BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community

Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Trustees holding office during the year

Mr D J Carson, Mr J R Pollard (Chairman), Mr P S Standish & Mr G Tither

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

Registered Address: 2 Coralin Way, Bryn, Wigan, Lancashire WN4 0ET

The Beacon Church celebrated its thirteenth anniversary during 2025, the first Sunday Morning service having been held on 21 October 2012. The church is centred in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire and during 2025 its Sunday worship services have been held at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church on Bolton Road in the town.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The full name of the charity is The Beacon Church.

The charity was registered in England on 4 February 2013 with registered number 1150685.

It is an unincorporated association and its governing document is its constitution which was adopted on 3 December 2012 (as amended on 5 July 2015 and 22 August 2018).

Church Leadership

Antony Billington has been the church's Senior Pastor since September 2018 and is currently the church's only Pastor. As a former lecturer at the London School of Theology, and later Head of Theology at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC), Antony has brought with him to the role a wealth of experience in teaching the Word of God.

In 2025, Antony covered the majority of the regular teaching ministry of the church along with providing pastoral support for all those attending.

Alongside his role as Pastor, Antony dedicates the equivalent of one day per week to his other roles, including serving as an associate lecturer for Union School of Theology and the Irish Bible Institute, as a regional tutor for Crosslands, and as a consultant and occasional speaker for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

The Leadership Team continued to operate as Elders and Deacons in 2025 with Antony as Pastor meeting with both groups as appropriate.

The other members of the Leadership Team each have membership of one of these two groups as follows: -

Pastor:	Antony Billington
Elders:	Glyn Tither
	David Case
	James Lycett
Deacons:	Daniel Carson
	Craig Galloway
	Chris Gaskell
	Phillip Standish

Although these groups meet separately to discuss their respective areas of responsibility the Leadership Team as a whole still continues to meet on a regular basis as necessary and most of the time meets once every month.

Location

The church is based in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire. and during 2025 made use of a number of hired premises for the purposes of the various meetings which were held and the numerous ministries which were in operation as follows:

Building/Venue	**Usage/Meeting**
Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church	Sunday Morning Service Kids' Church Sunday Evening Service Fellowship/Members'/Church Meetings Beacon Beebies Youth Club Lighthouse Beacon Teens Connect Beacon Women MOACA

For greater detail concerning the various meetings and ministries see later on in this report.

Risk Management

The Church's finances are subject to independent examination. The Trustees comply with Charity Commission advice and directives in the running of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that major risks are being assessed and systems put in place for their mitigation. We have re-assessed our financial position following the COVID-19 pandemic and are satisfied as to our ability to operate as a going concern. Financially, the church continues to be well supported by those who attend and remains able to meet all commitments.

Following the cessation of the weekly cash collection in 2020, members who previously gave to the church in that way continued to contribute instead by way of monthly standing order. In June 2022, the church purchased a 'giving station' which has enabled the receipt of gifts by way of chip and PIN or contactless card payment as well as in cash.

The church is committed to protecting children and any vulnerable adults with whom we come into contact. As part of this the church has developed a policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults which was in place during 2025 and was produced with the support of Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)). We have Designated Officers and complied during the year with the Code of Practice set out by Thirtyone:eight in matters of confidentiality and safe keeping of records. During 2025, all paid workers and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults received specialist safeguarding training.

We comply with the Equality Act 2010 in relation to those with disabilities and make every effort to be inclusive of anyone, whatever their disability. Access to all of the premises which we hire for our various meetings and other ministries is at ground level and accessible for wheelchairs.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The charity's principal objective and activity continues to be the promotion of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible. This objective is met through the operation of a church and its associated activities such as Sunday services (both morning and evening), house groups and other Bible study groups for adults, a Sunday school (‘Kids’ Church’), missionary trips and support of missionary organisations, community evangelism, weekly clubs and activities for children of all ages and a monthly club for those with disabilities.

