



Annual Report

2025



Derby Urban Church's Vision and Values

One church with many congregations. The vision for Derby Urban Church is to grow one church with many congregations of different sizes, styles and people but still all connected to the one church.

These are our four values:

More. By sharing what we each have, and not duplicating, we look for more:

- more expressions of God's Kingdom; *and*
- more people hearing the good news of salvation and transformation through Jesus; *and*
- more people using their gifts of grace given by the Holy Spirit; *and*
- more growing and learning together in Christ; *and*
- more fun, laughter and celebration; *and*
- more standing together through good and bad times as a united family; *and*
- more serving and loving God, each other, and our neighbour; *and*
- more time for worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship and mission; *and*
- more growth by multiplying.

Multiplying the smaller to grow the Kingdom (mustard seeds). Rather than trying to build one large church or congregation, the vision is to build lots of smaller slowly growing congregations of equal value. Inspired by Jesus' parable of the mustard seed which grows into a great tree, we seek to grow God's kingdom in this way through mission. We look to care, share faith and disciple people better in smaller congregations, enabled by being part of something larger.

Belonging to God, congregation and church (the vine). Finding a place of belonging in a Derby Urban Church congregation with its distinctive identity is important, but to be one church we also seek to value and care about all of the other congregations. Inspired by Jesus' saying about being connected to the vine, we seek to remain connected to God as well as each other. We expect this to lead to wonderfully unexpected opportunities as the Holy Spirit inspires us, and sometimes lead to new Derby Urban Church ministries and congregations being formed or existing ones join with us.

Urban. Wherever God leads us in the future, Derby Urban Church has been birthed and has its origins in the inner city urban areas of our city. This is an important part of who we are.

Summary of the Year

2025 was again a year of growth as Derby Urban Church moved forward. There are updates on all our congregations and ministries later in this report. For Derby Urban Church Activities, the Pentecost Worship Service and AGM was the biggest service and a highlight of the year. We had three other church meetings – at Pancake Day, in July and our Harvest Supper. Everyone from DUC was welcome to our regular Saturday Church walks which continued as a monthly feature of the programme. The Big Quiz to raise money for TearFund was held in the autumn. Building on years of experience training future leaders for Roma churches through “School of the Holy Spirit”, we started a “Growing Leaders” course for people from Ozzy Road, Boulton Lane and Friends United in Jesus (FUJ) congregations.

In terms of our administration, ‘the Trellis’, there was progress on practical matters. Mary kindly continued to edit Orbit, our monthly church magazine and the distribution increased during the year to people from across the DUC family. We continued to store our records and use email communications through ChurchSuite to improve our efficiency and for GDPR compliance. We continued to use UKChurches for our website.

Congregations Updates

- Ozzy Road is the original and founding congregation of DUC, with a weekly Sunday morning service, midweek groups and children’s work that grew through the year. Youth on Sunday mornings started in the autumn with a youth alpha course. Ozzy Road started 2025 with the covenant service and shared meal after the service. Nigeria day was celebrated with a service planned and led by people from Nigeria followed by a shared meal, with plans to share regularly about nations we are now connected with and celebrate International Day in future. Preaching series included covering the book of Hebrews. The established pattern of midweek pattern of prayer, Bible study and worship continued also with both Lent and Advent courses which were held jointly with Boulton Lane Baptist Church. We had one baptism service in the year at Ozzy Road congregation’s service. There were a number of new people who joined us during the year and it was great to see this growth.
- **Friends United In Jesus (FUJ)** was set up in 2020 and continued steadily through 2025. The services used parts of The Chosen video to prompt discussion and prayer, and also did a series on the book of Romans. This unique congregation comprises many people who have struggled with housing or addiction issues in their lives. One member of FUJ was baptised at Green Pastures homeless hostel with members of FUJ

present.

- **City Youth Church (CYC)** joined DUC in 2020. This congregation meets on Friday evenings and is a lively group of young people, with a worship service in Slovakian, Roma and English. Due to the change in the group, they renamed themselves City Your Church as some of the original youth are now married with children.
- **Glory of Christ Jesus Church (GCJC)** started on Saturday mornings this year. This weekly group is led by Asmerom and is for Eritrean/Habesha families. Although this group is very small, this has led to building a relationship with the wider Eritrean community.
- At the start of the year we continued to work closely with **Boulton Lane Baptist Church** and on 20th April 2025 the formal amalgamation was officially finalised by the solicitors. We continued to hold family services at both Girls Brigade and Scouts at least twice per term at Boulton Lane.

