

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
WELSH CHURCH ACT TRUST FUND

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1076440

Neath Port Talbot Welsh Church Act Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statement for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1st January 2015.

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Fund is to receive grant applications from charities or voluntary bodies which are based in, active in, or provide significant benefits to some or all of the residents of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.

The Fund furthers its charitable purposes for the local public benefit through its grant making policies which cover the following areas:

- Educational
- Libraries, museums, art galleries, etc.
- Relief of poverty
- Advancement of religion
- Other purposes beneficial to the community
- Relief in sickness
- Welfare of elderly persons
- Social and recreational
- Aesthetic, architectural, historical and scientific matters
- Medical and social research, treatment, etc.
- Probation, etc.
- Visually impaired or blind individuals
- Emergencies or disasters
- Other charitable organisations whose purposes are consistent with the provisions included above.

Grant making policy

Welsh Church Act Fund Guidelines for Grant Applications

- a) Each application will be considered on its merits.
- b) Grants will only be awarded to charities and voluntary bodies which are based in, or active in, or provide significant benefits to some or all of the residents of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- c) Grants will only be awarded to individuals in exceptional circumstances.
- d) Grants will not normally exceed £1,000 and in exceptional circumstances £4,000 per applicant and successful applicants will not normally be reconsidered for a further grant within 3 years of the date of approval of the last grant.
- e) Grants will have a time limit for the take up of said grant of two years from the date of approval.
- f) Grants will not normally be awarded where the service could be dealt with out of the annual budget of the Council's service Committees activities or by other public bodies.
- g) Grants will not normally be awarded where they would commit the fund to regular annual payments nor will recurring annual expenses be supported.
- h) Grants will only be made out of the income of the fund, preserving the Fund's capital assets.
- i) Priority will be given to applications which are of significant benefit to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- j) Grant aid will not normally cover the full cost of a project/proposal and normally will be approved at 25% of actual costs incurred up to the maximum as outlined in condition (d) above. The grant of £4,000 will only be approved where expenditure exceeds £50,000.
- k) Organisations assessed as being able to meet the cost (e.g. by size or nature) are unlikely to receive any grant aid.
- l) Grants towards work of a structural nature will only be considered where:

- there is evidence that a professional assessment has been made of the works;
 - the applicant organisation can demonstrate that there is no other impediment to work proceeding at an early date (e.g. planning permission).
- m) In the case of Churches and Chapels grants will only be approved for the repair of the fabric of buildings which are more than 50 years old and of the highest architectural and historic interest. Church halls, however, where available and used significantly by the public for non-religious purposes, will not be subject to these criteria.
- n) No retrospective applications are considered.
- o) The Panel will take into account the Church membership and the normal size of the congregation.
- p) In the case of students undertaking further Education courses, contributions towards the costs of individual instruments or pieces of equipment etc., will be made as follows - 50% of all costs over a threshold of £2,000 up to a maximum grant of £1,500.

Grants awarded

The Fund has paid out or committed the following grants:

Year approved	Name	Purpose	Payment made £
2024/25	Sardis English Baptist Church	Grant assistance towards costs of works to redecorate entrance, staircase x 2, small chapel & kitchen area.	575
2024/25	Taibach Wesley Methodist Chapel	Grant assistance towards costs of works to ensure water ingress does not continue to adversely impact the historic structure	1,000
2024/25	Bethlehem Evangelical Church, Aberavon	Grant assistance towards costs of works to replace the boiler & install new pipework & radiators in the main church	1,000
Total grants paid during year			2,575

The Fund trustees have approved the following grants:

Grant for publication (approved not committed)			
Year approved	Name	Purpose	Maximum value £
2023/24	St Anne's Church, Tonna	Grant assistance towards costs of repair works to the church spire.	4,000
Total grants approved but not committed			4,000

Although the Fund has approved these grants, they were not drawn down or committed as at the 31st March 2025. There is no accrual in the accounts, as the grant recipients had not demonstrated that they fulfilled performance conditions.

Structure, governance and management

The Fund is a registered charity, number 1076440. The Charity is governed by the Welsh Church Act 1914 and the Welsh Church Act (Designation and Specification) Order 1996.

