Registered Charity Number 1208611

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

FOR

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number:
1208611

Principal address:
ST. JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Northumberland Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 8JF

Trustees:
Revd Ryan Sirmons - Minister
Dr Andrew Graydon - Serving Elder & Church Secretary
Irish Sirmons - Serving Elder
Anurag Vemuri - Serving Elder
Tony Harbottle-Noppen - Serving Elder

Bank:
Barclays Bank
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

Accountants:
SSYNERGY ACCOUNTANTS
The Old Courthouse
Grays, Essex,
RM17 5DD

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31st December 2025

St James's United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain and is a member church of the Northern Synod of the Church.

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31/12/2025

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2022, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective October 2019)

1. Objectives and Activities:

Aims of the Charity/ Mission Statement for St James's

Worship
To offer worship and prayer in the Reformed tradition both on Sundays and during the week.
To provide a high standard of Christian public worship in which preaching, prayer, music and other elements are used creatively and sensitively to glorify God.
To provide space for private prayer.

Witness
To present our collective Christian Witness, as a Local Church of the URC and in ecumenical partnership with other churches in the city centre.
To be visibly present as an inclusive Christian community.
To be aware of, and respond to, the needs and opportunities offered by the city.
To provide hospitality to as wide a cross-section of Christian and secular groups as may be possible.
To support the personal witness of individual Church Members.

Service
To work in co-operation with the University Chaplaincies and other bodies to minister to the wider community.
To provide support for students, particularly overseas students, both through the formal structures of the University and through personal contacts.
To make space available in the building for charities, churches, and other agencies.
To work collaboratively with the wider URC to serve the city and region.

2. Public Benefit Statement:

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in 'The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the Church provides benefit to the public by:

Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers.
Promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
Providing a space within the City Centre where community connections can be nurtured and grown.

3. Contribution by Volunteers:

The church has 4 paid employees

- A Minister of religion who is employed by the United Reformed Church Central Office and shared with three other congregations of the United Reformed Church.
- A part-time facilities manager who is employed by the church
- A part-time caretaker who is employed by the church
- A full-time pioneer youth worker who is employed by the Synod, with contribution from the church

Apart from these people, the work of the church is enabled by employees of the Northern Synod of the URC, and volunteers who help with preparation and conduct of worship, project planning, resources management, outreach to the congregation as well as catering. The managing trustees (with the exception of the Minister who is a trustee ex-officio) are volunteers and derive no financial benefit from their position.

4. Achievements and Performance:

Main Activities undertaken during the year.
St James's URC is part of the Newcastle North West and Central Joint Pastorate of the URC Northern Synod, with three other United Reformed Churches – St Andrew's Kenton, Jesmond, and West End.

The activities of the church in 2025 fell into three principal categories

a. Provision of worship and witness

Morning services were held each Sunday at 10.45am, with additional services at Easter, Christmas and other church festivals. Apart from the Minister, and a Lay Preacher who is a member of the congregation, visiting preachers from other churches (both URC and other denominations) led a number of services.
Regular mid-week activities focused on Wednesday with street engagement during the day, including service of hot and cold drinks and biscuits and a weekly service of worship in the evening during term time. The nature of these services varied from week to week and included: A monthly evening UPLIFT service providing a contemporary style of mid-week worship followed by a meal; a monthly Twilight Church evening service providing an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer and prayer requests, gathered from the community; Table Talk providing simple, free food and an opportunity for fellowship and discussion; bible study evenings.

The church is a member of Citizens UK and participated in Assemblies and campaigning events to address social issues affecting citizens in the North East.

b. Digital presence

The church maintains an active online presence including Youth Forum, website, Facebook, TikTok, What'sApp and Instagram posts.

c. Fabric and structural work

Work carried over from 2025 was completed, including re-bedding of ridge tiles, repairs to roof leaks, stripping and repainting of woodwork on the spire.
The church continues actively to seek a Church Related Community Worker (CRCW). The joint bid was successful and approved by the URC but the managing committee have yet to make an appointment due to a lack of suitable candidates.

In addition to core activities, the church has widened its impact by offering facilities to other congregations and groups whose objectives and aims are sympathetic to those of the congregation:

- Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church: a worldwide denomination with a particular ministry to the LGBTQ+ community.
- Newcastle Dream Church. A Korean language church ministering to Korean students in the city, and online.
- Newcastle Chinese Christian Fellowship. A weekly gathering of Chinese Christians.

The church is used during the week as a base for the Music Department of Northumbria University. This arrangement is three years old and was renewed in September 2024 for a further three years.

5. Investments

Balances at end of financial year were:
Skipton savings account: £31,431
Cambridge& Counties fixed rate bond: £65,801
CCLA Investments: £122,181

Policy on investment:
The CCLA investments are within their Ethical Fund which is managed on behalf of the church by the Northern Synod URC Trust.

6. Financial review

Review of the year
The results for the year and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

During the year the Charity had income of £135,672 (2024: £121,720) and expenditure of £168,138 (2024 £178,076). There was an operating deficit of £32,466 (2024 deficit: £56,356) due to the initial implementation of our policies of mission and outreach and partly funded from our designated reserves.
At 31/2/2025 the Charity had net assets of £236,568 (2024: £269,034).

7. Reserves policy

The church has a general reserve policy of holding working capital at a level sufficient to cover 6 months ordinary expenditure, plus up to 12 months Ministry and Mission donations. This currently runs at £67,000.
In addition, reserves are held in the following designated funds:
Community engagement fund: £13,287
Missional building improvement fund: (£46,229)
Energy efficiency improvement fund: £50,000
These funds have been set up to ring-fence monies for future plans as set out below.

8. Plans for future periods

Plans for the future include further development of some key areas.

- The CRCW project has not yet appointed a community worker and the scope of both project and the person specification will be reviewed. The focus will remain on loneliness and isolation in Jesmond and Sandyford areas of the city.
- Continuation of mid-week ministry. A vibrant mid-week ministry has been established with a wide range of regular activities and occasional celebration events. This will be continued and enhanced with new activities and intentional engagement of the community around us on matters of social justice.
- Outreach to students. The church has a steadily growing number of students who are regular worshippers as well as frequent new visitors, mainly on a Sunday. Activities will nurture this community and help them to engage with the church and its wider mission.
- Plans are in hand to renew all exterior paintwork, upgrade catering facilities and refresh toilets.
- New opportunities for social enterprise will be explored to widen our revenue base to support the charitable activities of the congregation.

9. Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The activities of the Church are overseen by the Trustees within the Elders' Meeting of the Church, in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and supplemented by the rules of the Church.

The trustees are also the managing trustees for the land and buildings. The title to the church land and buildings, including the church, church hall, and attached house, 8 College Lane vested in the Northern Synod Trust of the URC, as trustees and held for the benefit of St James's URC in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.
The church is a Grade 2* listed building.
It is insured for £23,942,039.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to 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. 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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30th July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Andrew Graydon – Trustee

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Saint James's United Reformed Church for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of Saint James's United Reformed Church are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of Saint James's United Reformed Church 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 for Saint James's United Reformed Church. 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 as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of 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.

Sharoon Sardar FCCA
SSYNERGY ACCOUNTANTS
The Old Courthouse
Grays, Essex,
RM17 5DD

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestri'd Fund	Restri'd Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	**1**	8,897		8,897	8,539
Other income	**2**	122,911		122,911	107,384
Charitable activities					
Investment income	**3**	3,864		3,864	5,797
Total		**135,672**	**-**	**135,672**	**121,720**
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	**4**	-		-	-
Charitable Activities	**5**	14,376		14,376	20,041
Other	**6**	153,762		153,762	158,035
Total		**168,138**	**-**	**168,138**	**178,076**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(32,466)**	**-**	**(32,466)**	**(56,356)**
Net movement in funds		(32,466)		(32,466)	(56,356)
Total funds brought forward		269,034		269,034	325,390
		236,568		236,568	269,034
Reconciliation of Funds					
Unrestricted		225,551		225,551	258,017
Restricted			11017	11,017	11,017
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**225,551**	**11,017**	**236,568**	**269,034**

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestri'd Fund	Restri'd Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	**7**	-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS	**8**				
Cash at bank		17,155	-	17,155	15,434
Investments		219,412		219,412	253,600
Debtors		-			
		236,568	-	236,568	269,034
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	**9**	-			
NET CURRENT ASSETS /(LIABILITIES)		236,568	-	236,568	269,034
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		236,568	-	236,568	269,034
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year	**10**	-			
NET ASSETS		**236,568**	**-**	**236,568**	**269,034**
FUNDS					
Unrestricted Funds	**11**	208,493		208,493	171,494
Restricted Funds	**12**		11,017	11,017	11,017
Designated Funds	**13**	17,058		17,058	86,523
General Reserves	**14**	-		-	-
TOTAL FUNDS		**225,551**	**11,017**	**236,568**	**269,034**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30th July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Andrew Graydon - Trustee

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
1	**Donations and legacies**	**£**	**£**
	Tithes & Offerings	8,897	8,539
	Total	**8,897**	**8,539**

2	**Other income**	**£**	**£**
	Gift Aid	-	2,583
	Rental Income	86,573	47,088
	Grants	35,209	-
	Other	1,129	227
	Total	**122,911**	**49,898**

3	**Investment income**	**£**	**£**
	Bank Interest	3,864	5,797
		3,864	**5,797**

4	**Raising funds**	**£**	**£**
	Total	**-**	**-**

5	**Charitable Activities**	**£**	**£**
	Outreach	-	10,276
	Ministry and Service costs	14,376	9,765
	Total	**14,376**	**20,041**

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
6	**Other**	**£**	**£**
	Bank Charges	640	-
	Building Maintenance	71,154	79,378
	Cleaning Costs	747	7,171
	Communication Costs	1,412	1,258
	Equipment Rent	521	-
	ICT Costs	383	-
	Insurance	11,277	11,168
	Miscellaneous	4,153	-
	Printing Costs	9	-
	Professional Fees	1,432	325
	Stationery	121	-
	Housing Allowance	25	2,725
	Utilities	30,179	18,549
	M&M fees	9,676	10,752
	Utilities and fuel refunds	(9,346)	-
	Unrealised loss	3,042	-
	Salaries	21,960	26,709
	Taxation	5,276	-
	Pension	1,101	-
	Total	**153,762**	**158,035**
Total Expenses		**168,138**	**178,076**

		2025	2024
8	**Current Asset**	**£**	**£**
	Cash at bank	17,155	15,434
	Investments	219,412	253,600
	Debtors	-	-
	Prepayments	-	-
	Loans receivable	-	-
		236,568	**269,034**

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
8.2	**Investments**	**£**	**£**
a	**CCLA Investments**		
	Opening	165,223	156,336
	Additions	-	-
	Disposals	(40,000)	
	Net Unrealised (losses)/gains	(3,042)	8,897
	Closing	**122,181**	**165,233**
b	**Cambridge and Counties**		
	Valuation at 1st Jan 2025	62,557	60,000
	Additions	-	-
	Disposals	-	-
	Interest	3,244	2,557
	Valuation at 31st Dec 2025	**65,801**	**62,557**
c	**Skipton Building Society**		
	Valuation at 1st Jan 2025	25,810	61,544
	Additions	20,621	-
	Disposals	(15,000)	(37,000)
	Net Unrealised (losses)/gains		1,266
	Valuation at 31st Dec 2025	**31,431**	**25,810**
	Total	**219,412**	**253,600**

		2025	2024
9	**Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**	**£**	**£**
	Accruals	-	-
	Deferred Income	-	-
	Creditors	-	-
		-	**-**

10	**Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year**		
	Loan and borrowings	-	-
		-	-
		-	**-**

SAINT JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
11	**Unrestricted Funds**	**£**	**£**
	Opening	258,017	314,373
	Movement	(32,466)	(56,356)
	Closing	**225,551**	**258,017**

		2025	2024
12	**Restricted Funds**	**£**	**£**
	James Project	9,757	9,757
	Window Fund	865	865
	Key Deposits	395	395
		11,017	**11,017**

		B/f Bal	Incoming	Expended	C/f Bal
13	**Designated Funds**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
	Unrestricted Funds	171,494	135,672	(98,673)	208,493
	Community Engagement	13,287			13,287
	Missional Building	23,236		(69,465)	(46,229)
	Energy Efficiency	50,000			50,000
	Totals	**258,017**	**135,672**	**(168,138)**	**225,551**

14	**General Reserves**		
	Opening	-	-
	Movement	-	-
	Closing	**-**	**-**

15 Analysis of staff costs and cost of key management personnel

		2025	2024
		£	£
a.	Salaries & Wages	21,960	20,636
	Social Security	5,276	4,972
	Pension	1,101	1,101
		28,336	**26,709**

No employee received remuneration above £60,000.

b. Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 2 staff (2023: 2 staff).

16 Transactions with trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits.

a. Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred in the year.

b. Transaction(s) with related parties

Donations received	2025	2024
	£	£
Dr A Graydon	600	600
Revd R Sirmons	720	660
Revd A Jackson	810	730
	2,130	**1,990**

17 Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

18 Corporation Tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

19 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2025, the charity had no capital commitments.