

# Free Church Federal Council (Incorporated)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Address: 27 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HH

Tel: 02036518338

Email: [info@freechurches.org.uk](mailto:info@freechurches.org.uk)

Website: [www.freechurches.org.uk](http://www.freechurches.org.uk)



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# COMPANY INFORMATION

Company number	00364987
Charity number	236878
Directors / Trustees (as at date of report)	<p>Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson (Moderator from 13 April 2025)</p> <p>Revd Helen Cameron (Moderator until 13 April 2025)</p> <p>Revd James Breslin (Chairman of the Board)</p> <p>Mr Eric Southwick (Treasurer)</p> <p>Mrs Yvonne Campbell</p> <p>Revd Deseta Davis</p> <p>Revd Trevor Howard</p> <p>Major Paul Robinson (Appointed 1 April 2025)</p> <p>Revd Daniel Yarnell (Vice-Chairman of the Board)</p>
General Secretary	Revd Paul Rochester
Registered Office	27 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HH.
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.
Solicitors	Ashtons Legal Waterfront House, Wherry Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AS.
Independent Examiner	Mark Heaton FCCA DChA FCIE K M 1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf, Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 1JG.
Fund Managers	CCLA Investment Management Ltd COIF Charity Funds 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET.



## DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report with the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025. The accounts comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Financial Reporting Standard 102 and follow the recommendations in 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).

## PROMOTING WITNESS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

The Free Churches group (FCG) focused on its 2023-2026 Strategy, which prioritises the following aims:

1. Support Free Church Chaplains in core sectors.
2. Advocate for justice and equality through a Free Church voice in the public square.
3. Expand engagement with Free Church denominations and local churches.
4. Engage confidently in the ecumenical efforts to support the full range of its membership.

Under its strategy, the FCG continued to focus on its core work of chaplaincy. This report outlines activity undertaken to support chaplains across both the core and wider sectors. During the year, the Chaplaincy Hub was further developed, enhancing provision for chaplains through pastoral support and signposting to relevant training and academic courses.

Chaplaincy ministry across the core sectors continued to flourish, with Free Churches chaplains providing pastoral support in hospitals, prisons, and educational establishments. In Armed Forces Chaplaincy, approximately 50 Free Churches chaplains are currently serving. There remains, however, a need for newly eligible denominations to begin submitting suitable candidates to the United Board for commendation to the Forces after a process of discernment based on meeting the exacting criteria for this ministry. The Armed Forces have vacancies for chaplains, who serve as Subject Matter Experts, and the FCG aims to play its part in providing spiritual support for our soldiers and military personnel.

### Board and Staff Matters

A transition in leadership took place during the year with Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson beginning her tenure as the Moderator of the Free Churches Group. The transition was managed smoothly, and the Moderator's Induction Service was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the American International Church in Tottenham Court Road, London. The service was attended by over one hundred people with representation from across all the FCG Group's membership. It provided an opportunity to reflect on the historic role of the Free Churches in upholding values of justice, equality, freedom and peace, grounded in Christian roots and the inherent dignity and respect of every individual. The FCG also formally expressed thanks to Revd Helen Cameron for her service as Moderator. Revd Cameron ably represented the Free Churches during a period of significant change for the monarchy, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III.

In accordance with the FCG Constitution, Dr Hugh Osgood stepped down from the Board during the year, as Revd Helen Cameron assumed the role of Past Moderator to complete her term until March 2026. These governance changes were undertaken with gratitude for faithful service and with confidence in God's continued blessing on the ministry of the Free Churches in the United Kingdom.

There was a reduction in the administrative posts to take account of changes in work portfolios and how work areas are managed given the greater reliance on information technology and online meetings.



## Other Business

The Churches Legislation Advisory Service (CLAS) continued to provide guidance and information on developments in Government policy affecting Churches and their mission. The General Secretary sat on the Places of Worship Forum, which focuses on the conservation and sustainable future of historic religious buildings. Several Free Church denominations who own listed buildings are represented on the Forum, with the FCG representing the wider Free Churches. While many member Free Church denominations do not currently own listed buildings, trends in church property sales indicate that this may gradually change in the future.

