SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Charity Number 1184507

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31ST December 2025

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2025

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Rev P Jump Mr D Stanley Rev W Wright Mr N Mackenzie Rev M Tindsley
Principal address	Northway Skelmersdale WN8 6LU
Bankers	Nat West Bank Co-operative Bank
Registered Charity Number	1184507
Independent Examiner	M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA KM Chartered Accountants 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley BB11 1JG

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2025

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their first report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st December 2025.

The charity is a Foundation CIO registered on 19th July 2019, having originally been governed by a Sharing Agreement.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are: - the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit by:

1) the promotion of fellowship between Christian churches, bodies, institutions and persons in community therewith

2) the provision, improvement, and management of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building;

3) the promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building as a place of public worship to be shared by the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the North Western Baptist Association (which churches and association are hereinafter referred to together as "the sharing churches") and to be used by them either alone or jointly with each other or together with other Christian churches, bodies, institutions or persons in communion therewith; and

4) the promotion of the Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre building as a centre for any other charitable activity which may seem to the CIO to be beneficial to the sharing churches or likely to further their common aims and interests so far as the same may be wholly and exclusively charitable.

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2025

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Activities

Key Objectives for 2025

Maintain and develop the SEC as a quality venue for the community provision for the people of Skelmersdale.
Continue to offer and develop the refugee drop in and support programme.
Maintain and develop the work of the Signpost Café project in partnership with West Lancs CVS.
Maintain sustainable finance and management systems to ensure ongoing stability for the SEC.
Work with Ecumenical Partners to further develop the Spiritual life and activities of the Centre.
Refurbish the garden areas with full disabled access as a key wellbeing resource for the community of Skelmersdale.
Achieve the appointment of an engagement officer to support the building manager in making the facilities available to community members and proactively engaging visitors in the broader programme and provision of the SEC.
Successfully attract external grant funding to refurbish the external cladding of the building. (it should be noted that this is a cosmetic exercise, and the cladding does not represent a fire or safety risk)
Undertake scheduled review of the SEC's key policies and Risk Assessments.

Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Year ended 31st December 2025

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Summary of 2025

We are pleased to report another successful year of operation for the SEC, working with our various partners to maintain the centre as a recognised hub of community activity and support. We can also report that all but two of our objectives 2025 were met. The two that remain outstanding are the refurbishment of the outside cladding (for cosmetic reasons) and the review of our policies and procedures, which is only partially complete. The cladding remains a priority as many have commented that the exterior of the building does not do justice to the significant improvements that have taken place internally. We will continue to seek grant funding for this, alongside developing our ongoing finances to improve our capital funding capacity.

A key challenge during the year has been political changes which resulted in our ongoing funding for the Refugee project coming to an end. We are pleased to have attracted grant funding to maintain the project for a further 12 months (to October 2026) and a key challenge for 2026 will be to develop a sustainable model moving forward. We are pleased to have established strong working relationships with various statutory and voluntary sector partners and feel confident that a new arrangement can be put in place. Despite these challenges, partners report that the SEC refugee project is considered one of the more successful and effective within the area.

We are also pleased to report that alongside the regular Christian festival events, there is now a regular worship gathering on Sunday afternoons. This has been achieved through partnership with the Lighthouse Church, members of whom are also becoming involved in the day to day activities of the centre. We were pleased to host our second West Lancs Mayor's carol service, though we did not attract the same numbers as the previous year.

We can also report that the major earthworks improvements are all complete in the garden area, and significant progress has been made in planting and border care to establish this as an attractive community facility. The gardens not only provide quality recreational space for the community, but significant opportunities for volunteering, with the wellbeing benefits of garden care.

The appointment of an Engagement and Administration Officer was finally completed towards the end of the year, working in partnership with the Onesimus Community. While we would have preferred this to have been sooner in the year, the benefits of having an officer in post are already becoming evident.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

The trustees continued to oversee the work of the centre through an appointed management committee in line with their core objective of maintaining and providing a quality facility for use in the interests of the people of Skelmersdale. Trustees are pleased to report that the centre remains financially viable, working to the stated business model of funding day to day costs from revenue income and major improvements through grant funding.

The refugee support project operated for a further year albeit with some financial disruption. We can report that all grant funding conditions have been met, and the appointment of an engagement and administration officer has significantly improved our reporting process, which was a recognised weakness of the project.

