# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | Feb | 2025 | | 31 | Jan | 2026 |

## Section A Reference and administration details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Charity name** | Unlocking the Growth Trust |
| **Other names charity is known by** | |
| **Registered charity number (if any)** | 1144336 |
| **Charity's principal address** | 7 Rivington Road Springhead |
| | Oldham |
| | Lancashire |
| | **Postcode** OL4 4RH |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jonathan Mounteney | | | |
| 2 | Matthew Brunton | | | |
| 3 | | | | |

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution) | Trust Deed |
| How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company) | Trust |

| | |
|---|---|
| Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by) | Appointed by trustees |

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

## Section C Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

To advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the doctrines outlined in the Apostle's creed,

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

# Trustees' Annual Report

Unlocking the Growth Trust and God and the Big Bang
Reporting period: 1 February 2025 – 31 January 2026

## 1. Introduction

During the year ending 31 January 2026, the Trust continued its work of advancing the Christian faith through two complementary areas of activity: equipping churches to develop a culture of invitation and enabling young people to explore the relationship between science and Christian faith.

The work reflects a shared commitment to helping people encounter God, encouraging thoughtful engagement with Christianity and creating opportunities for individuals to explore faith in an open, accessible and engaging way.

The Trust's activities have sought to serve both the Church and the wider community through education, training, publishing, practical resources and direct engagement.

# 2. Unlocking the Growth – Developing a Culture of Invitation

The Unlocking the Growth ministry continued its work of equipping church leaders and congregations to develop a culture in which every church member is encouraged and enabled to invite others to explore Christian faith.

The underlying conviction is that invitation is not simply an evangelistic event or an activity for a small group of enthusiastic church members. It is an essential expression of Christian discipleship and the responsibility of the whole congregation.

Key areas of activity included:

- Leadership development: Supporting church leaders to understand the barriers that prevent congregations from becoming more invitational.
- Training and seminars: Sharing practical, emotional and theological insights to help churches move beyond simply being welcoming towards becoming genuinely inviting communities.
- Resources and publishing: Making available books, teaching materials, online content and practical tools to help churches embed invitation into their everyday life.
- International engagement: Continuing to develop relationships and opportunities to share the invitation approach with churches beyond the UK.
- Encouraging everyday invitation: Promoting the mobilisation of ordinary Christians to invite friends, neighbours and colleagues to explore faith and church life.

This work builds on the experience gained through Back to Church Sunday and the development of an invitation-based approach to mission across numerous countries. The Trust website describes the wider work as having generated an estimated one million invitations.

mobilising every church member to invite+1

# 3. God and the Big Bang – Exploring Science and Faith

Education, schools and public engagement

God and the Big Bang (GATBB) continued to deliver its programme of educational workshops, helping young people explore some of life's biggest questions through dialogue between science and Christian faith.

The project seeks to demonstrate that science and faith need not be understood as competing explanations of reality. Instead, it encourages curiosity, critical thinking, respectful discussion and the freedom to ask difficult questions.

The programme works with pupils aged 9–18, teachers, schools, churches and cathedrals. It is designed to be educational rather than proselytising,

enabling pupils of all faiths and none to engage with the subject matter.

Principal activities and achievements during the year included:

- School workshops: Delivering interactive science and faith workshops involving scientists who are Christians. Sessions included keynote presentations, practical activities, group discussions and question-and-answer panels.
- Educational reach: Between September 2024 and September 2025, the programme delivered 73 events involving 4,017 pupils.
- National reach: Building on a programme established in 2013, God and the Big Bang has now worked with more than 500 schools, reached approximately 40,000 pupils and engaged over 2,000 teachers.
- Teacher development: Developing opportunities for teachers to explore how questions of science, faith and the curriculum can be addressed confidently in the classroom. This included the development of online CPD and whole-school training.
- Church and school partnerships: Supporting opportunities for churches, schools and families to explore science and faith together, including the Creation Sings initiative.
- Development of resources: Continuing to develop educational materials and approaches to support discussion of subjects such as evolution, creation, cosmology, climate change and the origins of life.
- Speaker development: Supporting scientists and communicators to share their expertise with young people and contribute to the delivery of workshops.

