

Registered Charity no. 1209339

Village Church Wirral
Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
Year Ended 31 August 2025



WYATT & CO

Chartered Accountants
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31 August 2025

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Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Charity is called "Village Church Wirral". The Church is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and was registered on 30 July 2024.

Registered Charity Number	1209339
Registered Office	21 Thingwall Road Wirral CH61 3UA
Website	www.villagechurchwirral.org

Trustees during the year

Joshua Walsh	<i>Appointed July 2024</i>
David Heybourn	<i>Appointed July 2024</i>
Avril Dykes	<i>Appointed July 2024</i>

Primary Bankers	Virgin Money UK plc Jubilee House Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL
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Independent Examiner	Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants 125 Main Street Garforth Leeds LS25 1AF
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Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report for Village Church Wirral for the year ended 31 August 2025. This report has been prepared to provide an overview of the charity's activities, governance, public benefit, financial position, and future direction.

1. Overview

Village Church Wirral exists to know Christ more and make Christ known. We are a local independent evangelical church seeking to serve the communities of Wirral through worship, discipleship, pastoral care, community life, evangelism, mercy, and mission.

During the year, the church continued to establish itself as a gospel-centred community of faith, shaped by the conviction that the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people. Our desire has been to plant a healthy local church that gathers for worship, grows as disciples, cares for one another, and scatters into everyday life as a witness to Jesus.

The trustees are thankful for the continued generosity, service, prayer, and commitment of the church family. The year has involved both consolidation and growth, with continued development of Sunday Gatherings, missional communities, children's and family ministry, pastoral structures, leadership, governance, and local mission.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities continue to further its charitable purposes for the benefit of the public.

2. Background

Village Church Wirral was formed with the vision of seeing people across Wirral come to know Jesus Christ and grow as his disciples. The church has developed out of a desire to see a local, accessible, biblically faithful, and missionally active Christian community established for the spiritual and social good of the local area.

The church's identity may be summarised as:

"Village Church Wirral is a family of disciples on a mission to see Wirral transformed through knowing Christ and making Christ known."

Throughout the year, Village Church Wirral has continued to build on its foundations as a church community. Regular Sunday gatherings have provided opportunity for public worship, Bible teaching, prayer, communion, fellowship, pastoral care, and welcome to newcomers. Alongside this, midweek community life has continued to develop through missional communities, prayer gatherings, discipleship, hospitality, and local outreach.

The church has also continued to strengthen its organisational life, including the development of trustee oversight, safeguarding practice, financial processes, charitable governance, and plans for sustainable ministry.

3. Charitable Objectives and Public Benefit

The charitable objects of Village Church Wirral are:

"The Object of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith in Wirral and such other parts of the United Kingdom as the trustees may from time to time decide in particular (but without limitation) by providing worship, prayer and Christian teaching."

In practice, the charity seeks to advance the Christian faith for the public benefit through:

- the holding of public worship services;
- the teaching and preaching of the Bible;

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- prayer, communion, pastoral care, and discipleship;
- evangelism and the sharing of the Christian faith;
- the development of Christian community and fellowship;
- the support and care of children, families, adults, and those in need;
- the provision of community-based activities;
- partnership with other churches, charities, and organisations where this furthers the charity's objects;
- the encouragement and training of leaders and volunteers;
- acts of mercy, hospitality, and service within the local community.

The trustees believe these activities fulfil the charity's purposes by providing spiritual, pastoral, relational, educational, and community benefit to those who attend the church and to the wider public.

4. Review of the Year

4.1 Sunday Worship and Teaching

Sunday gatherings have remained central to the life of Village Church Wirral. These gatherings have provided a regular rhythm of worship, Bible teaching, prayer, communion, singing, fellowship, and welcome.

During the year, the church has sought to preach and teach the Bible faithfully, with a focus on helping people see the beauty, grace, authority, and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. Sermon series and services have been designed to strengthen believers, encourage seekers, comfort the weary, challenge complacency, and equip the church for everyday discipleship and mission.