The Welsh Church Act Fund was established from the proceeds and assets of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales and was originally created in 1914. The assets were distributed evenly amongst the former county councils in Wales, and then divided between the Welsh Unitary Authorities when they were formed in 1996, with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council taking responsibility for the share of the Fund included in this report.

The Trustee to the Fund is Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, which has delegated responsibility to the Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee, who consider applications received for grants from the Fund and makes decisions on whether they should be granted or not. The Fund does not directly employ any staff, with the day to day administration and the processing and handling of applications prior to consideration being managed by the Director of Finance. A proportion of his team's time is charged to the Fund.

Reference and administrative information

The registered address is:

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Finance and Corporate Services Directorate
Civic Centre
Port Talbot
SA13 1PJ

The Trustee is:

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, with responsibility delegated to the Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee.

The following advisors have assisted the trustees in the year:

Honorary Treasurer:

Mr Huw Jones
Director of Finance
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Civic Centre

Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Independent Examiner:

Mr Matthew Edwards

On behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

1 Chapter Quarter

Tyndall St

Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Bankers:

Santander Commercial Bank

Bridle Road

Bootle

Merseyside L30 4GB

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the resources and application of the resources of the charity for the accounting period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities Statement of Recommended Practice
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the appropriate Act and the applicable Charities Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees 14th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Honorary Treasurer

Report of the independent examiner to the trustees of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Welsh Church Act Trust Fund

I report on the accounts of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Welsh Church Act Trust Fund (the Welsh Church Act Trust Fund) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). You are satisfied that the accounts are not required to be audited by charity law and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act; In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Matthew Edwards
On behalf of the Auditor General for Wales
30 July 2025

1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Neath Port Talbot Welsh Church Act Trust Fund

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31st March

	Note	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023/24 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2024/25 £
Incoming resources			
Investment income	2	26,190	29,729
Estate Rental income	3	338	338
Total Income		26,528	30,067
Resources expended			
Governance/admin costs:			
Management and administration	4	(2,952)	(3,173)
Governance costs	5	(1,009)	(1,026)
Expenditure on charitable activities:			
Grants	6	-	(2,575)
Total expenditure		(3,961)	(6,774)
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		22,567	23,293
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	7	1,600	5,250
Net movements in funds		24,167	28,543
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total Funds brought Forward		688,205	712,372
Total Funds Carried Forward		712,372	740,915

Neath Port Talbot Welsh Church Act Trust Fund

Balance Sheet as at 31st March

	Note	31-Mar-24 £	31-Mar-25 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Investment Assets	8	161,708	166,958
Total Fixed Assets		161,708	166,958
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	65	120
Short Term Investments	10	552,682	576,946
Total Current Assets		552,747	577,066
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year	11	(2,083)	(3,109)
Net Current Assets		550,664	573,957
Total Net Assets		712,372	740,915
The Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Income Funds	12		
Fund Balance		537,785	537,785
Income Accumulation Account		174,587	203,130
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		712,372	740,915

The following notes form part of these accounts.

Neath Port Talbot Welsh Church Act Trust Fund

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Church Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a “true and fair” view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a “true and fair view”. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued on the 16th July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1st April 2005, which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to the accounts.

b) Fund structure

The Welsh Church Act Fund was established from the proceeds and assets of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales and was originally created in 1914. The assets were distributed evenly amongst the former county councils in Wales, and then divided between the Welsh Unitary Authorities when they were formed in 1996, with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council taking responsibility for the share of the Fund included in this report.

Funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

c) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared using the accruals basis and there has been no change to this accounting basis.

Income is recognised once the trust fund becomes entitled to the income and there is sufficient certainty that the income will be received and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure or the liability to spend is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the trust fund to that expenditure. All expenditure on governance and support services is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are accrued where there is certainty that the funds will be drawn down. However, where grants awarded are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions, the grant is only accrued at the time that the performance conditions are met.

2. Investment Income

The Welsh Church Act Fund holds short term cash deposits with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. These investments operate on an instant access basis, and interest is based on the Council's return on its investments. The average interest rate for 2024/25 was 4.94% (2023/24 was 4.55%).

