

St Mark's Milton Keynes

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2025

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB

www.stewardship.org.uk

ST MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	11 Drakes Mews Crownhill Milton Keynes MK8 0ER
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 13 August 2018 Registered 26 September 2018
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1180087
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Iain Rowe (Appointed April 2024) Rvd Paul Oxley Jonathan Hyde Vicki Offin (Appointed April 2024)
KEY MANAGEMENT	R Lawrence P Oxley
BANKERS	HSBC UK Bank plc
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Lisa Darby FCA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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ST MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Formation

St Mark's Milton Keynes was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by a Constitution dated 13th August 2018 and has the Registered Charity Number 1180087.

Trustees

The trustees are the only voting members of the charity. They are not remunerated in any form for their services as trustees.

The existing trustees have the power to appoint new or additional trustees.

Under the terms of the Constitution, the trustees have the power to do anything which is calculated to further the objects of the charity or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The income and property of the charity must be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects.

As trustees, we have several key responsibilities:

1. Preparing financial statements for each accounting year that record the charity's receipts and payments.
2. Keeping proper accounting records that disclose the financial position of the charity accurately and ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011.
3. Safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps to prevent fraud or other irregularities.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission

Objects of the charity

The objects of the charity are, for the public benefit:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith, in accordance with the Statement of Faith, in Milton Keynes and such other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Charity Trustees may from time to time decide; and
2. The prevention and/or relief of poverty in particular, but not exclusively, by providing financial support to individuals in need, and charities or organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Introduction

This year has combined major challenges with real progress. Demand for our help continues to rise and the funding climate remains tight, yet we have seen meaningful steps forward that strengthen our response.

A major milestone was selecting, contracting, funding and moving into our first warehouse and dedicated office space at Drakes Mews. Years of careful saving, combined with grant support, allowed us to take this step without compromising our priorities. The new base has already improved stock control, volunteer coordination, delivery routes and everyday team cohesion. It is a place we are proud of and enjoy welcoming people into. It is a practical answer to growing need and a platform for future scale.

Thank you to everyone connected with St Marks, whether you serve weekly or occasionally. Staff, trustees, volunteers, church members, partners and funders have all played a part. What follows is a summary of the year against our charitable objectives.

We continue to report against our two core purposes: advancing the Christian faith and preventing or relieving poverty.

Faith advancement

Faith often grows quietly over time, so we look for signs of health rather than simple metrics. Our regular Sunday gathering pattern has settled well, with steady attendance and strong participation from children and young people. We remain committed to generosity as an expression of faith, supporting local partners through giving, serving and collaboration.

Following a year of acting in the role, Paul Oxley was formally appointed Area Dean of Milton Keynes in addition to his leadership of St Mark's. The trustees continue to ensure clear boundaries, appropriate time management and compliance with all relevant guidance.

At deanery level the Mission and Action Plan work has moved from design into delivery. We have been able to contribute experience from St Marks into wider planning that aims for growth, mission activity and community health over the next decade. As part of this we have begun to develop a strategy to resource similar church plants across the city.

Poverty relief

Our primary programme remains St Marks Meals. We continue to serve nearly 150 locations including schools, NHS GP surgeries, Social Prescribers, Social Enterprises, Alternative Education providers and Community Centres. Schools and partners consistently tell us that the ability to place meals into the hands of families the same day makes a tangible difference.

The move to Drakes Mews has been transformational for operations. Increased storage and racking, safer loading, clearer picking, and better access for volunteers have shortened turnaround times and reduced waste. The new base is also more welcoming for training sessions and partner visits.

Locally, the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Partnership continues to develop. We hosted a cross-sector gathering to align priorities and have supported the development of a local community audit approach that will inform targeted action in the coming period. We also maintained links with the Open University, including the Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership, and participated in other research and learning initiatives.

Other developments

We sustained our commitment to creating safe spaces for survivors of abuse. Paul hosted and compered the Milton Keynes White Ribbon Vigil, and we continued our work as a White Ribbon supporter organisation. Staff and volunteer training, signposting information and safeguarding practice have been reviewed and strengthened.

