Registered as **NEW OXFORD ROAD CHURCH,** Charity Number 1133819

Annual Report and Accounts to the year ending 31 December 2025

Registered office

Mexborough Life Church
New Oxford Road
MEXBOROUGH
South Yorkshire
S64 0JL

Contents

Trustees Annual Report

Independent Examiner's report

Statement of Financial activities

Report of the Trustees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025

Our purpose and activities

The objective of the charity is for the benefit of the public:

- Promotion of the Christian religion
- Provision of public worship
- Provision of activities for the public benefit

The vision

Our Vision is: L.I.F.E.

- Lift up Christ
- In this together
- Full of the Spirit
- Express the Love of God

We do this by · Relationships · Prayer · Worship · Word and Spirit together in unity · Discipleship · Mission

The activities

The vision underpins the full range of our led activities, in 2025 we had the following activities:

- Weekly Sunday services
- Two mid-week Bible Studies and Worship team
- Monthly Prayer meetings
- Weekly Toddler Group “Little Acorns”
- Primary Discipleship Group “Hive”
- Youth Discipleship Group “Rooted Youth”
- Monthly Women’s chat and bible study “Blooming Women”
- Schools work, including Open the Book, from the Bible Society
- Sunday School “Roots”
- Fortnightly Welcome Space/Drop in – “Cedars”
- Street Outreach at key times in the calendar, another 3 occurrences in 2025
- Website and Social Media
- Food distribution
- Community giving
- Christmas activities
- Tithing our income

Charitable purposes and public benefit

The charitable purposes are listed above and what the charity has done during the year to carry out those purposes for the public benefit are in the following section.

The Trustees and Leaders have taken the Commission’s public benefit guidance into account when making any decision it is relevant to.

Achievements through our activities from the year

The church believes that the Christian gospel is good news which should have a positive impact on the local community. To do so we need to provide discipleship and family support to our congregation. Furthermore, the promotion of Christian faith comes on the back of positive intervention in the life of the local community, demonstrating the gospel in both word and deed. The church also believes that a key role it has is to serve the local community in provision of services that may not otherwise be provided and in doing so introduce people to the Christian faith.

All the structure put in place and activities that created more sound, growing and financially and spiritually stable church in 2024 became a spring board to an increase in numbers and new contacts in 2025 leading to us need a full-time pastoral role (not just the part-time Pastor), which was put in place in November 2025, with a part-time Assistant Pastor. The extra giving also enabled us to employ a children's working going into schools and starting a mid-week group for Primary Children.

2025 also saw the strengthening of the connections between the leaders within the Dearne Valley, who met for prayer and collective worship monthly throughout 2025. At least 8 churches were regularly represented, some months more.

Weekly Sunday services

The church maintained its weekly Sunday service throughout the year with services continuing to be broadcast on-line and in-person. Attendance has increased again in 2025, as well as the number of members. In our March 2026 denomination report we noted 67 adult members and 71 average attendance.

Mid-weekly meetings: Prayer, Bible Study and Worship

A weekly pattern of Bible Study and Prayer meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays continued throughout the year. One group is more introduction questions/themes and the other for those needing more depth.

A further monthly women's bible study was ongoing that includes, time for fellowship, and has been attending by women from other congregations or those seeking God.

The prayer meetings were usually held on the first Tuesday of the month. The prayer topics were set by leadership and Pastor. The attendance was around 12-14.

The worship team continued to meet throughout the year and again drew new members into this area of church ministry.

Schools work

Following the appointment of our children's worker in March 2025 we contacted all the Mexborough Schools and in 2025 were regularly involved in one of the schools, we work with Doncaster Schools Trust and also started to use Open the Book, from the Bible Society towards the end of the year, which has opened up more of the schools in Mexborough to us for 2026.

Our Pastor was invited again to the local Secondary School and conducted 4 Christmas-themed assemblies.

Sunday School and midweek primary school and Youth meetings

Our Sunday School, called 'Roots' now meeting weekly Sundays, except over the summer and special family meetings.

We held our second Summer event for Primary school children, since COVID, reaching 35 children . We also again did the 31st October event to provide an alternative for those turning away from the darkness of the season.

We started our primary school "Hive" weekly sessions on a Wednesday that help pull in more of the community and around 5-8 children attended each week.

Our Rooted Youth sessions, starting last year, have strengthened the team and enabled us to meet almost every week in term time. Although numbers stay small we have good feedback and deep discipleship of the attendees.

Weekly Community groups "Cedars" and "Little Acorns"

Our 'Little Acorns' toddler group continues to thrive each Thursday (during term time) with the average attendance staying at around 25 children and their parents/carers (this is always a different flow of people as we have to say goodbye to some as they start nursery, but more come in to keep the numbers quite regular).

