Registered Charity no. 1191594

Wyche Free Church

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2025

WYATT & CO
Chartered accountants
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2025

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Wyche Free Church

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Legal and Administrative Information

Reference
The charity is called “Wyche Free Church”. The church is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Registered Charity Number	1191594
Registered Office	Jubilee Drive Upper Colwall Malvern WR13 6DQ
Trustees serving at the point of accounts signing	Margareth Brodie Christine Clarke Peter Goodbury Valerie Goodbury Roger Norris Brenda Norris Rev Dr Wayne O'Leary *(Appointed February 2025)*
Primary Bankers	The Co-operative Bank Santander UK plc

Wyche Free Church

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Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report for Wyche Free Church for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of Wyche Free Church are set out in the charity's constitution and include the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrines held by the church, the support of Christian mission in the United Kingdom and overseas, and outreach to the needs of the local community.

During 2025 the church's long-standing aim of establishing stable pastoral ministry came to fruition with the appointment of Revd. Wayne O'Leary as part-time pastor from 1 February 2025.

This significant development in the life of the church was marked by an induction service held on 22 February 2025. The service was led by Revd. Roy Summers of Manor Park Evangelical Church, Worcester, with Revd. Mark Foster, Field Director of the Slavic Gospel Association, preaching. A large congregation attended, including many friends of the church from further afield.

Regular public worship continued each Sunday throughout the year. The commencement of Wayne's pastoral ministry enabled the church to establish a more consistent programme of consecutive expository preaching alongside the public reading of Scripture, intercessory prayer and sung praise. The church continued to observe the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month.

Wayne joined the church together with his wife Iris and was appointed as an office holder under an agreed Memorandum of Understanding setting out the mutual responsibilities of the pastor and congregation. Wayne also became a charity trustee. During the year church membership increased by three, including Wayne and Iris, and the trustees were encouraged to see additional people joining the wider congregation and attending Sunday worship.

The weekly Tuesday prayer meeting continued to be central to the life of the church, providing an opportunity to pray for those who were sick or experiencing particular needs and for the wider Christian mission work supported by the church. During the year the meeting developed further to include a regular Bible study, with one meeting each month focusing particularly on the church's missionary interests.

The church continued to take a particular interest in Christian mission and humanitarian work in the United Kingdom and overseas. Prayer and financial support were provided for a number of organisations and individuals, including:

- **Caring for Life**, based in Leeds, supporting people in vulnerable and difficult circumstances;
- **Pastor Ashok Adhikari and his family**, undertaking Christian mission and humanitarian work in Nepal;
- the **Good News Hospital** and associated Christian work in Mandritsara, Madagascar; and
- the **Slavic Gospel Association**, supporting churches and Christian ministry in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The church continued to maintain and operate its premises for worship and other charitable activities. The principal additional financial commitment during 2025 arose from the establishment of the new pastoral ministry, including the pastor's stipend and pension contributions. There was no other significant capital or exceptional expenditure during the year.

As in previous years, the church continued to benefit from the HMRC Gift Aid scheme and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

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Trustees' Annual Report

Significant developments and future ministry

The appointment of Revd. Wayne O'Leary as part-time pastor represented a major development in the life of the church during 2025. The establishment of stable pastoral leadership fulfilled a long-standing objective of the trustees and congregation and brought renewed focus to the church's worship, pastoral care and future ministry.

The church had previously sought to place itself in a financial position from which a part-time pastoral ministry could be supported over the longer term. During 2025 approximately £20,000 of existing cash resources was retained to help meet the costs of establishing the new ministry, with the expectation that the AJ Bell investment portfolio could also be drawn upon if required.

It was not necessary to make withdrawals from the investment portfolio during 2025. Regular church giving, together with the cash resources retained for this purpose, was sufficient to meet the church's expenditure during the year.

In connection with the appointment of the pastor, the church outsourced its payroll administration to Stewardship Payroll Bureau. Stewardship also assisted with the administration of the church's workplace pension arrangements through the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). The trustees considered that these arrangements provided an appropriate and efficient means of administering the church's payroll and pension responsibilities.

The church continued to be characterised by traditional evangelical worship, with Scripture remaining central to its life and ministry. In addition to the Christian Hymns hymnbook, a supplementary collection of hymns and songs was prepared and introduced during the year, including material based on the Psalms together with traditional hymns and contemporary songs.

The trustees were encouraged by the development of a regular teaching ministry, increased opportunities for intercessory prayer and the pastoral care provided during the year. Sunday services continued to be followed by an informal time of fellowship over refreshments.

Pastoral work became an increasingly important part of the church's ministry during 2025, providing support and care to members of the congregation facing illness and other day-to-day difficulties. A week of prayer was also held during the Easter period and special ministry took place during Advent, culminating in a Carol Service on 21 December 2025.

