SOWING ROOTS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1201617

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

The trustees of Sowing Roots are pleased to present their report for the year to 31 December 2025. The vision of Sowing Roots is to share the relevance of the Christian faith with children and young people in creative and exciting ways; to promote personal and spiritual development in children and young people; and to partner with local churches in providing opportunities for children and young people to explore the Christian faith. This report outlines the charity's activities, achievements, and financial position over the year.

Objectives & Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document Para 1.17

To advance the Christian religion in East Cheshire for the benefit of the public through the provisions of lessons and workshops in schools and in such other ways as the trustees consider fit.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

This year was our third year as a charity, and we have made good progress during the year in delivering against our objectives, partnering with 26 primary schools across the region. Our activities over the third year have focused on the following:

- Workshops based on the Christian calendar – We have delivered workshops for Easter and Christmas, encouraging children to explore these topics from a Christian perspective in a fun and engaging way;
- Topical workshops – We have delivered workshops this year around specific topics, including anti-bullying, Year 6 transition, Storytelling and Wonderful World;
- School Assembles that fit in with the national, school and Christian calendars; We aim to keep students connected to what is happening in the wider world as well as helping them to understand how Christians use the Bible to respond to moral situations;
- Buddy Up to support year 6 students in 1:1 sessions as they prepare for the transition to high school
- Two primary parenting courses – supporting parents, sharing tips and strategies and encouraging each other along the way
- Church Visits – We are always delighted to meet with new churches and their leaders, to visit the church and tell others about our work. We believe that churches should be at the heart of our communities, and partnership with churches is very much part of our Sowing Roots' vision.

We, as the trustees of Sowing Roots, confirm that we have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

Over the course of the year, we have established relationships with schools across East Cheshire, working with 26 schools by the end of the year. We have enjoyed working with so many schools and school children across many different year groups and we are grateful for the partnerships we have developed with them. We have written and developed many new course materials and have had the privilege of delivering almost 200 workshops and many RE lessons in schools this year to over 5,000 school children. Feedback from both students and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many requesting additional sessions in the coming year. Through these activities we have been able to

promote personal and spiritual development in children and young people and build relationships within the community.

Financial Review

This year was Sowing Roots' third year of operations and it saw an increase in its financial position, with the support of both regular and one off donations from our supporters. We started the year with strong cash reserves following a large one off donation towards the end of 2024 and we are pleased to have maintained this through the year. We are pleased to report a positive financial standing, ensuring that we are able to continue our work into the future.

- **Income**: Our total income for the year amounted to £18,098. This income was generated primarily through generous donations from individual supporters and church partnerships.
- **Expenditure**: Our total expenditure for the year was £16,780, with the majority of funds allocated towards salaries and program delivery, including lesson materials, transportation, and staff expenses.
- **Reserves**: The charity holds £14,950 in reserves at the year-end, an increase from £1,318 in the prior year. These reserves will be used to sustain and expand our activities in the upcoming year.

The trustees are satisfied with the charity's financial position and are committed to ensuring that resources are used effectively to maximise the impact of our mission.

Structure, Governance and Management

Sowing Roots is governed by a board of trustees who are responsible for overseeing the charity's activities, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and guiding the overall strategic direction. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and operates under a constitution and is registered with the Charity Commission.

The trustees are:

- David Capener, Chairperson
- Louise Coleman, Treasurer
- Julie Briggs, Trustee

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Sowing Roots.

The board meets regularly to review the charity's progress and make strategic decisions. Day-to-day management is undertaken by a small team of dedicated staff.

The charity's registered number is 1201617 and its registered address is:

32 Westbury Drive
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 8LR

Plans for the Future

Looking ahead to the coming year, Sowing Roots aims to build on the success of this year by:

- Expanding our partnerships with schools to reach more students across the region;
- Developing new lesson plans and resources that respond to the needs and interests of schools and students; and
- Building more partnerships with churches across East Cheshire.

We remain committed to our mission of advancing the Christian religion in East Cheshire for the benefit of the public through the provisions of lessons and workshops in schools and in such other ways as the trustees consider fit.

The trustees would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those who have supported Sowing Roots over the year, including our donors, partner schools and churches, and staff. Without their commitment and generosity, our work would not be possible. We also give thanks to God for guiding and sustaining us through this year and look forward to the year ahead with hope and anticipation.

In conclusion, Sowing Roots has had a successful year, establishing a firm foundation for future growth. The trustees are confident that with continued support and prayer, we will be able to further advance our mission and impact more lives in the years to come.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 28 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



David Capener, Chair of Trustees
Sowing Roots

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts			
Donations	18,098	-	**18,098**
Total receipts	**18,098**	**-**	**18,098**
Payments			
Salaries	(15,126)	-	**(15,126)**
Travel	(557)	-	**(557)**
Marketing	(14)	-	**(14)**
Miscellaneous	(173)	-	**(173)**
IT costs	(515)	-	**(515)**
Printing	(57)	-	**(57)**
Legal and professional fees	(194)	-	**(194)**
Materials	(144)	-	**(144)**
Total payments	(16,780)	-	**(16,780)**
Net of receipts/(payments)	**1,318**	**-**	**1,318**
Opening cash funds	**13,632**	**-**	**13,632**
Cash funds this year end	**14,950**	**-**	**14,950**

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Statement of assets and liabilities

As at 31 December 2025

Registered charity number 1201617

Category	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Cash funds	Bank account	14,950	-	**14,950**
Total assets		**14,950**	**-**	**14,950**
Liabilities		-	-	**-**

Signed by:



David Capener
Chair of Trustees
Date: 28 October 2026



Louise Coleman
Treasurer
Date: 28 October 2026