

The River Church Chelmsford Ltd

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
COMPANY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees	J Godward M Smith P Seeley R Brackley (appointed April 2024) L Davis (appointed July 2024) A Uwadiae (appointed July 2024)												
Key Staff	P Bardwell - Lead Elder - full time employed R Leverett - Foodbank manager - part time employed												
Governing Document	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 June 2011 as amended 22 July 2022 , 17 April 2024 and 6 July 2025												
Company Registration Number	07685257												
Charity Registration Number	1144804												
Principal Address & Registered Office	North Avenue Christian Centre 7 North Avenue Chelmsford CM1 2AL												
Independent Examiner	Sarah Crispin ACA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage London EC1Y 8AB												
Bankers	<table> <tr> <td>HSBC</td><td>Kingdom Bank</td></tr> <tr> <td>99 High Street</td><td>Media House</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chelmsford</td><td>Padge Road</td></tr> <tr> <td>Essex</td><td>Beeston</td></tr> <tr> <td>CM1 1EQ</td><td>Nottingham</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>NG9 2RS</td></tr> </table>	HSBC	Kingdom Bank	99 High Street	Media House	Chelmsford	Padge Road	Essex	Beeston	CM1 1EQ	Nottingham		NG9 2RS
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	NG9 2RS												

Contents	Page
Company Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2-6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Cashflow Statement	10
Notes to the Accounts	11-18
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities with Comparatives	19

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
(INCORPORATING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are the charity's directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 2025.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charity/company objects are principally-

1. to advance the Christian faith and to further the Gospel of God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ and to preach and teach the Christian Faith in such parts of Chelmsford, the United Kingdom or the world as the Board may from time to time think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the charity/company,
2. to relieve persons who are in conditions of need, financial hardship or sickness and who may be aged and to relieve stress caused hereby in the said location and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or world as the Board may from time to time think fit,
3. to advance the education of adults and children (above or below compulsory school age),
4. to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation OR other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity, disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life, and
5. such other charitable purposes as determined fit by the Board from time to time.

In planning the activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

THE MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The River Church (The River)

Following the objects of the charity (see above) our aim is to advance the Christian faith in order to proclaim and further the good news of God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to preach the Christian faith through the power of His Spirit. In so doing, we aim to continue to grow as a vibrant, life-giving community.

The River exists both for those who would consider themselves members and for 'our neighbours'; those who are part of the city and wider region but may not yet know Jesus personally. To that end, April 2024 started with doing follow-up after a very successful City wide Easter Celebration in which we took an active lead facilitating with Christians Together in Chelmsford. This gathering of up to 1000 believers from many denominational and non-denominational churches was a powerful witness and outreach event as we sought to share the message of Easter with the hundreds of shoppers passing by, many of whom stopped to chat and receive prayer as well as a free burger or hotdog!

The year has seen us continuing to work with several other churches in Chelmsford, the local area and wider afield, particularly with other churches that we relate to within the 'Kingdom Legacy' network (a network of churches from different cities, towns and countries). We also are a core church within 'Transforming Essex', a collaboration of churches and individuals across Essex to see ministries and projects established. Our relationship with other churches in the town has continued to develop as part of Christians Together in Chelmsford (CTiC)

Throughout the year we hosted several guest ministers from 'out of town' to come and equip us with bible teaching and prayer ministry. The result of which saw us grow in faith and expectation. These included Mike Van t'hul from the US in April, Paul Manwaring from London in June, Jan MacFarlane and Andy and Theresa Merrick from Scotland in July, Rodney Hogue and Joanne Moody from the US in November and Paul and Sarah Oakley from Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

During 2024 we introduced a course for those who are new or interested in finding out more about Christian faith. It runs over a six-week period and has been well attended as we have seen more than 10 new people receive Jesus for the first time and others make recommitments to their faith.

We have continued to run our Tuesday evening 'Refresh' coffee lounge with Chelmsford Foodbank. This has been stable in terms of the numbers of people served but we have seen several individuals make connections with the church and decide to become Christians. It has been thrilling to see their lives impacted and personal circumstances improve as they have grown in their faith.

At the end of the year in question the charity/company employed one full-time employee and seven part-time employees covering various roles.

Youth and Children's Work

We remain invested in our children and youth work, which continues with leadership from our full-time church leader and volunteers with experience in working with youth and children. Our youth and children's ministries have been going well as we have seen growth in both age groups.

