



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2024	To	31	03	2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Pemberton Free Grace Church, Wigan

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1179175

Charity's principal address

Jireh Chapel,

Chapel Street, Orrell Road,

Orrell, Wigan

Postcode

WN5 0AG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Matthew Gray	Pastor & Elder		General Members' Meeting
2	Richard Waller	Deacon & Church Secretary		General Members' Meeting
3	Raymond Trainer	Overseeing Elder		General Members' Meeting
4	Trevor Condry	Overseeing Elder		General Members' Meeting
5				
6				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable incorporated organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by General Members' Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

We reviewed and made some updates to our Safeguarding policy. We also continued to renew our Safeguarding checks with volunteers and leaders.

We reviewed the value of our premises as regarding reinstatement and insurance valuation, and this was reflected at the time of our insurance renewal.

We continue to operate with our Serious Incident Reporting Policy, as well as having a Fire Safety policy alongside Risk Assessments and health and safety statements.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the Christian faith in accordance with our Basis of Faith primarily within Pemberton, Wigan and the surrounding area.

This also can include other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church, put into practice the Christian faith including the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

This year, the church continued to remain active throughout all seasons, and the ministry and work of the church continued to be well received and supported. The priority for our church remained the holding of services of worship in our premises, with services every Sunday throughout the year. Unlike many churches, we have continued to hold an evening service as well as a morning service. They have been of great benefit to people, and the increased numbers in attendance have continued. This has been encouraging.

We also held weekly Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer meetings. These meetings include times of prayer, where many prayer requests of particular importance to individuals, and the church congregation, are brought forward and prayed for.

During the year we continued to maintain our regular programme of other activities, including our Oasis craft and coffee morning group on Tuesdays, and Ladies Bible Study on Mondays. We also held a number of regular 'Walk and Talk' events on Saturdays monthly, giving people opportunity for exercise and friendship whilst enjoying open countryside. Our church premises of Jireh chapel are also used for a regular Christian Young Life group on Saturdays. During this year a local Board Games Club has also begun to meet in Jireh chapel regularly on Monday evenings. This is attended and organised by some church members, as well as a good number from the wider community. The children's after-school club for children aged 4-12 years, called Friday Club has continued to operate regularly throughout the year. This provides a safe and happy environment in which children are able to do fun games and activities, as well as learn interesting and important lessons from the Bible together. This has continued to benefit a number of children (and parents!) from our local community. These activities have meant that we were able to cater more specifically for a wider number of people in our community, from younger ones, to groups more particularly suitable for older people.

We have continued to provide recordings of our Sunday morning service each week, either uploaded to our church website, or distributed locally door to door on CDs by our pastor. This has been valuable contact and ministry to those who are unable to easily get out and attend our meetings physically.

We were also able to expand our evangelistic outreach during this year, by the appointment of a part-time evangelist, who is employed to carry out evangelistic gospel work in the Wigan area, on behalf of the church. We have continued to advertise our church, its activities and worship, to the general public via our website, as well as using social media, notice boards on the outside of the buildings, leaflets, fliers, and word of mouth. The Church advances Christian religion by the preaching of the Gospel, and dissemination of literature and word of mouth conversations. On occasions throughout the summer we held a 'literature table' outreach around shops in the local community precincts.

The church has continued to provide pastoral support and practical help to those with whom it has come into contact, who are in need.

Our pastor has also conducted some funeral services for people who were associated with the church and local community. These were conducted both on our premises, and elsewhere.

Our pastor was also able to go into a local school regularly to conduct assemblies, in the heart of the local community.

We had some special event days of particular focus, with speakers from the Christian Institute, and Missionary Organisations, as well as visiting speakers of interest from further afield. We held special fellowship lunches for our church anniversary weekend and Christmas carol service. The church has financially supported the work of Christian organisations in the UK and overseas.

During the year we have also considered significant matters to do with the improvement of our premises and amenities. This is still ongoing.

We have continued to play a very active role in a Lancashire regional fellowship of churches, and have both hosted and attended combined church events and meetings of this regional fellowship.

When planning and carrying out our activities, the trustees confirm that they have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the guidance for charities which are primarily concerned with the advancement of religion.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Our activities are carried out by both those who are paid employees, and those within the church who (when they are able) act as volunteers. Our church in its covenant of membership encourages the involvement of members in the active support of the church in its aims and objectives, not just by giving financially but by their active personal involvement as volunteers. Those who are volunteers, where it is appropriate, will have had the necessary DBS checks and suitability for their roles is assessed, according to role descriptions in our Safeguarding policy.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The church has provided:

- A suitable place of worship for persons in our locality to physically attend, in every week of the year.
- Weekly Christian worship services and teaching meetings which are also open to the public.
- Services of worship and prayer, on both Sunday mornings and evenings, as well as Wednesday evenings, for all who wished to attend, held at Rehoboth chapel.
- For those not able to attend our regular services, we made audio recordings of our services and distributed them both via CD in the local area to those who wanted them, and by uploading the audio recordings of our services to the church website, which is available to the general public.
- Regular outreach in the form of the Oasis group, a drop-in coffee morning with craft and baby-toddler facilities, for anyone in the local community to attend freely. This has been noticed and recommended by other charities.
- Holding a regular children's after-school activity club on Fridays, for children in the local community.
- Other regular outreach activities to accommodate more particular groups, such as Ladies Meetings, or for young people, as well as those with particular interests such as walking or playing board games. These have been done with the aim of fostering a good sense of community and social interaction.

