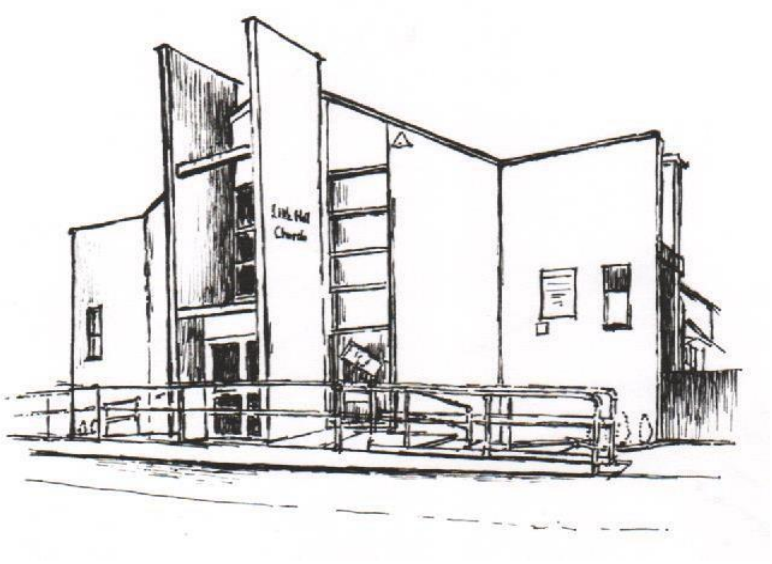
Little Hill Church

Wigston



Trustees' Report for the Year ending

31 March 2026

Little Hill Church

Launceston Road, Wigston, Leics, LE18 2GZ

www.littlehill.org.uk

Registered Charity (England & Wales) No. 1138737

HM Revenue and Customs (Charities) Reference: XN32811

Governing Documents

The objects of Little Hill Church and procedures for its government are laid down in the Trust Deed of 16 May 1975 (amended on 20 January 1993) and the Constitution adopted about 1975

Trustees during the year:

Rich Andrew Harley Clarke John Eardley (Chair of Trustees)

James Harrison Joshua Harrison Peter Holmes

Andrew Irvine Faqir Kallow Mike Smith

Kenny Sunmboye

Elders:

Faqir Kallow (Chair) John Eardley

Joshua Harrison Kenny Sunmboye

Deacons:

Rich Andrew Harley Clarke James Harrison

Peter Holmes (Chair) Andrew Irvine Mike Smith (Treasurer)

Bankers:

HSBC, 2-6 Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, LE1 1DA

Independent Accounts Examiner

Melanie Smith

11 Tremaine Drive, Wigston, Leics., LE18 2GW

Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting this report of the church's activities for the year ending 31 March 2026, which includes the information below and the attached Receipts and Payments Account.

Purpose and Objectives

Little Hill Church is 'an undenominational and evangelical work for the service of Almighty God and the education of young persons' and for other purposes 'incidental to or connected with the work of a Christian church in accordance with the teaching of the Scriptures' (Trust Deed clause (a)).

Little Hill Church exists for:

a. the building up of Christians through preaching and teaching,

b. bringing Christians together to love one another,

c. the worship of God through prayer, praise and 'breaking of bread' (communion)

d. baptising believers,

e. fulfilling the commission to make disciples. (Constitution para.1)

Public Benefit Statement

Little Hill Church aims to provide public benefit through the advancement of the Christian Religion, in accordance with reformed evangelical theology, through the various activities highlighted below. The main area of activity has been Wigston and the immediate surrounding area, but Little Hill Church believes in a global mission in accordance with the command of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19 and 20. We have therefore provided support for members, other individuals and organisations, as resources permit, where such individuals and organisations are seen as sympathetic to our theological position and are themselves engaged in the promotion of Christian Religion.

Regular Activities In pursuit of these objectives, the following regular activities have been undertaken during the year ending 31 March 2026.

On **Sunday mornings** Joshua Harrison, the church's Pastor, has continued to preach through the Gospel of Luke. This has been interspersed with single sermons on other topics when appropriate.