We arranged several social activities for our children and young people including beach trips during the summer and trips to local parks for wide games and picnics. We saw several of our young people as well as several adults deciding to get baptised through 2024/2025.

We took Wildfire (our youth group) to 'The Chosen', a youth camp run by Chroma Church Leicester in August where they engaged in various sporting and social activities as well as worship and teaching sessions aimed at their age group. This event was hugely appreciated and has had a lasting impact on our young people.

Chelmsford Foodbank

Chelmsford Foodbank provided over 8770 emergency food parcels to people facing hardship between April 2024 and March 2025, with 3265 of these provided for children. This represents a slight decrease in the number of emergency food parcels distributed compared to last year. Despite this slight dip, Chelmsford has seen persistently high levels of food bank need over the last five years, this being the second highest number of parcels distributed in its nearly 13 years of existence. We continue with one warehouse and seven centres open at different times across the city, with around 90 volunteers staffing them. There are 5 part-time salaried members of staff. Our newest staff member is employed through funding from Trussell to look at the main drivers for Foodbank use in Chelmsford, to begin to address these through influencing and campaigning locally and nationally. Over the past year we have worked on our relationship with Citizens Advice Chelmsford (CAC) to make sure we have a CAC presence at every Foodbank centre, whether it be the welfare benefit specialist advisor or a cost-of-living advisor. This has proven very effective and we have seen significant financial gains and holistic support for clients since this was implemented. It also helps strengthen the signposting that our own volunteers do, so if there are things they cannot deal with, we have someone there that is a specialist in information, advice and guidance.

The partnership with NHS IPS (Individual Placement Service) has also been revisited to help engage with clients on their journey back into employment, this has been effective in some ways/spaces, and in other ways/spaces not so. It depends on the client's season of life, circumstances, number of clients at a given centre, and the willingness to engage, and the skill set from the agency to interact with clients.

We have worked closely with our South Woodham Ferrers centre on galvanising the team there with the stepping down of the centre manager and the introduction of a new manager. Work continues to help and strengthen communication and relationship with all centre leads.

We continue to have the privilege of working with around 90 amazing and committed volunteers, some new team members have come on board whilst a few have retired during the year. We have extended safeguarding courses to all new volunteers and regular training updates to all others. Our volunteer brunch in January celebrated volunteers and their families and continues to build relationships.

We participated with a stall at Volfest, a day in the High Street to raise awareness and celebrate a wide range of volunteering organisations. We attended a county wide day's conference on modern slavery and were invited to share our experiences in spotting potential slavery and continue to develop collaboration in this area.

Our children's talks team has been rebuilt with some new team members to share enthusiasm for the young people in our community helping the wider community.

The number of referral agencies grew to well over 100 with around 20 who are regularly active, and we have held two online updating and networking meetings, which are always very well received. Connections with referral agency teams at all levels of the organisations are becoming stronger as we build relationships with these partnerships to help clients move forward in a multi-agency approach.

Community Money Advice Chelmsford (CMA Chelmsford)

In the 2024–2025 financial year, CMA Chelmsford opened 12 new cases, supporting clients with a combined total debt of £142,985.07. Most of these clients were referred through the Cost-of-Living Advisors at Chelmsford Foodbank or via other local agencies using the Frontline Essex referral platform.

We saw real progress this year in building stronger relationships with the Citizens Advice Bureau and other local organisations. Our team also continued to grow in their understanding of debt issues and how best to support clients.

From the cases we were able to close, seven clients were helped to apply for a Debt Relief Order, and one client began a Debt Management Plan. Other cases either didn't go as far as formal debt advice or were focused on budgeting support. Some clients unfortunately disengaged before we could fully help.

Our volunteers worked incredibly hard and gave their all to support those in need. However, over time it became clear that the operational model in place wasn't sustainable in the long term. After much thought and prayer, we made the difficult decision to close the CMA Chelmsford project on 31 January 2025. Any open cases were carefully referred on to CAP Chelmsford or the Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure continued support.

We're deeply grateful to God for everything that was achieved during the time CMA Chelmsford was running, and for the lives that were touched through this work.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The overall policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the charity is delegated to the leadership teams of the activities previously mentioned. The spiritual leadership rests with the church leadership team led by Peter Bardwell. When a vacancy for potential new trustees arises, the current trustees seek recommendations from the leadership teams for potential candidates. The trustee board may interview any or all of the recommended candidates and appoint by the existing board by a majority vote. Ongoing

training for all trustees is made available to all trustees by way of the Charity Commission and other organisations.