The FCG promoted the National Churches Trust Survey. While participation from Free Churches was encouraging, the overall number of responses was lower than in the previous survey conducted in 2010. The survey aimed to highlight the social and community value of Christian places of worship and the report is to be published in the first quarter of 2026. Through CLAS and other forums, the FCG also contributed to consultations on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The Government will respond in 2026.

Property matters required a greater focus over routine maintenance during the year. Work is underway in relation to the Westbury property, as the lease with the current tenant expires in the first quarter of the coming year. The property in Bognor Regis has a new tenant, and the tenancy is operating satisfactorily. The Property Manager, with whom the FCG has a contract, has been instrumental in supporting this work.

## Education

During 2025, the education work of the Free Churches Group was guided by the strategy that was agreed during the previous year. The Free Church Education Committee continued to provide a forum for discussion, and for guiding aspects of the work of the Education Officer.

The Committee held a residential meeting in February, which allowed time to discuss issues in greater detail, and which focused on resourcing churches to engage with their local schools. Members of the Committee have represented the Free Churches Group in interviews with the media, and at the Religious Education Council. The Chair of the Committee, along with the Education Officer, attend termly meetings at the Department for Education, along with representatives of other faith groups with an involvement in running schools.

The Free Church Education Committee submitted evidence to several consultations from the Department for Education and the Office for Students, including the Curriculum and Assessment Review for schools in England, which published its report in November 2025. In addition, the Education Officer, in her role as Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, gave evidence about Religious Education to the House of Commons Education Select Committee. The FCG continues to support the work of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education, by nominating members to stand on these groups. This work is now being carried out by the Education Officer and work is underway to create a new database of SACRE contacts and relevant contacts in member churches, to streamline the process.

The Chair of the Higher Education Working Group retired during the year, and the work is now overseen by the Free Church Education Committee. Freedom of Speech has continued to be an emphasis of the Higher Education Work, following the publication of guidance by the Office for Students, and meetings have taken place with the Director of Freedom of Speech from the Office for Students. This theme was also explored at a day for chaplains, and the Director of Freedom of Speech attended to talk about the role that chaplains might have in relation to Freedom of Speech. The chaplains also heard from Revd Dr Paul Weller, who offered a theological reflection informed by Free Church values. This work will be continued during 2026 in a research partnership with the Susanna Wesley Foundation.



## Education (continued)

The Education Officer has continued to support Higher Education chaplains through the work of the Churches Higher Education Liaison Group, of which she is now the secretary, and lead organiser of the annual conference. She has also become involved in UK HE Chaplains Together, a new multi-faith organisation for HE Chaplains, and is one of the facilitators of the Community of Practice, which will start to organise events and support for chaplains during 2026.

As work begins to identify the opportunities for a new interfaith organisation for England, after the closure of the Inter Faith Network the Education Officer has been invited to join a working group, with the specific purpose of focusing on ways in which interfaith relationships and community cohesion can be developed in educational settings. The production of resources for Education Sunday, which takes place on the second Sunday in September each year, continues to be managed by the Education Officer on behalf of Churches Together in England. The Education Officer continues in her role as Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. A grant from Culham St Gabriel's Trust pays for half a day a week of her time to be used in this role.

## Prison chaplaincy

2025 has proven to be yet another productive year for the Free Churches Group in seeking to respond professionally to the needs of Prison Chaplains working across England and Wales.

In this year, the prison population has continued to grow, with reported resultant stresses on the needs of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to meet the demands of serving prisoners, those on remand and particularly prison staff. During this time, we have continued to support Chaplains, Prisons, and HMPPS Chaplaincy HQ, working together to establish what has proven to be a fair and sustainable model for Faith and Belief Advisory support. Particularly, we have focused this year on three priority areas; regional training and support, recruitment alongside HMPPS, and faith endorsement of chaplains. In doing this we have ensured that prisons, and in particular Prison Chaplains are well supported, and prepared for the changes that have continued throughout 2025.

