

**CHRISTCHURCH HITCHIN**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**

**YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2025**

## **Trustees report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

### **Context**

A team of Trustees have the duty and responsibility to report on the activities of the Charity that is Christchurch (Methodist and United Reformed) Church. The team consists of the Minister and 8 elected from and by the church membership, in accordance with the terms of the constitution. Christchurch Hitchin is located at Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG5 1HF. It is a registered charity, no. 1142830, and its constitution was formally updated in January 2019.

*Those serving for some, or all of the year were as follows:*

Paul Arnold, Angela Griggs, Revd. Jacob Donkoh, Philippa Arnold, Marion Towers, Matthew Rossall, Steve Cook, Nikki Williams

*Retired during the year:*

None

*Elected during the year:*

None

The Trustees, normally called the Trustee Oversight Group, meet monthly, and have overall responsibility for all aspects of Church Life.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Trustees are committed to developing the work of the charity, to strengthening the discipleship of its members and to supporting and encouraging others to develop their faith and make a commitment as a follower of Christ.

The Mission Statement of the Church is: ***Led by the Spirit – Working in the Community – Bringing people to Christ.***

The "Growing Together" vision continues to be used to review our activities, in addition to the statement 'Real Life, Real Love, Real You' which was informally adopted in January 2020 as a way of thinking about all that we do as a charity.

The Purpose of the Charity, as set out in the Christchurch constitution, is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

The Trustees have a duty under the constitution to give the necessary direction to achieve its Purpose, and to "engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- the celebration of public worship.
- the teaching of the Christian faith.
- mission and evangelism.
- pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.
- the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- the support of other charities in the UK and overseas

### **An introduction**

Christchurch is a large congregation and as of 31 August 2025 there were 187 members. The average attendance at all services on a Sunday was 105, (consisting of 90 adults and 15 under 18's) as measured during the month of October 2024, in accordance with the procedures of the Methodist church.

Christchurch is a place where everyone is welcome. The Everyone Welcome Group is constantly reviewing what we have in place to ensure the church does not overlook the needs of anyone, but everyone would feel loved and experiences the love of God through the shared experiences of the church community. We celebrate our diversity which unites us a people of God and as a church community. The church community has not rested on its oars to ensure Christchurch is a safe space for both children and adults alike. Every aspect of church life is very important to us, as we seek to journey together in our faith journey.

We have lively worship every Sunday both in church and online through YouTube. We also have a lovely traditional service with holy communion on the first Sunday of every month at nine in the morning. We also have monthly worship services in Elmside Nursing Home on Tuesdays and Nightingale Road Day Centre on Thursdays. We do visit our elderly members who are at home and give them holy communion. Also, a variety of activities for children and adults take place in Christchurch building throughout the week. A team of dedicated and committed people work tirelessly behind the scenes, organising and ensuring these activities run successfully and within the church's guidelines. However, more hands are needed in various roles to help run the activities in the Church. Such supporting roles are intrinsic to the church's fruitful ministry

#### **Growing Together towards God, who is Father, Son, and Spirit.**

Our AGM in November 2024 brought consistency of trustees and we welcomed a new Methodist Minister to Christchurch.

In June 2025 we launched a Stewardship Campaign to encourage our congregation to reflect on supporting the church with their time and financial resources. This developed into a wider Renewal initiative over the summer, supported by a newly formed Renewal Team. Their focus has been on addressing our financial deficit and encouraging new volunteers to step into key leadership roles, including trustees. We are grateful for everyone who has responded — truly an answer to prayer.

#### **Growing together in faith sharing.**

We believe that prayer is vital to the life of the church. There has always been prayer in the church and in the Christchurch groups, but until last autumn there was no Christchurch Area to encourage, co-ordinate and facilitate prayer activities.

The first step was to arrange a monthly prayer gathering to listen to what God has to say to the church and to intercede for it. This is followed by prayer for God's wider mission activities.

In June a Prayer Day was held, giving people a quiet space and guided prayer activities to help them connect with God. Following on from the Prayer Day, there was a request for prayer activity to be left out in the church for anyone who wanted a focus for quiet prayer during the week. This now changes every month.

### **Growing together as a community centred in Jesus Christ.**

The Everyone Welcome Steering Group began this year to help Christchurch get better at helping everyone who connects with us or walks through our doors feel welcome, comfortable and safe.

This year we have been using the lens of Radical Hospitality' from the 'Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations'.

