Wycliffe Independent Church

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

For the year ending 31 December 2025

Registered number 1201250

Wycliffe Church

Wycliffe Independent Church (CIO)
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2025

Charity Reference and Administration

Registered Number: 1201250

Registered: 06 December 2022

Church Location and Contact Address:
Wycliffe Independent Church, Hickmott Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S11 8QF

Managing Trustees:
The Trustees of the church are the persons appointed as the church's Pastors and Elders. Those in office throughout the year 2025 and to the date of compiling this report are:

Name	Appointed	Position
Edward Collier	08 June 2022	Co-Pastor
Benjamin Udejiofo	08 June 2022	Elder
James Leverton	08 June 2022	Co-Pastor
Stefan Cantore	08 June 2022	Elder (Chair of trustees)
Dave Nash	08 June 2022	Elder
Andrew Thomson	07 February 2024	Elder

Bankers:
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Advisors:
The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches (EFCC), PO Box 34, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 0YY

Public Benefit Declaration:
In compiling this report and in exercising their powers and duties, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission, and in particular the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Wycliffe Church

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Constitution was adopted by the members of Wycliffe Independent Church at a meeting held on 18 May 2022, and was approved by the Charity Commission on 6 December 2022.

Wycliffe Independent Church is committed to the historic Christian faith revealed in Holy Scripture and expressed in the Savoy Declaration of Faith and Order as applied by the Church, which is summarised in the EFCC Basis of Faith. The Constitution and associated handbook contain a set of church rules including details concerning meetings, membership and the appointment of church officers. The church's Trustees (Pastors and Elders) are elected by the church by secret ballot at a church meeting, if at least 60% vote in favour.

Governance and Management

The Elders (including Pastors) hold meetings usually once a month. Trustees of the charity meet at least four times a year (all elders are trustees). Wycliffe Independent Church's board of trustees is appointed to have independent authority and legal responsibility. This includes having a critical role in decision making and compliance as well as setting the values, standards and behaviours of the organisation. Elders have responsibilities in serving the believers in their church, serving as overseers, preaching from God's word, leading by example, and praying for the congregation. Elders also meet periodically for meetings jointly with the Deacons and staff. In addition, they meet informally, and monthly for prayer and to discuss urgent pastoral matters. Major church decisions are subject to approval at a church members' meeting. At the end of December 2025 there were 110 full (voting) church members. Our membership is committed, with many serving in various different capacities, enabling a whole range of church activities to take place.

The Trustees are helped in practical matters by Deacons who are similarly appointed by the Church members. There are currently nine Deacons. As well as working together as a team, each Deacon may have a specific area of responsibility, for example finance, building maintenance; they also work together to take general responsibility for other practical matters. Deacons generally meet together monthly.

As an independent church, governed on congregational principles, the church is entirely self-governing, under God's rule. However, we are glad to be associated formally with other churches through membership of the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches (EFCC). More recently (December 2025) the church became a member of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), a similar organisation to EFCC. This not only provides Christian fellowship, but also practical guidance, help, support and legal advice when needed.

Management Activity in 2025 to Preserve the Trust's Function

- **Safeguarding:** One of the Deacons acts as Safeguarding Lead and another a Deputy. They maintain oversight of our practices with children and vulnerable adults. One of the Trustees holds the role of Safeguarding Trustee.

- **Health and Safety, Fire and other emergencies:** Annual servicing of the gas boiler alongside regular testing and servicing of the fire alarm system and the emergency lighting systems was carried out.
- **Food Safety:** Food hygiene training and/or allergy awareness courses have been undertaken by many group leaders or helpers where food is offered on the premises.
- **First Aid:** Certified first aid training was previously provided for 9 people in addition to a number of others who hold certification through their work. We aim to run first aid training every 1.5 years since the qualification lasts for three years.
- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** A review of all existing data policies was undertaken in May 2023, with further work on GDPR compliance within the Children's section of our church management software completed in 2024. We are now due to review these policies. We will undergo a review of these policies to incorporate any new changes required by current legislation.

Hickmott Road Premises

The premises was transferred to Wycliffe Independent Church in March 2024 and came under the ownership of the CIO.

Objectives, Activities and Achievements to the Public Benefit

Charitable Objectives

The charitable objectives of the church, set out in its constitution, are:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the basis of faith primarily but not exclusively within Sheffield and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- 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 for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life; provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the doctrinal distinctives and ethical statements as may be adopted and amended by the church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the church handbook.