The trustees are thankful for the number of people who have attended services during the year, including new people and those exploring Christian faith. Particular encouragement has been seen in the way people have engaged with the worshipping life of the church and taken steps towards deeper involvement in the community.

4.2 Discipleship and Missional Communities

A significant area of development has been the continued strengthening of missional communities. These groups are intended to be more than weekly Bible studies. They are places of community, care, discipleship, prayer, mission, and shared life.

The church has continued to develop rhythms that help people follow Jesus together in everyday life. This includes time in Scripture, prayer for one another, encouragement in obedience, hospitality, mission, and practical care.

During the year, church leadership have also been exploring the multiplication of missional communities in order to create more space for growth, care, leadership development, and local mission. While multiplication can bring feelings of sadness, change, and uncertainty, the church has sought to lead this process pastorally and prayerfully, with a conviction that smaller communities can help more people be known, cared for, disciplined, and mobilised.

4.3 Children, Families, and Village Tots

The trustees are thankful for the development of ministry among children and families. The church recognises the importance of supporting parents, carers, and children, and of creating safe, welcoming, and joyful environments where families can connect with the church community.

One particular encouragement during the year has been the launch and development of Village Tots. This has provided a valuable point of connection with families in the local community and has created opportunities for friendship, welcome, service, and future gospel conversations.

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Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees are grateful for the volunteers who serve faithfully in this area and for the relationships that are being formed through this ministry.

4.4 Pastoral Care and Church Community

Pastoral care has continued to be an important part of the church's life. Through formal and informal relationships, Sunday gatherings, missional communities, prayer, hospitality, and leadership support, the church has sought to care for people in different seasons of life. The trustees are particularly thankful to the leadership of the Elders who continue to lead through word, prayer, leadership and example.

The church has walked with people through encouragements, difficulties, grief, pressure, family challenges, questions of faith, and spiritual growth. The trustees recognise that much of this ministry is quiet and unseen, but it remains central to the charity's Christian purpose and public benefit.

The church has also welcomed new people into the community during the year, including some who are exploring the Christian faith. This has been a source of significant encouragement and thanksgiving.

4.5 Local Mission and Community Engagement

Village Church Wirral continues to seek ways to serve and engage the local community. The church's mission is not limited to formal programmes, but includes the everyday witness of members in homes, workplaces, schools, friendships, clubs, neighbourhoods, and community spaces.

The church has encouraged members to identify their own mission fields and to consider how they might live as faithful witnesses to Jesus in ordinary life.

The trustees are thankful for developing opportunities for local engagement, including community-based activities, relational outreach, and conversations with other churches regarding possible support, revitalisation, and partnership.

4.6 Prayer and Worship

Prayer has remained a vital part of the life of the church. The church has sought to cultivate dependence on God through gathered prayer, prayer within missional communities, pastoral prayer, and prayerful leadership.

Prayer and praise gatherings have provided space for the church to seek God together, give thanks, confess need, pray for mission, and respond to his grace.

The trustees believe that this spiritual foundation is essential to the ongoing health, mission, and fruitfulness of the church.

4.7 Leadership, Governance, and Trustee Development

During the year, the trustees have continued to develop the governance and organisational structures of the charity. This has included oversight of finances, safeguarding, risk, policies, legal responsibilities, ministry priorities, and future planning.

The trustees recognise the importance of good governance as an expression of faithful stewardship. The church's charitable work depends not only on ministry activity, but also on wise structures, clear accountability, appropriate policies, and responsible financial management.

The trustees have also sought to support the ongoing development of elders, leaders, ministry teams, and volunteers, recognising that healthy leadership is essential for the long-term health of the church.

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4.8 Partnerships and Wider Gospel Work

Village Church Wirral remains committed to partnership where appropriate. The church values relationships with other churches, gospel organisations, and local partners where such relationships further the charity's objects and support the advancement of the Christian faith.

During the year, there have been conversations and developing opportunities around local church revitalisation, mission, and collaboration. The trustees remain prayerful and discerning about these opportunities, seeking to act wisely and in line with the charity's purposes.

