Charity registration number 1169192 (England and Wales)

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Trustees** | Mrs C Bell | |
| | Mrs S Flack | |
| | Mr D Jago | |
| | Revd I Smith | |
| | Mr A Rotherham | |
| | Dr L Nagle | |
| | Mrs H Pickford | |
| | Mrs P Scott | |
| | Mrs J Fitsall | (Appointed 27 November 2025) |
| **Charity number** | 1169192 | |
| **Auditor** | Francis James & Partners LLP<br>1386 London Road<br>Leigh on Sea<br>Essex<br>England<br>SS9 2UJ | |
| **Bankers** | Barclays Bank PLC<br>1 Churchill Place<br>London<br>London<br>E14 5HP | |
| | Baptist Union of Great Britain<br>Baptist House<br>PO Box 44<br>129 Broadway<br>Didcot<br>OX11 8RT | |
| | CAF Bank Ltd<br>25 Kings Hill Avenue<br>Kings Hill<br>West Malling<br>Kent<br>England<br>ME19 4JQ | |

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

**Objectives and activities**

The Approved Governing Document states that the principal purpose of the charity is 'the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the UK and the world as the Church shall determine'.

*Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

**Achievements and performance**

*Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

Regular Church activities have continued throughout 2025. We continue to serve the community. Below are some of the ways LRBC has sought to achieve its purpose during 2025.

Regular public gatherings of Christian worship continued to be live streamed as well as on-site gatherings. We ran two on-site Sunday services during 2025: A 9:00am reflective morning gathering was held monthly and every week a 10:30am gathering which was live-streamed

Teaching to equip people for sharing God's love in their everyday lives has included series on:

1. Faith: Past, Present & Future
2. Easter: Radical followers of Jesus
3. Colossians: Faith Lived Out
4. Summer series: Faith in Art
5. Book of Ruth: Being With
6. Advent series
7. Christmas services

Our children and families work continued with groups on Sunday mornings, as well as mid-week Bright Sparks group for parents/carers and young children and Brushes & Paint aimed at 2 to 4 year-olds.

In addition, fun days and slime days were run during the Easter and Summer breaks. A monthly Youth group on Sunday mornings continues to attract young people.

To encourage the fellowship aspect of being a Church family, several events have taken place including a Fish and Chip supper and quiz, and during the summer Open Garden picnic events on Sundays after the service.

Small groups have continued meeting in person, often using questions based around the Sunday gathering to aid discussion and to encourage each other to grow in faith and discipleship. These groups are designed to be informal weekly gatherings of friends or people with common experiences and circumstances.

An Alpha course ran from the 30th September for 10 weeks. Most guests attending the course have continued as a small group.

Barnabas Fellowship meets on a Tuesday to provide a gathering of worship and teaching from various speakers which is open to all and creates an opportunity to build friendships.

Links, a mid-week group meets to provide an environment for friendship and social activities (Chair exercises, Indoor bowls, craft etc) for the benefit of the local community and includes visiting speakers from time to time.

The 'the Living Room' has operated throughout the year. Groups include Renew Wellbeing, Craft Group, Room for Art, Vinyl Evening, Shared Reading, chatting to passers-by on Thursdays and the Global Community Saturday monthly Eco Popup Market. The space is also used by the community, the following are a handful of groups that use the premises: local councillors for surgeries, Friend of the Earth planning meetings, silent reading group, Rumikub, monthly bereavement Support group etc.

Having evaluated the potential benefits of integrating a Parish Nurse into our ministry team we are pleased to host a neighbouring church's parish nurse in our Living Room

LRBC pre-school has gone from strength to strength whilst maintaining best practice to help children grow and develop. The current Ofsted grading is 'Good'.

We have continued as a 'Food Bank' collection point. Several Church members have mobilised their streets to donate goods and have even volunteered to collect goods from doorsteps at specific times and transport them to LRBC. The Harvest appeal this year raised £313 for the Food bank.

LRBC is a partner church of Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre (SCDAC), offering financial support, befrienders and a Charity trustee. The debt service has continued to be in high demand taking on nearly 50 new clients in 2025.

The Christmas Fayre was again a great success combining fundraising, community engagement and awareness of environmental issues. This allowed those outside the immediate church to meet members and friends of LRBC and build the community aspect of the church. It also allowed an opportunity for local craft makers, artisans and artists to trade before Christmas.

Over the Christmas period donations were received and shared between three local charities: Southend Food Bank, HARP and Southend CAP Debt Advice, all supporting vulnerable people in need.

