BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135831

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

Tel: 01509 214163

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The officers present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Church's trust deed and applicable law.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Inland Revenue Charity Ref: XN 26557

Charity Number: 1135831

Holding Trustees:

A Davis
D Eagles
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Elders:

Rev D Eagles (Pastor)
A Davis
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Deacons:

Ivan Timson
Martin Barrington (Appointed 7/12/25)
Henry Omereye (Appointed 7/12/25)
Brenda Claire Wint-Omereye (Appointed 7/12/25)
Kevan Harris (Appointed 7/12/25)

Church Premises:

Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 1FH

Independent Examiners:

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

Bankers:

NatWest plc

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Until 2010, the Church was constituted under a trust deed dated 9 December 1981, and was an "excepted" charity by virtue of its affiliation to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. However, in order to comply with the Charities Act 2006, a new Constitution dated 9 March 2011 using an approved governing document issued by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches has been adopted and the Church has become a "Registered Charity".

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, the Managing Trustees comprise those persons appointed as Pastors, Elders and Deacons. There is provision for a minimum of three trustees at any one time. A number of Holding Trustees are appointed from amongst the Managing Trustees to take responsibility for the Church buildings and property.

Trustee Induction and Training

As trustees are drawn solely from the ranks of Church Elders and Deacons, they are already very familiar with the workings of the Church. As such, no specific formal training is given to new trustees, although they are briefed to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and duties as trustees.

Organisation

The Holding Trustees and officers who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on page l. Pastors, Elders and Deacons are Managing Trustees and must all be in full agreement with the Church's doctrinal basis and "Church Matters" policy document:

Pastor: The appointment of a Pastor shall be by the unanimous recommendation of the Elders and Deacons and by the wholehearted spiritual witness of the Church Members' Meeting, evidenced by the wholehearted approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members' Meeting.

Elders: Recognising the biblical pattern, the existing Elders are to be the ones who normally identify new Elders, with the membership being invited to give their wholehearted agreement (Titus 1:5) at the Church Members' Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members' Meeting.

Deacons: Following the biblical pattern, Deacons shall be adult members who conform to the scriptural qualifications (1Tim 3:8-10, 12 and 13 Acts 6:3). Church members will give recommendations to the Elders and Deacons for their consideration. The Elders and Deacons will bring persons with their consent to the membership for their wholehearted agreement at a Church Members' Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members' Meeting.

The Pastors, Elders and Deacons shall normally serve without time limit up to the age of seventy, unless removed from office. However, Church Officers may be requested to continue in their office past this age, by the agreement of the other Church Officers and with an annual review. The following considerations should be taken into account when agreeing to continuation in office: health, gifts, mental capacity and the individual's personal circumstances. A Pastor, Elder or Deacon may voluntarily resign by submitting in writing a letter to that effect to the remaining Church Officers. The Pastor will normally retire from office at the statutory retirement age.

Missionary Support Policy

The Church has continued to support several missionaries, both in the UK and Overseas, through discretionary support and designated gifts. In addition, the Church is currently supporting two other missionary couples serving with missionary organisations on a monthly basis. Often, those supported have been sent out from Bethel to their new work and/or previously worked or served at Bethel Church.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the Church shall be:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Wigston and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- And such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting and the Managing Trustees, further the work of the Church.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives in planning future activities and policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

All of the Church Sunday and midweek meetings are held in person, although the service is also available online or via DVD, for those who cannot attend in person.

The Church generally holds one service on a Sunday, as well as mid-week and ad-hoc meetings to teach the Christian faith and to provide opportunities for worship. Bethel Connect groups are part of the mid-week meetings and are house-group based to allow those attending to get to know each other better. In addition, the Church hosts activities for all ages, from tots and parents, through children, teenagers, young adults, ladies, men and 55+, which combine social activities with opportunities for teaching. The Church also arranges outreach events to raise awareness of the local Church in particular and the Christian faith in general. All the above activities and meetings are open to society in general and are not restricted to members of the Church.

Specific activities for children and young people include weekly Kids at the Corner and Youth Meetings, as well as special opportunities such as an Easter Children's Youth Club, and the Bible Exhibition for local schools. The Church also holds regular meals, at least quarterly, to allow those attending to get to know each other better. For the wider community there is also a Summer BBQ and Fun-Day and the Christmas Carols by Candlelight service, as well as special events.

"The Corner" coffee area and church hall are used widely by the Church, and also to provide an open door to the local community. This now hosts four regular sessions, Community Night (held on Monday evening) "Coffee and Company" (held on Wednesday Morning), Friendship Café (held on Thursday morning) and "Craft and Chat" (held on Friday evening), which are very well attended.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received during the year totalled £195,634, principally from donations to the Church and a legacy, and was significantly higher than the corresponding amount received in 2024 (£58,130) due primarily to a legacy received of £120,324 but also due to a higher level of general giving, and this is expected to continue in 2026.

Total payments during the year were £80,842, which was similar to the level of expenditure in 2024 (£84,312). 2025 included £13,205 exceptional costs associated with upgrading the Church Audio Visual Systems, part of a refurbishment of the Main Church Building, which will continue into 2026 (2024 also included some exceptional one-off costs, including £10,945 to replace the church chairs and £6,723 for electrical surveys and remedial works).