The trustees remain committed to supporting other missions work both through local churches and mission organisations including Greater Europe Mission and progress has been made to formalise those partnerships. We continue to actively partner and participate with Wirral Gospel Partnership and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

5. Safeguarding

The trustees recognise their responsibility to provide a safe environment for children, young people, vulnerable adults, volunteers, and all those who engage with the church.

During the year, the church has continued to maintain and develop safeguarding arrangements, including appropriate policies, safer recruitment practices, training, reporting procedures, and trustee oversight.

The trustees are committed to reviewing safeguarding practice regularly and ensuring that concerns are responded to appropriately, carefully, and in line with relevant guidance and legal responsibilities.

6. Volunteers

Village Church Wirral depends significantly on the faithful service of volunteers. The trustees are deeply thankful for those who give their time, energy, gifts, and care to support the life and mission of the church.

Volunteers have served in areas including Sunday gatherings, hospitality, music, children's ministry, prayer, missional communities, pastoral care, administration, setup, community activities, and local mission.

The trustees wish to record their sincere thanks to all who have served during the year.

7. Structure, Governance and Management

7.1 Legal Status and Constitution

The Charity is called "Village Church Wirral". The Church is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and was registered on 30 July 2024.

The charity is governed by its CIO constitution dated 26 July 2024. Under the constitution, the only voting members of the CIO are the charity trustees.

The charitable object of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith in Wirral and such other parts of the United Kingdom as the trustees may from time to time decide, in particular by providing worship, prayer and Christian teaching.

7.2 Trustees and Appointment

The trustees who served during the period and up to the date of approval of this report are set out in the reference and administrative details above. The first trustees of the CIO were Joshua Walsh, Avril Dykes and David Heybourn, all of whom served throughout the financial period.

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Trustees are appointed in accordance with the constitution. In considering future trustee appointments, the trustees have regard to the skills, experience and spiritual maturity needed to provide effective oversight of the charity, together with the requirement that trustees support the purposes and Christian ethos of the church.

New trustees are expected to become familiar with the charity's constitution, charitable objects, safeguarding arrangements, financial controls, policies and trustee responsibilities. The trustees also seek to maintain appropriate awareness of Charity Commission guidance relevant to their role.

7.3 Governance and Decision-Making

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance, administration and strategic oversight of the charity. This includes oversight of finances, safeguarding, risk, policies, legal responsibilities, charitable compliance and future planning.

The church's spiritual leadership arrangements are distinct from the legal trusteeship of the CIO. The trustees retain legal responsibility for the governance and administration of the charity, while ministry leadership may also be supported by elders, leaders, ministry teams and volunteers.

Trustee decisions are made collectively and are recorded in meeting minutes. The trustees seek to distinguish between governance, ministry leadership and day-to-day operational matters, while ensuring that significant decisions remain subject to appropriate trustee oversight.

The constitution includes provisions for managing conflicts of interest and trustee benefit. Trustees are expected to declare any direct or indirect interest in matters under consideration and to withdraw from decision-making where required.

8. Financial Review

The charity's total receipts for the period were £30,566, primarily from donations, Gift Aid and Sunday offerings. Total payments were £9,270 and related to charitable activities, including discipleship, equipment, gatherings, insurance, mission, set-up costs and subscriptions. Net receipts for the period were £21,296.

At 31 August 2025 the charity held cash funds of £21,296, of which £17,242 was held as general unrestricted funds and £4,054 had been designated by the trustees for specific purposes. The designated funds comprise the Mission Fund of £2,054 and Building Fund of £2,000.

The charity also disclosed tangible fixed assets of £6,046 at purchase cost within the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. As the accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis, these assets are disclosed for information purposes only and are not recognised within a formal balance sheet.

The charity had no employees during the period and therefore incurred no staff costs. The church continued to rely significantly on the voluntary service of members and supporters.

No restricted funds were received during the period and no material funds were in deficit at the year end. The trustees are not aware of any material uncertainty regarding the charity's ability to continue operating for the foreseeable future.

