

Registered Charity No: 1186867

**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**



**Caladine**

Chartered Certified Accountants



**HOPE CHURCH**  
SITTINGBOURNE

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

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**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
**CHARITY NUMBER #1186867**

**Trustees' Report**  
for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

**The Trust & Trustees**

Hope Church Sittingbourne is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission (#1186867).

Hope Church Sittingbourne was officially registered as a CIO on 10th December 2019 and continues to function as a local church within the Relational Mission family, part of the wider Newfrontiers network.

The Trustees of the Hope Church Sittingbourne CIO during this reporting period were:

- Christine Monica Willmott – Chair of Trustees
- Jite Ufuoma Idowu – Trustee & Safeguarding Lead
- Elizabeth Gregory – Trustee
- Emmanuel Samuel – Trustee & Treasurer

In August 2025, Emmanuel Samuel undertook the role of Treasurer, alongside his role as a Trustee.

We remain incredibly thankful for the consistent and prayerful service of our trustees. Their wisdom, pastoral sensitivity, and governance oversight continue to be invaluable in this season of growth and development. All current trustees have been DBS checked, and we are actively exploring formalising procedures for future appointments in line with best practice and Charity Commission guidance.

**Trust Objectives**

The object of the CIO is for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Sittingbourne, Kent, and in such other areas as the charity Trustees may from time to time decide.

Hope Church Sittingbourne exists to grow & multiply the HOPE of Jesus in the hearts of everyone, everywhere, every day.

We aspire to reproduce disciples who: Honour Jesus, Obey His Word, Pray beyond themselves, and live as Everyone a Witness. We gather in homes and public places as well as weekly on Sundays to hear and obey the Word of God. We seek to bring the light and love of Jesus to our town through worship, discipleship, mission, and community engagement.

**Premises**

Hope Church Sittingbourne does not lease or own any property. Our church office and registered CIO address remains the home of Gordon Watson, the church leader, and is used for administrative purposes.

For the accounting year, we continued to host our primary Sunday gatherings at Meadowfield School, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 4NL. We are thankful for the partnership and provision of this great venue.

**Membership**

We do not currently operate a formal membership structure. However, we continue to foster a strong sense of belonging and shared mission among those who regularly participate in the life of the church. Our current regular attendance stands at approximately 65 adults, including approximately 20 children and young people under the age of 18.

## HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE

### CHARITY NUMBER #1186867

#### Finances

Gordon Watson remained our sole employee throughout 2025, serving both Hope Church Sittingbourne and the wider Relational Mission family, in particular as part of Stef Liston's apostolic support team.

We made no major capital investments this year and continued our regular monthly giving to Relational Mission as in previous years.

We continued to support the Spocchia family as part of their ongoing ministry with Good News Church Sheppey. We also continued to support our local CAP Debt Centre, Swale Foodbank, and Sittingbourne Street Pastors.

We were privileged to support overseas mission with one-off gifts to:

- Carmel Ministries, India.
- Enabling delegates to engage with a conference hosted in the 10/40 window.
- Raising funds for our ID students overseas mission trips.

In the autumn of 2025, we had three Gift Days, aiming to raise funds towards:

1. Releasing Emmanuel Samuel into vocational employment with the church (initially 1-day per week).
2. Purchasing equipment for our Worship & Tech Teams.
3. Supporting those participating in LEAD training.
4. Investing in new Sunday facing resources (roller banners, A-frames, welcome packs, printed literature).

#### Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees has established a policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover short-term cashflow and any immediate liabilities, including in the event of a sudden drop in income or the closure of the charity. Our current reserves target remains at £5,000.

#### Overview of Church Life and Activities

**ID Interns:** Our two ID interns, Lily Bays and Troy Hudson, completed their ID year in the summer of 2025. Highlights included mission trips to North Africa and Scandinavia, where they had the privilege of serving the wider church and experiencing global mission firsthand. We are thankful for their wholehearted commitment to the local church during their internships.

**Elders Appointment:** On Sunday, 13th April 2025, we reached a significant milestone with the appointment of our first eldership team. Supported by the church family and guests Adam Voke and Stef Liston, this moment established a firm New Testament foundation for Hope Church Sittingbourne, marking our transition from a church-plant to a church.

**Lily Bays:** Following the completion of her ID year, Lily Bays has stayed on to serve the church in a voluntary capacity one day per week. In a similar arrangement to her internship year, Lily is assisting with church administration, systems, and communications, while also providing emerging administrative support to Gordon Watson.

**Midweek Training:** Our autumn training season provided a fruitful season of equipping for the church family. Short courses on theology (Emmanuel Samuel), prophetic ministry (Natalie Watson), and evangelism (Ade Samuel) were delivered, and it was incredibly encouraging to see people being equipped and stepping out in their giftings with increasing confidence.

**Alpha Course:** The Alpha Course in September 2025 was a significant highlight. It was a joy to see this small group come alive in their faith, with every delegate making a personal decision for Jesus. We continue to pray for them as they begin their journey as disciples. We give thanks to Ade and Emmanuel Samuel and Rob Fletcher for facilitating the Alpha Course.