The Prison Service has continued to change, and with significant developments again in Government leadership these changes have had substantial effects on all those working in prisons. New staff are being recruited to the service, but with continuing low rates of staff retention. The combination of new staff and increased levels of violence, both against others and against self are meaning that chaplaincy work with staff is a key priority of their work.

The FCG continues to support Chaplains in the development of priorities as well as in the essential provision of faith and pastoral services to prisoners. Chaplains have often seen their role becoming focused on caring where service provision has sometimes been struggling to cope (for example in the areas of resettlement and care of those who are self-harming). As always, Chaplains have adapted well to these challenges, whilst themselves being impacted significantly by them, taking on the role of wounded healers.

2025 saw an increase in the numbers of new Free Churches Chaplains, with the FCG supporting to ensure that technically capable, experienced and suitable personnel are appointed. We continue to support HMPPS Chaplaincy HQ with in-service training for new and Managing Chaplains and offer faith specific support across the Government department in terms of Faith Awareness Training. We also, alongside Regents Theological College delivered Masters Level training to enable chaplains to best engage with the institutions they serve. In addition, we have delivered a series of Regional Days, located within prison establishments to help chaplains to reflect upon the unique aspects of their role, whilst continuing to support one another on a peer basis. This training and development has been appreciated during difficult days in prisons and feedback has been particularly encouraging.



## Prison chaplaincy (continued)

Chaplains from the Free Churches in England and Wales are still particularly effective at supporting one another, recognising the need to engage effectively through the gate to reduce the cycle of re-offending and affect sustainable transformation of attitudes and behaviour.

## Healthcare Chaplaincy

Through 2025, principally through the work of the Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy and the Healthcare Chaplaincy Steering Committee (HCSC), the Free Churches Group upheld their commitment to the delivery of safe, high quality chaplaincy care in health and social care settings.

The FCG provided a range of monthly continuing professional development opportunities to individual chaplains. Reflective practice sessions play a key part in enabling chaplains to develop their knowledge, behaviour and skill. They further offer safe space for chaplains to process effects, such as vicarious trauma, that come from accompanying people through difficult times. Having pioneered the offering of 'Pop-Up Reflective Practice' sessions in 2024, that were offered across the profession, these were continued through 2025. In recognition of different learning styles, sessions taking a more kinesthetic rather than auditory approach, were added into the rotation. Supporting evidence-based practice and research literacy, we continued to be the principal instigator and organiser of the Research First online journal club. Individually, the Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy provided a range of formal and informal support to chaplains through the provision of supervision, mentoring, pastoral care and interview preparation.

Contributing to the development of the profession nationally, through 2025, the Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy gave presentations or led workshops at Regents Theological College and the College of Health Care Chaplains Annual Study Conference, as well as leading team days for a Trust chaplaincy department.

Financial pressure is not new for the NHS. However, increased budgetary restraints due to rising operational costs, inflation, and workforce constraints are well documented. Chaplaincy departments have not been immune from this pressure. Increasingly they are being challenged to develop ways of demonstrating the benefit, impact and value of care. Against this backdrop the 2025 Annual Healthcare Chaplaincy Study Day - *Making our Cases: Using Story and Data to Demonstrate Value* - was timely. The day recognised that chaplaincy care often relates to more intangible aspects of patient and staff support, which can be difficult to quantify and measure using traditional healthcare metrics. The importance of balancing qualitative and quantitative metrics was emphasised. Alongside speaker presentations, the day included four chaplains live storytelling as a powerful reminder of how stories can connect, challenge, inspire and validate us.