The programme's educational approach is built around three principles: Discover, Discuss and Debate. Pupils are encouraged to examine evidence, consider different perspectives and develop their own understanding of the relationship between scientific knowledge and religious belief.

God and the Big Bang+4

Developing organisational capacity

During the year, attention was also given to strengthening the capacity of God and the Big Bang to deliver and expand its work. This included developing the Schools Development Officer role, with responsibility for school relationships, event coordination, speaker recruitment and development, and the collection and analysis of impact data.

This is an important step towards building a sustainable programme capable of reaching more schools and supporting the next generation of science and faith communicators.

# 4. ACORN – Developing Everyday Mission and Discipleship

An important strand of the Trust's wider work during this period was the

continued development of the ACORN Spiritual Practice.

ACORN offers a simple rhythm of prayer, noticing, listening and responding, helping ordinary Christians become more attentive to the people God places in their everyday lives.

The practice encourages Christians to move beyond seeing mission as something undertaken only by church leaders or organised church activities. Instead, it helps members of congregations recognise that they are already participants in God's mission.

The work included:

- Developing and sharing ACORN teaching and devotional resources.
- Encouraging churches to embed prayer and everyday invitation into congregational life.
- Supporting the development of prayer partnerships and small groups.
- Connecting invitation with personal spiritual formation and discipleship.
- Encouraging Christians to build genuine relationships with people outside the church.

ACORN complements the Trust's established work on invitation by providing a practical spiritual discipline through which invitation can become a natural expression of Christian life.

# 5. Public Benefit

The trustees recognise their responsibility to ensure that the Trust's activities provide public benefit.

During the year, the Trust sought to fulfil its charitable purposes through education, training, publishing and practical engagement with churches, schools and the wider public.

The Unlocking the Growth ministry benefits churches and their communities by equipping Christians to develop more inviting congregations and create opportunities for people to explore Christian faith.

God and the Big Bang provides educational opportunities for young people to engage critically with science and faith. Its workshops encourage intellectual curiosity, respectful dialogue and a deeper understanding of both scientific methods and Christian perspectives.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's activities.

# 6. Partnerships and Wider Engagement

The Trust continued to recognise the importance of partnerships in extending the reach and effectiveness of its work.

In particular, God and the Big Bang benefited from relationships with schools, diocesan education teams, universities, scientists, Christian organisations and individual volunteers.

The project has its origins in the Diocese of Manchester's work to promote the compatibility of science and faith. Since 2021, it has also benefited from the support of the John Templeton Foundation and its association with St John's College, Durham.

God and the Big Bang+1

The Unlocking the Growth ministry continued to build on relationships with church leaders and organisations internationally, recognising that the development of a culture of invitation requires sustained relationships, shared learning and practical support.

# 7. Priorities for the Coming Year

Looking ahead, the trustees identified the following priorities:

1. Strengthening Unlocking the Growth: Extend the reach of the Trust's teaching, seminars and resources, equipping more churches to develop a culture of invitation.

2. Developing ACORN: Continue establishing ACORN as a practical spiritual discipline that connects prayer, discipleship and everyday mission.

3. Growing God and the Big Bang: Increase the number of schools participating in workshops and strengthen relationships with dioceses and educational organisations.

4. Developing people: Recruit, train and support scientists, speakers and volunteers to deliver high-quality educational experiences.

5. Strengthening financial sustainability: Develop funding relationships, donations and partnerships to support the long-term delivery and expansion of the Trust's activities.

6. Measuring impact: Improve the collection of evidence and feedback to demonstrate the educational, spiritual and community benefits of the Trust's work.

# 8. Financial and Organisational Matters

The Trust's activities during the reporting period were supported through donations, grants and other charitable income.