The trustees have also noted ongoing discussions regarding the possible future transfer of a church building from the predecessor church entity. As legal ownership had not transferred at the year end, no building asset has been included in the accounts. The trustees will continue to keep this matter under review and will consider any accounting or disclosure implications when further information becomes available.

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9. Reserves Policy

As a newly registered charity, the trustees are in the process of developing a formal reserves policy appropriate to the size, activities and future plans of the church. The trustees recognise the importance of holding sufficient free reserves to manage fluctuations in income and expenditure, meet routine operating commitments, and support the sustainable development of the charity's ministry and community activities.

At the year end, the charity held unrestricted general funds of £17,242. The trustees consider this to be adequate for the current stage of the charity's development, taking into account its relatively low fixed cost base and reliance on volunteer support. The trustees have also designated £2,054 to the Mission Fund and £2,000 to the Building Fund to support future mission activity and anticipated building-related costs.

The trustees will continue to review the reserves position as the charity develops, particularly if future plans involve employing staff, expanding activities, or taking on responsibility for premises.

10. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have considered the principal risks facing the charity. As a newly established church, key risks include maintaining sustainable income, ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements, developing governance and financial controls, supporting volunteers and leaders, and managing future property-related matters associated with the possible transfer of the church building from the predecessor charity.

The trustees seek to mitigate these risks through regular trustee oversight, use of ExpensePlus for financial record keeping, dual authorisation and cash handling procedures, safeguarding policies and external safeguarding support, and careful discussion and minuting of significant governance matters.

The trustees will continue to review risks as the charity develops, particularly as the church grows, expands activities, considers future staffing needs, and progresses any discussions regarding premises or wider partnership opportunities.

11. Plans for Future Periods

As we look to the future, the trustees remain encouraged by the opportunities before Village Church Wirral and prayerful about the part the church may play in serving the people of Wirral and beyond. Our continuing vision is to be a family of disciples on mission, knowing Christ more and making Christ known. We believe the church exists not simply to gather people into services, but to equip ordinary Christians to live as faithful witnesses to Jesus in the places, relationships, neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, clubs, and communities where God has placed them.

A key priority for the coming year will be the continued discipleship and equipping of church members for mission. We want to help people grow in maturity, confidence, love, and obedience as followers of Jesus. This will involve ongoing Bible teaching, pastoral care, leadership development, prayer, training, and intentional opportunities to serve. Our desire is that members are not merely attendees, but active participants in the life and mission of the church, using their gifts for the good of others and the advancement of the Christian faith.

Alongside this, we anticipate the continued multiplication of missional communities. These smaller communities are an important part of our church life, providing spaces where people can be known, cared for, discipled, encouraged, and mobilised for mission. As the church grows, we believe multiplying these communities will allow more people to be meaningfully connected, while also creating new opportunities for hospitality, local outreach, leadership development, and service. We pray that we would see more churches planted as a result of this multiplication. We recognise that

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Trustees' Annual Report

multiplication can bring change, but we believe it is a healthy and necessary part of creating capacity for growth and deepening our mission across different parts of Wirral.

The trustees also look forward to participating in the developing work connected to Irby Library and the surrounding community. We see this as an opportunity to serve locally, build relationships, support community life, and explore ways in which the church can be a positive and faithful presence in the area. Our hope is that this work will not simply provide activity, but will contribute to the wellbeing of the local community and open doors for friendship, care, conversation, and Christian witness.

In addition, Village Church Wirral continues to have conversations with local churches and leaders regarding potential partnership in revitalisation work. We recognise that many churches face significant challenges, including declining numbers, ageing congregations, limited leadership capacity, and uncertainty about the future. Where appropriate, and where there is shared conviction and trust, we want to explore how Village Church Wirral might serve, support, strengthen, or partner with other churches for the sake of gospel ministry and local communities. These conversations require wisdom, patience, humility, and careful governance, and the trustees will continue to approach them prayerfully and responsibly.

Our expectation is that the coming years will involve both consolidation and expansion. We want to strengthen what has already begun: Sunday worship, pastoral care, discipleship, children's and family ministry, prayer, governance, safeguarding, financial stewardship, and missional communities. At the same time, we want to remain open to new opportunities for mission, community service, church revitalisation, and partnership. We want to raise up more leaders to serve across the various teams and roles in the life of the church.