VOLUNTEERS

Most of the charity's activities are undertaken by volunteers and the charity could not operate effectively without their efforts. The Foodbank has the highest number of volunteers as the warehouse is open five mornings every week and the Distribution Centers cover 9 sessions a week. Each Centre session usually has 3 to 6 volunteers per session, and the warehouse is 5 to 8.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year income has increased by £78,826 to £659,741, and the expenditure increased by £71,948 to £609,254. As a result, the surplus for the year increased by £6,878 to £50,487 and the charity's net assets increased by the same amount to £502,633.

The main source of income for The River church is by donations from its congregation. Where possible His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Gift Aid scheme is applied to identifiable donations to increase the donation amount. The Foodbank sees a lot of donations from individuals and organisations and again, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Gift Aid scheme is applied to identifiable donations to increase the donation amount.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have established a policy whereby free reserves held by the charity should be maintained at between 3-6 months of committed monthly expenditure. We continue to work positively towards this goal, whilst balancing the on-going work of the charity commitments. At the end of the year the charity held unrestricted cash of £30,918 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

RISK STATEMENT

The Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating with few employees are exposed. Appropriate procedures are in place to identify, monitor and review these risks on a regular basis.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Relationship with The U.R.C.

We reported last year that the 5-year Mission Partnership with the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church which started in September 2018, came to an end in September 2023. It was set up to recognise the relationship between the two organisations and their commitment to continue existing positive, kingdom-driven work from the premises of North Avenue Christian Centre.

The Partnership Agreement was extended by another year to September 2025 during which the Synod and The River would look at options for The River to remain using North Avenue Christian Centre for an extended time. We are currently exploring ways we might acquire the building at North Avenue and to that end we launched a fund to sow into this. Many of our church members and other friends have given generously into that fund and conversations with the URC Synod are ongoing.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year.

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

4. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
5. Prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

APPROVAL

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

R.K. Brackley

R.K. Brackley (Nov 16, 2025 16:43:57 GMT)

R.K. Brackley

Date: Nov 16, 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
(‘the Company’)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 8 to 19 following, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 11 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity’s trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (‘the 2006 Act’).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity’s accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the 2011 Act’). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner’s statement

Since the Company’s gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Sarah Crispin
Sarah Crispin (Nov 17, 2025 09:06:43 GMT)

Sarah Crispin ACA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
London
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Nov 17, 2025

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations	3	121,762	528,098	649,860	576,110
Charitable activities		197	-	197	4,522
Investments		3,499	-	3,499	283
Other income	4	6,185	-	6,185	-
Total income and endowments		131,643	528,098	659,741	580,915
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	5	144,025	465,229	609,254	537,306
Total expenditure		144,025	465,229	609,254	537,306
Net income/(expenditure)		(12,383)	62,869	50,487	43,609
Transfers between funds	13	(257)	257	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,639)	63,126	50,487	43,609
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		45,837	406,310	452,146	408,537
Total funds carried forward	13	33,197	469,436	502,633	452,146

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account required by the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on page 11-18 form part of these accounts.

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	8	-	44,893	44,893	53,721
Debtors	9	5,307	9,501	14,808	5,944
Cash at bank and in hand	10	30,918	417,604	448,521	396,231
		36,225	471,998	508,223	455,896
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,028)	(2,562)	(5,590)	(3,750)
Net current assets / (liabilities)		<u>33,197</u>	<u>469,436</u>	<u>502,633</u>	<u>452,146</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>33,197</u>	<u>469,436</u>	<u>502,633</u>	<u>452,146</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>33,197</u>	<u>469,436</u>	<u>502,633</u>	<u>452,146</u>
FUND BALANCES	13				
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds		33,197	-	33,197	45,836
		33,197	-	33,197	45,836
Restricted Funds		-	469,436	469,436	406,310
		33,197	469,436	502,633	452,146

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 however, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner and their report has been included in these financial statements.

The directors (who are the charitable company's trustees for the purposes of charity law) acknowledge their responsibilities (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its net income or expenditure 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 charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and were signed on its behalf by:

R.K. Brackley
R.K. Brackley (Nov 16, 2025 16:43:57 GMT)

R K Brackley

Date: Nov 16, 2025

Company number: 07685257

Charity number: 1144804

The notes on page 11-18 form part of these accounts.