"Cedars" continued it's fortnightly Wednesday drop-in. We provide free hot meals and drinks, food, games, quiz and an opportunity to chat. Again more people have joined our regular congregation from our "Cedars" community group in 2025. And some of them being baptised in 2025.

Other Community action

We also held other outreach specific family services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, which have started to be a real connection between our community activities and the church.

We went into the streets handing out leaflets of our activities and the Good News newspapers at both Easter and Christmas spreading the real meaning of the seasons. We also went out in October sharing our faith and praying with people, including a team from a local bible training college. Several people were within earshot and responded to our message and stopped to talk with us as we told them the good news we have.

We continued to collect food to support Rotherham Food Bank (who also cover our area) and some needy individuals/families who attend our community and Sunday services.

Website and Social Media

We continued to provide our services live online finding that several Christian's and even non-Christians have been listening in and so we still provide this service for a few we are in touch with online, it also supports members who are on holiday or unable to attend the Sunday service to keep in fellowship.

Tithing our income

The church donated to a few ad-hoc projects with our 2025 tithe. Though most of the money was sent in 2026, as we usually send in bulk than regularly.

The 2025 projects were:

1. £2,250 (some of which was backdating 2024) supporting a Women's and Men's Crisis Centre, overseas bring the Good News to those looking to find refuge and support to overcome homelessness and poverty and receiving rehabilitation from addiction and escape domestic violence.
2. £5,179.79 (plus a 571.25 offering) supporting teaching at a Nagaland Bible College – sending trained teachers and pastors to reach many unreached people in the many persecuted areas of Asia

3. £232.50 supporting the ongoing provision of a motorbike for a pastor in a rural area in Nigeria for discipleship and pastoral care.

Other congregational news

We held another 3 baptisms, including 1 which was a joint church event with the Dearne Valley Churches at Manvers lake, over 50 people were baptised and hundreds in attendance, while many of the local people were reached from the messages and testimonies being proclaimed from the staging in place.

Future Plans

Enabling the increasing numbers to reach the community more effectively and to provide the finances to balance our budgets given our increased spending on much needed pastoral support and taking the opportunities given to us by the Children's Worker.

To increase our members and people who attend spiritually to further reach our community with the gospel to see that transformation of lives and more baptisms in 2026.

God provided for all our needs and met his given plans in 2025. We still holding on for God's guidance on the building as the previous extension on the limited space and use of that space that we have available just seems too small for the needs.

In 2026 we also spent the restricted funding on sound improvements.

Volunteers

We cannot run without our volunteers, and we had the following volunteers (some people in more than one role):

- Leaders 4 (2 were paid part-time by November 2025 – but they still completed ongoing voluntary work within the church)
- 4 active Trustees (one stepped down in the year, as per the details below, and was replaced in 2026).
- 6 Key roles and responsibilities (supervisors)
- 10 Little Acorns Team
- 8 "Cedars" team
- 4 Rooted Youth
- 7 Roots
- 5 people involved in our various Bible Studies/Prayer meetings (excluding paid role)
- 10 people on our catering teams for the various internal events
- 15-20 of our regular congregation present at our street evangelism
- 3 specific administration/governance roles

Structure and Governance

Type of governing document: trust deed, Wesleyan Reform Union Reference Deed, we are set up as a Charitable Trust.

How the charity is constituted: A church of the Wesleyan Reform Union

Trustees, Key Volunteers, Staff and Advisors

Trustee name	Office (if any) – all voluntary	Dates acted if not for whole year
Jennifer Copley	Treasurer and Payroll Officer	
Sarah Collins	Secretary	
Kit Owen-Smith		
Les Meadows		Resigned 10 August 2025

We were chaired by the Pastor during 2025 as he attended the meetings in a information only basis and to provide this key Chair support for us.

Trustee selection methods: Recommendation made by and approved by the Leadership Team and Trustees; approached by the trustees, to ascertain their willingness to serve their appointment; and approved by the congregation of the church.

Staff/Volunteer role	Details
Paid Pastor and Volunteers Leaders	During 2025 the paid Pastor (employed status since May 2023) continued the strategy of the church working with and answerable to the two volunteer leaders working on the vision and thinking about all our activities. In November 2025 we paid a further leader as assistant pastor as the Pastor role increased and needed more time. One leader resigned in June 2025 and two new ones were put in place in December 2025
Pastor and Assistant – additional	Provides the main teaching and high-level pastoral care to its congregation. Support from volunteers in teaching the bible studies, Sunday meeting and pastoral care is to be recognised. Assistant Pastor, mainly providing more pastoral support for the growing congregation, overseeing the children's work now this has grown and leading some bible studies and Sunday preaching and leading.
Trustees	Can challenge the decisions of Pastor/Leaders if necessary, but their main role is to ensure the decisions made by them and the activities conducted by the church are done so in a legal way and with good governance and financial management.
Volunteers	Listed above for various activities, some supervise the activity and others attend to support the team in various ways. We also have volunteers for various roles needed as part of the administration and governance of the work done at the church.

