ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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Registered Charity Number 1162065

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

TRUSTEES

Jill Fresen

Jonathan Herring

Kirsten Johnson

Rosemary Knagg

Sarah Lacey

Adrian Moore

David North

Andrew Smith

Gordon Woods

REGISTERED ADDRESS

St Columba's United Reformed Church

Alfred Street

Oxford

OX1 4EH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Ian Parkinson

BANKERS

CAF Bank Ltd.

Virgin Money

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Charitable Status

St Columba's Oxford United Reformed Charity is a charity registered in England, number 1162065

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the year ended 31 December 2025 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Sorrel Eyres (resigned 15 June 2025)	Adrian Moore
Jill Fresen	David North
Jonathan Herring	Andrew Smith
Kirsten Johnson	Gordon Woods
Rosemary Knagg	Sarah Lacey (appointed 18 May 2025)

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was established by a governing document (Constitution) adopted on 23 February 2014. It was formed in order to acquire the assets and liabilities of St Columba's United Reformed Church, Oxford, an excepted charity.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the church meeting; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public, in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church. It carries out this purpose by providing a place where all are welcome to participate in regular public worship.

The charity serves the whole community by hiring out premises and providing services for a wide range of community groups and activities. It has an active ministry within the LGBT community, which was developed throughout 2025 by the charity's Outreach Worker, and a further ministry to students with an Outreach Worker operated jointly with two other Oxford churches throughout 2025.

Achievements and performance

The charity has maintained a regular pattern of worship and witness to its members and to the wider community, both through worship in the church buildings, and through services and other activities provided online. Numbers participating in regular Sunday worship, notably students and younger people, have held up well, and several House Groups have also met on a regular basis.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in dealing with children and vulnerable adults.

The Finance and Property Committee regularly monitors the income both from member contributions and from future potential hiring income, as well as keeping a tight rein on premises expenditure; appropriate safeguarding measures remain in place.

Financial Review

Income for the year was broadly comparable to the prior year, discounting a legacy of £46,500 in 2024; expenditure was somewhat higher than in 2024, although this included a full year's commitment to the outreach project to students that started only in September 2024.

Voluntary income, mostly from church members, held up well, but income from hirings for the year was a little down at £67,786 (2024 £69,844).

The Trustees are satisfied that the unrestricted fund balance of £144,096, representing over 9 months of normal expenditure, is more than adequate to underpin future activities, and accordingly that the charity remains a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report.

Plans for Future Periods

The emphasis of the charity will continue to be on pursuing its charitable objectives, by means of providing public worship and other activities delivered online and/or in the church buildings, sustaining the community of worshippers and developing further its outreach focussed to the wider community.

The charity has also concluded the five-yearly survey of its buildings and Church Meeting has approved a staged plan for carrying out the recommended maintenance and refurbishment.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Ian Parkinson has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 23 October 2026, and signed by order of the Trustees by:



Adrian Moore, Trustee and Joint Church Secretary

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The independent examination of these accounts took place 29/10/2026. No corrections were identified and the examination statement will be published at https://www.saintcolumbas.org/ie2025 shortly.

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Voluntary Income	2	92,211	1,490	93,700	126,184
Activities for Generating Funds	3	74,285	-	74,285	78,086
Investment Income	4	2,251	-	2,251	1,550
TOTAL INCOME		168,747	1,490	170,236	205,820
EXPENDITURE					
Cost of generating funds		302	205	507	177
Charitable Activities	5, 6	189,434	-	189,434	173,564
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		189,736	205	189,941	173,741
Net Income before Transfers		(20,989)	1,285	(19,705)	32,079
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)		-	-	-	-
Transfers Between Funds	7	1,083	(1,083)	-	-
Net Incoming Resources After Transfers		(19,906)	202	(19,705)	32,079
Total Funds Brought Forward		164,002	300	164,302	132,224
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£144,096	£502	£144,597	£164,302

The accounting policies and notes on pages 7-9 form part of the financial statements.

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		0	0
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	11,677	35,848
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
Deposit Accounts		133,624	131,894
Current Account		5,275	2,264
		150,575	170,006
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Falling due within one year	9	(5,978)	(5,704)
Net Current Assets		144,597	164,302
Total Assets		£144,597	£164,302
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Income Funds		144,096	164,002
Restricted Income Funds		502	300
		£144,597	£164,302

The Financial Statements on Pages 5 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on 23.10.2026 and signed on their behalf by

Adrian Moore
Trustee & Joint Church Secretary

Gordon Woods
Trustee & Joint Church Secretary

The accounting policies and notes on pages 7-9 form part of the financial statements.