Beyond its own work, the FCG contributes significantly to the healthcare chaplaincy profession at a national level through participating in the running of key healthcare chaplaincy professional bodies. Several HCSC members have critical roles as Directors of the UK Board for Healthcare Chaplaincy (UKBHC). Alongside the Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy, the UKBHC includes Sarah Crane, as Chair, and Janelle Kingham, who was elected vice chair in 2025 and is the registration lead. Although Janelle stepped down from her position on the Network for Pastoral, Spiritual and Religious Care in Health (the Network). We were delighted that Karen Murphy, an experienced and respected hospice chaplain, replaced Janelle as one of the Free Churches representatives on the Network. The Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy played a lead role in enabling a College of Health Care Chaplaincy report looking at chaplaincy leadership and what a potential leadership training programme might involve.



## Healthcare Chaplaincy (continued)

Through 2025 the Free Churches Group retained its support of the development of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) as an educational programme for healthcare chaplaincy. As part of this, midway through the year, a long-term secondment for half a day a week to be the Professional Lead for CPE at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals was agreed for the Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy. A CPE open day was held in Sheffield enabling a mix of practitioners and providers of chaplaincy training to understand more about what CPE involves. The Secretary for Healthcare Chaplaincy also presented on CPE at an international conference on *Muslim Chaplaincy: Practice, Research and Recognition* in June at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

## Looking Ahead

*“Developing Chaplaincy Ministry which is a core competence of the Free Churches”*

There are applications to join the FCG that will carry over into 2026, which may result in an increase in membership. There is however one Group member that may be removed for failing to effectively engage with work.

Work on the strategy for 2026-2029 will be a key priority in the New Year. The new strategy will guide the FCG work programme from 2026 to 2029. The aim is to publish the new strategy in late April 2026.

There are developments relating to the Board, with some current directors coming to the end of their terms, which will need to be managed. The Board is already preparing for this.

Managing the changing tenancies for the Westbury properties will be important to ensure seamless transitions for existing or new tenants.

The Churches Together in England Presidents will see developments as three new presidents take up their roles. The FCG Moderator will be actively involved in these developments, ensuring there is a strong Free Churches voice in the public square.

The FCG has taken on full responsibility for the Dissenting Deputies. It has been actively involved in this work, with the General Secretary acting as Secretary. Keith Salway, who has led the organisation as Chair, is retiring. He has played a significant role in continuing the work of reflecting on the Dissenting Deputies and their contribution to many of the rights won for the Free Churches. He has consistently organised an annual lecture with the support of the FCG.

These lectures will continue in the future, with the aim of attracting a wider audience. They will look back at the historic role of the Deputies while also exploring what that legacy means in contemporary times. The work of the Dissenting Deputies will remain central to the FCG work programme. Changes in the way this work is organised will seek to attract a new audience and ensure that the critical work of dissent, and the benefits secured for Free Churches in England and Wales, is remembered.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Free Church Federal Council (Incorporated) is a company limited by guarantee (company number 00364987) and a registered charity (charity number 236878). The governing instrument of the charitable company is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The charity is the incorporated body of, and uses the working name of, the Free Churches, an unincorporated association, whose members are representatives of its constituent denominations who subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Free Churches.



## Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

The members of the company are representatives of the constituent denominations who are members of the Free Churches Group, together with the officers of the Free Churches. They meet as "The Group Meeting" to identify the particular beliefs and values which are held in common and agree the company's objectives.

The directors (who are also trustees for the purposes of charity law) are elected by the company members, seeking the necessary financial and legal skills for the task from within the constituent denominations. They are responsible for financial policy.

The directors / trustees who served during the year were:

Revd James Breslin (Chairman of the Board)  
 Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson Moderator from 13 April 2025)  
 Revd Helen Cameron (Moderator until 13 April 2025)  
 Mrs Yvonne Campbell  
 Revd Deseta Davis  
 Revd Trevor Howard  
 Major Paul Robinson (Appointed 1 April 2025)  
 Mr Eric Southwick (Treasurer)  
 Revd Daniel Yarnell (Vice-Chairman of the Board)

Directors meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Board. Those new to the work of the company meet with the General Secretary to receive an orientation on the work of the Free Churches.

