

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

Company number: 07131310

Charity number: 1133954

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

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**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the church for the period ended 31st March 2025.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The church's purposes, as more fully set out in its Memorandum of Association, are:

- to advance the Christian faith
- to provide relief for those in conditions of need, or hardship, or who are aged or sick,
- to advance education
- to provide, or assist in providing, facilities in the interests of social welfare for individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Church's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Church operates in association with the Catalyst Sphere of Newfrontiers. All are welcome to attend our Sunday services when activities and groups are provided for children and youth, with a crèche for babies.

Major Developments April 2024 to March 2025

- Our church meetings and attendance have been relatively steady since the transition to Jonathan as Senior Leader in January 2024. We have also seen stability in terms of our financial giving into the church, and also with the Leadership team and staff team.
- Open House continues to run successfully and regularly hosts 40-50 clients at each session. There has been a successful transition to Dani as Open House manager and she has built very strong relationships with a large number of vulnerable clients. Dani is reviewing how she might wish to further develop the project. Currently we have funding until July 2025 with grant applications made.
- Edible High Town (EHT) is our focussed work in the community run in conjunction with the council. It is fully funded through grants for at least 12 months. Konni the EHT manager has excellent relationships with the staffing team at Hope Church and we have a detailed review on a quarterly basis. Last year EHT increased their portfolio to 9 community gardening spaces, with a total of 68 activities and 405 hours of volunteer time.
- We continue to host a missionary from Brazil through Interserve, Filipe. Filipe works with several organisations across Luton including City of Sanctuary, All Saints Church, and Hope Church. At Hope Church he has seen great success with Trauma Support Groups, Alpha Courses, a drop-in centre called Global Café, and a number of day-trips. We also continue with our English lessons three times per week. In total we regularly host and serve 50-60 refugees in our church building each week.
- During 2024 we experienced several changes at our physical location in Villa Road. Firstly, the demolition of the Lansdowne Club has taken place, in preparation for building 3 blocks of flats over the coming year. In addition, the 2 adjoining buildings (St Ninians church and The Leaside Hotel) were acquired by OCC Luton, and are being converted for use as Islamic community centres.
- Our income from building hire has increased due to more bookings and a stronger partnership with Music 24, a local organisation that runs social groups for the elderly and those with mental health issues, learning disabilities, or dementia.
- Overall, our expenditure for the General Church fund has been very close to budget. With regards to Income, we are delighted to have received a small number of large one-off gifts meaning that we conclude the financial year with a balance £14k above projections. This represents 2.5 months worth of reserves, which will help as we anticipated increased staff and energy costs in 2025.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income generation

The church's total income for the year was £235,048 (2024: £232,976). Donations of £143,438 have been received during the year (2024: £142,988). Activities for generating funds have increased to £24,523 (2024: £18,207). This is principally because of variations in lettings income due to new bookings.

Expenditures

Total Expenditures were £206,843 (2024: £194,775). Expenditure increased compared to prior year. This was primarily driven by the increase in staff costs compared to prior year as the Assistant Pastor role was filled for all 12 months.

Funds

Overall funds have increased by £28,207 throughout the year.

Unrestricted funds have increased by £10,382 over the year as expenditure remained stable and giving increased through the year.

The Capital fund increased by £29,007.

Restricted funds have decreased by £11,184 due to the finalisation of grants of the Edible High Town project and refugee ministry.

Reserves policy

The church holds unrestricted and restricted funds. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds in order to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. Following a review at the Trustees meeting in June 2025, we have amended our policy to state that unrestricted funds should have reserves a minimum of 2 months and maximum of 6 months of normal expenditure. Where reserves are higher/lower than these figures then Trustees should be notified and (where necessary) a plan of action agreed. We would only expect unrestricted funds to increase about the 6 month threshold where specific projects are being planned for subsequent years.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hope Church Luton Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 20th January 2010 and registered as a charity on 1st February 2010. The church previously operated as an unincorporated charity. The company was established by a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Appointment of responsible individuals and elders

The Church is governed by its responsible individuals, who are appointed according to the Articles of Association.

The responsible individuals and elders, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the period up to the date of this report are set out on page 5.

Responsible Individuals and Elders are closely involved in the church's operations prior to appointment and are appointed according to their ability to lead the church and the skills they bring to the post. Existing Responsible Individuals, Elders and new appointees have a good knowledge of the operation of the Church prior to appointment.