Our **Sunday afternoon** services have continued with men from the church preaching through various Biblical topics. Joshua Harrison is preaching a series on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. There have also been visits from guest preachers at both our Sunday morning and afternoon services which have been very much appreciated.

- During the last year, the church has run a **creche** during the Sunday morning service. This is run by seven volunteers on a rota basis. The age range of children attending the creche is 0-four years old. We have up to six children attending each week. We provide toys and books along with basic drawing equipment. The purpose of the creche is to provide childcare so that parents can join in with the main service.

- **Thursday Meetings:** We meet every Thursday for fellowship, prayer and ministry from God's word. In our Bible studies this year, we have completed a series on God the Holy Spirit and started a new series looking at The Armour of God from the New Testament book of Ephesians. Monthly home-based Fellowship Groups have studied and discussed chapters from the church's Bible reading scheme (many are following this to read through the Bible in three years). Once a month we meet for the Lord's Supper and we also meet for a monthly time devoted mainly to prayer, where we split into small prayer groups. All these meetings are a blessing and help the church to grow in its spiritual life.

- **Ladies' Bible Study:** Each Tuesday morning over 20 ladies regularly gather to study God's word, pray and share fellowship together. It is a blessed time. Recently we have been encouraged by some new ladies joining with us, who are

always welcome. Others use the Bible Study notes that we put online. Studies this year have included series on the Risen Christ, the book of Acts, and Psalm 119. There have been meetings for praise and worship at Christmas and Easter, as well as occasional visits from outside speakers. We are grateful for Ruth Eardley's contribution in the Autumn Term, and for the refreshments provided each week by Victor Rowe.

- Monthly **Saturday Prayer Focus Meetings** are held to praise God and pray for the work of the gospel locally here in Wigston, nationally and internationally.

- **Friday Fellowship** continued through the year with a meeting most months, providing hymn singing and a devotional talk followed by a lunch. This is designed for senior citizens from the church and other friends.

- **Online Catechism Group** Our online group began on 31.8.25 and met weekly, usually on Sunday evenings 6-7 pm.
  We used a simple catechism called 'All Together Catechism' developed by Tim Hayward in Aberdeen.
  The 52 Questions and Answers are simple and short – ideal for those whose first language is not English.
  The online forum worked well and six women attended regularly (for various reasons it is difficult for them to attend an evening meeting in person).
  There was a high level of commitment and interaction from the start and we were able to continue our studies even when away on holiday.
  We studied the basics of Biblical Christianity, asked a lot of questions and discussed many issues of faith and practice.
  We prayed for each other, supported each other and were eager to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus.

Evangelism The church has held meetings for various age groups over the years. All the following meetings are provided at no cost to individuals, and most are term-time activities.

- **Little Ones at Little Hill** is a group for pre-school children that happens on Monday afternoons from 1:30-3:00pm in term time.

In total, there are five ladies from the church who serve at Little Ones in different ways. All are DBS checked and church members. At Easter, one of our helpers stepped back from leading for a time of maternity leave, although they continued to attend. By autumn, they had returned to participating in and helping with Little Ones.

We offer a wide variety of toys, activities, and crafts for the children to enjoy. We then have story time, where the children hear a Bible story and sing some songs afterwards – a mixture of nursery rhymes and children's choruses that contain simple Biblical truths. Approximately 25-30+ parents and carers attend with a similar number of children and babies, many of whom are regulars.

The aim of Little Ones is for the team members to show friendship to the parents and carers, to share their Christian faith when appropriate, to invite them to Sunday services and evangelistic events, and to sow seeds of Biblical truth in the story time for children (for example, that God made the world).

- **Children's Talks:** The Children's Talks continue to be well attended each week with a regular number of between 10-15 children. James Eardley and Trevor Bowman teach the bulk of stories with others filling in where necessary. Talks have covered Old Testament narratives of early figures of faith such as Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon and Samson, to name a few. Teaching aims to be engaging, with children acting the story, the use of visual aids and props, or action-based material. The children answer questions and read parts of the Bible. It is always a real blessing to hear children reading the word of God! Application is often interwoven throughout the story and addressed at the end to gauge understanding. Songs are chosen to complement the theme of each week's story. Learning is consolidated upstairs during Lion's Cubs.