We have a never-ending list of things that could be improved for all who use our rooms and building. For example, some modern wall art, and banners for outside to help those who drive or walk past or use the car park know who we are.

To be more welcoming to anyone with communication or social communication needs, we have continued to extend our Makaton signing abilities.

### **Growing together in loving and serving others.**

Our work in Refresh on a Tuesday and then extending to Friday, providing a warm space for the community.

Over the last year we have, among other things: Responded to queries about our youth and children's work, and safeguarding; Considered our relationship with uniformed organisations.

Looked ahead to the next chapter of our church story – how we can together discern God's vision for us and prayerfully find solutions to shortfalls in volunteering and financial resources.

### **Worshiping Together**

Over the past year, we have continued with our regular pattern of worship with a 9 a.m. communion service on the first Sunday of each month, and our weekly worship for all service at 10:30 a.m. All Age worship is usually held on the third Sunday of the month. There are occasional additional services throughout the year such as Good Friday, the memorial service on Remembrance Sunday and at Christmas time.

As a change to our regular singing of the Christchurch Blessing each week, we now include the signed Makaton Grace on the fourth Sunday, either live or in the form of a video if the Makaton team are not available.

In June, to support our renewal campaign, we had a successful series of themed services based on five practices of fruitful congregations which were led by teams of our worship leaders, minster and lay preachers which also led to a greater involvement of more people from our congregation helping to lead worship.

Passionate worship is one of the five practices – at the recent Church meeting, different ideas and suggestions about passionate worship were reviewed by the group and the top three as agreed by the meeting are listed below: -

1. Worship at Christchurch is team led, leading to a rich worship experience with multiple inputs
2. Christchurch offers an alternative worship experience specifically for families, including food, storytelling and song. Children are part of the leadership team.

3. Christchurch offers regular worship experience for those who prefer a more contemporary worship style, led by an in-house team of preachers and worship leaders.

Our talented musical team are looking at some new ideas at the moment; one is to introduce a number of preferred new songs that we can learn together as a congregation, and secondary, for some weeks, to have an extended time of worship where songs and prayers are linked together.

### **Teaching and Discipleship - headlines**

- Main focus of teaching at Christchurch currently comes within our Sunday morning services and Junior Church sessions.
- Preachers follow the Lectionary.
- 'House Groups' for adults, involving approximately 100 people meeting weekly or fortnightly. These have continued in a variety of formats. Some have continued to meet on Zoom since the lifting of the pandemic restrictions and others are now meeting in person again.
- Lunchtime meditation group
- 'Christchurch men's breakfast', a valuable time of fellowship for men (mostly of the more mature age group) although open to all ages.

### **Youth and children's and families**

Youth, children, and families continued to be a key part of our mission during the year. With an active 'Junior Church' for children aged from birth to 18, this work has been supported with a full-time Youth & Children's worker.

An overview is given below. (Activities provided are age/stage appropriate with any necessary adjustments made to ensure ALL are included).

#### ***Early Years: (Age 0-5)***

- Christchurch Hitchin Baby and Toddler Group with 40 families on the register (average attendance 20 families)
- Crèche - for Sunday mornings

#### ***Primary: (Age 5-11)***

- Our 'Jump Start' group for children aged 4-9 meets most Sundays during the main service for bible teaching, games and fun! We have a very lively group with 12 children that regularly attend.
- Holiday Club, which was ran jointly with Walsworth Road Baptist Church in July. There were 40 children attending over the three-days.

#### ***Secondary: (Age 11-16/18)***

- F3 group for children aged 10-14 meets most Sundays during the main service for bible teaching, discussion and fun!
- Youth Hangout – , aimed at young people aged 11-16 goes from strength to strength. We are now getting around 18 children attending on a Friday night. The size of the group has resulted in a proposed room swap with the Friday night guides to accommodate the growing numbers. We have also continued to look for opportunities to host joint events with other churches

- Uniformed Organisations - Our Scout Group, and our Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides, are all sponsored by Christchurch under formal agreements with their respective Districts.

### **Outreach**

Reach Out initiatives and support fall under two headings: Home and Overseas.

