



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Index to the Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 January 2025

Page No

3	Reference and Administration Details
4	Structure, Governance and Management
4	Aims and Objectives
5	Achievements and Review of the Year
8	Independent Examiner's Report
9	Statement of Financial Activities
10	Balance Sheet
11	Notes to the Accounts

Emmanuel Christian Centre
Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 January 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name Emmanuel Christian Centre

Charity Number 1052196

Address Mill Street
 Ulverston
 Cumbria
 LA12 7EB

Board of Trustees:

Other Roles:

Chairman David Darren Roy
 (known as *Darren Roy*)

Senior Minister

Secretary Lisa Smith

Chaplain, Treasurer

Other Trustees

David Smith

Elder

Colin Thornhill

Deacon, Safeguarding Lead

Paul Sedgwick

Deacon

Andrew Wright

Steward

Bankers

TSB Bank Plc
 Lunedale House
 4 Market Street East
 Morecambe
 Lancashire
 LA4 5DW

Independent Examiner

Knox Accountants Limited
 Unit 1 The Old Fire Station
 1 Abbey Road
 Barrow in Furness
 Cumbria
 LA14 1XH

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisation

Emmanuel Christian Centre (ECC) has been registered with the Charity Commission in its current form since 23rd January 1996, in practice operating as a church. ECC is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and Churches in Communities International (CIC), governed by its Constitution and Trust Deed last updated in 2012.

Organisational Structure

ECC is administered and managed by a board of trustees known as the Church Council, chaired by the senior ordained minister. Members of the Church Council give their time freely and receive no remuneration for managing ECC as trustees. Each trustee has an equal vote on decisions of the Church Council which meets at least four times a year to ensure ECC carries out its purposes for public benefit in accordance with charity law and its Constitution. Every issue considered by the Church Council is determined by a simple majority of the votes cast. For the sake of public confidence, whenever a member of the Church Council has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed, they are required to declare their interest and then be absent from that part of the meeting.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

After consultation, the Senior Minister nominates an individual to be a trustee and the Church Council sanctions the appointment by voting. This ensures that any trustee is a member of the Christian faith who understands the foundational tenets and can effectively promote our objects. Trustees are selected to bring varying skills and insight to the Church Council and to fairly represent the beneficiaries. Some trustees may focus on particular interests of the church or represent specific demographics.

Members of the Church Council who also serve in ecclesiastical roles are purposefully not affiliated with one or the same organisation so as to maintain probity and impartiality. The Senior Minister must be ordained, hold relevant theological and pastoral qualifications at Level 4 (RQF) as a minimum, and be subject to an annual review.

Induction & Training of Trustees

Induction and training of a new trustee is under the guidance of the existing Church Council. A new trustee is given a copy of the Constitution and Trust Deed, the Charity Commission's trustee welcome pack, ECC's adopted policies and procedures, and a guidebook to the operation of the Church Council. Safeguarding training and DBS checks are completed before appointment. Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities, accountability, scope and limits.

Risk Management

The Church Council has assessed the major strategic and operational risks which ECC faces and they have systems in place for protection, including a regularly reviewed reserves policy. Reports are produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen any risks. Insurance cover is always in place, finances are kept under review, and policies are regularly updated. Appropriate DBS background checks are undertaken and external safeguarding training is provided for volunteers. Checks are also carried out on organisations ECC works with for safeguarding and financial probity.

Aims and Objectives

The purposes listed as ECC's charitable objects are the primary goals for the charity and the various internal departments are assigned to achieve these. A modified version of ECC's vision statement from 1986 is still actively pursued, and each member of ECC is encouraged to demonstrate the core values.

ECC is accredited by Churches in Communities International, recognised in the Free Churches Group, and it is a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

The **vision statement** of ECC is for the member of the church to:

- know God and make Him known;
- serve in their God-appointed ministries;
- be united in love and Christian fellowship.

ECC's core values are summed up as: *love, community and honour*. This means to love God and others, to be a

community of growth and unity, and to honour God and people according to the Scriptures.

Charitable Objects

The main objects of ECC as a charity are to:

- advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith;
- relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support; and
- advance education; in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.