Wycliffe Independent Church encourages ordinary people to live out their faith in families, workplaces and the general community. We believe that the message of Jesus Christ is the best news in the world and is for all people of all ages.

Church Activities

Pastoral Care and Support

"First line" pastoral care is given by the Elders, who are responsible for a specific group of members and regular worshippers. The Pastors direct overall pastoral care and deal with the more demanding and difficult issues that occur from time to time. Home Group leaders and members generally are also encouraged to give spiritual and practical support and care for each other.
Spiritual help and guidance may be given by the Pastors and Elders by personal visits or by telephone.
Examples of practical support and care include hospital and sick visiting, helping with transport for elderly and frail people, providing meals for those needing help because of illness, childbirth etc, supporting families with young children, and helping those in life-changing situations such as getting married, bereavement or moving house. A Diaconal Fund is also administered by the Deacons to help with financial needs in exceptional cases.

Arrangements for Sunday Services

Since September 2024, all church activities, including our two Sunday services, are based at Wycliffe Church Hickmott Road building. Sunday services and Wednesday evening meetings are mainly accessible online via Zoom for those unable to join us in person.

Regular Church Life

Our usual pattern is to meet twice each Sunday for public worship (preaching, Bible reading, prayer and singing) and on Wednesdays for Bible study and prayer.
We provide activities for a wide range of groups of people including: children and young people, women, men, carers and toddlers, students, people with psychological struggles, and senior citizens. Our Pastors are always willing to offer support and pastoral care to those who request or need it. The church website https://www.wycliffechurch.org.uk/ has details of activities and recordings of Sunday sermons are made available online.

Public Worship

Usual attendance for Sunday services has been from 140 to 200 (mornings) and 70-100 (evenings). Ages range from young babies to those over ninety years old. During the Sunday morning service, we provided creche for young children each week, held Sunday school for primary age children during term-time, and held a Bible Study group for young people in school years Y7 to Y9 periodically. People from other countries and ethnic groups worship together, with the meetings open to all who wish to come.
Sunday meetings have remained accessible online for those unable (usually for health reasons) to join us in person.
Wednesday evening meetings are held at Hickmott Road fortnightly (and are usually also accessible online) and are mainly attended by members and those who attend regularly on Sundays, though anyone is free to join us. Twice monthly Wednesday meetings are held in smaller groups in the church building or in homes around Sheffield, for Bible study and prayer. Each group has a small team of leaders, which includes the Elders and Pastors.

Wycliffe Church

Activities for Parents, Carers, Toddlers and Young People

- Noah's Ark group meets each Wednesday morning during term-time at Hickmott Road (free of charge) for pre-school children and their parents/carers. At Noah's Ark the children enjoy playing, craft activities, singing and a short Bible talk. In December, our annual Family Carol Service was held for Noah's Ark and Sunday School families.

- On Fridays, Explorers, for primary school aged children, and YAWN (Youth At Wycliffe Night!), for secondary school aged children, take place. Both meet and cater for children from church families, their friends, and others who have been contacted through local outreach work. Explorers has included games, crafts, singing and quizzes as well as Bible based teaching. YAWN has a Bible based talk followed by activities.

- On Tuesday evenings (during term-time), two to three times a month, a bible study and social gathering is held at a member's home for young people in school years 10-13.

Activities for Senior Citizens

An afternoon meeting (Tuesday Club) is held monthly for Senior Citizens and their friends. Some of those attending are from the church, but others come by personal invitation and word of mouth locally, and via contacts made with local residential homes and flats for elderly people; help is provided with transport for those unable to come unaided. Around fifteen to twenty people, plus helpers, usually attend each month and enjoy an activity (usually a quiz), sometimes themed according to time of year or relevant events; a light tea is provided free of charge by the church, and a Bible-based talk.

Activities for Students

Sheffield has two large universities. The church is located close to university-provided accommodation and many of the houses in the area surrounding the church are let to students. Throughout the year all students attending the church are offered spiritual and practical support, including an invitation to have Sunday lunch with families from the church. A great deal of informal support is given to these young adults, some of whom are away from home for the first time. This work has been greatly enhanced by the two interns appointed in September 2025.

