

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

SKYLARK CHURCH

(A company limited by guarantee)

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1109961

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 05442866

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SKYLARK CHURCH
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

WORKING NAME	Skylark Church
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1109961
COMPANY NUMBER	05442866
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2024
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2025
	John Grayston Peter Sims Nicola Sims Charles Kemp Wendy Ward Wayne Bishop

The existing directors appoint any new directors, following the provisions laid out in the Articles of Association

LEGAL STATUS	Company Limited by Guarantee
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	Registered as a Company on 4th May 2005 and as a charity on 10th June 2005.

OBJECTS

The advance of the Christian faith in Essex and other parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Directors may from time to time think fit and other such purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law in England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the Charity.

REGISTERED AND MAIN ADDRESS	Unit 4 Hanbury Way Chelmsford Essex CM1 3AE
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BANKERS	HSBC 99 High Street Chelmsford CM1 1EQ
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Xeinadin South East The Old Grange Lordship Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex, CM1 3WT
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LENDERS	Kingdom Bank Ltd Media House Padge Road Beeston Nottingham, NG9 2RS
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**SKYLARK CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given to me by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 statement below.

Independent examiners statements

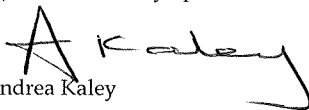
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities; and
- that the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102)

have 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.



Andrea Kaley
Chartered Accountant
for and on behalf of Xeinadin South East
The Old Grange
Warren Estate
Writtle
Chelmsford
Essex, CM1 3WT

Date: 5 November 2025

**SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Memorandum and Articles of Association administered by a Board of Directors govern the Centre. During the year these Directors were:

John Grayston
Charles Kemp
Peter Sims
Nicola Sims
Wendy Ward
Wayne Bishop

Other Officers of the Centre are:

Secretary: Lesley Kemp
Administrator: C Kowalski
Treasurer: Marcus Ward

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity

Organisational structure and appointment of trustees

Newly appointed directors are provided with an informal induction to the charity and mentoring by established directors.

The company endeavours to maintain a balance of skills and expertise when seeking new or replacement directors. New directors undergo an induction process which involves meeting with directors and senior trust staff and are provided with an information pack detailing their responsibilities, governance, financial and other information relating to the structure and operation of the company. All directors are invited to attend a range of training events relating to both governance issues and specific areas of the charity's work.

The Board is constituted with a number of directors to bring a blend of different experience and capacities to make good judgement and contributions. New directors may be recruited from leaders within the church, key personnel of Skylark International, members of others churches in the locality or Christians in the local business community. Following proposal by one of the existing directors, new directors are appointed after review by the whole board, and are subject to induction training and continuous involvement in viewing the activities of the charity and understanding of its objectives.

The directors present the attached financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

When reviewing the aims and objectives of the centre and when planning future activities, we have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims of the Centre are to advance the Christian faith, to further Christian education, to relieve persons in need and to provide facilities for the community. The Church continues its hybrid Sunday Gatherings with between 30 and 80 people watching live online during an average Sunday service, with the ability to engage online after the service has ended. In-person attendance on a Sunday has also continued to grow and we find ourselves nearly at capacity for our larger services throughout the year such as Christmas and Easter. We have run popular connect lunches through the year to encourage connection and relationship within the Church congregation.

SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Activities, Achievements and Performance (continued)

We continue to support the overseas mission of Cherish Uganda, Romania, as well as supporting UK based organisations, Kintsugi Hope, CHESS, Care for the Family and Lighthouse Charity. We continue to be a Restored "Beacon" Church to support those who are victim to domestic violence, as well as running Kintsugi Hope groups to support those with mental health and wellness challenges, as well as seeing great inroads in our prison ministry where these groups have been run, along with supporting their regular Sunday services.

