

South Street Free Church

Registered Charity Number 1182375

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2025

South Street Free Church
For the year ended 30 June 2025

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CHURCH INFORMATION

Trustees

David Batchelor (Chair)
Anthony Thompson
Bruce Elkington

Appointed 4 August 2024

Charity number

1182375

Address

South Street Free Church
21 South Street
Eastbourne
BN21 4UP

Independent Examiner

Colin Dadswell FCA FCCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Report of the trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025.

1 Objectives and activities

The objectives of the CIO are to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement of beliefs primarily (but not exclusively) in Eastbourne.

2 Structure, governance and management

South Street Free Church is a CIO governed by its Constitution registered with the Charity Commission on the 7 March 2019.

The trustees who served during the year were:

David Batchelor (Chair)
Anthony Thompson
Bruce Elkington (appointed 4 August 2024)

The Church is run by the trustees. New trustees are appointed from the elders and deacons of the Church, in accordance with section 15 of our Constitution.

3 Review of Activities

This year our church has continued its regular ministry of public worship on Sundays, morning and evening (with a preaching series in the first book of Psalms, and a series in John's Gospel), continuing to live stream these services online across the year. We also continued our weekly prayer meetings when we pray for the needs of both those in the church and those outside the church. The prayer meeting on the first Tuesday of the month has been held on Zoom to enable some in distant places to be able to join with us in Christian fellowship and prayer (the family we support in Moldova, a pastor in India in an area where Christians face persecution for their faith, and a pastor in St Ives, Cornwall, at a sibling-congregation within the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion).

Our outreach to the community with the Good News of Jesus has continued weekly throughout the year, with leafleting in the town centre. Monthly services at a local care home have continued across the year, aiming to take the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to their residents and staff (though unfortunately that care home has now closed).

The church has continued running its annual 'Shoe Bags' project, in which it prepares and sends packages of Christmas gifts to children in Sierra Leone who would otherwise receive no Christmas presents.

Our church's women's group (called Refresh) which is open to women both who are regular church attendees and those who are not, has met four times across the year, and been an encouragement and benefit to those that have attended, looking at the first two chapters of Colossians.

We have also continued our regular support of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team (who seek to prevent suicides at Beachy Head), the Sierra Leone Mission, PARCHE (who coordinate teams taking Christian services in Eastbourne's care homes), SASRA (who seek to minister the Christian Good News amongst the armed forces), Care Sri Lanka, and the Slavic Gospel Association (who work in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Far East Russia).

During the year, there was some significant expenditure on building repairs that were necessary for safety reasons.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

3 Review of Activities (continued)

In summary, we thank the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for all that He has enabled us to do in His service over the course of this year. As we have done over the year that's past, so we continue to trust in Him, and to seek to please Him depending on His Spirit, looking to Him to provide for all His church's needs over the coming year. May the great and wonderful name of Jesus Christ be honoured and glorified through us.

4 Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Church should undertake.

5 Financial review

These financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. There was a net deficit on funds for the year of £2,517 (2024: deficit of £18,525) leaving a balance on cash funds of £28,336 at 30 June 2025 (2024: £30,853).

The Church has a reserve policy of ensuring at least three months of annual expenditure is held in reserve, in order for the church to be able to meet its financial commitments to its paid employee(s).

6 Risk Management

The trustees continually consider the major risks to which the Church is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to these risks.

On behalf of the Trustees



David Batchelor
Pastor

Date: 14/9/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South Street Free Church CIO

I report to the trustees of the church on my examination of the accounts of South Street Free Church ('the CIO') for the period ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

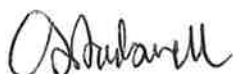
I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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 respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Colin Dadswell FCA FCCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 15/09/2025

