Appleton
Independent Methodist Church



Trustees' Report
and Financial Statements
31st December 2025

Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements 31st December 2025

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which have been prepared in following the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 1A) (effective 2 February 2016), applicable accounting standards and the Charities Act 2011. The church was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 7th April 2022 and all the assets, liabilities and activities of the unincorporated charity known as Appleton Independent Methodist Church were transferred into it on 1st January 2023. The trustees have prepared the accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Appleton Independent Methodist Church known as AIM Church

Charity Number

1198556

Charity Trustees

Peter Gleave	Leader
Anthony Scott	Leader
Patricia McDowell	
Dorothy Price	
Alison Noble	
Catherine Gibbons	Appointed 18th February 2025

Address

C/O Mr P M Gleave
41 Weybridge Close
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 5LZ

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Horsemarket Street
Warrington
WA1 1TP

Independent Examiner

Eric Southwick BA(Hons) FCA FCIE DChA
The Bungalow
Earl Street
Seaham
Co Durham
SR7 0DH

Structure and Organisation

Objects
The purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith.

Public Benefit
The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The remainder of this report illustrates the activities undertaken to support the public benefit requirement.

Organisation
The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which was registered with the Charity Commission on 7th April 2022. The assets, liabilities and operations of the unincorporated charity known as Appleton Independent Methodist Church were transferred to it on 1st January 2023. The Church operates according to its constitution with the trustees meeting regularly to consider the progress of the church, to consider its future direction and activities and to manage the church.

Organisational Structure
The church is led by the Leadership Team, detailed above, which meets monthly to consider the work of the Church. The Leadership Team is appointed annually from amongst the members of the Church by the members of the Church at their Annual Meeting.

Risk Assessment
The Leadership Team does not believe that the Church is subject to any substantial risks and has taken steps to mitigate those risks that it has identified. The Church takes very seriously its responsibilities to protect children and vulnerable adults making checks on workers and operating appropriate policies and procedures. Financial controls are operated to ensure that the assets of the Church are safeguarded.

Achievements and Performance
Review of the Period
As we reflect on the life of AIM Church in 2025, we give all thanks and glory to God for His blessings, guidance, and growth. We are grateful for the privilege of participating in His plans to spread the gospel and for deepening our understanding of His heart for the people we are called to be and serve.

Bible-based ministry has remained central through the preaching and teaching of God's Word on Sundays, supported by weekly Central and East homegroups where teaching is explored further. Peter has continued leading the *All in Mission* series through the book of Acts, providing deep exposition and challenge. The relevance and timing of this teaching to unforeseen circumstances has been notable. He also led *The Roads to Easter* mini-series (Jericho, Jerusalem, and Calvary), reflecting on Jesus's journey to the cross.

We have also benefited from James's *Walking in the Light* mini-series as well as visiting itinerant ministry that has connected meaningfully with ongoing teaching and church circumstances. We are blessed by a wide range of gifted teachers and preachers who allow the Holy Spirit to work through them. Worship has complemented teaching through clearly aligned themes, often prepared independently, demonstrating God's leading. We also thank God for an ever-growing worship team of skilled musicians and singers.

Review of the Period (Continued)

Pastoral Care has remained a key focus for Peter and the Pastoral Team. With a growing and diverse congregation, an additional member joined the team, and a clear, robust approach is being developed to meet a wide range of pastoral needs effectively. Plans are in place to expand and further develop the team in early 2026.

The **Leadership team** has grown with the addition of two deacons to the existing team of three Elders, taking responsibility for worship and outreach. There is a vision to expand the leadership further and to identify the new roles needed for the Appleton Cross Church Plant, a priority for early 2026. The leadership team has also held additional away days at High Legh for prayer, planning, and preparation for future growth.

Trustees have continued to meet quarterly to ensure the charity fulfils its obligations and remains compliant with regulations. A new, experienced trustee joined the team, contributing significantly to compliance work, for which we are very grateful. Trustees have also continued supporting, monitoring, and supervising Peter in his paid role as Pastor/Church Planter through quarterly reviews that highlight God's ongoing work in AIM Church.