Type of adviser	**Details – same as previous years but more details given**
Legal	CLAS – see below Safeguarding is supported with a contact officer from the WRU Trustees also have roles in this matter, including our Treasurer who works in the financial field, including payroll and HR for a living.
Wesleyan Reform Union https://thewru.com/about-us/confession-of-faith/	Our denomination, which also connects with CLAS (Churches Legal advisory service)

Policies and Procedures

We have continued to review our policies to see which need more review and how regular. We have put more risk assessments in place for ad-hoc activities/services previously missed.

In 2025 we have done more training to ensure all the new supervisors are aware of what is required. We also identified more activity specific activity to protect our volunteers and attendees.

We also completed our annual Safeguarding Policy review.

We have the following policies some* of which are still awaiting formal approval since changes in 2019:

- Health and Safety (including Fire, First Aid and Food Hygiene)
- Safeguarding
- Key Holders
- Reserves Policy
- Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy
- Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Code of Conduct for Trustees (including Anti-bribery & Corruption)
- Employment policies including Staff Handbook, disciplinary and grievance policy, and appropriate risk assessments for lone working and homeworking
- Staff/Volunteer expenses policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Hire Policy
- diversity and equality policy*
- Gifts and Money Laundering policy

Financial Review

Reserves

Ongoing ability

2025 the continued growth in numbers since late 2022 enabled us to grow financially and strengthen from the 2024 position. 2024 was the first year for a while we have had full activities and made a large surplus without external support and hence we could support the extra employees taken on.

The R&P nature of the 2025 accounts shows a £2,607 deficit but given we haven't claimed the gift aid for the period there is at least a further £12,000 income relating to the year not within the R&P accounts.

2024 looks like a higher income, but this is because it had a backdated 3 year gift-aid claim made in the year, so with none being made this year is not comparable.

However, in 2025 we had £50,967 of donations, compared to £47,371 in 2024.

Our unrestricted funds, as at 31/12/25, stand at £43,119 (2024 = £43,319 – so not much movement and GA is owing so much larger increase in reserves), and we have £5,061 set aside to meet our tithing target (2024 = £5,784) – explained in activities above). These funds have been built up and preserved as at the end of 2025 as explained above.

These reserves are being used as follows, per our policy:

> Our normal reserves policy to hold 3-months regular (including monthly proportions of annual/quarterly costs) are: just over £18,000. We updated the reserves policy in 2024 to identify at which point we should start actions so that we do not get to this position.
>
> £1,675 set aside for ad-hoc spending and £4,600 on extra costs not currently covered by our ongoing income and committed from reserves. There are also some items we are saving towards for when they will need replacing such as the lower-hall boiler.
>
> At present, until the detailed costings of the building project are known, most of the remaining general reserves are being kept high to support that as it enables us to do more of what we want rather than be restricted.

There are currently no financial commitments, other than employee contracts (one of which is fixed term to 31st July 2027). Anything planned for the future is as per "Future Plans" section above.

Restricted reserves

The restricted funds, mainly for the building improvements, stand at £21,836 (2024 = £23,520).

Apart from the interest on the account holding the building fund (which is also allocated to the building fund) the only addition this year was a special offering (smarties fundraising) for .

There are some individual reserves showing on a cash basis as in deficit: these are all due to us sending across the gift aid due on donations before we claim them, saving transfer fees.

Reserves held elsewhere

Also as stated last year due to a sale of a building we have additional financial resource available to us at WRU some for capital purposes and some for outreach. These are not within these accounts and remain with the WRU but have been set aside for us. Around £55k of this has been set aside for supporting the building improvements and the rest as at 31/12/25 is still thought to be going to be used towards the support the new posts this year until more members and finances increase, and future outreach activities if not needing more for the building plans.

Overall changes in funds

From the above you can see that overall the general fund didn't really move because of ongoing regular income from members covering the increased costs from having more members despite the increase in spending on the new employees.

The restricted went down as there was a spending of some of the restricted funds as we moved on with the planned building project at the time, with no new ones coming in.

Within reserves policy?

So as at the end of 2025 we were well within our reserves policy.

The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily. The thoughts behind using our current reserves are explained further in the above comments.

