Charity registration number 313454

Unlock

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Unlock

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Unlock

Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name	Unlock
Registered Charity Number	313454
Charity Office	Unlock 15 Station Road Rotherham South Yorkshire S60 1HN
Website	www.unlock-urban.org.uk
Start of financial year	1 January 2025
End of financial year	31 December 2025
Trustees	Nicholas Carter - Chair Andrew Dorton Rev Canon Suzanne Sheriff
Chief Officer	Dawn Lonsdale
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT Charities Deposit Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ
Independent Examiner	Peter Winter MA FCCA 20 Hallam Grange Road Sheffield S10 4BJ

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Charity is governed by a declaration of Trust dated 25 May 1972, as amended by a supplemental deed dated 19 August 1999 and a deed of variation dated 6 July 2001.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

The trustees named on page 1 have served during the beginning of the year under review until the date of approval of these accounts. Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the Charity. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee.

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustees undergo orientation to brief them on their legal obligations under charity law, the decision making process, the aims and objectives and recent financial performance of the charity.

Organisational Structure

The Charity has a board of trustees who meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the Charity. The trustees delegate the management of the Charity to the National Council. The National Council assigns the day-to-day responsibility for training and staff management to the Chief Officer.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finance of the Charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. Where appropriate, additional systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the Charity. External risks include the loss of funding, the effects of this have been minimised by the procedures in place, which have resulted in funding being secured from a variety of sources. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. These procedures are reviewed periodically to ensure they still meet the needs of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Aims and Objectives

Unlock is a Christian Charity that has worked since 1973 to help urban churches of any denomination respond to the challenges in their areas. We are especially concerned with helping people in "text-shy" cultures to explore their faith.

As well as deploying a team of workers, Unlock publishes a variety of group Bible study packs, games, Lent courses, audit materials and provides training.

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Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees are also aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believe that the Charity is providing a benefit to the public in the following ways:

- The education and training of ministers and lay people concerned with the advancement of the Christian religion in urban and industrial areas
- enhancing the capacity of vulnerable people in deprived communities to grow in self-understanding and self esteem
- providing regional training courses, research projects, study groups and small conferences for Christians to equip them to be effective in their Christian witness in their own areas of life and work
- making the results of research projects available to the public.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Unlock work is still recovering from the disruptions caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic. New local Partnerships take some time to establish.

The main achievements during the year under review are:

- Free Bible study resources are available on Unlock website.
- New Bible study resources are in development.
- Annual Report produced and mailed.
- The 43rd Annual Unlock Walk in London took place and raised almost £25k.
- The Unlock London walk enables learning about different kinds of churches in different places, broadening understanding of contextual mission.
- The London walk generates donations for the Inner City churches that open along the route on the day.
- There are currently no active paid local partnership projects but voluntary work is ongoing nationwide and legacy work persists in a number of formerly funded project locations.
- A new deployment strategy for Unlock Local work has been developed and is being widely
- circulated.
- Staff have promoted and represented Unlock at a range of national networking events.
- National level strategic partnerships are sustained.
- Unlock website and social media presence maintained.
- Symposium convened to discuss how to prepare people for ministry in complex urban communities.
- Unlock contributed methodology and resources to a Church of England Flourish project in a Derbyshire primary school.
- Office staff maintained financial management, administration and resourcing of local voluntary work as well as responding to enquiries.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Details of income and expenditure for the year under review are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6.

Reserves policy

The Reserves policy of the Charity takes into account the guidance of the Charity Commission and the income generation circumstances of Unlock (ie its heavy reliance on a single, annual fundraising event). The Unlock National Council and Trustees believe that the free reserves of the Charity should be maintained at a sufficient level to cover adequately a minimum of three months' operating costs (this was changed from four months at the November 2019 Council Meeting). These costs are based on projected future levels of income and expenditure and will be revised during the budget setting process.

Designated Fund

1A designated fund of £21,914 (2024: £19,989) has been created which comprises two elements:

a. A redundancy reserve of £11,449 (2024: £10,768) which is to cover lump sum redundancy costs for all Unlock staff calculated using the statutory redundancy method.

b. A closure costs reserve of £10,465 (2024: £9,221) which is to cover costs arising from the organisation being wound up and will include three months' essential operating costs (salaries, premises, running and any additional closure costs).

The designated reserve is held in the Charities Aid Foundation ESG Income and Growth Fund account which has a market value of £26,321 (2024: £23,857) as at 31 December 2025. The designated reserve will be reviewed annually.

Investment policy

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds of the Charity. The Charity holds units in the CAF ESG Income and Growth Fund Accumulation (Note 15).

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Unlock's highest priority is to promote and establish new Unlock local partnerships in the UK and seeking out as many opportunities to do that as possible.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter Winter MA FCCA FCIE, was reappointed independent examiner during the year under review.