Further charitable objects of the church are the relief of sickness and financial hardship and the promotion and preservation of good health and also the advancement of education. One way in which the first is met is through a ministry which the church operates which provides meals to those who have just come out of hospital or are otherwise recuperating from illness and their families, including new parents following the birth of their children.

Following the closure of The Pantry Café, at Stubshaw Cross, in December 2021, the work has continued through the work of Ashton Pantry which is based at St Thomas’s Church of England church in Ashton-in-Makerfield in which several members of the church congregation continue to be involved.

The second further charitable object of advancing education is met principally through the provision of a Sunday School (‘Kids’ Church’), the Lighthouse, Youth Club and Beacon Teens groups and the studies which take place during the week in the house groups, including the Beacon Women and MOACA Bible study groups.

Public Benefit

The church Trustees can confirm that they have given due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in accordance with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006. Significant activities that the church undertook during the year that demonstrate public benefit are set out on the pages that follow.

The church seeks at all times to ensure public benefit and accordingly: -

a. The regular services of the church are open to all members of the public;

b. There are no restrictions based on geographical location or otherwise;

c. No charge is made for attendance at any of the services or the other meetings, groups and activities of the church;

d. Any charges that are made are for goods or services supplied e.g. to purchase literature or refreshments or towards venue admission costs on organised trips, are charged on a non-profit-making basis, often being subsidised by the church to ensure affordability for all.

Significant Activities

The church runs a range of activities for all ages at The Beacon Church.

During 2025, the church continued to meet in person on Sunday morning and also continued to stream services via the Zoom video conferencing platform for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons. All Sunday morning services are recorded and uploaded online to the church's channel on the YouTube video-sharing platform as are certain other meetings such as some of the Sunday evening services and/or Bible studies.

- Sunday Morning Services

  In 2025 the Sunday morning services ran from 9:45am to roughly 11:00am every week. Typically, the music group led the congregation in songs appropriate for all ages, announcements regarding the church's activities were shared, the congregation were led in corporate prayer and a portion of the Bible read and expounded upon by the speaker for that day. Before and after the service there was an opportunity for people to meet together to talk and encourage one another. Antony Billington was the primary speaker at the morning services.

- Sunday Evening Services

  The church holds Sunday evening services between 7pm and 8pm. The evening services are primarily aimed at adults with a greater focus on prayer and praise and expounding the teachings of the Bible. The third Sunday evening service of the month is normally a Breaking of Bread service which, along with the Breaking of Bread element of the morning service which normally takes place on the first Sunday of the month, allows people the opportunity to break bread together in this way on roughly a fortnightly basis.

- Kids' Church

  'Kids' Church' is the name given to the Sunday school through which the church offers a programme on a Sunday morning catering for children from age 2 upwards. The classes are run by regular volunteers from the congregation and seek to teach the children the truths of the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

  Kids' Church meets in person during the Sunday morning service.

  A crèche area is provided for parents of children under the age of 2 to take their children and play along with other babies and toddlers whilst listening to the service via live link.

- House Groups

  These groups are held at various times throughout the week and all who attend the church are encouraged wherever possible to attend one. They represent an opportunity to meet with other Christians in a relaxed setting for discussion based upon the teaching which was given in the Sunday morning service and also for prayer and to allow time for those attending to get to know one another better.

House group meetings run on three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. leaving Thursday night free to accommodate any other meetings within the church.

- MOACA

  This is a group where older men from within the church congregation can meet together twice weekly to discuss the Bible and pray in a relaxed setting.

  In 2025, the group met in person, with the option to join the meetings on Zoom for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons.

- Beacon Women

  A women's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

- Beacon Beebies

  The toddler group 'Beacon Beebies' has been running since January 2013. During 2025, around 17 to 22 children attended each week, plus their parents/careers. Those attending this group are regularly invited to other events and activities taking place within The Beacon Church including all age services, carol services, Easter services and holiday clubs for older siblings and their wider family. One way in which this group is used is to get to know people within the local community in a relaxed environment. There is no cost to attend Beebies, although a donations pot is put out by the coffee hatch to cover the cost of the drinks, toast and other resources used.