Looking ahead, the church intends to continue developing opportunities for fellowship, teaching and prayer. Plans include the introduction of evening home groups during 2026 for those who are unable to attend the daytime Tuesday meetings.

Structure, governance and management

Wyche Free Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by its constitution and church handbook, reflecting its affiliation with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance and management of the charity. Major expenditure and significant decisions concerning the activities and resources of the church are considered and agreed by the trustees.

During 2025 **Revd. Wayne O'Leary joined the trustee body following his appointment as pastor**, increasing the number of trustees to seven.

During the year the trustees continued to recognise the need to address delays which had arisen in the church's historic financial administration and statutory reporting and to bring the charity's accounts fully up to date.

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Trustees' Annual Report

Towards the end of 2025 the trustees agreed to appoint Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants, following a recommendation through the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, to provide professional support with the preparation of the historic and current charity accounts.

The trustees also considered how the church's bookkeeping and financial administration could be strengthened going forward. Following advice from P D Marfleet Accounting, it was agreed that the church would move its financial records onto ExpensePlus during 2026. ExpensePlus is a cloud-based fund accounting system developed specifically for churches, charities and similar organisations. The trustees expect this change to simplify the church's financial administration and strengthen its financial management arrangements in future years.

The church continued to maintain arrangements relating to safeguarding and risk management, supported by its safeguarding policy. Following his appointment, the pastor took responsibility for safeguarding matters and began leading a review of the church's safeguarding arrangements and policy.

Volunteers

The church is dependent upon the voluntary contribution of its members and regular attendees. Volunteers assist with worship, administration, practical activities and the operation and maintenance of the church premises.

The trustees are grateful for the time, commitment and support freely given by those involved in the life and work of the church. As the congregation develops, the trustees hope that responsibilities can increasingly be shared with additional elders, deacons and other volunteers.

Financial review

Total receipts for the year were £20,828, compared with £19,579 in 2024.

Receipts during 2025 comprised £20,445 of donations and Gift Aid, £230 of other receipts and refunds, and £153 of investment income.

Total payments on charitable activities were £28,689, compared with £13,502 in 2024. The increase principally reflects the establishment of the church's part-time pastoral ministry during 2025, including the pastor's remuneration and associated pension costs, alongside the normal costs of operating and maintaining the church premises, ministry and administration, and missionary and charitable giving.

The charity therefore recorded net cash payments of £7,861 during the year. Cash funds reduced from £37,033 at 1 January 2025 to £29,172 at 31 December 2025.

The church also continued to hold the investment portfolio established during December 2024 from the proceeds of the earlier property sale. At 31 December 2025 the portfolio had a reported value of approximately £336,705, compared with the original £328,000 invested.

During the year the Mission Support Fund received £130 of restricted donations, which were applied to the relevant missionary and charitable purposes during the year. There were therefore no restricted funds remaining at 31 December 2025.

Although expenditure exceeded normal annual receipts during 2025, this principally reflected the planned commencement of the church's new pastoral ministry. The church entered the year with cash resources specifically available to assist with the establishment of that ministry and continued to hold substantial investment resources at the year end.

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Trustees' Annual Report

Reserves and future plans

The charity's substantial financial resources principally reflect the proceeds arising from the sale of the flats in 2022 rather than the church's normal annual level of income. In December 2024 a significant part of those resources was invested through AJ Bell Invest centre in accordance with the church's longer-term plans.

Those resources were retained principally to strengthen the church's financial position and enable it to support its future ministry, including the appointment and ongoing support of a part-time pastor.

During 2025 the costs of the new pastoral ministry were met from regular giving and existing cash resources without the need to draw upon the AJ Bell investment portfolio.

The trustees intend that the investment and remaining cash resources should continue to be applied in furtherance of the church's charitable purposes and, in particular, provide financial capacity to support the church's pastoral ministry and wider work over the longer term.

The trustees continue to keep the charity's financial resources, investment arrangements and future plans under review. Taking account of the cash and investment resources held by the charity, the trustees consider that the charity has sufficient resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future.

This annual report was approved by the charity trustees on:

and signed on their behalf by: rogerpnorris24

Trustee Roger P Norris

15/10/2026

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2025

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	2025 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations and legacies		20,315	130	**20,445**	15,755
Other		230	-	**230**	300
Investment income		153	-	**153**	3,524
Total Receipts	**2**	20,698	130	**20,828**	19,579
Payments					
Payments on charitable activities	**3**	28,559	130	**28,689**	13,502
Purchase of investments		-	-	**-**	328,000
Total Payments		28,559	130	**28,689**	341,502
Net Receipts / (Payments)		(7,861)	-	**(7,861)**	(321,923)
Net Movement in Funds (Cash)					
Total funds (cash) brought forward	**8**	37,033	-	**37,033**	358,956
Transfers	**8**	-	-	**-**	-
Total Funds (Cash) Carried Forward	**8**	**29,172**	**-**	**29,172**	37,033
Represented by					
General (Unrestricted)		29,172	-	**29,172**	37,033
Designated funds		-	-	**-**	-
Restricted funds		-	-	**-**	-
		29,172	**-**	**29,172**	37,033