Details of short term deposits are provided at Note 10.

3. Other income

The Welsh Church Act Fund receives rental income from various properties, land and wayleaves. Further details of the properties are included in note 8 to the Balance Sheet.

4. Management and Administration/Related parties

The Fund has paid Neath Port Talbot Council £2,556 (2023/24 £2,378) for financial support services and £617 (2023/24 £574) for legal advice.

These payments are the only related party transactions within these accounts.

5. Governance costs

Wales Audit Office plans to charge £1,027 for their independent examination of the Fund.

6. Grants

The Fund has paid out or committed the following grants:

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2024/25	Sardis English Baptist Church	Grant assistance towards costs of works to redecorate entrance, staircase x 2, small chapel & kitchen area.	575
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Although the Fund has approved these grants, they are not accrued in the accounts, as the grant recipients had not demonstrated that they fulfilled performance conditions by 31st March.

7. Gains or losses on investment assets

There was no sale of fixed investment assets during 2024/25 or 2023/24 and a net gain of £5,250 in the valuation of the investment assets during 2024/25. A full revaluation exercise was undertaken in 2022/23 which identified a net gain in investment assets of £68,801.

8. Tangible Investment Assets

The tangible investment assets relate to holdings of agricultural land and buildings and freehold reversions. The valuer has undertaken an annual revaluation review which has resulted in a net gain of £5,250. Details of the holdings are as follows:

Details		Value 31-Mar-24 £	Revaluation £	Value 31-Mar-25 £
Vale of Neath				
Residential Neath	80 Llantwit Road, Neath	32,900	3,900	36,800
Agricultural Land	Llantwit Road Neath opp St Illtyds Church	6,500	-	6,500
Agricultural Land	Glebe under canal	100	-	100
Land Cadoxton Neath	5.4 Acres at Cwmbach Road	13,000	1,350	14,350
Land Cadoxton Neath	3.74 Acres North of Cwmbach Road	11,200	-	11,200
Land Cadoxton Neath	0.4 Acres South of Cwmbach Road	500	-	500
Misc. Interest Cadoxton Neath	Garage Site, Cwmbach Road	2,500	-	2,500
Misc. Interest Cadoxton Neath	Garage Site, Glebeland Street	2,500	-	2,500
Land Cadoxton Neath	Land and stream adjoining 25 Church	1	-	1
Total		69,201	5,250	74,451
Vale of Neath - Wayleaves				
Cadoxton Neath	Land North West of Cwmbach Road	177	-	177
		177	-	177
Vale of Glamorgan - Agricultural				
Peterson-Super-Ely	Gwern y Gae Uchaf Farm	27,400	-	27,400
Peterson-Super-Ely	Backway Farm	64,500	-	64,500
Total		91,900	0	91,900
Vale of Glamorgan - Wayleaves				
Peterson-Super-Ely	East of the Fruit Garden	430	-	430
		430	-	430
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		161,708	5,250	166,958

9. Analysis of Debtors

The debtors falling due within one year are as follows:

	31-Mar-23 £	31-Mar-24 £
Estate rentals	65	120
Total	65	120

10. Analysis of Short term investments

The trust fund's short term investments are held as deposits with Neath Port Talbot Council, with interest based on the average investment rate.

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-25
	£	£
Opening value	529,939	552,682
Additions/Investments	22,743	24,264
Total	552,682	576,946

11. Analysis of Creditors

The creditors falling due within one year are as follows:

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-25
	£	£
Independent examination fees	(1,958)	(2,984)
Estate rental prepayments	(125)	(125)
Total	(2,083)	(3,109)

12. Unrestricted Income Funds – analysis of net assets

All of the trust's funds are unrestricted and made up as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£	£
Fixed investment assets	161,708	166,958
Current assets	552,747	577,066
Current liabilities	(2,083)	(3,109)
Total	712,372	740,915

The movement in the income funds is:

31-Mar-24	2024/25			31-Mar-25
Fund b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Revaluation gain/(loss)	Fund c/fwd
£	£	£	£	£
712,372	30,067	(6,774)	5,250	740,915