On the international stage, we continued to support overseas mission and aid organisations such as Tek Ura in Albania, the Baptist Missionary Society and New Tribes Mission. We maintained close ties to Tek Ura following a visit by two church members in 2022 and two further church members in May 2024 on an "immersive" visit. A Starvation lunch was held in March 2025 to raise awareness and promote support for Tek Ura.

LRBC volunteers led the children's work at Leigh Folk Festival, the UKs largest free folk festival, providing activities and crafts for over 500 children across two days. Other LRBC volunteers joined the folk festival team to set up the event and to pack away and clear up afterwards. A few volunteers helped at the Leigh Regatta mainly helping set up and clear down the event.

LRBC Tennis Club continued to provide a welcoming environment for people of all abilities and ages to enjoy outdoor tennis. Junior coaching took place every week with regular tennis events and parties as well as sessions for children with educational or mental health needs. The flood lights installed in 2024 are being enjoyed!

In May 2025 over 90 people participated n the Church weekend Away at High Leigh Conference Centre. Peter Butcher was invited to lead the weekend and blessed and challenged us with his teaching. There were groups for the children plus All Age games on the Saturday night. Over all, a very enjoyable weekend for all.

The senior pastor Andrew Cowley ended his secondment to the BUGB early in March 2025, reducing the honorarium to £2,500. After 7 years at LRBC and with over 40 years of ministry, Andrew retired in October 2025. The Church celebrated with Andrew, his family and over 150 guests with a Sunday Service followed by food, speeches and the presentation of gifts and thankyous.

Following on from Andrew's retirement, Rev Ian Smith was appointed as Senior Minister in November 2025 and again the Church celebrated his induction with lunch after the morning service.

As an interim measure we appointed Steve Dalley as a pastoral support worker to assist Ian Smith in pastoral visiting and to assist in the Sunday services. This contract lasts until January 2027.

Our Children's and Families' worker, Hanli Bouwer continued her valuable work with families and children in the neighbourhood, and has developed supportive links with a local school.

**2026 Priorities**

As we journey into 2026 our objectives include:

Exploring new ways of using our premises for both church and community activities, thereby fostering relationships with neighbours as an expression of our Christian faith.

Explore new Ministry opportunities at Living Room, 191 Leigh Road, addressing community needs in mental health, wellbeing, and environmental concerns. Develop Global Community Saturdays. Through Renew Wellbeing offer a safe space to promote emotional wellbeing. Monitor the effectiveness of the Parish Nurse monthly drop in.

Continue to equip the church family to share God's love daily through teaching and practical opportunities, both in Sunday sermons and in small groups, whose programmes reflect the topic considered on the previous Sunday.

Continue to reflect on expressing the Church's Deeper, Closer, Wider vision to members and the community.

We have expanded our work with the youth in our church. A youth Alpha course is due to start after Easter. Currently the Youth Worker is running a course on leadership; encouraging young people to take leadership roles within the church.

On his arrival Ian Smith conducted another review of church finances and together with other trustees concluded that church finances were being run efficiently in line with our status as a charitable organisation, and a Christian Church. We are continuing to explore new ways to use our premises and capital for the betterment of others and the promotion of our faith

The repairs to 193/195 Leigh Road are now finished and we provide quality affordable business accommodation for local businesses who will improve the quality of life in the area.

We are planning a Church Weekend in Autumn 2027 at High Leigh Christian Conference Centre open to all friends and family of the Church. There is no fee for this, working on a 'donate-what-you-can-afford' basis with the Church underwriting the overall cost. We hope this will be well attended and aims to nurture friendship with each other and a deeper relationship with God. In the process much fun will be had.

Streamline and simplify governance and decision-making to help deliver aims and objectives in key areas of church life

Continue to explore creative and innovative ways to engage with people on-site and online

Encourage a personal faith in Jesus and equip the church family for their daily walk with him

As a leadership team, we decided that we would build teams across the six areas of ministry:

**1 Ministry, serving and leadership.**
With three trustees stepping down in November and currently four further vacancies there is a need to encourage others to join trustee team. There is also a push for friends and members to see where they can serve in work and mission of the church.

**2 Worship.**
Particularly sung worship on Sundays. This is an area of excellence in the church that can be developed. One trustee is now the lead and is looking to develop this aspect of church life further.

**3 Evangelism and Mission.**
A trustee has been appointed and is forming a team, to run Alpha courses, engage with and support our missionaries and mission in general. The church has strong connections with several missionaries working abroad, however we believe it is important to consider new areas.

**4 Fellowship and Welcoming.**
It is important to make newcomers feel part of the church family in a relaxed fashion. This has been accomplished by newcomers' events, social activities and having a team of volunteers stewarding on Sundays.

