ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

PROXIMITY CHURCH

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1146983

Independent Examiners Ltd
The Grain Store
Hills Barns
Appledram Lane South
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 7EG

PROXIMITY CHURCH

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PROXIMITY CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1146983	
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st Jan 2025	
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st Dec 2025	
TRUSTEES SERVING DURING THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025	Robb Harman	
	Matt Long	*(Appointed 14.01.2025)*
	Stephen Morris	*(Resigned 15.04.2025)*
	Alex Connor	*(Appointed 14.01.2025)*
	Catherine Smith	
	Deborah Connor	
	Peter Connor	
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO - FOUNDATION CONVERSION DATED 18 OCT 2024 as amended on 14 Jan 2025	
OBJECTS	THE CHARITYS OBJECTS (OBJECTS) ARE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN STANFORD-LE-HOPE, ESSEX AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT AND TO FULFIL SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND ARE CONNECTED WITH THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CHARITY.	
REGISTERED ADDRESS	217 Southend Road Stanford-le-Hope SS17 7AB	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Lomax Pavey MAAT Independent Examiner's Ltd The Grain Store Appledram Lane South Chichester West Sussex PO20 7EG	

PROXIMITY CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Introduction

Proximity Church continues to pursue and practise three core values:

- **Family** – to live and share life as an open and inclusive community
- **Sent** – to be prepared to serve and go where the Spirit may lead
- **Encounter** – to encounter and experience God

These values continue to shape the life, ministry and direction of the church. Throughout 2025, the Trustees, Oversight Team and Leadership Team have sought to steward the growth of the church faithfully, whilst continuing to serve the local community and deepen discipleship across the church family.

At the beginning of 2025, the Trustees and Leadership Team agreed the following priorities for the year:

1. Prayerfully consider a permanent venue whilst continuing the temporary rental of Gateway People's Centre
2. Continue to develop and grow the Proximity Leadership Team.
3. Growth through disciples who make disciples
4. Maintain and increase the number of Trustees
5. Encourage community members to attend Wildfires Festival and 24-7 Prayer gatherings
6. Continue to seek new and adaptive ways to bless and serve our town and beyond
7. Maintain effective communication across all platforms
8. Create a church economy that enables sustainable growth
9. Invest in and enable the children and young people of Proximity Church to grow and thrive in their faith

1. Permanent Space

2025 has been a significant year in exploring the long-term venue needs of Proximity Church.

The church continued to rent Gateway People's Centre (GPC) throughout the year, which has provided a welcoming and practical environment for Sunday gatherings, prayer events and wider church activities. The relationship with GPC leadership has continued to grow positively, with encouragement from both communities regarding the spiritual impact of the partnership.

During the year, additional access to children's and youth spaces was discussed, improving the suitability of the venue for family ministry. Trustees also reviewed practical matters relating to the ongoing use of the building, including storage, safeguarding, lighting and building access arrangements.

Alongside the continued use of GPC, the church explored the possibility of developing a future permanent prayer and community space. Numerous meetings took place during the year between church leaders and Christian Care Homes to discuss the shared vision for prayer, mission and community engagement.

Whilst no formal long-term agreement has yet been entered into, Trustees remain encouraged by the opportunity and continue to prayerfully discern the viability of Oak House as a future base for ministry and 24-7 prayer initiatives.

The church also continued to partner with Fresh Hope Church for seasonal Prayer Weeks, strengthening relationships with other churches in the area.

2. Leadership and Oversight

A major development during 2025 was the continued formation and strengthening of the Oversight Team and Leadership Team structures.

The Oversight Team met regularly throughout the year, providing spiritual oversight, pastoral support, discernment and encouragement to the wider leadership of the church. This structure proved particularly valuable during periods of transition and pastoral challenge during the Team Leader's maternity leave.

The Leadership Team also continued to meet monthly to oversee the rhythms of church life, House Churches, events and discipleship initiatives. Leadership retreat time at Waverley Abbey early in the year provided opportunity for prayer, reflection, vision and strategic discussion.