Responsible Individuals and Elders are aware of the legal requirements in connection with the charitable company. New appointees are supported in their posts by existing appointees. New appointees are also provided with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, latest financial statements and guidance from the Charity Commission, including the Charity Commission guide 'The Essential Trustee'.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the church is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate their exposure to major risk.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company Registration No: 07131310

Charity Registration No: 1133954

MANAGING TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Trustees/Directors: Jonathan Adams
Tony Thompson
John Telford
Michael Reynolds

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Hope Church, Luton
Villa Road
Luton
Bedfordshire. LU2 7NT
England

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
(Coopted to attend Board meetings)

Mervyn Thomas
128 Putnoe Lane
Bedford, MK41 8LS

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

NatWest Bank
501 Silbury Boulevard
Milton Keynes. MK9 3ER

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TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees/Directors are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees/Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Trustees/Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Comply with applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements: and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the church will continue its activities.

The Trustees/Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



Jonathan Adams
13/06/2025

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES OF HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
on the accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 as set out on pages 8 – 14 in this document.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Independent examiner's statement

It is my responsibility to:

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

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- 1) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act that 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.

Signed:



Mervyn Thomas
128 Putnoe Lane
Bedford MK41 8LS

Dated: 12/06/2025

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

At 31st March 2025	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Capital Fund £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming Resources	3					
Voluntary income		162,466	8,645	-	171,111	175,122
Activities for generating funds		24,523	-	-	24,523	18,207
Charitable activities - Grants		-	39,414	-	39,414	39,647
Total Incoming Resources		186,989	48,059	-	235,048	232,976
Resources Expended	4					
Raising funds		159	58	-	217	140
Charitable activities		147,424	59,202	-	206,626	194,635
Total Resources Expended		147,583	59,260	-	206,843	194,775
		-				
Net income/(expenditure)		39,406	(11,201)	-	28,205	38,201
Transfers between funds		(29,024)	17	29,007	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,382	(11,184)	29,007	28,205	38,201
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		25,231	34,017	435,941	495,189	456,988
Total funds carried forward		35,613	22,833	464,948	523,394	495,189

(Continued)

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BALANCE SHEET

At 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Capital Fund £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets	5			598,712	598,712	598,712
Current assets						
Debtors (less than 1 year))	6	2,877	-	-	2,877	5,786
Cash at bank and in hand		32,736	22,833	-	55,569	47,784
Total current assets		35,613	22,833	-	58,446	53,570
Short Term Liabilities	7	-	-	-	-	-
Long term liabilities - Mortgage				(133,764)	(133,764)	(157,094)
Total assets less liabilities		35,613	22,833	464,948	523,394	495,188
Charity Funds	8					
Unrestricted funds		35,613			35,613	25,191
Restricted Funds			22,833		22,833	34,057
Endowment Fund				464,948	464,948	435,941
Total funds		35,613	22,833	464,948	523,394	495,189

For the year ending 31st March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



Dated: 13th June 2025

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

1.1 Basis of accounting

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

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

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

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Charity is a going concern. Income generation through members' donations is maintaining adequate reserves

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

2.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the church. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds as necessary to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. The Endowment or Capital fund is to hold the Church Property.

2.3 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the church becomes entitled to the income, it is more likely than not that it will receive the resources and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the SoFA when receivable. Grants are included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria above are met and in the case of performance-related grants income is recognised to the extent that the specified goods or services have been provided. Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the church where this can be measured reliably. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Investment income is included when received.

2.4 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

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Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the church (as a charitable company) and include the audit fees and costs linked to the church's legal constitution.

2.5 Fixed assets

No depreciation is provided on freehold land or buildings, following a change in accounting policy implemented in the Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2018.

2.6 Pension costs

Employees of the church are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme. The church contribution is limited to the contributions disclosed in note 3.

2.7 Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amounts advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

2.8 Creditors

Creditors (including accruals) are recognised when due at the balance sheet date.

3. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Donations	135,285	8,153	143,438	142,988
Gift Aid	27,181	492	27,673	32,134
Total Voluntary Income	162,466	8,645	171,111	175,122
Activities for generating funds				
Building Hire	20,495	-	20,495	14,080
Car Park	3,150	-	3,150	2,040
Sales (Books, Courses and Events)	878	-	878	2,087
Bank Compensation				
Total Activities for generating Funds	24,523	-	24,523	18,207
Charitable Activities				
Grants	-	39,414	39,414	39,647
Grand Total Incoming Resources	186,989	48,059	235,048	232,976

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4 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds				
Total expenditure on raising funds	159	58	217	140
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		-		
Employee Salaries	72,128	32,663	104,791	96,219
Employer's National Insurance	20,193	1	20,194	27,934
Pension Contributions	10,384	-	10,384	10,039
Sub Contractors	-	7,604	7,604	2,340
Expenses	423	5,382	5,805	1,323
Visiting Speakers	90	-	90	605
Training	1,855	18	1,873	310
Total Staff Costs	105,073	45,668	150,741	138,770
Utilities	7,899	-	7,899	9,241
Maintenance	6,761	-	6,761	4,080
Building Allocation		-	-	
Insurance	2,682	-	2,682	2,616
Office Services and Supplies	1,262	657	1,919	4,806
Subscriptions	3,579	288	3,867	2,775
Legal and professional	278	300	578	
Equipment	533	896	1,429	439
Catering	1,808	4,213	6,021	725
Mortgage Interest	6,566	-	6,566	7,526
Governance	394	-	394	220
Bank Charges	309	-	309	266
Total Establishment Costs	32,071	6,354	38,425	32,694
Children	44	-	44	94
Youth	1,103	127	1,230	542
Conferences and Events	971	392	1,363	3,804
Direct Project	-	2,945	2,945	2,086
Resources	559	107	666	67
International Donations	2,400	2,325	4,725	13,723
Giving Allocation		-	-	
Local Donations	4,665	1,284	5,949	2,855
Catalyst	316	-	316	
Alpha	222	-	222	
Evangelism	-	-	-	
Total Ministry	10,280	7,180	17,460	23,171
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	147,583	59,260	206,843	194,775

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4.4 Trustees Disclosures

Mr Jonathan Adams receives remuneration as Pastor of the Church.

No trustee has received expenses in connection with trustee-related matters.

5 Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Equipment & Fittings £	Total £
Brought Forward	598,712	18,507	617,219
Disposals	-	-	-
Additions in the year at cost	-	-	-
Carried Forward	598,712	18,507	617,219

Depreciation

Brought Forward	-	18,507	18,507
Disposals	-	-	-
Additions in the year at cost	-	-	-
Carried Forward	-	18,507	18,507

Net Book Value

Net Book Value at March 2023	598,712	-	598,712
Net Book Value at March 2024	598,712	-	598,712

6 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Debtors less than 1 year	2025 £	2024 £
Gift Aid Receivable	2,877	5,786
Total	2,877	5,786

7 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

	2025 £	2024 £
Short-term creditors and accruals	-	-
Long-term creditors - Mortgage loan	133,764	157,094
Total	133,764	157,094

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8. CHARITY FUNDS

Details of All Funds with movements during the CURRENT reporting period 2024-2025

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance
Total Unrestricted	25,231	186,989	(147,583)	(29,024)	35,613
Koudougou	-	2,400	-	-	2,400
Understanding Islam	-	-	-	-	-
Children Project	(17)	-	-	17	-
Newday	598	3,113	(2,498)	-	1,213
Social Fund	2,750	758	(908)	-	2,600
Refugees	6,345	3,070	(5,696)	-	3,719
Open House Lounge	4,162	22,749	(24,232)	-	2,679
High Town Community Projects	19,176	14,019	(23,346)	-	9,849
Toby & Heather Johnson	502	1,920	(2,325)	-	97
Springs	501	30	(255)	-	276
Total Restricted	34,017	48,059	(59,260)	17	22,833
Capital Fund	435,941	-	-	29,007	464,948
TOTAL FUNDS	495,189	235,048	(206,843)	-	523,394

8.2 Details of all funds with movements during the previous reporting period 2023-2024

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance
General Church	15,134	177,590	(149,076)	(18,457)	25,191
Total Unrestricted	15,134	177,590	(149,076)	(18,457)	25,191
Children Project	281	-	(298)	-	(17)
Newday	1,004	1,565	(1,971)	-	598
Social Fund	1,954	2,486	(1,690)	-	2,750
Refugees	-	6,400	(55)	-	6,345
Open House Lounge	10,178	11,500	(17,516)	-	4,162
High Town Community Projects	10,474	22,248	(13,546)	-	19,176
Toby & Heather Johnson	479	10,646	(10,623)	-	502
Springs	-	501	-	-	501
Building Fund	-	40	-	-	40
Total Restricted	24,370	55,386	(45,699)	-	34,057
Endowment	417,484	-	-	18,457	435,941
TOTAL FUNDS	456,988	232,976	(194,775)	-	495,189