The Signpost Café has remained a key hub for the centre's activities, fulfilling its purpose to "signpost" visitors to the help and support available to them. Its facilities have also enabled the establishment of a regular Veterans' gathering, which has also attracted volunteering opportunities. The vision of providing quality and structured support through the informal setting of a café has attracted significant interest from several statutory partners, who have used the café as a local base to promote their services.

It has been encouraging to note the Centre's growing reputation across West Lancs, building strong co-operative relationships with many statutory and voluntary sector partners. We have particularly worked with West Lancs CVS to explore how working in increasingly intentional partnership can work to the benefit of the SEC (which is also their office base). We have been active participants in various network and cohesion events and see the consolidation of these working relationships as a key objective for 2026.

The appointment of an Engagement Officer has been crucial to this, also bringing greater strength and depth to the staff and volunteer team, which has been a cause of some concern prior to this appointment. We maintain our overall financial-planning model, whereby the day to day activities of the centre are covered by revenue income, with active fundraising and grant applications to continue a programme of capital improvement

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Key Objectives for 2026

Maintain and develop the SEC as a quality venue for the community provision for the people of Skelmersdale.
Work to establish a sustainable model to operate and develop our refugee programme.
Explore the further development of the Signpost Café to increase its operating sessions and facilities.
Maintain sustainable finance and management systems to ensure ongoing stability for the SEC.
Complete the planting and lawncare aspects of the garden improvements.
Successfully attract external grant funding to refurbish the external cladding of the building. (it should be noted that this is a cosmetic exercise, and the cladding does not represent a fire or safety risk)
Work with the Engagement Officer to strengthen working relationships with partner organisations and develop a shared vision for the Centre's activities.
Work with the Lighthouse Church to embed their presence in the day to day activities of the Centre.
Complete the scheduled review of the SEC's key policies and Risk Assessments. (NB – these are all currently in place, but have not been reviewed since 2022)

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are on page 7.

Unrestricted balances at the year-end amounted to £31,970. Restricted balances at the year-end amounted to £0.00.

The charity aims to hold 3 months expenditure in unrestricted funds. The centre is financed by a combination of grants. Contracts, donations as well as rental income from centre users both regular and ad hoc. A more comprehensive review of reserves and financial stability is planned for the coming few months.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

The trustees as listed on page 2 are appointed by the Church of England, North Western Baptist Association, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church, each of whom is entitled to appoint up to three trustees.

Day to day running of the Centre is by a Centre Manager.

Governing document

The charity is governed by its Constitution of 19th July 2019 as amended 11th May 2022.

Structure

The trustees meet regularly to discuss matters relating to governance and finance and delegate a number of responsibilities to a centre management group to steer the direction of the Centre.

Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients, and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

The Centre seeks to follow recognised safeguarding processes.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22 October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

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Rev P Jump

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity 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.

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M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C,
The Wharf
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

22 October 2026

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE
Year ended 31st December 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts				
Grants received	88,904		88,904	60,571
Rental charges and misc income	96,525		96,525	83,860
	185,429		185,429	144,431
Payments				
Staff costs	58,748		58,748	46,203
Utilities	33,090		33,090	21,669
Professional fees	5,229		5,229	1,200
Other costs	63,077	3,483	66,560	35,372
Repairs	23,659		23,659	49,185
Loan repayments	2,790		2,790	2,790
	186,593	3,483	190,076	156,419
Net payments	(1,164)	(3,483)	(4,647)	- 11,988
Balances brought forward	40,684	3,483	44,167	56,155
Balances carried forward	39,520	-	39,520	44,167

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total 2024 £
Cash at bank	39,520		39,520	44,167
Debtors	3,627		3,627	0
Bounce Back Loan	3,651		3,651	6,313
Creditors - Other	4,041		4,041	-
Creditors - NWBA	7,200		7,200	7,200

Approved by the trustees and signed by:

……

Rev P Jump
22 October 2026

SKELMERSDALE ECUMENICAL CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Fund Accounting

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity

(b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

3 Taxation

The charity is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

4 Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees, or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.

Other related party transactions

Grants received:

Lady Hewley's Charity	£18,000	Trustees: P Jump, N Mackenzie
URC Merseyside	£15,000	Trustee: N Mackenzie

Management charges payable –

Onesimus Community	£5,070	Trustee: P Jump

Outstanding payables –

North Western Baptist Association	£7,200	Trustee: P Jump

5 Restricted funds

The purpose of restricted funds is explained in the Trustees Annual Report.