ASSOCIATION OF FESTIVAL CHURCHES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	01	2025	To	31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Association of Festival Churches
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1191777
Charity's principal address	c/o Hon treasurer
	Park Villa
	Thornham Parva, Suffolk
	Postcode **IP23 8EY**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sir Antony Brian Baldry	Chair		
2	Priscilla Victoria Latham			
3	The Revd Paula Whitmore Llewellyn Griffiths			
4	Timothy John Bridges			
5	Wendy Coombey MBE			
6	Geoffrey Rea Hunter			
7	The Revd Andrew Paul Whitehead			
8	Andrew Boyce			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Nigel Mills (Festival Churches Development Officer)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	(1) The Advancement of the Christian religion in accordance with the tenets, practices and principles of the Church of England through supporting and promoting the use of churches as Festival Churches and the delivery of divine service therein; (2) Promoting and supporting the use by Parochial Church Councils of Festival Churches for the benefit of the public in ways that are consistent with its status as a consecrated space.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	The Association of Festival Churches exists to support, promote and advocate for Festival Churches across England. The Association provides information, advice and practical support to churches and dioceses considering or operating the Festival Church model, facilitates the sharing of experience and good practice, develops guidance and resources, and works with national church, heritage and community organisations to increase understanding of the contribution Festival Churches make to local communities and the stewardship of historic church buildings.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D Achievements and performance

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2025 the Association continued to strengthen its role as the national source of advice, advocacy and practical support for Festival Churches. Demand for support increased significantly, with the Association responding to enquiries from churches and dioceses across the country and providing guidance, signposting and peer support to parishes exploring the Festival Church model.

The Association worked with dioceses to promote and develop the Festival Church approach, contributing to guidance and frameworks designed to support churches considering this model. It expanded its programme of online workshops and resources, developed and shared case studies of successful Festival Churches, and continued to enhance its website as a source of information and support.

The Association also raised the profile of Festival Churches through engagement with national church and heritage bodies, presentations at conferences and events, attendance at General Synod, and contributions to discussions on church buildings policy. Through this work, the Association continued to build recognition of Festival Churches as a positive and sustainable approach to maintaining Christian presence, community engagement and the future of historic church buildings.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	AFC has no reserves policy, having no reserves. This position will be reviewed annually.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Antony Brian Baldry	Geoffrey Rea Hunter
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary

Date	19/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Association of Festival Churches	1191777

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grant income	-	£31,655.00	-	31,655	23,233
Bank interest	15	-	-	15	16
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	15	31,655	-	31,670	23,249
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15	31,655	-	31,670	23,249
A3 Payments					
AFC staff costs	-	15,967	-	15,967	19,005
Bank charges	-	60	-	60	50
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	16,027	-	16,027	19,055
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	16,027	-	16,027	19,055
Net of receipts/(payments)	15	15,628	-	15,643	4,194
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16	3,406	-	3,422	-
Cash funds this year end	31	19,034	-	19,065	4,194

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	31	19,034	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name Association of Festival Churches		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	**1191777**
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025 .

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

[~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]~~]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:	J. Goldsmith	**Date:**	29/10/2026
Name:	Jeremy Goldsmith		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body			

(if any):	

Address:	25 Glebe Street
	Loughborough
	LE11 1JR

Section B	**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	