

Charity Registration Number: 1196491
Company Registration Number: 13072446

Life Church Seaford
Trustees' Report and Accounts
For the year ended
31 March 2025

Life Church Seaford
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Life Church Seaford
Legal and administrative information

Trustees	J Clarke S A Howitt P Jeffery M Archer M Tant A Meggs
Secretary	A Meggs
Charity Number	1196491
Company Number	13072446
Registered Office	12 Steyne Road Seaford East Sussex BN25 1HT
Reporting Accountants	Maiden Accountancy Services 95 Seaside Road Eastbourne E Sussex BN21 3PL

Life Church Seaford Trustees' report

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Governance Structure and Management

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2018).

Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year were:

J Clarke
S A Howitt
P Jeffery
M Archer
M Tant
A Meggs

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

Objects of the charity

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Church's Statement of Faith. This is for the public benefit in Seaford and in other such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees of the charity may from time to time think fit.

Background to Life Church Seaford

Over twenty years ago a handful of people moved from Hastings to Eastbourne with the express purpose of starting a new church called King's. It started in a house and grew in size until it purchased a warehouse in 1999 for public church meetings. Continuing to grow it planted two further churches, one of which was Kings Church Seaford (LCS) and started meeting in a school in 2010 with the vision of becoming a totally independent church in the future. Life Church Seaford was formed as a Company Limited by Guarantee in December 2020 with a view to taking over all the activities of King's Church Seaford and which was eventually completed in 2022 when it also took ownership of the building and responsibility for the associated mortgage and formally separated from King's Church Eastbourne.

Structure and management

The spiritual leadership of LCS is with the paid full time Lead Elder who is supported by two unpaid Elders. These are supported by a part time Administrator and Property Caretaker. The Eldership is also supported by a team of voluntary Deacons who assist with various day to day activities of the church.

The Trustees/Directors manage the overall legal responsibilities and governance required by law and the Charity Commission.

Life Church Seaford

Trustees' report (continued)

Review of activities

- The Church meets twice on Sundays for public worship
- There is a monthly meeting for the whole church to gather in prayer
- Weekly small groups gather at various times for fellowship and can include, inter alia, worship, prayer and bible study.
- Children's work is undertaken primarily on a Sunday with the youth also meeting, at times, during the week
- The youth also attend an annual "New Day" event held over a week during August in East Anglia where several thousand youth gather for worship, teaching and social interaction.
- The Church runs an annual "Alpha" course over several weeks where those who aren't Christians can discuss and explore Christianity. Carol services are also held at Christmas time.
- We run The Bereavement Journey Course which is open to all the community and provides a space for people to share their experiences of grief and process their hurt in a group context.
- We take groups to assist Christians living in Turkey which includes providing manual labor in support of the relief work assisting those affected by the Earthquake in Antakya in February '23.
- Once a year LCS organise a community open-air service (called Chyngfest) followed by family activities where the various church activities and services are promoted for the benefit of the general public.
- The Church allows the premises to be used during the week by various organisations including mother and toddler groups, counselling for individuals, activities for Downs Syndrome children and youth drama.
- During school term time we operate on a Tuesday and Wednesday a subsidised Community Café for the public to meetup and seek advice, if required.
- We help support and are part of the New Ground Churches organisation who operate around the South East of England and a number of overseas countries.
- LCS does not undertake any fundraising from the general public and all funds generated emanate from the church membership.

Reserves

The regular monthly costs of running the charity are covered by the monthly income and the charity operates on the basis of keeping one and a half times the regular monthly cost base in cash general reserves in case of a sudden and unexpected fall in donations. This is kept under regular review and, as the charity grows, will be increased according to needs.

Investment policy

The Charity's liquid funds are held with its bankers, Metro Bank, with surplus daily funds held on a Deposit Account earning interest to maximise income. The cash balances held are below the Financial Services Compensation Scheme maximum of £85,000 and thus there is no requirement to protect these funds from failure of the Bank. However, this is kept in mind should either the limit change downwards or the cash funds increase above the £85,000 or a combination of the two factors.

Life Church Seaford

Trustees' report (continued)

Risks

The Trustees/Directors have examined the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate these. Policy statements are in place covering:

- Safeguarding (Based on the Thirty one:Eight guidelines)
- Investment
- Reserves
- Conflict of Interest
- Complaints
- Fire safety policy

These are available to the public on request.

Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the trust and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its net income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the trust and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk factors

The trustees have examined the major business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Asset cover for funds

Note 12 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

On behalf of the board of trustees



S Howitt
Trustee

Dated:

Life Church Seaford

Examiner's unqualified report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 6 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Steve Maiden, ACA
95 Seaside Road
Eastbourne
E Sussex, BN21 3PL

Dated:

Life Church Seaford
Statement of Financial Activities
Including Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources					
Donations and gifts		195,938	4,500	200,438	188,657
Activities for generating funds		18,848	0	18,848	30,864
Investment income		370	0	370	533
Total incoming resources	2	215,156	4,500	219,656	220,054
Resources expended					
Costs of generating funds		2,942	0	2,942	12,902
Charitable activities		223,076	10,430	233,506	180,418
Governance costs		4,718	0	4,718	4,133
Total resources expended	3	230,736	10,430	241,166	197,453
Net income for the year		(15,580)	(5,930)	(21,510)	22,601

Life Church Seaford
Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		269,841		280,148
Current assets					
Debtors	9	12,482		15,757	
Cash at bank and in hand		29,933		53,017	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		42,415		68,774	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<hr/> (16,526)		<hr/> (19,350)	
Net current assets			25,889		49,424
Total assets less current liabilities			<hr/> 295,730		<hr/> 329,572
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	11		<hr/> (197,568)		<hr/> (209,900)
Net Assets			<hr/> 98,162		<hr/> 119,672
Income funds					
General Fund	12		80,791		96,371
Restricted Fund - community reserves	12		17,371		23,301
			<hr/> 98,162		<hr/> 119,672

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities;

- i) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- ii) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board on

S Howitt

S Howitt
Trustee

Life Church Seaford
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donations are accounted for as received by the Charity. Grants are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are receivable.

