B

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	01	2025	To	31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Bethesda Evangelical Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1149548

Charity's principal address

Bethesda Evangelical Church
Townfoot Industrial Estate
Brampton
Postcode **CA8 1SW**

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	Paul Bacon			Trustees
2	Huw Iley	Pastor/Chair		Trustees
3	Robert Pickett	Secretary		Trustees
4	Russell John Noble			Trustees
5	Mark Knowles			Trustees
6	Christine Fenwick			Trustees

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed (16th October 2012)
How the charity is constituted (eg trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing 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 in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

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)

Sunday Worship Services – weekly Sunday morning services, for people of all ages. Younger children usually join in for the first part of the service, and are then invited to their own group (called 'Sunday Club'), but we also have several all-age services per year. Services are designed to be accessible to those who wish to find out more about the Christian faith, as well as for those who have been Christians for some time. The service includes sung worship, prayer, reading and preaching of the Bible, news of what's happening in the church and local community; and people typically stay as long after the service for refreshments and time to chat! During summer months we also serve those visiting the area on holiday.

Sunday Club (School) – for children of primary school age. The group is available every Sunday, and numbers attending can vary from 5-18! Volunteer leaders work hard to prepare sessions that help children learn from the Bible (especially it's overall storyline) in an age-appropriate and fun way.

Community Groups – we have three groups, meeting weekly for friendship, group Bible study and prayer, some in-person and some continued on Zoom throughout the year. These have been a key source of friendship and encouragement, and have strengthened the church community.

Pathfinders – a group for secondary school aged children, meeting every Sunday afternoon in term time. This is designed for those young people who want some deeper Bible study in an informal environment, with food and games.

Make & Mend – one-off craft events, several times per year. Some designed for children (accompanied by parents/carers); others for youth and adults. A great opportunity to enjoy craft (including learning new skills), in a friendly welcoming environment.

Bethesda @ 5 - is offered once per month, and is a valued part of church life. All ages are welcome, for a mixture of eating together, games, coffee & chat; followed by a topic to explore and time to pray. It has helped people of different ages and backgrounds to interact and grow in friendship.

Young at Heart - emerged from our social events into a regular group for those of retired age, meeting half-termly through the year, usually in coffee shops! The group is providing valuable friendship and encouragement.

Socials - we organised a range of social events over the year, some with specific age-groups in mind, and some for all. These popular events can enhance existing friendships, but are also very effective for newcomers to Brampton to meet people and settle in.

Special services - we have special services around Christmas, Easter, and Remembrance Sunday, some on our own and some in partnership with other churches in Brampton.

Holiday Clubs for children – Summer Holiday Club is organised in partnership with other churches in the Brampton area, and provides primary school age children the opportunity to explore the Christian faith, with lots of games, craft, singing, drama sketches, snacks and fun thrown in! It can also be a help to parents/carers. It ran in the first week

of the school summer holidays. In partnership with other local churches, we ran 'Exploring Easter', as a one-off after school event, with different 'stations' for children and parents/carers to explore the Easter story, with crafts and other fun activities.

Night Light – is a youth group aimed at those of secondary school age, on Friday evening, in school term time. The group aims to create a fun and safe environment where young people can learn something of the Christian faith. Night Light began as a joint initiative with other churches in Brampton area, and is now run by Network Youth Church, with support from local churches. We continue to help provide leaders and speakers for the Club.

Public Benefit

We, as trustees, take our responsibility to ensure that our activities provide public benefit very seriously. We are confident that all the activities listed above provide such benefit. They are all open to members of the general public and are advertised in various ways.

We also very much encourage church attendants to invite friends and acquaintances to these activities and to serve the community in any way that they can. Some of our church services (e.g. Christmas) and the Christianity Explored course are especially geared towards those who might not normally come to church and give people an opportunity to learn more about the Christian Faith.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2025 was an encouraging year of steady growth for Bethesda and we are in an encouraging position as we head into 2026.

Attendance at Sunday services continued to grow. Having had a number of people return to church after many years away in the last few years; in 2025 it was encouraging to see people, especially some in their 20s, begin to attend church for the first time, with lots of enthusiasm and questions. Others who had begun to attend in the previous couple of years settled in and began to use their gifts to help the life of the church. There were a good mix of ages and backgrounds each Sunday, and services continued to be available online, with 5-10% of those attending typically online. It was encouraging to have two or three adults regularly attending who are openly exploring what Christianity is, and what it might mean for them to follow Christ.

Children (and parents/carers) have enjoyed Sunday Club, and newcomers settled in. The Pathfinders group grew as some moved up from Sunday Club in September, and it is encouraging to see the Bible discussions developing. Some also attended and enjoyed Christian summer camps, and we hope more will attend in future.

Community Groups, some in-person and some online, have been highly valued by those in them, and now play a key role in the prayer and community life of the church. There are growing requests for one or two new groups in 2026.

The summer Holiday Club went well, with a mix of children from different primary schools in the area, and lots of enthusiasm. It also provided some good links with families in the town.

