

**Horwich Evangelical Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2024**

Reference & administration details

Horwich Evangelical Church is Registered Charity number 1153620.

The Church is situated on Wright Street, Horwich BL6 7HU.

The correspondence address is 15 Barncroft Drive, Horwich BL6 6NZ

The church was established under a Trust Deed in 1936 under its original name of the Gospel Hall, and was renamed as Horwich Evangelical Church in 1977.

The Trustees of the church are:

Paul Martin Chapple, Shaun Cooper, Michael Dewhurst, Keith Downham, Ray William Haughton, Eric Kent (Secretary & Treasurer), Christine Savage, Michael William Wilson.

The Elders, who are responsible for the day-to-day leadership and running of the church, are:

Paul Chapple, Shaun Cooper, Michael Dewhurst, Ray William Haughton, Andrew Holt (appointed March 2025), Robert Stanley Heath, Eric Kent.

The independent examiner of the church accounts is Martin Horton FCMA MiP, Rivington Accounts, Bank House, 6-8 Church Street, Adlington, Chorley PR6 4EX.

The legal title in the land was transferred to the Official Custodian for Charities in trust for the charity on 21 May 2003.

Structure, governance & management

The charity was set up under a Trust Deed which was adopted on 19 June 1936.

New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees as required.

Aims and Purposes

The Trustees of Horwich Evangelical Church have the responsibility of ensuring that the church building is kept in proper repair and insured, and permitting the building to be used by believers for the conduct of meetings for the worship of God, for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for the fellowship and edification of believers, and for the holding of Sunday school and other meetings, to advance the Christian religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Statement of Doctrines and Practices appearing in the Trust Deed.

Objectives and Activities

- Provision of a place of worship, plus adjoining rooms for social activities and religious instruction of children
- Conducting worship services (all open to the general public), including preaching of an evangelistic and teaching nature
- Conducting religious ceremonies (dedication of infants, adult baptism, marriages, funerals)
- Conducting meetings for Bible study and prayer
- Arranging activities for local children and young people
- Visiting the sick and lonely, and giving comfort to the bereaved
- Provision of a weekly luncheon club for the elderly
- Supporting missionary and outreach work (by financial support and prayer)
- Participating in local inter-church projects which address the needs of the community, including a food bank

Financial Report

1. Horwich Evangelical Church (excluding the Wright Place Luncheon Club)

The accounts for 2024 show a surplus of £5,517.38. This reflects the generous giving of our congregation during the year.

Receipts

Total receipts for 2024 were £33,124.16.

The income of the church was derived mostly from donations (Sunday offerings, standing orders and online giving) from members of the congregation. In 2024 this totalled £22,905.46.

‘Gifts’ (£715) includes donations totalling £300 from the Luncheon Club towards the cost of gas & electricity, and a contribution of £373 from a neighbour towards the cost of a fence repair.

‘Other Offerings & Gifts’ (£2,735) represents gifts received which were designated for other Christian charities, notably our Christmas Fund which is used to help people less fortunate than ourselves. We also had an appeal for the Leprosy Mission.

‘HMRC’ (£4,354.46) represents money reclaimed from HMRC for donations made under the Gift Aid scheme...

‘Interest’ (£1,960.40) consisted of £1,615.90 from our Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond (paying 5.2%) plus £344.50 from our Virgin Money Deposit Account (paying 1.35%).

In October 2024 we re-invested £32,605.90 in a new Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond at 4.6%.

Giving to our Christmas Fund at Christmas 2024 was again generous. By the end of 2024 the Christmas Fund stood at £2,040, and the final amount distributed to charities in January 2025 was £2,200.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2024 was £27,606.78.

As usual, the largest item of expenditure was 'Donations to Christian Work' (£9,871.50). This represents contributions to Christian workers and agencies engaged in evangelism or relief work in many countries, including the beneficiaries of our Christmas Fund. Early in 2024 the Christmas Fund from Christmas 2023 (totalling £2,100) was distributed to four charities working among needy and disadvantaged people either locally or in other parts of the world: Bolton Hospice, Urban Outreach, Mopane Tree (Namibia) and Mary's Meals.

