REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 FOR

LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL

Registered charity in England & Wales with registration no: 1169839

LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL

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for the year ended 31 December 2025

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LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees present their report together with the accounts of Lighthouse Central for the year ended 31 December 2025. The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, replacing the accruals basis used in the previous year. The change in accounting basis is explained in the notes to the accounts.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1169839

Registered address:
Lighthouse Central
Bridge House
Station Approach
Great Missenden
HP16 9AZ

Trustees:
Ben Sharp - resigned 14.05.25
Richard Peters - Chair
Cathy Rayner
Caroline Bird
Sarah Coope - appointed 14.05.25

Director:
Patricia Reading

Operations Manager:
Edda Lindner

Patron:
Gary Grant

Independent examiner:
Ian Branch

Section 1: Structure, Governance & Management

Governing document

Lighthouse Central is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution dated 19 October 2016. The members of the CIO are its trustees and membership cannot be transferred to anyone else. Therefore, only the trustees of the CIO are able to vote on any matter relating to the CIO. The CIO is also governed by its Bye Laws dated 21 October 2016. The Bye-Laws can be changed, but only by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

Appointment of trustees

As set out in the Constitution, trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. The Chair of Trustees is nominated by the trustees of the CIO, who may revoke the appointment at any time. When considering the appointment of trustees, the board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Trustee induction

Having mostly had personal contact with a local Lighthouse, new trustees are often well aware of our objectives and the work we undertake. New trustees receive a copy of the current version of the Constitution and Bye Laws, a copy of the most recent Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts, and the Charity Commission's 'Charity Trustee Welcome Pack' and 'The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do (CC3)' guide. All of the Trustees are also required to complete the NSPCC online training course for charity trustees.

Organisation

The board of trustees, which can have up to eight members, administers the CIO, with responsibilities for different areas. The Director reports to the Chair of Trustees. Volunteers with management responsibilities report to the Director. The board meets at least three times a year, in accordance with the Bye Laws.

Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no payment for carrying out their trustee duties. During 2025, Caroline Bird, a trustee, was paid £1,755 for work on the special educational needs (SEN) project. She did not participate in the decision to award her the work.

Key management remuneration

Staff remuneration is agreed by the trustees and reviewed annually, taking account of comparable roles in youth and community work.

The Director worked three days a week until the end of September 2025. From October, her role reduced to one day a week, focusing on developing new Lighthouses.

An Operations Manager was appointed in July 2025, working two days a week.

Section 2: Objectives & Activities

Lighthouse Central was set up to:

- Promote the Christian faith primarily in children and young people by initiating and supporting the organisation of non-residential Christian holiday clubs, which are free of charge with all costs met from voluntary donations, fundraising events, grants and sponsorship.

- To do this in conjunction with Christian churches in their locality through the work of all denominations wishing to participate.

Significant activities

Lighthouse is a non-residential, week-long holiday club for children run by Christians from local churches working together, bringing churches and communities together around young people.

Lighthouse Central brings together everything that churches need to run a Lighthouse, delivering administrative support, content and leadership. We are passionate about seeing children from all walks of life and abilities, those with faith and without, encountering God in a fun-filled week with teaching, sport, craft, performing arts and music.

Each of the established Lighthouses is an independent charity that raises its own funds and makes its own local arrangements.

During the last 12 months Lighthouse Central has:

- Supported fourteen Lighthouse locations in running face to face activity in the summer holidays with approximately 1,364 volunteers and 2,470 children.
- Relaunched Lighthouse Beaconsfield after a one year absence with a new team
- Started a new Lighthouse in Bicester
- Employed an operations manager for two days a week since July to help with the day-to-day support of existing Lighthouses
- Produced teaching materials, mainstage scripts, craft ideas and a workbook that could be used by all Lighthouses with a theme of "Make Space for Jesus", based on the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament.
- Continued to speak to individuals and churches regarding starting new Lighthouses nationwide
- Raised finance from individuals, trusts and organisations
- Continued to develop and improve resources provided to the existing Lighthouses
- Further embedded the new administration system for attendees and volunteers, using the *SignMeUp* package developed by The Software Charity
- Held our eighth Lighthouse Central Conference to encourage and inspire local Lighthouse leaders

Public benefit

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Lighthouse Central facilitates the provision of free children's holiday clubs which are open to all irrespective of beliefs. They provide a great week of fun activities and teaching and strengthen relationships in the community with several churches working together.

Section 3: Achievements & Performance

Lighthouse Central supported 14 local Lighthouse charities to each run a week-long holiday club in July/August 2025.

One new Lighthouse started in Bicester, in a recently developed housing estate in Bicester town.

The services provided included:

- Fully online admin system enabling child and helper registration, references and DBS checks
- Centralised insurance
- Provision of recruitment materials for children and volunteers
- Best practice policies and processes to comply with legal requirements
- Safeguarding Training
- Provision of a Volunteers Handbook
- Provision of leader T-shirts and other merchandise
- Provision of programme resources including teaching material, music, drama, craft and sports guidelines

These 14 Lighthouses were able to reach 2,470 children and involved 1,364 volunteer helpers from teenagers to retirees.