DUC worked with our associate congregations through the year: with Zoe Church we ran a Roma Families Warm Hub, in partnership with the St James' Centre at the end of the year and into 2026. We raised awareness of the Roma community and funds for a mission to Slovakia through a meal, entertainment and testimony event with Zoe church. With GLAM we supported the Heart for India ministry mentioned below. The amalgamation with Boulton Lane allowed the Congelese congregation which had become too big for the building to move to Ozzy Road, and we look forward to building closer relationships with them in 2026.

Ministries

- **Social Enterprise** – Transform Window Cleaning started this year which has a quicker start up time and more regular repeat customers than Car Valeting. This has taken off quickly with lots of repeat customers, and investigated adding gutter cleaning to what is on offer. We are looking to expand this to more residents of Green Pastures homeless hostel, and possibly the job centre for work experience.
- The **eBay shop** now meets on Mondays and has a great sense of community, as well as raising funds for the church.
- **USED** upcycling came to an end this year, but we are grateful for the help that it gave to a number of vulnerable people.
- **Hooked** fishing trips to support people who have been affected by homelessness and addiction or mental health issues continued this year, in partnership with Derby City Mission and Green Pastures.
- **School of the Holy Spirit (SoHS)**, a course for UK Roma potential leaders continued with 5 students from the Roma congregation in Stoke completing year 1 and receiving

their certificates, and all of them continuing on to year 2 which will be complete in June 2026.

- **Schools ministry** our longstanding work with local primary schools continued with weekly Christian assemblies at St James' Juniors and Infants continuing as well as schools visiting Ozzy Road for celebrations at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.
- **Homeless ministry** our longstanding work in this area continued with a mixture of groups who either hire our building or work in partnership with us. These groups running through the year were: Two Narcotics Anonymous groups, Café 3:16, Manna (food and friendship project) and Storehouse. We continued our relationship with Green Pastures homeless hostel with bible studies and alpha course as well as establishing a regular monthly speaking slot at their weekly worship service. It was great seeing some residents coming the FUJ or Ozzy Road congregations. This year we have also developed a greater relationship with the homeless outreach team to help the growing numbers of homeless people who sleep on the doorstep of Ozzy Road.
- **Recover** is a relatively new ministry started in 2024 using the Recovery Course Christ focussed 12 step programme. Having run the course and follow-up at Ozzy Road, we have run it at Green Pastures and hope to do the same at Derby City Mission.
- **Slovakian Mission Project.** Building on last year's trip to Slovakia and our growing relationship with Zoe Church we partnered with them to do a fundraising meal and plan to go to Sabinov, Slovakia in 2026 to deliver food parcels and clothes alongside street evangelism and speaking in local churches.
- **Heart for India and Africa.** In addition to the work in India, the NGO based in Ghana is now well established. Pastor Raj has visited the churches we have built relationship in Ludhiana, Punjab, India and Accra, Ghana and plans to revisit the church in Accra with Graham in 2026.

DUC ended the year with 4 congregations and 9 ministries. In addition DUC supports:

- 2 "exploring congregations": Family Services at GB/Scouts at Boulton Lane, and Eritrean congregation.
- 2 "ISLSD (School of the Holy Spirit) congregation" in Stoke and Ostrava
- 2 "Associate congregations": Zoe church and GLAM

Staff

Rev Graham Watkins continued as our Minister through the year as well as the Minister for Boulton Lane. Steve Clark continued part-time as our Social Enterprise Project Leader. Kathryn Barradell's is on a full time permanent contract as our Church Worker. Jozef Lukac continued to work part-time through the year to lead CYC and SoHS as our Roma Worker. We ended the year with 4 staff.

Trustees

The Trustees of Derby Urban Church at the end of the year were:

Graham Watkins (Minister)	Marilyn Smith (Honorary Elder)
Roger Morbey (Church treasurer)	Chandra Morbey (Secretary)
Ben Jones (Deacon)	Linda Bellfield (Safeguarding Trustee)

Organisational Structure

Derby Urban Church has Trustees who have been elected by the membership, which currently comprises a minister, two elders and 4 deacons. These include our secretary and our treasurer. As part of our Charitable Incorporated Organisation's constitution, which sets out how we operate, we have church meetings quarterly, one of which is our AGM. All church meetings in 2025 were held in person. These meetings are open to attenders as well, although only members can vote. We continued our pattern of linking church meetings to events in the life of the church, including Shrove Tuesday pancake day, Pentecost Sunday and a Harvest Supper. We continued our pattern to remain effective in serving God as a team, and having Trustees meeting every 2 months, alternating a business meeting on Zoom and a longer Saturday morning with prayer and Bible Study in person. We have 2 main sub-groups; Pastoral and Practical. Both groups now meet less often in person but instead have almost daily contact using Whatapp. Our small Finance and Fundraising team ('Fin&Fun') meets every 2-3 months led by our Treasurer. Minutes from each group are circulated around the Trustees so everyone is aware of what is happening. All these meetings are led by a Trustee but involve many other people, encouraging everyone to use their individual gifts. We are also in regular contact with the other groups who use our building and were in close liaison through the year. We continued to produce a termly Programme covering Ozzy Road and Boulton Lane, identifying many opportunities to help each other and do things jointly.

