Alverstoke Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2025

Stewardship
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

ALVERSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Mr D Cunliffe 1 South Close Gosport PO12 2PS
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution registered July 2023
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1204002
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Cunliffe (resigned February 2026) Peter Day (appointed November 2025) Jonathan Royle Iain Whitehead
ASSOCIATIONS	Member of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC).
BANKERS	TSB Bank plc Kingdom Bank Ltd
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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ALVERSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution, and the Church Handbook, and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation.

The purposes of the Church are:

· the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Alverstoke, Gosport and the surrounding neighbourhood; and

· 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.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

Regular Church Activities

We hold weekly services of worship every Sunday morning and evening which are open to the General Public.

Typically, morning service is attended by about 40 to 50 adults and children. Youth activities are run in three, age-appropriate groups: Adventurers for pre-school, J Squad for years R to 4 and Tribe for years 5 to 9. The evening service is attended by 20 to 25 people which once a month has a focus of prayer. Lifts are arranged for those who struggle to get to the place we meet, giving them the opportunity to be involved in a wider community, receiving care and help as a result. Services are also ‘Live-Streamed’ for those unable to get out.

There are several groups that meet during the week in various homes and other places as suits the needs of the church. Lifegroups meet for Bible study, prayer and mutual support. Other groups include the ladies’ morning Bible study (Growing Together), coffee morning, ladies’ prayer meeting, and a retired men’s group. Growing Together attracts about 20 ladies; some attend via video link.

Baptisms

In January, one of our teenagers was baptised.

In September, we again had the privilege of witnessing the baptisms of another teenager and a lady known to the church.

Celebrations

We celebrated 50 years of the Lord’s goodness to us over the weekend of May 17 and 18. We were joined by people who had been active in the church in the past and friends associated with us over the years. We heard reports from members of their memories and how they came to Christ through the witness of the church.

On Saturday afternoon November 22 we gathered with a large contingent of supporters from Landsdowne Evangelical Free Church for the induction of Peter Day to the role of Pastor at AEC. We heard reports from David Cunliffe and Peter of the call from AEC to Peter to become pastor and the events leading to Peter's acceptance. Our guest speaker for the occasion was Jonny Prime, FIEC Director for London who spoke from Acts 26:16.

Holiday Bible Club 2025

The Holiday Bible Club held in August welcomed 28 children from across the local community. The theme for this year was "Shipwrecked", exploring the biblical story of Jonah and how it points forward to Jesus' sacrifice and God's offer of forgiveness and rescue for all who trust in Him.

The club ran over four weekday mornings, with a fifth session taking place on the Sunday, where the children and their families joined the main church gathering.

Each day included upfront drama led by the characters Bill and Ted, who found themselves shipwrecked on a desert island alongside the rest of Class 4H. They were joined by a marooned sailor, Captain Cee, who introduced and unpacked the story of Jonah. The children were encouraged to think about key questions such as: Is God powerful? Why do we need rescuing? Why should we forgive others?

Alongside the Bible teaching, the children took part in a wide range of themed activities including building palm trees, treasure hunts, crafts, team games, singing and dancing.

The final Sunday session was a particular highlight and served as a celebration of everything that had taken place during the week. Approximately 45 people attended in addition to regular church members, including parents, siblings, and friends.

The children performed the songs they had learned, videos from the week were shown, and Phil delivered a talk on the "sign of Jonah", helping connect the story to the wider message of what Jesus came to do. The morning concluded with a BBQ, activities, and a bouncy castle, providing valuable time for conversation and relationship-building.

Feedback from families was very encouraging, with many commenting on the welcoming atmosphere and how much their children enjoyed the week. The event provided a significant opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and to continue engaging families from outside the church community.

Christmas Under Construction – December 2025

Building on the success of last year's Wonderlab Christmas Activity Day, in December we hosted our second Christmas holiday club special entitled Christmas Under Construction. This Lego and building-themed event welcomed 22 children, including 18 returning children and two new families.

