Bethel Church, Northwich

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2025

Charity Number: 1168359

Registered Office and Operational Address
Bethel Church, Northwich, Hargreaves Road, Off Middlewich Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7BL

Trustees

- David Neale Hill (appointed 13th Sept 1993)
- Robert Ian Plant (appointed 17th June 2010)
- Shane Gray (appointed 17th January 2019)
- David Gordon Herd (appointed 17th January 2019)

Reporting Accountant
Ambient Accounting Ltd – Suite 6 Ellesmere House, 1 Pennington Street, Worsley, M28 3LR

Bankers
Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, Altrincham

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document

The Church was first registered as a charity in October 2008.

The Church was established as a charity with a constitution and trust document. In 2017 the Church changed its status from Bethel Evangelical Church, a registered charity, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation called Bethel Church, Northwich.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees
Trustees are self-appointing.

Pastor
The Church has a Pastor and an Assistant Pastor who are paid an annual salary. Our Pastor started a year's sabbatical in the summer of 2025 with the assistant Pastor taking on a secondment of Pastor during this time.

Risk Management

The Church has an insurance policy covering the assets and liabilities.

Bethel Church is GDPR compliant, has a written Health & Safety policy, and up-to-date certification for fire, electrical and gas safety.

We continue to be wary of the challenges we face in the current economic climate, in particular our premises costs. We have managed to significantly reduce our energy costs by swapping suppliers and ensuring we control our energy usage. We continue to explore the possibility of the Church being eligible for grants to help with the day-to-day running costs, but also the cost of proposed building improvements. The Church has a strict safeguarding framework in place,

including full DBS checks for any employees or volunteers involved in playtime at Bethel, Sunday School or youth work.

Organisational Structure

The Church has a Pastor, and assistant pastor, 4 trustees and a leadership team of 5.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the church is to worship God and to show His love in practical ways, bringing the Good News of Jesus into people's lives. The church offers a range of activities including:

- Family service with children's Sunday School, every Sunday morning
- Mid-week small groups for prayer and Bible study
- Weekly parent and toddler group
- Financial support to Foodbank, Care for the Family, Bible Society, Open Doors, Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Christmas and Easter celebrations
- Holiday play sessions in August and a Light Party in October

We continue to offer an inviting community space which is particularly welcome with a new 380-home local housing development under construction. Light Bites' cafe continues to thrive and is attracting those from the community who wish to spend time chatting over a coffee or wanting to know more about the other Church initiatives.

Our counselling service sits within the context of our Wellness team, who continue to offer a pathway to wholeness in mind, body and spirit. The counsellors offer a professional and ethical service. They have all undergone appropriate training, are members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and adhere to BACP's "Ethical Framework" for the counselling professions.

We have one paid counsellor, via an Awards for All Grant and 2 counsellors who volunteer their time and expertise as part of the Bethel Wellness Team, with all sessions being offered FREE at the point of contact, for a specific period.

We continue to see referrals from the Church congregation and our ongoing relationship with the local GP surgeries.

Achievements and Performance

The Church overall continues to thrive. The parent and toddler group regularly sees 20–30 families attending each week.

The cafe has slowly been growing the number of trained volunteers alongside the employed manager. This meant a significant investment in time and equipment to get this to the required food hygiene standards. The café has received its 2nd 5-star rating from the local council hygiene inspector.

Sunday morning services continue to see an attendance of approximately 80 people each week and regular online attendance.

We continue to run the Alpha Course for those wanting to know about Jesus, the Bible and our Church.

Worship nights continue to be a regular feature.

Other events open not just to the existing Church family but also the wider community include Mens night held monthly, Ladies afternoon Tea, Youth group. Our youth and family Pastor funded by the Benefact Trust continues to grow our youth ministry.

Due to delays to our building project, we have not been able to progress our planned building improvements as we first anticipated, however the raised funds have been invested and remain available. We are continuing with the process and are expecting to go out to tender for contract costs and look for a preferred contractor in early to mid 2026.

Financial Review Principle Finding Sources

The prime source of income is covenants, donations and gift aid.

Additional income being received from the cafe.

A further grant was received towards the cost of some counselling sessions, split between 2025 and 2026.

There has been continued pressure on our ongoing running costs

There were two significant increases in costs. Alongside employing the cafe manager/community engagement coordinator, there was also a significant increase in cost to our utility expenses. Utility costs have been significantly reduced by greater control and change of suppliers.

The income streams from the paid use of the car park, the Church building and advertising boards for the new housing development, have continued to bring in valuable additional funds throughout the year.

Responsibilities of the Charity Trustees

The Charity Commission requires that the charity's trustees prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees should follow best practice:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the church and enable them to ensure

that the financial statements comply with the requirement of the Charity Commission. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of recommended practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities Act.

Approved by the Trustees on 18th October 2026

David Herd (Trustee)

ENC: Statement of accounts for the year 01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025

Bethel Church, Northwich

Statement of accounts for the year 01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025

Cash Inflow

Transaction Details		Amount
Covenants	£	49,105.76
Covenants	£	-
Sunday Offerings	£	5,917.51
Donations from Church Group	£	-
Miscellaneous – Rental	£	7,000.00
Miscellaneous – Car Park Hire	£	900.00
Miscellaneous – Room Hire	£	300.00
Miscellaneous – Donations	£	250.00
Event	£	453.91
HMRC	£	24,377.51
Cafe	£	14,290.74
Bank Interest Received	£	2,891.58
Grants Received	£	32,418.00
Gift	£	3,918.32
Total Income	**£**	**141,823.33**

Cash Outflow

Transaction Details		Amount
Pastors Expenditure	£	25,046.87
Utilities	£	8,526.59
Subscriptions	£	1,846.46
Insurance	£	1,758.64
Donations Out	£	4,846.00
Visiting Preachers	£	1,100.00
Equipment	£	965.35
Catering	£	8.99
Maintenance	£	380.80
Bank Account	£	11,359.30
Events	£	609.76
Church Gifts	£	-
Stationery	£	198.33
HMRC	£	5,657.37
Cafe	£	822.19
Accountancy	£	410.00
Employee's	£	46,228.69
Training	£	4,956.48
Total Expenditures	**£**	**114,721.82**

Cash Book Summary

Cash Inflow	**£**	**141,823.33**
Cash Outflow	**£**	**114,721.82**
Cash movement	**£**	**27,101.51**

Cash b/fwd – Lloyds Treasurers Acc	**£**	**4,597.53**
Cash b/fwd – Lloyds Instant Acc	**£**	**17,919.16**
Cash b/fwd – HTB	**£**	**68,000.00**
Cash movement	**£**	**27,101.51**
Cash c/fwd	**£**	**117,618.20**
Cash c/fwd – Lloyds Treasurers Acc	**£**	**11,823.08**
Cash c/fwd – Lloyds Instant Acc	**£**	**25,051.48**
Cash c/fwd – HTB	**£**	**80,743.64**
Cash c/fwd	**£**	**117,618.20**

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Signature ..... Treasurer (Dated 10th September 2026)

Bethel Church

Signature Signed by: Andrew Barton 054602CC55C2489... Accountant (Dated 10th September 2026)