WATCH (Women and the Church)

CHARTERED INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

CIO Accounts

and Trustees Report

30 June 2026

Registered Charity Number 1171267

Registered Address

14 Ashford Close
Fordingbridge
Hampshire SP61DH

WATCH (Women and the Church) CIO

Trustees Report for the year ended 30 June 2026

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Trustees

The trustees during the year were as follows:

Martine Oborne (Chair)

Kristin Breuss (Vice chair) (*resigned 10 June 2026)*

Jennifer Thomas (Vice chair)

Isobel Rathbone (Secretary)

Peggy Jackson (Treasurer)

Claire Creese

Georgia Ashwell

Yvonne Clarke

Mary Kells *(second and final term ends 17 October)*

Jane Oldham

Lizzie Taylor

Michael Hampson *(resigned 15 June 2026)*

Matthew Wilke *(resigned with effect from 17 October 2026)*

Philip Baldwin

Ruth Chapman *(resigned 15 June 2026)#*

The appointment of additional trustees is considered on a regular basis. There is a 1/3 annual rotation.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity for the public benefit are the promotion of gender equality and diversity within the Church of England as experienced by both lay and ordained people. This is sought through:

- The elimination of discrimination on the ground of gender;

- Advancing education and raising awareness in gender equality and diversity;
- Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public;
- Cultivating a sentiment in favour of gender equality and diversity.

The Charity was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 24 January 2017 with the registered number 1171267

WATCH (Women and the Church) CIO

Trustees Report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1. During the year, the trustees have reviewed and updated their Strategic Action Plan, and been active in each of the following areas:
    1. To raise awareness of ongoing discrimination and sexism and to support and promote the well-being of women in the Church
    2. To respond to appointments and actions that impact on the flourishing of women in the Church
    3. To work towards an end to the Five Guiding Principles (5GPs) and 2014 House of Bishops Declaration
    4. To work for transparency about limits that some churches place on women's ministry
    5. To broaden our membership and outreach, both lay and ordained
    6. To improve communications
    7. To develop liturgy, theology and general language of the Church

    In pursuance of these:

2. The trustees have clarified their belief that it is time to find a generous way to bring to and end the arrangements set out in the Five Guiding Principles and House of Bishops Declaration of 2014. Under the heading of the "Not Equal Yet" campaign, they have continued to investigate possible strategies, by which this can be achieved, for the sake of the wellbeing of women in the church, and to restore the unity of the Church of England.

3. As part of a campaign to encourage churches towards greater public transparency, WATCH researched and published a list of all churches in the Church of England, which actively limit women's ministry, and which have sought alternative episcopal oversight. This was an extension of the 'Honest Church' project, which WATCH continues to share with Student Christian Movement,

4. In March 2026, WATCH accepted an invitation from St Martin-in-the-Fields, to collaborate on a service to mark International Women's Day, followed by a presentation on WATCH's own history, and continuing priorities.

5. Trustees have welcomed professional advice during the year, regarding media presence and presentation. Two trustees undertook media training, a hero graphic was commissioned and the website and social media practice updated.

6. WATCH has continued to actively support diocesan 'roadshows', to enable women at local level to share their experience of the operation of the Five Guiding Principles, and to discuss ways to address common concerns. As Chair, Martine Oborne attended and spoke at two such events during the year, in Newcastle and Liverpool.

7. After consultation with members, the trustees have actively encouraged the formation of local diocesan WATCH groups, where members can meet others in their geographical area, for mutual support and encouragement, and highlight any issues particular to their own diocese. Approximately a quarter of our members are currently actively engaged with this.

8. Throughout the year, WATCH has continued to be in conversation with other inclusive organisations, including NADAWM (National Association of Diocesan Advisers on Women's Ministry), Inclusive Church and Together for the Church of England.

9. Liturgy Online, to promote inclusive language worship, has continued to attract an appreciative following throughout this year.

10. As part of the trustees' review of spending commitments begun last year, the trustees have held four of their seven meetings online, and will continue to balance online with in-person meetings in future. During the year, with professional assistance, they undertook a review and update of WATCH's systems and internal organisation, to align the charity's policies and procedures with current best practice.

Financial Report - *Treasurer*

I have pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's report for the year ended 30 June 2026, together with a Report from the Independent Examiner.

The heading 'Subscriptions' in the accounts represents the basic subscriptions received from members, supplemented by their additional voluntary contributions, and gift aid relating to both, where these have been processed through CAF (Charities Aid Foundation). The welcome increase this year reflects both a rise in membership numbers, and in the generosity of our subscribers.

We were fortunate to attract another grant of £10,000 this year, continuing support for the 'Not Equal Yet' campaign, and ongoing work related to it.

The accounts show a considerable saving on costs this year, reflecting partly the deferral of the next NEY Conference into 2027, and partly the measures

begun by the trustees last year, to restructure and reduce our core annual expenditure.

The resulting increase in our general reserve provides the trustees with a welcome discretion to deploy funds promptly during this coming year, to where they can be most effectively used. Our two research funds, the Hodel-Jones Legacy (particularly intended for issues concerning lay women) and the Transformations Fund (held for TRIG related research, remain open to applications from anyone who submits a research proposal, which meets the eligibility criteria. The trustees would welcome any such initiative.

WATCH (Women and the Church) CIO
Registered Charity No: 1171267
Receipts and Payments Account: 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

	2025-2026 £	2024-2025 £
Receipts		
Subscriptions	26,020	21,510
Donations	1,217	1,629
Additional (non CAF) Gift Aid Tax recovered	1,196	3,655
Bank interest received	715	662
Events - Not Equal Yet Conference Income	0	2,848
Grants / Sponsorship	10,000	10,000
Other Income	0	5,015
	39,148	45,319
Payments		
Events - Not Equal Yet Conference expenditure	0	9,557
Projects - Transparency / Honest Church	3,620	0
Other Events - Conferences/ Roadshows	3,065	0
Other Events (General Synod & Greenbelt)	29	521
Website & Communications	1,665	3,754
Outlook Print & Distribution	0	2,340
Research Projects	10	270
AGM	0	2,320

WATCH (Women and the Church) CIO
Registered Charity No: 1171267

Statement of Assets at 30th June 2026

	30th June 2026	30th June 2025
	£	£
Cash at Bank	73,879	52,206
represented by:		
Fund balances		
General Fund	42,749	31,076
Hodel Jones Legacy (designated fund)	6,391	6,391
Research Fund (restricted)	8,773	8,773
Not Equal Yet Conference (£121 restricted; £5845 designa	15,966	5,966
	73,879	52,206

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



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Martine Oborne (Chair)



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Peggy Jackson (Treasurer)

Date ..... 17th October, 2026.....

WATCH (Women and the Church) CIO
Registered Charity 1171267

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2026

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

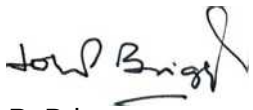
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with these accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Name: John P. Briggs

Relevant professional qualification: FCA
Address: 81 Bainton Road, Oxford, OX2 7AG
Date:17-10 – 2026