LUTHERAN COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

(Council of Lutheran Churches)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025

Company registration number 557552
Charity registration number 232042

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Company registration number 557552
Charity registration number 232042

Registered Address:
46-48, Ground Floor, Webber Street, London SE1 8QW

The Lutheran Council of Great Britain has adopted the working name 'Council of Lutheran Churches' (CLC).

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, which trades as the Council of Lutheran Churches or 'the Council', for the year ending 31 December 2025.

Who we are:

The Council is a body of churches that have come together to express their shared Lutheran heritage and identity through common work in Britain, enriched by their cultural and linguistic diversity. Each church has its own administrative structure, which may be closely linked to the church in its country of origin, or to one of its synods or dioceses. They all offer particular ministries and programmes in Britain for the language groups they serve. The Council was established in 1948 to represent and co-ordinate the common work of Lutheran churches and parishes which have congregations or chaplaincies in Great Britain from a wide range of national and linguistic backgrounds.

- **Members**

  The ordinary members of the Council are nominated by the member churches or parishes and approved by the Directors. The following churches nominated members to the Council in 2025:

  - Danish
  - Estonian
  - Finnish
  - Synod of German-Speaking Lutheran, Reformed and United Congregations in Great Britain
  - Icelandic
  - Latvian
  - Lutheran Church in Great Britain (including Chinese, English, Polish congregations)
  - Norwegian
  - Swedish

- **Trustees and Directors**

  - Chair: Mr Per Jonsson
  - Deputy Chair: Rev. Silke Halfmann
  - Mr. Paul Renken
  - The Rev. Dr Alun Ford
  - Right Rev. Paulina Hlawiczka
  - Mrs Eerika Omiyale
  - Rev. Karsten Hansen

- **Administrative and professional staff during 2025**

General Secretary:	Meelis Süld
Head of Chaplaincy and Development	Rebecca Daniel
Student Chaplain (Leeds)	Joseph Nelson (from August 2025)
Communications Manager	Wendy Sherer
Administration Manager:	Emily Weller
Finance Manager:	Judith Edward

- **Committees**

  The Council had the following committees in 2025:

  The Finance Committee: Responsible for monitoring the Council's financial position, compliance with regulatory and financial requirements and risk management on behalf of the Trustees. This is achieved by considering regular management accounts in relation to budgets, reports on financial controls and reviewing the risk register.

  Members
  Mr Rakesh Patel (Chair of the committee)
  Mr Chris Stephens
  Rev. Alun Ford (from February 2025)
  Rev. Meelis Süld
  Miss Judith Edward

  The Investment Committee: Responsible for monitoring the Council's investment performance on behalf of the Trustees, by receiving investment reports and via meetings with investment managers.

  Members
  Mrs Eva Sheppard (Chair of the committee)
  Mr Jan-Eric Österlund
  Mr Paul Renken
  Rev. Meelis Süld
  Miss Judith Edward

  The Nominations Committee: Responsible for recommendations for Trustee appointments, by identifying current or future gaps in trustee skills and seeking suitable applicants.

  Members
  Mr Jan-Eric Österlund (Chair of the committee)
  Rev. Sarah Farrow
  Mr Per Jonsson

  The Student Work Committee: Responsible for recommending Student Chaplaincy strategy, monitoring current activities, and exploring closer collaboration with member churches.

  Members
  Rev. Rebecca Daniel
  Rev. Silke Halfmann

The Grants Committee: Responsible for proposing grant policies and strategic direction of grant awards, to oversee the grant process and to review all grant applications. The Grants Committee is responsible for the management of the two large grant agreements with the Latvian Church and the Lutheran Church in Great Britain.

Members
Mrs Madelaine Mason
Rev. Karsten Hansen (from May 2025)
Rev. Meelis Süld
Miss Judith Edward

Legal structure, governance and management

The organisation is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity in England and Wales. The Council's governing document is the Articles of Association. The Board of Trustees comprises the directors of the company.

Trustees are elected for an initial three-year period and are eligible for a further two terms of three years. The Board of Trustees can appoint a trustee to fill a casual vacancy until the next General Meeting. The Nominations Committee supports the process by seeking suitable applicants and providing recommendations. Newly elected trustees are given induction training on their duties and responsibilities as members of the Board of Trustees. Training needs are reviewed regularly, and specific training is given to trustees as required.

The Board of Trustees approves the remuneration of the General Secretary and the annual pay award given to all staff. Salaries are benchmarked against comparable roles in the charity and faith sectors.

Relationships with other bodies and external networks

The Council is a 'recognised council' of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a global communion of Lutheran churches, and is entitled to attend but not vote at assemblies of the LWF. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF represents about 95% of all Lutherans and acts in ecumenical and inter-faith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication, mission and development work. There are 150 member churches spanning 99 countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America.

The Council has been actively involved in Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), Churches Together in England (CTE), the national ecumenical bodies, as well as Faith in Europe, and the Anglican-Lutheran Society. These organisations convene meetings covering a broad range of topics related to the unity of the Church, which are attended by various Council Members and trustees.

The Council is a member of Bethphage (charity no 1046225). Bethphage was founded by a US based Lutheran charity supporting adults with learning disabilities. Now an entirely secular organisation, the Council remains one of the two members of Bethphage. A representative of the Council attends the Annual General Meeting and the Council's General Secretary is a trustee. The connection with Bethphage enables the Council to support a minority group of vulnerable people who are often overlooked by society.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objectives
The Council's main charitable object is stated in its Articles of Association: *'The advancement of the Christian religion by bearing united witness before the world to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the power of God for salvation.'*

In meeting this objective, the Council supports chaplaincy to young people and empowers its member churches through grant giving and material support by providing office space, administrative assistance, expertise over policy development and regulatory compliance. The Council also creates outreach activities with our member churches to establish a shared sense of Lutheran identity in our churches and works together with its ecumenical partners to raise awareness about Lutherans in the UK. This increases the stability of our member churches and Lutheranism in the UK in general. Thus, CLC is engaged in serving the wider community underpinned by its Christian values and seeking to strengthen the witness to Christ's Gospel of salvation.

