

Annual Report for the Charity Commission: for period 1.11.23 - 31.03.25  
Encounter Church Ilfracombe 1145236

During the reporting period, the church continued to operate consistently in line with its charitable purposes, remaining active and available in service to the local community. The trustees have observed ongoing engagement and growth, including new individuals joining the church and continued spiritual development among existing members. The church has remained committed to its vision, expressed through the strapline Love, Equip & Release.

At the start of 2025, the church introduced changes to its teaching and discipleship approach, with the aim of improving accessibility and practical application. The intention was to ensure that teaching was delivered in a way that is easier to receive and apply in everyday life, supporting individuals in their personal faith journey and development.

The trustees confirm that the church's charitable objects remain unchanged and are as follows:

To advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public, both locally and in other countries.

The charity has continued to be overseen by the Trustee Leaders: Craig Mason, Anne Mason, Paul Hopkinson, Paul Parsons, Rachel Holmans, Tom Bradley, and Miriam Baker. Mark Kempson stepped down as a leader and trustee in February 2025.

## **Services and Activities Provided by Encounter Church**

### **Sunday Church Services**

Weekly Sunday services are held from 10:30am to 12:00 noon and are open to the public. These services provide an opportunity for individuals and families to gather for communal worship and to receive Bible-based, Spirit-led teaching. The services offer a welcoming and safe environment for anyone wishing to explore the Christian faith and learn more about Jesus.

Encounter church is an independent evangelical church affiliated to the GroundLevel network of churches, Encounter Church Ilfracombe is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)  
Charity number 1145236,

Pastor: Craig Mason – Tel: 01271 862426 email: [encounterilfracombe@gmail.com](mailto:encounterilfracombe@gmail.com) Facebook: Encounter Church  
Jesus in Everything



### **Children's Ministry (Kids Church)**

Kids Church operates during Sunday morning services and is overseen by Lis Harvey-Bryant, supported by a team of trained and DBS-checked volunteers. The programme provides a safe, age-appropriate environment for children to learn about the Christian faith through teaching, activities, and occasional outings. The ministry aims to support children in exploring faith in a way that is engaging, nurturing, and appropriate to their stage of development.

### **Youth Work**

The church's youth work is overseen by Anne Mason, supported by trained and DBS-checked volunteers. Youth sessions take place on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday mornings, except for the first Sunday of each month when young people remain in the main church service. Activities are age-specific and combine teaching, discussion, and relationship-building. Teaching broadly follows themes from the main Sunday services, adapted to ensure understanding and relevance for young people.

### **Community Outreach**

Encounter Church is actively involved in community support through several initiatives:

Regen Link is a befriending service for individuals aged 65 and over, overseen by Rachel Holmans and supported by trained and DBS-checked volunteers. The service provides support through home visits (where requested by Health and Social Services) and group activities. Group sessions take place on Monday mornings for coffee and fellowship, and on Thursday afternoons for activities and social engagement.

The church also supports Belle's Place, a local charity in Ilfracombe that serves vulnerable adults. Encounter Church funds and provides a meal on the fourth Wednesday of each month, serving approximately 40–50 people. Meals are prepared by Sally Rendells and her team, with the cost fully covered by the church.

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LOVE



EQUIP



RELEASE



## **Food Collection and Donations**

The church regularly collects food donations from congregational members, which are delivered weekly to the local foodbank. This supports individuals and families experiencing food insecurity within the wider community.

## **Facilities and Property Management**

Encounter Church's building is maintained by a team of skilled volunteers who carry out routine maintenance and minor repairs as required. Larger or specialist works are assessed, costed, and completed by appropriate external contractors. The trustees ensure the premises are maintained to a high standard, with ongoing improvements carried out annually. During this reporting period, external contractors addressed rendering work and minor damp issues. The condition and upkeep of the building have been positively noted by the charity's insurers.

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## ENCOUNTER CHURCH ILFRACOMBE

Receipts and Payments account for the period 1.11.23 - 31.03.25

Charity No 1145236

### RECEIPTS

General	
Gift Aid Tax Refunded	28,409.55
Gift Aided	71,335.76

General	20,902.21
General GASDS	9,760.65
<b>Total General</b>	<b>130,408.17</b>

Interest	639.45
Vella	1,392.50
Lifegroup books	30.00
TYWP	125.00
Mugs	49.79
<b>Total Receipt Categories</b>	<b>132,644.91</b>

### Payment Categories

Advertising	1,207.38
Bank Charges	96.40
Books & Training	4,491.60
Children's work	2.00
Christmas Meal	457.00
Conference	2,641.50
Equipment, Furniture	3,129.08
Flowers & Fruit	35.00
Food	2,196.40
Gifts	3,035.39
Helen Cook	149.80
Insurance	4,888.12
Licences & Fees	1,117.61
Miscellaneous	3,478.77
Music Group	41.95
Office Supplies	335.08
Outreach	1,697.05
Pastoral	40.24
Repairs	5,337.79
Travel Expenses	1,746.55
TYWP expense	600.00
Visiting Speaker	500.00
Young People	2,500.69
Cleaning	
Materials	169.60
Wages	1,835.45
Waste collection	90.93
Window Cleaning	168.00
<b>Total Cleaning</b>	<b>2,263.98</b>

Individual Support  
Vella 1,392.50

Missions  
CMSwaziland 750.00  
Ground Level 1,700.00  
ICE 1,700.00  
PFI-Israel 1,700.00  
R PASSMORE 6,120.00  
Regen Link 6,400.00  
UCB 120.00  
Total Missions 18,490.00

Payroll  
Salary, Inc Tax & NI 74,022.87  
Pension 3,487.85

Total Payroll 77,510.72

Services  
Electricity 2,388.34  
Internet Service 846.09  
Gas 2,927.67  
Telephone 1,338.82  
Water Rates 1,166.38  
Total Services 8,667.30

**Total Expense Categories 148,149.90**

(Deficit £15,504.99)


#### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31.3.25

Assets  
CAF Current 7,035.53  
CAF savings 13,564.25  
Cash 128.30  
20,728.08

We also own the building where we worship, namely 74 High Street, Ilfracombe EX34 9NQ and all the furniture, fixtures and fittings therein.

Signed

Signed

**James W Evans**

15 Trinity Gardens,  
Ilfracombe EX34 8ED

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

**OF ENCOUNTER CHURCH ILFRACOMBE**

I report on the accounts of Encounter Church Ilfracombe for the seventeen months ended **31st March 2025** as attached.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act); to follow the procedures laid down in the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act); and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect that the requirements
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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, 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.



James W Evans

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026