During 2025, Lighthouse Central reviewed provision for children with special educational needs (SEN), drawing on discussions with representatives from eight Lighthouses. The review identified existing strengths, including quieter spaces and practical resources, alongside challenges in recruiting experienced volunteers and meeting more complex needs. It proposed priorities for further support, including volunteer training, clearer guidance and greater sharing of experience between Lighthouses, with the aim of helping more children participate.

Our priorities for 2026 are to support existing Lighthouses and develop opportunities to plant new ones. The Operations Manager will support the running of existing Lighthouses, while the Director focuses on new Lighthouse development. As funds allow, we intend to increase investment in this growth while maintaining the support provided to the Lighthouse family.

Chairman's Report for 2025

We always remind ourselves of our Vision of bringing God's Kingdom to children and young people and our Mission to grow and support the family of Lighthouses across the UK.

Lighthouse Central is passionate about seeing children and young people from all walks of life and with any ability encounter God. We support a family of Lighthouses across the UK to provide non-residential holiday clubs for children and young people. We help churches to build strong ties with their local communities, bringing them together to provide fun-filled activity weeks with teaching, sport, craft, performing arts and music.

During 2025 we were pleased to see the number of Lighthouses, children and volunteers continuing to grow. Fourteen Lighthouse locations ran face-to-face activity in the summer holidays, reaching approximately 2,470 children and involving 1,364 volunteers. We were delighted to see a new Lighthouse start in Bicester and Lighthouse Beaconsfield relaunch after a one-year absence with a new team.

We would like to grow faster, and we continue to pray and work for further opportunities across the country. At the same time, steady progress is encouraging, particularly where local churches are able to build sustainable teams and strong community relationships.

The appointment of our Operations Manager has been very successful. Edda has settled well into the role and is already making a significant difference to the day-to-day support of existing Lighthouses. Patricia's increased focus as Director on new Lighthouse development is also a positive step, allowing us to give more dedicated attention to churches and communities exploring whether they might start a Lighthouse. From November 2025, Patricia continued in her role as Director on a self-employed consultancy basis rather than as an employee.

There were also changes among the trustees during the year. We are very grateful to Ben Sharp, who served as an excellent Chair and gave so much to Lighthouse Central before having to move outside the UK for work and step down from the role. We are also delighted to welcome Sarah Coope to the trustee team and are grateful for the experience and commitment she brings.
We remain very grateful to our regular donors, whose faithful support makes a real difference. Particular thanks are due again to Ben Sharp, who ran a marathon in aid of Lighthouse Central. This was a significant encouragement and made a substantial difference to our fundraising figures for the year.

The Big Lighthouse Quiz took place in spring 2025, generating receipts of £1,080.

SignMeUp (SMU), the administration system provided by The Software Charity, is now maturing and has proved to be an excellent platform for managing individual Lighthouses. It continues to support child and volunteer registration, references, Disclosure and Barring Service checks and the wider administration needed to run Lighthouse safely and effectively.

As we move forward, we remain committed to the vision. We want to see more Lighthouses established, existing Lighthouses well supported, and more children and young people given the opportunity to encounter God in what so many continue to describe as 'the best week of the summer holidays!'

Section 4: Financial Review

Financial position

Receipts for 2025 totalled £50,907 and payments totalled £42,381, resulting in an increase in cash of £8,526. Cash balances rose from £25,178 at the start of the year to £33,704 at 31 December 2025.

The year was financially successful, thanks to generous donations and fundraising activities. We are very grateful to all those who have supported Lighthouse Central in this way.

However, we remain committed to moving towards a more sustainable funding model, in which the ongoing costs of Lighthouse Central are increasingly covered by subscriptions and service contributions from local Lighthouses. This will allow fundraising efforts to focus more directly on helping local Lighthouses cover their own costs, and will also enable Lighthouse Central to concentrate its staff and volunteer time on supporting existing Lighthouses and encouraging the development of new ones.

This greater sustainability will come as the number of Lighthouses, children and volunteers continues to grow. We are encouraged by the steady progress made this year, while recognising that further growth is needed before Lighthouse Central can become self-sustaining in the longer term.

Principal funding sources
The principal funding source for the CIO is the income from subscriptions and services provided to the beneficiaries of the CIO. Donations from individuals and trusts have also been sources of funding.

Reserves policy
The trustees aim to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately four months' operating costs, including salaries. Based on recent expenditure, with an allowance for inflation, the current target is £15,000. These reserves provide a buffer against unexpected expenditure or a temporary shortfall in income. The target will be reviewed annually.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held cash balances of £33,704. Funds above the £15,000 reserves target help meet costs during the year, as most contributions from local Lighthouses are received towards the end of the year, after their events have taken place. As reserves grow, the trustees intend to increase investment in planting new Lighthouses, while maintaining sufficient funds for existing activities.

