Community of Christ – Leicester

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2025

Charity No: 1204180

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Community of Christ – Leicester

Legal and Administrative Information

Charity Trustees
The following served as trustees for the whole of the financial year ending on 31 December 2025 and were trustees at the time of the signing of the annual report.

Janette Shardlow (Pastor)
Kathryn Haines (Financial Officer)
Rebecca Tilbury (Leadership Team member)

Address
Community of Christ, 330 Abbey Lane, Leicester LE4 2AB

Independent Examiner
Lynda Pearce

Bankers
Co-operative Bank

Community of Christ – Leicester

Report of the Leicester Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their report together with the Financial Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity, Community of Christ - Leicester was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 1st August 2023. The governing document is the Leicester Constitution, last updated on 31st July 2023, which incorporates the World Church bylaws ("the Bylaws"). The trustees are the Pastor who is elected by the congregation, the Financial Officer who is appointed by the British Isles Mission Centre Financial Officer and the members of the Pastor Leadership Team appointed by the Pastor and sustained by the congregation.

Constitution and Objects

The objects of the congregation are:

a) the advancement of the Christian religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the doctrine and statements of belief of the Community of Christ; and
b) to further or benefit the residents of Leicester without distinction of gender, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreational leisure time occupation with the objective of improving life for the residents.

The Community of Christ is a Christian church whose purpose and mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace. The Mission Initiatives of the church are to:

Invite People to Christ,
Pursue Peace on Earth,
Abolish Poverty, End Suffering,
Develop Disciples to Serve; and
Experience Congregations in Mission.

Achievements and Performance

2025 saw us offer a full programme of activities as we continued to welcome people from the community and promote our church as a community hub. We met regularly for worship on Sunday mornings with different types of worship, including Communion services, Holy Ground, Messy Church, sharing services, discussions, or simply sharing fellowship time together. We also started a study course of twelve lessons, "Sharing in Community of Christ", exploring our identity, mission, message and beliefs.

Our Wednesday morning Warm Space and Place of Welcome has continued to thrive, but again we need to attract more people to attend. We have continued to have close links with Anne Tinbergen, and the other local Police Community Support Officers, who attend our Warm Space once a month. Their attendance is also advertised in the Neighbourhood Link newsletter each month. We have also made connections with the local Housing Officer from Riverside Housing, who also attend regularly to offer support to individuals in the community.

We continued to hold several games evenings during the year which have been popular and a good opportunity for families to meet together. At our October games evening we also shared a

meal and were pleased to welcome the two new apostles assigned to the British Isles Mission Centre, Lach Mackay and Shannon McAdam, who visited along with several members of the Nuneaton congregation.

We continued to run fortnightly youth groups which open to young people from school years 2 to 11. We have a regular core of children and young people but are keen to attract more, along with new younger youth leaders. The children have engaged in projects to support those in need, including making cards and "blessing bags" for distribution to the homeless for Christmas and making blankets for a local care home. They have also enjoyed games, quizzes and crafts.

Our Women's group continued to meet in church during 2025. We have welcomed new members to the group from the neighbourhood and further afield. We have shared in jam-making, crafts, games, jigsaws, planting pots and more and it is always a joy to meet together.

The congregation also provides pastoral ministry to members and friends of the congregation.

Regular use of our facilities by local community groups and individuals is important and has continued to grow during the year. This year saw the church used on Christmas Day for the first time in many years, when a family used it for Christmas Dinner for over 20 family members. We were also pleased to welcome Day Care Nest during the year, as a regular user. Unfortunately, they were unable to find sufficient individuals to take up the service, so had to discontinue in August.

The "Stay and Play" toddler group continues to meet on Mondays and Tuesdays and is run by experienced childminders. During the year there has been no charge for the use of the building on Tuesdays during termtime, to encourage parents and guardians in the local neighbourhood to come together with their babies and toddlers at no cost. This has resulted in a significant increase in the numbers. We appreciate the work and commitment of the childminders in running these sessions. It is hoped that numbers on Mondays will continue to rise, where the childminders make a small charge to help to cover costs.

The congregation has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The congregation has sought to fulfil its responsibility to advance religion for the public benefit by:

- striving to be a community faithful to the risen Christ that courageously pursues matters of peace and justice; and
- providing worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church has to offer; and
- encouraging use of the building by groups and individuals in the local community

Financial Structure

The congregation is funded by contributions from individuals, events, hire of the building and fundraising. We have continued to receive further donations for our building project that has enabled us to repay the remainder of the loan from the Community of Christ British Isles Mission Centre.

The ministers of the congregation all serve on a voluntary basis.

Financial Results

The Operating Fund surplus amounted to £2,385, the Building Fund a deficit of £332 and the Other Charities Fund a deficit of £1,362 giving a total surplus of £690. The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows cash, bank and other monetary items totalling £8,624.