After consultation and review with the various departments, the trustees are confident that ECC is meeting all its objectives with due regard to public benefit according to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

[The following overview is based on activities up to 31 January 2025]

Achievements and Performance

Review of the Year

Attendance at ECC has risen during the year and there has been an 18% increase in formal membership. Most of the increase has been in the under 30 years age group. Both tiers of seating areas are used weekly and are near capacity at gospel services. There is a continued sense of being a family, centred around each members passion for Jesus Christ and His Good News. Growth has led to an increase in house groups as well as impromptu fellowship, prayer meetings and get-togethers arranged by members. The core values of love, community and honour are manifest and the Church Council is pleased with the enthusiasm throughout the Church.

The charitable objects have been promoted through regular Sunday worship and teaching services which are the main public-facing provision available to all. Sunday services have been described by attendees as 'lovingly-welcoming', 'inspiring', 'dynamic' and 'full of God's presence'. As well as in-person attendance, several people from Europe watch the live stream each Sunday, and 112 people watch the sermons published later on YouTube, some of which form house-groups in Austria and Australia.

There has been a continued emphasis on developing the Sunday fellowship which is described as 'the less formal part of the service'. This is where Christian unity and friendships are developed, and it's often the case that people stay for an extended period into the afternoon. It's not uncommon to see people praying together, supporting one another and reading the Bible in groups for encouragement, as you might expect in a faithful Christian community; many wearing their ECC church-merch hoodies which almost every member of the church purchased.

Church communications have worked well with various messaging groups and points of contact offering practical and spiritual support. Much of the practical support has been overseen by deacons, but it's been encouraging to see members looking out for each other's welfare. The members area of the website has also been widely resourced to enable access to biblical teaching, helpful articles, forms and important documents. The use of online forms has improved our administration and managing of the facilities.

The Church Council are confident that all of ECC's charitable objects have been met through various departments. The dedication of the members and volunteers has been commended at the AGM. Brief reports related so some of the departments are detailed below:

- **Royal Rangers**

The Ulverston outpost of Royal Rangers was established at ECC in August 2021. Royal Rangers is a uniformed, practical programme that includes scouting-style activities, outdoor adventure, and opportunities for personal achievement. Elements of the curriculum support our aim of promoting the Christian faith among young people aged 11–17, while the programme as a whole focuses on developing a broad range of practical skills, including the increasingly popular discipline of bushcraft.

Sessions were held on Wednesday evenings during term time, and attendance continued to grow over the

past year. The Rangers took part in two weekend camps and were actively involved in a number of community events, including Remembrance Day and civic services.

- **Chaplaincy**

In 2024, ECC had two dedicated chaplains: one serving the emergency services community and the other supporting students and young adults. Each chaplain worked in accordance with the needs and protocols of their respective sector, thereby helping ECC to meet its objectives of advancing the Christian faith, alleviating sickness and financial hardship, and promoting and preserving good health through counselling and support.

The Emergency Services Chaplain attended Police duty meetings, Fire Service training days, and a range of civic and remembrance services. Drawing on resources from Oscar Kilo, the Police wellbeing charity, the Chaplain provided officers and staff with tools to improve their mental wellbeing. Additional support was offered through active involvement in the Christian Police Association.

ECC's Chaplain for Students and Young Adults delivered weekly self-worth courses in local schools in partnership with the Be Me Project. There was also a growing number of referrals for counselling vulnerable young people. While the support offered is grounded in a Christian perspective, it is available to all, subject to parental and school consent. The Chaplain is accredited and undergoes an annual review by a national body.

- **All-Stars Junior Church**

All-Stars is the children's church at ECC which runs on Sunday mornings. During this year, All-Stars was run by a team of parents and helpers who on a rota basis were teaching the children Christian messages and Bible stories. The Church Council are grateful for the commitment of all the parents involved.

All-Stars used Scripture Union resources as a basis to provide fun lessons with arts, crafts, singing and age-appropriate activities. All-Stars is open to all children in the area and it promoted the objectives of advancing education and the Christian faith. The lessons from All-Stars teach the children to be good Christian citizens within their community. The children attend enthusiastically and often the theme for their session matches the sermon in the main service.