Towards furthering Christian education, Life Groups remain the principle mid-week meetings for Church and some continue to offer online engagement as well as in person to facilitate older people or families with young children. These provide a smaller forum and enable the congregation to grow together in their education. The groups are flexible in style and content, to cater for a wide range of needs and recently we have run training to facilitate 4 new groups starting in Apr 25, as well as support the existing groups in their leadership.

Within this framework, one group, DNA, exists for the benefit of new members, to give them an overview of the various events and ministries happening within the church and also to find out our core vision and values. We continue to see new people seek out church after engaging online or via social media. The Church continues its men's and women's brunches/breakfasts with between 40-80 attendees to foster relationship and discuss and equip people on specific topics relevant to the Christian life, and we had around 50 people at our Christmas day meal to engage those in our community who were lonely over the Christmas period. The church's pastoral and counselling services have been able to continue and we've been able to run another bereavement course, supporting people through the common stages of grief.

The senior generation continue their twice monthly in-person meeting, providing a time of worship and fellowship with one another for between 10 and 20 members. Our deaf congregation continue to meet in-person again and have roughly 20 attendees. Monthly BSL interpreted services are provided, and our Christmas and Easter services have online BSL interpretation.

Skylark Kids continues to facilitate kids work at Sunday services. Little Ones toddler group continues, with more than 70 young children and parents/carers attending. There remains over 200 children on our register at present and following our successful all ages services, we have continued to offer kids worship with actions in our Sunday Gatherings which has grown in popularity and engagement.

Skylark Youth continue to engage church and community young people with Tuesday evening sessions and a Youth Life Group meeting on a Thursday evening, as well as a popular "Taste and See" ice cream event to engage both Church and community youth.

For those who are in financial need, the church gives gifts to members and others locally on an ad-hoc basis in response to known circumstances. Meals are also delivered to people who have had new babies, moved house, are unwell to mental or physical sickness or just struggling. Food box provision continues to rise with the referral of new families from local schools, whilst we continue to provide pre-paid supermarket cards on an ad-hoc basis and to support families in extreme need over the Christmas period as well as a bursary fund to support specific needs of families referred by schools. Local churches and agencies are now approaching us for support which facilitates our goal of working together to build Kingdom in Chelmsford. Pastoral care is going from strength to strength with a fantastic team now in place to love our people and a robust system to ensure no-one is missed. Our intergenerational group "Belong" is growing and flourishing, now having regular kids and carers from a local school for children with additional needs in tandem with its current intergenerational members.

SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Activities, Achievements and Performance (continued)

This year we have continued our work with Fairshare regularly distribute food to those in need, including some refugee families, Safer Places Women's Refuge and to Chess, a Chelmsford local homeless charity, along with our food parcels and vouchers. We still maintain our support of Lighthouse Centre, an independent charity responding to need in the area of crisis pregnancy and loss.

The church is in healthy relationship with Skylark International, (formerly CGI), a growing organisation currently overseeing a number of churches in the UK and overseas as well as other Christian ministries. The church draws support, encouragement, inspiration from Skylark International and is pleased to give a minimum of 10% of its offering to it to help facilitate the work of our wider movement.

The church remains dependent on volunteers for a great number of its activities. It is impossible to gauge the financial benefits of such acts of service, but the spiritual returns are exponentially greater. Without the volunteers the church would not be able to function at its current level of output and the directors wish to take this opportunity to express their heartfelt thanks to all who have given freely of their time, talents, resources and energy, and for those who have stepped into new challenges and volunteering roles.

Future Plans

Since taking ownership of the building in Hanbury Road we have assessed the suitability of the building for our future requirements and a number of improvements to the building. Further improvements may take place depending on funding.

Our 4 new life groups are due to start in the coming months, as well as increasing engagement into the prison and specifically running Messy Church to engage prisoners and their families. Our Youth Weekend Away is planned to allow concentrated youth work and to build friendships and community. We plan to update redo the toilets in the building to provide a nicer space for visitors and congregation. This year we will continue our summer rhythm of all-ages services and picnics in the park to build on our sense of intergenerational community as a Church.