Other significant items of expenditure were:

- 'Gifts to Members' (£2,800), which represents support for Jonathan Kent in his ministry training.
- 'Youth Work' (£425.89), which includes expenditure for Junior Church, Tea n Tots' parent & toddler group, and DBS checks.
- 'Outreach' (£573.75), which includes the cost of Good News papers and Life magazines.
- 'Heat and Light' (£3,775.28) reflects a significant decrease in Gas & Electricity prices due to a change of supplier
- 'Copyright Licence' (292.72) covers display of words, and playing of music and showing of films.
- 'Maintenance' (£2,821.85) includes window replacement (£1500), fence replacement (£815.28), and routine servicing of the alarm and heating boiler.
- 'AudioVisual Equipment' (£324.72) represents the wireless microphone installation.
- 'Other Assets Purchased' (£1,972.80) includes the cost of replacement interior doors (£1,650) and a filing cabinet (£322.80).

Balance Sheet

The net result was a surplus of £5,517.38.

The balance at the end of the year was £67,055.67. Of this, £5,538.23 was held in our TSB Business account (including our Christmas Fund), and £41.92 was held in a cash float for catering expenses. Of the remainder, £32,605.90 was held in our Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond, and £28,869.82 was held in our Virgin Money deposit account.

Some of this money has been set aside to cover events and situations which may arise in future, such as building refurbishment or the employment of staff.

2. Wright Place Luncheon Club

Total receipts of the Luncheon Club for 2024 were £4,415.

This was derived from the £4 per week (increased from £3 at the beginning of 2024) which we charged each diner, as well as a grant from Horwich Town Council towards the cost of our Christmas lunch.

Total expenditure of the Luncheon Club for 2024 was £4,131.92. This included the cost of supplies for the lunches (£3,132.49) and £250 for the cost of entertainment. 'Gifts' includes gifts to charities supported by some of our guest entertainers, as well as small Christmas gifts for our diners.

The net result was a surplus of £283.08. The balance at the end of the year was £1,796.68. All funds for the Wright Place Luncheon Club are held in our Virgin Money account (formerly Yorkshire Bank).

Activities during 2024

Worship, prayer & teaching

All our Sunday morning services begin at 10.30 and are open to the general public. A good number of people attend the services, with several joining us in the past year. We invite a number of guest speakers, often representing the various Christian ministries which we support, but we also leave sufficient Sundays free for the Elders and other members to preach. We plan a preaching series on Luke's Gospel for early 2025.

On Sunday evenings we have sometimes met to watch recorded talks from the Keswick Convention and Spring Harvest.

Our Bible Study & Prayer Meetings are held either in church at 11am on Wednesday mornings or on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday evenings (on alternate weeks).

We ran enquirers classes for people who would like to know more about the Christian faith, and a preparation class for people considering baptism.

We held a dedication service in June for the dedication of 2 infants.

We held a baptismal service in November for the baptism (by immersion) of 4 adults.

Saturday morning prayer meetings are arranged occasionally to pray for the work of the Church.

Pastoral care

The Elders provide pastoral support to the congregation, and we have developed a pastoral plan to try to make sure that everyone is covered.

Building maintenance & refurbishment

The building has been maintained during the last 12 months with regular visual inspections of the premises both inside and outside.

Internal equipment such as boilers, security alarms etc have all had their annual service and are in full working order

Various repairs have been made to the building such as wooden window frames being replaced by UVPC ones in the junior church room and all of the toilets. There has also been the replacement of doors that lead from the main hall into the side room. These have now been upgraded and have toughened glass. They are more secure to comply with the churches child safety policy

The rotten barge boards at the rear of the building were due to be replaced last summer but unfortunately this has still not been done. The builder has been contacted

to complete the work as soon as possible. These are mainly cosmetic and at the moment are not causing any problems with the building structure.

Junior Church

We tend to have between two and eight children per week and at the moment we're using the 'All in one' Sunday school material.

There is a crèche and toys for parents and babies. It became difficult with two teaching classes so now there's just one from age 4-14 then the youth will move into main church after that. We still offer guidance and other invites to activities to the teens.