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
<u>Receipts</u>						
Gifts and donations	53,665	22,243	75,908	48,114	21,224	69,338
Gift Aid tax repayments	7,363	2,929	10,292	8,023	3,296	11,319
Grants	7,105	-	7,105	-	-	-
Interest received	486	-	486	795	-	795
Total receipts	68,619	25,172	93,791	56,932	24,520	81,452
<u>Payments</u>						
Missionary Fund Tithe	-	5,884	5,884	-	5,898	5,898
Gifts/Grants	-	9,051	9,051	156	3,630	3,786
Training	-	-	-	30	-	30
Salaries and wages	34,879	-	34,879	34,050	19,080	53,130
Pension contributions	3,778	-	3,778	3,358	719	4,077
Ministerial pulpit supplies	2,078	-	2,078	3,663	-	3,663
Conference costs	665	-	665	715	-	715
Travel expenses	-	-	-	80	-	80
Subsistence costs	-	-	-	-	110	110
Heat & light	1,548	-	1,548	6,790	-	6,790
Water rates	519	-	519	295	-	295
Insurances	1,416	-	1,416	1,363	-	1,363
Caretaking and cleaning	1,638	-	1,638	1,560	-	1,560
Building repairs & maintenance	20,867	-	20,867	2,426	662	3,088
Telephone & internet	645	-	645	690	-	690
Website and IT costs	1,271	-	1,271	912	-	912
Publicity costs	35	-	35	33	-	33
Missionary and evangelism	353	9,188	9,541	336	9,467	9,803
Equipment purchases & repairs	10	-	10	1,424	-	1,424
Catering costs	366	-	366	261	-	261
Miscellaneous	400	585	985	1,135	42	1,177
Accountancy	984	-	984	936	-	936
Bank charges	123	25	148	156	-	156
Total payments	71,575	24,733	96,308	60,369	39,608	99,977
Net receipts/(payments)	(2,956)	439	(2,517)	(3,437)	(15,088)	(18,525)
Cash funds at 1 July 2024	22,103	8,750	30,853	25,540	23,838	72,624
Cash funds at 30 June 2025	19,147	9,189	28,336	22,103	8,750	30,853

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Cash funds</u>	2025	2024
	£	£
CAF Current Account 00011621	11,029	8,134
CAF Deposit Account 00088691	17,307	22,719
	<u>28,336</u>	<u>30,853</u>
<u>Other monetary assets</u>		
Gift Aid tax reclaim due	5,424	5,022
<u>Non monetary assets</u>		
Freehold Property - 21 South Street		
Held by The Countess of Huntingdon Connexion	-	-
Fixtures and Equipment (At Insurance Valuation)	27,773	27,773
<u>Liabilities</u>		
PAYE and pension creditors	-	738
Independent examination fee	1,026	984
	<u>1,026</u>	<u>1,722</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 14/9/2025 and signed on its behalf by

David Batchelor
Pastor



Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives, unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

3 Trustees

Donations from trustees, and related parties, were £12,565 during the year (2024: £15,010). David Batchelor received a salary of £34,879 (2024: £34,157) and the church paid pension contributions of £3,778 (2024: £3,358), in his role as Pastor of the Church.

4 Related Party Transactions

The daughter of trustee David Batchelor received payments amounting to £1,638 (2024: £1,560) for cleaning during the year.

5 Restricted Funds

	Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 July 2023	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 30 June 2024	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 30 June 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary	-	385	(135)	250	175	(130)	295
Tithe	1,368	6,096	(5,898)	1,566	6,384	(5,884)	2,066
MEF	15,340	5,451	(20,009)	782	-	-	782
Shoe Bags	871	757	(1,067)	561	730	(788)	503
SLM	1,455	3,846	(3,235)	2,066	2,090	(3,111)	1,045
Other	571	325	(692)	204	5,928	(3,705)	2,427
Ewelina	2,419	7,380	(8,400)	1,399	7,650	(8,400)	649
Social	1,814	280	(172)	1,922	2,215	(2,715)	1,422
	23,838	24,520	(39,608)	8,750	25,172	(24,733)	9,189

Missionary Fund - donations for various Missionary causes.

Tithe Fund - one tenth of General fund offerings to be given away to worthwhile causes.

Ministry Expansion Fund (MEF) - to employ an evangelist.

Shoe Bags - a fund to send shoe bags with toys and clothing to Sierra Leone each year.

Sierra Leone Mission (SLM) - missionary work of the Countess of Huntingdon Connexion.

Other - this fund relates to special offerings.

Ewelina - to fund the support of a Church Missionary worker.

Social - used to support people who come to the Church seeking food or other support.