CLC is increasingly active in the global Lutheran communion, especially with the Central/West European Region of the Lutheran World Federation.

We regularly review the uptake of grants and participation in our student chaplaincy and outreach activities.

Context

2025 has been a year filled with new activities, initiatives and opportunities, while the established arrangements with member churches, international and ecumenical partners have continued and developed further. We are actively involved in ecumenical work, especially in Churches Together in England (CTE), where CLC is a member on behalf of our member churches, and where the CLC had the privilege to appoint the President for the CTE 4th Presidency Group, currently held by Rt Rev Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman (CLC Trustee and LCiGB Bishop). Our staff members continue to represent a Lutheran voice at different ecumenical organisations and initiatives, for example General Secretary Rev Meelis Süld at the Committee of the Society of Ecumenical Studies, CTE Enabling Group, and Joint Liturgical Group; Head of Chaplaincy and Development Rev Rebecca Daniel at South Bank Churches, and the National Committee for the World Day of Prayer.

Lutheran communities in the UK live in post Brexit reality, which directly affects the member churches and the CLC. There are fewer people coming from European countries to the UK than in the past, and many of them were traditionally Lutherans (for example people from Nordic and Baltic countries, and Germany); the number of Lutheran students is therefore lower, too. However, we look forward to the latest news that the Erasmus+ programme and European student exchange will be restored from 2027. At the same time Lutheranism is growing in the world and the CLC is open to welcoming new communities as members.

Most of the Lutheran groups in the UK operate as diaspora communities (where their mother churches are based far away) and they are not dual members of a British-based Lutheran church. Therefore, the Council plays a vital role in linking pastors and communities, providing necessary support, and strengthening their congregations. However, the Lutheran Church in Great Britain is an indigenous British Lutheran church and an important partner in ministry, with a nationwide network of congregations and a church structure led by a bishop residing in the UK.

Investment and Investment Income

The Council's investments are its primary source of income. The long-term investment objective is an average total return of 3.5% + inflation, so that the portfolio maintains its value over the longer term and provides a sufficient return to fund operations. In 2025 we were slightly behind target, with a return of 6.6% compared to the target of 6.9% (3.5% + inflation). We have exceeded the target for three out of the last five years. However, due to the investment losses and high inflation in 2022, cumulatively we are slightly behind the target. But it is anticipated, as the investments are held for the longer term, that we will meet our target. The value of the investments at the end of 2025 was £19.8 million (cf. 2024: £19.7 million).

The investments were managed by two different investment managers and spread over a substantial number of different investment funds and individual shares and bonds diversified over different industries and countries with the majority denominated in sterling.

Membership

Following the work of a task force reviewing the Council's membership, the process of inviting and accepting new members was clarified. This allowed the whole Synod of German-Speaking Lutheran, Reformed and United Congregations in Great Britain to rejoin our membership in 2025 (previously only two local German congregations were members).

Committees

All committees are meeting regularly, or as often as needed, and report back to the Board. The Grants Committee continues to oversee major agreements with two of our member churches. There is a vacancy within the Student Work Committee, but negotiations are ongoing with new people expressing willingness to join. We are also considering the need for additional committees, for example Outreach/Media Committee to advise and guide on our outreach and communication programmes.

Property

We are delighted with our office at 46-48 Webber Street. In addition to our activities, there are several church groups using it regularly for their meetings (Latvian Congregation in London, St Anne's Lutheran Church--LCiGB), as well as some ecumenical groups, for example the Anglican Porvoo Panel (CofE) and the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

In 2025 the CLC acquired St George's German Lutheran Church in London, the oldest surviving Lutheran church building in Britain (1762-3), previously owned by the Historic Chapels Trust (which was compelled to wind down when its external sources of funding ceased to be available). The building was bought with the potential to become a Lutheran worship and cultural centre, especially as some of our member churches do not have their own buildings, and also because of its Lutheran heritage – a significant landmark of London. No less important was the fact that its location in central London near Aldgate East station in Zone 1 makes it easily accessible by public transport from across the metropolitan area.

Grant Giving and Donations

In 2025 the Council gave £133,000 (2024: £118,000) in grants and gifts in kind to our member churches and a further £31,000 (2024: £85,000) in grants and donations to others not affiliated with the Lutheran Council. Most of the grants were to support operational costs, but a few grants were for one-off events that engaged with a wider community.

We renewed our three-year grant agreements that we have in place for two of our churches. These agreements were established to support the respective churches in finding a sustainable long-term strategy and are in place until 2028.

As an expression of gratitude for the funds which the Council received in its early years for the establishment of the International Lutheran Student Centre (ILSC), the board decided to set aside £100,000 and donate this amount over a 10-year period towards charitable purposes at the discretion of the trustees. This means a donation of £10,000 in total will be made each year. In 2025, this donation was shared between four charities that provide support to refugees.

Student Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy initiatives have seen significant growth and impact over the past year, strengthening connections with students and young adults.

As part of developing the Student Chaplaincy, a new approach was approved and implemented to employ English-speaking Student Chaplains directly, whereas previously this had been done by granting funds for chaplaincy work. The first staff transfer was concluded in the summer to secure part-time ministry at the Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust. This supports efforts to widen and deepen engagement with both local and international students and young adults.

CLC Student Chaplains, in partnership with the Multi-Faith Chaplaincies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London (SOAS) and in Leeds, remain committed to promoting diversity, integration, and inclusion among all students, welcoming those of all faiths and none, including LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority communities. This work expands CLC's student chaplaincy presence in a diverse international academic environment and includes facilitating ecumenical worship for Christian students.