Regular **members' meetings** have provided opportunities to report back, celebrate God's work, and share the church's direction. Membership has grown with two new members welcomed. It remains a privilege to serve together and see people using the gifts God has given them.

In 2025, the congregation increased with 11 new regular attendees contributing to church life. We prayed for new workers, and God answered abundantly! We celebrated the baptism of a new attendee and witnessed growth in his relationship with Jesus. With the addition of a new family, AIM Kids Church was relaunched, providing age-appropriate Bible teaching during Sunday sermons.

Coffee AIM continues to be an integral outreach, with increasing attendance and testimony that it serves as a lifeline to many in the community. Some attendees have begun attending church regularly. There have been many opportunities for pastoral support through prayer and practical help. The volunteer team has grown and strengthened and the team meet for prayer before each session which is an incredibly precious time.

Run Club has flourished, attracting a consistent weekly group from the Appleton Cross community. Social opportunities have developed, and the group celebrated its first anniversary at the end of 2025.

Book Club has continued with a committed core group exploring a wide range of books. However, it has not yet achieved its aim of reaching residents from the Appleton Cross estate, and its future is currently under review, with a decision expected in early 2026.

A range of **social events** has strengthened relationships within the church family. Young Adults, Ladies', and Men's focus nights have included activities such as a murder mystery meal, bowling, Easter painting, Christmas card making, and learning the art of playing bridge. A Christmas meal brought all generations together and provided a happy and fitting close to the year.

Review of the Period (Continued)

Easter and **Christmas** provided significant opportunities for worship and outreach. Easter events included Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, a midweek "Last Supper," a Good Friday prayer walk, an Easter Sunday prayer breakfast, and a Saturday praise night that brought together believers from local churches.

Christmas outreach included a Christmas Kids Club (the first one for several years), Coffee AIM Christmas party, pop-up Nativity, and Run Club Christmas Fun Run. Outdoor carol singing at Appleton Cross saw increased community engagement, enabling meaningful connections with local families and opportunities to share the vision for the future church plant. Participation in Bridgewater Churches Together activities led to two community Christmas services across Stockton Heath, with Peter and James preaching and AIM worship team members serving. Feedback confirmed a strong and positive community response. Tony also organised and led the annual Parish Council lights switch-on service. We thank God for these opportunities and the encouragement they have brought.

In July, several members attended the **Keswick Convention's** 150th Anniversary, enjoying a week of teaching and fellowship. In October, the church gathered at Rydal Hall for our **AIM Church Weekend Away** focused on the Acts theme *Turning Point: the mission, the message, and the missionaries*. It was well attended, particularly by newer members, and was a wonderful time of fellowship, spiritual growth, and life-changing ministry through the Holy Spirit.

Social media engagement has continued to grow and develop. Regular website, Instagram, and Facebook updates, alongside Sunday service recordings, have helped AIM Church build its presence and extend access to biblical teaching. Many have appreciated the opportunity to revisit sermons, including people from other churches.

The **Appleton Cross Church Plant** has been a major focus throughout 2025. The Appleton Cross Implementation Team (ACIT) expanded and met weekly for prayer and planning. A significant breakthrough came when Step Places invited AIM Church to partner in a bid to develop community facilities — an unexpected and clear answer to prayer. By year's end, Heads of Terms were signed and architectural plans shared.

The building design went through several revisions before returning to the original ACIT vision. Funding efforts began with the Appleton Cross Giving Day, which generated significant support within the fellowship. The process of applying for funding through grant applications also commenced, including to the IM Connexion. We continue to explore potential funding streams and trust God to provide resources at the right time.

Alongside practical planning, prayer has remained central to this work, through regular prayer walks across Appleton Cross. Relationships with residents have deepened, including a community meal that enabled connection and shared vision for the church plant.

