

Constitution of Horley Christadelphian Ecclesia

1. Name of organisation

Horley Christadelphian Ecclesia ("The Ecclesia")*

2. Object

The object of the organisation is to advance the Christian religion

3. Powers

In furtherance of this object but not further or otherwise The Ecclesia shall have the following powers:

- (a) to provide a place or places for regular Breaking of Bread, religious worship or other meetings for members of the Christadelphian faith living in or visiting the area;
- (b) to promote the teaching of Christadelphian beliefs both within the local community, the UK generally and overseas;
- (c) to collect funds from members and others to meet our running costs, to support costs attached to carrying out the powers and objects listed in this constitution, to contribute to various charities and to provide for the welfare of Christadelphians and others in need in the UK and overseas;
- (d) to provide Sunday school and youth activities for children of members and others who wish to attend;
- (e) to hold Bible study classes and other activities to promote the spiritual and social welfare of our members and others who may wish to attend;
- (f) to do other such lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said object.

4. Membership

Membership is to be open to all who are baptised into Christ in accordance with the Christadelphian faith and who are either duly transferred from another recognised ecclesia or who complete membership procedures as agreed from time to time by The Ecclesia. A membership register shall be maintained showing names, addresses, dates of birth and dates of baptism. A register of attendance at meetings is to be kept as deemed appropriate from time-to-time.

5. Management and administration

- (a) The management and administration of The Ecclesia shall be undertaken by the Trustees who shall be responsible for the proper conduct of The Ecclesia under the regulations applicable to Charities. The Trustees shall consist of a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other Trustees as may be appointed to hold office as Trustees. Trustees shall be appointed periodically by the members of The Ecclesia, using voting or selection procedures as are agreed from time-to-time by a majority of members at a General Meeting.
- (b) Routine business of The Ecclesia may be decided at any regular meeting of the Ecclesia at which a quorum of five members or one tenth of the total number of members of the organisation (whichever number is the greater). The secretary is to be responsible for keeping a record of all business proceedings and decisions so taken at these and any other meeting of the Ecclesia or Trustees.
- (c) At least once a year a General Meeting of the Ecclesia shall be held, and except as below any resolution at a General Meeting shall require a simple majority of votes of those present and voting at the meeting.
- (d) Alteration of this constitution can be proposed by any member and shall require the assent of 75% of all members in a ballot, providing that no change shall be made to clause 2 (object), clause 7 (dissolution) or this clause without the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction, and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the organisation to cease to be a charity in law.

6. Financial arrangements

Such bank accounts as are considered necessary from time-to-time are to be held in the name of The Ecclesia, with such signatories or On-Line security procedures as are considered appropriate by the Trustees, providing that a minimum of two signatures shall be required to sign cheques and other payment instructions. The financial year is to run from 1st October to 30th September or other such period as may be agreed by the Trustees and accounts are to be provided annually to the members.

7. Dissolution

The Ecclesia may be dissolved with the agreement of 75% of all the members in a ballot and will give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or on behalf of the Ecclesia, provided that if any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities they shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the organisation but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution(s) having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Ecclesia as the Ecclesia may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

***Explanatory note:** Christadelphian Churches have traditionally been called "ecclesias", a word derived from the Greek word for "church".