HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH MIDDLETON

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity Number 1192315

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation.

The charity's principal objectives, as set out in its governing document, are to advance the Christian faith in accordance with its basis of faith; and for other such charitable purposes (primarily but not exclusively to Middleton) that put into practice the Christian faith.

The church membership has adopted the vision of “Sharing New Life in Christ” as a means of encapsulating these objectives. Hope Community Church Middleton is committed to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, welcoming all and any into its public worship services on a Sunday.

The church is also committed to the welfare of its members, which includes actively encouraging their own spiritual life and the spiritual life of the church community. Our services and practices are informed by the Bible which we submit to as our authority. As such our services involve sung worship, prayer, reading the Bible, communion, baptism and the preaching of the word of God.

We promote the spiritual growth of our membership through a midweek home group.

We provide pastoral support to individuals and families. We invite others to hear about the message of Christianity and offer the opportunity to join the church.

We run and participate in events in the community to provide public benefit and promote the Christian message.

We partner with other local churches in order to put into practice our Christian faith.

Review of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

Sunday worship

Our services are open to the whole community at 10.30am every Sunday. We met at Elements Primary School, advertised with signage, flyers and via social media. Those attending have been welcomed and encouraged to participate in sung worship and prayer. The Bible has been faithfully taught and communion administered. Children up to key stage 2 are able to access a class during the sermon to receive teaching and activities appropriate

to their age. We held both an all age service and a carol service in December 2025 and had visitors attend from the local community.

The church had its first ever baptismal service in 2025.

Children's ministry

We have had children join us regularly on Sunday mornings with up to 10 children attending. During the second half of the service, the children move into a separate area and undertake activities and play. Our children's worker was able to work with schools to deliver Christian assemblies and volunteer with them to provide some RE teaching.

The church's weekly term-time Tots group continued throughout the year for people in the community.

Discipleship & pastoral care

Pastoral care is provided more formally by the eldership of the church and a female staff worker set aside for the women of the church and locality. These individuals also seek to equip the rest of the membership for "one another" ministry. The membership is exhorted to care for one another practically, emotionally and spiritually. A fortnightly home group provides further Biblical instruction, and a fortnightly prayer meeting for the members of the church is a place where the struggles of life can be shared openly – yet appropriately - with one another and prayed for.

Members of the church were involved in providing regular meals for a family who had been made homeless.

Mission & evangelism

At Easter there was an evangelistic evening at Tenants Hall for people to ask questions. On Good Friday there was an activity morning with a retelling of the Easter story that was accessible to members of the community.

The church had a stall at Elements' Christmas fair, providing Christmas decorations and Christian literature.

The church's Pastor delivered a Christmas address to the communities at the light switch on for Belle Isle and Middleton, respectively.

The church encourages and equips people to be able to bless the community in whatever enterprises they individually engage in. We also encourage the sharing of their Christian belief for the betterment of others, and their own spiritual health as they are engaged in this. To assist with this we organised walks around the area to get to know our neighbourhood

better. The male members also watched a recent film that had prompted widespread discussion around masculinity on social media.

Partnership

The church is under the umbrella of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. These are over 650 like-minded churches across the UK seeking to promote the Christian faith. The church was also partnered with other churches under Medhurst Ministries in 2025. This organisation exists to see the gospel of Jesus Christ go into forgotten communities in England and Wales. The church has also been sending a regular financial gift for those having recently planted a church in Gothenburg, Sweden. In planning the activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

In 2025 the church also partnered more formally for prayer and preaching duties with Grace Church Boroughbridge, Hope Church Easingwold and Bethel Church, Oldham.

The church also began having “Church partnership” days with Grace Church Doncaster and Spen Valley Church for mutual teaching and encouragement.

Financial review

Finances are reviewed in the Trustee meetings and in church members meetings. The charity does not have any loans and had no financial concerns over this period.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than 3 months of expenditure (equivalent to £25,000) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £44.245, (2024: £41,411) and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

The Trustees note the revenue deficit and have actively sought to address this through applying for grants and making the need known to generous supporters. Regular giving from within the church has also increased.

Reference and administration details

Operational address	21 Middleton Park Mount Leeds LS10 4BB
Charity Number	1192315
Independent Examiner	Jim Dodds 33 The Glebe NE61 6HW

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees	Duncan Johnson
	Michael Luehrmann
	Richard Owen
	Stephen Walker

Structure

Governing Document	CIO Constitution registered 12 November 2020

Governance

At Hope Community Church Middleton the vision and direction is set out by the eldership who have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church.

The Trustees ensure that the church complies with all of its legal responsibilities, and that the charitable objectives are being promoted by the eldership as set out in the Church's constitution and doctrinal distinctives.

The Trustees of the charity are the eldership, with the exception of its founding trustees and any external Trustees elected as detailed in the Church Constitution. This is done by the Elders proposing an individual(s) who then needs the approval of 75% of the church membership present in order to be appointed. The full particulars are clearly laid out in the church's governing documents.

The church has a Treasurer who administers the finances, providing information for the Trustees to make informed decisions for the charity.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Steve Walker

Steve Walker

Date: 9 October 2026

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH MIDDLETON

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

I report on the financial statements of Hope Community Church Middleton for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to 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 the 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

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 if the requirements that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I 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.