Local Support and Outreach Activities

- At Christmas a small group of people from the church sang carols in the locality, and we also gave out invitations to Christmas services. We also held a quiz night with a personal testimony at a local coffee shop which was very well attended.
- A literature table outside the church and tract distribution have taken place at times and especially when there is a local market event.
- In partnership with other local churches, we run a 'Soup Kitchen' for homeless people. This involves a team of around four to six people preparing soup and hot drinks, collecting food donated by a Sheffield pasty company, and taking this to a city centre site. After the Soup Kitchen, any unused food is taken to the Salvation Army hostel, so any waste is minimal. Wycliffe members usually provide this service fortnightly.

Wider Support and Overseas Missionary Outreach

- Wycliffe Church remains committed to financial support of the church plant to Crystal Peaks Church until it becomes financially self-sufficient. Financial support will taper off, but it will continue to help with preaching and teaching resources as requested.
- Financial support for a member who is now a pastor in a church in Taiwan continues, but will also taper off over the next few years.

- Financial and other support was also given to other Christian charities in 2025 most of whom have links with Wycliffe Church members. These include:
  - TASTE-UK - providing sustainable water technology in Nigeria
  - Caring for Life - sharing the love of Jesus with homeless and vulnerable people by providing accommodation, ongoing support, love and friendship in Leeds
  - Morning Star/Living Hope Children's Centres - in Welkom and surrounding centres in South Africa caring for parents and children who are affected by HIV/AIDS
  - Equipping Pastors Worldwide (EPW). This mission focusses on providing materials and training for under-resourced pastors primarily in Africa and Asia. There have been historic links with activity in Uganda, but this has expanded in the last couple of years given the recent role one of the Wycliffe trustees (Stefan Cantore) who is supporting the development and implementation of mission strategy. He is on the Board of EPW as a trustee. A former Associate Pastor of Wycliffe, with whom we maintain close links, continues visiting Uganda each year to deliver pastor training conferences. He is also involved in the leadership of EPW.
  - A couple working with The Oakes residential centre in Sheffield where young people, either as individuals, or as school or church groups, can enjoy activity holidays and hear the Christian message.
  - European Mission Fellowship (EMF) - establishing biblical Christianity throughout Europe through evangelism, church-planting, supporting gospel churches, and training of UK and indigenous pastors and evangelists.
  - The Christian Institute in UK – existing for the furtherance and promotion of the Christian religion in the United Kingdom and the advancement of education
  - Open Hands - offering housing and support to destitute asylum seekers in Sheffield who have lost all other support.
  - An annual donation is also made to the EFCC to help fund their work supporting and advising congregational churches.

Other Activities

- The church also holds a monthly meeting (In Mind), supporting those (mainly people who attend the church) with psychological struggles.
- At Christmas there are two craft evenings where the congregation invite friends who are not Christians to enjoy various craft activities and hear a short gospel message.
- In the Easter holidays the church runs a holiday club over four consecutive mornings. Children attend to play games, do crafts and other activities, and listen to Bible based talks.
- One of our Co-Pastors and one of the two interns appointed in the course of 2025, help at a local School Christian Union which one of our church members help to run.

Additional Achievements and Outlook

- In January 2016 the Crystal Peaks Church (CPC) became a self-governing independent church having started as a church plant from Wycliffe Church. We continue to have very close links with them.
- The Crowded House Church is about 500m from our Hickmott Road building. Pastors from both churches have met for mutual encouragement and each have preached, as a guest, to the other congregation. Closer linking with our near neighbours remains a goal in helping to advance the Gospel work and message.

- Preaching the word of God as revealed in the Bible remains at the heart of our care for the community. Our two Pastors work as Co-Pastors. We believe this provides a reflection of the joint responsibility to support both preaching and furtherance of our overarching themes of Saved, Strengthened and Serving the community as we praise God.
- Several members were given the opportunity to preach through the summer months both to develop their skills and also to relieve some pressure off the Co-Pastors.
- Based around the same overarching themes, Deacons and Elders have identified strands of oversight to support the volunteer leaders of the various ministries and activities mentioned above. As this proceeds, we anticipate developing a robust support framework for the many volunteers who give their time and energy to fulfilment of the church's objectives.

Financial Review

Unrestricted Funds

The church's principal income comes from gifts from members and those attending the church. Gift-Aid tax reclaims also help supplement the church's income. The church's unrestricted cash funds closed 2025 at £130,724.