#### ***Home***

- Refresh – is open two morning a week, providing the opportunity for anyone in the local community to meet in a relaxed environment over a cuppa and a biscuit or piece of cake.
- Meeting Needs monthly deliveries of furniture and other non-perishable goods to people in need.
- Daisychains, a support group for families of pre-school children with additional needs.
- Simpsons Alms houses.
- Wednesday evening Badminton Club
- Helping Herts Homeless for the Homeless and North Herts Sanctuary, for homeless young people, and Hitchin Food Bank.
- North Herts Circuit of the Methodist Church and the North Herts Group of United Reformed Churches – Christchurch plays an active role in these.

#### ***Overseas***

- Prayer and financial commitment continued to be key features of our commitment to serving people overseas.
- We continued to respond throughout the year to emergency appeals as a result of either man-made or natural disasters.
- We are an Eco Church, and volunteers run several recycling initiatives.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding at Christchurch follows our own policy which builds upon the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Methodist Church. Our safeguarding group is responsible for ensuring that these policies are understood and implemented correctly by all members of the church and users of our premises. The Christchurch safeguarding team receive support from the district and national safeguarding teams of the Methodist Church. Last year we implemented the use of a standard form for risk assessments. These forms are required to be reviewed every year, and if necessary, updated.

#### **Church Safeguarding Policy**

Each year we review and update our church safeguarding policy and present it to be ratified at the church meeting.

#### **Training**

All our volunteers who work with vulnerable adults, children and young people are required to apply for a criminal record check (DBS). Once this is granted, they will then have training.

on a Foundation course. This introduces the concepts of good practice, how to recognise abusive behaviour and the steps to take when a concern is raised.

### **Property**

#### **Christchurch Finance and Property Committee**

The committee has 10 members but has the option to co-opt other people for specific projects. The full Finance and Property committee meets about 4 times a year but has a Finance Wing and also a Property Wing which meet between full F&P meetings to move specific items forward where a smaller gathering is sometimes more efficient.

#### **Annual Property tasks undertaken during the year**

- Annual Returns completed, and any necessary work undertaken – Quinquennial, Methodist Property Return and Church Return Report.
- Normal maintenance checks carried out – Boiler servicing, Fire Alarm System/Extinguishers/Blanket Inspections and Testing, PAT testing, Organ and piano tuning, Regular window cleaning, Visual site inspections both interior and exterior, Sewer pit inspection and water meter reading if necessary, Water flush checks, Lighting, etc.
- Garden working parties organised as and when necessary.
- Defibrillator training for volunteers and regular maintenance of first aid boxes.
- Risk Assessment updated.

#### **Other Property tasks undertaken during this year**

In total for the year ended 31 August 2025, £48,033 was spent on equipment, maintenance and cleaning.

### **Accounts**

The financial deficit in 2024-25 was £25,044. The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are set out below. The Trustees have also formulated Accounting Policies and a Reserves Policy and these are set out below:

#### **Reserves policy**

It is the Trustees' policy to maintain a balance in reserve which equates to 6 months of the assessments due to the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, and wages for the staff employed directly by Christchurch, plus potential employment termination costs and redundancy liabilities. In addition, provision has been made for capital projects expected to be carried out during the year.

#### **Public benefit**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Approved at the Trustees Meeting held on 05 03 2026 and signed on behalf of the Trustees:

**Angela Griggs**  
**Church Secretary**

Name of Church

Christchurch Hitchin

Church No

340515

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025**

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
1 Offerings		104,780		5,574		110,354
2 Donations and Grants		5,614		1,263		6,877
3 Gift aid		28,108		1,207		29,315
4 Interest and investment income		10,334		904		11,238
5 Income from lettings		31,129		0		31,129
6 Internal organisations		7,267		0		7,267
7 Other charitable income		3,436		0		3,436
8 Total income		190,668	0	8,948	0	199,616
<b>Expenditure</b>						
9 Circuit and URC assessments		95,532				95,532
10 Grants and donations		2,424				2,424
10A Ministry, Worship and Teaching		1,534				1,534
11 Property maintenance		48,033				48,033
12 Insurance, utilities etc		20,598				20,598
13 Staff costs		10,839		32,452		43,291
14 Office expenses		8,904				8,904
15 Other expenditure		2,108		2,236		4,344
16 Internal organisations		0				0
17 Total charitable expenditure		189,972	0	34,688	0	224,660
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		696	0	-25,740	0	-25,044
21 Transfers between funds		-14,942		14,942		0
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds		-14,246	0	-10,798	0	-25,044
24 Total funds brought forward		2,249,928	0	28,885		2,278,813
25 Total funds carried forward		2,235,682	0	18,087	0	2,253,769



