

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST,
CLAYGATE & ESHER**

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2025

Charity Number 268539

THE TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

Status

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher is a registered charity number 268539.

Constitutional Objects

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts.

The church is governed by its Constitution and by-laws, which regulate such matters as finance and property, and the election, duties and responsibilities of members and officers.

Its object is to maintain, demonstrate and spread the knowledge of Truth, as set forth in the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science and Leader of the Christian Science Movement. The church is open to all.

Fulfilment of Objects, Activities and Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The church holds services and meetings in accordance with its objects. A Sunday service is held at 10.30 am. The service of worship and prayer includes readings from the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, prayers, congregational singing and a solo.

A Sunday School is held at 10.30 am for children and young people up to the age of 20, where they learn how to make practical the moral and spiritual teachings of the Bible in their own lives. Pupils attend the classes in the church or online, and in addition to the local community, they come from elsewhere in the UK and from other countries.

A meeting is held at 7.30 pm each Wednesday, except on the first Wednesday of each month when it is held at 12.00pm. It provides everyone with the opportunity to share with others, the healings and experiences that have resulted from the study and practice of Christian Science. This meeting also includes readings from the Bible and 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' by Mary Baker Eddy to help those attending address world problems and individual and community concerns with effective prayer.

The Sunday service and Wednesday meetings are accessible through the Zoom system and open to anyone, anywhere, unable to attend them in person. A significant number of people in the immediate area as well as others in many parts of the UK and overseas regularly listen to these online services. The number of those attending online varies between 20 and 35, plus up to 80 people accessing recordings of services afterwards.

These recordings are available on the church website for a week. The recordings of Wednesday meetings are permanently deleted from church files within 3 months.

The Church maintains a Reading Room throughout the year, and it is open for a period once a week. It serves as a spiritual resource centre, enabling the public to find spiritual solutions to their problems, and provides a supportive environment for study, contemplation and prayer. The sales room and lending library stock the Bible, the Christian Science textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, and other books on Christian Science published by the Christian Science Publishing Society, as well as selected articles from the Christian Science Monitor in Monitor Weekly, CDs and magazines such as the Christian Science Journal and Sentinel.

There is a digital display screen with changing slides installed in the front window. This gives information about church activities and inspirational pictures and writings from the Bible and Science and Health by Mary Baker Eddy, appropriate for the times.

Lectures

The FCCS Claygate & Esher presented two lectures during 2025. The first was given by Nikki O'Hagan, CS entitled 'The Science of God and its Power to Transform Us' Saturday 1st February. It was very well attended. Online access was restricted to members who were unable to attend the lecture in person in our church. The lecture was not recorded or made available online. The second lecture was streamed live online and was by Nate Frederick CS entitled 'Prayer and Well-being: A spiritual adventure' on 22nd June 2025 and was held in our church. It was well attended and was available online for several weeks.

List of other key activities over the last 12 months

- Launched new website built by the UK Online Reading Room and transferred the domain and email to their host
- Purchase of SumUp card machine and new mobile phone to enable easier collection taking and communication from the Reading Room
- Installed new literature dispensers
- Repainted upper front windows
- Redecorated auditorium walls following changes to speakers
- Arranged for roof inspection
- Reviewed building insurance
- Safeguarding policies reviewed by new Sunday School Superintendent, and additional training attended and shared with teachers
- Bought SS iPad and put new arrangements in place for technical assistant to support technical requirements for Sunday School
- Held a Sunday School family picnic lunch
- Supported two Sunday School pupils attending Junior Focus October weekend
- Hosted zoom meeting on behalf of Hawthorne Trust to provide an update to Surrey churches on Charton Manor and Christian Science nursing in South East
- Continued collaboration with Elmbridge I-CAN, local charity
- Food bank collection for Ukraine
- Registered with Sharesy Website - Community Venue Partnerships

Review of Financial Activities and Investment update

The Increased resources of the church as a result of a large legacy from a late member and the sale of the Reading Room in 2016 continue to be turned to good account. A gift from the Westminster Fund towards church activities was accepted and put towards the development of the new website.

At the October Members' Business Meeting, the church members took a decision to close the CAF bank account and open HSBC Money Manager account in its place. This was a purely practical decision as it simplifies the management of our bank relationship.

New investments are the responsibility of the Board, which shall obtain proper advice, if necessary, from an investment manager authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The Board shall obtain the sanction of the membership on matters of principle via normal Business Meetings.

Reserves

The Church has investment reserves of £393,774 (end of Oct). This compares with £379,834 12 months earlier. The investment portfolio's total annual return was 8.4%. The monetary assets totalled £33,917 (£18,982 – 2024)

There is no specific Reserve Policy at present.

Future Developments

The holding of broadcasting of services will continue. An updated website is fully functional. Regular giving by members and listeners is expected to continue to meet the running cost of the church, and any further projects and donations to other Christian Science based charities, will be undertaken following a vote of the church membership at a business meeting.