We need to explore ways to make our reception areas more welcoming. Many hundreds of people cross the threshold of the church, and we would like them to be better informed about what we do and why we do it. One example is to use the TV in welcome area to share verses/positive messages, amongst other ideas, as well as relay Sunday services to allow passers-by a glimpse of what goes on, and allow those uncomfortable with being in a traditional church to follow the service from the Welcome Area.

We continue to encourage the Tennis club to develop sessions for those with educational needs and others in the community. We aim to support and provide volunteers to help at the Leigh Regatta and Folk Festival.

**5 Discipleship**
We believe that Christians need to grow in their faith as disciples of Christ. To that end, sermons have been structured to encourage discipleship, and home groups reflect this in their topics of conversation and devotion.

Work with both young people and more senior citizens, for example in Barnabas encourages faith to be explored more deeply and for people to feel comfortable about discussing their doubts and challenges.

**6 Finance and Stewardship.**
There is an ongoing need to review the financial position of the church. Whilst we believe God provides for our needs, we are aware that we must be financially prudent as a charity. We are asset rich, and relatively income poor and this balance has to be reviewed on a regular basis.

**Financial review**

**Individual giving**

The Church has multiple income streams for its general unrestricted fund. However, most funds continue to be raised from within its own membership and congregation.

**Commercial letting**

Full year rental was achieved on 191A, 193A and 189A flats, Marguerite Drive house and 189 Leigh Road PHAB café as per lease agreements.

193-195 Leigh Road, damp and refurbishment works were completed, and the shops were split into separate entities. Both properties had lease agreements in place by July 2025.

The Warehouse remained empty for much of the year due to the negotiating tenant exiting discussions just before signing the lease. A new tenant however was found and in situ by August 2025 being offered 4 months' rent-free period allowing them to reconfigure the warehouse and repair the roof.

**Community lettings**

Rentals of the Stables community rooms and Church Hall and garden continue to be strong £31,079 (2024 £34,392), however a few regular bookings have ended, impacting the overall income. The rooms are used by a wide variety of groups and individuals, benefitting from the various size rooms on the premises.

The Living Room, which operates out of 191 Leigh Road continues to welcome new users that match the ethos of the space. No charge is made for the Living Room, only donations if able.

**Preschool**

The principal funding received by Preschool is from Southend Borough Council for government funded hours and SENCO funding £142,046 (2024 £130,836). In addition to this some parents pay for extra hours and lunch club £11,205 (2024 £19,456). The Preschool can accommodate 30 children in each session.

To boost funds several fundraising activities took place including a summer picnic with a lucky dip, refreshments before the Nativity and running an Amazon Wish List.

**Church groups**

The sub-groups of the Church are self-funding and receive their income in a variety of ways but mainly through subscriptions or donations.

The Tennis Club has enjoyed using the refurbished club house and flood lit courts. Coaching and social tennis is well attended creating an active club with all ages.

**Housing Association**

The Housing Association balance of funds is £272,237 (2024 £268,206). This fund is managed by a Trustee and three church members who are not trustees. This group has the responsibility for investing and using these funds for the care of the elderly both within and outside of the church community. The group is also responsible to provide a report to the Church Members Meeting at least annually. The fund currently supports the Pastoral work to the elderly £11,368 (approx. 35% of the Associate Ministers role as the Pastoral lead) plus other expenses and pastoral gifts.

The one-year Baptist Union bond matured in 2025 bolstering interest income for the fund by £12,276.

**Other information**

The Thank offering raised £11,363 (2024 £8,768) which was designated to the General fund (70%). The remaining 30% was given to the BUGB Spurgeon's College appeal. The appeal was set up to support students impacted by the sudden closure of Spurgeon's theological college.

A legacy of £10,000 was received in 2025.

The gift of £30,000 given in 2024 has been used to support a part time Youth Worker. The balance of the fund at the end of 2025 was £21,367. The Youth Worker has had their contract extended for a further 12 months for the whole of 2026.

The interest free loan of £100,000 given in 2024 towards the refurbishment work of 193-195 Leigh Road remains in place. The total cost of the refurbishment for the property over 2024 & 2025 was £210,810. An agreement is in place for three months notices to be provided if repayment is required on the loan.

Legal and professional fees £26,722 (2024 £16,901) increased in 2025 due to the completion of three new leases and issuing a termination request.

Insurance costs reduced in 2025 £14,143 (2024 £18,913) due to tenants in place and properties vacated.

Interest on investments for the General fund has reduced £3,661 (2024 £7,817) due to reducing reserves and a slowly reducing interest rate.

