

Bethesda Free Chapel



Accounts and Trustees report for the year 31/3/25

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good:

Because his mercy endureth for ever

Psalm 118:1



Charity Registration Number
1148620

Bethesda Free Church

Accounts and Trustees Report 24-25

	Page
Contents	2
Charity Information	3
Trustees Report	4
Receipts & payments accounts	7
Independent Examiner's report	12
Appendix1: AGM minutes	13

Bethesda Free Church

Charity Information

Trustees

Dr Stephen Boreland (Chair)

Mr Bruce Willis Thompson (secretary)

Mr Dionysios Trigkilidas (Treasurer)

Mr David Boreland

Mr Daniel Sheraton

Mr Alan Baitey

Mr Ian Cameron

Mr Ricardo Hipolito

Charity Number:

1148620

Address:

Bethesda Free Church

Tatham Street

Sunderland

SR1 2QB

Independent Examiner:

Eric Southwick & Co Accountants

51 The Avenue

Seaham

SR7 8NS

Trustees Report

Introduction

The Trustees of Bethesda Free Church present their report and accounts for the period ended 31/3/25

These are prepared in accordance with the governing document, applicable accounting standards and the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Objectives and principal activity

Our main objectives and principal activities as an organisation is to advance the Christian faith and promote the Gospel both in the UK and the rest of the world as the Trustees see fit and appropriate from time to time.

The Objectives are fulfilled by the following main activities:

- Holding public worship services and meetings for the means of grace
- Live streaming our services in order to reach a wider population both in the UK and abroad
- Prayer meetings
- Bible study groups
- Dedicated Bible school classes to help participants to get a deeper understanding of the Bible scriptures
- Evangelistic meetings
- fellowship meetings
- Carrying out evangelistic work in the region.
- Support by financial assistance four missionaries in different part of the world
- Running dedicated youth clubs.

Achievements and performance

The church services are led by the Pastor and Assistant pastor and are supported by the Elders and Deacons. The church offers the following services:

- The preaching of two public worship services every Sunday, morning and evening. These including prayer, the reading of God's Word, the preaching of a sermon, and sung praise.
- Weekly administration of the Lord's supper prior to morning family service
- Weekly prayer meeting and Bible study every Tuesday evening.
- Baptismal services to new believers as required.
- Pastoral support to the congregation
- Evangelism in the streets of Sunderland and dedicated evangelistic events and meetings
- Fellowship meetings such as coffee mornings and Lady's dinner meetings
- Youth clubs for two different age groups where children of the community can come together to play and hear the word of God.
- Bible school classes of three terms per year of 10 session each.

We try to reach the wider population of Sunderland and beyond by

- offering a free live streaming of the main worship services.
- Supporting four missionaries abroad.

Public benefit

Our services provide a public benefit to both the local communion and further afield by providing a place of public worship where people can fulfil their spiritual and religious needs either by attending in person or by watching and participating on line. Our fellowship meetings such as our weekly coffee mornings are a great opportunity for people to come together and talk over a cup of tea or coffee. This service is of great value to the more elderly and vulnerable people who may be otherwise isolated. By coming together in fellowship, it helps their mental health and well being.

Our two different age youth clubs allow children to meet under supervision and have fun by playing and interacting with other children of similar age groups and learn about Christianity.

Our Bible school classes are open to any individual who has the spiritual need to learn more about the Bible scriptures.

Our doors are always open to the public and we strive to advance the Christian faith through public outreach and teaching ministries to as many members of the public, both at home and abroad, as we are able to reach.

Structure, Governance and management

Bethesda Free Church was registered as a charity on 17/8/2012. It is recognised by HMRC for gift aid. The trustees assess the need to appoint other Trustees when necessary and following open discussions and prayer in dedicated church officers meetings they bring the selected members to the congregation for vote.

The church is governed by its constitution document which composes its main charity governing document. The following governing policies are also in place

- Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures
- Paying staff
- Risk management
- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries
- Serious incident reporting policy and procedures
- Volunteer management

Financial review

During the fiscal year the Charity's:

- total income was £ 73,127
- total expenditure was £ 174,297
- the net deficit was £ 101,170

The increased expenditure was driven to a large degree by necessary roof repairs to the church building of total cost of £70,493. This large expense together with increasing costs on utility bills and other services have pushed our expenditure up despite maintaining similar income to previous years. The expenditure is however forecasted to half in the next financial year.

The regular finances of the Charity, to a very large extent, are given by the members of the Church congregation. Much work is done voluntarily without financial recognition

The church owns the following properties

- Bethesda free church (main church building) Tatham Street, Sunderland, SR1 2QB
- John White Memorial Hall, 1 Flodden Road, Sunderland, SR4 0BU
- 40% of the re-sale value of 81 Hill Crest

This report has been approved by the Trustees on 2nd of July 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Mr Dionysios Trigkilidas
Trustee and Treasurer