Financial review

The year included a planned capital investment to establish the Drakes Mews warehouse and office. This was funded through a mix of grants and designated reserves that we have intentionally built over several years for this purpose. While the move increased costs in the short term, early operational efficiencies and improved coordination are already visible. We will continue to monitor benefits and costs across the next period.

Outside of building expenses, the Meals project saw a small overspend due to the rising costs of food and a small downturn in income. Reserves covered this overspend with no concern and the Trustees have met with the leadership team to assist with planning to increase income to the project.

The wider funding environment remains challenging. Even so, a combination of faithful regular giving, successful grant applications and focused fundraising meant we were able to meet obligations and maintain prudent reserves in line with policy. We remain disciplined about internal controls, risk management and value for money.

During the year income increased by £17,762, to £172,995, and expenditure increased by £24,001, to £180,663. As a result, the cash held by the charity decreased by £7,668 to £75,041, of which £9,218 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose

Our thanks go to staff, trustees, volunteers, and all supporters who have contributed to this positive outcome. The trustees regularly review and monitor the charity's activities to mitigate risks, with appropriate procedures in place for ongoing evaluation. We are confident in the continued health and success of St Marks over the coming year and do not foresee any significant threats.

Reserves policy

We look to always hold approx £20,000 or 3 months unrestricted expenditure in reserve. As will be clear in this report, and has been clear in our communication as a charity throughout the year, we have not always been able to achieve this, but end the year in a much more positive position than we have been. Deep analysis of giving trends and spending patterns by the trustees has led to new insights and the ability to plan our activity within a 'rebuilding budget' has emerged.

Risk Statement

As trustees we continue to review and monitor the risks to which we consider the charity to be exposed - either currently or in the future. Appropriate procedures and plans are actively engaged with, and reviews regularly take place. We consider the charity's finances to be in a good place and are confident of our financial longevity into 2025, 2006 and beyond.

Closing

We thank all those who dedicate their time and energies to St Marks, those in our staff, volunteers and trustees.

We look ahead with realism and hope. The needs in our city are significant, yet the opening of Drakes Mews gives us new capacity to respond. With God's help, and with the continued partnership of our supporters and friends, we will keep advancing faith and reducing the impact of poverty in Milton Keynes.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Paul Oxley

Paul Oxley (Dec 23, 2025 14:20:09 GMT)

.....
Rev Paul Oxley
Chair of Trustees

Date: Dec 23, 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
ST MARK'S MILTON KEYNES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mark's Milton Keynes ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 7 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Lisa Darby
Lisa Darby (Dec 24, 2025 10:01:16 GMT)

Lisa Darby FCA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Dec 24, 2025

ST MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted General Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Notes		£	£	£	£
Income receipts					
Donations and grants		45,842	5,204	51,046	74,508
Gift aid receipts		11,913	-	11,913	10,941
St Marks Meals		-	80,269	80,269	69,636
Grants towards rental		-	29,741	29,741	-
Other		26	-	26	148
Total receipts		57,781	115,214	172,995	155,233
Payments					
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	54,230	122,233	176,463	152,419
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	4,200	-	4,200	4,243
Total payments		58,430	122,233	180,663	156,662
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers					
		(649)	(7,019)	(7,668)	(1,429)
Transfers between funds		(7)	7	-	-
Net movement in funds		(656)	(7,012)	(7,668)	(1,429)
Cash funds as at last year end	6	9,874	72,835	82,709	84,138
Cash funds at this year end	A	9,218	65,823	75,041	82,709

Closing balances for 2024 have been restated by £148 due to processing issues with a prepayment card in 2024. See note 6.

The notes on pages 9 - 10 form part of these accounts.