Through a series of creative building challenges and storytelling, the day explored the Bible's big narrative using the theme of construction. Children were introduced to God as the Master Builder, beginning with Creation, before exploring the Tower of Babel and humanity's desire to build life independently of God. The story then moved to God's desire to dwell with His people through the Tabernacle, and how this was ultimately fulfilled at Christmas with the birth of Jesus. The day concluded by reflecting on what God is building today — a family of people who love and trust Him, follow Jesus' example, and love others.

The morning featured six hands-on building challenges, including tower construction, foundation testing, gingerbread stable building, an excavation activity, brick decorating, and guided Lego builds.

The event concluded with festive refreshments, including mince pies and warm drinks, shared with families.

We were really encouraged by the strong return rate from previous years, alongside new families joining for the first time. Several children mentioned that they were excited to return for a week long version of the holiday club next Summer.

Other Activities

In June there was a weekend away held at the Greenhouse Christian Centre in Poole for ladies connected with the church. This was a time for reflection, teaching, and time for relaxation. This is a popular annual event which is well supported.

We had a stall at the local Michaelmas Fayre in Alverstoke Village to promote the presence of the church, with the aim of making contacts. We followed this up with a quiz evening in October. At the Christmas light switch-on event held along Gosport High Street we again had a stall to advertise the church. As part of our strategy to increase our profile in the area we distributed Life Magazines at Easter time and again in the lead up to Christmas.

Membership

There were 54 people in membership of the CIO at the start of the year. One person was welcomed back into membership during the year and two people were welcomed into membership. Membership was 57 at 31 December 2025. One family is overseas on a work placement but have been kept on the membership roll pending their return.

Other Work in the Community

The Church has a Care Team that helps members and others with practical help. A small team visit those unable to get out, to give support and encouragement.

Work outside of Gosport

Christian mission work is supported in London, and overseas in Malawi, Eastern and Western Europe, Central America and Indonesia. The work in Malawi is to train local people to teach church leaders how to study the Bible text so that they can give their people a clear understanding of the Christian message. The church also supports a couple reaching out through local churches which encompasses a holistic worldview encouraging people in their relationship with God, with one another, with self and with creation. This includes practical training to care for the soil in a way that increases yields, without erosion or costly fertilisers, and to grow nutritious crops that are more suited to the climatic conditions. Work in Europe and Central America provides support to the local churches in discipleship and outreach.

The work in Indonesia trains young people from rural backgrounds to teach to a high standard and be able to take that back to their own communities.

Public Benefit

The church offers the opportunity for people to explore their spiritual needs in a welcoming environment and take part in acts of Christian worship.

We believe that changed lives from people following Jesus, learning from the Bible how to live, and through the help of God's Holy Spirit, is very much for the public benefit. But we seek to help people holistically by giving practical aid and support as shown in aspects of the activities above.

Research shows the benefits of encouraging people in their spiritual wellbeing. The public services of worship and other open meetings are therefore part of the public benefit provided by the church.

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

Review of financial activities

Comparing the finances with 2024, income has increased by £4,780 in the year to £87,240 and expenditure has decreased by £1,380 to £99,540. The rise in income is encouraging with an increase in regular gift aided giving. The slight decrease in expenditure hides an increase in our spending on literature to support our outreach and this has been offset by a reduction in giving to our Mission Partners which remains a generous 20% of our income.

This year we have also incurred costs of about £1,750 on Microsoft 365 licences for the Elders and Deacons and the website hosting. £344 of the website costs were brought forward from 2024. Overall, our available funds dropped by £12,310 to £130,500.

The financial performance of the church is monitored on a regular basis, and major items of expenditure are approved by the deacons and elders.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £12,000 (which equates to about 6 weeks of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely.