Collaboration with St Mary's German Church (London) also remains strong, with the 'Luther Hub' continuing to serve as a welcoming space for international student and young adult gatherings. Regular 'Eat & Encounter' events are held here, where students can cook, eat and have meaningful conversations. For the past three years the CLC Student Chaplaincy has offered mentoring and internship opportunities for social work students from Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (DIAK) in Finland. These placements provide invaluable experience by connecting students with member church programmes and higher education chaplaincies.

Outreach

The Council's regular outreach activities included communication through social media, newsletter, website and our podcast (*Lutherans in the UK: Living Grace*), as well as strengthening the contact with our member churches and partners through in-person meetings.

We have kept our office doors open on Tuesdays for midday prayer, sometimes livestreamed on YouTube and shared on social media. Our number of followers on Facebook has increased gradually over the last year and has reached 1072 (+122). Our Instagram has 241 (+91) followers so far (started in 2024), and YouTube channel 188 (+38) subscribers. The monthly newsletter reaches 152 (+12) recipients. The *Lutherans in the UK – Living Grace* podcast continues to be produced regularly and is available on all major podcast platforms.

In 2025 the Council relaunched our official website to present our ministry and network of Lutheran churches in the UK more clearly and with increased ease of access.

Our staff members continue to strengthen the links with member churches and ecumenical partners by visiting member ministries, organising joint events, and participating in ecumenical organisations and initiatives.

One of the outreach activities is the LGBTQ+ support and interest group *Lutherans Inclusive* that gathers monthly, providing safe space and pastoral care for LGBTQ+ Lutherans, but open to allies and other faith traditions as well. The group prepares the CLC's participation in the annual London Pride parade and has jointly organised (with St Anne's Lutheran congregation at St Mary-at-Hill Church) a Pride Service in June and Queer Carols in December at our new premises, St George's German Lutheran Church.

With a strategic focus on strengthening collaboration and bringing CLC member churches together, several key initiatives have been launched, including the CLC Clergy Breakfast gathering (three times a year), the CLC Chairpersons' Gathering (twice a year), and the annual CLC Clergy Retreat. These gatherings provide opportunities for collegiality, idea-sharing, and potential collaboration between local communities which may not otherwise be apparent.

The CLC has taken the initiative in organising several services with the potential to bring Lutherans (and ecumenical guests) together. For example, in 2025 we held joint World Day of Prayer and Ascension Day services, and a Reformation Day service preceded by a lecture on William Tyndale and his links with Wittenberg and Martin Luther (acknowledging the 500th anniversary of the New Testament being translated into Early Modern English). In Autumn we collaborated with South Bank Churches to celebrate the Season of Creation with other local churches in London Waterloo area. One highlight of 2025 was our visit to Geneva, Switzerland, along with people from CLC member churches and ecumenical guests, to meet representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

FUTURE PLANS AND STRATEGY

We remain aware of the challenging global situation and the need to maintain a strong financial position. Our financial strategy has been for our investments to fund our expenditure requirements, however with the new costs of running St Georges, we will need to seek new income sources. In 2026 we will develop income from events and the hire of our premises.

Our office on Webber Street offers a modern meeting space with multiple meeting rooms, equipped with hybrid meeting capacity, and we have a small theological library and a recording studio. We want to promote the use of the space within our member churches, and give a chance for other organisations--especially other Christian organisations and charities--to rent the space. This all benefits our own publicity and networking with others, as well as may help to create some income.

In delivering our charitable objectives our strategy has three pillars: to support our churches, to provide external representation and to support ecumenical relations.

The relationship with our member churches is a priority as is identifying where the CLC is able to assist, support, and/or coordinate: sharing information, augmenting publicity/visibility via our communication channels, providing essential briefings and trainings, bringing people together, organising joint worship services, offering collaborative activities which individual member churches may not be capable of on their own, communicating our churches' needs to ecumenical partners, etc.

We are shaping plans for the use and maintenance of the newly acquired St George's German Lutheran Church in Aldgate to make this historic building a well-known Lutheran centre where Lutheran faith, history, culture, and art meet. We envision a home for congregations without premises, a venue for lectures and concerts, a sanctuary for our midday prayer and eucharist services, and a setting for new outreach activity, considering the vibrant neighbourhood, residential buildings and offices nearby.

The Council continues to look for new initiatives and groups to work with, and to re-establish some ministries that have been less active or on pause for some time. For example, we gifted a grant to support Estonian Lutheran ministry in Britain, and negotiations have been ongoing with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary to resume worship services in their native language.

The Council will also continue to look for new members, as there may be several opportunities to help organise Lutheran groups that do not have a local connection to Lutherans in Britain. Following our recent review of the membership requirements and the application and acceptance process, we will look to invite Lutheran communities to join the CLC directly as full members or alternatively suggest that they link to an existing member church.

CLC prioritises continuous partnership with ecumenical friends, especially in the Porvoo setting with Anglicans, but also with CTE and CTBI, and the Lutheran World Federation where we are a recognised council – this helps link the UK Lutheran community more closely with our siblings in Britain and beyond. We regularly evaluate whether there is any benefit in joining other national or international bodies if it helps support the vision and mission of the CLC.

Going Concern

The Council is confident that it will continue to be a going concern. The Council has a very strong balance sheet and resources that will see it through the foreseeable future. The Council's strategy is to ensure that it is sustainable over the longer-term and the annual budget is set accordingly, ensuring that both short-term and long-term goals can be met.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of financial position

Incoming and outgoing resources for the year are detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA), together with the net gains and losses on investments and fixed assets.

Overview of 2025

We continue to be in a healthy financial position, and during the year we maintained our expenditure on operations and developed our capacity. Our staff resource for Chaplaincy was increased, as we employed a student chaplain based in Leeds. The purchase of St George's German Lutheran Church was completed in November 2025. This building will be used for services and events.

The funding of our activities is reliant upon our investments, and the investments performed well, with a return of 6.6%. Net income after investment gains for the year amounted to £0.6 million (2024: £0.9 million).

