

# STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Trustee Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Registered Charity No. 1147230

### Legal and Administrative Information for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

#### The Committee is currently constituted as follows:

<b>Officers:</b>	President	Lynn Edwards OSNU
	Vice President	Roberta Harris
	Treasurer	Robert Dangerfield
	Secretary	Kath Garrad LSSNU

<b>Committee:</b>	Almoner	Hazel Auden
	Healing Leader	Carole Singer
	Membership Secretary	Annmarie Maybury
	Warden	Mark Grazier
	Committee Member	Sue Newman
	Committee Member	Mary Rayner

<b>Speakers Secretary:</b>	Robert Dangerfield
<b>Booking Sitting Secretary:</b>	Rebecca Harris

**Church Address:** 49 Union Street  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 1PJ  
Telephone: 01384 825060  
Website: [www.stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com](http://www.stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com)  
Email: [hello@stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com](mailto:hello@stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com)

**Bankers:** NatWest Bank  
L77, Merry Hill Centre  
Brierley Hill  
DY5 1QQ

**Independent Examiners:**  
Neil Westwood Chartered Accountant  
101 Dixons Green Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY2 7DJ

# **STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH**

## **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report, along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. As previously, we have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements. As previously, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in this paper and comply with the charities constitution and applicable accounting standards.

Stourbridge National Spiritualist Church was registered as a charity on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 under the number 1147230, and became affiliated to the Spiritualists' National Union in June 1926.

### **Charitable objectives**

The charitable objectives are to advance the religion and the religious philosophy of Spiritualism on the basis of the Seven Principles of the Spiritualists' National Union.

### **Financial Achievements and Performance**

The statement of financial activities for the year 2025 is set out in the following financial statement. In summary, the incoming resources for the year amount to £48,825, which compares to £63,442 received in 2024, with the major portions coming from collections and donations. The expenditure for 2025 was £49,267, compared to the expenditure of £48,926 in 2024, with the main expenditure being the upkeep and improvement of the building, its interior, and other general running costs. The excess expenditure over income for the year amounted to £442.

### **Risk management**

The trustees of the Church conduct its own review of major risks to which the charity is exposed. These procedures will be periodically reviewed in order to ensure that they meet the needs of the charity and are as follows:

- An annual review of the risks which the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statement**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which shows a true and fair view of the charities financial activities during the year and to its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing the financial statement the trustees must follow best practice and:

# **STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH**

## **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 (continued)**

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply consistently;
- Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statement on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the project will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable charity rulings and other accounting standards. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Overview**

#### **Trustee Report Year Ending 2025**

As 2025 concludes, we reflect on the success of Stourbridge Spiritualist Church, this year. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the church, as there needs to be a strong team, pulling together to make it happen.

Once again, I give my thanks to Robert Dangerfield who continues to work tirelessly to promote our church activities with endless publicity and dedication to keep a high standard of mediums, sound ambassadors for Spirit and Spiritualism to promote our belief in Eternal Life. Robert is also our Treasurer and many thanks for all the hard work over the year, not only to balance the books for a very busy church, but to make sound investments for the money that members contribute to over the year.

We have also had another excellent Experimental Victorian Evening which proved to be, so we will be looking to create another next year. Likewise, as the trip to Stansted in May was also very popular, we will arrange another one for this year. It has been so valuable to enable upcoming students to take the platform, giving them confidence and practice, as the mediums of the future, and long may this continue.

Kath Garrad is our Secretary and I would like to recognise the sterling work she continues to do in the background, keeping up with correspondence, the administrative areas for the SNU, and the monumental amount of work she undertakes to arrange for the Annual General Meeting. Again, this is not an easy task but she "just gets on with it". Many thanks to you, Kath, for your continued support in your role as Secretary and for always offering to help, whatever the job.

Annmarie Maybury, who qualified last year as a healer (well done for all the hard work it took to pass these exams), is our Membership Secretary and has also helped to run the jewellery counters currently being used by local traders - many thanks to Annmarie.

Mark Grazier has taken on the role of Warden and is doing a great job as he settles into the role - many thanks to you, Mark, for your hard work.