Name of Church

Christchurch Hitchin

Church No. 340515

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024**

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
1 Offerings		106,186		5,913		112,099
2 Donations and Grants		9,209		3,442		12,651
3 Gift aid		23,892		2,184		26,076
4 Interest and investment income		13,187		1,568		14,755
5 Income from lettings		35,406				35,406
6 Internal organisations		5,050		1,685		6,735
7 Other charitable income		7,626		110		7,736
8 Total income		200,556	0	14,902	0	215,458
<b>Expenditure</b>						
9 Circuit and URC assessments		91,089				91,089
10 Grants and donations		12,939				12,939
10A Ministry, Worship and Teaching		1,461				1,461
11 Property maintenance		33,007				33,007
12 Insurance, utilities etc		19,742				19,742
13 Staff costs		11,056		29,609		40,665
14 Office expenses		9,993				9,993
15 Other expenditure		6,318		4,001		10,319
16 Internal organisations		0		2,839		2,839
17 Total charitable expenditure		185,605	0	36,449	0	222,054
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		14,951	0	-21,547	0	-6,596
21 Transfers between funds		-8,564		8,564		0
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds		6,387	0	-12,983	0	-6,596
24 Total funds brought forward		2,243,541	0	41,868		2,285,409
25 Total funds carried forward		2,249,928	0	28,885	0	2,278,813

Name of Church

Christchurch Hitchin

Church No

340515

**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025**

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£

**Fixed Assets**

Church building and other property	2,000,000				2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties					0	
Investments					0	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

**Current Assets**

Debtors and prepayments	20,266		525		20,791	10,942
Loans by the Churches					0	0
Investments with TMCP	138,951				138,951	171,763
Central Finance Board Deposits	66,426		17,561		83,986	95,081
Cash at Bank and in hand	17,708				17,708	9,289
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>243,351</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,085</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>261,436</b>	<b>287,075</b>

**Current liabilities**

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	7,668				7,668	8,262
Grants payable					0	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>7,668</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,668</b>	<b>8,262</b>
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>	<b>235,682</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,085</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>253,768</b>	<b>278,813</b>

<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>2,235,682</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,085</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,253,768</b>	<b>2,278,813</b>
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**Long term liabilities**

(due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2019-20					0	0
Loans to the Church					0	0
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>2,235,682</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,085</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,253,768</b>	<b>2,278,813</b>

**Funds of the Church**

General Fund (Unrestricted)	2,235,682				2,235,682	2,249,928
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		0			0	0
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>2,235,682</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,235,682</b>	<b>2,249,928</b>
Restricted Funds			18,085		18,085	28,885
Endowment Funds				0	0	
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2,235,682</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,085</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,253,768</b>	<b>2,278,813</b>

## **Notes to the accounts 2024-25**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (effective 1 January 2015), Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the accruals basis and historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Christchurch Hitchin meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statement are prepared in Sterling (£)

#### **Incoming Resources**

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive them; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### **Resources Expended**

Expense is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not.

#### **Funds**

The funds held constitute:

General funds held for any purpose of the Church which are unrestricted

Restricted funds held for a narrower purpose

There are no endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in Note 10 of these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than cash.

#### **Grants**

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

#### **Debtors**

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at the settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the Charity. Subsequently they are measured at cash or other consideration expected to be received.

#### **Creditors**

Creditors are measured at the settlement amount less any trade discounts.

#### **VAT**

The Church is not VAT registered; all expenses are recognised gross, with no deduction for input VAT.

#### **Tangible Fixed Assets**

Tangible Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed cost, of which the land component is deemed to be £0.6m. No depreciation is provided on the building as the trustees consider the current residual fair value to be not less than its current value. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

### Beneficial Interest

The Church has a beneficial interest in the proceeds from the sale of Priory Way (the former URC manse) and Queen Street (the former Congregational Church). The approximate value at 31 August 2025 of the relevant Trust Funds held by the URC was £462,156

### 2. Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to Trustees for additional services provided to the Church by agreement with the Church Meeting. This excludes stipends and expenses relating to reimbursement for travel and computing costs

### 3. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent Examiner Fee for reporting on the accounts	720	690
Other fees (eg advice, accountancy services) paid the Independent Examiner	-	-

### 4. Paid Employees

No employees have been paid more than £60,000 pa.