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	a	<u>48,791</u>	<u>47,089</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		<u>3,499</u>	<u>283</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>3,499</u>	<u>283</u>
Change in cash and equivalents in the reporting period		<u>52,290</u>	<u>47,372</u>
Cash and equivalents at the beginning of the year	b	<u>396,231</u>	<u>348,860</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	b	<u>448,521</u>	<u>396,231</u>

Analysis of changes in net debt:

	At start of year £	Cash-flows £	At end of year £
Cash	396,231	52,290	448,521
Total net funds / (debt)	<u>396,231</u>	<u>52,290</u>	<u>448,521</u>

Note a: Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	50,487	43,609
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(3,499)	(283)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	8,827	15,471
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(8,864)	(2,051)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,840	(9,658)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>48,791</u>	<u>47,089</u>

Note b: Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank with immediate access	448,521	396,231
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>448,521</u>	<u>396,231</u>

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Statutory Information

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the United Kingdom. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the Charities SORP)", with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"), with the Companies Act 2006 and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations includes:

- i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.
- ii) Donated facilities, services and goods. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (being an estimate of the amount it would cost to purchase those items). Facilities, services and goods donated for the charity's own use are recognised as income when receivable at their value to the charity.

The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities, particularly the Foodbank project. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed or consumed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured

The charity makes grants to other institutions and individuals to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

The cost of raising funds is not significant and has not been separately disclosed.

The charity's overheads, being costs that have not been incurred directly on a charitable activity, have been disclosed separately in the notes under the heading 'Costs incurred on support and administration'. Where these costs are shared between activities, they have been allocated based on income.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Accounting Policies (cont.)

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £2,000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Vehicles	Over 5 years
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The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

f) Stocks

Stocks of donated items held for distribution to beneficiaries are measured at fair value. Foodbank stock is valued using the Trussell Trust estimation of £2.37/kg

g) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) Taxation

The company is a registered charity; it has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 Donations

	The River Church	Foodbank	2025 £	2024 £
Donations of cash and similar	184,573	115,178	299,752	255,162
Donations in kind (note 3a)	-	215,430	215,430	219,351
Other grants receivable	-	109,158	109,158	83,726
Income tax recoverable	25,140	380	25,520	17,872
	<u>209,714</u>	<u>440,146</u>	<u>649,860</u>	<u>576,110</u>

a Donations in kind comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Goods donated for:		
Distribution to beneficiaries	<u>207,410</u>	<u>197,931</u>
	207,410	197,931
Donated facilities	<u>8,020</u>	<u>21,420</u>
	<u>215,430</u>	<u>219,351</u>

Donated facilities comprise 6 distribution centres which provide their facilities on a rent-free basis. A donation was made to each of these centres during the year and deducted from the value of donated facilities' gift in kind income.

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Other income

	2025 £	2024 £
Reimbursement of maintenance costs for North Avenue Christian Centre	5,432	-
Miscellaneous income	753	-
	<u>6,185</u>	<u>-</u>

5 Analysis of expenditure

	The River Church	Foodbank	Total Charitable Expenditure 2025
Incurring directly on activities			
Employment costs (note 6)	86,109	111,973	198,082
Premises costs	7,829	21,367	29,196
Church ministry costs	27,608	-	27,608
Foodbank running costs	-	74,396	74,396
Donations in kind expensed	-	246,983	246,983
Grants payable (note 5a)	13,169	-	13,169
Support costs			
Insurance and finance charges	2,873	2,593	5,466
Office costs	7,310	3,204	10,514
Governance	1,278	2,562	3,840
	<u>146,176</u>	<u>463,078</u>	<u>609,254</u>

	The River Church	Foodbank	Total Charitable Expenditure 2024
Incurring directly on activities			
Employment costs (note 6)	61,077	61,436	122,513
Premises costs	15,704	34,400	50,103
Church ministry costs	15,760	-	15,760
Foodbank running costs	-	81,778	81,778
Donations in kind expensed	-	234,822	234,822
Grants payable (note 5a)	15,416	1,300	16,716
Support costs			
Insurance and finance charges	2,693	1,579	4,272
Office costs	2,632	4,961	7,593
Governance	902	2,848	3,750
	<u>114,184</u>	<u>423,122</u>	<u>537,306</u>

The fee payable to the independent examiner for preparing and examining the accounts was £3,840 (2024: £3,750); in addition the charity paid £1,245 (2024: £1,042) to Stewardship for payroll bureau and consultancy services.