Total funds carried forward at 31 December amounted to £22.8 million (2024: £22.3 million). This comprised £19.8 million (2024: £19.8 million) in unrestricted funds, and £3.1 million (2024: £2.5 million) in designated funds. There were no restricted funds (2024: £nil).

Income

Total income was £0.6 million (2024: £0.9 million). The majority of the income was from investments. There was a reduction in income compared to 2024, as that year included £0.4 million gain on disposal for 4, Sandwich Street.

Expenditure

Total resources expended was £0.8 million in the year (2024: £0.8 million).

- The Costs of Generating Funds had a modest increase to £110,000 (2024: £101,000), due to an increase in investment management fees.
- Overall Charitable Expenditure was £0.7 million (2024: £0.7 million).
    - Expenditure on Grants and other support for churches was £164,000 (2024: £151,000), this included the 3-year agreements with LCiGB for £109,000 and the Latvian Church for £8,000.
    - Expenditure on External Grants and Donations reduced to £35,000 (2024: £89,000), as in 2024 it included the grant made to Mansfield College for the 3-year refugee scholarship of £45,000.
    - Expenditure on Outreach was steady at £189,000 (2024: £191,000), as we continued with our social media activities, podcasts and training events for members and participated in external events.
    - Expenditure on Chaplaincy increased by £37,000 to £155,000 (2023: £118,000), due to the new student chaplain in Leeds. Throughout the year we provided a range of student services and events.

Investment Gains

There was a net gain on investments of £0.8 million (2024: net gain £0.8 million). The investment values have increased for the third year in succession, due to economic stability and low inflation.

The Balance Sheet

Tangible Fixed Assets

The Council holds various tangible fixed assets to support its activities.

The Council owns the leasehold for the ground floor of Trident House, 46-48 Webber Street, which is used to provide office and meeting spaces.

The Council purchased St Georges German Lutheran Church, Alie Street, London, E1 8EB. As a place of worship, it will primarily be used for church services by our members and other congregations. The cost of the purchase (including fees) was just over £0.6 million.

Investment policy

The performance of the financial investments is measured on a total return basis (combining income and capital growth). The total return was a gain of 6.6%. This was marginally behind our target return of 3.5% + CPI = 6.7%, and not as good at the benchmark for comparable funds which had a gain of 8.6%.

Investments are made according to ethical principles; investments are only made in companies that have sustainable business practices and manage their environmental, social and governance responsibilities well. Both fund managers have mechanisms in place to ensure our investments meet these criteria.

Reserves Policy

The policy states the minimum level of working capital that is to be held in the General Fund to ensure the Council can meet its operational and grant giving activities and maintain sufficient capital to be sustainable over the medium to longer term. The level is subject to annual review. The Finance Committee has determined that the minimum level of the General Fund should be £21.2 million and a target level of £23.5 million; this was an increase from the previous year, due to the additional costs of running St Georges. At the end of 2025 the General Fund was £19.8 million, which was below the minimum level. It is anticipated that this shortfall will be resolved as steps will be taken to reduce the reserves target, including expenditure savings, income generation and moving to a slightly higher investment return with more equity exposure.,

Designated Funds

The Council has three active designated funds.

- Fixed Asset fund, which represents the funds tied up in functional fixed assets used for charitable purpose.
- Donation fund, in recognition that the ILSC was funded by donations. When it was sold, it was agreed to set up this fund to make an annual donation to causes that aligned with the Council's mission.
- Student fund. This fund is to provide support to students. The fund closed in 2025, as it had been fully utilised. Future funding to support students will be drawn from general funds.
- Pastor training fund. This fund was set up in 2025; it is a grant fund for those in theological education.

Further details are given in note 16 to the financial statements.

Restricted Funds

The Council has no restricted funds.

Risk Management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks, financial and non-financial, to which the Council is exposed in the course of its current activities. The Finance Committee reviews risks at its meetings, ensures that the risk register is current and reports regularly to the Trustees to ensure that the risk management is kept up to date. Trustees have assessed these risks and have ensured that appropriate systems and controls exist to minimise internal risks and that effective response mechanisms exist to respond to and minimise the impact of external risks. The Council's principal risks and mitigation strategies include risks to safeguarding in its member churches, reputation, health and safety, governance and finance.

After mitigation and considering the impact and likelihood, the Council's top risks and strategy for mitigating them at year end were as follows:

Risk	Mitigation
• Poor investment performance, impacting ability to give grants and deliver outreach programme.	• Investment committee with investment expertise to guide decision making; funds invested with two investment managers; regular reports from managers to monitor performance.
• Reputational risk arising from a safeguarding incident	• Provide safeguarding training and support to member churches
• Loss of relevance due to reduction in Lutheran community in UK	• Provide programme of events and facilities that engage with our member churches and wider community.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 and have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the various activities of the Council provide a public benefit. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no private benefit from the Council.

The Council has not performed any direct fundraising activities during the current year apart from one collection at St Georges German Lutheran Church which received £44 in donations. There were no fundraising activities in the prior year. No complaints have been referred to the Fundraising Regulator during this period.

PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

Auditors
Knox Cropper LLP,
65-68 Leadenhall Street,
London EC3A 2AD

Solicitors
Broadfield Law LLP,
1 Bartholomew Close,
London EC1A 7BL

Bankers
CAF Bank Ltd,
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

Investment Managers and Advisers
Cazenove Capital Management,
1 London Wall Place,
London, EC2Y 5AU

Rothschild & Co Wealth Management UK Limited
New Court, St Swithin's Lane
London EC4N 8AL
United Kingdom

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Lutheran Council of Great Britain for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS102 (2019);
3. make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors
The Council's auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, a limited liability partnership, were appointed at the June 2025 General Meeting. The Trustees (as directors for company purposes) who held office at the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts confirm that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Director to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information. This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Per Jonnson
Chair



Silke Halfmann
Deputy Chair

Date: 7th May 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Lutheran Council of Great Britain (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report, included within the Trustees' Report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are Required to Report by Exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Proper and adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of their activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with their legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Richard Billinghurst (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP (Statutory Auditor)
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD
Date: 07 May 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total 2024
Income		**£**	**£**	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Grants, donations and contributions	3	**2,294**	**2,294**	2,000	2,000
Income from charitable activities					
Rental and event income		**-**	**-**	9,715	9,715
Income from investments	4	**558,376**	**558,376**	475,518	475,518
Other income					
Gain on disposal of fixed asset		**-**	**-**	420,031	420,031
Sundry income		**-**	**-**	61	61
Total income		**560,670**	**560,670**	907,325	907,325
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds	5	**110,201**	**110,201**	101,268	101,268
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Outreach (Ecumenical relations and communications)		**189,028**	**189,028**	190,902	190,902
Student chaplaincy		**154,621**	**154,621**	118,167	118,167
External Grants and Donations	6	**34,933**	**34,933**	88,866	88,866
Grants and other support for churches	7	**164,068**	**164,068**	151,047	151,047
Accommodation at 4 Sandwich St		**-**	**-**	45,906	45,906
St Georges		**21,245**	**21,245**	-	-
Governance costs		**97,481**	**97,481**	113,057	113,057
Total charitable activities	8	**661,376**	**661,376**	707,945	707,945
Total expenditure		**771,577**	**771,577**	809,213	809,213
Net gains on investments	13	**773,489**	**773,489**	765,958	765,958
Net income		**562,582**	**562,582**	864,070	864,070
Transfer between funds		**-**	**-**	-	-
Net movement in funds		**562,582**	**562,582**	864,070	864,070
Funds at 1 January		**22,299,141**	**22,299,141**	21,435,071	21,435,071
Funds at 31 December	16 / 17	**22,861,723**	**22,861,723**	22,299,141	22,299,141

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	**3,047,483**	2,476,943
Investments	13	**19,804,026**	19,743,008
		22,851,509	22,219,951
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	**13,660**	27,419
Cash at bank and in hand		**45,579**	103,999
		59,239	131,418
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	**(48,698)**	(51,639)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**10,541**	79,779
Pension liability	15	**(327)**	(589)
NET ASSETS		**22,861,723**	22,299,141
FUNDS			
Restricted funds		**-**	-
Unrestricted funds	16		
Designated funds		**3,106,983**	2,538,849
General funds		**19,754,740**	19,760,292
TOTAL FUNDS	17	**22,861,723**	22,299,141

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies provision of the Companies Act 2006, and were approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 7th May 2026 and were signed on its behalf by



Per Jonsson
Chair



Rev. Silke Halfmann
Deputy Chair

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure)	**562,582**	864,070
Depreciation charges	**76,609**	91,368
(Gains)/Losses on fixed assets	**-**	(420,031)
(Gains)/Losses on investment assets	**(773,489)**	(765,958)
Investment income	**(558,376)**	(475,518)
Trade and other receivables: decrease/(increase) in debtors	**13,759**	(17,900)
Trade and other payables: (decrease) / increase in creditors	**(2,941)**	8,055
(Decrease)/Increase in pension liability provision	**(262)**	562
Net cash (used in) operating activities	**(682,118)**	(715,352)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	**(647,149)**	(3,498)
Proceeds on sale of fixed assets	**-**	1,461,821
Purchase of investments	**(1,033,601)**	(1,496,809)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	**1,120,092**	1,123,623
Net cash movement in investments	**625,980**	(850,005)
Investment income	**558,376**	475,518
Net cash generated from investing activities	**623,698**	710,650
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the period	**(58,420)**	(4,702)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	**103,999**	108,701
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	**45,579**	103,999

Net Debt Reconciliation

	2025
	£
Analysis of changes in net debt:	
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January 2025	**103,999**
Cash flows	**(58,420)**
Cash and cash equavalents as at 31 December 2025	**45,579**

1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Lutheran Council of Great Britain meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The Lutheran Council of Great Britain is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, the charitable company address is listed on the company information page. The financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of the financial statements are:

(a) Fixed assets

Properties in the ownership of the Council are stated at the cost of additions and improvements. Office equipment, fixtures and fittings are stated at cost.

(b) Depreciation

Assets costing over £1,000 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis by reference to the expected useful lives of the assets. Their useful lives are estimated as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold and leasehold properties	50 years
Leasehold improvements	20 years
Kitchens and bathrooms	10 years
Plant and equipment	10 years
Furniture and fittings	5 years
Computers and office equipment	3 years

(c) Income

All income is accounted for when the Council has entitlement, there is probability of receipt and the amount is measurable.

(d) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust to be applied for specific purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purpose and use of designated funds are described in the notes to the financial statements.

General funds are the accumulated surplus of income over expenditure. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

(e) Grants payable

Grants payable include all grants commitments that have been approved during the year and recipients have been notified.

(f) Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value in accordance with SORP 2019. The Statement of Financial Activities includes gains and losses arising from the revaluation of investments. Cash and cash funds held by investment managers is recognised as part of investments.

(g) Pension cost

The Council contributes to a group staff pension scheme. All pension schemes are defined contributions schemes. The pension cost represents contributions payable by the charity during the year.

(h) Expenditure

Costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure directly attributable to the Council's charitable objectives plus support costs.

Grant costs include all grant commitments that have been approved during the year and the recipients have been notified. The Grants Committee can approve grants under £5,000; all other grants are approved by the Board of Trustees.

Support costs comprise the costs of central management and administration insofar as these are not directly attributable to other activities. They are allocated to the costs of generating funds, charitable activities and governance according to staff time spent on each activity.

(i) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged back to the original cost category where the cost was incurred.

(j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term deposits that are held at the bank. It excludes cash and cash funds held by Investment Managers.

