REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
FOR
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. Objectives and Activities

Churches Together in Bexhill Charitable Objectives:

- The advancement of the Christian Faith for the public benefit
- To further such charitable purposes as are exclusively charitable and connected to the charity in particular but not exclusively the relief of need in the community of Bexhill and Rother for those in need by reason of their youth or other social or economic disadvantage through the running Foodbanks and community hub.

Activities Undertaken:

During the year, the charity undertook the following activities in pursuit of its objectives:

- Joint worship events
- Inter-church prayer gatherings and outreach activities
- Running two foodbanks
- Running two local pantries
- Running a financial capability advice service

Public Benefit:

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its activities for the year.

2. Achievements and Performance

This year (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026), the charity achieved the following key outcomes:

- Hosted a town-wide Good Friday walk of witness with over XXX participants.
- Held monthly ecumenical prayer meetings with growing attendance.
- Continued to co-host the Hub for Ukraine Bexhill
- Bexhill foodbank fed 7087 people in Bexhill, Battle and the local villages (this equates to just over 85,000 meals). 62% of our food parcels go to families with children, 31% of people who use our foodbank have disabilities or long-term health conditions.
- The foodbank in Bexhill was refurbished, making it a much more spacious and pleasant place for our clients to receive help.
- In May 2025 we opened Pebsham Pantry and in February 2026 we opened Battle foodbank. Both of these have established themselves as valuable resources in their locality. In Pebsham we serve around 25 families each week and around 10-12 in Battle
- Our Financial Capability Advisor worked holistically with 157 clients in the year and £84,347 gains for our clients.
- Our partnership with Christians Against Poverty meant that 19 clients had their debt managed or written off, to the value of £155,607.
- Two community change groups established by our Community Development Lead, so that local people have a voice on the issues that matter most to them.

3. Financial Review

Income and Expenditure Summary :

- Total income: £315,003
- Total expenditure: £264,245
- Surplus: £50,758

We are extremely grateful to all our dedicated donors - churches, schools, community groups, small businesses and individuals from Rother who regularly donate and collect food to us. We particularly wish to thank the following for their very generous donations/ grants - The Crucible Foundation, players of People's Postcode Lottery, The Bexhill Trust, Rother District Council via Sussex Community Foundation, Arnold Clark, East Sussex County Council, Neighbourly, Rother Voluntary Action and Trussell.

We are extremely privileged to have the input of over 85 volunteers during the year and are grateful to everyone who has supported the foodbank with time and energy. The volunteer contributions can be quantified as over 9,588 hours, with an estimated valuation of £121,863 at minimum wage.

Reserves Policy:
The charity aims to maintain free reserves of 6 months of operational costs. On 31 March 2026, free reserves stood at £349,930 which meets the target.

4. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have identified the following major risks:

- Dependence on grant income
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Availability of shared facilities

Mitigation measures include diversifying income sources, volunteer training/ wellness initiatives, positively recruiting working-age volunteers and securing formal agreements for venue use.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document:
The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by a constitution dated 3rd October 2023.
Trustee Recruitment and Appointment:
Trustees are appointed under the terms of the constitution, either by nomination or election at the AGM. New trustees receive an induction pack and training as required.
Management: Day-to-day operations are delegated to the Foodbank & Advice Service Manager, under the oversight of the board of trustees.

6. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Churches Together in Bexhill
Charity number: 1205042
Principal office address : Bexhill Food bank, 19-20 Station Road, Bexhill, East Sussex TN40 1RE

Trustees during the year:

Rev Jonathan Frais
Rev Carol Cockcroft
Rev Philip Hodgins
Corinne Gadsden
Charmaine Hill
Ruth Lawrie
Lisa Young

Independent examiner: Mark Chetwynd
Bankers: HSBC and Barclays

Bexhill & Battle Foodbank continues to be a member of The Trussell trust (charity 1110522 and company 05434524 England & Wales), a national charity supporting local foodbanks. Active membership of this body provided a wide forum for the exchange of information, training and support at local and national levels.