Major spending areas in the year were employees and visiting speakers and providing support to various Christian organisations.

Restricted Funds

There was some activity within the restricted funds during the 12 months under review. There was income of £13,429 (including gift aid) and expenditure of £2,142 and the restricted funds closed at £11,287 at the end of 2025.

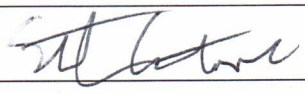
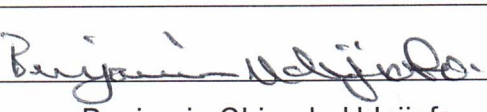
Reserves

The Trustees consider regularly the church's policy on reserves. They consider that a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to around three months' regular spending remains appropriate, and for 2026 this would equate to around £50,000. In fact the current planned budget for 2026 shows a predicted year-end reserve balance of just over £112,000 of which over £55,000 had been designated for various purposes.

Wycliffe Church

Declaration

The Trustees of Wycliffe Independent Church declare that they have approved the above Trustees' Annual Report, and the following have signed on behalf of all the trustees:

Signatures		
Full Names	Stefan Paul Cantore	Benjamin Chinedu Udejiofo
Position	Chairman	Trustee
Date	12 July 2026	12/07/26

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Wycliffe Independent Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wycliffe Independent Church (WIC) for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of WIC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of WIC'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.

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

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 respect of WIC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

.....

Ms A Jefferies FCA
Hawson Jefferies Limited
Suite 4
164-170 Queens Road
Sheffield
S2 4DH

Date: 10th August 2026

Wycliffe Independent Church
Receipts and Payments
For the period ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts				
Gifts and donations	173,278	379	173,657	144,678
Wayleaves	5	-	5	5
Special gifts	-	-	-	4,649
Legacies and one-off donations (with gift aid)	-	11,250	11,250	35,000
Grants received	-	1,800	1,800	1,800
Income tax reclaimed	31,662	-	31,662	24,219
Donations for events and books	1,654	-	1,654	-
Reimbursement	280	-	280	-
Sale of equipment	450	-	450	-
Bank interest received	2,524	-	2,524	2,863
	209,853	13,429	223,282	213,214
Payments				
Stipends, salaries and employers' NIC	132,605	1,800	134,405	121,515
Contribution to assistant pastor costs	-	-	-	17,047
Employee costs	2,021	-	2,021	3,046
Preaching and volunteers' expenses	1,815	-	1,815	940
Training	3,864	-	3,864	2,449
Rent	1,680	-	1,680	4,070
Utilities	7,181	-	7,181	6,810
Maintenance and cleaning	7,334	-	7,334	5,837
Equipment	11,315	-	11,315	5,295
Buildings and other insurance	3,046	-	3,046	2,778
Building project costs	4,002	-	4,002	6,376
Printing and website	1,772	-	1,772	916
Literature	2,773	-	2,773	1,798
Office supplies	1,479	-	1,479	
Youth and children's work	1,582	-	1,582	1,826
Christian camps bursaries	1,756	-	1,756	1,350
Other activities including catering	3,139	-	3,139	1,251
Home and overseas mission support	6,315	-	6,315	8,620
Church planting (including Crystal Peaks Church)	3,000	-	3,000	4,000
Mercy ministries	4,355	292	4,647	8,844
Other support and donations	10,161	50	10,211	8,875
Governance	1,302	-	1,302	1,320

Licences	2,479	-	2,479	1,996
Miscellaneous	491	-	491	785
Total payments	215,467	2,142	217,609	217,744
Net receipts/payments	(5,614)	11,287	5,673	(4,530)
Cash funds last year end	136,338	-	136,338	140,868
Cash funds this year end	130,724	11,287	142,011	136,338

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Notes on the following three pages form part of these accounts.

Wycliffe Church

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted funds 31/12/2025 £	Restricted funds 31/12/2025 £	Total funds 31/12/2025 £	Total funds 31/12/2024 £
Cash funds				
Current account	9,011	-	9,011	6,338
Deposit account	121,713	11,287	133,000	130,000
Total cash funds	130,724	11,287	142,011	136,338
Other monetary assets				
Grants receivable	-	-	-	-
Gift aid not claimed	8,440	1,250	9,690	7,326
Total other monetary assets	8,440	1,250	9,690	7,326

The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches ("EFCC") makes regular donations to the Charity to enhance pension provision for pastors. These are added to the Charity's employer pension contributions for its pastors. For 2025 the amount received was £1800 (2024 - £1800).

