CHARITY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH 2025

Our pastor set the scene for 2025 with a New Year message that 2025 doesn't just bring new hopes, expectations, and promises - it also offers choices and opportunities that can shape us. While we may look ahead with uncertainty, God knows the future in its entirety. "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done" (Isaiah 46:9-10). This perfect knowledge of His not only offers us security but calls us to trust. We cannot control what the year will bring, but we can choose how we respond to each day. Pastor Daniel was away in February for a short period of sabbatical. Such times of refreshing are essential for ministers to continue with endurance in the great work they have been called to do by God.

Connected Life Church is a multi-cultural church which is blessed with members linked to a variety of nations throughout the world, and this year we responded to the increasing ministry needs by appointing an additional pastor. In May we had a very special weekend with a 'Culture Day' celebration on the Saturday, which included an abundance of colour and joy. And on the Sunday we marked the third anniversary of the newly named Connected Life Church, a church with roots in both England and Romania, and a church in which both cultures are celebrated within the context of the unity found in Jesus Christ, the head of the Church.

The anniversary service on the Sunday morning was followed by a shared lunch, and in the afternoon we held the Induction service for our new (additional) pastor, Alex Botos. We were joined in this celebration by the pastor and several members of Gateway church where Alex had previously been a pastor. The Induction service was led by Heart of England Baptist Association Regional Minister, David Ellis. There were several short messages from different pastors, all reflecting on the character of a man who is required to lead and pastor a church. Such character is produced in a person by devotion to God and His Word, and is expressed in kindness and encouragement towards people. Our Senior Pastor expressed his gratitude, first and foremost to God, the One who has been faithful to us every step of the way. And also, to everyone who contributed so much to the holy occasion.

The weekend services were more than just a celebration. They were a beautiful testimony of unity, service, and joy as we marked, in the one weekend, our variety of cultures and heritages, our church anniversary and the induction of Pastor Alex. As a church, we experienced a time of grace, gratitude, and growth.

We continue to receive good, faithful teaching from the bible, and this year we completed our study of the gospel of Mark in our sermons and care groups, where we continued to reflect on the importance of a persons' heart before God. At Easter we reflected on aspects of the Easter message, including 'The wisdom of the Cross of Christ in a world full of pride and confusion' In the middle part of the year, in our sermons, we took some time to explore different aspects of the Christian life, including a short series on finding grace in the shadows – God's help in difficult times. In the later part of the year, we studied the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians before ending the year with Christmas-orientated messages. Throughout the year we have also received teaching and encouragement ministry from several visitors and guest speakers, and were pleased to be joined for our anniversary celebrations in May by a friend and guest speaker from Romania. The message was on how to remain a healthy and fruitful church.

Regular groups continued at the church, including Parents & Toddlers, Youth, Care, and Prayer groups. Church rooms were also used by various community groups, including an Eritrean church who have a connection with us going back several years. A Food bank operated from the church premises and was supported by church members as well as other members of the community. There have been two new community initiatives started this year. There is now a weekly Wednesday Welcome group which meets for four hours. This is aimed at both church members and folk from the local community and is for senior citizens who may be experiencing loneliness and needing a friendly group to be a part of. The activities include exercise sessions, art activities, quizzes and a light lunch.

The second new group is also aimed at the over 50's in the community, and is a monthly event which includes line dancing, art activities and a focus on healthy eating.

As a church we have continued to support the Erdington Street Pastors team which meets regularly for prayer for the community and to walk the High Street during the day, offering support to people and a listening ear.

After a year of varied experiences - trials and sorrows, as well as joys and accomplishments, our Senior Pastor brought a closing message to the church which spoke of the comfort of Christ which has sustained grieving families, the prayers of the brothers and sisters in Christ which have carried the hurting, and the compassion of this church community which has been a living testimony of what it means to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

General account	**2025**	**2024**
Receipts	**£**	**£**
Weekly offering	146,378	114,231
Other income	45,795	173,461
Gift Aid	20,608	17,984
Bank interest from HEBA	253	
TOTAL	**213,034**	**305,675**
PAYMENTS		
Ministry	81,883	50,232
Church equipment	4,001	3,881
Premises & maintenance	68,545	20,308
Administration	11,604	7,212
Missionary giving	20,608	10,767
Youth & Sunday school	3,338	976
Other expenses	260,439	Not calculated
TOTAL	**450,418**	**93,356**
Bank balance as at 1st January 2025	**483,070**	**260,299**
Bank balance as at 31st December	**245,684**	**472,619**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH (Reg charity number 1139836.)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ending 31st December 2025, which have been set before me.

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)($b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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

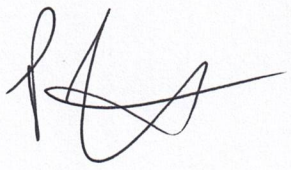
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Paul Allen
4 Swan Road
Draycott In The Clay
Ashbourne
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Date: 15 October 2026