(l) Creditors

Amounts due to creditors are measured at their settlement amount. Deferred income is recognised as the amount receivable as an advanced payment for goods or services that must be provided.

(m) Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and 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 value, except for investments which are measured at fair value.

(n) Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

In preparing the financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The judgements and estimates considered by the trustees to have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements relate to the fair value of financial investments, which is made on the basis of advice from our investment managers and would be consistent with redeemed value if the asset were to be sold. The trustees do not consider there are any further critical judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure.

(o) Going concern

The trustees have reviewed detailed cash flow projections to December 2027 and have agreed detailed budgets for the year ended December 2026. Both sources of income and types of expenditure have been reviewed. Whilst one of the main charitable purposes is to provide grants to support Lutheran Churches, the level of expenditure is at the discretion of the trustees and can be adjusted during the year. The trustees have also considered the Council's working capital and capital expenditure requirements. As a result of the foregoing the trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

3 DONATIONS AND GRANTS

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and grants	**44**	-
Subscriptions from Members	**2,250**	2,000
	2,294	2,000

In 2025 and 2024 all donations and grant income was unrestricted, there was no restricted income.

4 INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025 £	2024 £
Interest receivable	**77,649**	26,159
Dividends receivable	**480,727**	449,359
	558,376	475,518

In 2025 and 2024 all investment income was unrestricted, there was no restricted investment income.

5 RAISING FUNDS

Expenses relating to:	**2025 £**	2024 £
Investment managers' fees	**101,007**	97,223
Support costs for managing Investments and Sandwich Street	**9,194**	4,045
	110,201	101,268

6 EXTERNAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Support for third parties includes the following grants and donations during the year.

	Total 2025 £	Total **2024** £
Project Bonhoeffer	1,300	-
Churches Higher Education Liaison Group	1,500	-
Bethphage	10,000	-
Exeter Cathedral - Northern European Cathedrals Conference	5,000	-
Calais Light	2,500	-
Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	2,500	-
Bonham Tree Aid	2,500	-
Holy Cross Church, Harju-Risti, Estonia	2,500	-
Leeds Lutheran Church House Trust	-	11,648
Baltic Council of Great Britain	-	2,000
Society for Ecumenical Studies	-	75
Westfield House	-	3,050
Lutheran World Federation appeals:		
- Ukraine crisis	-	10,000
- Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem	-	10,000
Mansfield College - Sanctuary Scholarship	-	45,000
Student support grants and other small donations	3,100	3,000
	30,900	84,773
Support costs	4,033	4,093
External grants and donations	**34,933**	**88,866**

In 2025 and 2024 all 'External Grants and Donations' expenditure was unrestricted.

7 GRANTS AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR CHURCHES

Other support for Members includes the following grants during the year.

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Lutheran Church in Great Britain		
- Bishop, Dean and Bishop's Assistant	**27,810**	28,450
- Support for pastors	**26,502**	19,100
- Chaplaincy Nottingham and Leeds	**16,995**	15,700
- Capacity building / administration support	**37,780**	36,198
- Racial justice project	**-**	5,000
	109,087	**104,448**
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in GB		
- Pastor salary support	**2,000**	6,000
- Travel and premises for services	**5,500**	4,000
	7,500	**10,000**
Finnish Church	**3,312**	-
Icelandic Church	**8,518**	-
Estonian Church	**5,000**	-
Swedish Church	**-**	4,000
Grants Disbursed to Members	**133,417**	**118,448**
Support costs	**30,651**	32,599
Total Costs for Grants and Other support for churches	**164,068**	**151,047**

There is a three year grant agreement with the Lutheran Church in Great Britain commencing May 2025. Due to the terms of the grant agreement only the first year commitment is accounted for in the 2025 results for £82,740. A further gift-in-kind of administration support is provided on an annual basis for £26,347 (2024: £25,648).

In 2025 (2024: nil) all 'Grant and other support for churches' expenditure was unrestricted.

8 TOTAL EXPENDITURE - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Support costs	**Direct Staff and training costs**	**Establishment and office costs**	**Other costs and grants**	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Costs of raising funds	9,194	-	-	101,007	**110,201**	101,268
Outreach	77,094	80,723	567	30,644	**189,028**	190,902
Student chaplaincy	52,597	82,739	5,391	13,894	**154,621**	118,167
External grants and donations	4,033	-	-	30,900	**34,933**	88,866
Grants and other support for churches	30,651	26,347	-	107,070	**164,068**	151,047
St Georges	17,097	-	4,148	-	**21,245**	-
Accommodation at 4 Sandwich St	-	-	-	-	**-**	45,906
Governance costs	76,211	-	-	21,270	**97,481**	113,057
Total charitable activities	257,683	189,809	10,106	203,778	**661,376**	707,945
	266,877	**189,809**	**10,106**	**304,785**	**771,577**	809,213

Prior year expenditure - unrestricted funds	Support costs	Direct Staff and training costs	Establishment and office costs	Other costs and grants	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising funds	4,045	-	-	97,223	101,268
Outreach	76,240	76,321	215	38,126	190,902
Student chaplaincy	51,922	59,130	541	6,574	118,167
External grants and donations	4,093	-	-	84,773	88,866
Grants and other support for churches	32,599	25,648	-	92,800	151,047
St Georges	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation at 4 Sandwich St	12,135	953	32,818	-	45,906
Governance costs	90,228	-	-	22,829	113,057
Total charitable activities	267,217	162,052	33,574	245,102	707,945
	271,262	162,052	33,574	342,325	809,213

A further breakdown of 'Support costs' is given in note 9.

Included in total charitable expenditure under "Other costs and grants" are fees of £13,414 (2024: £13,000) payable to the auditors for audit fees. Depreciation costs included were £76,610 (2024: £91,368) for the year (see note 12).

There was no restricted expenditure in 2025 (2024: nil), and there are no restricted funds.