2. Leadership and Oversight (continued)

The appointment of an Operations Manager in February 2025 was a particularly significant development. The role has provided excellent organisational leadership across church administration, safeguarding, events management, communication and operational oversight. Trustees remain deeply grateful for the support provided through line management and pastoral oversight structures.

The Team Leader returned from maternity leave in December 2025, providing opportunity to reflect on the leadership structures that had been developed during the year and to consider future strategy moving into 2026.

3. Growth Through Discipleship

Proximity Church remains committed to the vision of making disciples who make disciples.

Throughout 2025, the church sought to encourage every member of the community to live missionally in their everyday lives. Leaders continued to share stories of prayer, hospitality, invitation and intentional discipleship taking place across the church family.

Several practical

- Discussions and planning around a future discipleship or evangelistic course for guests and seekers
- Development of a monthly community lunch connected to the local Foodbank
- Continued partnership and relationship-building through local outreach opportunities
- Regular care home services led by members of the church community
- Increased intentionality around testimony-sharing and missional living

The church also experienced continued numerical and relational growth through House Churches, Sunday gatherings and wider community events.

The Christmas events were a particular highlight of the year, with many new people attending the Carol Service, Children's Christmas Party and the Christmas Retelling. These events provided significant opportunities for welcome, hospitality and sharing the story of Jesus with the wider community.

4. Trustees

The Trustees continued to provide governance, accountability and support throughout 2025.

The Board remained engaged in matters relating to safeguarding, finance, staffing, venue development and the strategic direction of the church. Trustees also worked closely with the Oversight Team to ensure healthy leadership structures and sustainable growth.

The church continues to seek opportunities to strengthen and diversify Trustee representation moving forward.

5. Conferences, Training and Wider Networks

Proximity Church continued to invest in leadership development and wider church relationships throughout 2025.

A number of leaders and church members attended the 24-7 Prayer European Leaders Gathering and other related events during the year. These gatherings provided encouragement, training, spiritual renewal and strengthened relationships with the wider 24-7 Prayer movement.

Several households also attended Wildfires Festival, with positive feedback and encouragement shared across the church family.

The church remains grateful for opportunities to learn from and contribute to wider Christian networks and communities.

6. Community Engagement and Social Action

Serving the local community remained central to the life of Proximity Church throughout 2025.

The church continued to support local families and individuals through practical acts of generosity, hospitality and financial support. The Blessing Pot and Mission Pot enabled assistance for families experiencing financial hardship, housing instability and other challenges.

Key developments during the year included:

- Launching a monthly lunch following Foodbank sessions
- Supporting local families with household essentials and practical needs
- Continued involvement in Foodbank ministries
- Participation in emerging local youth work conversations and partnerships
- Holding regular care home services for residents within the local community

The Trustees remain encouraged by the compassion, generosity and missional heart demonstrated by members of the church.

7. Communication

The church's contracted communication support continued to be an invaluable asset to the church community throughout 2025.

This included support with:

- Website updates
- Social media management
- Editing and publishing talks
- Blogs and digital content
- Wider communication strategy

These services continue to provide an important platform for both local engagement and wider visibility.

8. Church Finances

The financial position of Proximity Church strengthened during the early months of 2025.

Monthly giving increased significantly throughout the year, with regular giving reaching a point where monthly income generally met or exceeded ongoing operational expenditure. This represented a major encouragement for the Trustees and leadership, particularly in light of ongoing conversations regarding venue development, staffing and future ministry growth.

However in the last quarter of 2025 giving did decrease. Trustees remain aware of the importance of careful stewardship, sustainable budgeting and encouraging generosity across the church family as the church continues to grow and this will be carefully considered into the new year.

9. Children and Young People

Supporting children, young people and families remained an important priority during 2025.

The church continues to hold the conviction that parents are the primary disciplers of their children, whilst also recognising the wider responsibility of the church family to support and encourage younger generations in faith.