We praise God for this glowing financial report and position that has enabled us to back our pastor/leader vision for the year, yet again, without any grant funding. Though in 2025 we did receive a £4,000 redistribution of funds from the WRU's local circuit we belong to as its spending went down and meant it had built up unnecessary reserves.

Accounts - income and expenditure comments

Our funding this year came almost purely from: free will offerings and donations mainly from church congregation (87.6%) none of which being gift aid; 0% from a grants; hire of the building (3.1%); donations from those who access our weekly activities (1.1%); interest (1.1%); and other (7.0%) (as explained above re WRU local circuit). Of this income 0.7% of it was given for restricted purposes.

The Trustees designate 10% of the gross unrestricted donations. This is for our biblical tithe principal to organisations doing the same work in promoting the Christian faith.

The restricted income all furthered our charity objectives.

Of the unrestricted income we used this to:

1. Further our charities activities (89.1%)
2. Trading costs to raise further funds including voluntary income (1.3%) which made profit
3. Governance Costs (0.5%)
4. Designated for giving away for the same charitable activities (9.8%)
5. Deficit on the general fund (as owing backdated GA claim) meaning income overspent (0.4%)

Overall, our spending was 98.4% on charitable activities.

Assets

Movement of assets compared to the previous year (2024), listed on page two of the accounts:

were disposed of as stated:

Asset	**Why disposed – any value for it**
1 TV	Found out broken and unusable
Old piano, mostly keys not working	Sold for £50

We purchased the following assets:

Asset	**Why purchased**
None in 2025 only that which was integral to the building so no separate asset to report	

Charity Name	No (if any)	CC16a
Mexborough Life Church and Centre (New Oxford Road)	1133819	

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Designed funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Income	45,145	210	5,041	50,396	70,439
Activities for generating funds	1,804	-	-	1,804	2,521
Charitable Activities	577	-	-	577	620
Investment Income	395	203	44	642	766
Other Incoming Resources	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	51,921	413	5,085	57,419	74,346
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Old none-working Piano	50	-	-	50	-
Sub total	50	-	-	50	-
Total receipts	51,971	413	5,085	57,469	74,346
A3 Payments					
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	-	-	-	-	248
Charitable Activities	51,231	2,097	5,808	59,136	51,158
Governance Costs	250	-	-	250	663
Fundraising Trading Costs	690	-	-	690	1,662
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	52,171	2,097	5,808	60,076	53,731
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	52,171	2,097	5,808	60,076	53,731
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 200	- 1,684	- 723	- 2,607	20,615
A5 Transfers between funds				-	-
A6 Adjustments	-	-	-	-	52,008
A6 B/f Cash funds	43,319	23,520	5,784	72,623	
Cash funds this year end	43,119	21,836	5,061	70,016	72,623

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Designed funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	42,059	21,836	5,061
	CASH	1,060	-	-
			-	
	Total cash funds	43,119	21,836	5,061
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (only items since 2019)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	New Oxford Road Building (legally is ours but we cannot sell, only use for furthering the gospel)	Restricted		
	PA equipment at NoR			
	Old highthorn PA equipment at NoR			
	Hoovers (2) and cleaning equipment			
	3 old Laptops - various uses			
	2 more recent Laptops	General	960	
	Portable sound/projection/light. equip.			
	Kitchen and café equipment NoR			
	Dishwasher	General	1,320	
	Toys and equipment for mums and tots group			
	Crafts and games			
	Various DVDs and Books			
	Chairs/Tables at NoR			
	NOR Lecturn and Storage boxes/drawer	General		
	Heater in NoR	General		
	Baptism tank: hot tub and pump etc	General		
	2 TV (2 stands) - other broke and disposed			
	Football table on lower hall stage	Youth/Outreach		
	Portable nets and various balls: NoR storage	Outreach		
	Christmas Tree and decorations			
	office equipment: chair, cupboard/cabinets	General	380	
	office equipment: small lockable files (1)	General	23	
	Office electrical equipment: printer (2), shredder	General	65	
	Conference Chairs and desks at MYC			
	Wireless Mircophone	General	106	
	Old Musical instruments that are ours: keyboard; old drum kit			
	4 Speakers and 1 amp			
	New Piano at NoR	General	478	
	Signs and Banners	General	37	
	H&S equipment inc fire and FA kits	General		
B5 Liabilities			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Copley	Jennifer Copley	18/10/2026

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	New Oxford Road Church (Mexborough Life Church and Centre)		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1133819
Set out on pages	CC16A Sections A and B		

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 section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those 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 connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	A Mumford	**Date:**	20/10/2026
Name:	Andrew Mumford		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:			
Address:	30 Haigh Court, Brampton Bierlow Rotherham, S63 6LP		