9 SUPPORT COSTS

	Staff and training costs	Office and IT costs	Total 2025	Staff and training costs	Office and IT costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising funds	6,407	2,787	**9,194**	2,649	1,396	4,045
Outreach	28,190	48,904	**77,094**	29,131	47,109	76,240
Student chaplaincy	14,095	38,502	**52,597**	14,565	37,357	51,922
External grants and donations	1,283	2,750	**4,033**	1,324	2,769	4,093
Grants and other support for churches	14,095	16,556	**30,651**	14,565	18,034	32,599
St Georges	11,532	5,565	**17,097**	-	-	-
Accommodation at 4 Sandwich St	-	-	**-**	7,945	4,190	12,135
Governance costs	52,536	23,675	**76,211**	62,235	27,993	90,228
Total charitable activities	121,731	135,952	**257,683**	129,765	137,452	267,217
	128,138	**138,739**	**266,877**	**132,414**	**138,848**	271,262

Costs are apportioned between activities according to time spent by staff on each activity. Staff costs includes costs of employees and training.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Council is one of two corporate members of Bethphage Great Britain, a registered charity with international Lutheran links, providing high quality residential care and assisted living support to about 160 people in the Midlands of England. The General Secretary is a trustee of Bethphage Great Britain from 19th May 2025, the former General Secretary was a trustee until 12th July 2024. There was one related party transactions in 2025 (2024: nil); in 2025 a donation of £10,000 was made to Bethphage.

The Trustees received no remuneration (2024: no remuneration) in connection with their duties as trustees. In 2025 two (2024: four) Trustees received reimbursement for their travel expenses to meetings held during the year. These expenses, together with liaison/entertainment expenses and costs of meetings (such as catering), were £2,982 (2024: £1,996). One other payment of £60 (2024: nil) for music services was made directly to, or for benefit of, one Trustee (2024: none).

As part of its work to support Lutheran churches, the Trustees made grants during the year to one member churches (LCiGB) who had a serving Trustee of the Council amongst its leaders and is detailed below. The relevant Trustee had no part in the decision regarding this grant.

Grants to member churches including a trustee amongst their pastors were:	2025	2024
	£	£
Lutheran Church in Great Britain	109,087	104,448
Swedish Church in London	-	4,000
	109,087	108,448

There are no further related party transactions (2024: none).

11 STAFF COSTS

	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
Staff costs comprised:	£	£
Wages and salaries	**262,328**	236,471
Social security costs	**23,181**	21,924
Other pension costs	**25,968**	24,148
Other staff costs	**2,236**	6,272
	313,713	288,815

One employee had remuneration higher than £60,000 during the year (2024: nil). The key management personnel is considered to be the General Secretary. The total employee benefits (comprising salary and employer's pension contribution before tax), paid to the post holders of General Secretary was £75,075 (2024: £71,921).

The average number of persons employed during the year, most of whom were part-time employees, was:

	FTE 2025	Headcount 2025	FTE 2024	Headcount 2024
Central, Outreach and Chaplaincy	4.3	5.4	4.0	5.2
	4.3	**5.4**	4.0	5.2

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property	Leasehold property	Work in progress	Plant & machinery	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2025	-	2,506,664	-	94,463	63,769	**2,664,896**
Additions	635,376	-	11,773	-	-	**647,149**
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
At 31 December 2025	635,376	2,506,664	11,773	94,463	63,769	**3,312,045**
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2025	-	142,132	-	22,042	23,779	**187,953**
Charge for the year	2,118	54,399	-	9,446	10,646	**76,609**
Disposal						**-**
At 31 December 2025	2,118	196,531	-	31,488	34,425	**264,562**
Net book value						
At 31 December 2024	-	2,364,532	-	72,421	39,990	**2,476,943**
At 31 December 2025	**633,258**	**2,310,133**	**11,773**	**62,975**	**29,344**	**3,047,483**

The freehold property of St Georges German Lutheran Church was purchased on 6th November 2025, the total purchase price including fees was £635,376.

The leasehold property is for Trident House which is used for the Council's activities. The lease term is for 999 years from November 2010. Aside from the annual ground rent of £125, there are no short-term lease obligations.

13 INVESTMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Portfolio of Invested Funds		
Market value at 1 January	**19,743,008**	17,753,859
Additions	**1,033,601**	1,496,809
Less: disposals	**(1,120,092)**	(1,123,623)
Net movement on cash accounts	**(625,980)**	850,005
Net gains on valuation	**773,489**	765,958
Market value at 31 December	**19,804,026**	19,743,008
Listed investments	**17,981,220**	17,562,643
Cash on call	**1,822,806**	2,180,365
Market value at 31 December	**19,804,026**	19,743,008
Total value at 31 December	**19,804,026**	19,743,008
Details of investments:		
UK Equities	**641,770**	658,158
Global Equities	**4,893,417**	4,633,673
Bonds	**1,680,903**	1,942,925
Properties	**-**	-
Multi Asset Funds	**9,324,564**	8,731,335
Other Assets	**1,440,566**	1,596,552
Cash	**1,822,806**	2,180,365
Market value at 31 December	**19,804,026**	19,743,008
Historical cost	17,081,531	17,677,858
Unrealised gain	**2,722,495**	2,065,150

Holdings greater than 5%

	£	%
SUTL Cazenove Charity Responsible Multi Asset	9,324,561	47.1%
Blackrock ICS Institutional Sterling liquidity fund	1,172,688	5.9%

14 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**-**	-
Other debtors	**-**	19,700
Prepayments and accrued income	**13,660**	7,719
	13,660	27,419

15 CREDITORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year:		
Taxation and social security	**8,022**	-
Trade creditors	**4,905**	5,526
Grant liabilities	**10,000**	18,950
Accruals	**25,771**	27,163
	48,698	51,639
Due after one year:		
Pension accrual	**327**	589