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in Kind	37,879	36,150
Employers National Insurance costs	3,327	2,478
Pension Costs	2,085	2,037
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>43,291</b>	<b>40,665</b>

Average number of full time equivalent employees in the year were: 2 2

### 5. Capital commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 August 2025, there are no capital commitments, and no contingent liabilities have been identified at that date.

### 6. Monies received and passed on to External Organisations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance brought forward	0	0
Offerings/gifts - received for external organisations	0	0
Offerings/gifts - passed to external organisations	0	0
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 7. Tangible Fixed Assets

£'000	Land	Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Assets under construction	Total
<b>Cost</b>					
Opening balance 1 September 2024	600	1,200	200		2,000
Additions					0
Revaluations					0
Disposals					0
Transfers					0
Closing balance 31 August 2025	600	1,200	200		2,000
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>					
Opening balance 1 September 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation charge for the year					0
Revaluations					0
Disposals					0
Transfers					0
Closing balance 31 August 2025	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net book Value 1 September 2024</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>2,000</b>
<b>Net book Value 31 August 2025</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>2,000</b>

The value of the Church building and the land on which it stands is believed to be considerably greater than the value shown. There is no depreciation on the building or fixtures, fittings or equipment as it is judged that this is immaterial. There were no indicators of impairment since the market value is considered to be greater than the book value.

## 8 Debtors

	2025	2024
£	£	£
Debtors - Gift Aid	11,130	9,380
Other Debtors	9,660	1,561
	<u>20,791</u>	<u>10,942</u>

## 9. Creditors

	2025	2024
£	£	£
Accruals	7,668	8,262
	<u>7,668</u>	<u>8,262</u>

10. Analysis of restricted funds 2024-25

Fund name	Opening balance	Incoming resources		Resources expended		Transfers ex Main A/c	Closing balance	Purpose of fund
Youth (incl.Messy Church)	13479	Offerings	5565	Youth projects, i.e.	1493	17488	5715	Promotion of youth work
		Staff support grant Gift Aid 2023/24	1263 928	Int'l Organisations				
		Interest	411					
		Gift Aid 2024/25	526	Staff costs	32452			
Junior Church	995	Offerings	45	Grants			1040	
		Interest		Expenses				
		Gift Aid 2024/25		Int'l Organisations				
		Donations	9	Grants				
G.Milledge	5961	Interest	271				6241	Assist young people working overseas
		Gift Aid 2024/25	0	Int'l Organisations				
		Donations		Expenses	744			
Pastoral	1609	Interest	73			744	1682	Pastoral work
		Gift Aid 2024/25		Int'l Organisations				
		Donations						
Manila Fund	2301	Interest	104	Expenditure			2405	Support Manila church
		Gift Aid 2024/25		Int'l Organisations		-2817	0	
Lunch Club	2817	Int'l Organisations		Int'l Organisations			695	
Badminton Club	695	Int'l Organisations	0	Int'l Organisations	0			
Flower fund	244	Donations	0	Expenditure			244	Weekly Church flowers
Donation – chairs	64	Donations		Expenditure	0		64	Memorial donation
Donation – kitchen	720	Donations	0	Expenditure	0	-720	0	Memorial donation
Fund adjustment	0						0	
Adjustments - for accruals and monies not yet transferred								
Gift Aid (2023-24) received Nov 24		Gift Aid	-772			772	0	
Gift Aid (2024-25) received Nov 25		Gift Aid	525			-525	0	
Total	28,885		8,948		34,689	14,942	18,085	

Christchurch, Hitchin, an LEP in the North Hertfordshire Circuit No 34-15  
Year ended 31 August 2025

### Declarations

#### Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual – based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Leadership Group, being the trustees of the Church.

Signed:

*Michael Rickard*

Date:

11/5/26

Name of Treasurer: MICHAEL RICKARD

Address of Treasurer: 28 MEADOW BANK, HITCHIN SG4 0HY

#### Presentation to the Trustees for approval

I confirm that the Trustees Annual Report, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were approved by the Trustees.

Signed:

*Stephen A Cook*

Date:

11/5/26

Name: STEPHEN A. COOK

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Christchurch, Hitchin, a Methodist/URC LEP, for the year ended 31 August 2025.**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st August 2025.

### **Responsibilities and basis of independent examiner's 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 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:



Date: 26-5-26

Name of Independent Examiner: Neil Harding BA FCA

Relevant Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Bradshaw Johnson  
Croft Chambers  
11 Bancroft  
Hitchin  
Herts  
SG5 1JQ