

# Rushden Mission Church

## Statutory Information

### Legal Status

Rushden Mission Church is an unincorporated association with Managing Trustees appointed by a meeting of the Members.

### Principal Office

Rushden Mission Church  
159 Wellingborough Road  
Rushden NN10 9TA

### Registered Address

Rushden Mission Church  
158 Wellingborough Road  
Rushden  
NN109TA

### Charity Trustees

Mrs Linda Jane Crawley  
Mr David Lloyd Rooksby  
Mrs Thandiwe Washoma  
Mr David McGrath  
Mr Thomas Joseph Poulton  
Mr William John Franklin  
Mrs Kim Elaine Wilton

### Property Holding Trustees

Mrs Linda Jane Crawley  
Mr David Lloyd Rooksby  
Mrs Gillian Lindsey Russell  
Mrs Thandiwe Washoma

### Minister of the Church

Rev David Bracken

### Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC  
9 Midsummer Place  
MILTON KEYNES  
MK9 3GB

Co-operative Bank Plc  
P.O. Box 101  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

### Solicitors

Wilson Browne  
The Manor House  
Market Square  
Higham Ferrers  
NN10 8BT

### Independent Examiner

Elsby & Co  
155 Wellingborough Rd,  
Rushden  
NN10 9TB

## **The Trustees Report**

### **Year ended 31st October 2025**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2025.

### **Charitable Objects**

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted 1st April 2009. The Objects of the Church are:

- To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees (acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members) from time to time may think fit.
- To 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 advice and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.
- To advance Christian education and pursue and promote general charitable purposes consistent with the Christian faith in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the above listed Property Holding Trustees and the Trust is entirely compatible with the above objects.

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees consider that the activities of the Charity are conducted for the public benefit, in particular two of the charitable purposes as set out by the Charity Commission in its general guidance on public benefit are met:

- The advancement of education and
- The advancement of religion

An explanation of these activities is given below in the section Objectives and Activities.

### **Organisational Structure and Decision-making processes.**

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution, which requires them to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and to subscribe and adhere to, in belief and lifestyle, the Statement of Beliefs.

The Members meeting normally takes place four times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the Members appoint Trustees who accept responsibility for the legal aspects of the Charity. The constitution states that there should be a minimum of three Trustees but does not stipulate a maximum number. The Church Meeting also appoints up to six Church Leaders, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. In accordance with the constitution a person may serve as both a Trustee and Church Leader, or any other officer of the Church.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by Members in Church Meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted regarding the Disclosure and Barring Service and Safeguarding Policies in place for both Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The Church is a member of The Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches.

The Church is affiliated to Rushden & Higham Council of Churches, the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs, and the East Northants Faith Group.

### **Objectives and Activities**

To achieve the Principal Objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of a regular public service of Christian worship. This service takes place in person each Sunday at 10.45 am. However, we also offer this service as a live stream through YouTube. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board and the website at [www.rushdenmission.co.uk](http://www.rushdenmission.co.uk). A children's programme operates during the morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is welcome to attend any of these services.

The Church operates house groups each week for Bible Study, mutual support, to encourage the growth of faith and to develop discipleship.

A monthly men's group, and a monthly women's group also meet and the aim these groups, is to give mutual support, to encourage the growth of faith and to develop discipleship.

Two Prayer Meetings are held each week. We are a Church who believe in the power of prayer and the need to lift all matters before God.

Further details of these meetings can be obtained at the Sunday services of worship and on the Church website.

The Church also offers a lace making group and a weekly Community Café, "Faithful Blend."

All of these groups are open to the general public.

The Church provides a practice venue for the Rushden Mission Brass Band and a meeting place for the weekly meetings of Cocaine Anonymous.

The Church is home to East Northants Child Contact Centre (CIC). ENCCS support families during the initial stages of family break up before permanent arrangements for ongoing family life are established. They:

- Provide a safe, neutral, welcoming space for children to spend time with parents (or other people important to them, such as grandparents).
- Support parents to help them prioritise the needs of their children post separation.
- Promote mediation so that long-term solutions can be found to keep children in touch with both parents.
- Offer resources, information and advice for families dealing with separation.
- Provide specialist supervised interventions where children may be exposed to a higher level of risk.

