

CHARITY REGISTRATION NOS 1050435

RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH (ROL), TIPTOE, THE NEW FOREST.

ANNUAL TRUSTEES' REPORT

1 APRIL 2024-31 MARCH 2025

Office address The Life Centre, Wootton Road, Tiptoe Hampshire SO41 6FT

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements comply with the Assemblies of God Trust Deed, the Charities Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities published in 2013.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust Deed approved by the Charity Commission provides for a minimum of 3 management trustees, and three holding trustees. Throughout the year the following people fulfilled this requirement. All the management trustees were DBS checked.

Trustees

J White in part Chair of Trustees and Church Leader

A D Bingley Trustee and Treasurer

S Kemp in part Trustee

M Crofts Trustee

M Hutton in part Trustee

J Drodge Holding Trustee

J Ingle Holding Trustee

P Finn Holding Trustee

Auditor Andrew J Clarke cpfa

At periodic leaders' meetings, the trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the church within the definition of the Charity Commission's aims and guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. ROL aims to encourage and enable local people to come to faith and live out their faith as part of our church community through:

1. Worship, Bible teaching and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
2. Provision of pastoral support.
3. Mission and outreach.

This includes consideration of grant making, expenditure on maintenance and development of the Life Centre, reserves and risk management, functions of the church hall, day to day administration, policies, protocols, reviewing values and assessing outcomes.

The church does not actively fundraise from the public. Finances are voluntarily donated by members and friends who regularly attend the church.

AN AGM is held in July each year when reports are received, reviews are undertaken and future developments agreed with church members.

Risk management

The trustees have considered any risks to which the church is exposed and have reviewed the risks and established systems and procedures to manage them.

General leadership

The River of Life church was led in part this year by Joshua White with the support of a leadership team comprising voluntary team members (two trustees), covering finance, safeguarding, outreach, administration and worship. Encouragement was given throughout the year to all of its members to engage in service within the church and to the local community (whole life discipleship). The Life Centre comprises a church, a detached large hall, car park, barbecue patio and grounds. Arrangements are in place for servicing of utilities and equipment, and public liability insurance is established.

Premises

The maintenance and development of the Life Centre this year incurred some minor expenditure to the electrics.

The Local New Forest District Council agreed with ROL to offer:

1. The Life Centre as a Safe Place in the event of a local/national emergency, caused by such as floods, terrorism, plane crash etc. This is still in place.
2. The positioning of a community defibrillator, usable in an emergency by the public, on an external wall. This is also in place. Training was organised for the use of it.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain £5,000 reserve in unrestricted funds to meet any emergency arising from the maintenance of the premises.

General

The church activities had been impacted by the COVID pandemic, which limited the engagement of the local community and to some extent this has not fully recovered.

There has been a variety of teaching ministry throughout this year.

Monthly meals together have been enjoyed.

ROL members have participated in a team assisting with school assemblies at Tiptoe Primary school; assisting in the delivery programme of the Basics Food Bank, which is located in Lymington, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) support and car driving for the Carers' medical service.

During the week the hall has been intermittently used by the local community, including children's parties, a local youth group for special needs teenagers, Social Services family supervision sessions an educational programme for home schooling.

Missionary giving is evidenced from the annual accounts. Every donation abroad is accounted for. Mission giving has included:

1. Monthly support of £170 to an accredited AOG church in northern Spain involved in church planting and a prison and radio ministry. This year the decision was taken to curtail these payments as the churches are now established and are self-funding.
2. Monthly support of £300 linked to a purpose-built school for children who live on the dumpsite and in the cemetery in Tondo, Manila. It aims to take children off the dumpsite during the day, provide them with education, a nutritious meal each day and basic health care for them and their families. A church (Kalaayan) has been established in the same location, which has grown out of the school work. This has previously been visited on two occasions by ROL's leadership, privately financed. Regular monthly support is provided to sustain mature leadership and contribute to the physical needs of the members.

Volunteers

Grateful acknowledgement is made of the contribution by individual volunteers who engaged to make ROL the welcoming and life giving family church it is. This has involved practically cleaning, painting, gardening, minor maintenance and handyman jobbing. Where we were able to legally avoid using professional services (and their fees) we have done so and this has involved a number of people contributing their spare time and energy.

A Baker

07 01 2026

RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH, LYMINGTON
Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2024/25 Reviewed

		2024/25		2023/24	
		£	£	£	£
Opening Balances:			30164		34377
Receipts					
General Offerings and Gifts	22278			26448	
Hall Income	2580			1070	
Interest Received	241			209	
Excess income (imbalance)				1183	
Income Tax Refund	2719			3189	
Subtotal:			27818		32099
			57982		66476
Expenses:					
Staff Costs	17798			15366	
Guest Speaker	80			1851	
Comms + Admin + Subs	1779			2139	
Missions	4200			7892	
Buildings Maintenance	9			2689	
Equipment	0			70	
Conferences and Courses	0			1741	
Gifts	0			0	
Safeguarding	174			346	
Audit Fee 2024	0			200	
Miscellaneous	384			812	
Energy & Water	3264			3207	
			27688		36313
Balances carried forward:			30294		30164
Current Account			6407		6306
Savings Accounts			21482		21241
Tax Refund - Audit Fees			2405		2526
Sum			30294		30164

Asset retained for Church use Life Centre (Church & Hall) **88309**

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out in this Financial Report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andrew J Clarke cpfa

The date upon which my opinion is expressed is 17 July 2025.