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**Youth & Young Adults:** We began preparing to multiply our youth and young adults into two age-appropriate groups (ages 10–17 and 18–30) to create dedicated age-appropriate contexts which helps us appropriately safeguard. A leadership team for the Young Adults has been established, and we aim for a Hope Youth team to form in 2026.

#### Training

We invested in leadership development through:

- Releasing & hosting Lily Bays and Troy Hudson as interns via the Intentional Discipleship year-long training programme, delivered by Relational Mission.
- Sending Leslie Moyo & Gill Hope on the Relational Mission LEAD 2-year training course (October 2025 to July 2027).
- UP: The Urban Planting School (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Camden), with 40 students from across 3 nations. Gordon Watson serves as the UP Course Director, with Natalie Watson participating both as a support to Gordon and as a student.
- Sending Gordon Watson, Adam Gregory, and Emmanuel Samuel together onto the Shepherd training programme (October 2024 to June 2026), as part of our preparation to appoint our first eldership team in 2025.

#### Local Mission

**Sittingbourne:** We remained actively engaged in local compassion and justice initiatives through our ongoing partnership with Swale CAP Debt Centre, Swale Foodbank, and ACTS435. This includes regular financial contributions and the involvement of several volunteers from within the church family to support these ministries. We also began to support and serve the new Street Pastors initiative, which launched in 2025.

**Swale:** We are encouraged by the deepening friendship and meaningful partnership forming between the three Relational Mission churches in our local area of Swale: Hope Church Sittingbourne, Good News Church Sheppey, and Faversham Community Church.

#### Overseas Mission

We had the joy of hosting visiting international guests, including Ebenezer & Isaac Sastry (India), and Paul Wichterman (USA), each of whom encouraged the church and contributed to our vision for local and global mission.

#### Partnership with Relational Mission

We continued to deepen our relationship with Relational Mission in 2025. Key highlights included:

**SENT 2025:** Several of our young adults attended Sent 2025 in Ipswich. This annual gathering continues to be a wonderful time of encouragement, providing our young people with a vision for revival and radical discipleship.

**RM Globally Fruitful:** Gordon and Natalie Watson were invited to the inaugural RM Globally Fruitful gathering. This event brought together trans-local ministries serving the Relational Mission family across the UK, Europe, and the nations for encouragement and equipping.

**ELF2025:** Gordon Watson was invited as part of a Relational Mission delegation to serve at the European Leadership Forum, hosted in Wisla, Poland between 17<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Gordon was responsible for developing an 8-session advanced training stream on leadership and urban mission, primarily delivered by Stef Liston.

**Newday:** Our Youth & Young Adults attended Newday 2025, the national youth event held each summer at the Norfolk Showground. Over 15 young people and leaders from Hope Church Sittingbourne joined with friends from New Life Church Tunbridge Wells to share a camping village and journey through the week together.

**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
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**More Together:** A group of around 20 from our congregation attended the More Together Festival at Trinity Park, Ipswich. It was a joy to share our site with our three Swale churches, whilst gathering with over 1,000 others from the wider Relational Mission family for worship, teaching, and time together. It was a joy to have several of our party serving the wider event; stewarding, offering First Aid support, delivering seminars and hosting main meetings.

**Pioneer Europe Conference:** Gordon Watson and Lily Bays attended the Relational Mission Pioneer Europe conference in September. This was a key component of Lily's 'Called 2 Go' year, and it was a privilege for Gordon to support Lily's development while connecting with the wider Relational Mission family from across Europe.

**God's Light Church, Lublin:** Gordon first met Pastor Igor Bubin at ELF2025, and was subsequently invited in October 2025 to visit God's Light Church in Lublin, Poland. It was a fruitful time of connection and ministry with this beautiful Ukrainian national church. Gordon was able to serve their church community over the weekend and forge meaningful relationships with their leadership and congregation.

**Summary & future outlook**

2025 has been a foundational year for Hope Church Sittingbourne, marked by significant leadership maturation and spiritual growth. The appointment of our first eldership team in April established a vital New Testament structure for our governance and future development, while our midweek training and Alpha courses saw individuals deepened in their faith and others making first-time commitments to Jesus. With a stable core attendance of approximately 65 adults and the successful completion of our ID internship programme, the church has demonstrated a vibrant commitment to its primary object: the advancement of the Christian faith and the reproduction of disciples who honour Jesus and serve their community.

Externally, the charity has extended its impact through robust partnerships with Relational Mission and local compassion initiatives, including the Swale Foodbank and CAP Debt Centre. Our financial stewardship remains healthy, bolstered by successful Gift Days in the autumn that will enable us to invest in vocational staffing and worship technology upgrades in 2026.

As we look toward 2026, the Trustees are encouraged by the church's generosity and the deepening of our international mission connections. We remain committed to our strategic vision, praying for continued growth and the multiplication of *hope* across Sittingbourne and beyond.