  Overall, a gospel emphasis is placed on these narratives with children assured that the stories are real and that Jesus Christ can be their Saviour and Lord. We pray that God would be at work so that simple head knowledge may become saving heart knowledge of Him.

- **Kids' Club** is our weekly meeting for primary school aged children held on Friday evenings during term time. It has been great to keep this meeting going, and we continue to be encouraged meeting new families from the local area. We teach stories from the Bible and sing Christian songs with the children. There are a variety of activities, including sports and crafts, as well as fun games and events. There are regularly between 15-25 children attending this meeting each week.

- **Lion's Cubs:** The attendance of children at Lion's Cubs on Sunday mornings continues to increase slowly. We have between eight and 20 attending, averaging about 14. The children are aged between four and 13 years. We have four leaders and five helpers who lead Lion's Cubs on a rota basis. We always have two staff members in attendance at each session but call on additional helpers when necessary.

  The group follows the same curriculum as the Children's Talks giving opportunity to ensure the lessons are fully understood. Other activities are linked to these.

  The children participate by sharing their news, singing, learning Bible verses and engaging in related practical activities such as craft, colouring or quizzes.

  It is a wonderful privilege to teach our children and to see their Bible knowledge developing as we share the Lord Jesus with them.

- **Open-Air witness in Wigston**: This is scheduled for the last Saturday of each month, under the banner of The Open-Air Mission. A total of nine took place between April 2025 and March 2026. Between two and five members of the church regularly take part in this. The aim is to share the Christian message with local people. This is done through preaching, offering free literature (in English and a range of languages spoken locally), and engaging in conversation. Invitations are regularly given to Sunday services and other church activities, such as the Thursday 'Warm Space'. A free-literature table and display board are used. It is usually located on Bell Street, near

Sainsbury's, between 10:30 and 12:30. There is generally a good uptake of literature and several conversations each time. This activity is covered by the Open-Air Mission's public liability insurance, risk assessments, and code of practice. Please see oamission.com for further information.

- **Youth Club** has grown further this year with young people aged 11-16. Attendance varies from six to 20 teenagers. The leadership team has also grown with six regular helpers. The evenings consist of practical activities on a four-week rotational basis; sports and games one evening; team activities around tables; a series of challenges in pairs; or a club night where there are choices available for the young people. Every effort is made to make each session interesting and fun. Each evening there is a talk addressing various issues of life or simply relating an aspect of the life of Jesus from the Bible. This year the theme was based around questions asked by the young people pertaining to teenage and Christian life.

- **Warm Space** is on Thursdays from10–12 noon with intermittent holiday breaks. We have drinks, food, games, crafts and it is a time to chat. It is exciting to see new people coming in on a regular basis, sometimes a local just passing by. We engage in conversation and introduce them to their local church. Friendships start to form and some folk come along to other church activities. The local carers' Walking Group continue to join us every other week. We have between 30-40 attending and many come on a regular basis. We thank God for this bridge to the local community.

- **ParkLife:** This is our summer outreach to youngsters (15 years and older) and others in the local parks. As last year, we were unable to go out to the parks because we had no female volunteers - only men. We prayed that this would change.

- **Women2Women**: We had three events this year.
  The first was in June 2025: a planned picnic at a country park was rearranged due to inclement weather and we had a coffee and cake morning at a member's home. About 20

women attended and it was homely and welcoming.
Our second (November 2025) was a Christmas wreath-making event at church, very well attended by church folk and many invited friends. Over 50 women attended and together we considered the meaning of Christmas.
The third event was a Chinese takeaway evening at Little Hill Church for around 60 women. Penny Wang shared her experiences of living as a Christian in China. Everyone enjoyed the food, quiz and conversation.
All the events gave good opportunity for friendship and sharing the love of Jesus.

