

**UNION ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH  
(OSWALDTWISTLE) REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025  
(Registered Charity Number 1093218)**

**UNION ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH (OSWALDTWISTLE)**  
**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS - 2025**  
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# Trustees report

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Union Road Community Church

Church Registration Number: 1093218

The Trustees (Leadership team), of Union road Community Church, are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the accounting year, 2024-2025, according to the format outlined in the Charity Commission's guidelines.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an independent evangelical church, within the membership of the Assemblies of God (AOG), which is a network of Pentecostal churches in the UK. The church was formed in 1901, and has outworked continued Christian ministry, within its surrounding community. The church building is centrally located on the main road of Oswaldtwistle, a town situated in East Lancashire.

The salaried church minister is Duncan Allton, and he is supported by the voluntary leadership team and the faithfully committed membership. Following the adoption of the new constitution, (our key governing document), by the membership on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2002 and the subsequent registration of the Church with the Charity Commission, all those actively exercising leadership are now recognised as Trustees. An amendment to the constitution was approved by the membership on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, to set up a new Leadership Team consisting of at least five persons which superseded the traditional distinction between the roles of elders and deacons, and this has enabled us to develop a more flexible and effective structure to lead the Church.

The Leadership Team in 2024-2025 consists of the following individuals and roles.

Church Minister-Mr Duncan Allton

Treasurer-Mrs Alison Allton

Mrs Ann Flood

Dr Mark Haydock

Mrs Dawn Preston

Mr Norman Sucherzewski

Mrs Barbara Sucherzewski

Previous Leaders, Mrs Angela Bridges and Mr David Legg, both resigned during the report period.

**Appointment Process:** New Team Leaders are chosen by consensual agreement of the existing Leadership Team following the consideration of the views of the wider membership. All nominations of the Leadership Team are ratified by members at a full meeting.

**Decision-Making Procedures:** The lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions allowed us to resume our normal pattern of internal decision-making throughout the 2024-2025 report period. The team leaders meet

in person at least once a month to provide spiritual oversight and direction for the Church and to administer the day to day practical needs and our financial and property resources. Whenever possible during the year, the whole leadership team sought to discuss specific objectives and strategies for the future, to engage in training and skills enhancement, and to review and, where necessary, update procedures, policies and governance structures. In addition, the Trustees met when required to make major decisions related to the Churches building, other assets, and liabilities. The Constitution specifies that formal members meetings are held at least twice per annum for the leadership to inform and consult members about the Churches affairs and for the opportunity to vote on particular issues and recommendations.

*Risk Assessment:* Because of the inevitable risks associated with the Church's programme of activities for children and young people, we require full DBS disclosures for any person involved in these ministries, as set out in the Church's Child Protection Document. Because the Church's worship services and other activities are open to the general public, the Trustee's ensure that any buildings we own or use are covered by Public Liability insurance, and that any employees are similarly protected against third party claims.

## Charitable Aims and Activities

The general aims of the church are fivefold, as defined in the Constitution:

- The promotion of God's glory.
- The furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The salvation and discipling of eternal souls.
- The support of the needy.
- The service to the local community.

This has been recently been summarised as: 'Union Road Community Church aims to preach, teach and outwork the Gospel of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

## Review of Achievements and Performance in 2024-2025

In the 2023-24 Trustees Report, the Leadership Team defined the following objectives for the Church in 2024-25.

*-The Church's financial base:* has continued to improve, with improved giving from the membership and also compounded by an increase in membership numbers. This has contributed to a more solid foundation of finance, which allows better planning and the ongoing future security of ministries that outreach into the community. The objective for the next annum, is to continue to teach the advantages of biblical giving, in faith, without the Church feeling any sort of pressure or guilt.

*-Discipleship:* (learning and following Jesus) The Leadership's aim is to bring, further into the centre, the continual development of the community of the Church. This, we hope to achieve, by keeping the constitutional objects relevant in our culture through discipleship centred teaching, particularly in Sunday services and its message.

The Church aims and promotes the recognition that, it has to adapt the unchanging message of the Gospel, to a population living in a fast-changing culture. Therefore, the Church strives to bring Jesus' message of hope, and the 'new life' he has promised, recorded in the Bible, to future generations.

