

LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 2025

Life Community Church Bristol is a registered Charity, registration No. 1202324

Table of Contents:

Reference and Administrative Information....2
Objectives and Activities for Public Benefit....4
Structure, Governance and Management....5
Trustees' Annual Report....6
Financial Review....25
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities....27
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Life Community Church Bristol....28
Receipts and Payment Accounts....30

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Details

Life Community Church Bristol
The Vassall Centre
Gill Avenue,
Fishponds,
Bristol BS16 2QQ
England

Life Community Church Bristol is a registered Charity, registration No. 1202324

Trustees

NATHANIEL IAN CAMPBELL (14-03-23- ONGOING)
PHILIP RAYMOND MALCOLM (22-05-24- ONGOING)
GARETH WYNFORD MATTHEWS (22-06-24-ONGOING)
GEMMA LOUISE SELLARS (14-03-23- ONGOING)
JENNIFER ESTELLE WARREN (14-03-23- ONGOING)
JULIAN JONATHAN ONOCHIE OKOYE (14-03-23- ONGOING)
LUKE RADFORD (15-09-25 – ONGOING)

Independent examiner

Joshua Kingston BSc (Hons), FCA

Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton
Bristol BS48 1UR

Objectives and Activities for Public Benefit

The objectives are:

a) To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit:
b) To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or service of any kind including though the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the work as the Church Council from time to time think fit; and
c) To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that the facilities and services that are offered to the public by Life Community Church Bristol make available access to all, either as part of the congregation or the local community and as such believe that the charity is of benefit to the whole community.

The Trustees have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Charity is a CIO, registered 14 March 2023.

The church previously operated under an unincorporated charity and transferred the remaining assets and liabilities to the CIO. This transfer was finalised last year.

Trustee Structure and Leadership

The trustees meet quarterly as a minimum. In these meetings decisions are made in relation to vision, budgets, finances, maintenance, and people. As laid out in the church deed, trustees are recruited and appointed by current LCB trustees. Philip Malcolm handed over the position of Chair of trustees to Nathaniel Campbell on 20/07/25.

Trustees' Annual Report

Welcome to our annual report that gives a brief snapshot into the last year here at Life Church. We had a change of Chair of Trustees during 2025 so both Phil, as outgoing Chair, and Stan, as incoming Chair, will share some opening thoughts…

From Phil:

Acts 6:1-7 describes the appointment of the deacons to serve the church so that the Apostles could focus on prayer and ministry. That passage, which had previously inspired me to serve as a trustee, has since inspired me to follow a new calling to devote myself more fully to prayer, to the ministry of the Word, and so, on 20th July, I handed the position of Chair to Stan Campbell to take up my new role on the LCB Senior Leadership Team.

It has been a privilege to have served the church as chair of the trustees and to have played a part in shaping the team. I know that it remains in good hands and will continue to grow in unity and strength as the church moves forward into greater things.

Phil Malcolm (former Chair of Trustees)
philip.malcolm@lifechurchbristol.com

From Nathaniel (aka Stan):

"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise." Hebrews 10 v 23.

It's a huge privilege to be able to serve Life Church Bristol as Chair of Trustees, and not one I take lightly. God is doing great things through His church, so it is critical that we ensure compliance, safety, transparency, fairness, accountability and unity as the Trustees support the legal and regulatory side of church life.

Phil has done such an excellent job as Chair for the last 5 years (and remains a trustee and continues to support me) and I am very grateful for him as well as the processes and procedures that he has implemented. I am also very grateful for my fellow Trustees who often serve quietly in the background but perform a really key role.

It's a really exciting time to be part of LCB as God continues to bless us and work through us. We've known for a while that God is calling us to plant into The Vassall Centre and preparation for that plan began in 2025. We also know that a larger church (particularly with multiple congregations) needs more focus on governance as more responsibility is shared with more people. With that in mind, we:

- recruited Luke Radford to join the Trustees in September 2025, with a skillset that includes health and safety, bringing our number to 7 (do enjoy all the middle names!);
- have been reviewing our policies and budgeting to support what we believe God is calling us into.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2026.

Please enjoy reading this report and, if you have any concerns, please take them up with Phil! ;o)

Stan Campbell (Chair of Trustees)
stan@lifechurchbristol.com

From Gareth (Senior Pastor)...