- Lighthouse

  Lighthouse has been running since September 2018, replacing the previous club which was called Beacon Kids. It has the aim of teaching the children the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment with ample opportunity for fun and games along the way.

  The club is open to all children in the area, is organised and run wholly by volunteers from the church and is provided free of charge.

- Youth Club

  This is a club for young people of secondary age which again is co-ordinated and organised by regular volunteers from the congregation. A typical week includes games followed by a short talk designed to explain the truths of the Bible and what Christians believe.

- Beacon Teens

  This is a club which is run for young people from the age of 14+ (Year 9+ at school) and meets on a Tuesday evening between 7:15pm and 9pm at the homes of its leaders and on a Friday evening from 7:15pm till 9pm at the church's main base at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church. The club provides an opportunity to socialise and for those attending to get to know one another better and also a teaching and discussion time through which the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith and their practical application are taught in a way which is most relevant to the issues facing young people of that age. The Tuesday night meeting is primarily focused on Bible study and discussion whereas the Friday meeting is predominantly a social gathering with activities and games. The previous club for this age group was known as Ignite and ran till November 2024 and this new club began to operate in September 2025.

- Connect

  This is a group for those with additional needs and their families or carers which normally meets once a month on a Saturday evening. There is a group of between 10 and 15 with a range of disabilities and the aim is to make sure that all feel welcome and included in the programme.

  Over the course of the year there are a range of activities on offer, and it is intended that the programme be varied each month. Sometimes the meeting is a games night with suitable activities, there are also craft, musical and photographic evenings.

  The aim of the group is to present the Christian message in a way that is understandable for those who might not find church teaching accessible and so wherever possible a speaker is invited who is able to do a short talk for this purpose.

- 'Mobile Meals' (Meals for the families of those recuperating from illness or the birth of a child)

  This is a ministry whereby a team made up mostly of members of the church congregation prepare and deliver meals to those who are suffering with or are recovering from the effects of illness, or an operation or following the birth of a child, and their families. Amongst the recipients of these meals some have been families who regularly attend the church; however many have been those from outside the church whose need has been identified to the team and in this way the church has been able to show compassion to many who are not themselves Christians as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

- Compass

  Compass provides a means whereby asylum seekers in the local area may seek help with various things which, being new to the UK, they might encounter difficulty dealing with on their own e.g. completion of forms etc. Those involved from the church congregation seek to provide assistance in whatever ways they can whilst forming lasting connections with those whom they help.

Volunteers

The charity's different activities are run almost exclusively by volunteers from the church. Almost all of the activities run at The Beacon Church would not be possible without the input of volunteers on a weekly basis.

Staff

During 2025 the church had one staff member, Antony Billington, our Pastor.

Financial Review

Overall giving totalled £60,683 which when added to tax/top-up payments of £13,972 reclaimable/claimable under the Gift Aid scheme and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS); repayment interest of £334 on the same; and deposit interest received of £2,079, gives total income for 2025 of £77,068. Giving to the church under the Gift Aid scheme totalled £54,587 before tax reclaims, gifts qualifying for a top-up payment under the GASDS totalled £1,301 and ordinary offerings (those not made under the Gift Aid scheme) totalled £4,795.

These figures represent an almost 6% increase in income compared to 2024, the church continued to meet all of its financial commitments for the year and ended the year having generated a surplus of £11,334. Giving for 2025 included one-off gifts of £1,630 from families within the church (nil in 2024). Excluding those special gifts which were given, regular giving during 2025 was slightly lower (3.5%) than what it was in 2024.