Bethesda Free Church							
Receipts and Payments Accounts							
Year Ended 31st March 2025							
Chapel General Fund							
					2025		2024
Receipts					£		£
	Chapel Boxes (including Gift Aid)				62,153.00		60,477.00
	Refunds and Rentals				-		3,711.00
	Bank Interest				13.00		116.00
	Miscellaneous income				1,280.00		
	Other Income				970.00		
Total Receipts					64,416.00		64,304.00
Payments							
	<u>Grants and designations</u>						
	Gifts			200		1,090	
					200		1,090
	<u>Ministry</u>						
	Pulpit Ministry			250		1,273	
	Pastors Travel Expenses			2,068		885	
	Pastors Salaries & Pensions			64,948		45,156	
	Pastors Telephone			-		311	
	Manse Expenses			632		600	
					67,898		48,225
	<u>Running Costs</u>						
	Electricity			5,541		973	
	Gas			7,700		7,938	
	Water			458		925	
	Ford Estate Mission			753		1,078	
	Consumables			879		746	
	Printing/postage/stationery			80		109	
	Photocopying			1,080		1,389	
	Telecoms			901		895	
	You tube Internet			239		-	
	Insurance			2,197		2,152	
	Support Services			2,662		1,396	
	Reach Programme			320		-	
	Petty Cash Payments			-		165	
	Caretaking			5,925		6,086	
					28,735		23,851
	Equipment			174		1,387	
					174		1,387
					97,007		74,553
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year					(32,591)		(10,249)
Transfers from other funds					-		-
Transfers to other funds					-		-
Fund balance start of period					27,286		37,535
Fund balance at end of period					(5,305)		27,286

BEF fund						2025	2024
Receipts						£	£
	Gift					-	-
						-	-
Payments							
	Insurance					2,197	2,152
						2,197	2,152
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year						(2,197)	(2,152)
Transfer from General Fund						-	-
Fund balance start of period						(2,152)	-
Fund balance at end of period						(4,349)	(2,152)
BHOMS Fund						2025	2024
Receipts						£	£
	Offerings					1,671	415
	Offerings (Missionary Societies)					-	115
						1,671	530
Payments							
Missionary Societies						3,600	6,250
						3,600	6,250
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year						(1,929)	(5,720)
Transfer from General Fund						-	-
Transfer to General Fund						-	-
Fund balance start of period						(5,720)	-
Fund balance at end of period						(7,649)	(5,720)

Building Fund					2025	2024
<u>Receipts</u>					£	£
	Donations				-	165
<u>Payments</u>						
	Repairs/maintenance				71,493	8,195
Surplus/Deficit for the year					(71,493)	(8,030)
Transfer to Renovations Fund					-	-
Transfer from Hallgarth Fund					77,978	-
Designated from Thankoffering					-	-
Fund balance start of period					(6,485)	1,545
Fund balance at end of period					-	(6,485)
Future Ministry Fund					2025	2024
<u>Receipts</u>					£	£
	Donations				1,841	2,352
<u>Payments</u>					-	-
					-	-
Surplus/Deficit for the year					1,841	2,352
Fund balance start of period					2,352	-
Fund balance at end of period					4,193	2,352
Renovations Fund					2025	2024
<u>Receipts</u>					£	£
	Donations				3,333	-
<u>Payments</u>						
	Repairs/maintenance				-	-
Surplus/Deficit for the year					3,333	-
Transfer from Building Fund					-	-
Designated from Thankoffering					-	-
Fund balance start of period					-	-
Fund balance at end of period					3,333	-

Hallgarth Fund					2025	2024
<u>Receipts</u>					£	£
	Sale of Hallgarth				-	130,954
					-	130,954
<u>Payments</u>					-	-
					-	-
Surplus/Deficit for the year					-	130,954
Transfer to Building Fund					(77,978)	-
Transfer from General Fund					-	-
Fund balance start of period					130,954	-
Fund balance at end of period					52,976	130,954
Capital Reserve Fund					2025	2024
<u>Receipts</u>					£	£
	Bank interest				-	-
					-	-
<u>Payments</u>					-	-
					-	-
Surplus/Deficit for the year					-	-
Transfer from General Fund					-	-
Fund balance start of period					31,748	31,748
Fund balance at end of period					31,748	31,748

Thankoffering Fund					2025		2024
					£		£
Receipts	Thankoffering				1,580		-
					1,580		-
Fund balance start of period					-		-
Unallocated at the year end					1,580		-
Cash and Bank balances					2025		2024
Chapel Accounts					£		£
Cash				-		-	
Virgin Money Current account				-		639	
Barclays Bank Current Account				44,855		145,672	
Yorkshire Bank				31,672	76,527	31,672	177,983
					76,527		177,983
Fund Balances							
Chapel Funds							
Chapel General Fund				(5,305)		27,286	
BEF FUND				(4,349)		(2,152)	
BHOMS Fund				(7,649)		(5,720)	
Building Fund				-		(6,485)	
Renovations Fund				3,333		-	
Future Ministry Fund				4,193		2,352	
Hallgarth Fund				52,976		130,954	
Capital Reserve Fund				31,748		31,748	
Bethesda Bible School				-		-	
Thankoffering Fund				1,580	76,527	-	177,983
					76,527		177,983

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bethesda Free Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on the pages 1 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1 Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- 2 to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 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 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Adam James MAAT

Eric Southwick & Co Accountants Ltd

51 The Avenue

Seaham, Co Durham

SR78NS

Date: 06th May 2025

Appendix 1: AGM 2025 minutes