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5a Grants payable

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2025 £
Grants for UK and overseas mission	7,894	1,322	9,216
Grants for the relief of poverty	1,743	2,210	3,953
	<u>9,637</u>	<u>3,532</u>	<u>13,169</u>

The comparatives for the previous year are as follows:

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2024 £
Grants for UK and overseas mission	5,197	6,589	11,787
Grants for the relief of poverty	2,039	2,890	4,929
	<u>7,236</u>	<u>9,479</u>	<u>16,716</u>

The charity's principal grants to institutions comprised:

	2025 £	2024 £
New Life Church (Transforming Essex)	2,700	1,500
Eastgate (Living Fire)	-	625
Hope Church	4,150	2,375
St. Marys Church Baddow PCC	-	1,300
Grants to institutions for less than £1,000 each	2,787	1,436
	<u>9,637</u>	<u>7,236</u>

6 Analysis of staff costs, the cost of key management personnel and trustee remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross wages and salaries	183,244	116,484
Social security	9,854	1,667
Pension costs	4,984	4,361
	<u>198,082</u>	<u>122,513</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 9 (2024: 5). Most of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.

No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

The charity's key management comprise the trustees and the key staff named on the Company Information page. Total employment benefits payable to key management for the year were as follows:

	Wages & salaries	Other employment benefits	Employer pension contributions	2025 £
Trustees:				
Roy Brackley	28,215	-	-	28,215
Other members of key management	83,061	-	4,341	87,402
				<u>115,617</u>

The following amounts were payable in the previous year:

	Wages & salaries	Other employment benefits	Employer pension contributions	2024 £
Other members of key management	70,225	-	3,819	74,043
				<u>74,043</u>

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Vehicles £	Total 2025 £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	22,822	22,822
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>22,822</u>	<u>22,822</u>
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	22,822	22,822
Charge for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>22,822</u>	<u>22,822</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Donated goods		
For distribution to beneficiaries	44,893	53,721
	<u>44,893</u>	<u>53,721</u>

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Falling due within one year:		
Tax recoverable	14,808	5,944
	<u>14,808</u>	<u>5,944</u>

10 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank with immediate access	448,521	396,231
	<u>448,521</u>	<u>396,231</u>

11 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	5,590	3,750
	<u>5,590</u>	<u>3,750</u>

12 Pension commitments

During the year employer's pension contributions totalling £4,984 (2024: £3,819) were payable to defined contribution personal pension schemes. Pension contributions of £nil were owing at the balance sheet date (2024: £nil).

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Funds

During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2025 £	Incoming resources 2025 £	Outgoing resources 2025 £	Transfers in the year 2025 £	Closing balance 2025 £
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	45,837	131,643	(144,025)	(257)	33,197
Total Unrestricted Funds	45,837	131,643	(144,025)	(257)	33,197
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
<u>Foodbank funds:</u>					
Chelmsford Foodbank	277,806	115,558	(151,928)	-	241,436
Chelmsford Foodbank - donations in kind	53,721	215,430	(246,983)	-	22,168
Financial inclusion project	43,777	100,200	(61,538)	-	82,439
Organising & Local Mobilisation	21,381	-	-	-	21,381
Strategic Resources Fund	8,599	8,959	(67)	-	17,490
<u>Other funds:</u>					
Emergency Relief Fund	1,227	-	(1,250)	23	-
Love offerings & other restricted donations	(200)	1,300	(1,334)	234	-
Building Fund	-	75,814	-	-	75,814
Mission Fund	-	10,838	(2,128)	-	8,710
	406,310	528,098	(465,229)	257	469,436
Aggregate of funds	452,146	659,741	(609,254)	-	502,633

Analysis of net assets by fund

The assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	Unrestricted General funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Stock	-	44,893	44,893
Debtors	5,307	9,501	14,808
Cash at bank and in hand	30,918	417,604	448,521
Creditors falling due within one year	(3,028)	(2,562)	(5,590)
	33,197	469,436	502,633

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2024 £	Incoming resources 2024 £	Outgoing resources 2024 £	Transfers in the year 2024 £	Closing balance 2024 £
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	21,486	132,603	(108,642)	389	45,837
Total Unrestricted Funds	21,486	132,603	(108,642)	389	45,837
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
<u>Foodbank funds:</u>					
Chelmsford Foodbank	276,063	147,362	(146,189)	569	277,806
Chelmsford Foodbank - donations in kind	69,192	219,351	(234,822)	-	53,721
Financial inclusion project	39,569	44,430	(39,264)	(958)	43,777
Organising & Local Mobilisation	-	21,381	-	-	21,381
Strategic Resources Fund	-	8,599	-	-	8,599
<u>Other funds:</u>					
Emergency Relief Fund	2,227	-	(1,000)	-	1,227
Love offerings	-	7,189	(7,389)	-	(200)
	387,051	448,312	(428,664)	(389)	406,310
Aggregate of funds	408,537	580,915	(537,306)	-	452,146