Going concern
The trustees have considered the charity's current cash position and expected receipts and payments. They are satisfied that Lighthouse Central has sufficient resources to meet its commitments and continue its activities for at least 12 months from the date these accounts are approved.

Funds in deficit
There are currently no funds in deficit.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The timeline from a church or group of individuals first expressing interest in starting a new Lighthouse to that Lighthouse actually running is often around two years. Growth is therefore not always predictable and can be slower in the early stages than we would wish. The trustees have continued to manage this by avoiding unnecessary long-term overheads and by keeping the central structure as lean as possible while still providing effective support to existing and developing Lighthouses.

The principal financial risk is that Lighthouse Central remains dependent on fundraising income while the number of Lighthouses grows to the point where subscriptions and service contributions can sustain the charity's ongoing costs. The trustees continue to monitor this carefully, seeking to grow income from Lighthouses in a measured way while maintaining regular fundraising and donor engagement during the transition.

A further operational risk is staff continuity. Lighthouse Central relies heavily on the commitment, experience and effectiveness of its Director and Operations Manager, both of whom make a significant contribution to the charity's work. The trustees recognise the importance of supporting these roles, retaining knowledge within the organisation, and ensuring that responsibilities and processes are documented as the charity grows.

There is also a continuing risk that individual Lighthouses may be unable to run in a particular year. This can happen for a range of reasons, including local leadership changes, insufficient volunteers, venue issues, or wider external events such as those experienced during the COVID period. The trustees seek to manage this risk by maintaining close relationships with local Lighthouse teams, offering practical support where needed, and taking a prudent approach to budgeting where attendee numbers or local arrangements are uncertain.

Section 5: Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this trustees' report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Signature: _____

Dr Richard Peters
Chair of Trustees

Date: 3 October 2026

LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 Total Funds
		£
RECEIPTS		
Donations	7	**8,015**
Gift Aid on donations		**2,463**
Charitable activities		
Membership subscriptions and service costs from Lighthouses		**26,229**
Fundraising Income		**13,742**
Interest on bank accounts		**459**
Total receipts		**50,907**
PAYMENTS		
Charitable activities		
Staff		**26,702**
Travel and subsistence, administrative costs		**3,810**
Purchase of merchandise and volunteers' t-shirts		
Disclosure and Barring Service costs		
Teaching material development & delivery	2	**1,755**
Legal fees		
Computer costs		**669**
Administration IT system subscription and upgrades	7	**8,970**
Charity donation		
Insurance		**414**
Banking Fees		**60**
Total payments		**42,381**
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)		**8,526**
Net movement in cash		**8,526**
RECONCILIATION OF CASH		
Cash balances brought forward		**25,178**
CASH BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		**33,704**

LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 December 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
ASSETS	**Notes**		
Cash at bank		**33,704**	**25,178**
Amounts owed to the charity	**4**	**0**	**1,100**
Prepaid Disclosure & Barring Service costs		**161**	**835**
LIABILITIES			
Amounts owed by the charity	**5**	**0**	**(1,254)**

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 3 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Peters

Signature: _____

Dr Richard Peters
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL

Registered charity number: 1169839

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Lighthouse Central for the year ended 31 December 2025, set out on pages 10-11 and 13-14.

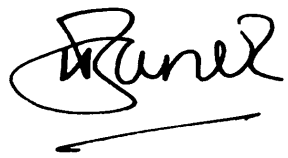
Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. No material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed: _____

Date: 12 October 2026

Mr Ian Branch, FCMA
1 Westminster Close
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 1QR

LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation
The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, recognising money when received or paid. The 2024 accounts were prepared on an accruals basis. Comparative figures have therefore been omitted from the receipts and payments account because they were prepared on a different basis. The statement of assets and liabilities includes the charity's cash balances, other assets and outstanding liabilities at the year end.

Amounts are rounded to the nearest pound, so individual figures may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. There were no donations received during the year which were restricted in their use.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES

No trustee received payment for carrying out trustee duties during 2025. Caroline Bird, a trustee, was paid £1,755 for work on the special educational needs (SEN) project. She did not participate in the decision to award her the work.

No trustee expenses were reimbursed during 2025.

3. STAFF COSTS
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	1.5	1

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

4. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift Aid receivable from HMRC	0	910
Lighthouse subscriptions	0	190
	0	1,100

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Tax, national insurance and pension	0	362
Travel and subsistence, administrative costs	0	338
Donations received in 2024 but accrued in 2025	0	380
Monies collected for and owed to other charities	0	174
	0	1,254

6. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Donations totalling £1,100 were received from trustees during 2025 (2024: £1,600).

7. SIGNMEUP IMPROVEMENTS

Payments included improvements to the SignMeUp administration system, funded jointly by participating Lighthouses and Lighthouse Central.