The trustees believe that Village Church Wirral is well placed to make a meaningful contribution to the spiritual and social good of Wirral. We are thankful for the commitment of members, the generosity of supporters, the faithfulness of volunteers, and the encouragements already seen. We move forward dependent on God, asking him to provide all that is needed and to use the church for the good of our neighbours, the strengthening of his people, and the making known of Jesus Christ.

12. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable charity law and the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial period which show the charity's receipts and payments and provide details of the charity's assets and liabilities at the end of the period. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the relevant requirements.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

13. Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

Signed: 

Name: David Heybourn

Date: 26/06/2026

Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Village Church Wirral ('the charity') for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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 confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.



Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Independent Examiner
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Date: 26/06/2026

Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Statement of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
Receipts				
Donations and Legacies		30,566	-	30,566
Total Receipts	2	30,566	-	30,566
Payments				
Payments on Charitable Activities	3	9,270	-	9,270
Total Payments		9,270	-	9,270
Net Receipts / (Payments)		21,296	-	21,296
Net movement in funds (Cash)				
Total Funds (Cash) Brought Forward	8	-	-	-
Transfers		-	-	-
Total Funds (Cash) Carried Forward		21,296	-	21,296
Funds represented by				
General (Unrestricted) Funds		17,242	-	17,242
Designated Funds		4,054	-	4,054
Restricted Funds		-	-	-
		21,296	-	21,296

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue :

Name of Trustee: David Heybourn

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees: 

Date of Approval: 26/06/2026

Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As the accounts are prepared on a cash basis, there is no formal Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position. Instead a statement of assets and liabilities is outlined giving an indication of the charity's assets at the year end.

The fixed assets disclosed below are stated at purchase cost.

	2025 £
Fixed assets	
Tangible Fixed Assets	6,046
	6,046
Current assets	
Cash at Bank	21,296
	21,296

Village Church Wirral

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or grant giver.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources and the money has been paid.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on a cash basis when payments have been made through the bank account or by petty cash.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations and Legacies			
One off donations	10,000	-	10,000
Gift aid	14,600	-	14,600
Sunday offering	5,966	-	5,966
	<u>30,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,566</u>
Total Receipts	<u>30,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,566</u>

3 Payments on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Discipleship	412	-	412
Equipment	1,356	-	1,356
Gatherings	520	-	520
Insurance	305	-	305
Mission	129	-	129
Set up costs	4,690	-	4,690
Subscriptions	1,858	-	1,858
Total Payments	<u>9,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,270</u>

4 Volunteers

The church benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time and money by its formal members and regular attendees. Please refer to the trustees' report for further details about volunteer contributions in the organisation.

5 Independent Examination Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:	2025
	£
Independent examination and preparation of the financial statements	660

6 Staff Costs

The charity had no employees during the year and therefore incurred no staff costs or employee benefits during the reporting period.

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Year Ended 31 August 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

7 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

During the year one trustees incurred out of pocket expenses totalling £3,221 which were all incurred for the day to day running and set up of the Churches activities.

8 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	30 Jul 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 Aug 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Unrestricted					
General	-	30,566	(9,270)	(4,054)	17,242
	<u>-</u>	<u>30,566</u>	<u>(9,270)</u>	<u>(4,054)</u>	<u>17,242</u>
Designated					
Mission Fund	-	-	-	2,054	2,054
Building Fund	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,054</u>	<u>4,054</u>
Total Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>30,566</u>	<u>(9,270)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,296</u>

Fund Descriptions

Designated Funds

Mission Fund

This designated fund has been established to set aside resources to support mission activities, including providing financial support to church planting initiatives and other gospel ministry projects within the UK and overseas.

Building Fund

This designated fund has been established to provide for the anticipated legal and associated costs relating to the transfer of the church building from the predecessor charity. Following completion of the transfer, the fund will continue to be used to set aside resources for the ongoing maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the church premises.

9 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions which took place during the period.