South Street Free Church

Registered Charity Number 1182375

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

South Street Free Church
For the year ended 30 June 2026

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South Street Free Church
For the year ended 30 June 2026

CHURCH INFORMATION

Trustees	David Batchelor (Chair) Anthony Thompson Bruce Elkington Dr Akinsola Akinpelu
Charity number	1182375
Address	South Street Free Church 21 South Street Eastbourne BN21 4UP
Independent Examiner	Colin Dadswell FCA FCCA DChA Caladine Limited Chartered Certified Accountants Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

Report of the trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2026.

1 Objectives and activities

The objectives of the CIO are to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement of beliefs primarily (but not exclusively) in Eastbourne.

2 Structure, governance and management

South Street Free Church is a CIO governed by its Constitution registered with the Charity Commission on the 7 March 2019.

The trustees who served during the year were:

David Batchelor (Chair)
Anthony Thompson
Bruce Elkington
Dr Akinsola Akinpelu (appointed 08 September 2025)

The Church is run by the trustees. New trustees are appointed from the elders and deacons of the Church, in accordance with section 15 of our Constitution.

3 Review of Activities

This year our church has continued its regular ministry of public worship on Sundays, morning and evening (with a preaching series in Jeremiah and in Ephesians, and completing a series in John's Gospel), continuing to live stream these services online across the year. In January we began regularly to include a children's talk in our morning services. We also continued our weekly prayer meetings when we pray for the needs of both those in the church and those outside the church. The prayer meeting on the first Tuesday of the month has been held online to enable some in distant places to be able to join with us in Christian fellowship and prayer (the family we support in Moldova, a pastor in India in an area where Christians face persecution for their faith, and a pastor in St Ives, Cornwall, at a sister-church within the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion).

Our outreach to the community with the Good News of Jesus has continued weekly throughout the year, with distribution of Christian literature in the town centre.

The church has continued running its annual 'Shoe Bags' project, in which it prepares and sends packages of Christmas gifts to children in Sierra Leone who would otherwise receive no Christmas presents.

In February we began a monthly interactive Bible Study, going through the book of Esther in the Bible.

The parenting group has been meeting this year on a roughly monthly basis, providing biblical training and support for the young families in the church.

We have also continued our regular support of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team (who seek to prevent suicides at Beachy Head), the Sierra Leone Mission, PARCHE (who coordinate teams taking Christian services in Eastbourne's care homes), SASRA (who seek to minister the Christian Good News amongst the armed forces), and the Slavic Gospel Association (who work in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Far East Russia).

In summary, we thank the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for all that He has enabled us to do in His service over the course of this year. As we have done over the year that's past, so we continue to trust in Him, and to seek to please Him depending on His Spirit, looking to Him to provide for all His church's needs over the coming year. May the great and wonderful name of Jesus Christ be honoured and glorified through us.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

4 Public benefit

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

5 Financial review

These financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. There was a net surplus on funds for the year of £3,902 (2025: deficit of £2,517) leaving a balance on cash funds of £32,238 at 30 June 2026 (2025: £28,336).

The Church has a reserves policy of ensuring at least three months of annual expenditure is held in reserve, in order for the church to be able to meet its financial commitments to its paid employee(s).

6 Risk Management

The trustees continually consider the major risks to which the Church is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to these risks.

On behalf of the Trustees

David Batchelor
Pastor
Date: 21st Sept 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South Street Free Church CIO

I report to the trustees of the church on my examination of the accounts of South Street Free Church ('the CIO') for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Colin Dadswell FCA FCCA DChA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 25/09/2026