The trustees continued to oversee the responsible use of the Trust's resources, ensuring that expenditure was directed towards the achievement of its charitable objectives.

The detailed financial position, including income, expenditure, reserves and assets, is set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The trustees receive no remuneration for their role in the governance of the charity.

# 9. Conclusion

The year ending January 2026 demonstrated the value of the Trust's two complementary areas of work.

Through Unlocking the Growth, the Trust seeks to help churches become communities in which invitation is a natural expression of Christian discipleship.

Through God and the Big Bang, it creates opportunities for thousands of young people to explore the relationship between science, faith and the big questions of life.

Both activities share a common purpose: enabling people to discover more, ask questions, develop understanding and encounter new possibilities.

The trustees are grateful to all those who have contributed to this work, including staff, volunteers, scientists, church leaders, teachers, donors and supporters.

The trustees look forward to building on this foundation and extending the reach and impact of the Trust in the coming year.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## Section D Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Churches have reported significant numbers of new members arising from the methodology, and also a liberation of their members in the field of invitation. The spiritual practice has resulted in hundreds of God-conversations and Christians growing in their faith. School Pupils through the God and the Big Bang have reported significant improved understanding of the Christian faith

## Section E Financial review

| | |
|---|---|
| **Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves** | The Trust aims to hold no reserves |
| **Details of any funds materially in deficit** | None |

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

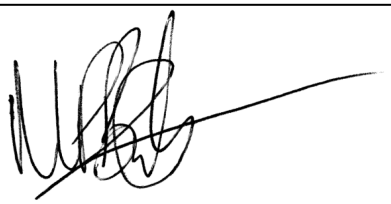
- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature(s)** |  |  |
| **Full name(s)** | Jonathan Mounteney | Matthew Brunton |
| **Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)** | Trustee | |
| **Date** | 3/11/2026 | |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees**

Charity Name
Unlocking the Growth

| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31st January 2026 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1144336 |
|---|---|---|---|

**Set out on pages** 4 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:** J Gardner **Date:** 5/11/26

**Name:** JOANNE GARDNER

| | |
|---|---|
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | MAAT<br>ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS LTD |
| **Address:** | Alex House, South Parade, Morley,<br>Leeds, LS27 8AJ |

## Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

# Unlocking The Growth

## Profit and Loss

1 February, 2025-31 January, 2026

| | TOTAL |
|---|---|
| Income | |
| Sales | |
| Acorn Gift Aid | 3,872.50 |
| Acorn Sales | 24,723.47 |
| GATBB Sales | 194.00 |
| GATBB School Sales | 57,426.00 |
| GATBB St Hild and St Bede Grant | 45,178.00 |
| GATBB St Johns General Funds | 33,032.00 |
| GATBB Westhill Grant | 10,000.00 |
| GATBB Young Scientist Catalysts | 840.00 |
| **Total for Sales** | **£175,265.97** |
| **Total for Income** | **£175,265.97** |
| Cost of Sales | |
| Acorn Subcontractors | 26,529.12 |
| GATBB Consultancy | 56,427.90 |
| GATBB Subcontractors | 11,510.25 |
| GATBB Travelling Expenses | 27,853.06 |
| **Total for Cost of Sales** | **£122,320.33** |
| **Gross Profit** | **£52,945.64** |
| Expenses | |
| Accountancy Fees | 2,548.00 |
| Bank Charges | 39.40 |
| Employer Pension Contributions | 789.32 |
| GATBB Computer Running Expenses | 2,585.48 |
| GATBB Printing, Postage & Stationery | 604.32 |
| Gross Wages | 32,550.00 |
| Insurance | 611.80 |
| M Harvey Travel | 213.35 |
| Michael Pension Contributions | 8,753.76 |
| Subscriptions | 47.99 |
| **Total for Expenses** | **£48,743.42** |
| **Net Operating Income** | **£4,202.22** |
| **Net Income** | **£4,202.22** |