See note 19 for further details of the pension liability

16 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2025	Income & investment gains	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Fixed assets fund	2,476,944	-	(76,609)	647,148	**3,047,483**
Student Fund	1,905	-	(1,905)	-	**-**
Donation Fund	60,000	-	(10,000)	-	**50,000**
Pastor training fund	-	-	-	9,500	**9,500**
	2,538,849	-	(88,514)	656,648	**3,106,983**
General funds	19,760,292	1,334,159	(683,063)	(656,648)	**19,754,740**
	22,299,141	**1,334,159**	**(771,577)**	**-**	**22,861,723**

Prior year unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2024	Income & investment gains	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Fixed assets fund	3,606,604	-	(91,368)	(1,038,292)	2,476,944
Student Fund	4,905	-	(3,000)		1,905
Donation Fund	70,000	-	(10,000)	-	60,000
	3,681,509	-	(104,368)	(1,038,292)	2,538,849
General funds	17,753,562	1,673,283	(704,845)	1,038,292	19,760,292
	21,435,071	1,673,283	(809,213)	-	22,299,141

Fixed assets fund: this fund represents the net amount tied up in tangible fixed assets and so not available to spend.

Student fund: is available to support students and student related projects.

Donation fund: After the sale of the ILSC in 2020, this fund was set up in recognition that the ILSC was purchased with donations. The fund will make an annual donation of £10,000 to a charity/charities that aligns with the Council's mission.

Pastor training fund: This a grant fund for the training of pastors.

General fund: this fund represents the net amount held for general expenditure. The policy is to have a minimum fund of £21.2 million in General Funds as this will provide the investment returns to finance the organisations operations. At December 2025 the General Fund was £19.8 million.

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

The net assets are held for the various funds as follows:

	Unrestricted funds 2025	**Total funds 2025**	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£	**£**	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**3,047,483**	**3,047,483**	2,476,943	2,476,943
Investments	**19,804,026**	**19,804,026**	19,743,008	19,743,008
Net current assets	**10,541**	**10,541**	79,779	79,779
Long term (liabilities)	**(327)**	**(327)**	(589)	(589)
	22,861,723	**22,861,723**	22,299,141	22,299,141

18 PENSION COSTS

The assets of the pension schemes, all of which are defined contribution schemes, are held separately from those of the Council in independently administered funds. Contributions made by the Council to the schemes during the year are shown in note 11. Contributions of £NIL were due to the schemes at the year end (2024: £NIL).

19 PENSION SCHEME OBLIGATIONS

Six members of staff of the Council participate in TPT Retirement Solutions' Growth Plan series 4, which is a defined contribution scheme open to all staff and in which the higher earners are automatically enrolled, in accordance with legislation.

Two former employees are members of a multi-employer scheme (now closed) which provides benefits to some 521 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme. The scheme is in deficit and the Council's current liability is £262 (2024: £224) and long-term liability is £327 (2024: £589). Due to the deficit payments made in 2025 the amount recognised in the SOFA was a net loss of £718 (2024: net loss £1,171).

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2023. This valuation showed assets of £514.9m, liabilities of £531.0m and a deficit of £16.1m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit Contributions

From 1 April 2025 to 31 January 2028: £2,100,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 March 2028 applies

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit Contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities. Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

19 PENSION SCHEME OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Present values of provision	**31 December 2025**	31 December 2024
	£	£
Present value of provision	**565**	752

Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions	**Period ending 31 December 2025**	Period ending 31 December 2024
	£	£
Provision at start of period	752	345
Deficit contribution paid	(224)	(327)
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	32	10
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	5	5
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	719
Provision at end of period	565	752

Assumptions	**2025**	2024
Rate of Discount (per cent per annum)	**4.05%**	4.90%

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The Council has been notified by the Pensions Trust of the estimated Employer Debt on Withdrawal from the Plan based on the financial position of the Plan as at 30 September 2016. They estimated that, after taking into account the debt due from other employers, the Council's Employer Debt on Withdrawal is estimated as £13,295 plus costs and fees of apportioning the debt among other employers. There is no current intention to leave the Plan and trigger this contingent liability.

20 Capital Commitments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Capital expenditure that has been contracted for but has not been provided for in the financial statements	-	-
Capital expenditure that has been authorised by the Board of Trustees but has not yet been contracted for.	-	600,000
	-	600,000
Proposed financing of above expenditure		
Loans	-	-
Reserves	-	600,000
	-	600,000

Signable

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Parties involved with this document

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Thu, 7th May 2026 14:45:18 BST	Richard Billinghurst - Signer (15662d0e0ab3ca28a744df5ab6ced34a)
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Thu, 7th May 2026 13:38:16 BST	Rev. Silke Halfmann - Signer (62afcd4b7b6b0ec91e17f42f5af02c47)

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Date	Action
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Wed, 6th May 2026 9:20:29 BST	Sent the envelope to Richard Billinghurst for signing (31.52.56.195)
Wed, 6th May 2026 9:20:30 BST	Sent the envelope to Mr Per Jonsson for signing (31.52.56.195)
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Wed, 6th May 2026 9:20:46 BST	Rev. Silke Halfmann opened the document email. (85.210.240.79)
Wed, 6th May 2026 10:09:59 BST	Rev. Silke Halfmann opened the document email. (185.236.185.95)
Wed, 6th May 2026 12:18:48 BST	Mr Per Jonsson opened the document email. (146.75.168.39)
Wed, 6th May 2026 12:19:04 BST	Mr Per Jonsson viewed the envelope (46.193.224.74)
Wed, 6th May 2026 12:20:08 BST	Mr Per Jonsson signed the envelope (46.193.224.74)
Thu, 7th May 2026 9:09:05 BST	Document emailed to party email
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Thu, 7th May 2026 9:09:39 BST	Richard Billinghurst opened the document email. (85.210.240.70)
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Thu, 7th May 2026 14:43:06 BST	Richard Billinghurst viewed the envelope (31.52.56.195)
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