Eastney Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2026

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Eastney Evangelical Church 21 Eastney Road Southsea PO4 9JA
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO dated March 2021
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1193860
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Elizabeth Ogundele Gillian Rees Christopher Thomas Matthew Licence Aiyampillai Thevapirabakaran (appointed May 2025)
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd.
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Nicola Harrison CA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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 objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

(1) the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Eastney and the surrounding neighbourhood; and

(2) such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity Trustees, put into practice the

Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare.

Review of the charity's main activities and achievements

Overview. Trustees of the church were Pastor Chris Thomas (Elder), and Miss Gill Rees, Mrs Elizabeth Ogundele, Mr Matt Licence, and from May, Dave Thevapirabakaran (Deacons). Deacons are revisiting the Charity Commission '5 minute guides' to maintain good awareness of their responsibilities.

Membership stands at 37: an increase of 3 Full and decrease of 1 Associate Member. The period again saw a slight general increase in those attending worship. Three baptisms took place. Other Church activities are summarised below:

- Word ministry saw the conclusion of a series in Mark and the start of another in Genesis. We also observed the Christian calendar as well as other significant national and other events.

- The monthly evangelistic 'Welcome Sunday' has continued, with a bi-monthly church lunch which proves very popular and builds relationships.

- Explorers (Sunday school for 4-10s) has been blessed with a consistent 6-7 children each week: Summer holidays also saw the simplified 'Summer kids' programme run. Both ministries are made possible by the imaginative efforts of a core of dedicated teachers and young helpers.

- As we have continued to seek to be a 'Church for the Community', the "Eastney Roundabout Coffee Pot" has completed its fourth year. It remains well attended, providing company, a safe space, and the opportunity for visitors to talk about things that are important to them.

- The life and outreach of the church has continued in TeenScene, Women's Fellowship, D Groups, Messy Church, Home Outreach, Prayer Pulse and Fusion as before, giving a rounded and full church program. Due to reduced attendance, Sparks closed in December after around 30 years of service.

- The Church Pastor took 6 weeks of sabbatical in May-July, which included rest and gentle study, and attendance at the Evangelical Ministers' Assembly in London.

- At Easter and Christmas, we took worship into local residential homes.

- A most significant step was taken in the March Members' Meeting, which unanimously voted to engage Matt Morant as Pastor in Training (PiT) for 2 years from September 2026. This followed a careful sequence where a proposal was introduced in the September Member's meeting, which was refined by a small working group. A formal interview took place in December, which recommended to the Trustees/Diaconate that Matt become PiT. We thank the Lord for making this provision, and guiding us through this process.

- The church joined the national "A Passion for Life" evangelistic programme, included outreach training in the fortnightly D Groups, a special Welcome Sunday in March, and a much blessed evangelistic "Maundy Meal" on 2 April. Local OAM worker Josh Williamson, who attends the church with his family was the speaker at both events.

- We have been blessed by visits and deputation from some of our Mission Partners, and other Christian workers. It was also a joy to again join with Cornerstone Evangelical Church to share Christmas and New Year worship together, and they used our premises for a baptismal service.

· Our long-standing links and fellowship with Mission Partners across the UK and the world have continued. The local and national ministry and leadership provided by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), to which the church remains in committed membership, has been most helpful: especially as we have navigated the process of engaging a PiT.

· The Pastor attended the FIEC Leaders' Conference in November, and he is active in the local FIEC fraternal.

· The Pastor also attends the One Body fellowship of Portsmouth churches. He remains a member of Portsmouth SACRE.

In planning the activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Finances, Reserves policy and Restricted Funds

The church accounts have shown an end of year balance of £68,806, virtually the same as at the start of the financial year for which we thank the Lord. Susan Licence has been Church Bookkeeper, and we are most grateful for her experience and high standards.
The Reserve level has been raised to £30,000 at the annual reappraisal of the Reserves Policy, in view of the increased liability of engaging a PiT.
The church has several Restricted or Designated Funds to meet specific needs, totalling £4,633 at the year end.
Unrestricted Funds totalled £64,174, well above the Reserves Policy level.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rests with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by a majority vote of the Church Members' Meeting. Safeguarding policies have been reviewed, and procedures diligently carried out as necessary.

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:

Chris Thomas
Chris Thomas (Oct 7, 2026 11:23:11 GMT+1)

Chris Thomas

Date: Oct 7, 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Eastney Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 on pages 5 to 8 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nicola Harrison
Nicola Harrison (Oct 12, 2026 10:04:00 GMT+1)

Nicola Harrison CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 12, 2026

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income receipts						
Donations		64,535	86	4,115	68,736	66,691
Gift aid receipts		11,558	-	-	11,558	10,655
Rental Income		15,932	-	-	15,932	12,569
Hall Hire		1,890	-	-	1,890	1,200
Interest		1,275	-	-	1,275	1,632
Total receipts		95,189	86	4,115	99,390	92,749
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	65,382	67	846	66,295	67,260
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	31,771	-	1,494	33,265	21,502
Total payments		97,153	67	2,340	99,560	88,762
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		(1,964)	20	1,775	(170)	3,987
Transfers between funds	5	(654)	-	654	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,618)	20	2,429	(170)	3,987
Cash funds as at last year end		66,792	23	2,161	68,976	64,990
Cash funds at this year end	A	64,174	43	4,589	68,806	68,976

Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding

The notes on pages 7-8 form part of these accounts.