At the year end the Charity had outstanding claims for gift aid relating to the period 1 October to 31 December 2025.

Assets retained for the church's own use				
Land and buildings occupied by the church	700,000	-	700,000	700,000
(at valuation). See note 4.	700,000	-	700,000	700,000

Signed by the following trustees on behalf of all the trustees of Wycliffe Independent Church:

Signatures	.....	.....
Full Names	Stefan Paul Cantore	Benjamin Chinedu Udejiofo
Position	Chairman	Trustee
Date	12/1/2026	12/01/26

Wycliffe Independent Church

Notes to the accounts

For the period ended 31st December 2025

Note 1

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, section 133 on the Receipts and Payments basis. Therefore income is accounted for when it is received and expenditure accounted for as it is paid.

The Receipts and Payments basis may be used because the church's gross income did not exceed £250,000 during the year. This basis was approved by a decision at the 27 May 2010 Church Meeting.

Note 2

	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
	£	£
Stipends	92,484	89,791
Salaries	31,250	20,108
Employers' National Insurance contributions	14,251	10,354
Employment allowance	(10,500)	(5,000)
Employers' pension contributions	6,920	6,262
	134,405	121,515

During the period the Church had two (2024- two) full time office holders, being the two Co-Pastors. During the period there were also two, increasing to four, part time employees.

The Church has an auto enrolment compliant pension scheme and during the period contributions were made on behalf of six (2024- four) individuals.

None of the trustees are paid for their services; however the two Co-Pastors who are both Trustees received stipends as paid office holders. This is permitted by Clause 6.5 of the constitution of the CIO. The stipends received during the year were as follows:

Co-Pastor	£49,084
Co-Pastor	£43,400

Nil (2024- One) Elders (trustee) received £nil (2024- £945) for non-trustee services provided during the year.

The church incurred governance costs in relation to the independent examination of the accounts which amounted to £528 (2024 - £516).

Wycliffe Independent Church
Notes to the accounts
For the period ended 31st December 2025

Note 3 **Funds**

Most of the Church's funds are unrestricted. However the Church does receive gifts for specific individual and organisations that the Church regularly supports. These are distributed to the relevant individuals and organisations on a regular basis. The diaconal fund was set up to assist with practical care for church members.

	Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Receipts	Transfer	Payments	Balance at 31 Dec 2025
	£	£		£	£
Restricted funds					
Morning Star	-	37	-	-	37
TASTE	-	292	-	(292)	-
Diaconal fund	-	50	-	(50)	-
Pension support from EFCC	-	1,800	-	(1,800)	-
Building fund (restricted)	-	5,000	-		5,000
FIEC fund	-	6,250	-		6,250
	-	13,429	-	(2,142)	11,287
Unrestricted funds					
Doug Higgins fund - Christian camps bursary	1,639	-	-	(1,639)	-
Brimington fund - internships	9,571	-	2,500	(8,620)	3,451
Premises fund	43,624	280	10,000	(4,002)	49,902
Legacies and one-off donations	35,000	-	(12,500)	-	22,500
General fund	46,504	209,573	-	(201,206)	54,871
Total funds	136,338	223,282	-	(217,609)	142,011

The designated unrestricted funds are funds that the church has set aside for particular purposes. The Brimington funds were received from a closure of a church in Brimington and are being used to fund internships. Doug Higgins left a legacy to the church which has been set aside to fund bursaries to send children to christian camps.

Note 4 **Land and buildings**

The church spent approximately £300,000 rebuilding and fitting-out the church premises in Hickmott Road, Sheffield, which were opened in 1994. The original cost of the land is not known, but is not considered to be material.

The view of the Charity Commission, received in January 2010, was that "the charity consisting of the property is completely distinct from the charity consisting of the working funds of the church which uses the property. Neither body has any right to intervene in the affairs of the other." On the basis of that opinion the church premises were excluded from the Statement of Assets and Liabilities in the church accounts for 2009 to 2023.

On 6 January 2024 the property was valued at £700,000 by an independent valuer and in March 2024 it was transferred to the CIO. Therefore the property has been included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities in these accounts.