We have also gained some new committee members: Sue Newman has joined us on the committee, and I feel the need for her to know how much we appreciate her enthusiastic approach. She is a great asset to the team, with new ideas and an ability to "get the job done"; she is leading a new beginners awareness group that has proved so successful, it is now at capacity with many thriving students. Sue also gave a very generous donation of new toys that we were able to sell to members for a fraction of the retail cost, and all the money raised has been donated to the church. Thank you, Sue.

Mary Rayner has rejoined the committee and has proved to be a valuable asset as a chairperson for the Monday Services, as well as her invaluable gift as a healer. Thank you, Mary.

This is a good opportunity to thank all the healers who give their time and expertise for the benefit of those who need healing. Can I particularly thank Carole Singer and Graham Dann - Carole for her sterling work as Healing Leader and Graham for his great assistance in Carole's absence, during her work commitments. May I thank Jenny and Cynthia for being our receptionists and also Tracy Mayers who has joined us as a fully qualified healer, too. Again, many thanks for taking the time to study for this qualification, as I know you have had another challenging year.

Healing is an integral part of our religion and is greatly needed by an increasing number of people; hopefully we can attract more people to come forward to start the training they will need. The Monday and Thursday sessions are continuing well with new people receiving healing, and also gaining an interest in the services, meditation and classes.

Thanks all those who contributed to the continued success of this church, in whatever role or capacity, past and present. Thanks for the tireless work of all our volunteers as receptionists, tea and coffee stewards, giving out hymn books or clearing up after services; we could not do it without you, and you are much appreciated. This includes all the people who have volunteered for the tea roster: Ruth, June, Lawrence, Angela, Cynthia and everyone for always stepping in to help - much appreciated.

The church is continuing to be a success with congregation numbers remaining steady, the groups doing well and building work is ongoing to rejuvenate our premises, for our centenary in 2026. It is important that the church is maintained as a safe and friendly place where everyone can feel at home in pleasant surroundings we can all be proud of.

We have now been asked to host the training of new teachers, and this has proved a great success with four trainee teachers taking final boards in November. The church

was utilised for the whole weekend to incorporate an additional ten final assessment boards for CSNU and DSNU certificates. The church proved to be a perfect venue and our hospitality was very well received by students and assessors, garnering extra revenue for the church. I was also very privileged to receive a shield for my contribution to education within the Union and I was proud to accept at the SNU AGM in 2025.

We are currently renting out part of the car park as an additional income stream, to improve safety, we have had the lighting in the car park changed to efficient, sensor-activated LEDs. We are also pleased to be a host venue for the local U3A (University of the Third Age), so the social room is now being utilised for the local community.

We must look to the future to maintain the high standards that have been the legacy of the pioneers many of whom have worked so tirelessly in the past to give us the sound foundations on which we serve the members and the Spirit World. We think of Minister Eric Hatton and Heather Hatton, as two of many people who dedicated their lives to Spiritualism and gained the respect of all that knew them, all the people that they helped along the way and all the army of committee and helpers that joined them to make it possible. Sadly, Cissie Shaw was lost to the higher life on 27<sup>th</sup> December after a lifetime of service. We will miss you Cissie, but you have more that earned your place in that higher existence. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants.

We are a religion, a philosophy and a science and we must ensure that the great work that has been done will continue into the next century with new people entering our building and finding answers to questions. We are a safe and peaceful place where the public can explore Spiritualism at their own pace, finding sound knowledge to support their individual needs and aspirations.

As we move into our centenary year, it is our hope that we are able to provide that knowledge and expertise to all that wish to learn, those who seek words of comfort and of words of wisdom and to receive healing, that will bring our church into the twenty-first century as a progressive and thinking person's religion.

At Stourbridge, there is always a safe and friendly atmosphere for all to enjoy, to make friends and to experience the perception and philosophy of life in your own way, enabling a better understanding of this magnificent and everlasting journey of the soul.