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Charities SORP (FRS 1 02). They are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Name Ruth Lawrie

Position Trustee - Treasurer

Date 22 June 26

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Churches Together in Bexhill
I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Churches Together in Bexhill ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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
The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts do not accord with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Mark Chetwynd
Bridge House
Powdermill Lane
Battle
TN33 0SP

Date: 29 June 2026

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		Year Ended 31 March 2026			Year Ended 31 March 2025
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income					
Income from Donations and Legacies				-	
Foodbank	2	217,817	24,376	242,193	228,742
Ukraine Hub		-	391	391	10,466
General		160	-	160	515
Income from Charitable Activities					
Foodbank	3	-	68,382	68,382	44,821
Investment Income					
General		3,877	-	3,877	4,337
Total		221,854	93,149	315,003	288,881
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Foodbank		155,745	100,410	256,155	224,828
Ukraine Hub		-	6,131	6,131	5,014
General		1,959	-	1,959	1,462
Total	4	157,704	106,541	264,245	231,304
NET INCOME		64,150	(13,392)	50,758	57,577
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		285,780	47,261	333,041	275,464
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**349,930**	**33,869**	**383,799**	**333,041**

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEXHILL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1205042
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	As at 31 March 2026 Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	As at 31 March 2025 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	7	10,488	7,539	18,027	28,185
Current assets					
Other assets		-	1,303	1,303	1,103
Cash at bank and in hand	8	342,505	98,058	440,563	371,325
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,063)	(73,031)	(76,094)	(67,572)
Net current assets		339,642	26,130	365,772	304,856
Total net assets		349,930	33,869	383,799	333,041
Funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds		-	33,869	33,869	47,261
Unrestricted funds		349,930	-	349,930	285,780
		349,930	33,869	383,799	333,041

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22/6/26 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee Ruth Lawie

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019 ("Charities SORP"), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity was incorporated on 3 October 2023 and began trading on 1 April 2024. On 1 April 2024, the assets, liabilities, and operations of Churches together in Bexhill, an incorporated charity (registered charity number: 1149860) were transferred to Churches together in Bexhill (registered charity number: 1205042), a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO") established to continue the work of the former charity.

Recognition of income
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting
There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations
Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts
Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Income from interest
This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity
These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. They are valued at cost.

Individual fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvements	5 years
Fixture and Fittings and equipment	3 years

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of office space as operating leases; the title to the office remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Cash at bank and cash in hand
Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three

months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Liability recognition
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Financial instruments
The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement.

2. DONATIONS TO THE FOODBANK

	For the year ended 31 March 2026 £	For the year ended 31 March 2025 £
Donations to Bexhill foodbank	161,426	148,793
Donations to Battle foodbank	6,770	6,572
Non preformance related grants	61,941	64,972
Gift aid	12,056	8,405
	242,193	228,742

3. PERFORMANCE RELATED GRANTS

	For the year ended 31 March 2026 £	For the year ended 31 March 2025 £
Trussell Trust	68,382	44,821
	68,382	44,821

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	For the year ended 31 March 2026 £	For the year ended 31 March 2025 £
Foodbank		
Foodbank operating costs	203,591	164,350
Grant distribution	9,951	21,457
Financial inclusion advice	30,618	29,520
Depreciation	7,935	3,212
Support costs	3,060	5,289
Governance costs	1,000	1,000
Ukraine		
Ukraine grant distribution and expenses	6,131	5,014
General		
General expenses	1,959	1,462
	264,245	231,304

During the year ended 31 March 2026, expenditure on fundraising activities was £840 (2025: £nil)

The trustees identify those costs relating to governance and general support of the charity. These costs are all apportioned to the foodbank in the year end 31 March 2026 and year ended 31 March 2025. Refer to the table below for the basis for apportionment and the analysis of support costs

	For the year ended 31 March 2026 £	For the year ended 31 March 2025 £	Basis of apportionment
Employee costs	943	883	Allocated on time
General office costs	2,117	1,852	Pro rata to staff full time equivalents
Legal and professional fees	-	2,554	Invoiced amount
	3,060	5,289	

During the year ended 31 March 2026 and 2025, governance costs consisted of independent reviewer fees as disclosed in note 6.

5. EMPLOYEE COSTS

	For the year ended 31 March 2026 £	For the year ended 31 March 2025 £
Salaries and wages	91,018	70,683
Social Security costs	-	501
Pension costs	9,102	2,989
	100,120	74,173

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

The total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity was £37,732 (2025: £33,952). For specific amounts paid to trustees, see Note 13.

The average headcount during the year was 5 (2025: 3). All employees worked on charitable activities

6. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	For the year ended 31 March 2026 £	For the year ended 31 March 2025 £
Independent examiner's fees	1,000	1,000
Other fees	840	280
	1,840	1,280

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold improvements	Fixture and Fittings, and Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
As at 1 April 2024	-	551	551
Additions	23,940	6,965	30,905
As at 31 March 2025	23,940	7,516	31,456
Additions	-	3,766	3,766
Disposal	(9,291)	-	(9,291)
As at 31 March 2026	14,649	11,282	25,931
Accumulated Depreciation			
	£	£	£
As at 1 April 2024	-	(59)	(59)
Charge for the year	(2,220)	(992)	(3,212)
As at 31 March 2025	(2,220)	(1,051)	(3,271)
Charge for the year	(4,788)	(3,147)	(7,935)
Disposal	3,302	-	3,302
As at 31 March 2026	(3,706)	(4,198)	(7,904)
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2025	26,160	6,465	28,185
As at 31 March 2026	10,943	7,084	18,027

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	As at 31 March 2026 £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank	440,475	371,216
Petty Cash	88	109
	440,563	371,325

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	As at 31 March 2026 £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Payments received on account for performance-related grants	73,030	63,840
Taxation and social security	957	1,396
Accruals	2,107	2,336
	76,094	67,572

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

The charity's financial instruments comprise cash balances, and payables that arise directly from its charitable activities. The fair value of all financial assets and financial liabilities is not materially different to the book value.

The charity remains reliant on grant funding and public donations to support its core activities. A reduction in funding or economic uncertainty could impact the charity's ability to meet local need. To mitigate this, we are actively seeking to diversify income streams and build relationships with a wider base of funders, while maintaining an appropriate reserves policy.

11. OPERATING LEASES

The charity had total commitments under non-cancellable building operating leases as follows:

	As at 31 March 2026 £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Within one year	13,767	14,004
Between 1 and 5 years	-	43,179
	13,767	57,183

12. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

The purpose for which funds are held can be analysed as follows:

	As at 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2026
		£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	285,780	221,854	(157,704)	349,930
	285,780	**221,854**	**(157,704)**	**349,930**
Restricted fund				
Foodbank	28,637	92,758	(100,410)	20,985
Ukraine Hub	18,624	391	(6,131)	12,884
	47,261	**93,149**	**(106,541)**	**33,869**
Total funds	**333,041**	**315,003**	**(264,245)**	**383,799**

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2025
		£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	249,577	209,118	(172,915)	285,780
	249,577	**209,118**	**(172,915)**	**285,780**
Restricted fund				
Foodbank	12,715	69,297	(53,375)	28,637
Ukraine Hub	13,172	10,466	(5,014)	18,624
	25,887	**79,763**	**(58,389)**	**47,261**
Total funds	**275,464**	**288,881**	**(231,304)**	**333,041**

13. TRUSTEE AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

In the year ended 31 March 2026, the charity employed Ruth Frais, the wife of a trustee. She was paid £7,403 (2025: £nil). In the year ended 31 March 2025, Charmaine Hill, a trustee, was paid £952 for financial inclusivity advisory services.