

**Horwich Evangelical Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2025**

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 1972.

The registration of the denomination of the church was officially changed from 'Christian Brethren' to 'Independent Evangelical' on 28 January 2026.

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 2025 show a surplus of £877.35. This reflects the generous giving of our congregation during the year.

Receipts

Total receipts for 2025 were £29,806.20.

The income of the church was derived mainly from donations (Sunday offerings, standing orders and online giving) from members of the congregation. In 2025 this totalled £19,855.40.

In addition, £2,816 was given for other Christian charities, notably our Christmas Fund which is used to help people less fortunate than ourselves. Giving to our Christmas Fund at Christmas 2024 was again generous. By the end of 2024 the Christmas Fund stood at £1,816, and the final amount distributed to charities in January 2025 was £2,200.

We received £1,872.17 in interest from our Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond plus our Virgin Money Deposit Account.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2025 was £28,928.85.

As usual, the largest item of expenditure was 'Donations to Christian Work' (£12,655). This represents contributions to Christian workers and agencies engaged in evangelism or relief work in many countries, including the beneficiaries of our Christmas Fund.

Balance Sheet

Of the balance at the end of the year (£67,933.02), £5,543.15 was held in our TSB Business account (including our Christmas Fund), and £42.18 was held in a cash float for catering expenses. Of the remainder, £34,105.77 was held in our Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond, and £28,241.92 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 2025 were £4,768. This was derived from the £4 per week 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 2025 was £4,393.23. This included the cost of supplies for the lunches and the cost of entertainment.

The net result was a surplus of £374.77. The balance at the end of the year was £2,171.45. All funds for the Wright Place Luncheon Club are held in our Virgin Money account.

Activities during 2025

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, including parents & children from our Tea n Tots playgroup.

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.

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 wished to know more about the Christian faith, and a preparation class for people considering baptism.

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

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 minor repairs have been carried out as would be expected from the general maintenance of the building.

The rotten barge boards at the rear of the building are still in need of replacing. These are mainly cosmetic and at the moment are not causing any problems with the building structure. Due to the fact that the original quote for the job was over 2 years ago the builder has been asked to re-quote for the job. If accepted he has promised to complete the job within 2 months.

There is also a damp patch inside the luncheon club cupboard which is currently being investigated.

Junior Church

We operate a children's church and crèche during the Sunday morning service.

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.

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.

Mission

We have continued to support several Christian ministries by regular monthly donations: House of Ants (in Mozambique), Congo Children Trust (Kimbilio, in DCR 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.

Luncheon Club

The Wright Place Luncheon Club meets 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 hold events on Sunday evenings which are open to the public.

Working together with local churches

We participate in events arranged by Churches Together in Horwich & Rivington, including Covenant and Lent services.

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).

We also collect Christmas shoeboxes for International Aid Trust.

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 27 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by Eric Kent & Michael Dewhurst

Eric Kent
Michael Dewhurst

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

23rd January 2026

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 2025 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.

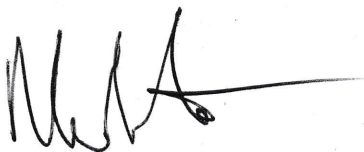
The reserves at the 31st December 2025 were £67,933 (excluding the building or any other assets that have been written off to expenses) plus £2,171 in the Luncheon Club.

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

Horwich Evangelical Church

Balance Sheet

Period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Reserves			
	Starting balance	67,055.67	61,538.29
	Income	29,806.20	33,124.16
	Expenditure	28,928.85	27,606.78
	Surplus / deficit	877.35	5,517.38
	Closing balance	67,933.02	67,055.67
Current assets			
	TSB Business Account	5,543.15	5,538.23
	Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond	34,105.77	32,605.90
	Virgin Money Deposit Account	28,241.92	28,869.62
	Cash in Hand	42.18	41.92
	Total Current assets	67,933.02	67,055.67

Represented by Funds

General Fund	65,869.42	64,758.65
Christmas Fund	1,816.00	2,040.00
Tuesday Fellowship Fund	247.60	257.02
Delci Santos Fund	0.00	0.00
Total	67,933.02	67,055.67

Horwich Evangelical Church

Statement of Financial Activity Period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
<hr/>		
Income		
Donations		
General Offerings	19,855.40	22,905.46
Tuesday Fellowship Offering	542.50	453.84
Gifts	510.00	715.00
Other Offerings & Gifts	2,816.00	2,735.00
HMRC	4,010.13	4,354.46
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total donations	27,734.03	31,163.76
 Investment income		
Interest	1,872.17	1,960.40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total investment income	1,872.17	1,960.40
 Other income		
Funeral fee	200.00	0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total investment income	200.00	0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	29,806.20	33,124.16
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Horwich Evangelical Church

Statement of Financial Activity

Period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Expenditure	2025	2024
<hr/>		
Expenditure for Christian work		
Gifts to Christian Work	12,655.00	9,871.50
Gifts to Members etc	3,080.97	2,800.00
Speakers' Expenses	470.00	490.00
Youth Work	307.97	425.89
Outreach	518.75	573.75
Posters	15.00	0.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure for Christian work	17,047.69	14,161.14
 Admin & maintenance costs		
Heat & Light	3,141.87	3,775.28
Building Insurance	1,518.80	1,432.85
Copyright Licence	299.86	292.72
Maintenance etc	3,593.92	2,821.85
Cleaning	1,225.00	1,250.00
Catering	346.64	286.60
Water Rate	582.21	487.53
Misc Expenditure	681.52	551.69
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total admin & maintenance costs	11,389.82	10,898.52
 Other expenditure		
Church Website	249.60	249.60
Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	324.72
Other Assets Purchased	241.74	1,972.80
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other expenditure	491.34	2,547.12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	28,928.85	27,606.78
<hr/>		

Wright Place Luncheon Club
(an activity of Horwich Evangelical Church)
Statement of Financial Activity
Period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
<hr/>		
Income		
Receipts		
Receipts for Dinners	4,468.00	4,188.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	4,468.00	4,188.00
 Grants		
Council Grant	200.00	200.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total grants	200.00	200.00
 Other income		
Gifts	100.00	27.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other income	100.00	27.00
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total Income	4,768.00	4,415.00
<hr/>		
Expenditure		
Expenditure for Diners		
Supplies	3,389.32	3,132.49
Entertainment	465.00	250.00
Gifts	416.73	577.49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure for diners	4,271.05	3,959.98
 Other expenditure		
Other Expenditure	122.18	171.94
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other expenditure	122.18	171.94
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total Expenditure	4,393.23	4,131.92
<hr/>		
Current assets		
(Virgin Money)		
Starting Balance	1,796.68	1,513.60
Surplus / Deficit	374.77	283.08
Closing Balance	2,171.45	1,796.68

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

23rd January 2026

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 2025 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.

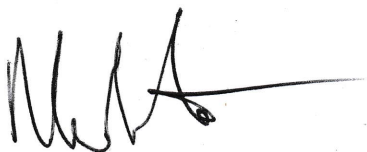
The reserves at the 31st December 2025 were £67,933 (excluding the building or any other assets that have been written off to expenses) plus £2,171 in the Luncheon Club.

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