Regular giving under the Gift Aid scheme was of a very similar level in 2025 to what it was in 2024 but donations of £5,975 from previous financial years were notified as having been qualifying donations under the scheme and so were re-categorised during the year from how they had previously been accounted for as ordinary offerings. At 31 December 2025 Trustees' funds stood at £144,956 (2024: £133,622). The Trustees are satisfied that the funds held should be sufficient to meet any immediate contingencies that may arise. The Trustees consider it prudent to retain a certain level of funds in reserve at all times and that this should be at least sufficient to cover running 6 months' costs i.e. around £35,000 (based on current commitments to staff salaries/stipends).

With regard to the additional reserves which are being held the Trustees will in due course consider the best use of these funds. However, at the current time it remains a possibility that the church may seek to purchase premises of its own should the opportunity arise or undertake improvements or alterations to hired, leased or shared premises and this impacts upon the amount of reserves which may reasonably be required to be held going forward. In particular the church's relationship with Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church, and its use of the adjoining St Luke's Church building which is owned by the Church of England, is such that it seems only a matter of time until it may be appropriate to spend some of these funds in helping develop these premises for the better use of the church and the advancement of its charitable purposes.

In 2025, the church continued to commit to spend around 11% of its regular annual income supporting missionaries, missionary organisations and projects.

Donations were made to the following charitable organisations / missionary work during the year:

- AsiaLink - £2,700
- European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) - £500
- Welcome Churches - £1,000
- Cumbria Christian Youth Camp (CCYC) - £800
- US2Uganda4Life - £400
- United Beach Missions (UBM) - £1,000
- Ashton Pantry - £400
- Joe Heyes (children's work in local schools) - £700
- Speak Life - £300
- OneHundredFold - £500

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The Trustees have resolved to accept the accounts of the church for 2025 as a true record and approve their submission to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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 the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. 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.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

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J R Pollard – Chairman	D J Carson – Treasurer

BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

INCOME		2025		2024
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025		**133,622**		**125,038**
Ordinary Offerings - Regular	2,005		10,878	
- Exceptional	500		-	
Gift Aid Offerings - Regular	53,447		46,568	
- Exceptional	1,130		-	
GASDS Offerings	918		1,049	
Tax reclaimable under Gift Aid scheme	13,644		11,647	
Tax reclaimable under GASDS	328		272	
Interest on tax reclaimed	334		449	
	72,306		70,863	
Special Collections - Ordinary	2,290		50	
Special Collections - Gift Aid	10		20	
Special Collections - GASDS	383		40	
Building Society interest	2,079	77,068	1,906	72,879
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		**210,690**		**197,917**

EXPENDITURE	2025	2024
Venue hire and shared premises costs	3,580	5,509
Salary costs, including pension provision	38,179	36,446
Insurance	531	467
Equipment and equipment hire	1,904	4,285
Website hosting and online streaming costs	276	298
Copyright and software licensing	977	657
Refreshments	822	786
Church weekend away	1,994	-
Kids' Church	1,467	2,101
Clubs for children, youth and adults with additional needs	1,057	1,304
Beacon Women	459	297
Safeguarding costs for children and vulnerable adults	585	2,245
Support for missionary work	9,150	8,400
Advertising and evangelistic literature and materials	769	448
Fellowship teaching materials and books	339	376
Cashless giving platform and transaction fees	198	154
Elders' Gifts	130	130
Special collections to support specific persons	2,700	-
Other sundry expenditure	617	392
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**65,734**	**64,295**
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025	**144,956**	**133,622**

Financial Position at End of Year	2025	2024
Debtors / Accrued Income	14,025	13,349
Prepayments / (Accruals)	(3,079)	(1,615)
Cash at Bank	26,414	16,252
Cash at Building Society	107,596	105,636
Total Trustees' Funds	**144,956**	**133,622**
Total Income for the Year	77,068	72,879
Less: Total Expenditure for the Year	65,734	64,295
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	**11,334**	**8,584**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Beacon Church

(Registered Charity No. 1150685)

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), instead 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 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

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
(3) the accounts do 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.

Name: Robin Taylor

Relevant professional qualification or body: TEP (STEP)

Address:

Date: 29/10/2026