Jim Dodds
33 The Glebe
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 6HW

Jim Dodds

Date: 9 October 2026

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH MIDDLETON

Receipts and payments accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	97,003	-	-	**97,003**	94,230
Charitable activities						
Grants and contracts	3	-	-	19,500	**19,500**	-
Investments	4	357	-	-	**357**	370
Total receipts		97,360	-	19,500	**116,860**	94,600
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	5	83,446	-	6,500	**89,946**	89,531
Grants and gifts paid to others	6	11,080	-	-	**11,080**	10,080
Total payments		94,526	-	6,500	**101,026**	99,611
Net of receipts/(payments)		2,834	-	13,000	**15,834**	(5,011)
Reconciliation of funds						
		21,411	20,000	-	**41,411**	46,422
Cash funds this year end		24,245	20,000	13,000	**57,245**	41,411

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

Statement of assets and liabilities

As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Cash funds						
Reserve bank account	11	18,726	20,000	-	**38,726**	14,370
Cash at bank and in hand	12	5,519	-	13,000	**18,519**	27,041
Total cash funds		**24,245**	**20,000**	**13,000**	**57,245**	**41,411**
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid due to the charity		4,650	-	-	**4,650**	909
Total		**4,650**	**-**	**-**	**4,650**	**909**
Liabilities						
Pension due		204	-	-	**204**	188
PAYE and NI due		293	-	-	**293**	1,270
Accrued expenses		650	-	-	**650**	650
Total		**1,147**	**-**	**-**	**1,147**	**2,108**

Assets retained for the charities own use

No significant assets owned by the charity

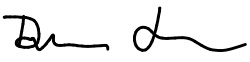
Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on: 9 October 2026

and are signed on its behalf by: Duncan Johnson
Chair



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1.0 Accounting Policies

1.1 Income from investments

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, as statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession has determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

1.2 Income from investments

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

Analysis of income receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
2 Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	73,620	-	**73,620**	62,152
Gift Aid	7,723	-	**7,723**	10,690
CAF/Stewardship	15,000	-	**15,000**	18,619
Other	660	-	**660**	2,769
	97,003	-	**97,003**	94,230
3 Charitable activities				
Income from grants				
Benefact Trust	-	6,500	**6,500**	-
The Norman Whitley Trust	-	1,000	**1,000**	-
Anonymous donor	-	12,000	**12,000**	-
	-	19,500	**19,500**	-
4 Income from investments				
Bank interest	357	-	**357**	370
	357	-	**357**	370

5 **Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	**Total 2024 £**
Ministry				
Employees	71,309	6,500	**77,809**	75,082
Courses/conferences	1,393	-	**1,393**	2,400
Staff books	515	-	**515**	712
Children's Ministry	2,595	-	**2,595**	1,650
Other	604	-	**604**	96
	76,416	6,500	**82,916**	79,940
Sundays				
Venue hire	3,246	-	**3,246**	600
Insurance	247	-	**247**	-
Guest preacher	349	-	**349**	403
Music equipment	347	-	**347**	518
PA equipment	69	-	**69**	96
Other	30	-	**30**	117
	4,288	-	**4,288**	1,734
Evangelism				
Literature	45	-	**45**	105
Events	395	-	**395**	443
Other	48	-	**48**	63
	488	-	**488**	611
Office costs				
Printing	281	-	**281**	4
Website	245	-	**245**	264
Other	84	-	**84**	120
	610	-	**610**	388
Other costs				
Staff expenses	286	-	**286**	1,490
Fundraising	708	-	**708**	4,512
Other	-	-	**-**	100
	994	-	**994**	6,102
Governance costs				
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	650	-	**650**	756
	650	-	**650**	756
Total	83,446	6,500	89,946	89,531

6 **Grants and gifts paid to others**

Mission giving	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	Total 2024 £
Organisations:				
Medhurst Ministries	5,040	-	**5,040**	5,040
Kungskyrkan, Sweden (Stewardship)	5,040	-	**5,040**	5,040
Grace Church Boroughbridge	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
	11,080	-	**11,080**	10,080

7 **Transactions with trustees**

One Trustees is a paid employee of the Charity - Mr S. Walker served as the church leader and was paid £35,674 (2024: £34,434) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

Trustee Mr M. Luehrmann was paid £nil (2024: £100) for preaching duties.

Trustees' expenses

The following detail the expenses incurred by Mr D Johnson

	2025 £	2024 £
Conference and events	**300**	306
	300	306

Transaction(s) with related parties

The spouse of Trustee Mr D. Johnson was paid £13,393 (2024: £12,927) for serving in her capacity as Women's worker; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document. (The charity undertook an arm's length process to ensure they chose the best candidate. Mr D. Johnson was not part of the decision making process).

8 **Events after the end of the reporting period**

No events (not requiring adjustment to the accounts) have occurred after the end of the reporting period but before the accounts are authorised which relate to conditions that arose after the end of the reporting period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

9 **Analysis of charitable funds**

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
General unrestricted fund	21,411	97,360	(94,526)	-	**24,245**
Designated funds					
Building fund	20,000	-	-	-	**20,000**
Totals	41,411	97,360	(94,526)	-	**44,245**

Purpose of unrestricted funds

General unrestricted fund	The 'free reserves' after allowing for designated funds.
Building fund	Amount designated for future building expenditure.

Analysis of movement in restricted funds

Restricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
Benefact Trust	-	6,500	(6,500)	-	**-**
The Norman Whitley Trust	-	1,000	-	-	**1,000**
Anonymous donor	-	12,000	-	-	**12,000**
Totals	-	19,500	(6,500)	-	**13,000**

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the donor.

The Benefact Trust, The Norman Whitley Trust and the anonymous donor are restricted funds specifically to fund the Children and Families' worker.

10 **Capital commitments**

As at 31 December 2025, the charity had no capital commitments (2024 -£nil).

11 **Guarantee**

There have been no guarantees given by the charity at 31 December 2025

12 **Debt**

There is no debt outstanding which is owed by the charity and which is secured by an excess charge on any of the assets of the charity at 31 December 2025

13 **Governing document**

The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Foundation registered on 12 November 2020 as a body corporate under part 11 of the Charities Act 2011.