Significant income from hire of our building and generous donations during the year has enabled us to pay off the final £2,000 of our loan from the Mission Centre during 2025.

Key Risks

Our aim is for the building to be used regularly, for our own activities and through others hiring the building, so that it becomes a real community hub. The key financial risk is failure to attract sufficient individuals and groups to hire our building, which will help to support any further maintenance requirements. Our regular offerings are sufficient to support our missional programme and we expect this to continue in 2026.

Serious Incidents

There have been no serious incidents during the financial year.

Future Activities

Since the church re-opened in May 2022, we have been trying to build up our activities, welcoming children, families and adults back to regular activities such as youth groups, Messy Church, Sunday worship services and our Wednesday morning warm welcome space. We continue to promote the availability of the building for hire and hope to encourage more groups and individuals to make use of it in the coming years. We are grateful to the Stay and Play group and the childminders who continue to use the building every week.

Children's birthday parties and other family events continue to be the main reason why individuals hire our building and these are continuing into 2026, with both new and returning customers. A new group is a children's choir and musical theatre group for home-schooled children, which began in January 2026. We wish them success with this new venture.

Reserves

In the opinion of the trustees, the reserves of £8,624 are adequate but not excessive. During the year we made loan repayments of £2,000, ensuring that we retained sufficient reserves to continue our planned operations.

Volunteers

Community of Christ is primarily a volunteer organisation, with all priesthood and leadership roles being filled by self-sustaining personnel. The church could not function without such dedicated service. The congregation is blessed by the availability of dedicated persons who give of their time and skills to facilitate the achievement of the mission of the church and the functions of the congregation. We thank all who willingly serve in leadership roles or give their time in other ways.

Donors

We are grateful to all members and friends who have donated towards our building project and those who regularly give to support the congregational activities.

Approved by the Community of Christ - Leicester Trustees on 22nd February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Janette Shardlow

Janette Shardlow (Pastor)

Community of Christ - Leicester

Independent Examiner's Report

To the members of Community of Christ - Leicester.

I report on the accounts of Community of Christ - Leicester for the year ended 31 December 2025. In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011 have not been met.

In my opinion there is nothing to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed Lynda Pearce Date: 23 February 2026

Lynda Pearce

Community of Christ – Leicester

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts				
Offerings and donations	8,478	11,167	19,645	20,699
Grants	-	-	-	500
Gift aid tax refunds	1,886	308	2,194	4,227
Youth groups	110	-	110	171
Hire of building	2,015	-	2,015	2,200
Fundraising	40	0	40	297
Oblation support from Mission Centre	-	1,838	1,838	635
Sundry income	-	-	-	45
Bank interest	94	-	94	145
Total receipts	12,623	13,313	25,935	28,919
Payments				
Programme resources	110	-	110	136
Licences	357	-	357	351
Outreach and community projects	4,041	1,838	5,879	2,214
Leadership Development	30	-	30	15
World church donation	500	-	500	750
Mission Centre and Dunfield donations	1,250	-	1,250	1,500
Cleaner and cleaning supplies	1,032	-	1,032	1,060
Utilities	1,612	-	1,612	1,109
Insurance	1,080	-	1,080	1,053
Repairs and maintenance	24	-	24	277
Furniture and equipment	43	-	43	2,854
Fundraising and marketing	10	-	10	424
Stationery/Postage	19	-	19	-
Gifts	50	-	50	19
Sundry Expenses	81	-	81	66
Payments to other charities	-	11,169	11,169	8,965
	10,238	13,007	23,245	20,791
Loan repayments	-	2,000	2,000	8,000
Total payments	10,238	15,007	25,245	28,791
Net receipts/(payments)	2,385	(1,695)	690	127
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025	5,989	1,945	7,933	7,806
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025	8,374	250	8,624	7,933

Community of Christ – Leicester

Summary of Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Operating Fund	8,374	250	8,624	6,239
Building Fund	-	(0)	(0)	332
Other charities Funds	-	-	-	1,362
	8,374	250	8,624	7,933

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Cash funds		
Cash balances	125	65
Bank current account	119	82
Bank deposit account	8,380	7,786
	8,624	7,933

Church Building and Contents

The church building and contents were insured for:

	2025	2024
Building	290,717	281,158
Contents	26,900	26,900
	317,617	308,058

The land and buildings are held in trust for the Presiding Bishopric as trustees for the World Church. In accordance with church policies any decisions by the congregation in respect of the purchase or sale of properties must be approved by appropriate Mission Centre and World Church leaders with final approval being given by the Presiding Bishopric.

Liabilities

	2025	2024
Loan from the Mission Centre	-	2,000

The congregation received a loan of £50,000 during 2021 to assist with major repairs and renovation of their building. The loan was interest free and the final balance has been paid during the year.

Approved by the trustees on 22nd February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Kathryn Haines

Kathryn Haines – Trustee and Financial Officer