During the year:

- Children's ministry continued during Learning Sunday gatherings where volunteer teams were available
- Safeguarding and DBS processes remained a priority
- A regular Bible study for teenage girls continued throughout the year
- Initial discussions began regarding the future structure and development of children's and youth ministry as the number of secondary-aged young people increases

The Trustees remain thankful for the volunteers, parents and leaders investing faithfully into the next generation.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As the church looks ahead to 2026, the Leadership Team will continue to review and prayerfully consider the leadership structures that were developed during the Team Leader's maternity leave.

This will include:

- Reviewing the ongoing role and function of the Oversight Team
- Considering the extension of the Operations Manager contract
- Strategically discerning how best to hold and steward future growth and flourishing within the church
- Continuing to pursue effective service to the local community and beyond
- Exploring how leadership, discipleship and mission can continue to develop sustainably as the church grows

The Trustees remain hopeful and expectant for the year ahead and grateful for God's continued faithfulness and provision.

Conclusion

2025 has been a year of strengthening foundations, growing leadership capacity, deepening community and continuing to pursue the vision God has given to Proximity Church.

The Trustees are grateful for the faithfulness, generosity and commitment of the church family and remain encouraged by the opportunities ahead. As the church moves into 2026, there is a growing sense of expectation regarding discipleship, prayer, community engagement and the possibility of future permanent ministry space.

The Trustees give thanks to God for His continued provision, guidance and faithfulness throughout the year.

Public Benefit

Having considered the latest Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that Proximity Church (formerly 24-7 Prayer Stanford) is able to evidence support for a wide range of beneficiaries.

Reserves Policy

At 31 December 2025 the charity held reserves of £99,346 (2024: 78,731). It is the policy of the charity to hold free reserves of between three to six months expenditure. Any reserves held are held for charitable activities.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

i) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
ii) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
iii) Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charity Law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I approve the attached statement of financial activities and balance sheet and confirm that I have made available all information necessary for its preparation.

Approved by the Trustees on the 08/10/2026

Signed on their behalf by Robb Harman

Signature: 

PROXIMITY CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report to the trustees/members of Proximity Church on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 10 to 15.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011) 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 STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the organisation 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....

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PROXIMITY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
INCOME					
Donations and Legacies	**3a**	64,222	-	64,222	66,493
Investment and Other Income	**3b**	692	-	692	784
TOTAL INCOME		**64,914**	**-**	**64,914**	**67,277**
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of Charitable activities	**4a**	41,841	387	42,228	57,796
Governance Costs	**4b**	2,071	-	2,071	3,239
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**43,912**	**387**	**44,299**	**61,035**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**21,002**	**(387)**	**20,615**	**6,242**
Funds brought forward		73,092	5,639	78,731	72,489
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**94,094**	**5,252**	**99,346**	**78,731**

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

PROXIMITY CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Dec-25 Total £	31-Dec-24 Total £
Assets					
Tangible Assets	**2**	-	-	-	-
		-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	**7**	6,761	-	6,761	-
Cash at bank and in Hand		89,003	5,252	94,255	80,745
Total current assets		**95,764**	**5,252**	**101,016**	**80,745**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**8**	1,670	-	1,670	2,014
NET CURRENT ASSETS		94,094	5,252	99,346	78,731
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		**94,094**	**5,252**	**99,346**	**78,731**
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	**9**	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		**94,094**	**5,252**	**99,346**	**78,731**
Funds of the charity					
General funds		94,094	-	94,094	73,092
Restricted funds	**5**	-	5,252	5,252	5,639
TOTAL FUNDS		**94,094**	**5,252**	**99,346**	**78,731**

08/10/2026

Approved by the Trustees on the .....

Robb Harman

Signed on their behalf by .....

Signature: 

PROXIMITY CHURCH

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, with the exception of listed investments which are included at their market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2015 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees confirm that the Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

On 18 October 2024, the benefit of the assets, liabilities and undertakings of 24-7 Prayer Stanford (Company No. 07900719) were transferred to a new charitable incorporated organisation of the same name (Company No. CE037903).