Performance:

- The attendance at our worship services has continued to be maintained, and increased during the year.
- Members of the public who are not currently members of the church have also been regularly present in our services and other activities throughout the year. This we believe is important in the furtherance of our work.
- Although some of our members sadly passed away during the year, we have also added to our church membership this year, including a service of believer's baptism at Jireh chapel. Others have also expressing an interest in joining, which is encouraging.
- With the employment of a part-time evangelist since November 2024, we have also been able to increase and improve our gospel outreach and evangelism within the community, and the town of Wigan.
- We have continued to reach into the local community in a number of places and ways including local shopping areas and in local schools, and on its website, in addition to what is done on its own premises.
- During the year we have continued to maintain our premises to suitable standards, as well as making improvement to the disabled access ramp at Rehoboth chapel.
- We have also made enquiries and considered possibilities about significant improvement to the amenities in our church premises.
- We have continued to provide a warm space for people to meet in at all of the meetings of the church throughout the year, in all weathers, using our resources and the heating systems we have available.
- We have also continued to review our policies and procedures during the year, updating a number of them.
- The financial position of the charity has remained operable, with some increase to the giving. However, we continue to be aware of the need to provide against possible on-going deficits.

Section E

Financial review

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Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our aim as a charity is to look to keep at least six months' general income in our reserves (approx £14,000). At present, the level of our reserves is higher than this (circa £28,000). However, the reserves are at a reasonable level, because given the running deficit without external grants, they required in order to meet our projected financial obligations into the future.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N / A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

We received a grants from the Biddestone Trust during the year. However, this grant is not anticipated to continue in future financial years, and we are aware that in order to continue to operate without a significant running deficit, giving in future years will need to increase.

We also received grants from some other external evangelistic organisations. These were specifically earmarked for evangelistic purposes, and are being allocated in the employment of our part-time evangelist. In future years it is likely that if the evangelist shall continue in our employment, we may need to seek further grant funding.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	M. T. Gray	R. M Waller
Full name(s)	Matthew Tarus Gray	Richard Melvyn Waller
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Secretary

Date 15th August 2025

Pemberton Free Grace Church
Receipts and Payments Accounts
April 1st 2024 - March 31st 2025

A1 RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £	Total to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
General Offering	27,120		27,120	23,360
Donations	12,700		12,700	14,790
Donation for Renovation Project				56,000
Bank Interest	620	16	635	933
Ladies Bible Study Books				36
Gift Aid Claim (2022-23)				5,236
Gift Aid Claim (2023-24)	5,242		5,242	
Gift Aid Claim March-Dec(2024-25)	4,061	105	4,166	
Donations to Fellowship Fund		164		
Donations to Evangelist Fund		8,000		
Donations to Building Fund		20		
Total Earmarked Income		8,184	8,184	186
Total receipts	49,742	8,305	58,047	100,540

A3 PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £	Total to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Salaries & pension	28,101			27,293
Office Expenses	414			450
Travelling Expenses	612			286
Conference Expenses	280			213
Other preachers	595			875
Miscellaneous expenses	31			
Total Ministry	30,033		30,033	29,117
Utilities	1,918			4,456
Repairs and Maintenance	299			483
Total Jireh Building	2,217		2,217	4,939
Utilities	2,620			6,561
Repairs and Maintenance	167			349
Total Rehoboth Building	2,787		2,787	6,910
Rehoboth Renovation Project		2,330	2,330	53,737
Building Supplies	133		133	90
Evangelism	419		419	293
Insurance	2,028			1,515
Other	1,803			2,348
Total Other Expenses	3,831		3,831	3,863
Gifts to Missions	2,425		2,425	2,600
Evangelist Salary		1,514		
Evangelist Expenses		366		
Harvest Gift to Blythwood		575		
Fellowship Fund		90		
Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship		395		
Total Earmarked Expenditure		2,940	2,940	96
Total Payments	41,844	5,270	47,114	101,645
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,898	3,035	10,933	-1,105
A5 Transfers between Funds				
Blythwood		470		
Gen Fund	-470			
A6 Fund balances last year end	21,145	4,926	26,071	
Cash funds this year end	28,574	8,430	37,004	

Pemberton Free Grace Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash Funds	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £
General Fund	28,574	0
Fellowship Fund	0	502
Building Fund	0	494
Evangelist Fund	0	6,120
Renovation Fund	0	1,314
LRBF holding Fund (Formerly WLRBF)	0	0
Total Cash Funds	28,574	8,430

B4 Assets retained for the charities own use

	Fund to which asset belongs
Fixtures and fittings	General
Office equipment	General
Kitchen equipment	General
Hymn books and bibles	General

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following properties,
the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee -

Grace Baptist Trust Corporation and The Trustees of Rehoboth Chapel, Pemberton.

Jireh Chapel	£	65,000	on 18/06/18
Rehoboth Chapel	£	120,000	on 29/10/18

The above valuations represent market value as assessed by Parkinson Real Estate on the dates shown

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
M. T. Gray	Matthew Taurus Gray	9/5/25
R. M. Waller	Richard Melvyn Waller	9/5/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Pemberton Free Grace Church CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1179175

Set out on pages

7 and 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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.

Independent
examiner's statement

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.

Signed: W A Harrison

Date: 11/09/2025

Name: William Archie Harrison

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address: Apartment 37 Brunlees Court

19-23 Cambridge Road

Southport Merseyside PR9 9DH

Section B

Disclosure

No matters of concern.