

BUILDING FREEDOM

New Church Building and Community Centre for Romsey



Established 1978...

**Nurtured
&
Grown**

...Rooted 2027

Welcome!



Senior Pastors, Sim &
Lottie Dendy

Thank you for taking the time to read about Freedom Church's vision, as we enter one of the most exciting seasons of our existence; We hope you feel inspired!

Since its creation in 1978, Freedom Church (as it's now named) has met in homes, community centres and school halls across Romsey. We have coped with the

temporary and the uncertainty, the setting up and packing down, trying to create a sense of home in a place that is only 'home' for a few hours each week. The church has managed this well, even though it has not always been straightforward.

Throughout this time, the church has grown in number and influence. Not just on Sundays, when we gather across all age groups to worship God, engage with biblical teaching and create a healthy community. But also, throughout the week, when we provide wrap-around support for people in crisis through our debt service, foodbank, school support as well as partnerships with agencies such as the local Job Centre and Citizens' Advice service.

And now it is time to put down roots, to create some permanence, a place to call home. Not so that we can rest up, down tools and say that's enough. But so that we can do more...

- more moments to *encounter* the love of Jesus;
- more space to *gather* and create community;
- more opportunities to grow as followers of Jesus;
- more occasions to *influence* and support those in need.

We are Building Freedom in Romsey, can you help us?

The land has been purchased and we have been granted planning permission. We now need further financial help, so that we can start building. This brochure gives you an overview of Freedom Church, its influence in our town and our plans to 'Build Freedom' for the future.

We hope you will partner with us...

Sim + Lottie x

Our Story

1978 A core group of people get filled with the Spirit and establish the 'Romsey Christian Fellowship'. They start off meeting in people's homes mid-week; joining Southampton Community Church on Sundays.

1980 Phil Jackson becomes pastor. In **1981** the name changes to New Life Church and starts meeting at Florence Nightingale Hall.

1989 Peter Light becomes pastor and the next move, to Romsey Town Hall.

1990s & 2000s The church moves to Crossfield Hall, then Romsey Primary School and Mountbatten School's Lantern Theatre.



Florence Nightingale Hall



Romsey Town Hall



Crosfield Hall

The birth of "Romsey Christian Fellowship", almost 50 years ago, was shaped by a renewal of the global church, when Christians sought new ways to receive and express God's love through spirit-filled worship and a greater sense of community.

The early leadership pursued the presence of God through prophetic ministry and prayer walks envisioning a community-centred church, but faced obstacles securing a permanent building. Locations like Fishlake Meadows and Alma Road were considered but proved unattainable. Despite the challenges, the church continued to grow and now has over 200 members.

Today, **Freedom Church** builds on a heritage of creativity and innovation to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ with the people of Romsey, the surrounding area and nations. Simply put, Freedom Church exists to:

Lead people in the pursuit of Jesus to see lives and communities transformed.

Our values come from the invitation Jesus gave his disciples to join Him on the adventure of a lifetime, when He said 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!'



2004 The church settles long term at Romsey School.

2016 New Life becomes Freedom Church and sets up Romsey's first Foodbank and CAP Debt Advice Centre.

2022 Architect's drawings are completed for the new home of Freedom Church.

2013 Sim Dendy joins and becomes the pastor.

2020 Land is purchased off Greatbridge Road, Romsey.



2025 Council approves planning permission for 'Building Freedom'

These words of Jesus establish four foundational principles that define the very purpose and mission of the Church.

'Come'	ENCOUNTER	because everyone can experience God
'Follow me'	GATHER	because together is always better
'I will show you how to'	GROW	because no one is finished yet
'Fish for people'	INFLUENCE	because every person can create change

They shape both our activities and the contagious DNA that naturally radiates from the people who call Freedom Church their home. We exist, as a church community, to provide a space in which anyone can **encounter** God, **gather** regularly together, **grow** in their faith and **influence** change.

Why now?



In 2025, the Church is needed more than ever. There is both a material and spiritual revival happening in the UK, and Freedom Church is part of it. A recent study published by the Bible Society states:

*"...the Church is in a period of rapid growth, driven by young adults and in particular young men...are more spiritually engaged than any other living generation, with Bible reading and belief in God on the rise...we also see that active engagement with a church has a significant impact on the lives of attendees, with a high increase in mental and general life wellbeing.
(Source: The Quiet Revival Report 2025, The Bible Society)"*

Freedom Centre Programme

Reignite Purpose. Rediscover Hope.