ST MARK'S MILTON KEYNES
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted General funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 £	2024 £
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access - Co-Op Bank	7,438	65,823	73,260	81,765
Cash at bank with immediate access - Soldo	1,780	-	1,780	944
	9,218	65,823	75,041	82,709
B Other monetary assets				
Deposit on Drakes Mews	7,085	-	7,085	-
	7,085	-	7,085	-
C Debtors & Liabilities				
HMRC payroll debtor	-	-	-	-
Gift aid debtor	1,464	-	1,464	5,406
Fee for Independent Examination (liability)	804	804	1,608	1,250
	2,268	804	3,072	6,656
D Guarantees and secured debts				

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

By: Paul Oxley
Paul Oxley (Dec 23, 2025 14:20:09 GMT)

Date: Dec 23, 2025

Rev Paul Oxley
Chair

The notes on pages 9 - 10 form part of these accounts.

ST MARK'S MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	Unrestricted General funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Staff salaries and pensions (Note 4)	26,725	39,366	66,091	70,711
Staff expenses	873	54	926	876
St Marks Meals food & packaging expenses	62	47,120	47,182	41,361
St Marks Meals fundraising expenses	-	1,523	1,523	527
St Marks Meals rent expenses	299	6,089	6,388	5,989
St Marks Meals other expenses	-	10,296	10,296	5,596
Deanery expenses	820	158	979	-
Sanctuary expenses	274	-	274	180
Warehouse expenses (Drakes Mews)	-	16,878	16,878	-
Property costs (Note 2a and 4)	10,831	-	10,831	10,750
Minor equipment	2,212	-	2,212	1,707
Administration expenses	3,685	-	3,685	5,652
Events and outreach activities	7,169	-	7,169	8,198
Work among the young	530	-	530	-
Accounts & independent examination	750	750	1,500	1,020
Gifts	-	-	-	2,000
Other costs	-	-	-	2,243
	<u>54,230</u>	<u>122,233</u>	<u>176,463</u>	<u>156,810</u>
2 (a) Property costs comprise:				
Church of England Parish share Manse	10,831	-	10,831	10,750
	<u>10,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,831</u>	<u>10,750</u>
3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others				
Grants for:				
Mission	4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Relief of poverty	-	-	-	43
	<u>4,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>4,243</u>

4 Transactions with related parties

Paul Oxley, a trustee, was paid a salary of £22,737 (2024: £27,548) and pension contributions of £1,171 (2024: £1,377). These payments were made in the capacity of serving as a member of the charity's staff and not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

In addition the charity incurred expenditure totalling £10,831 (2024: £10,750) in respect of the provision of accommodation (which is customary for ministers) to Paul Oxley, who is a trustee so that they could better perform their duties.

5 Movement on restricted funds

	Balance at 31.03.24	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.03.25
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	9,874	57,781	(58,430)	(7)	9,218
	<u>9,874</u>	<u>57,781</u>	<u>(58,430)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	<u>9,218</u>
Restricted funds					
St Marks Meals	72,617	80,269	(100,144)	-	52,742
Drakes Mews	-	29,741	(16,878)	-	12,864
Acts of Kindness	39	-	-	-	39
Deanery Salaries and expenses	-	5,204	(5,211)	7	(0)
Hardship	146	-	-	-	146
Sanctuary	33	-	-	-	33
	<u>72,835</u>	<u>115,214</u>	<u>(122,233)</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>65,823</u>
Total funds	<u>82,709</u>	<u>172,995</u>	<u>(180,663)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,041</u>

St Marks Meals' provides meals for children and families in schools and children's centres across Milton Keynes who are in need. This is an ongoing project and restricted funds are carried forward.

Drakes Mews is the premises used for St Mark's Meals and payments are for rental.

Hardship Fund and "Acts of Kindness" provides those in need with gifts.

Deanery salaries and expenses provided payments for four hours of admin support weekly.

Sanctuary is a local network of churches seeking to become safe spaces led by safe leaders who respond well to survivors of domestic abuse.

6 Re-stating of opening balances

During the prior year ended 31st March 2024, there were some issues with the church issued SOLDO card, whereby some payments were not synching properly. Trustees addressed this matter directly with the company during 2024 and issues have since been resolved, however the closing balance in 2024 was left with an error of £148.47. Closing balances for 2024 in these accounts have therefore been restated by £148.47 to account for the error.