The Church is proud to be involved with and support these groups, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.

A number of WhatsApp groups encourage connection between friends and members of the church, for prayer but also practical engagement of the various groups.

## **Achievements and Performance**

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes in numbers alone, either by headcount or by financial performance, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that although these are difficult to measure, 2025 was a positive year in the life of the Church.

The Trustees believe that the Church will be able to continue its mission purposes in 2026 with confidence and enthusiasm.

Services are held each Sunday, with an average total in person attendance of approximately fifty-five adults and children. Due to the live streaming of services, we are able to connect with a larger number of people and reach those who are no longer able to attend a church service in person. Two Home Groups meet in member's homes to encourage the growth of faith and discipleship.

Using our Audio & Visual equipment we have been able to support and encourage the wider Wesleyan Reform Union by hosting hybrid meetings, enabling people to take part in the meeting both in person and via Zoom.

The Church has a committed youth team who encourage spiritual growth, support, and friendship for children of the Church and their families and seek to welcome and engage with the local community and friends through a variety of mission activities throughout the year.

The team lead two Sunday morning children's groups, PathFinders for ages 5 to 11 and WayMakers for ages 11 to 16. These groups provide a fun and relaxed atmosphere to help the children and young people develop in their faith. The children performed at a Nativity service during the year.

The older youth have been joining in with townwide youth events that the youth leaders feel encourages the young people in their own faith and allow the youth to connect with their Christian peers.

Some of the young people meet as Young People's Worship Group with the objective of teaching and encouraging them to play guitar, drums and to sing, this is also a great opportunity in encouraging the Young People to worship together.

Two Movie Nights took place for the Children.

"Curry Club," a men's group meet monthly to provide men with conversation, support, and food, and "Father to Father," meets monthly to offer mutual support, encourage the growth of faith and discipleship.

"Sisters in Christ," is a women's group who meet monthly, to offer mutual support to one another, and encourage the growth of faith and discipleship,

Through Pillow Talk, and our support of Rushden Mission Brass Band the church has been able to encourage the learning and development of new skills in a Christian environment.

Through hosting the weekly meetings of Cocaine Anonymous we have been able to support a fellowship of men and women, who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so that they may resolve their common problem and help others to recover from their addiction.

East Northants Child Contact Services have been able to expand their work and support more families as a result of using our premises.

The Church reached out into the wider community by visiting homes in the locality of the Church building at Easter with an Easter Egg and an invitation to Easter events at the Church, and in a similar way at Christmas with a gift of chocolate coins and an invitation to Christmas Events.

Christmas events were well attended with Carols on the Car Park, the Carol Service with the Rushden Mission Brass Band, the Children's Nativity, and the Christingle Service.

The Church is available to serve the community with funeral services. These services give the Minister and other members of the Church the opportunity to comfort and support the bereaved at difficult times in their lives. We are also available for wedding services, where we are able to celebrate with the couple and their families. No weddings or funerals have been held this year. We seek to draw close to the community in the key events and moments of their lives.

Rushden Mission Church engages in prayerful and financial support for the work of the Luwero Community Projects in Uganda and of Flame International, Truth Planters and the town's Street Pastors.

The Church has financially supported the work of the local Homeless Night Shelter and by way of gifts of money and food we have supported the local Food Bank.

"Faithful Blend," our Community Café, meet every other Thursday, providing an opportunity for both Church and neighbourhood to come together for company and conversation. A special morning for Macmillan Cancer Support was held and raised £200.

In May about fifty adults and children from the Church enjoyed a weekend of teaching, worship, time together and relaxation at the Pleasance in Overstrand, Norfolk.

Church Membership is forty-one, five new members have joined the Church during the year, sadly one member has died.

### **Property Improvements**

This year has seen significant improvements to the building and furnishings of the Church, with replastering where necessary, redecoration, new carpets and new chairs at a total cost of £15,767. Further expenditure on the building and furnishings is planned in the coming year.

Additionally, £10,610 was spent on the removal of three metal spires/ ventilation spires, part of the original building that were showing signs of decay and considered unsafe.