**Reserves policy**

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy which currently means maintaining a general fund of around £65,000. This represents approximately net two months salaries and operating costs for the CIO excluding Preschool. A target reserve of £15,000 for the restricted Preschool fund is the aim now children numbers have increase to post pandemic levels. The multiple income streams that the CIO has, gives some security of cashflow. This, along with the high asset level, has shown that a lower level of reserves could be considered. This is part of a formal ongoing review of the reserve's requirement.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

**Structure, governance and management**

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Revd A Cowley | (Resigned 30 November 2025) |
| Mrs C Bell | |
| Mrs S Flack | |
| Mr D Jago | |
| Revd I Smith | |
| Mr A Rotherham | |
| Dr L Nagle | |
| Mrs H Pickford | |
| Mrs P Scott | |
| Mrs J Fitsall | (Appointed 27 November 2025) |

*Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

Revd I Smith - Team Leader (Appointed 01 May 2023)
Mrs J Fitsall (Appointed 27 November 2025)
Mr T Willcock (Appointed 21 May 2026)
Mrs N Palmer (Appointed 21 May 2026)
Ms F Hardwick (Appointed 21 May 2026)

Mr D Jago - Secretary
Dr L Nagle – Treasurer

Revd A Cowley - Team Leader (Resigned 30 November 2025)

**Organisational structure**

The charity became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with effect from 1 January 2017.
The Charity is controlled by its Constitution.

The church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the church's charitable purpose.

The church meeting is the governing body. Members are accepted on public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Normally 6 members meetings are held each year. The constitution permits decisions to be made at quorate Church meetings by appropriate majorities.

Trustee elections are held in May and November. The trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Trustees have their role explained to them by existing trustees, are provided with relevant documentation and guidance from the Charity Commission and BU and attend formal training.

The trustees review and update a Risk Register annually to identify and address the risks to which the charity is exposed.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Revd I Smith
**Trustee**

Date: 23/05/2026

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and 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 trust deed. 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.

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Leigh Road Baptist Church (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Church's policies, key drivers for trustees remuneration;

- results of our enquiries of management, internal audit and the Audit & Risk Committee about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Church's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;

the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant internal specialists,regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Church operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context is the Charities Act, 2011.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Church's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with the methodist church rules and regulations.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management, the Audit & Risk Committee in-house and external legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and
in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of operations.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Francis James & Partners LLP**

17 September 2026

**Chartered Accountants**
**Statutory Auditor**

1386 London Road
Leigh on Sea
Essex
England
SS9 2UJ

Francis James & Partners LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ | Restricted funds 2024 £ | Total 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 183,932 | 25,312 | 209,244 | 217,480 | 14,032 | 231,512 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 34,312 | 167,030 | 201,342 | 38,275 | 164,159 | 202,434 |
| Investments | 5 | 87,414 | 15,617 | 103,031 | 101,756 | 11,117 | 112,873 |
| **Total income** | | 305,658 | 207,959 | 513,617 | 357,511 | 189,308 | 546,819 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 6 | 383,696 | 190,965 | 574,661 | 357,578 | 205,834 | 563,412 |
| **Total expenditure** | | 383,696 | 190,965 | 574,661 | 357,578 | 205,834 | 563,412 |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (78,038) | 16,994 | (61,044) | (67) | (16,526) | (16,593) |
| Transfers between funds | | 13,405 | (13,405) | - | 14,472 | (14,472) | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | 7 | (64,633) | 3,589 | (61,044) | 14,405 | (30,998) | (16,593) |
| **Reconciliation of funds:** | | | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2025 | | 4,309,728 | 312,049 | 4,621,777 | 4,295,323 | 343,047 | 4,638,370 |
| **Fund balances at 31 December 2025** | | 4,245,095 | 315,638 | 4,560,733 | 4,309,728 | 312,049 | 4,621,777 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## BALANCE SHEET

## AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | Notes | 2025 £ | £ | 2024 £ | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 12 | | 1,936,919 | | 1,936,987 |
| Investment property | 13 | | 2,363,807 | | 2,175,000 |
| | | | 4,300,726 | | 4,111,987 |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 16,679 | | 23,102 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 379,909 | | 601,970 | |
| | | 396,588 | | 625,072 | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | 18 | (136,581) | | (115,282) | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 260,007 | | 509,790 |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 4,560,733 | | 4,621,777 |
| **The funds of the Charity** | | | | | |
| Restricted income funds | 21 | | 315,638 | | 312,049 |
| Unrestricted funds | 22 | | 4,245,095 | | 4,309,728 |
| | | | 4,560,733 | | 4,621,777 |

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23/08/2026

.....