Major Risks and Controls

The major risk is in respect of the value and volatility of income, as the charity is dependant on voluntary giving. This is partly managed through cash flow monitoring and altering the timing of expenditure to reflect that on the income.

Financial Review

The Centre's funds are applied to support Christian Mission through local teaching and worship, Christian missionary work in the UK and abroad.

In the year ended 31st March 2025 major expenses were applied as follows:

In support of full and part time staff £297,923

By way of a tithe to Skylark International £40,800

Maintenance of premises for worship and teaching locally, including mortgage interest of £33,885

In support of Christian Ministry workers in the UK and abroad £13,750

During the year there was a deficit of £7009 primarily due to investment in office and kitchen improvements but adequate reserves were maintained.

Accounting practices remained unchanged for the financial year. The reserves policy is stated in note 15 to the financial statements. Sundry restricted funds were continued during the past financial year for the purposes of raising funds for specified individuals and circumstances, as detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylark Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the overall management of the Charity, ensuring compliance with the Charity's objects and relevant legislation and also to define and agree the strategic aims and objectives of the Charity.

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable Company's financial activities during the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to Independent Examiners

So far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charities independent examiner's are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps they ought to have taken as director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant examination information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval of Annual Report

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 05/11/2025



Peter Sims

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

SKYLARK CHURCH
(Company number 5442866)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total to 31	Total to 31
	Notes	Funds	Funds	March	March
		£	£	2025	2024
				£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	2a	504,816	11,306	516,122	589,316
Other trading activities	2b	39,406	-	39,406	30,655
Investment income	2c	2,803	545	3,349	2,607
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2	547,026	11,851	558,877	622,578
EXPENDITURE					
Cost of generating funds					
Charitable activities	3a	512,470	42,481	554,951	539,763
Governance costs	3b	10,535	400	10,935	9,606
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3	523,005	42,881	565,886	549,369
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		24,021	(31,030)	(7,009)	73,210
Transfers between funds	4	(17,994)	17,994	-	-
NET (OUTGOING) INCOMING RESOURCES FOR YEAR		6,027	(13,036)	(7,009)	73,210
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	4	451,136	65,814	516,950	443,740
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4	457,163	52,778	509,941	516,950

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements

SKYLARK CHURCH
(Company number 5442866)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31 March 2025 £	Total 31 March 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	6	298,565	454,579	753,144	765,654
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	16,363		16,363	11,357
Cash at bank and in hand	10	167,937	28,287	196,224	203,887
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>184,300</u>	<u>28,287</u>	<u>212,587</u>	<u>215,244</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	25,701	1,531	27,233	20,491
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>158,599</u>	<u>26,756</u>	<u>185,355</u>	<u>194,753</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>457,163</u>	<u>481,335</u>	<u>938,498</u>	<u>960,408</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12	-	67,494	67,494	58,587
Creditors: amounts falling due after five years	12	-	361,063	361,063	384,871
NET ASSETS		<u>457,163</u>	<u>52,778</u>	<u>509,941</u>	<u>516,950</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted income funds	4	457,163	-	457,163	451,136
Restricted income funds	4	-	52,778	52,778	65,814
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	4	<u>457,163</u>	<u>52,778</u>	<u>509,941</u>	<u>516,950</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for its financial statements for the financial year ended 31st March 2025 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements , so far as applicable to the company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 05/11/2025



Peter Sims
Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form part of these financial statements

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general activities of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions placed on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

There are no designated funds that the directors have earmarked for specific purposes.

Incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, the directors are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income), the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resource.

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated services and facilities are included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended), where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the Financial Statements, but is described in the director's report.

Investment Income is included in the Financial Statements when receivable.

Resources Expended and Creditors

Liabilities are recognised when incurred or a commitment is made.

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory financial statements, the costs of director's meetings and legal advice to directors on governance or constitutional matters.

Where the charity has given a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources Expended and Creditors (Cont.)

Grants made or received without performance conditions are only recognised in the SOFA, when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in the control of the charity.