- **Men's Evangelism:** Between April 2025 and March 2026, we put on two men's outreach events. In June we offered an evening meal at a local carvery restaurant on the theme of 'The Great British Summer', with a quiz and an after-dinner gospel talk. In March we hosted a Saturday morning Men's Breakfast in the church building, with food provided by a church catering team, plus a gospel talk. These events are free for all attendees and paid for by the church. Both have had between 35 and 40 men in attendance, of a wide age range from teenagers to senior citizens. Approximately a third of attendees are church members; others are guests, family members, friends and work colleagues.

- **Senior Citizens:** Four Saturday teas were again held in this period. The programmes typically included music, poems (both classic and light-hearted), quizzes, gentle sitting-down exercises, and a gospel talk, followed by the tea. In June we had a visit from Knighton Senior Choir, who sang Christian hymns and songs, introduced and explained by their conductor, Tom Smith.

- **Free literature case:** Christian literature, Gospels, New Testaments and Bibles continue to be taken from the box, at the rate of a few copies per month. The literature is checked and restocked on an ongoing basis. Literature relevant to Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Day is made available at relevant times. A poster with a QR code link to the online YouVersion is in one of the door windows, making the Bible

instantly available to smart-phone users in many international languages. This is to make sure that as many as possible are able to read the Bible, and also reflects the multicultural demographic of the Little Hill estate.

- **Ministry to International Students:** Working with Globe Café, three church trips to Little Hill Church were arranged. We had 38 students visiting from 11 different countries/regions: China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh and Egypt. It is a privilege as a church to make Christ known amongst these students, especially as many of them are not allowed to go to church or speak about Jesus in their own country.

Worship and Ministry

- Joshua Harrison is the full-time pastor and he continues to bring a consistent, consecutive ministry.

Other Activities

Church History Lectures: An annual series of Church History Lectures has been given at Little Hill since 2018 by Dr Lesley Rowe, one of our members. This year saw the continuation of the series 'Three Victorian Defenders of the Faith', with lectures on C H Spurgeon and John Kennedy of Dingwall. The 2026 series on 'Preachers and Poets: three hymn-writing gospel ministers' began with a lecture on Isaac Watts. An encouraging number of people, including friends from other churches, has attended, and enjoyed sharing fellowship together. It has also been encouraging to see the good number of YouTube viewings of the lectures, demonstrating a wider interest in the subject.

- Little Hill Church continues to support the **Blythswood shoebox appeal** with collection and despatch again taking place at a member's house. Blythswood is a Scottish-based Christian charity aiming to change the lives of many for good and forever in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. A record 3,148 boxes containing Christmas gifts and practical necessities for distribution to the needy in Eastern Europe were collected and

sent. The greatest number of boxes were sent to Ukraine, to give hope to many suffering from the continuing conflict.

- **Food Bank:** We continue to support the local community by the collection of food donated by members of the church. A collection point is located in the foyer of the building and when full, this food is taken to the Leicestershire Regional Distribution Centre. The staff at the Centre expressed a special thanks to the church for its continued support in a difficult year.

Practicalities

- **Deacons and Elders** have separate monthly meetings to consider their respective responsibilities.

- **Elders and Deacons** continue to meet monthly at the Church Council Meeting to conduct the business of the church. Here decisions are made and practicalities discussed including church finances. Members of the church are invited to attend.

- Those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults have been **DBS** checked and continue to be rechecked after five years.

- The **Little Hill Link** is sent out electronically to inform the church of forthcoming activities and is a useful prayer stimulus. Copies are printed and posted to those who are not online.

- **A library of Christian books** is available for members and visitors to borrow.

Risk Management

- The Deacons conduct an **annual inspection** of the premises to identify and evaluate any physical risks to which the church and its attendees may be subject, and they are satisfied that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate or eliminate these. A system of **annual Risk Assessments** for activities is used.

- We continue to review **Safeguarding Policy** each May which now includes protection for vulnerable adults.

Management of Funds

The attached Receipts and Payments Account shows total income of £115,047 (excluding gifts designated for other organisations, all of which have been used for the purpose stated by the givers). The total income compares with £107,057 the previous year. This is entirely made up of voluntary donations, mostly from members of the congregation. There are no fundraising activities.