Revd I Smith
**Trustee**

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | Notes | 2025 £ | £ | 2024 £ | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | | | |
| Cash absorbed by operations | 25 | | (136,285) | | (118,814) |
| **Investing activities** | | | | | |
| Purchase of investment property | | (188,807) | | - | |
| Investment income received | | 103,031 | | 112,873 | |
| **Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities** | | | (85,776) | | 112,873 |
| **Financing activities** | | | | | |
| Proceeds from borrowings | | - | | 100,000 | |
| **Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities** | | | - | | 100,000 |
| **Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents** | | | (222,061) | | 94,059 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 601,970 | | 507,909 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | | | 379,909 | | 601,970 |

# LEIGH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**
Leigh Road Baptist Church is a charity registered in England and Wales.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds are included within the unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

**1.5 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Freehold land and buildings | 2% on cost |
| Plant and equipment | 25% on reducing balance |
| Fixtures and fittings | 33% on cost |

Freehold land is not depreciated.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Buildings are deemed to have a value equal to, or greater than, their carrying amount, and therefore no depreciation charge is recognised.

**1.7 Investment properties**

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

**1.8 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The significant accounting estimates being the revaluation of the fixed assets and investment properties.

## 3 Donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts | 104,576 | 15,205 | 119,781 | 106,691 | 9,048 | 115,739 |
| Legacies receivable | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | 4,000 | - | 4,000 |
| Grants | 2,500 | 1,088 | 3,588 | 10,000 | - | 10,000 |
| Income tax recovered and non gift aid collections | 62,988 | 7,917 | 70,905 | 92,534 | 4,100 | 96,634 |
| Other donations and fundraising events | 3,868 | 1,102 | 4,970 | 4,255 | 884 | 5,139 |
| | 183,932 | 25,312 | 209,244 | 217,480 | 14,032 | 231,512 |

## 4 Income from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Lettings - stables managed | 31,079 | - | 31,079 | 35,032 | - | 35,032 |
| Other donations | 3,164 | 13,779 | 16,943 | 3,204 | 13,866 | 17,070 |
| Pre-School | - | 153,251 | 153,251 | - | 150,293 | 150,293 |
| Ecofund | 69 | - | 69 | 39 | - | 39 |
| | 34,312 | 167,030 | 201,342 | 38,275 | 164,159 | 202,434 |

## 5 Income from investments

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Interest receivable | 87,414 | 15,617 | 103,031 | 101,756 | 11,117 | 112,873 |

## 6 Charitable activities

| | Charitable activities 2025 | Management 2025 | Total 2025 | Charitable activities 2024 | Management 2024 | Total 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 220,175 | - | 220,175 | 196,309 | - | 196,309 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 69 | - | 69 | 92 | - | 92 |
| Cleaning and Maintenance - Insurance | 12,543 | 14,143 | 26,686 | 9,439 | 18,914 | 28,353 |
| Buildings and equipment - Services | 35,435 | 34,456 | 69,891 | 87,371 | 27,864 | 115,235 |
| Food and drink - Telephone and internet | 2,352 | 1,896 | 4,248 | 1,986 | 2,332 | 4,318 |
| Music and multi-media - Postage and stationary | 1,429 | 1,250 | 2,679 | 1,387 | 1,280 | 2,667 |
| Organ and paino tuning - Photocopying | 1,343 | 2,272 | 3,615 | 1,118 | 2,074 | 3,192 |
| Youth - Publicity/ printing | 3,852 | 432 | 4,284 | 4,446 | 511 | 4,957 |
| Speakers - Books, visual aids etc | 715 | 34 | 749 | 1,505 | 197 | 1,702 |
| Evangelism and discipline - Subscriptions/ licences | 221 | 2,457 | 2,678 | 384 | 2,118 | 2,502 |
| PA - Staff expenses | 49 | 2,288 | 2,337 | 698 | 8,278 | 8,976 |
| Events at LRBC - Information technology | 26,680 | 6,123 | 32,803 | 3,492 | 5,060 | 8,552 |
| Support other - Legal and professional | 629 | 26,723 | 27,352 | - | 16,901 | 16,901 |
| Support organisations - Bank charges | 33,026 | 378 | 33,404 | 35,497 | 428 | 35,925 |
| Support individuals | 7,369 | - | 7,369 | 7,044 | - | 7,044 |
| Conferences / courses | 1,138 | - | 1,138 | 696 | - | 696 |
| Other funds | 3,011 | - | 3,011 | 3,451 | - | 3,451 |
| Pre-school wages | 132,173 | - | 132,173 | 122,540 | - | 122,540 |
| | 482,209 | 92,452 | 574,661 | 477,455 | 85,957 | 563,412 |
| | 482,209 | 92,452 | 574,661 | 477,455 | 85,957 | 563,412 |
| **Analysis by fund** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 297,613 | 86,083 | 383,696 | 280,047 | 77,531 | 357,578 |
| Restricted funds | 184,596 | 6,369 | 190,965 | 197,408 | 8,426 | 205,834 |
| | 482,209 | 92,452 | 574,661 | 477,455 | 85,957 | 563,412 |