Overall, this meant that the Church reported a surplus for the year of £114,792 (2024: deficit of £26,182). Ignoring the impact of the exceptional (refurbishment) costs and the benefit of the legacy, the Church operated at a small surplus in 2025.

There is now a significant cash balance, which will partly be deployed on the refurbishment in 2026, and the Church Officers and Trustees are considering how to best utilise the remainder.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are set aside to respond to any unforeseen funding difficulties. The Church officers produce a budget each year to forecast the amount of income that the Church expects to receive. Based on this, the Church will plan its expenditure for the future year, so that it keeps normal expenditure pegged to slightly below the level of income.

The overall budget is reviewed during the year at Church officer meetings to ensure that the Church can achieve its targets regarding planned expenditure and make any adjustments as necessary to keep within it.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- subject to any 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 Church will continue to function.

The officers are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

Approved by the trustees and church officers on 2nd October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

A Davis
Treasurer

2nd October 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 10

Respective responsibilities of the Church officers and examiners

The Church officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church 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 you as officers 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 examiners' 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.

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

2nd October 2026

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 Other Designated Funds	2025 General Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
Receipts:					
Donations		240	60297	60537	46255
Legacies		-	120324	120324	-
Gift Aid		60	13954	14014	11321
Charitable activities:					
Use of Church facilities		-	60	60	120
Other income		-	-	-	-
Investment income		-	599	599	434
Insurance claim		-	100	100	-
		300	195334	195634	58130
Payments:					
Charitable activities:					
Pastoral ministry	2	-	44082	44082	42544
Evangelism and outreach	3	-	3571	3571	2431
Establishment costs	4	-	33189	33189	38697
Gifts		-	-	-	640
Total Payments		-	80842	80842	84312
Net receipts/(payments)		300	114492	114792	(26182)
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		300	114492	114792	(26182)
Bank balances at 1 January 2025		-	19647	19647	45829
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		300	114492	114792	(26182)
Bank balances at 31 December 2025		£300	£134139	£134439	£19647

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 Other Designated Funds	2025 General Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold land and buildings	5	-	292314	292314	292314
Fixtures and fittings	5	-	23449	23449	12501
		-	315763	315763	304815
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayments		-	-	-	-
Bank balances		300	134139	134439	19647
		300	134139	134439	19647
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors and Accruals		-	1200	1200	1200
NET CURRENT ASSETS		300	132939	133239	18447
TOTAL NET ASSETS		300	448702	449002	323262
FUND BALANCES					
General Fund	6	-	448702	448702	323262
Restricted Fund	6	-	-	-	-
Designated Funds:					
Other Funds		300	-	300	-
		£300	£448702	£449002	£323262

The Financial Statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 2nd October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

A Davis

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular use, in this case representing the Church's Buildings fund.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on the restricted purposes as specified by the donor.

2 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	2025 Other Designated Funds	2025 General Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
Pastoral remuneration and expenses	-	40969	40969	39763
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	1023	1023	981
Employer's NIC	-	-	-	-
Visiting preachers	-	290	290	-
Missionary support	-	1800	1800	1800
Training Costs	-	-	-	-
	-	44082	44082	42544

The Church employs a Pastor. All of the Elders (including the Pastor) and Deacons are Managing Trustees, as they are all included in making decisions on how the charity's funds are expended. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Pastor continues to be excluded from all discussions relating to him and his remuneration. The Pastor is the only trustee to receive any remuneration or expenses; however other trustees have been reimbursed during the year for expenditure they have incurred on behalf of the Church.

3 EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

	2025 Other Designated Funds	2025 General Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
Bible exhibitions	-	2314	2314	1809
Outreach expenses	-	1257	1257	622
	-	3571	3571	2431

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

	2025 Other Designated Funds	2025 General Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
Rates and water	-	1787	1787	1528
Insurance	-	1892	1892	1833
Light and heat	-	3959	3959	8446
Repairs and maintenance	-	6075	6075	10490
Cleaning	-	634	634	108
Telephone	-	1100	1100	1072
Postage, stationery and photocopying	-	306	306	90
FIEC affiliation fees	-	1100	1100	1000
Catering	-	1773	1773	1784
DBS Checks	-	322	322	178
Other miscellaneous costs	-	250	250	23
Independent examination and payroll fee	-	1260	1260	1200
Fixed Asset Purchases	-	12511	12511	10945
Equipment Purchased	-	220	220	-
	-	33189	33189	38697

5 FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Freehold Land and Buildings	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
At 1 January 2025	292314	33599	325913
Additions	-	12511	12511
At 31 December 2025	292314	46110	338424
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	-	21098	21098
Charge for the year	-	1563	1563
At 31 December 2025	-	22661	22661
Net Book Value at 31 December 2025	292314	23449	315763
Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	292314	12501	304815

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Church's freehold properties comprise:

a) The Church buildings situated in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston (acquired 14 October 1950).
b) The Church hall, bookshop and flat situated at the corner of Burleigh Avenue and The Crescent, Wigston (acquired 24 November 1955).

The Church officers estimate that the market value of the Church's properties following the refurbishment project is about £750,000.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	2025 Other Designated Funds	2025 General Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
Fixed Assets	-	315763	315763	304815
Current Assets	300	134139	134439	19647
Current Liabilities	-	(1200)	(1200)	(1200))
	£300	£448702	£449002	£323262

7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Total donations received from the Trustees in the year was £26,854.