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Unrestricted Funds				
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	1,585	43	621	2,249	1,476
Notice deposits	62,589	-	3,968	66,557	67,500
	64,174	**43**	**4,589**	**68,806**	**68,976**
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	13,463	-	-	13,463	11,578
Other debtors	150	-	70	220	1,351
Prepaid church insurance	1,962	-	-	1,962	1,898
Prepaid water bill	231	-	-	231	228
	15,806	**-**	**70**	**15,876**	**15,054**
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year:					
Taxes due	492	-	-	492	938
Independent examination fee	972	-	-	972	930
	1,464	**-**	**-**	**1,464**	**1,868**

D Assets retained for charity's own use	Value 2,026	Value 2,025
	£	£
Freehold property - church	886,885	855,241
Freehold property - manse	520,093	498,699
Contents and equipment	34,205	34,205
	1,441,183	**1,388,145**

Insurance values have been used for the freehold properties as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values. Estimated replacement value has been used for contents and equipment.

E Guarantees and secured debts

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

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by Chris Thomas
Chris Thomas (Oct 7, 2026 11:23:11 GMT+1)
Chris Thomas

date Oct 7, 2026

The notes on pages 7-8 form part of these accounts.

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have 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.

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.

2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds: General funds £	Unrestricted Funds: Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Employment costs	4	30,483	-	100	30,583	44,309
Utilities		10,228	-	280	10,508	6,292
Insurance		2,678	-	-	2,678	2,571
Administration and support services		5,620	-	-	5,620	4,804
Ministry and outreach activities		3,222	-	339	3,560	3,095
Building maintenance and equipment		11,844	-	-	11,844	3,841
Work among the young		198	67	128	392	875
Governance and legal fees		930	-	-	930	1,397
Support Fund		-	-	-	-	77
Wider Ministry		180	-	-	180	-
		65,382	67	846	66,295	67,260

3 Grants and gifts paid to others

Organisations:						
OMF	4	4,000	-	30	4,030	5,000
STEP(UK)		4,000	-	180	4,180	5,200
Grace Church, Brighton		3,000	-	30	3,030	5,000
Barnabas Fund		-	-	-	-	400
Open Doors		1,800	-	353	2,153	400
Organisations < £1,000		600	-	671	1,271	1,752
Individuals		3,250	-	30	3,280	3,750
Wider Ministry		-	-	-	-	-
Individuals		6,996	-	200	7,196	-
Organisations		8,125	-	-	8,125	-
		31,771	-	1,494	33,265	21,502

4 Transactions with related parties

Chris Thomas served as church leader and was paid £30,137 [2025: £43,798] for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

The brother and sister-in-law of trustee Chris Thomas were paid a total of £4,000 [2025: £5,000], through OMF, in their role as missionaries. These payments are authorised by the charity's governing document.

The spouse of trustee Matt Licence served as church bookkeeper and was paid a total of £2,345 [2025: £1,803]. These payments are authorised by the charity's governing document.

5 Movement of funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	66,792	95,189	(97,153)	(654)	64,174
	66,792	95,189	(97,153)	(654)	64,174
Designated funds					
Fusion subs	23	86	(67)	-	43
	23	86	(67)	-	43
Restricted funds					
Church Restricted	176	725	(696)	-	204
Future Ministry Fund	1,618	2,000	(150)	500	3,968
Foodbank	-	100	(100)	-	-
Missionary Partners	-	530	(623)	93	-
Special appeals	-	510	(571)	61	-
Support Fund	368	50	-	-	418
Wider Ministry - Individuals	-	200	(200)	-	-
	2,161	4,115	(2,340)	654	4,590
Total funds	68,976	99,390	(99,560)	-	68,806

The Church Restricted fund is for income and expenditure that was given for the use within church activities.

The Future Ministry Fund is to provide funding for the church in pursuit of its ministry in the future.

The Fusion Subs fund contains donations given by those who attend Fusion youth club, and thus any money taken is used for expenses from that club.

The Foodbank fund contains donations to the Portsmouth Food bank made through church offerings.

The Missionary Partners fund contains donations to the church's mission parters made through church offerings.

Special appeals are money taken to charities or individuals as love gifts, Harvest or Christmas appeals, or donations to charities made through church offerings.

The Support Fund is used to help those in difficult circumstances.

The Wider Ministry fund contains donations to the support other churches made through church offerings.