Birtley Community Church

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

For the period ended
31 December 2025

Contents

Item	Page No.
Legal and Administrative Information	3
Trustees' Annual Report	4 - 8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Signature on behalf of Trustees	11
Notes to the Accounts	12 - 14

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: Birtley Community Church

Charity No: 1133513

Address:
Edward Road
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH3 1HG

Trustees:
Prof Patrick Roy Briddon BSc PhD (Chair)
Mr Rowan Marsh Phillimore
Mrs Joanna Rachel Snaith (Administrator)
Mr Joseph James Clifford.

Document Prepared by:
Prof Patrick Briddon (Chair)

Governing Document:
The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 6 November 2009

Bankers:
Lloyds TSB
Blaydon-on-Tyne Branch
3 Wesley Court
Blaydon-on-Tyne
NE21 5BY

Independent Examiner:
Mark Thompson
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

Birtley Community Church Trustees' Annual report 2025

Objects:

The objects of the Birtley Community Church Trust (referred to as "the Trust" below) are as follows:

1. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.
2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time-to-time think fit
3. To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit

Summary

The year 2025 has marked stability or growth in our church life and ministry with buoyant Sunday attendance and significant numbers of children from the local community attending our Royal Rangers. In summary, the Trustees believe that the Charity is continuing to thrive and to fulfil its objectives and its financial position remains stable.

Leadership and Oversight

The leadership of Birtley Community Church is unchanged in 2025.

The trustees (in alphabetic order) are:
Patrick Briddon (Chairman),
Joe Clifford,
Phil Phillimore and
Rachel Snaith (Administrator).

The elders responsible for spiritual leadership remain Patrick Briddon and Phil Phillimore. John and Meme Cama continue to participate in leadership decision making. We continue to receive support and oversight from Taking Ground.

Dawn Wolfington has continued to function as treasurer in 2025.

Church Worship and Teaching

Our Sunday meetings have continued throughout the year. It is particularly encouraging that attendance at these remains significantly higher than our position prior to Covid, with Sunday attendance typically being 60 people throughout most of the year although we have had above 80 people present. As a church family we have also continued to evolve to a church more closely representing the makeup of our part of Gateshead with families from Fiji, Nigeria, Russia and China now being part of our church family. This has also introduced more younger people with children into the church helping to balance our age demographic.

Christian teaching and its application has continued to be delivered through Sunday ministry, but also in mid-week housegroups. A weekend away was held at Minsteracres, 20-22 June 2025. A total of 65 people attended (43 adults, 15 children), 58 of whom stayed overnight and a further 7 attended in the daytime only. This is our largest number to date – for comparison, pre-covid in 2019, only 26 people attended including 2 children. Ray and Sylvia Mills ministered to us, and this was also a good time for the church to spend together, given the large percentage of newer church members. The children's activities were run throughout the weekend by Denise, Patrick and Yulia. This weekend involved a significant investment of approximately £5000 by the church, but this was nevertheless believed by the trustees to beneficial in terms of achieving our first object.

It is part of the church's ethos that we encourage members to grow in gifting and confidence. We also have rotas of people sharing and leading communion, worship, Sunday school and a stewarding team, so that more than half the church members are actively serving in some capacity. It is particularly pleasing that the newer members are now serving and leading alongside others.

Ladies Breakfasts take place quarterly on Saturday mornings. These are open to ladies from the church plus friends, family and others from the local community. They have been well attended, by up to 70 ladies. In addition to this, we have continued a biweekly meeting for ladies, which remains popular. This is to give a further opportunity for support and fellowship, especially important given the make-up of the church.

The Trustees consider that in these ways, we have continued to make progress with the first object of our Trust.

Pastoral Care and Housegroups

We continue to run three housegroups led by the Briddons and the Phillimores. These are provided so that members have the opportunity to share and pray with and

for each other as well as to study the Bible and develop confidence to lead. Approximately 40 adults are involved with one of these.

Church Ministries: Children and Community

Royal Rangers (https://www.royalrangers.co.uk/) ran throughout the year, meeting regularly on Saturday afternoons with a team of helpers from the church. Approx. 30 children are associated with this with an average attendance of about 20. These are mainly drawn from outside our Sunday attenders, with most of the children coming from the local community. It has been a very positive development to see leaders in this growing in confidence and attending training events. We now have a team of 6 helpers and leaders who have the confidence to lead many different types of activities.

In 2025 we ran a 3-day camp at Moor House Adventure Centre near West Rainton, just outside Durham. We took 45 people (36 children and 9 adults). This generated a lot of excitement and numbers look good for the 2026 camp.

Sunday school has also grown with the arrival of new families in the church, and usually has 12 children, although we have had up to 20 children. There is certainly a greater engagement with children than before.

These activities promote the first object of the Trust, with the Rangers ministry also contributing to education and to growth in social and leadership skills of young children from the wider community in Birtley.

Birtley Churches Together

Birtley Community Church remains an active member of Birtley Churches together and we have hosted one meeting on behalf of this organisation in 2025, a day of prayer for Christian Unity in January. We will host the World day of Prayer in 2026. We have also participated in the leading of the Remembrance Sunday service at the Birtley Cenotaph alongside other Christian leaders in Birtley.

Church Staff

Our church administrator, Rachel Snaith, is now in her sixth year with the church, working 10 hours per week. The main projects she has worked on during 2025 are:

- Conducting Human Resources activities relating employed staff and volunteers, including policy development and implementation.
- Running the church payroll.
- Updating, maintaining and implementing our Safeguarding policy and procedures.