## 7 Net movement in funds

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting): | | |
| Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements | 3,300 | 3,300 |
| Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets | 69 | 92 |

## 8 Auditor's remuneration

| Fees payable to the charity's auditor and associates: | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| **For audit services** | | |
| Audit of the financial statements of the charity | 3,300 | 3,300 |

## 9 Trustees

The were two Ministers in 2025 who were trustees receiving remuneration (gross salary plus employer pension contributions) of £81,309 (2024: £75,702).

No trustee received over £60,000 in salaries.

**Trustees' expenses**

Trustee expenses reimbursed £2,794 (2024: £3,777).

Related party expenses reimbursed £Nil (2024: £Nil).

## 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Number |
| Church | 10 | 10 |
| Preschool | 9 | 11 |
| Total | 19 | 21 |

| **Employment costs** | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Church salaries | 220,175 | 196,309 |
| Preschool salaries | 132,173 | 122,540 |
| | **352,348** | **318,849** |

## 10 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs
Salaries Church £220,175, Pre school £132,173. There are employer pension contribution of £10,861 for Church and £2,715 for preschool included in these salaries.

**Ministerial Team**
Andrew Cowley as Team Leader was employed full time and retired 30th November 2025. The part time Associate Minister, Ian Smith, was appointed Team Leader full time from 1st November 2025.
Steve Dalley was appointed 1st November 2025 as Support Minister on a 6 months contract.
The Housing association fund continued to support the salary costs Pastoral Care provided by the Ministers to the sum of £11,368.
Families and Children worker, Hanli Bouwer continues to work part time term time.
The Creative / Community Worker, David Elcock works 15 hours per week.

**Support Staff**
The administrative and finance support is covered by four employees working an average of 58.5 hours per week.
The Site supervision is split between two employees working shifts totalling 57.5 hours on average per week plus overtime to cover additional booking requests when needed.

Pre-School employs staff on term time contracts. 1 Manager, 2 part time Deputies, 1 part time SEN Coordinator and 5 Practioners. All staff are part time and work on a term time basis.

## 11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

## 12 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings | Plant and equipment | Fixtures and fittings | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | | |
| At 1 January 2025 | 1,936,500 | 3,524 | 45,411 | 1,985,435 |
| At 31 December 2025 | 1,936,500 | 3,524 | 45,411 | 1,985,435 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | | |
| At 1 January 2025 | - | 3,358 | 45,089 | 48,447 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 24 | 45 | 69 |
| At 31 December 2025 | - | 3,382 | 45,134 | 48,516 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | | |
| At 31 December 2025 | 1,936,500 | 142 | 277 | 1,936,919 |
| At 31 December 2024 | 1,936,500 | 166 | 321 | 1,936,987 |

**12 Tangible fixed assets** **(Continued)**

When conducting the review of the assets it was decided by the Trustees that it would be inappropriate to value the Church buildings as the placing of a monetary value upon such an asset is virtually impossible. The Church excluding the Stables and let properties is currently insured for the sum of £7,596,164 (2024: £7,346,429), however if the site were to be sold then it would only realise its development value. The Trustees have therefore decided that it is more important for each member of the Church to place their own value upon their Church rather than estimate a monetary value.

This Freehold Property has been revalued at:

| Property | Value (£) |
|---|---|
| 19 Parkside Manse | 1,050,000 |
| 191 Leigh Road | 191,500 |
| Tennis Courts | 200,000 |
| The Stables | 495,000 |

Total: £1,936,500

These properties were revalued by Hair and Son Estate agents in July 2024, for valuations applicable as at 31 December 2023.

During this revaluation the following properties have been reclassified to investment properties. 29 Marguerite Drive, Flat 189A. Flat 191A and 193A, 189 Leigh Road, 193-195 Leigh Road and the Warehouse.

The trustees believe that the property valuation, both for Freehold and Investment properties, are not to be materially different than that of the last valuation, dated 31 December 2023.

**13 Investment property**

| | 2025<br>£ |
|---|---|
| **Fair value** | |
| At 1 January 2025 | 2,175,000 |
| Additions through external acquisition | 188,807 |
| At 31 December 2025 | 2,363,807 |

Investment property comprises of 7 properties. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out on 19th July 2024 by Hair & Son LLP Chartered Surveyors, who are not connected with the Charity. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties.