Support costs including central functions have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Value Added Tax

The Charity's activities are classified as exempt for the purposes of value added tax and the Charity is unable to reclaim the value added tax which it suffers on its expenses. Expenditure in these financial statements is therefore shown inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or if gifted at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of the tangible fixed asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful life. The rates applied per annum are as follows:

Fixed Asset Class	Depreciation Rate
Freehold Land	0%
Freehold Buildings	2.5%
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	33%
Leasehold building improvements	33%
Motor Vehicles	25%

There has been no changes to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year. The legal, banking, valuation and other expenses related to the purchase are expensed rather than capitalised.

Pension Scheme

The charity contributes to a Skylark International group scheme with Royal London at rates set by the scheme actuary and advised to the board by the scheme administrator. The scheme is a multi employer charity Scheme and advice to the board is by the scheme actuary. In accordance with FRS17 the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating lease agreements are charged as expenditure on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at the transaction price, less any impairment.

Financial Instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like other debtors, creditors, loans from banks.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

2. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total to 31 March 2025 £	Total to 31 March 2024 £
a) Donations and Legacies				
General and Weekly Offerings	397,203	10,156	407,359	419,194
Donations and CAF Vouchers	2,339	1,150	3,488	83,289
Tax Recovered	92,639	-	92,639	79,423
Vision Offerings	12,635	-	12,635	7,411
	<u>504,816</u>	<u>11,306</u>	<u>516,122</u>	<u>589,316</u>
b) Other Trading Activities				
Fees Received	18,117	-	18,117	19,153
Sales	20,060	-	20,060	10,337
Rental Income	1,230	-	1,230	1,165
	<u>39,406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,406</u>	<u>30,655</u>
c) Investment Income				
Bank Interest	2,803	545	3,349	2,607
	<u>2,803</u>	<u>545</u>	<u>3,349</u>	<u>2,607</u>
d) Other Income				
None	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>547,026</u>	<u>11,851</u>	<u>558,877</u>	<u>622,578</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

3. EXPENDITURE

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total to March 2025 £	Total to March 2024 £
a) Costs of Charitable Activities					
Salaries National Insurance and Pensions	5)	297,923	-	297,923	284,197
Training and Education		2,576	-	2,576	1,250
Mission and Support Grants:	3 c)	54,500	50	54,550	81,531
Building Mortgage interest		33,885	-	33,885	35,230
Building Repairs and Maintenance		14,985	-	14,985	5,919
Cleaning		5,622	-	5,622	4,688
Security and Safety		6,105	-	6,105	2,892
Water, Heat and Light		15,578	-	15,578	12,055
Bank Charges		572	-	572	496
Books, CD's and DVDs		481	705	1,186	685
Computer and Internet		2,377	-	2,377	1,166
Depreciation		5,022	17,500	22,522	22,798
Entertainment and Catering		4,087	-	4,087	2,988
Equipment and Materials		10,993	744	11,737	9,171
Food and Accommodation		25,636	5,886	31,521	24,788
Hire of Facilities		58	-	58	1,445
Insurances		7,831	-	7,831	8,983
Outside Support Services		8,166	9,318	17,483	16,996
Pastoral Gifts and Expenses		4,532	7,942	12,474	9,056
Postage and Courier		160	-	160	25
Printing and Stationery		4,184	-	4,184	2,921
Outside Speakers		850	160	1,010	830
Telephone and Fax		4,996	-	4,996	7,527
Travel Costs		2,613	176	2,789	2,119
Vehicle Running Costs		-	-	-	1,071
Event & Transaction Refunds		(1,260)	-	(1,260)	(1,064)
		<u>512,470</u>	<u>42,481</u>	<u>554,951</u>	<u>539,763</u>
b) Governance Costs					
Subscriptions and Licenses		7,895	400	8,295	7,103
Independent Examination fees - current year		2,640	-	2,640	2,503
		<u>10,535</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>10,935</u>	<u>9,606</u>
		<u>523,005</u>	<u>42,881</u>	<u>565,886</u>	<u>549,369</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