Analysis of net assets by fund

In the previous year, the assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	Unrestricted General funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Stock	-	53,721	53,721
Debtors	4,700	1,243	5,944
Cash at bank and in hand	44,886	351,346	396,231
Creditors falling due within one year	(3,750)	-	(3,750)
	45,836	406,310	452,146

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Funds (cont.)

The Chelmsford Foodbank funds are to be spent on the work of the Chelmsford Foodbank

The Financial inclusion project is funded by the Trussell Trust and will provide three levels of support for our Foodbank customers to ensure that anyone who needs income maximisation and financial inclusion advice will receive the appropriate support directly and accessibly within our Foodbank. We aim to fund 1) a Financial Inclusion Co-ordinator to signpost & triage referrals for us and 2) a specialist debt/welfare rights casework service (both from Chelmsford Citizens Advice and 3) a CMA debt project run by a small team of volunteers to provide further, flexible money advice support

The Organising & Local Mobilisation Community Fund: mobilisation and social mobilisation are two approaches that, through funding a Part-time organiser, we aim to bring about positive change within the communities and society that we are a part of as a whole. While community mobilisation focuses on empowering and engaging individuals within our specific community, social mobilisation seeks to mobilise society at large towards a particular cause or issue, that being to bring about a time when Foodbanks are no longer necessary. Our local organiser will be responsible for building and leading a volunteer team to develop and deliver local campaigning strategies in and with Chelmsford Foodbank, organising in our community to create change. They will be the link between Chelmsford food bank and the Organising and Local Mobilisation team at Trussell Trust, as we build a movement to end the need for food banks.

The Strategic Resources Fund grant is to enable our Foodbank to release existing capacity and bring in new capacity to:

- develop our strategic plan and orient our services toward an end for the need for their services locally
- implement and embed key strategic priorities such as (but not limited to) E-referral, referral pathway reviews, systematic signposting or the Assemble volunteer management system
- engage locally in the strategic priority areas of Changing Communities, Changing Minds, and Changing Policy

The Building Fund is to build a reserve of funds for when the opportunity to buy our current venue or another one arises.

The Mission Fund is to build a fund base to support leadership (and others) on mission matters at home and abroad.

The Emergency Relief Fund is for immediate financial support for those in need.

The Love Offerings Fund represents appeals for specific purposes.

14 Rental commitments

The charity has entered into a partnership agreement with the Eastern Synod of the URC to occupy a building at North Avenue Christian Centre, under which it pays £12 per year for rent up until 30 September 2025.

15 Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity:

- a) received donations totalling £43,489 (2024: £18,350) from related parties (which includes trustees, any other members of key management and anyone closely connected to them).
- b) Except as disclosed in note 6 'Analysis of staff costs', there have been no other transactions with related parties during the

16 Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute if the charity is wound up an amount of £10.

THE RIVER CHURCH CHELMSFORD LTD
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH COMPARATIVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>				<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			
		General 2025 £	Designated 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	General 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:									
Donations	3	121,762	-	528,098	649,860	127,798	-	448,312	576,110
Charitable activities		197	-	-	197	4,522	-	-	4,522
Investments		3,499	-	-	3,499	283	-	-	283
Other income	4	6,185	-	-	6,185	-	-	-	-
Total income and endowments		131,643	-	528,098	659,741	132,603	-	448,312	580,915
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Charitable activities:	5	144,025	-	465,229	609,254	108,642	-	428,664	537,306
Total Expenditure		144,025	-	465,229	609,254	108,642	-	428,664	537,306
Net income/(expenditure)		(12,383)	-	62,869	50,487	23,961	-	19,648	43,609
Transfers between funds	13	(257)	-	257	-	389	-	(389)	-
Net movement in funds		(12,639)	-	63,126	50,487	24,351	-	19,258	43,609
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		45,837	-	406,310	452,146	21,486	-	387,051	408,537
Total funds carried forward	13	33,197	-	469,436	502,633	45,837	-	406,310	452,146