Lynn Edwards OSNU (President)

### **Independent Examiner**

Neil Westwood Chartered Account has expressed their willingness to continue as examiners and a resolution for their re-appointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Chairperson: . (L Edwards OSNU)

Date: 20/02/2026

## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Stourbridge Spiritualist Church in respect of the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

I report on the account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



N A Westwood  
Neil Westwood & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
101 Dixons Green Road  
Dudley, West Midlands  
DY2 7DJ

Date: 21/03/2026

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025	2024
<b>Income</b>		
Church Collections	18223	18502
Charity Collections	70	0
Private Interviews	3947	4756
Membership Fees	952	882
Groups	2200	2144
Workshops	1163	1994
Church Shop	1278	1106
Healing Sessions	2032	1897
Sales of Books	78	30
Donations & Legacies	313	10193
Raffles	1333	1267
Coffee Mornings/ Craft Fayre	0	455
Trip Contributions	1824	1405
Mediums' Books	0	25
Investment Income	10600	13914
Polling & Room Hire	677	740
Winter Fuel Contributions	0	100
Gift Aid	0	2922
Psychic News	190	42
Sales of Toys	227	
Car Park	2007	
Interest	1711	1325
Total receipts	<u>48825</u>	<u>63442</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<u>49267</u>	<u>48926</u>
<b>Excess /(Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>(442)</b>	<b>14516</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>2873</u>	<u>1197</u>
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>	<b>2431</b>	<b>15713</b>
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	—	—
Funds brought forward	<u>1119752</u>	<u>1104039</u>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>1122183</u></b>	<b><u>1119752</u></b>
<i>There are no restricted or endowment funds.</i>		

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	
	2025	2024
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Speakers' Expenses	7140	7129
Private Interviews	2360	2980
Hospitality	4106	3093
Cleaner & Car Park Caretaker	2500	2400
Gardening	395	653
Cleaning Materials/ Supplies	163	294
Stationery, Printing & Postage	499	492
Advertising	2036	1667
Flowers	45	124
Repairs, Renewals & Testing	12146	14353
Copier	42	47
Charity Donations	233	0
Gas & Electric	4170	4273
Water Rates	112	95
Committee Expenses	1050	750
Organist	1315	990
Insurance	1064	1005
AFC Coach Trip	2009	1763
SNU Healers fees	337	301
SNU Capitation fees	635	635
Delegates' & NP Warden's Expenses	406	285
SNU AGM	480	632
WMDC Trifold	0	125
Members' Welfare	243	371
Telephone/ Wi-Fi	581	448
Refreshments	416	272
Raffle Expenses	477	458
Card Machine Fees	29	20
Group Leaders' Expenses	73	99
Garden Maintenance/ Materials	196	119
Shop Stock	1402	945
Website & Hosting	1178	1178
Workshops	810	710
Mediums' Books	0	25
Hymn Books	185	
Psychic News	241	11
Independent Examiner's fee	192	186
	<u>49267</u>	<u>48926</u>



## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Land & Buildings	850000	850000
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	<u>5000</u>	<u>5000</u>
	855000	855000
<b>Investments</b>		
Charities Property Fund	222505	219632
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash in Hand	0	24
Unpresented Cheques	(70)	(125)
NatWest Current account	1696	1279
NatWest Business Reserve account	-	65
SNU Trust Deposit account	262	257
SNU Trust Investment account	1404	120
SNU Trust 1-6-1 account	1000	1000
SNU Trust 1 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account	-	5000
SNU Trust 2 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account (1)	10000	0
SNU Trust 2 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account (2)	5000	0
Hampshire Trust Bank – Easy Access	14386	16500
Redwood Bank – 1 Year Fixed Rate Bond	-	10000
Redwood Bank – 2 Year Fixed Rate Bond	11000	11000
Total Current Assets	<u>44748</u>	<u>45120</u>
Total assets	<u>1122183</u>	<u>1119752</u>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	990045	987614
Revaluation reserve	<u>132138</u>	<u>132138</u>
	<u>1119752</u>	<u>1119752</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Church Treasurer  
Robert Dangerfield



Church President  
Lynn Edwards OSNU



Date: 20/02/2026

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Notes to the Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### 1) Accounting Policies

#### a) Accounting Standard

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

#### b) Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and the Trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

#### c) Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 December 2024, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

#### d) Income recognition

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

#### e) Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

#### f) Depreciation

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2019 values following a revaluation of the property. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

### 2) Taxation

As a charity Stourbridge Spiritualist Church is exempt from Corporation Tax on the income and gains falling within the Taxation and Chargeable Gains' Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.