The day-to-day work of the company is delegated to the General Secretary, Revd Paul Rochester, who reports directly to the Board of Directors. The officers responsible for the healthcare and prison chaplaincy, and education programmes of the Free Churches are supported by specialist committees to shape these areas of work.

## Objectives and Activities

The principal object of The Free Church Federal Council (incorporated) (FCFC) is "the advancement of the Christian religion." The furtherance of the objects takes place through the work of the Free Churches by means such as evangelistic, educational, training and business activities or other meetings as deemed necessary from time to time. Free Churches promotes faithful witness in the public square with a focus, but not solely, on chaplaincy work in Prisons, Healthcare and the Armed Forces and faith in Education.

Free Churches express the unity in Christ that is shared by Free Churches in England and Wales by promoting fellowship, shared counsel and working together to extend Christ's kingdom in every sphere of society. This is done whilst recognising that each Group Member remains at liberty to fulfil its own distinctive witness and mission. There are currently 29 denominations and Church groups that are members of Free Churches.

## Public Benefit

The Free Churches purpose is in the support of its member church denominations in their mission across England and Wales. In as much as this mission is founded in and seeks to express the unconditional love of God, the benefits of all that the Free Churches seeks to do are understood to be 'public' and for the benefit of the wider society. Member churches and their congregations express this through public worship and in service to the communities in which they are set.

The Free Churches upholds a right to the freedom of expression of religious faith. This has come out of a particular historical context but finds expression afresh in the current time and is understood to have application wider than the Free Churches own membership.



## Public Benefit (continued)

The Free Churches particular engagement with education, health care, prisons, the Armed Forces and the legislative governance of the nation, amongst other things, is evidential of a commitment to wider society and a concern for public wellbeing.

Particular examples include:

- Engagement in the training of hospital chaplains and their on-going professional development contributes to the quality of a service offered to all patients and hospital staff and to ensure patient trust and safety.
- The support of SACRE representatives in local authorities serves to ensure the appropriate balance in religious education curricula.
- The developed Faith Endorsement criteria of Prison Chaplains ensures that both Public and Private Sector prisons are well served by a diverse range of professional ministers to work as Chaplains in prisons.

## Financial Review

Income derives mainly from investment returns on both listed investments and property. This is supplemented by subscriptions from member churches and other activities. In addition, specific grants have been received, for restricted purposes, to support the work in Healthcare and Prisons. Income remained comparable to previous years apart from grant income which has increased.

Grants are made at the directors' discretion. Total expenditure has been in line with that incurred in the previous year. This has resulted in a net deficit of £129,066 (2024: £99,230) in the general fund which, together with a loss of £66,698 (2024: gain £38,354) on investments, has been transferred from reserves.

## Risk Review

The directors undertake each year a wide-ranging appraisal in order to identify the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Steps are taken with a view to mitigating these risks as far as is reasonably possible.

The directors are aware that the continued financial stability of the charity relies on the continued performance and growth of the charity's investments. They believe their regular review of quoted investments, aided by information from the fund managers, largely mitigates this risk as far as possible.

## Investment Powers and Policy

The investment powers of the charity are contained in the Articles of Association and include the power to appoint investment managers. The directors may invest any funds not immediately required by the charity into such securities, property and other investments as they consider greatest overall benefit to the charity, in line with the charity's objectives.

The directors' current policy is to invest in gilt edged securities or investment units with managers of common investment funds: Epworth Investment Management Limited and freehold commercial properties. Surplus funds held for the shorter term are placed in CCLA Investment Management Limited's COIF Charity Fund Deposit Account, which has consistently provided a rate of return higher than that available from a bank.

## Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the directors to ensure that the charity has adequate reserves to enable it to meet both its ongoing commitments. To this end, the directors aim to hold reserves equivalent to between three and six month's on-going expenses. This would require general reserves of between £75,000 and £150,000. The Directors recognise that the current level of reserves is below that level, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 there were net current liabilities and the general



## Reserves Policy (continued)

reserve stood at £45,300 (2024: £124,366) including tangible fixed assets of £47,314 (2024: £55,202). The directors are reviewing ways to both reduce costs and increase income to increase the general reserve and will redeem investments, should the need arise.

## Independent Examiner

Mark Heaton FCCA DChA FCIE of KM, Chartered Accountants, has been appointed as the charitable company's Independent Examiner. A resolution proposing the reappointment of Mark Heaton will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

## Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors, who also act as trustees, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors (who are also trustees for the purposes of charity law) to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Approval

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the Board



General Secretary: Revd Paul Rochester  
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026



Chair of the Board: Revd James Breslin

# MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

Assemblies of God  
Baptist Union of Great Britain  
Baptist Union of Wales  
Christ Apostolic Church  
Church of God of Prophecy  
Church of the Nazarene  
Churches in Communities International  
Congregational Federation  
Council of African and Caribbean Churches UK  
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion  
Elim Pentecostal Church  
Fellowship of Churches of Christ  
Free Church of England  
Free Methodist Church  
Independent Methodist Churches  
Joint Council of Churches for All Nations  
Methodist Church  
Moravian Church  
New Testament Assembly  
New Testament Church of God  
Old Baptist Union  
Order of St Leonard  
Presbyterian Church of Wales  
Redeemed Christian Church of God  
The Salvation Army  
Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg  
(Union of Welsh Independents)  
United Reformed Church  
Vineyard UK and Ireland  
Wesleyan Reform Union



# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 21.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.



Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA

KM Chartered Accountants  
1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf,  
Manchester Road,  
Burnley  
Lancashire  
BB11 1JG

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>					
Member church subscriptions		28,425	-	28,425	25,405
Donations		1,025	-	1,025	-
<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Grants	2	-	14,875	14,875	21,938
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Sales		-	-	-	6,268
Rental income		49,637	-	49,637	74,072
<b>Investments:</b>					
UK listed investments		45,186	-	45,186	46,038
Rental properties		93,912	-	93,912	92,560
Other		431	-	431	957
<b>Other</b>					
Conference Fees		2,814	-	2,814	1,851
Other		4,183	-	4,183	16,716
<b>Total</b>		<b>225,613</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>240,488</b>	<b>285,805</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<b>Investment management costs:</b>					
Property management costs		48,729	-	48,729	10,676
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants payable	3	1,383	-	1,383	1,800
Other	3	304,567	14,875	319,442	372,559
<b>Total</b>		<b>354,679</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>369,554</b>	<b>385,035</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(129,066)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(129,066)</b>	<b>(99,230)</b>
Gains / (losses) on investment assets		(66,698)	-	(66,698)	38,354
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(195,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(195,764)</b>	<b>(60,876)</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(195,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(195,764)</b>	<b>(60,876)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		2,757,021	-	2,757,021	2,817,897
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>2,561,257</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,561,257</b>	<b>2,757,021</b>



Company Number: 00364987

**BALANCE SHEET****As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	6	47,314		55,202	
Investments	7	<u>2,515,957</u>		<u>2,632,655</u>	
			2,563,271		2,687,857
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	21,716		90,215	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>19,926</u>		<u>8,013</u>	
		41,642		98,228	
Current Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>43,656</u>		<u>29,064</u>	
Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets			(2,014)		69,164
Net Assets			<u>2,561,257</u>		<u>2,757,021</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted:					
General unrestricted funds	10		2,561,257		2,757,021
Restricted funds	10		-		-
Total Funds			<u>2,561,257</u>		<u>2,757,021</u>

For the year ending 31st December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 476 and section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

Directors' responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson  
Moderator

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

## 1. Accounting Policies

### 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

### Donations and incoming grants

Donations and grants are accounted for when received or receivable where entitlement is demonstrable.

### Investment income

Incoming resources from investments are accounted for when receivable.