2025 has been an incredibly exciting year. We sensed at the start that God was getting us ready for something new and that required us to get ready, be brave and keep our eyes fixed upon Him. Specifically we've set our minds on sowing in and planting out.

Sowing in for us meant encouraging every member of Life Church to take seriously what it means to follow Jesus. We wanted to make space to go beyond being people who know about Jesus so that we become people that look like Jesus, sound like Jesus and live the way Jesus taught us. We did this by asking everyone to consider 'What is my next step?' in following Jesus (with loads of ideas and suggestions on our website www.lifechurchbristol.com/next) and encouraging us to pick at least one thing.

We've also felt God challenged us to be brave by planting out and in October we announced that we would be planting a new congregation in 2026 that would be based in the Vassall Centre. This will enable us to go deeper in our desire to serve and minister to this local community here in Fishponds. It was such a privilege to announce that Phil and Tara Malcolm will be the congregation pastors of this new church. In addition, it also gives us the opportunity to consider where God may want the 'sending' congregation to be as we seek God for the next step for this location. We would love to see that grow as the base for many more plants to come.

Finally, it was so good to welcome Jye Allen and Phil Malcolm to join the Senior Leadership Team. As we pursue this next season I'm so grateful for the experienced and committed men and women who are leading alongside me as we seek to follow after where God is leading us, see His church grow, and His name made more visible.

I hope you are as encouraged and excited as I have been as you read through this report of all that's been happening in Life Church this year.

Gareth Matthews (Senior Pastor)
gareth@lifechurchbristol.com



Kids

As our church family has grown, our children's ministries have grown with it and 2025 was another year of joy, encouragement and fun. It continues to be a privilege to see what God does in the lives of our children as we create space for them to meet with Jesus in their own way through our weekly programmes.

This year we continued to strengthen our Sunday provision across all groups. Our LCB Tots group has become a consistent space where our youngest can enjoy Bible stories, simple crafts and plenty of time to play and explore. Our LCB Kids groups have experienced teaching, crafts and games tailored to their age and stage. Together we've explored themes such as prayer, discipleship and Bible stories including Nehemiah and Ruth. We've seen the kids grow in understanding and confidence, and asking deeper questions as they've explored faith with their leaders.

Friday nights remain a highlight of our week, and this year we've welcomed several new children from the local community who have quickly become part of the fun. The group are enthusiastic, kind and eager to join in, from reading Bible stories to taking part in team challenges and playing so many games. It's a joy to see them engaging with the teaching, the praise songs and prayer each week.

We graduated our first group of Young Lions Juniors in July after they had completed their two-year programme and we are so proud of all they achieved. In September we launched our third year with eight children taking part across years one and two. This continues to give them monthly opportunities to explore leadership, character and what it means to be an example to others in their everyday lives.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to be launching a new children's ministry as part of our new congregation at Vassall. We're also excited to share that Emma Gundy will be taking on the leadership of our Sunday children's ministry at Avanti bringing her experience and heart for children into this next season. These are important steps in developing our work with children and their families, and we're expectant for all God will do. There is so much to look forward to as we continue growing and investing in the next generation.

I want to say another big thank you to the incredible LCB Kids team members; thank you for loving the children, bringing so much joy and serving so faithfully and enthusiastically every week, I couldn't do it without you. I appreciate each of you so much.

If you'd like more information on what we do at LCB kids, or you'd like to be a part of one of our incredible teams, please come and see me or email me at the email address below.



Gemma Sellars (Children's & Youth Pastor)
gemma@lifechurchbristol.com

Gemma works for the church as the Children's and Youth Pastor.

Youth

What a year we've had in LCB Youth.

Within youth discipleship we've had a big year! We're regularly having around 35 young people join us on Sunday mornings and 13 are currently being mentored. We took 24 young people to Satellites for the first time. Three young people also completed an apologetics course with the wider church, and on Sunday mornings we explored topics about dating, sex, singleness, gender, sexuality, marriage, self-control and identity.