The income enabled us to finish the refurbishment of the toilets and to provide a new office/study ready for the additional Pastor to start work in April 2026, all without any significant reduction in reserves.

Day-to-day expenditure is normally met by individuals within the congregation and reimbursed on production of an invoice or till receipt. More than 95% of payments are now made by Bank Transfer or Direct Debit. Two Deacons are authorised to conduct Internet Banking. All payments are checked against the records after the end of each month and signed off by two Deacons other than the Treasurer.

The church continues to support gospel work elsewhere. This year £20,240 has been sent as gifts to individuals and organisations involved in evangelism, training leaders, Christian advocacy and general relief work around the world. This is 17.5% of the church's income.

Throughout the year the church held a comprehensive insurance policy with Congregational Insurance which included cover for Public Liability, Employer's Liability and Trustees' Indemnity. The Public Liability cover includes activities of the church on or off the premises.

The congregation has already responded to the need to support an additional paid Pastor from April 2026 and the

Trustees consider that the church is in a sound financial position to continue doing so, as well as maintaining our regular activities and has sufficient reserves for current maintenance projects.

Approval

The Trustees' report was approved by the Trustees at a meeting on 12th October 2026

Little Hill Church

Receipts and Payments Account y.e. 31st March 2026

	Note	2026 £	£	2025 £	£
Opening Balances					
Bank Current Account		3,030.05		3,870.82	
Bank Deposit Account		27,148.48		29,215.55	
Receipts					
Gifts and donations	1	98,599.04		*86,276.78*	
Designated Income	2	2,220.00		*825.00*	
Income Tax Refund		15,448.77		14,960.47	
Bequests and Legacies		500.00		5,102.46	
Interest Received		499.20		472.46	
Miscellaneous receipt		0.00		245.00	
Payments					
Ministry	3		50,549.07		*46,775.99*
Evangelism	4		10,165.62		*8,126.60*
Gifts	5		20,240.00		*17,065.00*
Designated Expenditure	6		940.00		*895.00*
Accommodation	7		17,980.51		*31,339.10*
Administration	8		7,856.85		*6,588.32*
Closing Balances					
Bank Current Account			3,017.04		3,030.05
Bank Deposit Account			36,696.45		27,148.48
		147,445.54	**147,445.54**	***140,968.54***	***140,968.54***

NOTE

No credit has been included in the accounts for a sum of £??? (2025 £7,742) which is due by way of an Income Tax Refund against Giftaid for the period.

AUDITORS REPORT

I have examined the Church's Books of Account and the Receipts and Payments Accounts which, in my opinion accurately state the Church's affairs.

CHANGE TO ACCOUNTING POLICY

The Church decided to change the way the accounts are prepared and presented with effect from 1st April 2019 from an accruals basis to a receipts and payments basis. The effect of this is that there is no longer a balance sheet showing the value of the church building, other fixed assets, current assets and liabilities.

Melanie Smith

Qualified with CIPFA in 1976, (member between 1976-2013) but no longer a member of the Institute

28th June 2026

Notes to the Accounts

Note		2026	*2025*
		£	£
1	Gifts and Donations		
	Giftaided Gifts	65,602.00	*59,400.60*
	GASDS	1,848.06	*2,153.35*
	Gifts and Donations	26,851.87	*17,761.00*
	Other Offerings	4,297.11	*6,961.83*
		98,599.04	*86,276.78*
2	Designated Income		
	Designated Gifts:		
	Other Designated Gifts	870.00	*825.00*
	Weekend/Day Away/Camp	1,350.00	*0.00*
		2,220.00	*825.00*
3	Ministry		
	Pastor's Salary, Nat Ins & Pension	42,897.97	*41,539.10*
	Pastor's expenses and training	1,244.43	*304.99*
	Other meeting costs	850.81	*785.93*
	Special Gifts	1,957.99	*487.00*
	Lectures	-103.00	*295.42*
	Warm Space	1,817.87	*1,248.04*
	Visiting Preachers	1,655.00	*1,220.00*
	Weekend/day away	228.00	*895.51*
		50,549.07	*46,775.99*
4	Evangelism		
	Evangelism - General	44.16	*40.00*
	Publicity	87.00	*21.00*
	HBC	0.00	*326.12*
	Little Ones	299.64	*293.45*
	Kids Club	301.58	*81.14*
	Friday Fellowship	897.02	*586.70*
	Women to Women	1,377.78	*1,169.32*
	Mens to Men	1,334.45	*1,344.09*
	Senior Citizens	572.51	*464.73*
	Youth	382.70	*621.47*
	Lions Cubs	96.44	*45.54*
	Printing/Literature	3,089.34	*1,846.69*
	Catering	1,683.00	*1,286.35*
		10,165.62	*8,126.60*