Christine Willmott

23/05/2026

Signed.....

Dated .....

**Trustee**

Christine Willmott

**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**CHARITY INFORMATION**

<b><u>Address</u></b>	32 Homewood Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1XW
<b><u>Charity number</u></b>	1186867
<b><u>Charity trustees</u></b>	C Willmott E Samuel E Gregory J Idowu
<b><u>Bankers</u></b>	Nat West Bank plc PO Box 209 Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4AU
<b><u>Independent examiner</u></b>	J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chartered Certified Accountants Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hope Church Sittingbourne**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hope Church Sittingbourne for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

**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 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 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 Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



**J R Caladine FCCA**  
Caladine Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road  
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 2 June 2026



**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
**Receipts & Payments Account - Year Ended 31 December 2025**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Giving (Gift Aided)	54,659.09	47,403.75
Giving (Non Gift Aided)	724.34	2,872.00
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	13,299.24	12,488.88
Financial Support	-	300.00
ACTS 435 income	400.00	755.00
Refunded expenditure	387.85	174.09
Other income	40.35	116.40
Sunday offering	651.02	-
Special offering	2,055.00	1,800.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>72,216.89</b>	<b>65,910.12</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Employee wages and salaries	33,414.60	33,406.80
Pension	2,527.20	2,527.20
Travelling	4,579.15	1,969.05
Hotel and Accomodation	852.88	1,445.39
Printing & Marketing	-	102.95
Office Stationery & Admin	94.39	215.55
Internet Charges	503.05	369.57
Computer & software	835.21	868.17
Mobile Charges	246.15	413.62
Business Insurance	416.88	399.04
Equipment	329.20	896.72
Books bought	50.21	-
Sunday Costs	716.47	867.30
Food & drink	961.92	348.06
Tithe to Relational Mission	2,400.00	2,400.00
Crisis/Family Fund	41.85	126.78
Gift (visiting speakers)	980.00	1,130.08
Gift (missional support)	3,220.00	2,320.00
Gift (special offering)	2,810.00	2,652.50
Gift (pastoral reasons)	200.00	57.50
Gifts (Thank you)	59.40	523.66
CAP Life Skills	720.00	720.00
Miscellaneuos expenses	526.40	954.50
Subscriptions	318.20	183.00
DBS/Safeguarding	192.30	265.84
Training Costs	4,689.00	7,352.50
Conference tickets	1,327.67	669.50
Venue/Hall hire	4,297.50	5,243.50
Storage	-	556.51
Independent examiner	720.00	220.00
ACTS 435 expenditure	398.96	620.00
Office Equipment and IT - cost	-	-
Events	2,286.61	1,745.83
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>70,715.20</b>	<b>71,571.12</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Expenditure</b>	<b>1,501.69</b>	<b>(5,661.00)</b>
<b>General Fund Balance brought forward</b>	<b>5,581.81</b>	<b>11,242.81</b>
<b>General Fund Balance carried forward</b>	<b>7,083.50</b>	<b>5,581.81</b>

**Hope Church Sittingbourne**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities - As At 31 December 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Bank Balances		
- #1 Main Account	2,447.16	2,144.51
- #2 Hope CAP Funds	839.80	689.80
- #3 Training & Future Staffing	1.00	2,250.00
- #4 Reserve Fund	3,332.50	497.50
- #5 Crisis/Family Fund	463.04	-
	<u>7,083.50</u>	<u>5,581.81</u>
 <b>Non-Monetary Assets</b>		
Assets		
Office Equipment and IT - cost	1,286.38	1,286.38
PA Equipment	2,452.93	2,452.93
	<u>3,739.31</u>	<u>3,739.31</u>
 Debtors		
HMRC Gift Aid claim - December 2024	<u>1,900.59</u>	<u>1,048.11</u>
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors		
Independent Examination	<u>756.00</u>	<u>720.00</u>

AC 1018

Christine Willmott

23/05/2026

Signed on behalf of Hope Church Sittingbourne

**HOPE CHURCH SITTINGBOURNE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**1. Accounts basis**

The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

**2. Funds Movement Note**

	<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Carried Forward</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unrestricted Funds	2,144.51	83,762.15	(83,459.50)		2,447.16
Hope CAP Funds	689.80	1,609.80	(1,459.80)	-	839.80
Training & Future Staffing Fund	2,250.00	3,454.50	(5,703.50)	-	1.00
Reserve Fund	497.50	13,075.95	(10,240.95)	-	3,332.50
ACTS 435/Crisis/Family Fund	-	900.00	(436.96)	-	463.04
	<b>5,581.81</b>	<b>102,802.40</b>	<b>(101,300.71)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,083.50</b>

**3. Related Party Note**

None of the Trustees, or any persons connected to them, received any remuneration or benefits from the charity (2024: nil).

**4. Trustee Donations**

During 2025, the serving trustees contributed a combined total of £19,762.40 (2024: £15,941.35) in financial giving, which we gratefully acknowledge.