## 13 Investment property (Continued)

The properties were valued as follows:

| Property | Value (£) |
|---|---|
| 29 Marguerite Drive | 485,000 |
| Flat 189a, Leigh Road | 200,000 |
| Flat 191a, Leigh Road | 200,000 |
| Flat 193a, Leigh Road | 200,000 |
| 189 Leigh Road | 180,000 |
| 193-195 Leigh Road | 525,000 |
| Warehouse – Chalkwell Park Drive | 385,000 |

Total: £2,175,000

## 14 Debtors

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year:** | £ | £ |
| Other debtors | 16,679 | 23,102 |

## 15 Movement in funds

| | At January 2025 | Net movement in funds | Transfers between funds | Revalue | At December 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Unrestricted funds** | | | | | |
| General fund | 4,276,387 | (59,755) | 3,752 | - | 4,220,383 |
| Thank offering | 309 | 7,646 | (7,955) | - | - |
| Eco-fund | 998 | (22) | - | - | 976 |
| Youth fund | 29,999 | (18,562) | (11,437) | - | - |
| Youth worker | - | (8,633) | 30,000 | - | 21,367 |
| Living room 191 | 2,034 | (148) | - | - | 1,886 |
| Table Tennis | - | 1,436 | (955) | - | 481 |
| | 4,309,728 | (78,038) | 13,405 | - | 4,245,095 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Barnabas | 1,370 | 1,319 | (346) | - | 2,343 |
| Links | 599 | 566 | (375) | - | 790 |
| LRBC toddlers | 1,503 | 75 | (630) | - | 948 |
| Energise | 554 | - | - | - | 554 |
| Tennis club | 7,908 | (84) | - | - | 7,824 |
| Pre-school | 20,824 | 16,519 | (12,000) | - | 25,343 |
| LRBC housing & welfare association | 268,207 | 4,084 | (54) | - | 272,237 |

**15 Movement in funds** **(Continued)**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Churches together in Leigh | 1,917 | - | - | - | 1,917 |
| Sundry one-off items | 9,167 | (5,485) | - | - | 3,682 |
| | 312,049 | 16,994 | (13,405) | - | 315,638 |
| Total funds | 4,621,777 | (61,044) | - | - | 4,560,733 |

The majority of fund transfers are for the groups i.e. Barnabas, Links, Preschool giving gifts to the General fund for the use of the premises and living room was a donation transferred.

**16 Movement in funds**

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Movement in funds £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Movement in funds** | | | |
| General fund | 287,111 | 346,866 | (59,755) |
| Thank offering | 11,363 | 3,718 | 7,645 |
| Eco-fund | 69 | 90 | (21) |
| Youth fund | 4,175 | 22,737 | (18,562) |
| Youth worker | 36 | 8,669 | (8,633) |
| Living room 191 | 1,464 | 1,613 | (148) |
| Table tennis | 1,440 | 4 | 1,436 |
| | 305,658 | 383,695 | (78,037) |
| Restricted funds | | | |
| Barnabas | 1,723 | 404 | 1,319 |
| Links | 886 | 320 | 566 |
| LRBC toddlers | 1,742 | 1,667 | 75 |
| Tennis club | 13,996 | 14,081 | (84) |
| Pre-school | 154,076 | 137,558 | 16,519 |
| LRBC housing & welfare association | 15,515 | 11,431 | 4,084 |
| Churches together in Leigh | - | - | - |
| Sundry one-off items | 20,020 | 25,505 | (5,485) |
| | 207,959 | 190,965 | 16,994 |
| Total funds | 513,616 | 574,660 | (61,044) |

## 17 Loans and overdrafts

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Other loans | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Payable within one year | 100,000 | 100,000 |

In 2024, an interest free loan of £100,000 was received from a volunteer for the refurbishment of investment properties. The loan individual has agreed to give the Church 3 months notice before repayment is required.

## 18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | Notes | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ |
| Borrowings | | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Deferred income | 20 | 11,848 | - |
| Accruals | | 24,733 | 15,282 |
| | | 136,581 | 115,282 |

**19 Funds**

Bright Sparks (R) (LRBC Toddlers) - Bright Sparks is a popular parent/carer and toddler group that meets on Wednesday morning and afternoons during term time.

Preschool (R) - Our curriculum reflects the Early Learning Goals as set out for pre-school children by the QCA. Pre-School provides a happy, safe environment where children can learn.