Notes to the Accounts

Note		2026	*2025*
		£	£
5	Gifts		
	Vinukonda	1,930.00	*1,750.00*
	Zambesi Mission	1,760.00	*1,600.00*
	Blythswood Care	1,270.00	*575.00*
	Friends International Penny Wang	1,270.00	*1,150.00*
	Friends International Ruth Duffin	1,270.00	*1,150.00*
	Platform 67	1,270.00	*575.00*
	Open Air Mission	1,270.00	*1,150.00*
	Christian Institute	1,270.00	*1,150.00*
	Int'l Mission to Jewish People (formerly Christian Witness to Israel)	1,770.00	*2,150.00*
	Int'l Mission to Jewish People - presentation/ministry	0.00	*250.00*
	Tear Fund	1,000.00	*0.00*
	Thurlaston Chapel Bible Notes	130.00	*120.00*
	Platform 67 - presentation/ministry	0.00	*825.00*
	Our Daily Bread Ministries	130.00	*120.00*
	UFM - Bordeaux	1,270.00	*0.00*
	UFM - Daveys	250.00	*250.00*
	UFM - 50/50 Hicham/Coquerel	0.00	*1,000.00*
	Children for Christ Ministry	0.00	*500.00*
	The Lodge Trust	250.00	*0.00*
	Carley	830.00	*0.00*
	Limassol Church	750.00	*0.00*
	Glencroft Church	300.00	*0.00*
	Barrett Hall Jamaica	1,000.00	*0.00*
	Braunstone EFC	1,000.00	*0.00*
	SIM International Matt & Lisa Wallis	0.00	*250.00*
	European Mission Fell - presentation/ministry	0.00	*250.00*
	Pilgrims Friends Society	250.00	*0.00*
	SGA - for Ukraine work	0.00	*2,000.00*
	SGA - visiting speaker re Phoebe Project	0.00	*250.00*
		20,240.00	*17,065.00*
6	Designated Expenditure		
	Designated Gifts:		
	Other Designated Gifts	940.00	*895.00*
		940.00	*895.00*
7	Accommodation		
	Light & Heat	3,745.33	*4,947.31*
	Insurance	0.00	*2,206.26*
	Cleaning and Hygiene	884.51	*709.08*
	Building and Fixtures	308.45	*20,638.73*
	Building repairs & services	2,408.48	*2,336.60*
	Building Project Foyer Changes	1,533.98	*0.00*
	Building Project New Office	8,620.69	*0.00*
	Water Rates	479.07	*501.12*
		17,980.51	*31,339.10*

Notes to the Accounts

Note		2026	*2025*
		£	£
8	Administration		
	Bank Charges	109.94	*129.62*
	Recording	0.00	*57.23*
	Library	0.00	*12.47*
	Equipment purchases	2,824.18	*2,963.72*
	Equipment repairs	146.33	*64.25*
	Printing/photocopying	232.55	*218.90*
	Postage	41.28	*208.66*
	Telephone	397.26	*375.38*
	Stationery	166.65	*144.00*
	Advertising	22.00	*140.26*
	Audit	250.00	*250.00*
	Website	619.44	*605.16*
	Professional fees	2,554.72	*676.17*
	Affiliations and CRB checks	492.50	*742.50*
		7,856.85	*6,588.32*