- **Emmanuel Toddlers**

This year, Emmanuel Toddlers met on Tuesday mornings during school term. The group continues to support young families in the community by offering a warm, stimulating environment where parents, toddlers, and babies can interact and develop supportive relationships. A clear Christian element is maintained through Bible stories and songs.

The initiative contributes to our objectives of advancing the Christian faith, relieving sickness and financial hardship, and promoting good health by providing a service that includes informal counselling and support. Emmanuel Toddlers meets in the minor hall at ECC and has experienced steady growth since moving from afternoon to morning sessions.

- **Missions Department**

This year the Missions Department had the purpose of raising funds and communicating with people and organisations that benefit from ECC as a charity, both locally and internationally. The Missions Department reported to the Church Council and presented requests from organisations and individuals who were in need of charitable assistance.

- **Carelink**

The purpose of Carelink is to demonstrate the love of God in a practical way mainly through the provision of meals. The meals offered are either part of Carelink's regular meals service which replaced Cumbria County Council's meal-on-wheels provision, or they are given as Carelink free meals which were open to anybody in the community experiencing short-term crisis because of illness or financial hardship.

The meals service has been running for over 11 years and has built a great reputation in Ulverston. On Christmas Day, Carelink again provided a free dinner for those who wanted to either attend ECC for a celebration or have a meal delivered. On behalf of those who benefitted from Carelink's services in 2024, the Church Council are thankful to all the volunteers and drivers.

- **House Groups**

Due to growth, even more house-groups were needed and therefore held throughout the year. These were at the heart of ECC's midweek fellowship and discipleship. The aim of the groups was to provide Christian teaching, develop relationships between members, and to prepare members for work in the community. Each group had a slightly different format as they were facilitated by people with different, but equally valuable, talents.

The groups met our objects of advancing education and advancing the Christian faith, as well as the provision of counselling and support to group members. It has been encouraging for the Church Council to see such an increase in voluntary attendance at house-groups, resulting in meaningful friendships, a sense of unity, and growth in personal discipleship. At the AGM, those who attended groups from 2024 to 2025 expressed their gratitude to the house-group leaders for 'promoting Christian fellowship and hospitality'.

- **Worship Music & AV Group**

As a Christian organisation our Music & AV Group plays an integral part in our objective to advance the Christian faith. The team provides live music at our Sunday services and also supports all the other departments in various ways. The Music & AV Group allows for our members to meet for corporate expressions of worship and none of this would be possible without their regular practice nights and training.

The Church Council noted that those who serve on ECC's Music & AV team, carry a Christian commitment that extends beyond Sunday services. Each member of the team being faithful to personal discipleship is what allows for a genuine expression of praise each Sunday. There is a real sense of enthusiasm, joy and 'presence' which is felt when the team play.

- **Kintsugi Hope**

ECC has partnered with Kintsugi Hope from 2021, to form a wellbeing group which is a safe and supportive space for people who feel or have felt overwhelmed. By providing tools for self-management, the group was able to cover subjects such as disappointment, loss, anxiety, anger, depression, shame and resilience.

- **Connections Coffee Shop**

The coffee shop area known as Connections is open to the public on Friday each week. Connections also compliments other ECC initiatives by providing refreshments and the space for meetings. The area has been hired by a number of community groups and other churches for business meetings and fellowship events.

During some of Ulverston's festivals, Connections Coffee Shop has proved to be very popular, causing us to draw on many volunteers to offer a great service. The Dickensian festival was constantly busy, during which Church members were available to answer questions, supply Christian literature and introduce new people to ECC. Proceeds from Connections are used for charitable purposes and missions giving is funded through it.

- **Chosen Youth Group**

Chosen Group is a house-group style provision which encourages and supports high-schoolers in the Christian Faith. It forms part of ECC's discipleship and pastoral system for children in year 7 or above. During the year, the group met at least monthly and was a place of help and prayer for younger people navigating the challenges of school life, at whatever stage of the Christian journey they may be. Discipleship through Chosen Group was rooted in relationship and the concept of God's love for all was the primary value. It was a blessing for the Church Council to see the group members taking steps forward in the Way which is Jesus, and to then see those steps outworked through involvement in the wider Church.