Bethesda @5 provides good variety to our regular Sunday morning services, facilitates integration across the age groups in the church, and some have found it easy to invite others along to it. One of the highlights was having Steve Midgley, of Biblical Counselling UK, speak on *'Caring for one another'.*

A highlight of the year occurred in November when three men, each with very different stories, were baptised. It was very encouraging to hear their testimonies, and for the church community to witness their baptisms. We hope there will be many more in years to come!

Some new trustees were appointed the previous year, and we are encouraged by a settled leadership team, with differing skills and experience, that are growing together.

We continue to be encouraged by those from Bethesda who are currently away studying at university, as they have continued to grow and serve in new places and churches. One completed his Classics degree, and has now begun to serve as an apprentice in a church in Glasgow whilst also studying at Cornhill Scotland.

The informal fellowship in Haltwhistle has grown and developed over the year, friendships and vision have deepened. Bethesda continues to offer support and prayer that it will grow into a healthy church to serve Haltwhistle and the surrounding area in the longterm.

There was significant progress with the plans for the main refurbishment work on the church building, and a contract was signed with a local contractor for the work to begin early in 2026. This will likely mean that we need to find an alternative venue for Sunday services for a significant part of 2026.

We were grateful for consistent, generous giving to the property fund. The general fund finished the year with a small surplus, and in light of the donations from church members towards the building work, this was very encouraging, and leaves us in a healthier financial situation.

There were lots of opportunities for us to connect with world mission over the year. We began 2025 with a visit from Katleho Meslane, Children's Pastor at St Thomas' Church, Heideveld, South Africa, and in the Autumn we were glad to welcome a link missionary on furlough from a closed country. In the summer we said a glad and optimistic farewell as one who had recently completed her A Levels left to serve with Operation Mobilisation (OM) on their ships ministry for 12 months. In 2024, some retired missionaries who are members of Bethesda connected us with their former church in South Sudan. That new church partnership led to us supporting their building project, in partnership with another UK based trust. The church in Enyif proved very faithful - they quickly got on with the work, initially walls and roof were built. As more funds were received, the doors, shutters and concrete floor were added. With continued help from the trust, we hope that the project can be completed (walls plastered and painted) early in 2026. We pray that this will lead to the growth and strengthening of the church, and the flourishing of their local community.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	It is our Charity's policy to hold at least three months expenditure in its unrestricted funds
Details of any funds materially in deficit	No funds are in deficit

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.	Our income is primarily from the giving of members of the church congregation plus some additional external supporters.

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)	ROBERT PICKETT	HELEN ICELY
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	SECRETARY	CHAIR
Date	19/4/26	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Bethesda Evangelical Church	1149548

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offering and donations	61,154	-	-	61,154	51,620
Property Fund donations	-	49,987	-	49,987	34,023
Grants, gifts and tax refunds received	14,467	5,899	-	20,366	19,072
Book stall income	426	-	-	426	145
Interest income	79	903	-	982	915
Sale of old church building	-	60,000	-	60,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	76,125	116,790	-	192,915	105,775
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	76,125	116,790	-	192,915	105,775
A3 Payments					
Employee costs	41,170	-	-	41,170	40,416
Gifts to Missionaries and Evangelists	11,150	2,245	-	13,395	7,880
Training and conferences	795	-	-	795	1,446
Property Fund expeniture	-	60	-	60	2,709
Repairs, renewals and equipment	1,121	-	-	1,121	31,527
Light, heat and water rates	2,852	-	-	2,852	1,915
Youth work	1,014	-	-	1,014	891
Printing, postage and stationery	427	-	-	427	518
Outreach	740	-	-	740	1,087
Book stall expenditure	527	-	-	527	327
Rent	6,000	-	-	6,000	4,500
Sundries	4,996	-	-	4,996	5,309
Legal and Professional + Auction Fees	-	7,300	-	7,300	330
Sub total	70,791	9,605	-	80,396	98,855
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	70,791	9,605	-	80,396	98,855
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,334	107,185	-	112,519	6,920
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	28,408	196,886	-	225,294	218,374
Cash funds this year end	33,742	304,070	-	337,812	225,294

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank Ltd- Church Account	33,742	816	-
	CAF Bank Ltd - Property Account	-	228,839	-
	Kingdom Bank	-	74,416	-
	Total cash funds	33,742	304,070	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Huw Illey	HUW ILLEY	23/07/26
		ROB PICKETT	23/07/26

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 BETHESDA EVANGELICAL CHURCH		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1149548
Set out on pages	1-2 (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 **31/12/2025**.

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").

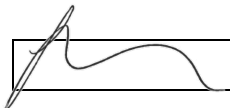
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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..

Signed:		**Date:**	24/07/2026
Name:	Joanne Thomlinson FCA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales		
Address:	Dodd & Co Limited FIFTEEN, Montgomery Way, Rosehill Industrial Estate CARLISLE, CA1 2RW		

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.	