*-Leadership:* The firm foundation and development of the leadership team and its structures are a continuous key aim, in order to support the future growth and health of the Church. Objectives such as long-term succession and a wider age range, in the team, are seen as achievable targets. The Church is satisfied it has hit its target of an equal split of male/female make-up of the team.

*-Ministries:* The Church consists of a membership, in which God has given ministry gifts for the building of the Church and the ministries contained within it. The ministries such as the Food Market, Noah's Ark (pre-school children), services, as well as Church services, are seen as areas where members can exercise their gifts to achieve the objectives of the Church. The Church aims to promote and develop each member in their gifting, in a safe and unpressured environment.

*-Prayer:* The Church has a great tradition of prayer and this is seen as an essential element of its present and future culture. We continue to have the objective of looking for ways to develop the Church's prayer life. To help build on its foundation of prayer, which is vital in all things of Church life.

## Plans and Objectives for 2025-2026 and Beyond.

*-The Church's Financial Situation:* As we move forward with a firm vision to fulfil our objectives from 2025 onwards, we will continue to teach and promote biblical principles. This is to be achieved under the mandate that God wants us to give, not out of compulsion, but cheerfully and in line with what the member wants to give. The Church believes we give in faith, but with responsibility, for our commitment to salaries, utilities and outgoings.

*-Discipleship:* In a surrounding world culture that can have many objectives and aims, that are not always helpful, the church wants to disciple its members, and not yet members who attend regularly, in the teachings of Jesus, from the Bible. The aim moving forward is to give a broad teaching of the spiritual disciplines, that are needed to navigate our everyday lives. Jesus' mandate was to give us life to the full, so that we are a reflection of Jesus and his teachings to those who we are in connection with. The Tuesday evening 'big picture' meeting assists us in equipping us for this, and we will continue to develop as disciples.

This we are continuing to discover, leads to a more organic method of evangelism. The Church has discovered within its ministries, that this is more in line with those who are seeking spiritually, partially in the post covid culture, we have found ourselves within. The Church leadership is aware that past performance is not a guarantee of future success, so we will keep alert, changing as directed by the Holy Spirit.

*-Leadership:* In line with our objective of growth, the Church leadership aims to broaden and strengthen area's where growth has and is occurring. We believe that all things are within the Church for growth and to sustain it. Therefore, we develop from the membership those who are taking on tasks and displaying leadership qualities in their serving.

*-Ministries:* The Church leadership aim is to look for continuous improvement and leading from God, as we build his Church. Two examples of this are in the food market, which has become more sustainable, (due to government funding reductions) whilst still retaining its great values. The other is Noah's Ark, which has changed emphasis, to local parents, (as opposed to childminders).

Development of volunteer members and their encouragement, to see the opportunities that ministries provide in reaching our surrounding community, still remain a priority for the future.

## Financial Review

*General Fund:* In 2024-25, the General Fund's total income, primarily from members direct contributions, was about £00-000 and expenditure (including depreciation) amounted to about £00-000, leaving a surplus of £00-000.

*Building Fund:* During the financial year, the building fund's income from designated gifts and deeds of covenant totalled £00-000. While total expenditure on maintenance and renewals amounted to £00-000.

*Reserves Policy:* Unrestricted liquid funds are needed to sustain and develop the day to day operations of the Church. The Trustee's policy is that unrestricted reserves should be managed, firstly, to avoid the need to realise fixed assets for the Church's current use, and, secondly, to cover at least 6 months current expenditure, especially the salary of the full-time employee. The level of reserves is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO  
THE TRUSTEES OF UNION ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH (OSWALDTWISTLE)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended  
31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

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").

I report in respect of my examination of the trustees accounts carried out under section 145 of  
the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given  
by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the  
Charity Commissioners. 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 the seeking of  
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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of  
the Act;
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and  
content of accounts 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.