Throughout the year we've seen young people step up in so many ways; leading services, leading the church in communion, serving on our tots and kids teams, leading the church in worship, serving on photography and production and consistently showing up with an excitement for God, His Church and His people. They've taken next steps in baptism, serving, Bible reading, prayer, worship and growing in the gifts of the spirit, all with a desire to become more like Jesus.

At LCB Youth Fridays, we've had so much fun seeing 30+ young people every week including new links with the local community. We've played lots of new games, had some great theme nights including a silent disco, summer party and the very fun Disney night. We've looked at a number of themes together, from thinking about perspective, God's future and timing for our lives and the heart behind the story where we took a quote from a Disney film and related it to a Bible verse. Each week our young people share an encouragement from their Bible readings and walks with God during The Spark and it's been amazing to see them step out of their comfort zones and share what they've been learning. Our Catalyst discipleship group continued in the first half of the year and 15 young people came together to study the book of Ruth and discuss the importance of the story and how they can apply it to their own lives.

We also attended 'The Mix' event several times throughout the year; joining together with other local youth groups for an evening of fun, games, worship, and a guest speaker.

One of the standout moments of the year was our Youth Takeover Service in April, where our young people led the whole Sunday service, from hosting to leading games, sharing

testimonies and leading the church in prayer. It was amazing to see the church respond and be encouraged by them.

In September, we launched Young Lions Academy which is our 3 year leadership development programme for young people in years 11 to 13 that aims to help them grow and be challenged and equipped in leadership, however God calls them. We've got 12 young people doing the programme and through monthly sessions we've looked at topics on the Holy Spirit, the character of a leader and self leadership. We've welcomed leaders from within the church to share and encourage them and the young people have leaned in, challenged themselves and stepped up in so many ways. We are looking forward to continuing this in 2026 and taking them to camp in February.

In September, we also saw seven Year 6s graduate from LCB Kids into the LCB Youth family across the different areas but we also said goodbye to our amazing Year 13s who headed off to university, or a gap year, and into the Young Adults Ministry. We have also had a lot of fun together including an amazing day of walking and laughing with the young adults, a beach trip and a summer party in the park where we invited parents and carers to join in the fun!

It has been an extraordinary year and we are so grateful to God for blessing us abundantly in so many ways and notably with a phenomenal and dedicated team of 20 people who love and serve our young people across the ministry. We're so grateful for all they do to serve the next generation.

If you'd like more information on what we do within LCB Youth, or you'd like to be a part of one of our amazing teams, please come and see us or email us at the email addresses below.

Gemma Sellars (Children's & Youth Pastor)
gemma@lifechurchbristol.com
Steph Haberfield (Friday Youth Coordinator)
steph@lifechurchbristol.com
Charlotte Cooper (Youth Discipleship Coordinator)
charlotte@lifechurchbristol.com



Young Adults (18-24)

We've absolutely loved stepping into leading the Young Adults since September 2025. 🎉 Before anything else, we want to honour Miracle for the incredible work she poured into this group (and the 25+!). She created a culture where young adults were deeply committed to Christ, free to explore faith, ask big questions and build genuine friendships. We're so grateful for the foundation she laid 🙌.

From day one, our heart was to take the Life Church vision **- Everyone Connected, Everyone Contributing, Everyone Growing -** and build our YA ministry around it. We decided to focus on one part of the vision each term (every four months), and from September to December our priority was simple: **connection**. Helping everyone feel connected to each other, to the church, and ultimately to God. 🤝✨

September is always an exciting season for this age group. We prayed for and released our 18-year-olds into new universities and adventures, while also welcoming those choosing to make Bristol, and Life Church, home for this season. It's been amazing to welcome new students, as well as young adults stepping into the early stages of their careers here in the city. 🎓🏙️

Across the term, we shared meals together, battled it out in a very competitive board-game night 🎲, and enjoyed the incredible hospitality of Matt & Jenny, Luke & Maz, and Stan & Debs at our special Connected Lunch. This was a huge highlight; not just because the food was unreal 🍽️🔥 but because it showed our YAs that there are brilliant people across our wider church family they can build relationships with. Massive shout-out to those couples for blessing us so generously!

We wrapped up the year by celebrating Christmas together at the Bristol Markets and then at our very own YA Christmas Party. 🎄✨ Such a fun way to finish the term!