Eco Fund – Refill station for cleaning products set up in The Living Room. Funds raised to promote Eco friendly activities and awareness at Church.

Energise (R) – A teenage youth club that is currently not operational but the money is ring fenced for when a new group is established.

CTIL Churches (R) Together in Leigh – This fund is for when we do joint activities locally with other Churches. Local Churches contribute to the fund and often the surplus money after events is used to kick start the next event. Such things as adverts in the local paper for Easter and Christmas services.

Living Room 191 (D) – Living Room is a new venture in the property 191 Leigh Road . In the summer of 2021 LRBC undertook a survey and found the two issues of most concern to local folk were mental wellbeing and environmental issues. Therefore activities in the Living Room reflect a collaboration and encourage the creating of community around these common concerns.. The space is available for the local community to use at no cost but donations are welcome and it aims to be self-funding (excluding rent). The main Church lead groups are Global Community Saturday and Vinyl Night held monthly and the weekly Craft Group and Room for Art.

Tennis Club (R) – A Tennis club with 3 courts.

Youth (D) – This fund was set up several years ago when we want to raise funds for a Families and Children's worker. The fund remains open as people are still giving to this area of work. All the activities run by the Families and Children workers goes through this fund i.e. Brushes and paints, Summer fund days, Easter activities etc.

Links (R)- A group for the active retired and young at heart that meets informally each Monday morning 10am to 12 noon for friendship and companionship. They enjoy a varied and exciting program each week including outings, interesting speakers from all walks of life, musical interludes, quizzes, fun and lots of coffee and biscuits!

Thank Offering (D) – The Church anniversary every November has a Thank offering Day. The money raised is often tithed to other charities or specific work within the Church.

Women Fellowship (Barnabas) (R) - Meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2.15pm to 3.30pm in The Stables Lounge. A devotional meeting for men or women of any age who want to come and share friendship, a chance to chat and make friends over a cup of tea.

HWA – LRBC Housing Association (R) – The Church used to own a retirement home. When this was sold the funds were given to LRBC and ring fenced to be used specifically for elderly people. The fund currently supports part of the salary of the pastoral minister and other adhoc expenses that benefit the elder generation of the church.

The Housing Association has agreed that the funds can be used as a loan to cover refurbishments costs of 193/195 Leigh Road once the interest free loan has been repaid then monies are drawn, interest will be payable at 1% below base rate.

Allotted (R) – This fund is for small adhoc gifts that are given to LRBC with restrictions on them.

Table Tennis (D): The privately run Table Tennis club that has been meeting for several years on a Friday afternoon in the main hall has been taken over by the Church and is now being reported as a Designated fund.

## 20 Deferred income

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Other deferred income | 11,848 | - |

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Current liabilities | 11,848 | - |
| Movements in the year: | | |
| Deferred income at 1 January 2025 | - | - |
| Resources deferred in the year | 11,848 | - |
| Deferred income at 31 December 2025 | 11,848 | - |

## 21 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

| | At 1 January 2025 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | At 31 December 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | 312,049 | 207,959 | (190,965) | (13,405) | 315,638 |

| Previous year: | At 1 January 2024 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | At 31 December 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | 343,047 | 189,308 | (205,834) | (14,472) | 312,049 |

## 22 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

| | At 1 January 2025 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | At 31 December 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 4,309,728 | 305,658 | (383,696) | 13,405 | 4,245,095 |

## 23 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **At 31 December 2025:** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,936,919 | - | 1,936,919 |
| Investment properties | 2,363,807 | - | 2,363,807 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | (55,631) | 315,638 | 260,007 |
| | 4,245,095 | 315,638 | 4,560,733 |

| | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ | Restricted funds 2024 £ | Total 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **At 31 December 2024:** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,936,987 | - | 1,936,987 |
| Investment properties | 2,175,000 | - | 2,175,000 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 197,741 | 312,049 | 509,790 |
| | 4,309,728 | 312,049 | 4,621,777 |

## 24 Related party transactions

No related party transactions in 2025.

## 25 Cash absorbed by operations

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Deficit for the year | (61,044) | (16,593) |
| **Adjustments for:** | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (103,031) | (112,873) |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 69 | 92 |
| **Movements in working capital:** | | |
| Decrease in debtors | 6,422 | 4,960 |
| Increase in creditors | 9,451 | 5,600 |
| Increase in deferred income | 11,848 | - |
| **Cash absorbed by operations** | (136,285) | (118,814) |

## 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

| | At 1 January 2025 | Cash flows | At 31 December 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 601,970 | (222,061) | 379,909 |
| Loans falling due within one year | (100,000) | - | (100,000) |
| | 501,970 | (222,061) | 279,909 |