ruislip Methodist Church Premises:



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Ruislip Methodist Church – Ickenham Road - Heritage Statement

1. Introduction

Ruislip Methodist Church Full Planning Application (ref. **4260/APP/2025/2721**)

The proposal includes the creation of a “**Community Refreshment Space**” with some minor external changes to the building, such as a new entrance and new window

This Heritage Statement has been prepared to assess the historical, architectural, and communal significance of Ruislip Methodist Church in support of heritage considerations for planning or conservation purposes.

- **Brief description of the proposed works.**

This proposal represents a sensitive and well-thought-out improvement to an important local community facility. The enhancements, including the creation of a café and seating area, dedicated children's play space, and upgraded accessible washroom facilities, will significantly improve the church's ability to serve local residents of all ages.

Importantly, the application demonstrates a clear commitment to inclusivity. The provision of disabled and baby-changing facilities ensures the building is accessible to all, while the café and play area will help foster community use beyond regular worship, encouraging social interaction, wellbeing, and community cohesion.

The proposed new fire exit improves safety, while the updated entrance provides a more welcoming and practical access point. Together, these changes will ensure the building remains safe, functional, and inviting for years to come.

It is believed this scheme fully aligns with Hillingdon's Local Plan aims of supporting community facilities, promoting inclusive design, and enhancing local wellbeing. It is also in keeping with the character of the area and respects the building's existing use.

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2. Site Description

Ruislip Methodist Church - 19 Ickenham Road, Ruislip, HA4 7BZ.

The church holds and organises regular services of worship that everyone is welcome to attend. We offer pastoral support to all who contact us. We offer a playgroup, parent and toddler group, ladies club and men's supper club. We support local ecumenical activities with high community importance, the Hall being home to about sixteen different organisations, Nursey and toddler, uniformed groups, Dancing, Drama, Kung Fu, Photographic, AA and CA support.

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3. Historical Background

- **Origins of Methodism in Ruislip:** Methodist worship in Ruislip dates back to the early 19th century, with licensed meetings recorded from the 1820s
- **Foundation of the Church:** The congregation at Ickenham Road was formally established in **1923**, marking the development of a purpose-built Methodist place of worship
- **Archival Records:** Extensive documentation (minutes, registers, magazines, photographs) from 1923–1992 is preserved in local archives, providing valuable insight into the church’s evolution and its role in community life.
- **The Original Church:** The first dedicated church building was constructed on the purchased land. This building still exists and is located directly **behind the current "new" church**; it celebrated its centenary in 2021, placing its original construction around **1921**.
- **The New Church:** The larger modern church building facing Ickenham Road was built later to accommodate the growing congregation.

Ruislip Methodist Church was completed in 1962 and was designed by Architect George Baines & Syborn. The Contractor was Walker Symondson Ltd., a local business. This building superseded the old 1930’s Church behind, which now serves as a Church Hall. The building is chalet-style with a central tall gable, flanked by flat roofs.

- **Community Use:** During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the church was a local social hub, well-known for its active **youth club**.

Affiliations and Governance

- **Denomination:** It is part of the **Methodist Church of Great Britain**, falling under the **Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit** within the London District.
- **Legal Status:** It is a registered charity (number **1163117**) governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union 1932.
- **Ecumenical Links:** The church maintains close ties with other local denominations, including the nearby **Ickenham United Reformed Church (URC)**.

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4. Architectural Significance

Period and Style: Constructed in the early 20th century, the building reflects functional ecclesiastical architecture typical of Methodist design—simple, practical, and community-focused.

Form and Materials: The church comprises a main worship space and associated halls, with modest detailing and a layout designed for flexibility in religious and social use.

The church is a brick-built, detached property suitable for various uses, detached brick building with heating, cooling, and suitable for conference/meeting use, which interior details include pews, pulpit, & organ

The style of the Architecture is typical of the 1950’s, with plain external brickwork paired with tall concrete mullions. Windows are tall and slender, mainly full height and glazed with contemporary elements of stained glass. Internally, it is very plain, but different sections of the walls and some of the ceilings are picked out in a series of different coloured emulsioned panels, typical of the fifties.

Setting: Positioned along Ickenham Road, the church contributes positively to the streetscape and acts as a visual anchor within the local townscape.

Current Status: The building is not nationally listed, and no formal local listing was identified during research.

Significance: Despite the absence of statutory protection, the church holds considerable local heritage value through its historical associations, architectural character, and community role.

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5. Heritage Value Assessment

Historical Significance & Origins

Active Community Role: The church hosts worship services, Bible study, pastoral care, youth activities, and social groups, reinforcing its importance as a community hub.

No real historical or architectural value, but high community importance, the Hall being home to about sixteen different organisations, Nursey and toddler, uniformed groups, Dancing, Drama, Kung Fu, Photographic, AA and CA support.

Heritage Continuity: Its ongoing use for religious and social purposes demonstrates continuity of function and cultural significance

Early Roots: Before a dedicated building existed, the congregation met in local **tea rooms**. Land was eventually purchased from these tea rooms to build the original church.

The Original Building: The original church building, situated behind the current "new" church, celebrated its **centenary in 2021**, dating its construction to approximately **1921**.

Ruislip Manor Methodist: A separate but related entity, Ruislip Manor Methodist Church, held its first service in **1932** and served as a central social hub during the area's rapid development in the 1930s.

Current Status: The building is not nationally listed (no Grade I, II*, II status found). and no formal local listing was identified during research.

Local Context: The church occupies a prominent position on Ickenham Road within a suburban residential setting in Ruislip. It serves as a key community landmark and is part of the Harrow & Hillingdon Methodist Circuit.

Local Listing: While other buildings nearby are locally listed (like some in Sharps Lane or South Ruislip Station), the church isn't explicitly named on the council's local list in the provided documents.

In short, it's a significant local church, but not a designated heritage building with special listing status.

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6. Communal and Social Value

Community Role: The church hosts worship services, Bible study, pastoral care, youth activities, and social groups, reinforcing its importance as a community hub.

Heritage Continuity: Its ongoing use for religious and social purposes demonstrates continuity of function and cultural significance

Youth & Scouting History: The church hall hosted the **4th Ruislip (Methodist) Scout Troop**, which has been active since at least **1946**.

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7. Statement of Significance

Ruislip Methodist Church is an early 20th-century religious building that embodies the growth of Methodism in suburban London. Its architectural simplicity, historical continuity, and extensive archival records underscore its importance as a cultural and social landmark. While not formally listed, it merits recognition and careful stewardship to preserve its heritage value for future generations.

The addition of new doors on the front of the church will increase accessibility and visibility for visitors and not be detrimental to the surrounding area. The window will also improve visibility for our refreshment area but will also be in keeping the churches existing architecture and the surrounding buildings and therefore the amendments will have minimal impact.

The existing entrance uninviting and is invisible from the roadside and is somewhat dangerously positioned on the side of the building in the car park drive-through. It is intended to make the entrance more obvious, at the front.