We currently serve Romsey by offering services that encourage, enable and equip people to become 'unstuck' where they are 'stuck'. However, our small, leased space in Budds Lane is struggling to accommodate our growing community. The new building will be a dynamic hub, fostering deeper connections, enabling more partnerships, and strengthening the effectiveness of our outreach.

Romsey Foodbank Project

Freedom through Food

We partner with Trussell to provide emergency food and essentials to those in crisis, but our current, limited space restricts storage, access, and support service provision. The new facility will let us scale up, improve efficiency, and reach more people with the help they need.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Freedom through Finance

For nine years, we've helped families break free from debt through tailored coaching, debt relief, and budgeting support. Our vision is to reach more people, enable better engagement, offer wider support, and expand training to help build lasting financial stability.



Youth & Children's Work

Freedom through Family

Our youth and children's programmes have expanded rapidly, now making up a third of our Sunday attendance. Likewise, Tuesday Night Youth has moved into the Freedom Centre because homes can no longer accommodate everyone. A purpose-built facility will help us provide better, dedicated spaces for our young people to learn, grow, and connect.



Bringing Hope and a Future

Every week, some of our volunteer Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) coaches go into local schools to work alongside children who are struggling. The new building will allow us to expand this family support provision and complement our existing community services. With more room to grow, we will create safe, welcoming spaces for parents and children alike to find connection, care and encouragement.



Alpha & Connect Groups

Freedom through Faith



We regularly run Alpha courses and small Connect Groups, where people explore faith in open conversations. Meeting in homes and cafes works, but as numbers grow, this is challenging. The new building will provide comfortable, event space for more of these gatherings, where faith is explored, friendships formed, and life-changing discussions enabled.

Prayer Pavilion & Trail

Freedom through Focus & Fellowship

We believe prayer has the power to transform lives and that designated spaces for quiet reflection can transform spiritual connection. The new Prayer Pavilion, designed with a stunning oculus, will offer a tranquil setting for personal prayer and small group gatherings. The adjoining Prayer Trail will provide a peaceful outdoor retreat for contemplation, walks, and moments of gratitude.

The Plan



Building Freedom will bring together the people and activities of Freedom Church into a single place within Romsey - a place that we can truly call home.

It will be an inclusive, welcoming space, where anyone can encounter God; whether through prayer, worship, training, refuge, reflection, or simply reconnecting with church.

This home will help us grow and adapt our social and spiritual work to meet the evolving needs of Romsey and surrounding areas.

As local funding shrinks, combined with new challenges in a post-Covid-19 world, the new Freedom Centre will become a vital, purpose-built resource for the whole community.