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a Basis of Accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and the United Reformed Church guidance. The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

1b Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives.
Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

1c Tangible Fixed Assets
Freehold property: The Trustees of the church and manse buildings are the URC Wessex Synod Trust who hold them upon trust for purposes connected with St Columba's URC. Expenditure incurred on the church and manse is written off in the year it is incurred.

The insured value of the church buildings (at Alfred Street, Oxford OX1 4EH) is £3,762,289 (2024: £3,549,329).

1d Incoming Resources
All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received. Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified. All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

1e Resources Expended
URC Ministry & Mission Fund contribution is paid regularly and is included in the financial statements for the year to which it relates.

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate. Governance costs, if any, represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, the intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

1f Taxation
As part of the United Reformed Church, the church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts. Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
2 VOLUNTARY INCOME				
Offertory	45,741	1,060	46,801	38,339
Grants and donations	19,661	0	19,661	36,309
Legacies	12,373	0	12,373	46,500
Wes Mem / New Road re Student Outreach	14,295	0	14,295	4,684
Other	140	430	570	352
	92,211	**1,490**	**93,700**	**126,184**
3 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS				
Chaplaincy Fund	6,499	0	6,499	8,242
Hiring of church buildings	67,786	0	67,786	69,844
	74,285	**0**	**74,285**	**78,086**

ST COLUMBA'S OXFORD UNITED REFORMED CHARITY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
4 INVESTMENT INCOME				
Deposit interest	2,251	0	2,251	1,550
	2,251	**0**	**2,251**	**1,550**
5 RESOURCES USED: CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
URC Ministry & Mission Fund	36,000	0	36,000	36,000
Special Collections and donations	2,015	0	2,015	1,747
Property costs (note 6)	67,719	0	67,719	79,163
Local mission costs	7,172	0	7,172	8,038
TGNC outreach	47,989	0	47,989	42,039
Student outreach (gross)	28,539	0	28,539	6,576
	189,434	**0**	**189,434**	**173,564**
6 PROPERTY COSTS				
Major systems renewals	2,796	0	2,796	22,087
Maintenance & utilities	18,484	0	18,484	17,776
Church cleaning & caretaking	16,571	0	16,571	14,688
Manse expenses (gross)	0	0	0	0
Church administrator & office expenses	26,387	0	26,387	21,367
Organ and piano	0	0	0	0
Insurance	3,480	0	3,480	3,245
	67,719	**0**	**67,719**	79,163

7 DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund name	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried forward
Unrestricted funds					
General	128,002	168,747	189,736	1,083	108,096
Emergency Reserve (des)	36,000				36,000
	164,002	168,747	189,736	1,083	**144,096**
Restricted funds					
Burns Night	40	430	205	-	265
Children and Families	237				237
Commitment for Life	-				-
Chaplaincy	23	1,060	-	(1,083)	-
	300	**1,490**	**205**	**(1,083)**	**502**

Chaplaincy Fund represents monies collected and set aside for student ministry. It was agreed with the URC in 2013 that this fund would be split 60:40 between general funds and student-related ministry, with existing funds to be de-restricted. The 60:40 split continues to apply, but as the church's share of the cost of the student outreach worker exceeds the Chaplaincy Fund income, all of that income, including £1,083 of restricted giving transferred from the Fund, has been applied to this work through general funds.
Burns Night represents funds raised at the annual Burns Night event, net of its costs.
Children & families refers to funds raised by a collection dedicated towards work with children and families.
The Emergency Reserve is a designated fund held at £36,000 (2024: £36,000), a little over two months' expenditure.

8 DEBTORS AT YEAR END	2025 £	2024 £
URC Trust - Commitment for Life overpayment	3,262	0
HMRC – unclaimed Gift Aid	7,931	6,777
Amounts due from hirers	483	1,637
Grants for TGNC outreach project	0	0
Legacy due but not paid	0	26,500
New Road / Wesley Mem contribution to student outreach	0	934
	11,677	**35,848**

9 CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2025 £	2024 £
Utilities	1,021	795
Advance hiring receipts	2,154	1,497
Organists and preaching fees (Dec)	250	300
HMRC (income tax /national insurance)	2,553	1,565
Agency collections inc. Commitment for Life	0	1,547
	5,978	**5,704**

10. STAFF AND SALARIES

The church employed 4 staff in the year (2024: 1 full time and 3 part time) on total gross salaries annualised of £78,533 (2024: £81,844).

11. APPEALS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

These are collected and then paid to the organisation concerned together with any Gift Aid claimed. They were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Commitment For Life	2,015	1,247
ABCD	0	300
	2,015	**1,547**

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

None of the church trustees received remuneration from the charity in 2025 (2024: NIL). One trustee received reimbursement of expenses of £132.67 for web hosting; there were no minister's expenses as no minister was in post during 2025.