3 c) Mission and Support Grants:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total to 31 March 2025	Total to 31 March 2024
Local and UK Organisations				
Skylark International	40,800	-	40,800	54,731
Lighthouse Family Trust	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
CHESS	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Care for the Family	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Kintsugi Hope	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Restored	-	50	50	100
Made for More	-	-	-	3,000
Stewardship - Martin Young	-	-	-	2,000
Churches Together in Chelmsford	500	-	500	500
Overseas Mission Organisations				
Cherish a Child	6,600	-	6,600	6,600
I Got Shoes	-	-	-	5,000
Bev Murrill	-	-	-	3,000
	<u>54,500</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>54,550</u>	<u>81,531</u>

The mission and support grants are for the following purposes:

- The tithe to Skylark International is towards supporting the movement to which SC belongs.
- Lighthouse Family Trust is a pregnancy advice service operating in Chelmsford.
- CHESS is a charity providing shelter and support for the homeless.
- Care for the Family's aim is to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties.
- Kintsugi Hope exists to create safe and supportive spaces for those experiencing mental and emotional health challenges
- Cherish a Child supports AIDs orphans in Uganda.
- Churches Together in Chelmsford arranges joint events and provides a forum for churches and Christian organisations to work together in Chelmsford.
- Made for More provide mental health, mentoring and Christian support to the secondary schools in Chelmsford, Essex.
- I Got Shoes assists and enables the education of children in Uganda, providing grants, supplying shoes, uniforms and school fees.
- Martin Young has been leading and planting churches for 25 years and now works with churches and leaders on creative ways to present the Christian message.
- Bev Murrill co-founded Christian Growth Centre which became Skylark Church and is active in teaching and encouraging church leaders internationally from her home base in Australia - this gift was to assist with further academic study.
- Restored is a charity which speaks up about violence against women and equips churches across the UK to respond to domestic abuse and provide support for victims of abuse.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

4. FUNDS OF THE CHARITY

	Opening Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted Funds					
Community Fund	40,607	3,871	(16,189)	494	28,783
Pastoral Fund	22,409	7,980	(9,192)	-	21,197
Petchey Achievement Awards	2,338	-	-	-	2,338
Other	459	-	(17,500)	17,500	459
	<u>65,814</u>	<u>11,851</u>	<u>(42,881)</u>	<u>17,994</u>	<u>52,778</u>
Unrestricted Fund	451,136	547,026	(523,005)	(17,994)	457,163
	<u>516,950</u>	<u>558,877</u>	<u>(565,886)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>509,941</u>

The Community fund covers work that Skylark Church performs in and for the Community and includes assets transferred from ROC Chelmsford.

The Pastoral fund holds donations for pastoral care of individuals within the Church and to support individuals in the community and homes run by local charities.

The Petchey achievement awards scheme is to support monthly awards to youth groups.

The Other category contains restricted funds for items related to buildings.

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	31-Mar-25 £	31-Mar-24 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	257,097	246,031
Employer's National Insurance	16,176	13,613
Employer's Pension Contribution	24,650	24,554
	<u>297,923</u>	<u>284,197</u>

The average number of employees who were engaged in the year is as follows:

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	12	13
Full time equivalent	7	7

The charity operates a PAYE scheme to pay all employed members of staff. No individual employee received emoluments over £60,000.