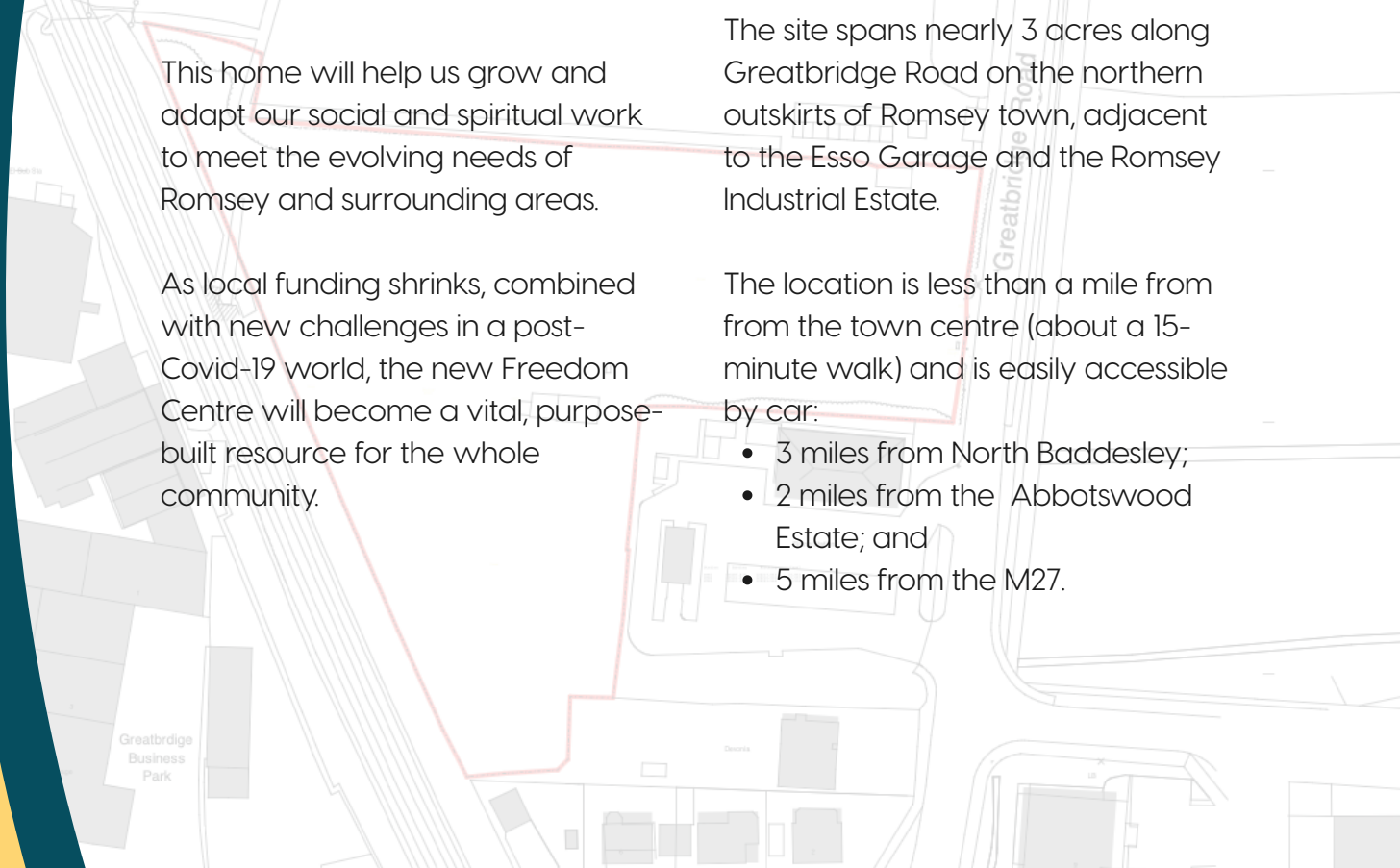
We're planning to expand our emergency support provision, wrap-around services, and preventative initiatives to help people avoid crisis. Plans also include a larger 'Warm Welcome' space, greater efforts to reduce waste and share resources locally, and more shared spaces to spark new ideas in business and the arts.

Location

The site spans nearly 3 acres along Greatbridge Road on the northern outskirts of Romsey town, adjacent to the Esso Garage and the Romsey Industrial Estate.

The location is less than a mile from from the town centre (about a 15-minute walk) and is easily accessible by car:

- 3 miles from North Baddesley;
- 2 miles from the Abbotswood Estate; and
- 5 miles from the M27.