We're so excited to build on an amazing first four months. As we head into January, we're shifting our focus from **Connected** to **Contributing**, and we've got some brilliant plans for what that's going to look like. 👀💡

And we just want to say, the 18–24s are genuinely incredible. They're full of passion, potential, creativity and courage, and it's an absolute honour to walk alongside them and champion what God is doing in their lives. 💛

Finally, one of our big priorities has been building a team who can help create an environment where young adults can thrive. We were thrilled to welcome **Niamh, Sam and Grace** onto the team; they're absolute legends and it's been a joy working with them these past few months. 🙏

If you've got a heart for young adults and want to be part of something fun, meaningful and full of life, we'd love to chat about how you can get involved in the team. 🎉

Andy and Claire Cains (18-24 YA Coordinators)
youngadults@lifechurchbristol.com

Young Adults (25+)

In September, we decided to divide the YA ministry into 2 distinct groups, 18-24s (as described above) and 25+ so we could tailor activities and discussions more suited to each demographic. The final whole group event was the joint board games night, where we learned the valuable life lesson that not everyone can be winners 😭😀

The purpose of the group will still align with Life Church's vision; **everyone connected, contributing, & growing**. But, as we move into 2026, the group will become a community shaped by the people within.

What the group will create together:

- A year full of shared moments, laughter, and memories through Social Connection
- A strong fellowship, growing deeper in faith - together
- A safe, intentional, supportive environment
- Opportunities to build character to help navigate life as believers in modern society
- Bridges towards wider-church Integration

The group has already laid out some exciting plans, and look forward to what the new year will bring.

Phil & Tara Malcolm (YA 25 + Coordinators)
youngadults@lifechurchbristol.com

Men's Ministry

Men's ministry continued to be active throughout 2025 and has been a real source of encouragement; to me personally, and I hope to many others across the church.

We continued to use our WhatsApp group as the core forum to communicate with one another. It's been brilliant to see men sharing thoughts for the day, worship songs, YouTube links, prayer requests, and testimonies of answered prayer. In previous years we relied on a few nominated contributors (and I want to thank John S and Phil Malcolm for faithfully carrying that), but this year it's been especially encouraging to see a wider range of men stepping in: sharing Bible verses, songs, book recommendations, and little moments of encouragement that bless the whole group. Please keep doing this; these small contributions genuinely make a big difference during the week.



Socially, we began the year strongly with plenty of opportunities to spend time together: watching football at the pub, men's breakfasts, Sixes Cricket, and a trip to the driving range. The second half of the year was quieter on the socials front (I'll take responsibility for that!), so if anyone feels stirred to help shape or support the social side of the group, I'd love to hear from you. We are definitely overdue a bowling night (someone needs to put Tim Robertson back in his box!)

Our "Men Motivated" group, where we encourage one another to be more physically active, also saw a resurgence towards the end of the year. Push-ups and press-ups made a comeback, and Josh took things to another level with a mammoth cycling challenge.

My prayer is that this culture of encouragement, brotherhood, and mutual support continues to grow as we move into a new season as two congregations. My hope is that these groups will help galvanise us, strengthen friendships, and keep us cheering one another on as we follow Jesus together.

Stan Campbell (Men's ministry)
stan@lifechurchbristol.com

Women's Ministry

At Life Church, our vision is to see **Everyone Connected, Everyone Contributing, and Everyone Growing**, and this past year we have been encouraged to see this vision lived out through the women of our church.

Over the last year, we hosted several social events that created opportunities for women across the church to gather, build friendships, and enjoy time together. Our **Breakfast Brunch** was a highlight, and our **WhatsApp Bible studies**, where many women have engaged in discussing and reflecting on God's Word. Another fun highlight of the year was our **Bowling event**, which once again did not disappoint. Women of all ages came together for an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and great fellowship.

The most anticipated and well-received event this year was the **first-ever LCB Women's Conference**. We were blessed to have guest speaker **Keely Morley**, who shared powerfully on our identity in Christ as women. Her teaching encouraged deeper connection with God and with one another, bringing together women from those new in their faith to those who have been walking with Christ for many years.

The conversations around the tables were rich and meaningful, with thoughtful questions, shared experiences, and genuine encouragement being exchanged. It was especially encouraging to witness new relationships forming, women leaning into one another for wisdom and biblical insight, and a wonderful atmosphere of joy and unity throughout the day.



