

THE RURAL PROJECT
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED
ORGANISATION)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

COMPANY NUMBER: CE037181

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1209578

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics LE11 5XR

Tel: 01509 214163

THE RURAL PROJECT
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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THE RURAL PROJECT

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their first annual report together with the Financial Statements of the charity for the period ending 31 March 2025.

The accounts comply with the Charities Act 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

1) Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 13 August 2024.

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected under the terms of the governing document. New trustees are advised of their obligations under charity and company law.

New trustees are put forward by the current trustees for consideration.

The trustees determine the day-to-day operations of the charity or appoint appropriate officers to whom this responsibility is delegated.

2) Reference and Administration

Trustees

R R G Scothern (Appointed 13 August 2024)
R P B Strivens (Appointed 13 August 2024)
J I Bond (Appointed 13 August 2024)

Company Registered Number

CE037181

Charity Registered Number

1209578
Registered in Scotland 06 June 2025 SCO54292

Registered Office

50 Burton Edge
Bakewell
DE45 1FQ

Independent Examiners

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics
LE11 5XR

THE RURAL PROJECT

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2) Reference and Administration (continued)

Bankers
The Co-Operative Bank PLC
1 Ballon Street
Manchester
M4 4BE

3) Objectives and Activities

The Objectives and Activities of the Trust are as follows:

- (A) The advancement in rural communities of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith and the principles set out in the Ethos Statement: and.
- (B) Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith and the principles set out in the Ethos Statements in rural communities, and the relief of those in need because of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

We, as trustees, recognise that it is our legal obligation to ensure that the trust's activities are in line with our Objectives and Activities and we are satisfied that this is the case for the period in question. The trustees also confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission and OSCR's guidance on public benefit.

4) Achievements and Performance

Key Events

The Rural Project was formally established as a CIO in August 2024 after several years of preparatory work during which a Project Leadership Team of leaders operating in rural church contexts was established, and regular meetings of interested parties commenced. An inaugural conference was held in Bakewell in September 2023 and a second conference in Culloden was held in September 2024. These conferences and regular smaller meetings gather those with a passion for rural mission to share experiences, learn, pray and grow together.

A training course in Rural Ministry was created in partnership with Crosslands Training during the year and church members from a number of rural contexts attended this course.

A major milestone was the establishment of the first Rural Project church planting residency. Matthew Coates was selected to fill this appointment and started work with Wooler Evangelical Church, Northumbria in January 2025. Matthew is employed directly by Wooler Evangelical Church and is funded by generous donations from individuals and churches across the UK and beyond. The Rural Project played an instrumental role in helping to raise this support to enable Wooler Evangelical Church to employ Matthew. The residency will run for three years at the end of which the prayerful plan is that a new church will be planted or an existing church revitalized in Northumbria.

Looking ahead the trustees are prayerfully focused on continuing and expanding the work of the charity through further conferences, networking opportunities, training for church members and leaders and another church planting residency in 2026.

5) Financial Review

The Charity had an income this financial year of £1 with no expenditure. This was to open the Charity's bank account. The charity had no other incoming resources or expenditure in the year. Peak Trinity Church (Charity number 1192271) incurred (in line with its own charitable objectives which are closely aligned to The Rural Project) a small amount of set-up costs on behalf of the charity to enable the charity to be established. The charity had no reserves at the start of the accounting period end £1 in unrestricted reserves at the end of the accounting period. During the coming year the trustees expect to receive donations from individuals and partner churches to support the small ongoing operating costs of the charity.

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THE RURAL PROJECT

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6) Reserves Policy

The trustees recognise the importance of a reserves policy to help demonstrate good stewardship and financial management and to manage its reputation. This policy will be discussed by the Trustees and implemented in the current year.



.....
R R G Scothern
Trustee

5 December 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF
THE RURAL PROJECT**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Officers of The Rural Project

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 4 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 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

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.

DocuSigned by:

Bob Gradon

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D R Gradon MA FCA

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

5th December 2025

Signed by:

Chase Mayne

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THE RURAL PROJECT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted Fund <u>2025</u>	Restricted Fund <u>2025</u>	Total Funds <u>2025</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	<u>Note</u>			
Donations	2	1	-	1
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities		-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-	-	-
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)		1	-	1
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		1	-	1
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:		-	-	-
Total funds brought forward				
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£1	£-	£1

THE RURAL PROJECT
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2024</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and in Hand		1
		<u> </u>
LIABILITIES – Creditors falling due within one year		-
		<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1
		<u> </u>
NET ASSETS		£1
		<u> </u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:		
Unrestricted Funds	3	1
Restricted Fund	3	-
		<u> </u>
		£1
		<u> </u>

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 5th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by



.....
R R G Scothern
Trustee

THE RURAL PROJECT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102): 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS102") (effective 1 January 2016), FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (effective September 2016), and the Charities Act 2011. The disclosure requirements of Section 1A of FRS102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transactional value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note and the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the financial currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

b) Company Status

The Rural Project was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation on 13 August 2024 and is governed by a constitution dated 13 August 2024 and registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1209578.

c) Fund Accounting

Undesignated general funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The aim of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

d) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income after performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reasonably and it is probable that the income will be received. No amount included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS102).

e) Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the church to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attached are fulfilled.

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THE RURAL PROJECT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds <u>2025</u>	Restricted Funds <u>2025</u>	Total <u>2024</u>
Donations received	1	-	£1
	=====	=====	=====

3 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	At 13 August <u>2024</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	At 31 March <u>2025</u>
Unrestricted Funds	-	1	-	-	1
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Funds	£-	£1	£-	£-	£1
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

4 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u>	Restricted <u>Funds</u>	Total <u>Funds</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Current Assets	1	-	1
Current Liabilities	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
Total Net Assets	£1	£-	£1
	=====	=====	=====