During 2025, Derby Urban Church's income was nearly £219k, exceeding £200k for the first time, with expenditure of just over £221k, resulting in a net decrease in funds of nearly £2,500. In many ways it was a challenging year financially and but the changes will help us in future years. On Easter day, Derby Urban Church officially amalgamated with Boulton Lane Baptist Church. This is the formal, legal culmination of a long relationship where we have been working closely together sharing resources for many years. The amalgamation will enable us to save administration costs and use our resources more efficiently. For instance, we now have two church buildings and can ensure congregations and room bookings can use the best space for their needs.

In February we completed, on time and on budget, the building works at Ozzy Road made possible by the VCSE Energy Efficiency Grant (the Green Grant) of £147,922 awarded in November 2024. The incredible combined effort of our volunteers and contractors means we now have a better insulated, more energy efficient building which will save costs on utility bills for many years to come. The Green Grant income was drawn down as bills became due, with £3,880 in the restricted fund at the start of 2025. Similarly, there was £5,000 restricted from a Erewash CVS grant to replace the floor in our community room, both these restricted funds were spent in 2025. During 2025 we received £1,000 from the Derby Community Action Project, which will be spent on new tables during 2026.

2025 was the first time in many years when our staffing costs were not being subsidised by the Baptist Union Home Mission. However, we have been able to maintain staffing levels through the generosity of our members and supporters. In particular Ruddington Baptist Church who have been very generously supporting our inner city mission through our “Angels” scheme.

We continue to grow and diversify our income sources. During 2025, we saw a big increase in our room booking income, despite the ongoing building work. Our Car Valeting social enterprise has now become a Window Cleaning service which promises to be less seasonal and to provide more job opportunities for our trainees. Furthermore, our E-bay social enterprise continues to provide a steady income.

Start and end of year balances

	Start of 2025:	End of 2025:
DUC Current Account	£30,315	£23,494
DUC Savings Account	£ 1,575	£1,592
Boulton Lane Current Account		£4,450
Total	£31,890	£29,535

This included an amount of approximately £17,000 in designated funds.

Independent Examiner's Report

The 2025 accounts were independently examined by Tim Benson on 8th May 2026.

Derby Urban Church Income

Individual donations	£71,410.38
Angels scheme	£17,325.00
Green grant	£84,305.00
Other grants	£8,200.00
Investment income	£9.91
Room rentals	£22,016.25
Trading income	£1,822.43
Transfer of assets from Boulton Lane	£13,637.72
Total	£218,726.69

Derby Urban Church Expenditure

Trading costs	£60.13
Salaries and expenses	£83,589.11
Manse expenses	£4,419.00
Insurance and utilities	£11,758.79
Green grant expenditure	£88,185.00
Building repairs and renewals	£18,783.87
Office costs	£3,010.88
Ministry costs	£4,959.66
Giving to others	£6,455.00
Total	£221,221.44

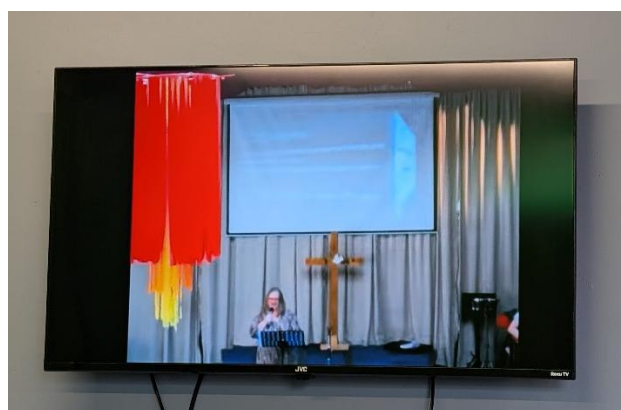
Overall position **-£2,494.75**

Signed by:

Print name: T C Benson



Date: 9/5/26



A new screen was fundraised for, and fitted in the studio at Ozzy Road to enable the Sunday morning youth to meet and watch videos.

August 2025