We are grateful for all that God has done this past year and look forward with expectation to how He will continue to grow and strengthen the women of Life Church as we seek to remain connected, contribute to the life of the church, and grow in our faith together.

Tara Malcolm (Women's Ministry)
tara@lifechurchbristol.com

Pastoral Care

At Life Church we seek to make caring for others an integral part of all we do. Jesus said to his disciples, *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."* Mark 6:31. Jesus practiced good self-care and encouraged his disciples to do the same. As we care for others, it's always good to remember to enjoy His care for us. The apostle John reminds us that we love because he first loved us. In the same way, we care because he cares for us.

This year the team has been active in many aspects of pastoral care. There have been visits to older members, at home or in hospital, along with arranging transport to church for some. We're constantly reminded of God's faithfulness to us in the face of all difficulties and it's good to be able to demonstrate God's comfort in all circumstances of life.

A joyful part of pastoral care is always preparing and delivering a basket of baby essentials to a home which has just welcomed a new life. There have been several this year, as the church grows in more ways than one! We also try to arrange a meal train for the family in the first week or so. There has also been occasional practical help for people, when needed.

At Life Church pastoral care is an important part of our clusters and prayer pods, as we care for one another. As a team we reach out to cluster leaders to offer support and to pray with them as they lead, while also experiencing the highs and lows of life. In this way our work complements their ministry and seeks to provide encouragement. We also reach out to people who are not yet part of a cluster or prayer pod, to offer pastoral support and to encourage them to connect.

In these ways, the pastoral care team seeks to support the extensive pastoral work of our pastors, which takes place over the year. In February next year we will launch a new church venue which will meet at the Vassall Centre and we look forward to continued growth as we seek to facilitate pastoral care over our two church venues.



John and Ruth Doherty & team
pastoral@lifechurchbristol.com

Community Outreach

As Community Outreach Pastor, my heart for outreach is rooted in the call of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19, NIV). With this mission in mind, I have continued to step intentionally into our local community, particularly within the Frome Vale and Fishponds area of Bristol, seeking to build genuine relationships and invite the church into the life of the community.

A key focus this year has been strengthening our presence at Vassall Community Hub, where we are based. One of the most encouraging initiatives has been our **Tea and Tots** group, created as a welcoming space for local parents and carers with young children. Each week families gather to enjoy playtime, conversation, and encouragement from church volunteers and staff. The response from the community has been overwhelming, with the group regularly oversubscribed. As a result, we are preparing to launch a second group to meet the growing demand.

Through building relationships with families at Vassall Community hub, schools and the children's centre we have also been greatly encouraged to see children and families connecting with our **LCB Kids and Youth Clubs** on Friday evenings. These clubs provide a safe and welcoming environment where children can have fun, build friendships, and learn more about Jesus while simply enjoying being kids.

Through ongoing relationship-building, social prescriber referrals, and community enquiries, we have also been able to offer practical help to those in need. In partnership with Bristol Charities through the **Fix It Forward** programme, volunteers have supported residents by cleaning gardens and assisting with minor DIY projects. These acts of service have opened many doors for meaningful conversations and connections with some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Another important outreach has been **Soup and Social**, a warm space drop-in where anyone in the community can come for food, conversation, and a welcoming environment. By partnering with other local charities, we have been able to invite and support those

experiencing poverty, loneliness, or isolation. Many cups of tea and coffee have been shared, along with countless opportunities to listen, care, and offer encouragement.

During the summer months, volunteers also spent several very hot days helping prepare a **community garden** at the hub. This shared space has been developed for everyone in the community to enjoy, offering a place where people can gather, relax, and connect with one another.

Our partnership with Bristol Charities also provided opportunities to serve during the **Autumn Fayre**, where our volunteers helped welcome and engage with hundreds of people from the local area. It was a wonderful opportunity to be a visible and caring presence in the community, offering practical help, friendly conversation, and a listening ear.

At **Christmas**, a team of church families gathered on the green near the local pub to bless the community with carols, mince pies, and hot chocolate. Neighbours came out of their homes to join the festivities, creating a joyful moment of togetherness. It was a beautiful reminder of the impact of simply stepping out into the community and sharing the love of Christ in practical ways.