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

Sharon Lockwood



12th December 2025

Accounting 4 Limited

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>					
Offerings, collections & legacies	2	32856		32856	34671
Foodbank donations and grants	3		18991	18991	21683
Noah's Ark toddler group				0	979
Other income				0	150
Investment income				0	240
<b><u>Total income</u></b>		<b>32856</b>	<b>18991</b>	<b>51847</b>	<b>57723</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Salaries and pension		22411		22411	18,500
Missionary, workers support and other causes				0	-
Church events		187		187	-
Depreciation				0	7409
Office Expenses and Telephone		1032		1032	317
Repairs and outside maintenance		2431		2431	2928
Insurance		1258		1258	1,522
Light and heat		5802		5802	7,885
Rates		235		235	
Bank charges		55		55	150
Entertainment		61		61	
Donation		1168		1168	
Licences and subscriptions		1206		1206	877
Teaching, training, etc		105		105	55
Sundry expenses		5138		5138	1578
Foodbank expenses			12463	12463	23051
Noah's Ark toddler group				0	789
		41089	12463	53552	65,061
<b>Governance Costs</b>					
<b>Professional fees</b>					
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources for the year		<b>-8233</b>	<b>6528</b>	<b>-1705</b>	<b>-7,338</b>
Transfers between funds					
Total funds brought forward		108634	422323	530,957	538295
Total funds carried forward		100401	428851	529252	530,957



# BALANCE SHEET 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	2025	2024
<b><u>Fixed assets</u></b>			
Tangible assets	6	535726	513027
<b><u>Current assets</u></b>			
Debtors		6273	4090
Cash at bank and in hand		773	18790
		<u>7046</u>	<u>22880</u>
<b><u>Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year</u></b>			
Creditors and accruals		<u>13520</u>	<u>4950</u>
<b><u>Net current assets</u></b>		<u>-6474</u>	<u>17930</u>
<b><u>Net assets</u></b>		<u>529252</u>	<u>530957</u>
<b><u>Funds</u></b>			
Unrestricted – General Purposes	7	100401	108634
Restricted	7	<u>428851</u>	<u>422323</u>
		<u>529252</u>	<u>530957</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 27th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Angela Bridges

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Mrs A Bridges – Trustee

## 1. Accounting policies

The accounts 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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" ("the Sorp") and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The particular accounting policies are described below.

**a) Accounting convention**

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

**b) Donations**

i) Donations and gifts under deeds of covenant, together with the associated income tax recoverable, are recognised as income when the donation is received.

ii) Other donations and gifts received are credited to the income and expenditure

**c) Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the asset over its useful economic life as follows:

Land	-	nil
Buildings	-	2% per annum
Equipment	-	10%-20% per annum

## 2 Offerings, Collections & Legacies

	2025	2024
£		
Offerings, covenants and other	32856	34251
	=====	

## 3. Foodbank Donations and Grants

## 4 Expenditure

	2025	2024
£		
Included within expenditure for the year are the following costs:		
Staff costs	22,411	18500
Reporting accountants' fees:	-	-
Independent Examination Fee	-	-
	=====	

There was 1 employee during the year (2024 – 1).

## 5 Trustees' remuneration, expenses and other transactions

One of the Trustees, the senior team leader, received remuneration as disclosed in note 3 above. No remuneration or reimbursement of personal expenses was paid during the year to any other trustee or to any person known to be connected with any trustee.

In common with most charities the Trustees make donations to the charity.

<b>6 Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>Land and buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures and equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cost			
At 1st April 2024	605,050	56,025	661,075
Additions Disposals			
At 31st March 2025	605,050	56,025	661,075
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2024	95,174	52,874	148,048
Depreciation for year	63	0	378
Charge Disposals			
At 31st March 2025	95,237	52,874	148,426
Net book value			
At 31st March 2025	<u>499,678</u>	<u>2,836</u>	<u>512,649</u>
At 31st March 2024	<u>509,876</u>	<u>3,151</u>	<u>513,027</u>

## 7 Statement of funds

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tangible assets	535,726		535,726
Current assets	7,046		7,046
Liability: amounts falling due within one year	-13,520	-	13,520

The restricted funds comprise amounts raised, given or transferred from unrestricted funds toward the building project, Noah's Ark toddler group and the Foodbank.