2025 has been a busy and fruitful year that has humbled, inspired, and encouraged us as we have grown closer to God and witnessed His work in His church. None of this has been achieved through our own strength, and we are reminded that "unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Review of the Period (Continued)
We look forward to 2026 with anticipation, confident that God is working out His purposes through His people in His perfect timing. **To Him be all honour, glory, and praise — now and forevermore.**

Financial Review
At 31st December 2025 the charity had funds totalling £43,719.32 (2024: £24,095.90) available for the trustees to use at their discretion having raised £87,970.38 (2024: £64,145.28) during the year and spent £68,346.96 (2024: £63,847.50).

Reserves Policy
It is the policy of the Trustees to hold reserves which provide for the ongoing work of the charity whilst retaining financial stability and the potential to respond to new opportunities. At the 31 December 2025 the reserves held were £43,719.32 (2024: £24,095.90) available for the trustees to use at their discretion, the trustees consider this level to be adequate.

Responsibilities of the Trustees
Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently:
- make judgments and estimates that are prudent and reasonable:
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

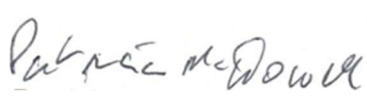
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



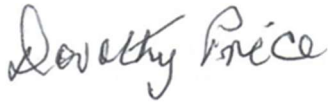
Peter Gleave



Anthony Scott



Patricia McDowell



Dorothy Price



Alison Noble



Catherine Gibbons

Date: 27th February 2026

Independent examiner's Report to the Trustees of Appleton Independent Methodist Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Eric Southwick BA (Hons) FCA FCIE DChA
The Bungalow
Earl Street
Seaham
Co Durham
SR7 0DH

Date: 27th February 2026

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
Freewill Offerings	2,882.45	-	2,882.45	3,163.50
Regular Donations and Standing Orders	25,560.00	-	25,560.00	19,535.00
Other Donations	8,450.28	-	8,450.28	9,112.00
Grants	600.00	-	600.00	25,000.00
Gift Aid Repayments	4,496.00	-	4,496.00	4,364.78
Other Gifts	700.90	-	700.90	-
Conference	5,058.75	-	5,058.75	2,970.00
Appleton Cross	-	40,222.00	40,222.00	-
Total Receipts	47,748.38	40,222.00	87,970.38	64,145.28
Payments				
Ministry	1,540.00	-	1,540.00	1,470.00
Coffee AIM / AIM +	3,863.25	-	3,863.25	3,967.80
Conference	6,540.75	-	6,540.75	2,915.00
Church Running Costs	11,730.23	-	11,730.23	11,634.19
Social Events	576.53	-	576.53	-
Pastor / Church Planter	34,190.64	-	34,190.64	33,360.15
Donations	5,250.00	-	5,250.00	4,200.00
Appleton Cross	-	4,655.56	4,655.56	6,300.36
Total Payments	63,691.40	4,655.56	68,346.96	63,847.50
Net Receipts / (Payments)	(15,943.02)	35,566.44	19,623.42	297.78
Funds b/fwd 1 January	24,095.90	-	24,095.90	23,798.12
Funds c/fwd 31 December	8,152.88	35,566.44	43,719.32	24,095.90

The notes on page 9 part of these financial statements.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Monetary Assets				
Bank current account	8,152.88	35,566.44	43,719.32	24,095.90
Current Liabilities				
Independent Examiner's fees	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00

The financial statements on pages 7 to 9 were approved on 27th February 2026.



Anthony Scott

The notes on page 9 part of these financial statements.

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

In preparing the accounts the following accounting policies have been complied with:

a) The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 1A) (effective 2 February 2016), applicable accounting standards and the Charities Act 2011.

b) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

c) Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity receives the income.

d) Expenditure is recognised on a payments basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3 Trustee and employee information

a) Trustee information
One trustee received remuneration of £30,696.72 (2024: £29,956.92) during the year.

b) Employee Information
The church had one employee in the year.

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	30,696.72	0.00	30,696.72	29,956.92
Pension costs	916.57	0.00	916.57	894.48
	31,613.29	0.00	31,613.29	30,851.40

4 Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions, other than the one disclosed in note 3 above, which require disclosure.