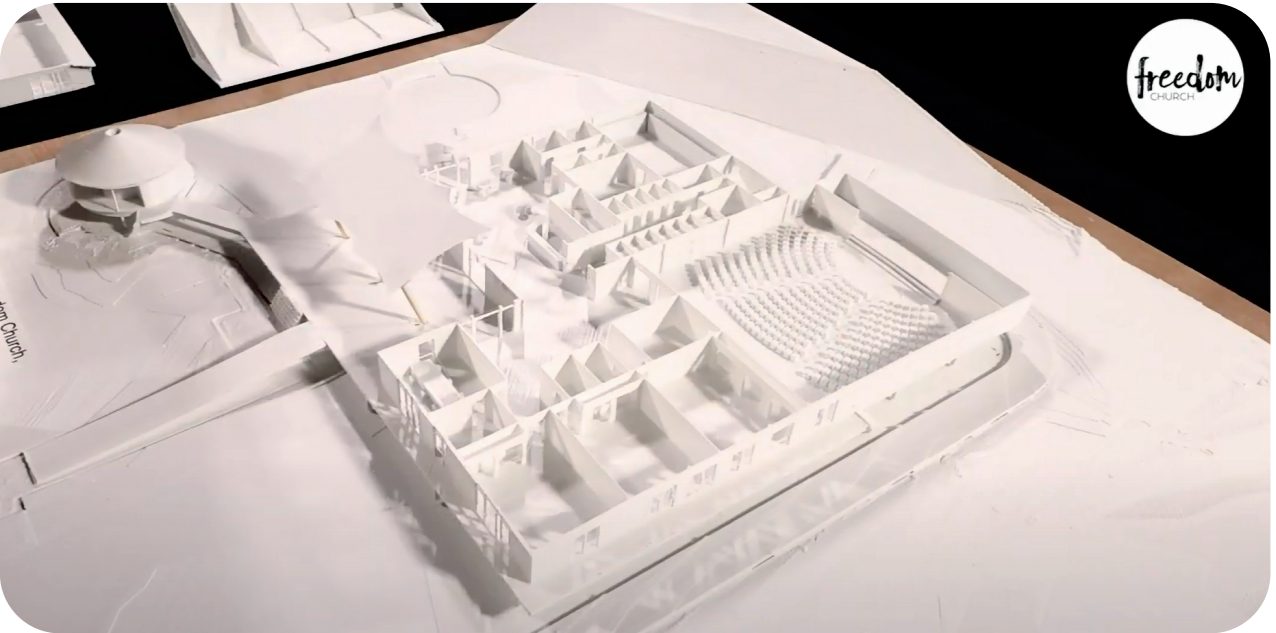
The Design



The new building provides space for a large auditorium for worship, community gatherings, local concerts, exhibitions and larger conferences or training events, as well as several breakout rooms for Children's and Youth work, a cafe area and smaller rooms for our Community Projects.



Scan for more details



What 'Home' will look like...



A transformational new space for Romsey



The Budget

Costs	
Drainage & Foundations	£553,000
Substructure to Deck Level	£789,000
Building Structure	£1,321,000
Internal Fit Out of Community Centre	£1,294,000
Internal Fit Out of Auditorium & Activity Rooms	£1,152,000
Prayer Pavillion	£244,000
Landscaping & Finishing	£1,296,000
TOTAL (exc. planning & land purchase)	£6,649,000

Following advice received, VAT for this development will be zero rated as it is a new build and designed for charitable purposes. Some VAT will be chargeable, but will be claimed back through our VAT registered subsidiary Freedom Church Developments Ltd.

Help us to build Freedom for Romsey

This isn't just about walls and a roof, it's about building a home for creativity, growth, community and encountering Jesus.

Every brick, every chair, every square foot will be a testament to what journeying in faith can accomplish.

We have already raised more than £500,000, which enabled us to purchase the land and cover the professional fees required for planning and associated conditions.

The planning approval stipulates that we need to commence the initial stages of building by January 2027, so the time is now to play your part in helping us make this vision a reality.

Whatever you can give, your financial support is a vital part of what happens next, and will make a huge difference.

Your generous donation will lay the foundation for a space where lives are changed, hope is restored, and community thrives.

How you can help fund the new Church Building and Community Centre for Romsey:

Please scan QR Code below or visit www.freedomchurch.uk/buildingfreedom

Alternatively, use the bank details below to make a donation directly online

Thank you!



HSBC
Freedom Church UK
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ref: Building Freedom

What people say about Freedom Church...

I absolutely love coming to the Freedom Centre. I've never been judged, there's never any time pressure; you're all really chilled out

”

Everyone was really friendly and made me feel most welcome. Freedom Church is an amazing group of people and I wish them all success

”

I am overwhelmed and completely blown away by what you do here! Thank you all so much

”

I was thoroughly impressed with the collaborative support offered by the Freedom Centre. We see it as an exemplar of its type

”

This place is a safe haven; everyone needs a place like this, it's like a home away from home

”

You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together.

Ephesians 2:19-20

We hope you will consider partnering with us.

To donate, or for more information on how you can get involved, please contact:

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Or scan the QR code to give online