### Grants payable

Grants are made on behalf of the Department of Health to members of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Faith and Belief Group. Grants are also paid to support various work carried out by organisations on behalf of the churches on an ecumenical basis nationally. Grants are accounted for when paid or when there is an obligation to pay.

### Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the Independent Examiner's fees and costs relevant to strategic management.

### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each tangible fixed asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold property improvements	- straight line over the period to 31 December 2031
Furniture and equipment	- 10% / 20% / 33% straight line

### Investment properties

Investment properties are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains are included in the Statement of Financial Activities. No depreciation is provided on investment properties. This is a departure from the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 which requires all properties to be depreciated. The directors consider that to depreciate the properties would not give a true and fair view. Depreciation is only one of the many factors reflected in the valuation and the amount which might otherwise have been shown. The investment properties



### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

are maintained to a high standard and as such their residual value is expected to be not less than their cost and therefore the depreciation is immaterial to the accounts. Impairment reviews are carried out on an annual basis by the Board. The directors consider that this accounting treatment results in the financial statements giving a true and fair view.

### Listed Investments

Listed investments are shown at market value. Realised and unrealised gains are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### Funds

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general fund.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of costs.

### 2. Income and endowments from Charitable Activities: Grants

	2025	2024
Restricted Funds	£	£
Miscellaneous - Health Care Chaplaincy	375	5,313
Methodist Church - Prison Chaplaincy	10,000	10,000
Culham St Gabriels' - Education Project	4,000	4,000
Westhill Endowment - Education Project	500	2,625
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>21,938</b>

### 3. Expenditure on: Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Grants payable:</b>				
Ministerial counselling service	1,383	-	1,383	1,300
Other	-	-	-	500
	<b>1,383</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>1,800</b>
<b>Direct expenditure:</b>				
General	187,216	-	187,216	239,445
Health Care Chaplaincy (HCC)	34,732	375	35,107	34,640
Education officers	63,735	4,500	68,235	65,534
Prison Chaplaincy	18,884	10,000	28,884	32,940
	<b>304,567</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>319,442</b>	<b>372,559</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>305,950</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>320,825</b>	<b>374,359</b>



#### 4. Directors' Emoluments and Staff Costs

Total compensation paid to key management personnel in the year amounted to £51,761 (2024: £50,746).

Staff costs during the year were:	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	199,590	191,685
Social security costs	12,189	13,883
Pension contributions	17,341	17,674
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,120</b>	<b>223,242</b>

No employees received remuneration greater than £60,000.

The average number of employees during the year was:	2025 Number	2024 Number
Direct charitable activities	4	4
Management and administration	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Directors' emoluments, including pension benefits, amounted to £nil (2024: £nil).

Expenses reimbursed to seven (2024: six) directors for travel, subsistence and conference expenses were £2,661 (2024: £3,485).

#### 5. Net Income / (Expenditure)

Net incoming resources is stated after charging:	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiner's Fee	2,400	2,220
Depreciation	7,888	7,888

#### 6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Furniture and Equipm't £	Leasehold Property Improvem'ts £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2025	24,726	234,444	259,170
At 31 December 2025	24,726	234,444	259,170
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2025	24,726	179,242	203,968
Charge for the year	-	7,888	7,888
At 31 December 2025	24,726	187,130	211,856
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 December 2025	-	47,314	47,314
At 31 December 2024	-	55,202	55,202

Leasehold property improvements were effected during preceding years to the London headquarters of the company which it occupies under the terms of a lease due to expire in 2032.