### **Financial Review**

The Church seeks to raise most of the funds it needs to conduct its activities from within its own membership and congregation. We have been grateful to the Wesleyan Union for a grant of £5,000 per year, which has been received for the past three years, the final instalment of £1,250 was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2025. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

ENCCS have contributed £15,685 to the church for their use of the building.

The most significant area of expenditure relates to the employment of our Minister. The role is to lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services. He provides pastoral care for the congregation and others. He helps equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness, and service. In September our Minister, the Rev David Bracken, began a second term of employment, taking the appointment through to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2030.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities. Many of the activities run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives. The Trustees wish to express their thanks for all the hard work which makes this possible.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted, are set out in the accompanying Financial Statements.

The Trustees report a net cash deficit for the year of £8,618. Regular offerings increased to £34,891 per year from £29,873. Total annual income increased by £11,066 to £77,986 from £66,920. Total annual expenditure has increased by £24,847 to £86,604 from £61,757.

The Church Building is now 125 years old and whilst generally in good order there are matters that continue to require attention. The Church is working through a refurbishment project to improve the interior condition of the building and furnishings, more of this can be read in the previous section, "Property Improvements".

The Trustees remain aware that the current level of expenditure is unsustainable beyond the medium term unless offering income can be increased. The income from ENCCS gives comfort on this issue.

The Trustees have an established Reserves Policy of holding approximately six months of costs in hand and are satisfied that the unrestricted reserves of £90,536, including £45,367 in Bank and Debtors (including HMRC Gift Aid of £8,786), together with forecasts and projections, are adequate to enable the Church to function and meet its Charitable Objectives. The Church membership is fully aware of the situation, and the Trustees will keep the matter under constant review to prevent the Church from entering a situation where it cannot fully meet its liabilities as and when they fall due. The Trustees will make every effort to take corrective action to improve the ongoing financial situation and thus to maintain an adequately funded operation.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks facing the Church and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Signed by ...Thomas Joseph Poulton ..... Date. 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Signed by ...David McGrath .....Date. 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

On behalf of the Trustees of Rushden Mission Church

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2025

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including General Receipts and Payments Account)

		2025	2024
	notes		
<b>Receipts:</b>			
Weekly offerings		£34,891	£29,873
Donations and other income	2	£22,846	£15,043
Income tax recovered on gifts		£7,703	£7,714
WRU Contribution to Ministers Pension		£1,556	£2,756
Grant Income	13	£3,750	£7,220
Interest		£609	£449
Church Weekend	12	£6,631	£3,864
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£77,986</b>	<b>£66,920</b>
<b>Payments:</b>			
Ministry	3	£29,185	£29,492
Fixed Assets	10	£11,955	£0
Upkeep of and improvements to Church & Manse	10	£24,912	£15,155
Administration		£8,245	£7,257
Donations made	4	£5,276	£5,223
Church Weekend	12	£6,509	£4,213
Sunday School & Youth Work		£522	£416
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£86,604</b>	<b>£61,757</b>
<b>Cash movement for the year</b>		<b>(8,618)</b>	<b>£5,163</b>
<b>Cash and Bank balances brought forward</b>		<b>£44,126</b>	<b>£38,964</b>
<b>Cash and Bank balances carried forward</b>		<b>£35,508</b>	<b>£44,126</b>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

		2025	2024
	notes		
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Church Building	7	£27,849	£27,849
Manse Building	7	£880	£880
Fixtures & Fittings	7	£18,382	£7,107
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>£47,111</b>	<b>£35,836</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Sundry Debtors	8	£9,858	£9,279
Bank & other cash balances		£35,508	£44,126
		<b>£45,366</b>	<b>£53,405</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,943)	(471)
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>		<b>£90,535</b>	<b>£88,770</b>
<b>Funds:</b>			
Unrestricted Funds		£90,535	£88,770
<b>Total Funds:</b>		<b>£90,535</b>	<b>£88,770</b>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue

Trustee.....

Trustee.....

Signed by David McGrath

Signed by Kim Elaine Wilton

Date: 23rd February 2026

Date: 23rd February 2026

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. Basis of accounts:

- a) These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis
- b) There were no restricted or designated or endowment funds during the year.