1.3 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and allocated to the particular cost centre to which they relate. Resources include irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided using the following rates and basis to reduce by annual instalments, the cost of the tangible assets over their estimated useful lives.

Freehold buildings	2% Straight line basis
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% Straight line basis

1.5 Leasing and hire purchase commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.6 Stock

Stocks of consumables and food are considered of no value and no valuation is included within the Financial Statements.

1.7 Pensions

The trust operates a defined contributions pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Life Church Seaford
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts				
Church offerings and gifts	152,555	0	152,555	140,729
Gift Aid - tax refunds	30,736	0	30,736	28,790
Sundry gifts	12,647	4,500	17,147	19,138
	<u>195,938</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>200,438</u>	<u>188,657</u>
Activities for generating funds				
Café	0	0	0	7,954
Rental income	15,720	0	15,720	17,816
Events	3,128	0	3,128	5,094
	<u>18,848</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18,848</u>	<u>30,864</u>
Investment income				
Interest receivable	370	0	370	533
	<u>370</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>533</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>215,156</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>219,656</u>	<u>220,054</u>

3 Resources expended

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Costs of generating funds				
Café purchases	0	0	0	2,577
Café wages	0	0	0	8,403
Pension costs	0	0	0	328
Events	2,942	0	2,942	1,594
	<u>2,942</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,942</u>	<u>12,902</u>

Life Church Seaford
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Resources expended (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Charitable activities				
Salaries	84,611	0	84,611	71,020
Employers NI	1,479	0	1,479	1,194
Pension costs	4,484	0	4,484	4,385
Advertising, Marketing and Media	2,431	0	2,431	1,874
Mortgage Interest	16,792	0	16,792	16,515
Hospitality	354	0	354	718
Equipment	2,855	0	2,855	1,439
Cleaning	3,490	0	3,490	3,136
Housekeeping	1,364	0	1,364	614
General Expenses	1,427	0	1,427	1,461
Building Maintenance	23,637	4,795	28,432	5,657
Insurance	1,562	0	1,562	1,477
Utilities	12,194	0	12,194	10,333
Printing & Stationery	617	0	617	1,168
IT Software and Consumables	1,040	0	1,040	1,223
Repairs & Maintenance	5,019	0	5,019	3,763
Training and conferences	5,564	0	5,564	3,845
Licenses and Subscriptions	1,488	0	1,488	1,717
Telephone & Internet	1,315	0	1,315	796
Travel - National	1,386	0	1,386	691
Travel - International	0	0	0	416
Depreciation	10,308	0	10,308	10,308
Sunday and General Meeting costs	6,564	0	6,564	5,111
Church Giving - Tithes etc.	16,572	0	16,572	16,729
Local Needs	0	0	0	585
Newday Expense	9,928	0	9,928	3,363
Discipleship courses	936	0	936	629
Gifts	1,346	5,635	6,981	2,074
Kids and Youth Work	2,192	0	2,192	955
Band	388	0	388	586
Baptistry	258	0	258	2,290
Academy Training Course	825	0	825	1,516
Eldership Allowance	306	0	306	959
Newhaven Plant	0	0	0	27
Turkey Trip	344	0	344	1,844
	223,076	10,430	233,506	180,418

Life Church Seaford
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Resources expended (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance costs				
Bank Fees	379	0	379	240
Accountancy and Bookkeeping	3,852	0	3,852	3,502
Legal and Professional Fees	487	0	487	391
	<u>4,718</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,718</u>	<u>4,133</u>
Total resources expended	230,736	10,430	241,166	197,453

4 Trustees

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 6.

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	84,611	79,423
Social security costs	1,479	1,194
Employers Pension	4,484	4,713
	<u>90,574</u>	<u>85,330</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

6 Pension costs

The trust is registered with the Government Workplace Pension Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £4,484.

No contributions were payable to the fund at the year end.

7 Taxation

No corporation tax is payable on the results as Life Church Seaford is a registered charity.

Life Church Seaford
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	276,916	23,847	300,763
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	11,077	9,538	20,615
Charge for year	5,538	4,769	10,307
As at 31 March 2025	16,615	14,307	30,922
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2025	260,301	9,540	269,841
As at 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	265,839	14,309	280,148

In the opinion of the trustees the freehold property is valued in excess of the book value shown.

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	200	0
Other Debtors	12,282	15,757
	12,482	15,757

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Mortgage	12,450	12,450
Other Creditors	4,076	6,900
	16,526	19,350

Life Church Seaford
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025

11 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Mortgage	197,568	209,900
Loan maturity analysis		
Debt due in one year or less	12,450	12,450
In more than two years but not more than five years	49,800	49,800
In more than five years	147,768	160,100
	210,018	222,350

12 Fund balances

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	96,371	215,156	(230,736)	0	80,791
Restricted funds					
Gift Days	23,301	4,500	(10,430)	0	17,371