South Street Free Church
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Receipts						
Gifts and donations	49,633	16,353	65,986	53,665	22,243	75,908
Gift Aid tax repayments	7,886	2,633	10,519	7,363	2,929	10,292
Grants	-	2,048	2,048	7,105	-	7,105
Interest received	347	-	347	486	-	486
Total receipts	57,866	21,034	78,900	68,619	25,172	93,791
Payments						
Missionary Fund Tithe	-	6,936	6,936	-	5,884	5,884
Gifts/Grants	-	2,609	2,609	-	9,051	9,051
Salaries and wages	36,515	-	36,515	34,879	-	34,879
Pension contributions	4,076	-	4,076	3,778	-	3,778
Ministerial pulpit supplies	2,200	-	2,200	2,078	-	2,078
Conference costs	480	-	480	665	-	665
Travel expenses	88	-	88	-	-	-
Heat & light	2,541	-	2,541	1,548	-	1,548
Water rates	302	-	302	519	-	519
Insurances	1,449	-	1,449	1,416	-	1,416
Caretaking and cleaning	389	-	389	1,638	-	1,638
Building repairs & maintenance	434	1,650	2,084	20,867	-	20,867
Telephone & internet	685	-	685	645	-	645
Website and IT costs	1,267	-	1,267	1,271	-	1,271
Publicity costs	38	-	38	35	-	35
Missionary and evangelism	505	9,520	10,025	353	9,188	9,541
Equipment purchases & repairs	1,433	-	1,433	10	-	10
Catering costs	266	-	266	366	-	366
Miscellaneous	478	-	478	400	585	985
Accountancy	1,025	-	1,025	984		984
Bank charges	112	-	112	123	25	148
Total payments	54,283	20,715	74,998	71,575	24,733	96,308
Net receipts/(payments)	3,583	319	3,902	(2,956)	439	(2,517)
Transfers between funds	(2,086)	2,086	-	-	-	-
Cash funds at 1 July 2025	19,147	9,189	28,336	22,103	8,750	30,853
Cash funds at 30 June 2026	20,644	11,594	32,238	19,147	9,189	28,336

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Cash funds	**2026** £	**2025** £
CAF Current Account 00011621	13,583	11,029
CAF Deposit Account 00088691	18,655	17,307
	32,238	28,336
Other monetary assets		
Gift Aid tax reclaim due	5,269	5,424
Liabilities		
Independent examination fee	1,026	1,026
Professional fees	420	-
	1,446	1,026

Approved by the Trustees on 21st Sept 2026 and signed on its behalf by

David Batchelor
Pastor

South Street Free Church
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives, unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

3 Trustees

Donations from trustees, and related parties, were £15,725 during the year (2025: £12,565). David Batchelor received a salary of £36,515 (2025: £34,879) and the church paid pension contributions of £4,076 (2025: £3,778), in his role as Pastor of the Church.

4 Related Party Transactions

The daughter of trustee David Batchelor received payments amounting to £389 (2025: £1,638) for cleaning during the year.

5 Restricted Funds

	Movement in funds							
	Balance at 1 July 2024	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 30 June 2025	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 30 June 2026
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary	250	175	(130)	295	227	(295)	-	227
Tithe	1,566	6,384	(5,884)	2,066	6,257	(6,936)	-	1,387
MEF	986	5,728	(3,705)	3,009	116	-	3,040	6,165
Shoe Bags	561	730	(788)	503	986	(625)	-	864
SLM	2,066	2,090	(3,111)	1,045	2,789	(2,234)	-	1,600
Emmanuel	-	200	-	200	175	(375)	-	-
Ewelina	1,399	7,650	(8,400)	649	7,880	(8,400)	-	129
Social	1,922	2,215	(2,715)	1,422	-	(200)	-	1,222
Buildings	-	-	-	-	2,604	(1,650)	(954)	-
	8,750	**25,172**	**(24,733)**	**9,189**	**21,034**	**(20,715)**	**2,086**	**11,594**

Missionary Fund - donations for various Missionary causes.

Tithe Fund - one tenth of General fund offerings to be given away to worthwhile causes.

Ministry Expansion Fund (MEF) - to employ an assistant to the Pastor.

Shoe Bags - a fund to send shoe bags with toys and clothing to Sierra Leone each year.

Sierra Leone Mission (SLM) - missionary work of the Countess of Huntingdon Connexion.

Emmanuel - Money collected to support a church Pastor in India.

Ewelina - to fund the support of a Church Missionary worker.

Social - used to support people who come to the Church seeking food or other support.

Buildings - used to cover costs of repairing and maintaining the building.