The charity contributes to a Pension Fund with Royal London (previously branded as Scottish Life). Contributions are made by the employees at 4% and the employer at 10% for those employees who are members of the scheme.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Building Renovations £	Fixtures Fittings and Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 31st March 2024	965,074	28,093	119,101	1,112,268
Additions			10,012	10,012
Disposals				-
As at 31st March 2025	965,074	28,093	129,113	1,122,280
Depreciation				
As at 1st April 2024	206,142	26,077	114,395	346,614
Charge for the year	17,500	1,136	3,886	22,522
Elimination on disposals				-
As at 31st March 2025	223,642	27,213	118,281	369,136
Net Book Value				
At 1st April 2024	758,932	2,017	4,706	765,654
At 31st March 2025	741,432	880	10,832	753,144

The freehold land and buildings comprise of the chapel on Chignal Road, Chelmsford and Unit 4 on Hanbury Road, Chelmsford. The unit at Hanbury Road was purchased for £845,000 in June 2012. The directors have allocated £145,000 to land and £700,000 to the building, with the building being depreciated. Both premises are used for the charity's activities and therefore are included at cost. As there are few similar properties in the area the market value is difficult to calculate. As part of the purchase of Hanbury Road the chapel was valued by the bank securing the loan against it and the directors believe that the valuation is similar to the £120,000 which is included in the above. The additions this year relate to the installation of new ovens in the kitchen and new furniture and equipment for the church office.

7. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

The Charity has a rental and copy charges agreement on a photocopier which will now finish on 31st Dec 25. The outstanding obligations as at 31st Mar 25 including regular lease payments, the cost for terminating the contract on this date and removal of the machine is as shown below.

	31-Mar-25 £	31-Mar-24 £
Obligation per annum:		
Within One Year	1,894	873
Between one and five years		1,454
	<u>1,894</u>	<u>2,327</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

8. TAXATION

As a charity, Skylark Church is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 478 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010) to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

9. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Tax Recoverable	11,028	8,985
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	5,335	2,372
	<u>16,363</u>	<u>11,357</u>

10. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Current Account	15,797	13,943
Deposit Account	158,552	153,437
Community Account	21,846	36,478
Cash	29	29
	<u>196,224</u>	<u>203,887</u>

11. CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Accruals	7,069	2,451
Audit and Accountancy	2,520	2,400
Credit Cards	3,283	3,425
Mortgage payable within one year	14,360	12,215
	<u>27,233</u>	<u>20,491</u>

12. CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Mortgage repayable over 30 years to June 2042 due as follows:		
Between one and five years	67,494	58,587
In more than five years	361,063	384,871
	<u>428,557</u>	<u>443,458</u>

The mortgage is a repayment loan and bears a interest of 6.75 % at 31st March 25

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The directors actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The directors have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RELATED PARTIES

The following amounts were paid to or on behalf of related parties:

Related Party	Salary £	Pension contributions £	Grant £	Other £	Total to 31 March 2025 £	Total to 31 March 2024 £
Peter & Nicola Sims	79,576	7,958	-	647	88,181	82,684
Lesley Kemp	6,462	646	-	-	7,108	6,674
Skylark International	-	-	40,800	-	40,800	54,731
	<u>86,038</u>	<u>8,604</u>	<u>40,800</u>	<u>647</u>	<u>136,089</u>	<u>144,089</u>

Subject to certain conditions, the Memorandum of association permits directors who offer their services to the Charity as a religious pastor, to be remunerated out of income or property of the charity.

In the Related Party list above, Peter & Nicola Sims are Pastors & Trustees, Lesley Kemp is the wife of Charles Kemp who is a trustee.

Skylark International is a charity which supports a network of churches and ministries, organising joint events, leadership conferences and training. Its primary funding comes from contributions made by the churches within the Skylark International network. Skylark Church is one of these churches.

Peter & Nicola Sims are also Leaders & Trustees of Skylark International

Two of the directors have received payment for travel, subsistence and study expenses totalling £647 (prior year £493) in relation to services provided to the Company.

During the year the following amounts were received from related parties:

Related Party	Total to March 2025	Total to March 2024
Skylark International - Payment for Admin Support	18,056	15,675
	<u>18,056</u>	<u>15,675</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

15. RESERVES POLICY

The directors have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. The directors consider it appropriate to retain a level of reserves held in liquid assets equal to one week of running costs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of commitments held. The directors aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil their charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income. The directors will endeavour to not 'sit' on funds unnecessarily.