<b>2. Donations and other income:</b>	notes	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Donations to Church		£3,407	£4,313
Special Donations	6	£1,291	£1,720
Thank Offering		£1,640	£1,370
Other items		£333	£699
Room Hire		£16,175	£6,941
		<u>£22,846</u>	<u>£15,043</u>

<b>3. Ministry:</b>	notes	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Minister's stipend		£23,044	£22,434
Pension contribution		£1,611	£1,561
WRU Pension Contribution		£1,556	£2,756
Manse Rates etc.		£2,974	£2,742
		<u>£29,185</u>	<u>£29,492</u>

<b>4. Donations made:</b>	notes	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Donations from 20% Fund	5	£3,985	£3,383
Special Donations	6	£1,291	£1,720
Other Donations		£0	£120
		<u>£5,276</u>	<u>£5,223</u>

### 5. Donations 10% Fund :

The Church intends that 10% of weekly offerings be donated to Good Causes.

	notes	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Amount allocated not yet donated b / fwd		£305	£701
10% Allocation for year		£3,489	£2,987
Less: Donations made in year	4	(3,985)	(3,383)
Amount allocated not yet donated c / fwd		<u>(191)</u>	<u>£305</u>

The amounts not yet donated are not designated and could be re-allocated should the Church Meeting so elect.

<b>6. Special Donations Fund:</b>	notes	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Amount not yet donated b / fwd		£0	£0
Donations received in year	2	£1,291	£1,720
Less: Donations made in year	4	(1,291)	(1,720)
Amount received not yet donated c / fwd	9	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>



	2025	2024
<b>7. Fixed Assets:</b>		
Church Building and additions at cost brought forward	£27,849	£27,849
Additions during year	£0	£0
Church Building and additions at cost carried forward	<u>£27,849</u>	<u>£27,849</u>
Manse Building at cost	£880	£880
 Fixtures and Fittings		
Cost brought forward	£32,939	£32,939
Additions during year	£13,405	£0
Cost carried forward	<u>£46,344</u>	<u>£32,939</u>
 Accumulated depreciation brought forward	£25,832	£25,043
Depreciation for year	£2,130	£789
Accumulated depreciation carried forward	<u>£27,962</u>	<u>£25,832</u>
Net book value carried forward	<u>£18,382</u>	<u>£7,107</u>

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	0% per year
Fixtures and Fittings	Range of 10% - 20% per year

	notes	2025	2024
<b>8. Sundry Debtors:</b>			
Sundry Debtors		£1,072	£1,457
Net Weekend Deposit			£119
HMRC - Gift Aid		£8,786	£7,703
		<u>£9,858</u>	<u>£9,279</u>

<b>9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Special Donations	6	£0	£0
Weekend Deposits	12	£3	£0
Other taxation and social security		£247	£234
Other creditors and accruals		£1,693	£237
		<u>£1,943</u>	<u>£471</u>

<b>10. Upkeep of and improvements to Church &amp; Manse</b>			
General Upkeep		£12,158	£10,291
Repairs and Renewals		£12,754	£2,644
AV Installation		£0	£2,220
New Chairs		£8,605	£0
New Carpet		£3,350	£0
		<u>£36,867</u>	<u>£15,155</u>

<b>11. L &amp; E Bandey and Bailey Trusts</b>			
Balance Brought Forward		£1,693	£1,693
Expenditure		(506)	£0
		<u>£1,187</u>	<u>£1,693</u>

<b>12. Weekend Deposits</b>			
Balance Brought Forward		(119)	£230
Holiday Funds Received		£6,631	£3,864
Paid		(6,509)	(4,213)
		<u>£3</u>	<u>(119)</u>

<b>13. Grants</b>			
Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches Ministry Grant		£3,750	£5,000
Wesleyan Reform Union Audio Visual Grant		£0	£2,220
Benefact Trust			
		<u>£3,750</u>	<u>£7,220</u>

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES/ MEMBERS OF RUSHDEN MISSION CHURCH**

Report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2025

**Charity no: 1130048**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rushden Mission Church ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 October 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As the charity's trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

#### **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 which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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.

Signed by:

Leona Bateman ACA  
Elsby & Company (Sywell) Ltd  
155 Wellingborough Road  
Rushden  
Northamptonshire  
NN10 9TB

Date: 25th February 2026