As we close 2025, we are grateful for the many ways God has opened doors in our local area. There remain many opportunities for people to get involved in serving and being the Church **in** our community. Please contact me directly so I can share what opportunities exist and are coming soon!



Tara Malcolm (Community Outreach Pastor)
tara@lifechurchbristol.com

Tara works for the church as the Community Outreach Pastor.

Missions

At Life Church, we seek to take part in the fulfilment of the Great Commission, which Jesus gave to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20.

To make this a priority, we aim to give ten percent of our total church offerings. Through our mission giving, we are impacting our world on a local, national and global level. We, in turn, are inspired as reports come back from our missionaries and evangelists, telling what God is doing through them.

On a regular basis, we support the following organisations:

- Life Church Vienna – Our missionary Caroline Hickley reports that the new church plant is growing and becoming established.
- Streetlife – Volunteers from Life Church and others continue the practical and spiritual outreach to vulnerable people on the streets of Bristol.
- Compassion – We continue to sponsor Marvin, as he grows and has the opportunity to get an education and a knowledge of the gospel.
- India Hope – Pastor Jacob and his team continue to care for over 6,000 children in an area of extreme poverty in central India. This year they have also set up a hospital to provide medical care to the local community.
- Beloved – We help to fund this vital work, reaching out to women who are caught up in the sex industry in Bristol. The team brings a message of hope and much needed practical care.
- ACT – This Oxford project seeks to help former prisoners turn their lives around through faith in Christ.
- Freedom Church – We continue to support this church planting mission in Aberystwyth, Wales, headed up by Jon and Carly Butler. The church is becoming established and they are praying for local leaders to be raised up.

In addition, this year we have been blessed to have a surplus budget to invest in missions. We've provided one-off gifts for the following mission endeavours, some of which are in sensitive countries where evangelism is difficult:

- Evangelism and leadership training in the Far East - Vee Davidson has been a missionary in this region for many years. She teaches at a Bible Institute in the Philippines and ministers in churches throughout the region.
- Church planting in a Middle East Country - Stefano Guaglione Leads a church plant in this difficult region. He reports a hunger for the gospel as the new community takes root.
- Evangelism in Central Asia - Jonathon and Saule Rodgers have a calling for this former Soviet republic, where they help a local church and seek to establish new contacts.
- Church planting in Asturias, northern Spain - Gabriel and Daniela Corradini have been labouring in the region for many years and have established several churches. They are currently working in three towns in Asturias.
- Bristol Churches City Fund – This fund provides resources for local churches to set up projects beneficial to the community in and around Bristol.
- Development project, Kenya – We have helped Key to Life church purchase a container which will be refurbished to serve as a workshop for new local businesses. In this way, the gospel is having an impact on the community.
- Supporting pastors of church plants in the near East – Mark and Marie Lees regularly visit pastors in this country, where the gospel is little known. They'll be travelling soon to bring encouragement and resources to 5 pastors as they build the church in their area.

We feel incredibly humbled and privileged to play a small part in all these great ministries. And our prayers accompany our gifts as we look to God for the harvest.

Missions Oversight Team

Looking Ahead into 2026

As we look ahead to 2026 we are really excited at the opportunity to plant a new congregation, Life Church Vassall, in February 2026. The encouragement we sense from God is to keep stepping forward. This isn't a time to rest or get comfortable, but a moment for us to pursue God's presence, and *'press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus'*.

What Can I Do?

We're so grateful for everyone who calls Life Church their home and we'd encourage you to keep asking **What is my next step?** Why not consider:

- **Commit to taking a step this year.** Look at the website and get some ideas for what your next step might be. Choose one thing and keep growing. www.lifechurchbristol.com/next
- **Get connected to a Cluster.** Clusters are smaller groups that meet once a month that form the springboard into Prayer Pods. Prayer Pods are small discipleship groups that meet, encourage and pray. They are the best way to get connected with us, find encouragement and prayer in the church. You can get involved by going to www.lifechurchbristol.com/clusters
- **Joining a team**. One of the best ways to get connected is to put yourself into a place where you are contributing. There are many teams we have and you can join one by going to https://www.lifechurchbristol.com/next-steps/join-a-team.
- **Giving** to the work of Life Church. We are so thankful for each person who gives financially to the work of the church. You can give online or find out more details by going to www.lifechurchbristol.com/give.
- Being an **encouragement**. Encouragement is a powerful thing! We often grow the most as we give out to others. We want Life Church to be a place where we actively invest in one another through friendship and mentoring. Who could you get alongside and encourage?
- Being **Present**. Life Church is not an event we come to, it is a family we walk with. We want to encourage you in what God is doing in you and where He would call you to be. Perhaps God has given you a heart and an opportunity to do something that

we cannot do as a church. Perhaps He is inviting you to step into a new place, a new job, a new ministry. We want to stand with everyone in Life Church as they obediently follow Christ and the calling He has on their lives.

Gareth & Marianne Matthews, John Doherty, Phil & Tara Malcolm and Jye Allen (The Senior Leadership Team)
slt@lifechurchbristol.com

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the reporting period.

The financial statements are included from the Receipts and Payment Accounts section of this report. At the year end, the charity's reserves were £177,079 (2024: £141,895). Receipts during the year was £208,901 (2024: £183,590), and the charity spent £173,717 (2024: £137,530).

Reserves Policy

Setting the reserve amount

The Trustees will review the reserve target amount yearly at the start of each financial year.

Taking into account LCB's financial commitments this amount will be determined by:

- Calculating the monthly committed expenditure for which we have contractual obligations. This would include employee salaries, lease, rental or mortgage payments.
- Ensuring that a minimum of 3 months of finance is held in reserve.

Holding this amount in reserve ensures that:

- In the event of a downturn in finance all employees will have at least three months of income.
- The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team have sufficient time to make spending alterations to the organisation to ensure future stability.

The reserve amount is not to be held in the 'current' account used for normal day-to-day financial activities.

The reserve amount is monitored monthly and a notification by email is sent to the Trustees if the amount of money in the bank comes within 50% of the reserve amount. (For example, if the reserve amount is £5,000, this notification would be triggered if the bank balance went below £7,500).

The current amount for 2025 is: £40,000.

Changing the reserve amount

The reserve amount can be changed by the Trustees at any time.

This should be done in line with this policy and minuted at a special meeting. Clear reasons for that change should be laid out that necessitate a change.

The Senior Leadership Team should be fully involved in this decision and give their consent.

In the event that the amount of reserves is being decreased, independent financial advice will be sought before making this change...

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. 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.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Nathaniel Campbell

Stan Campbell (Chair of Trustees)

28 April 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Life Community Church Bristol

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Life Community Church Bristol (the Charity) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 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 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 respect of the Charity 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.

Joshua Kingston BSc (Hons), FCA

Joshua Kingston

Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton
Bristol BS48 1UR

Date: 28 April 2026

Receipts and Payment Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Life Church Bristol			1202324	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01/01/25	**To**	Period end date 31/12/25	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations & Legacies	192,683	-	-	192,683	167,234
Charitable Activites	10,339	5,879	-	16,218	11,019
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Trading Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Transfer from previous Unincorporated Charity	-	-	-	-	5,337
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	203,022	5,879	-	208,901	183,590
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	203,022	5,879	-	208,901	183,590
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities	167,717	6,000	-	173,717	137,530
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	167,717	6,000	-	173,717	137,530
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	167,717	6,000	-	173,717	137,530
Net of receipts/(payments)	35,305	- 121	-	35,184	46,060
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	141,592	303	-	141,895	95,835
Cash funds this year end	176,897	182	-	177,079	141,895

Continued...

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Barclays - Current Bank Account	-	-	-
	Barclays - Savings Bank Account	-	-	-
	CAF - Current Bank Account	8,170	182	-
	CAF - Current Savings Account	168,717	-	-
	Petty Cash	10	-	-
	Total cash funds	176,897	182	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Gareth Matthews	Gareth Matthews	28/04/26

LIFE CHURCH
BRISTOL

LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL, THE VASSALL CENTRE, GILL AVENUE, BRISTOL, BS16 2QQ
WWW.LIFECHURCHBRISTOL.COM | INFO@LIFECHURCHBRISTOL.COM | REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1202324