- Running our safe recruitment policy that we are now implementing for all new volunteers with the church.
- Maintaining rotas for church activities.
- General administration
- Church cleaning

These activities are crucial to our efficient and legal operation as a trust.

From September 2025, we have been joined by a Youth Volunteer from Germany, Frido Reiter. He will be staying with us for one year and will be contributing mainly to the children's work, but will be fully engaged with all aspects of church life.

Estates and Furnishings

We have not undertaken significant projects investing in our estate during 2025. It should be noted that our properties are generally in a reasonable condition.

Gifts

Birtley Community Church has continued to support a number of external organisations and people, giving a total of £3883. All these gifts were within the scope of our objectives as a charitable trust.

Financial Review:

The income from Sunday morning offerings, standing orders and Gift Aid Income from HMRC was £42,892 compared to £34,775 in 2024. This is an increase in giving of £8,117. Overall income amounted to £52,653 compared to £45,419 in 2024. Gift aid provision, based on donations in 2025, was £3,359. Interest earned was £3,980; in 2024 this was £2,969.

The overall expenditure in 2025 was £39,390 compared to £45,364 in 2024. This is an decrease of £5,974 reflecting reduced expenditure on the worship band (we purchased a new piano in 2024) and the Royal Rangers young people's work (there was no overseas camping trip in 2025).

Salaries and expenses amounted to £6,987 in 2025 compared to £6,763 in 2024.

The Church's finances were thus in surplus of £13,263 in 2025. This compares to a surplus of £54 in 2024.

The total of our bank balances in deposit and current accounts was £300,067 at the end of December 2025.

No change was made to the estimated value of our land and buildings in 2025.

The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be positive.

Risk Management:

The Trustees continue to monitor for major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business, giving consideration to the likelihood and the impact of risks, and review what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months unrestricted expenditure. This will provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time.

Trustees' responsibilities:

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the company and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name Prof. P R Briddon Position: Chair Trustees

Signature  Date 31/03/2026

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of Birtley Community Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 11-15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under s.144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

Independent examiner's statement
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
   - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
   - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 5LB

Date: 20th May 2026.

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

01/01/25-31/12/25

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	42,892	0	42,892	34,775
Charitable Activities	5,782	0	5,782	7,674
Other Trading Activities	0	0	0	0
Investments	3,980	0	3,980	2,969
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	**52,653**	**0**	**52,653**	**45,419**
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	0		0	0
Charitable Activities	39,390	0	39,390	44,663
Other	0		0	701
Total	**39,390**	**0**	**39,390**	**45,364**
Net income/(expenditure)	**13,263**	**0**	**13,263**	**54**
Transfers between funds	0		0	0
Net movement in funds	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Funds brought forward	522,638		522,638	522,584
Total funds carried forward	**535,901**	**0**	**535,901**	**522,638**

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
31/12/2025

	NOTES	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings		230,000	230,000
		230,000	230,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	HMRC	5,835	2,476
Cash at Bank and In Hand	***1**	300,067	290,162
Total Current Assets		305,901	292,638
Total Assets		535,901	522,638
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		0	0
Hardship Payment		0	0
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		535,901	522,638
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		0	0
Unrestricted income funds		535,901	522,638
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		535,901	522,638
*1 Cash at bank includes uncleared year end items			

Print Name *Prof. P R Briddon*

Signature 

Date of Approval 31/03/2026

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1/1/25 to 31/12/25

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation
These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;
- and with the Charities Act 2011

There has been no change to the accounting policies, valuation rules and methods of accounting since last year.

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Incoming Resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.
Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.
Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

The value of volunteer help is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.

Expenditure and Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs include costs of Trustee meetings and relevant travel expenses.
Grants are recognised in the accounts as they are paid to the charity.

2. FUNDS

The Charity has one fund: An unrestricted general fund.

3. DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Income	
Donations and legacies	
External Donations	1,264.86
Gift Aided Income	13,134.00
Offerings	15,318.91
Offerings SO	9,815.00
HMRC	3,358.94
Total for Donations and legacies	**42,891.71**
Income from charitable activities	0.00
Church Retreat Income	1,425.00
Ladies Breakfast income	1,187.80
Royal Rangers Income	3,168.85
Total for Income from charitable activities	**5,781.65**
Investments	**3,979.78**
Total for Income	52,653.14

Expenditures	
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	
Buildings and estates	738.10
Furnishings and fittings	20.00
IT/PA/Worship	1,599.55
Maintenance	2,705.71
Total for Buildings and estates	**5,063.36**
Charitable gifts	2,783.05
Consumables	0.00
Consumables - admin	116.18
Consumables - cleaning	135.27
Consumables - kitchen	765.64
Consumables - other	1,018.71
Total for Consumables	**2,035.80**
Insurances	1,181.88
Memberships & Licences	1,644.53
Ministry	551.52
Church Retreat	6,353.43
General Church Activity	1,005.97
Gift to visiting speakers	1,100.00
Ladies Breakfasts	226.58
Royal Rangers	3,517.24
Total for Ministry	**12,754.74**
Other Professional Services	**400.00**
Salaries	**6,986.54**
Taxes Paid	**49.80**
Utilities	0.00
Broadband	519.87
Heating/Gas	3,386.55
TV licence	178.25
Water	2,165.57
Website Hosting	240.00
Total for Utilities	**6,490.24**
Total for Expenditure on Charitable Activities	**39,389.94**
Total for Expenses	**39,389.94**
Net Operating Income	**13,263.20**