There are three teaching teams of two adults on rotation.

Tea 'n' Tots Playgroup

Tea n Tots is free of charge and aimed at parents and carers with pre-school children as outreach and support in our local community.

Sessions are well attended and with a free booking system operated through an online platform, the 20-25 places per session are generally full, with a waiting list.

The sessions are well supported by volunteers from the church.

Some families have started attending church after joining Tea n Tots, so this is serving well as outreach in to the community. We hope to occasionally plan a Family Service on a Sunday to which we can invite parents and children.

Tuesday Fellowship

The Winter & Spring sessions of the Tuesday Fellowship have continued with a steady attendance number. We have a regular group who attend most weeks with lively fellowship, and friendships continue to grow. We have been encouraged by ladies joining us from our Luncheon Club.

All our speakers bless us enormously. Although the talks are not always deeply theological, we do see 'seeds' being sown. The Bible (1 Corinthians chapter 3) says: *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour.*

We pray that through the Tuesday Fellowship and other activities of the Church, many people will become part of God's family.

Mission

We have continued to support several Christian ministries by regular monthly donations: House of Ants (in Mozambique), Congo Children Trust (Kimbilio, in DRC Congo), Slavic Gospel Association, James Bovenizer (children's evangelist), and now also the Mopane Tree (Namibia). We also make frequent gifts to other charities such as Silk Road Ministries and Urban Outreach. We are continuing to give some support to Jonathan Kent in his ministry training.

Outreach

We offer Good News papers and Life magazines free of charge to members of the church and the Luncheon Club (to read and pass on to friends), as well as distributing newspapers to houses near the church. We also have 2 boxes on the railings outside the church containing leaflets and booklets.

Website & Facebook

The website is modern and well laid out containing details of our church activities and recordings of our Sunday morning sermons. The Facebook page has also been kept up to date and has been used to advertise events such as Sunday Club and Tea n Tots to the wider community.

Social activities

We had a church picnic – indoors, as the weather was bad.

Luncheon Club

The Wright Place Luncheon Club met almost every Monday except Bank Holidays. We have a membership of about 30 diners. Most of our diners are not members of the church, and there is a waiting list of people who would like to join. The Club offers a 2-course meal with a cup of tea or coffee, followed by entertainment. We have an excellent team of volunteer helpers, mostly members of the church. Feedback from our diners continues to be very positive.

Other activities for the local community

We occasionally held events on Sunday evenings which were open to the public, including a showing of the 'Jesus' film.

Working together with local churches


We attend Covenant services and Lent services and other events arranged by Churches Together in Horwich & Rivington.

We collect Christmas shoeboxes for International Aid Trust. We work with other local churches to address the needs of the local community, including collecting items of food in a 'Grub Tub' for distribution to needy local people by the Storehouse project (part of the Urban Outreach charity).

Public Benefit

- Provision of a place of worship
- Provision of worship services (all open to the general public)
- Preaching of an evangelistic and teaching nature, which helps followers to develop a spiritual relationship with God, offering comfort, peace and a sense of purpose as well as a moral and ethical framework for living
- Provision of dedication, adult baptism, marriage and funeral services
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children
- Supporting missionary and outreach work
- Giving comfort to the bereaved, and visiting the sick and lonely
- Providing a luncheon club for the elderly
- Providing a Parent & Toddler Playgroup
- Participating in local inter-church projects which address the needs of the community

Approved by the Trustees on 19 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by Eric Kent and Michael Dewhurst

Eric Kent


Horwich Evangelical Church

Balance Sheet

Period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Reserves			
	Starting balance	61,538.29	57,196.21
	Income	33,124.16	29,939.52
	Expenditure	27,606.78	25,597.44
	Surplus / deficit	5,517.38	4,342.08
	Closing balance	67,055.67	61,538.29
Current assets			
	TSB Business Account	5,538.23	5,731.24
	Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond	32,605.90	30,990.00
	Virgin Money Deposit Account	28,869.62	24,775.12
	Cash in Hand	41.92	41.93
	Total Current assets	67,055.67	61,538.29

Represented by Funds		
General Fund	64,758.65	59,645.02
Christmas Fund	2,040.00	1,670.00
Tuesday Fellowship Fund	257.02	223.27
Delci Santos Fund	0.00	0.00
Total	67,055.67	61,538.29

Horwich Evangelical Church

Statement of Financial Activity

Period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Donations		
General Offerings	22,905.46	20,284.75
Tuesday Fellowship Offering	453.84	417.88
Gifts	715.00	407.23
Other Offerings & Gifts	2,735.00	4,276.00
HMRC	4,354.46	3,443.76
Total donations	31,163.76	28,829.62
Investment income		
Interest	1,960.40	1,109.90
Total investment income	1,960.40	1,109.90
Total Income	33,124.16	29,939.52

Horwich Evangelical Church

Statement of Financial Activity

Period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Expenditure		
Expenditure for Christian work		
Gifts to Christian Work	9,871.50	10,202.75
Gifts to Members etc	2,800.00	2,418.00
Speakers' Expenses	490.00	630.00
Youth Work	425.89	100.93
Outreach	573.75	567.40
Total expenditure for Christian work	14,161.14	13,919.08
Admin & maintenance costs		
Heat & Light	3,775.28	5,164.82
Building Insurance	1,432.85	1,473.21
Copyright Licence	292.72	278.30
Maintenance etc	2,821.85	2,128.19
Cleaning	1,250.00	1,275.00
Catering	286.60	334.92
Water Rate	487.53	447.94
Misc Expenditure	551.69	556.99
Total admin & maintenance costs	10,898.52	11,659.37
Other expenditure		
Church Website	249.60	0.00
Audio/Visual Equipment	324.72	0.00
Other Assets Purchased	1,972.80	18.99
Total other expenditure	2,547.12	18.99
Total Expenditure	27,606.78	25,597.44

Wright Place Luncheon Club
(an activity of Horwich Evangelical Church)
Statement of Financial Activity
Period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
<hr/>		
Income		
Receipts		
Receipts for Dinners	4,188.00	3,179.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	4,188.00	3,179.00
 Grants		
Council Grant	200.00	150.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total grants	200.00	150.00
 Other income		
Gifts	27.00	83.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other income	27.00	83.00
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total Income	4,415.00	3,412.00
<hr/>		
Expenditure		
Expenditure for Diners		
Supplies	3,132.49	3,023.91
Entertainment	250.00	625.00
Gifts	577.49	564.39
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure for diners	3,959.98	4,213.30
 Other expenditure		
Other Expenditure	171.94	34.96
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other expenditure	171.94	34.96
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total Expenditure	4,131.92	4,248.26
<hr/>		
Current assets		
(Virgin Money)		
Starting Balance	1,513.60	2,349.86
Surplus / Deficit	283.08	-836.26
Closing Balance	1,796.68	1,513.60

Eric Kent
Horwich Evangelical Church
C/o 15 Barncroft Drive
Horwich
Bolton
BL6 6NZ

22nd January 2025

Dear Eric,

This letter is provided in connection with the preparation of the financial statements of Horwich Evangelical Church for the year ending 31st December 2024 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the results and financial position of the Church.

Financial Statements

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief that the accounts are prepared by volunteers with relevant knowledge and experience and we have carried out an inspection of supporting documentation sufficient to satisfy ourselves that the financial statements reflect an accurate view of the financial position of the Church.

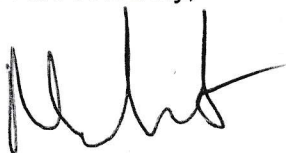
The reserves at the 31st December 2024 were £67,056 (excluding the building or any other assets that have been written off to expenses) plus £1,797 in the Luncheon Club.

Assets and Liabilities

In addition to the financial assets listed in the accounts, the Church also owns the building which has not been reported in the accounts. It would be useful to know the value of the building, or at least the land for the purposes of the accounts in order to give a more accurate reflection of the financial position of the Church. This could be done by a property valuer / estate agent but this may incur a cost.

We are not aware of any liabilities that are due to be paid by the Church.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Horton FCMA
Director