rogerpnorris24

Roger P Norris

15/10/2026

Wyche Free Church

Year Ended 31st December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As the accounts are prepared on a cash basis and thus there is no formal Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position. Instead a statement of assets and liabilities is outlined, giving an indication of the charity's assets at the year end.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investment portfolio (Year end investment value)	336,705	328,000
	336,705	328,000
Current Assets		
Gift aid debtor	2,852	2,734
Cash at bank and petty cash	29,172	37,033
	32,024	39,767

The 2021 accounts disclosed the church building at £683,845 and Kingsdown & The Manse at £270,649.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis, recognising transactions when receipts and payments take place through the bank account or petty

Assessment of Going Concern
Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of specific appeal, often known as a ‘special offering’ in the church.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Incoming Resources
All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources and the money has been paid.

Resources Expended
Expenditure is recognised on a cash basis when payments have been made through the bank account or by petty cash.

Governance Costs
Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Pensions
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Operating Leases
Rental charges payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Donations and Legacies			
Donations	17,605	130	**17,735**
Gift aid	2,710	-	**2,710**
	20,315	130	**20,445**
Capital receipts			
Building sale	-	-	**-**
	-	-	**-**
Other receipts / refunds			
Refunds	230	-	**230**
Rents from flats	-	-	**-**
	230	-	**230**
Investment Income			
Interest	153	-	**153**
	153	-	**153**
Total Income	**20,698**	**130**	**20,828**

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Year Ended 31st December 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Donations and Legacies			
Donations	12,262	2,311	**14,573**
Gift aid	1,182	-	**1,182**
	13,444	2,311	**15,755**
Capital receipts			
Building sale	-	-	**-**
	-	-	**-**
Other receipts / refunds			
Refunds	300	-	**300**
Rents from flats	-	-	**-**
	300	-	**300**
Investment Income			
Interest	3,524	-	**3,524**
	3,524	-	**3,524**
Total Income	**17,268**	**2,311**	**19,579**

3 Payments on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Missionary and charitable giving	145	130	**275**
Premises, property and running costs	7,495	-	**7,495**
Ministry, worship and administration	20,919	-	**20,919**
	28,559	130	**28,689**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Missionary and charitable giving	913	2,311	**3,224**
Premises, property and running costs	4,296	-	**4,296**
Ministry, worship and administration	5,982	-	**5,982**
	11,191	2,311	**13,502**

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Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Volunteers

The church benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time and money by its formal members and regular attendees. Please refer to the trustees' report for further detail about volunteer contributions in the organisation.

5 Staff Costs

During the year the charity employed one member of staff in a part-time pastoral role.

Staff costs for the year comprised salary/stipend payments of £16,867 and employer pension contributions of £1,752, giving total staff costs of £18,619 (2024: £nil).

No employer National Insurance contributions have been identified in the records provided.

6 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

Revd. Wayne O'Leary, who became a trustee on 1 February 2025, received remuneration of £16,867 during the year in respect of his role as pastor of the church (2024: £nil).

During the year, four trustees were reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses totalling £738 (2024: three trustees, £1,418). These costs related to expenditure incurred on behalf of the charity in connection with the day-to-day operation, ministry and running costs of the church. No trustee expenses remained outstanding at the year end.

7 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions which took place during the year (2024: £0)

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Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1 Jan 2025	Recipts	Payments	Transfers	**31 Dec 2025**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted Funds					
General	37,033	20,698	(28,559)	-	**29,172**
	37,033	**20,698**	**(28,559)**	**-**	**29,172**
Total Unrestricted	**37,033**	**20,698**	**(28,559)**	**-**	**29,172**
Restricted Funds					
Mission Support Fund	-	130	(130)	-	**-**
Total Restricted	**-**	**130**	**(130)**	**-**	**-**
Total Funds	**37,033**	**20,828**	**(28,689)**	**-**	**29,172**

	1 Jan 2024	Recipts	Payments	Transfers	**31 Dec 2024**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted Funds					
General	358,956	17,268	(339,191)	-	**37,033**
Total Unrestricted	**358,956**	**17,268**	**(339,191)**	**-**	**37,033**
Restricted Funds					
Mission Support Fund	-	2,311	(2,311)	-	-
Total Restricted	**-**	**2,311**	**(2,311)**	**-**	**-**
Total Funds	**358,956**	**19,579**	**(341,502)**	**-**	**37,033**

Fund description

Mission Support Fund	Restricted donations received for specified mission organisations and overseas mission work, principally Caring for Life and Slavic Gospel Association. The funds are applied only for the particular mission purposes specified by donors.