Emmanuel Christian Centre
Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 January 2025

Independent Examiners Report To The Trustees Of
Emmanuel Christian Centre
On The Accounts For The Year Ended 31 January 2025
Set Out On Pages 2 to 4

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 under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)b of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 statement below

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Janine Kelly - MAAT

Knox Accountants Limited
6 Bath Street
Barrow in Furness
Cumbria
LA14 1LZ

30 April 2025

Emmanuel Christian Centre

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year ended 31 January 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds	Restricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025 £	2024 £
Income						
Generated funds:						
Offerings and gifts		125,138		3,256	128,394	133,760
Generated income		10,337			10,337	7,758
Interest		2,778			2,778	1,660
Grants received				9,069	9,069	27,232
Charitable activities:						
Connections		15,528			15,528	13,588
Carelink meals		-		20,108	20,108	18,004
Total Income		153,782	-	32,433	186,215	202,001
Expenditure						
Direct Charitable Expenditure:						
Connections - Missionary Giving		5,887		-	5,887	5,580
Connections expenses		6,122			6,122	6,085
Wages and Social Security Costs		57,446		-	57,446	50,868
Training		1,639		-	1,639	2,370
Utilities		11,100		-	11,100	9,299
Insurances		2,740		-	2,740	2,452
Repairs and maintenance		-	10,763	-	10,763	35,156
Cleaning, kitchen & refreshments		1,692		519	2,211	610
Office equipment		7,513		568	8,081	9,308
Telephone stationery and postage		1,638		21	1,659	2,356
Speakers fees		3,908		-	3,908	5,080
Gifts		3,571			3,571	2,789
Travel and subsistence		5,780		-	5,780	4,733
Ministry materials		1,061		-	1,061	432
CareLink support		-		15,987	15,987	15,504
Fellowship catering		2,980		-	2,980	1,377
Legal and professional fees		2,077			2,077	960
Miscellaneous expenses		3,403		383	3,786	1,713
Depreciation	2		8,271		8,271	7,928
Total Direct Expenditure		118,557	19,034	17,477	155,068	164,601
Management and Administration		6,581	435		7,017	6,337
Total Expenditure		125,138	19,469	17,477	162,085	170,938
Net Surplus for the year		28,644	(19,469)	14,956	24,130	31,064
Funds at the start of the Year		226,276	9,291	60,807	296,374	265,310
Funds at the end of the Year		254,920	(10,178)	75,763	320,504	296,374

Wages and social security costs cover 1 full-time and 3 part-time employees

Emmanuel Christian Centre

Balance Sheet
As At 31 January 2025

		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Fixed Assets	Notes		
Depreciating Assets	2	178,840	187,547
Current Assets			
Stock		300	300
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		28,040	28,019
Building society and kingdom bank accounts		113,444	80,628
		<u>141,784</u>	<u>108,947</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals		<u>120</u>	<u>120</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>141,664</u>	<u>108,827</u>
		£ <u>320,504</u>	£ <u>296,374</u>

Represented By:

Capital Account

Accumulated Reserves	Unrestricted general funds	254,920	226,276
	Unrestricted designated funds	-10,178	9,288
	Restricted funds	<u>75,763</u>	<u>60,809</u>
		£ <u>320,504</u>	£ <u>296,374</u>

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on the 30 April 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Trustee



Trustee



Emmanuel Christian Centre
Notes to the Accounts
For the year ended 31 January 2025

Note 1 Accounting Policies

The accounts on pages 2 and 3 have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Depreciation is charged on the fixed assets of the church as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance
Equipment	15% reducing balance

Note 2 Depreciating Assets

	Freehold Property	Fixtures and Fittings	Equipment	Total
Cost				
At 1 February 2024	346,633	35,530	41,126	423,289
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 January 2025	<u>346,633</u>	<u>35,530</u>	<u>41,126</u>	<u>423,289</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 February 2024	166,545	34,621	34,574	235,741
Charge for the year	6,933	136	1,639	8,708
At 31 January 2025	<u>173,477</u>	<u>34,758</u>	<u>36,213</u>	<u>244,449</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 January 2025	<u>173,156</u>	<u>772</u>	<u>4,912</u>	<u>178,840</u>
At 31 January 2024	<u>180,089</u>	<u>909</u>	<u>6,551</u>	<u>187,547</u>