## 7. Investments

	UK Listed Investments General Funds	Investment Properties General Funds	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Market Value</b>			
At 1 January 2025	1,482,655	1,150,000	2,632,655
Revaluation in the year	(66,698)	-	(66,698)
Purchased in the year	485,000	-	485,000
Redeemed in the year	(535,000)	-	(535,000)
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,365,957</u>	<u>1,150,000</u>	<u>2,515,957</u>
<b>Historic Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2025	1,209,755	667,881	1,877,636
Purchased in the year	485,000	-	485,000
Redemption in year	(443,713)	-	(443,713)
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,251,042</u>	<u>667,881</u>	<u>1,918,923</u>

The UK listed investments portfolio is made up of UK fixed interest stocks and equities, all quoted/listed within the UK. Investments which made up over 5% of the value of the portfolio are as follows:

	2025	2024
	%	%
COIF ethical income units	91.51	92.34
COIF property fund units	8.49	7.66

The investment properties were revalued at estimated open market value by the Directors in 2013, the directors do not believe that the market value has changed significantly since then.

## 8. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	21,288	7,296
Prepayments and accrued income	428	82,919
Total	<u>21,716</u>	<u>90,215</u>

## 9. Current Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	2,280	2,500
Deferred rental income	16,125	10,625
Other Creditors	25,251	15,939
Total	<u>43,656</u>	<u>29,064</u>



## 10. Funds

	01-Jan-25	Transfers between funds	Income	Expend iture	Gains / (Losses)	31-Dec-25
	£		£			£
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>						
General reserve	124,366	50,000	225,613	(354,679)	-	45,300
Investment reserve	1,209,755	41,287	-	-	-	1,251,042
Investment revaluation reserve	272,900	(91,287)	-	-	(66,698)	114,915
Property reserve	667,881	-	-	-	-	667,881
Property revaluation	482,119	-	-	-	-	482,119
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<b>2,757,021</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>225,613</b>	<b>(354,679)</b>	<b>(66,698)</b>	<b>2,561,257</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Healthcare Chaplaincy	-	-	375	(375)	-	-
Prison Chaplaincy	-	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Education	-	-	4,500	(4,500)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>(14,875)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2,757,021</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>240,488</b>	<b>(369,554)</b>	<b>(66,698)</b>	<b>2,561,257</b>

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as a general fund. Investments and Property assets are represented as separate funds distinguishing between cost and revaluations as these funds are not available for day-to-day expenditure.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of costs. During the year a grant from the Methodist Church was restricted to the costs of prison chaplaincy.

## 11. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
General unrestricted funds	47,314	2,515,957	(2,014)	2,561,257
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>47,314</b>	<b>2,515,957</b>	<b>(2,014)</b>	<b>2,561,257</b>



## 12. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>			
Member church subscriptions	25,405	-	25,405
<b>Charitable activities:</b>			
Grants	-	21,938	21,938
<b>Other trading activities:</b>			
Sales	6,268	-	6,268
Rental income	74,072	-	74,072
<b>Investments:</b>			
UK listed investments	46,038	-	46,038
Rental properties	92,560	-	92,560
Other	957	-	957
<b>Other</b>			
Conference Fees	777	1,074	1,851
Other	16,716	-	16,716
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,793</b>	<b>23,012</b>	<b>285,805</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
<b>Investment management costs:</b>			
Property management costs	10,676	-	10,676
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Grants payable	1,800	-	1,800
Other	349,547	23,012	372,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>362,023</b>	<b>23,012</b>	<b>385,035</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>(99,230)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(99,230)</b>
Gains / (losses) on investment assets	38,354	-	38,354
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>(60,876)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(60,876)</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>(60,876)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(60,876)</b>

## 13. Related Parties and Control

The General Secretary had day to day control of the charity. The trustees have overall control of the charity.

Previously Eric Southwick Chartered Accountant was appointed to provide the services of Finance Officer to the charity. Eric Southwick Chartered Accountant is controlled by E Southwick, a director / trustee of The Free Church Federal Council (Incorporated). E Southwick declared his interest in Eric Southwick Chartered Accountant and was absent from discussions and took no part in the decision to appoint Eric Southwick Chartered Accountant. The remaining directors were satisfied that it was in the best interests of The Free Church Federal Council (Incorporated) to appoint Eric Southwick Chartered Accountant and did so under the authority provided within the company's Articles of Association. The cost of these services in the year was £13,585.