Cash Flow Statement
The charity has taken advantage of the exemption available to smaller charities under the Charities SORP (FRS 102) from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement.

Going Concern
The Trustees have assessed the charity's financial position and are satisfied that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Accordingly, the going concern basis has been adopted and the Trustees are aware of no material uncertainties affecting this assessment.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Details of restricted funds held are set out in Note 5. The charity's restricted fund relates to counselling, advice and information activities.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources
Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations and Grants
Donations are recognised when receivable and the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Gift Aid
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when there is reasonable certainty of receipt, typically on submission of the claim to HMRC.

Donated Services and Facilities
Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.

Volunteer Help
The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment Income
Investment income is recognised when receivable.

Debtors
Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Expenditure Recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes VAT, where applicable, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of Raising Funds
Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable Expenditure
Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance Costs
Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Allocation of Costs
All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource, as set out in Note 4.

Creditors
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The church held no fixed assets during this or the previous financial year.

3. INCOME

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	**Total 2024 £**
a) Donations and Legacies					
Donations and Gifts		64,222	-	64,222	66,493
		64,222	**-**	**64,222**	**66,493**
b) Investment Income					
Interest Income		692	-	692	784
		692	**-**	**692**	**784**

4. EXPENDITURE

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	**Total 2024 £**
a) Costs of Charitable Activities					
Mission		2,207	-	2,207	5,531
Blessings Pot		3,321	-	3,321	6,350
Grants		6,335	-	6,335	5,613
Events & Encounter		4,554	371	4,925	3,465
Gifts		-	-	-	3,580
Premises Costs		4,860	-	4,860	8,225
Leader's Development		1,483	-	1,483	-
House Church Meals		200	-	200	544
General Expenses		-	-	-	4,009
Computer, Internet & Phone Costs		1,604	-	1,604	-
Insurance		485	-	485	-
Staff Costs & Pensions		10,166	-	10,166	11,478
Travel Costs		-	-	-	2,276
Training Costs		2,099	16	2,115	2,383
Advertising & Social Media		4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Prayer Room		424	-	424	321
Miscellaneous Costs		103	-	103	21
		41,841	**387**	**42,228**	**57,796**
b) Governance Costs					
Professional Fees		475	-	475	1,046
Accountancy Fees		1,443	-	1,443	2,193
Bank Charges		153	-	153	-
		2,071	**-**	**2,071**	**3,239**

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

(CURRENT YEAR)

	Balance 01-Jan-25 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	**Balance 31-Dec-25 £**
Counselling, Advice and Information Fund	5,639	-	(387)	-	5,252
	5,639	**-**	**(387)**	**-**	**5,252**

(PRIOR YEAR)

	Balance 01-Jan-24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	**Balance 31-Dec-24 £**
Counselling, Advice and Information Fund	7,798	8,469	(10,078)	(550)	5,639
	7,798	**8,469**	**(10,078)**	**(550)**	**5,639**

6. STAFF COSTS

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	9,955	11,325
Pension Costs	211	153
	10,166	**11,478**

The average number of employees during the year was 1 (2024: 1)

7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Dec-25 £	Total 31-Dec-24 £
Taxes and social security	6,761	-	6,761	-
	6,761	**-**	**6,761**	**-**

8. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Dec-25 £	Total 31-Dec-24 £
Accruals	530	-	530	1,996
Independent Examiner's Fee Accrued	1,140	-	1,140	-
Taxes and social security	-	-	-	18
	1,670	**-**	**1,670**	**2,014**

9. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

There were no Creditors or Accruals falling due in more than one year at the end of this financial year (2024: £Nil).

10. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

No payments were made to trustees during this financial period apart from small reimbursements of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity in furtherance of the charity's objects. No other transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee. A relative of a trustee was employed by the charity; they were renumerated on par with their peers. A second relative of this trustee provided advertising and social media services at arm's length to the charity during the year.

(2024 - None)