Organisational Structure

A First Reader and Second Reader conduct the church services and testimony meetings. A President conducts church business meetings. The members elect these officers. The general management of the church is the responsibility of the Executive Board of four, unpaid members (the Trustees). The Readers, President and Board are elected each year at a Members' Meeting in early November, and take up office the following February. They hold the office for one year and for no more than three years consecutively.

Those who served during the past year are as follows:

First Reader: Nicholas Woodeson

Second Reader: Virginia Woodeson

The Board:

Mr J Witney (Chair)

Mr J Alanko

Mrs J Abbott

Mrs S Tarboton

President: Mr J P Bland

Clerk: Mrs A Walls

Treasurer: Mrs MJ Pearson

Statement of the Board's Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the church. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Principal Address

45 Hare Lane, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9BY

Website address

www.christianscienceclaygate.org

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 34 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1DD

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Investment Advisor

Rathbones incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment Limited Bournemouth, Midland House, 2 Poole Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5QY

Reporting Accountant

Bullimores, Chartered Accountants, Old Printers Yard, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2HF

Approval

The report of the Trustees was approved by the Members on 12th January 2026 and signed on their behalf.



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John Witney
Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST OCTOBER 2025

Unrestricted Fund	2025	2024
Receipts	£	£
Collections & donations	30,397	30,708
Legacy	25,000	-
Gift Aid tax recovered (1)	12,027	-
Interest	328	420
Reading Room receipts	652	759
Total Receipts	68,404	31,887
Payments		
Reading Room purchases	1,378	954
Outreach (2)	12,990	7,953
Cost of Services (3)	21,117	20,548
Church Premises costs (4)	13,674	14,434
Administration (5)	13,738	12,342
Committee on Publication	740	570
Independent examiner's fee	1,956	1,860
Bank charges	166	197
Major repairs and improvements	13,710	2,928
New Roof - Final payment	-	3,217
Total payments	79,469	65,003
	-£11,065	-£33,116
Bank balances at start of year	18,982	37,098
Investment Sales	26,000	15,000
Investment purchases	-	-
Monetary assets at the year end	33,917	18,982
Movement for the year to 31st October 2025		
Market value at the beginning of the year	£379,834	£345,934
Movements during the period:		
Cash invested	-	-
Income reinvested	£5,839	£4,803
Investment manager's fee for the year - provisional	-£4,710	-£4,332
Cash withdrawn	-£26,000	-£15,000
Increase (decrease) in market value - provisional	£38,810	£48,429
Value at year end	£393,773	£379,834

The income is reinvested and the investment manager's fee is charged to the investment account.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2025

Accounting policies

The Church is a 'small' charity having a gross income of less than £250,000 excluding capital disposals and therefore draws up its accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

The Reading Room stock has been valued at a nominal value.

	2025	2024
1. Gift Aid - not received until Nov. 24	£5,879	£6,148
2 Outreach costs	£	£
Lectures	5,578	2,162
Website (hosting)	1,912	591
RR Screen updates	300	-
UK CS RR online - £100 pm	1,200	1,200
Donations paid - TMC, CS Nursing	4,000	4,000
	<u>12,990</u>	<u>7,953</u>
3 Cost of services		
Zoom/Soundcloud/Music Licenses	880	795
Telephone/Broadband (other than Zoom)	587	763
Allowances - Readers	5,170	4,373
Musicians	11,487	11,255
Sound Technician	2,223	1,975
Quarterlies	359	459
Organ Service	-	293
Sundries (New books, taxis)	411	635
	<u>21,117</u>	<u>20,548</u>
4 Church premises costs		
Cleaning/Garden maintenance	4,897	5,056
Electricity (includes £930 deposit)	3,381	4,664
Insurance	3,704	3,865
Maintenance - window keys	1,404	675
Water	288	174
	<u>13,674</u>	<u>14,434</u>
5 Church administration costs		
Clerk/Treasurer	8,519	7,680
Accounting software	186	186
Payroll costs (Bullimores/HMRC)	2,779	2,654
Sundries (includes CSJ listing)	2,254	1,822
	<u>13,738</u>	<u>12,342</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AT 31ST OCTOBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank balances:		
Bank account HSBC	33,917	3,896
Deposit and current accounts CAF Bank - closed 23 October 25	-	15,086
Church working capital	<u>33,917</u>	<u>18,982</u>

Other Assets

Investments at market value	<u>393,774</u>	<u>379,834</u>
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The Reading Room stock	1,500	1,000
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Freehold Buildings at insurance value:

The Church building at December 2024	1,812,988	1,958,385
The contents	79,607	78,819

The accounts were approved by the Members on 12th January 2026
and signed on their behalf by



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John Witney
Chair of Trustees

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, CLAYGATE AND ESHER (Charity number 268539)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01 NOVEMBER 2024 TO 31 OCTOBER 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Claygate and Esher (the Charity) for the period ended 31 October 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity, 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives 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.
3. the accounts 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.



Name of principal: Ms S Edwards FCA

Name of firm: Bullimores LLP Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors

Address: Old Printers Yard
156 South Street
Dorking
Surrey RH4 2HF

Date: