PEOPLE'S MISSION

Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ending 31st January 2026

People's Mission,

Fort Street,

South Shields

NE33 2AZ

Charity Reg. No 229259

God's Love Never Fails.

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Romans 12:4-5

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Pastor's Report Submitted at the 2026 Annual General Meeting

As I set about writing this report I was immediately reminded of God's faithful presence among this fellowship in 2025. Though we experienced joys, grief and challenges last year the Spirit has continued to move, breathe new life among us and invite us into deeper fellowship with Him on the corner for Baring Street and Fort Street. As Pastor, I am grateful for each of you and the unique way you embody God's love in your acts of service and support in our congregation, which is a benefit to this community.

Together in a post-Covid world we celebrated God's goodness through the many signs of hope, growth, and transformation witnessed in the Mission during the year. Below are some (*and certainly not all!)* the highlights from 2025.

We broke a few records with our Sunday attendance over the course of the year which we celebrated each time with ice-cream *(the current regular Sunday morning record is 61 people!)*. We have seen a consistency and slight growth in our attendance with a real sense of community during the fellowship time before and after our services. Our people – *including the children* – are excited to come to church and don't seem to want to leave. That's always a good thing!

In February we had our Family Games Night which was well attended by the community.

We celebrated the wedding of Nicola & Andrew Duncan (Hannah, Jacob) in March.

We celebrated the 57th Wedding Anniversary of Jimmy and Ida – *who live not far from the Mission* – with a vow renewal ceremony in March.

In April we hosted our Men's night with 14 men from 3 local churches attending, with Stuart Culley sharing a short Bible based devotional.

Phil and Bex Bragg came into Membership in April and we were overjoyed with the safe arrival of their daughter Pippa in June. We official welcomed Pippa into church life during her dedication service to the Lord in October.

I continued my role as Link Governor with Religious Education at Hadiran Primary School. In June I was invited by the school to come and teach an RE Lessons sharing about how Christians welcome children in church. In December we had over 60 pupils and staff from Hadrian come to the Mission and learn about what Christians celebrate at Christmas.

In July the Mission officially made the transition from being independent to interdependent with affiliation granted by Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC).

In September we had our harvest supper. It was a real encouragement to see the Mission family come together along with people from the community for a meal after the Sunday service.

In October we hosted the *'People's Mission Film Festival'* exploring the topic of happiness presented in the film *'Pursuit of Happiness'* and how it compared to the Biblical understanding of happiness.

In November, John Brand the Principal at the Edinburgh Bible College joined us on a Sunday morning, sharing about the work of the College. Phil continues his studies with EBC through correspondence and grown into mission life with his family who are actively participating in church life and ministry.

In December our Christmas Eve Candlelight service was standing room only – *unlike anything I've seen in previous years* – with many young people and new families attending.

Through 2025 our monthly discussion group met and worked through the chapters the Ellis Poter's book, *'Comprehensive Spirituality'* and Timothy Keller's book *'The Reason for God.'* This was an excellent □me for us to grapple with relevant topics and to go deeper into areas of discussion on faith, life, and circumstance.

We were saddened to learn that Tony Wilson – *who played guitar during the Parent's and Toddlers sessions on Thursdays, and begun teaching me guitar* – passed away suddenly in March. Also, Diane's daughter Courtney died suddenly in June and Bob Wilson passed away in July. We continue to mourn with family and friends and continue to offer ongoing support at this time.

Through 2025 Martin Alexander (wife Sheila) became increasingly involved in the music side of things, picking up where Tony left off helping me both learn guitar and play during the Thursday P&T sessions. It's been exciting to see momentum grow and both Martin and myself, and most recently Phil, have been able to bring a new musical dynamic into our Sunday morning worship with guitar. Phil and I plaid guitar for the first time in worship during the Good Friday evening service with live music becoming more frequent in our services by the end of 2025.

Phil and Martin have done an excellent job learning new and old hymns alike to aide us in our worship together, and we are deeply appreciative of Dorothy who continues to play piano on request. We are excited to see where God takes us in 2026 regarding the music side of things, and we are always looking for new people to get involved and join us on the musical journey.

As mentioned at the beginning, these are just a few of the important things that happened last year. Please consider all the ministry reports – *not as separate projects disconnected from what comes before or afterward* – but all connected and working towards the same goal to see Christ glorified on the corner of Fort Street and Baring Street. The ministry reports all testify to how alive and blessed the People's Mission was in 2025.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The People's Mission

Address: Fort Street, South Shields, NE33 2BP

Charity Number: 229259

Report Author: Gwen Smith (Secretary)

Trustees serving during the year:

- Alexander Brydon
- Colin Beechey
- Gwen Smith
- Margaret Davison
- Rachel Scott

Structure, Governance and Management

The People's Mission is an unincorporated charity governed by a Trust Deed and Constitution. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the governing documents. No new governing documents were introduced in the reporting year..

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement of beliefs of The People's Mission. The church carries out its purposes through public worship services, biblical teaching, pastoral care, outreach, and community support ministries. Activities include Sunday worship, children's groups, pastoral visits, fellowship events, Bible studies, and various mission initiatives.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in exercising their duties. The People's Mission exists to promote the Christian faith and its practical expression through pastoral care, community service, and personal transformation. All activities are open to the public and seek to express Christian love and truth in action, providing spiritual, emotional, and practical support to individuals and families in need.

Achievements and Performance

During 2025/26, the church continued its core ministry activities including Sunday worship, youth ministry, fellowship groups, and pastoral support. Special outreach events were held throughout the year, and regular prayer and discipleship meetings strengthened church unity. The AGM Minutes detail improvements in volunteer engagement, service coordination, and member care.

Financial Review

As of the financial year ending 31 January 2026, the church operated at a planned deficit, funded from designated reserves.

The People's Mission holds no restricted funds. All funds are either unrestricted or have been designated by Trustees for specific internal purposes, such as building refurbishment or operational deficit coverage.

For the financial year ending 31 January 2026, The People's Mission reported total income of £75,581.35 and total expenditure of £68,093.36. This was funded in part from previously accumulated reserves. As of the financial year-end, the charity held total funds of approximately £130,717.46, comprising £21,181.93 in current accounts and £109,535.53 in fixed-term investments.

The trustees confirm that all spending was in line with the charitable objectives.

Reserves Policy

As of 31 January 2026, The People’s Mission held unrestricted reserves of approximately £130,717.46.

A reserves policy is in place following trustee recommendation and member ratification.

Plans for the Future

In the coming year, the trustees plan to focus on:

- Reviewing the suite of recently introduced policies and procedures
- Continuation of the repair and decoration of the church building
- Deepening church membership engagement and leadership development
- Continuing core ministries and expanding outreach where feasible

Declaration

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

Position: Chair of Trustees

Accounts

For the year ending 31st January 2026

Current Accounts:	
Petty Cash	£21.91
Current Account NatWest	£21,160.02
Total	**£21,181.93**

Investments:	
Cambridge & Counties - 1Yr	£64,7,144.59
Cambridge & Counties - 2Yr	£42,380.94
Total	**£109,535.53**

Total as at 31.01.2025	£130,717.46

Income

Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2026

Category	31.01.2026	31.01.2025
Appeals	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	£2,220.77	£845.00
Gift Aid	£0.00	£7,277.01
Investments	£40,000.00	£14,760.27
Legacies	£0.00	£0.00
Macmillan Coffee Morning	£331.00	£210.00
Ministry Events	£32.00	£251.80
Miscellaneous	£502.20	£0.00
Other Offering	£394.12	£338.05
Pastor Expenses	£762.89	£0.00
Sunday Offering & Standing Order Offerings	£31,248.37	£26,145.46
Transfers	£0.00	£0.00
Weddings / Funerals / Christenings	£90.00	£450.00
Total	**£75,581.35**	**£50,277.59**

Expenditure

Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2026

Category	31.01.2026	31.01.2025
Broadband	£436.80	£403.20
Capital Expenditure	£199.19	£0.00
Cleaning	£2,043.64	£1,642.12
Donations	£476.92	£370.33
Electric / Gas / Water	£4,900.62	£4,920.28
Fire Safety	£696.55	£338.70
Harvest Items	£129.73	£13.89
Insurance & Licences	£3,218.38	£4,900.15
Kitchen Equipment	£255.58	£128.66
Macmillan	£331.00	£210.00
Ministry Events	£500.91	£1,591.93
Miscellaneous	£1,068.06	£133.75
Missionary Quota	£3,500.00	£3,500.00
Music / Books / CDs / DVDs	£144.41	£551.03
Pastor Expenses	£13,621.16	£14,974.00
Pastor Salary	£22,927.64	£20,599.72
Preacher's Expenses	£775.00	£400.00
Refreshments	£184.62	£129.16
Repairs & Renewals (incl. boiler servicing)	£11,544.29	£6,865.00
Safeguarding	£334.38	£150.00
Technical Equipment	£804.48	£48.00
Transfers	£0.00	£456.82
Website	£0.00	£217.20
Total	**£68,093.36**	**£62,543.94**

Budget

For the year 2026/2027

Category	2025/2026 (Budget)	2025/2026 (Spend)	2026/2027 (Budget)
Broadband	£430.00	£476.92	£403.00
Capital Expenditure	£3,000.00	£199.19	£3,000.00
Cleaning	£1,750.00	£2,043.64	£2,100.00
Decorating	£300.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Donations	£400.00	£476.92	£400.00
Electric / Gas / Water	£7,500.00	£4,900.62	£5,000.00
FIEC	£0.00	£0.00	£1,332.00
Fire Safety	£500.00	£696.55	£600.00
Flowers	£300.00	£129.73	£250.00
Insurance & Licences	£5,000.00	£3,218.38	£5,250.00
Kitchen Equipment	£150.00	£255.58	£250.00
Ministry Events	£3,000.00	£500.91	£2,000.00
Miscellaneous	£500.00	£1,068.06	£500.00
Missionary Quota	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	£3,500.00
Music Books / CDs / DVDs	£400.00	£144.41	£300.00
Pastor Expenses	£15,000.00	£13,621.64	£6,500.00
Pastor Salary	£20,500.00	£22,927.64	£26,739.00
Preacher's Expenses	£600.00	£775.00	£500.00
Printing / Postage / Stationery	£100.00	£0.00	£50.00
Refreshments	£150.00	£184.62	£200.00
Repairs & Renewals	£9,500.00	£11,544.29	£10,000.00
Safeguarding	£200.00	£334.38	£250.00
Technical Equipment	£100.00	£804.48	£750.00
Website	£220.00	£0.00	£220.00
Total	**£72,670.00**	**£67,802.48**	**£70,741.00**