At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £130,500. The charity is holding additional funds to support a full time pastor at a time of transition.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. The trustees are supported by the Treasurer in day to day operation of the finances. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees and appointed at a Church Business Meeting in accordance with the Church Constitution and Church Handbook.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

J Royle

J Royle (Apr 22, 2026 21:17:03 GMT+1)

Jonathan Royle

Date: Apr 22, 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

ALVERSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Alverstoke Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the period ended 31 December 2025 on pages 7 to 9 following.

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:
1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

J. Young
J. Young (Apr 23, 2026 09:01:41 GMT+1)

Jaimée Young
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Apr 23, 2026

ALVERSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	17Jul2023 to 31Dec2024 £
Income receipts						
Donations		63,724	-	-	63,724	59,562
Gift aid receipts		13,044	-	-	13,044	11,921
Other grants		2,280	-	-	2,280	2,160
Events (including retreat weekend)		4,545	-	-	4,545	5,696
Interest		3,318	-	-	3,318	2,802
Other		326	-	-	326	20
		87,237	-	-	87,237	82,160
Capital and similar receipts						
Sale of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	300
		-	-	-	-	300
Total receipts		87,237	-	-	87,237	82,460
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	82,420	-	-	82,420	80,237
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	17,124	-	-	17,124	20,691
Total payments		99,544	-	-	99,544	100,928
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(12,307)	-	-	(12,307)	(18,468)
Transfers between funds	5	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,307)	-	-	(12,307)	(18,468)
Cash funds as at last year end		142,808	-	-	142,808	161,277
Cash funds at this year end	A	130,502	-	-	130,502	142,808

The notes on page 9 form part of these accounts.

ALVERSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds: General funds £	Unrestricted Funds: Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	17Jul2023 to 31Dec2024 £
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank with immediate access		13,599	-	-	13,599	29,164
Notice deposits [120 day]		116,902	-	-	116,902	113,644
		130,502	-	-	130,502	142,808
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity		3,364	-	-	3,364	3,286
Other debtors		400	-	-	400	400
		3,764	-	-	3,764	3,686
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
NEST due		249	-	-	249	199
Fee for Independent Examination		1,092	-	-	1,092	1,020
Accrued expenses		-	-	-	-	344
		1,341	-	-	1,341	1,563

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Fund to which asset belongs	Value 2025 £	Value 2024 £
Contents and equipment	General	8,036	7,579
		8,036	7,579

The trustees have used insurance values as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

E Guarantees and secured debts

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

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

J Royle
J Royle (Apr 22, 2026 21:17:03 GMT+1)

Jonathan Royle

Date: Apr 22, 2026

The notes on page 9 form part of these accounts.

ALVERSTOKE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly

	Unrestricted Funds				
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	17Jul2023 to 31Dec2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Employment costs	43,235	-	-	43,235	42,117
Equipment	2,062	-	-	2,062	1,535
Rent	17,309	-	-	17,309	16,454
Ministries and outreach	6,647	-	-	6,647	5,483
Admin and support	6,067	-	-	6,067	6,596
Insurance	423	-	-	423	411
Governance	1,341	-	-	1,341	861
Retreat	4,704	-	-	4,704	5,264
Other costs	632	-	-	632	1,516
	82,420	-	-	82,420	80,237

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

Organisations:					
UFM Worldwide	3,600	-	-	3,600	4,050
Veritas College	2,400	-	-	2,400	4,100
Arab World Ministries [AWM]	3,600	-	-	3,600	3,600
France Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,000
FIEC	-	-	-	-	1,100
Care & Share Foundation	600	-	-	600	1,300
Logos Champions	1,200	-	-	1,200	-
Organisations < £1,000	2,524	-	-	2,524	3,481
Individuals	200	-	-	200	60
	17,124	-	-	17,124	20,691

4 Transactions with related parties

Peter Day, a trustee from November 2025, served as a church leader and was paid £8,094 for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document and include employer pension contributions.

No payments were made to any other trustees or persons related to them, except for reimbursement of expenses paid out on behalf of the charity.