APPROVAL

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

N.A. Carter

Nicholas Carter - Chair of Trustees

Date: 14th September 2026

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Unlock

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

(1) the accounting records were not kept in acccordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

(2) the accounts did not not accord with the accounting records; or

(3) the accounts did 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.

Peter Winter

Peter Winter MA FCCA FCIE
Chartered Certified Accountant
20 Hallam Grange Road
Sheffield
S10 4BJ

Date: 14 September 2026.

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Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming Resources						
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds						
Voluntary Income	4	18,076	-	2,000	20,076	18,226
Activities for Generating Funds	5	24,962	-	-	24,962	25,148
Investment Income	6	664	-	-	664	876
Total Incoming Resources		43,702	-	2,000	45,702	44,250
Resources Expended						
Costs of Generating Funds	7	6,263	-	-	6,263	4,542
Charitable Activities	8	40,489	-	(15)	40,474	39,005
Governance Costs	9	3,640	-	-	3,640	3,605
Total Resources Expended		50,392	-	(15)	50,377	47,152
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the year		**(6,690)**	**-**	**2,015**	**(4,675)**	**(2,902)**
Gross Transfers Between Funds	10	540	(540)	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments	11	-	2,465	-	2,465	1,837
Net Movement in Funds		**(6,150)**	**1,925**	**2,015**	**(2,210)**	**(1,065)**
Funds at 1 January 2025		21,227	19,989	7,262	48,478	49,543
Funds at 31 December 2025		**15,077**	**21,914**	**9,277**	**46,268**	**48,478**

There were no recognised gains or losses for the current or previous year other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Unlock

Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	14	1,685		957	
Investments	15	26,322		23,857	
Cash at bank and in hand		20,135		25,038	
		48,142		49,852	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,874)		(1,374)	
Net current assets			46,268		48,478
Total assets less current liabilities			**46,268**		**48,478**
Funds	17				
Unrestricted Funds			15,077		21,227
Designated Funds			21,914		19,989
Restricted Funds	18		9,277		7,262
			46,268		**48,478**

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

N. A. Carter

Nicholas Carter
Chair of Trustees

Date: 14th September 2026

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Basis of Preparation

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with: -

a) The Charities Act 2011
b) FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.
c) Applicable accounting standards

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1. The principal accounting policies are unchanged from the previous year and have been applied consistently throughout the year under review. The accounts include the results of all of the Charity's operations, which are continuing and are described in detail in the Trustees' Report.

2.2. Form of Financial Statements

Balances are split between unrestricted and restricted funds held by the Trust.

a) Unrestricted 'general' funds
These are the funds of Unlock that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application of general purposes of the Charity. Donations received by the Charity are treated as unrestricted unless specifically earmarked for a particular restricted fund.

b) Designated funds
These are unrestricted funds which are designated for a particular purpose or project by the trustees.

c) Restricted funds
These are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donor or by the specific terms of a trust deed or other legal measure.

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2.3. Incoming Resources

a) Incoming resources are recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity becomes entitled to the resource; the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with reasonable accuracy.

b) Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising), the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

c) Bank interest is recognised when it is credited to the account.

d) Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

2.4. Expenditure and Liabilities

a) Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

b) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.

c) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance and constitutional matters.

2.5. Pensions

The Charity contributes to eligible staff members' qualifying personal pension schemes at a rate of 3% of their gross salaries (increasing to a rate of 5% of gross salaries after 5 years of service). The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds. The employer's pension costs represent contributions payable by the Charity to these funds.

2.6. Taxation

The Charity is not liable to income or capital gains tax on its charitable activities. Value added tax is not recoverable by the Charity, and as such is included in the asset cost or expense to which it relates.

2.7. Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value.

2.8. Investments

Current asset investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

2.9. Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.10. Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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2.11. Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for, according to the substance of contractual arrangement, as either financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors, cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

3. Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

a) No remuneration was paid to any trustee for acting as a trustee or for any other purpose.

b) No travel or other expenses were reimbursed to trustees. Travel and other expenses of £137 (2024: £202) were reimbursed to Council members who are not trustees.

c) No trustee or other person connected to the Charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
4. Voluntary Income				
Donations and Grants	13,440	2,000	15,440	13,102
Gift Aid claims	4,636	-	4,636	5,124
	18,076	2,000	20,076	18,226

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		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£
5.	**Activities for Generating Funds**				
	Annual Unlock Walk	24,962	-	24,962	25,148
		24,962	-	24,962	25,148

		£	£	£	£
6.	**Investment Income**				
	Bank interest	-	-	-	-
	Listed investments interest	664	-	664	876
		664	-	664	876

		£	£	£	£
7.	**Costs of Generating Funds**				
	Fundraising expenses - Walk	6,263	-	6,263	4,542
		6,263	-	6,263	4,542

		£	£	£	£
8.	**Charitable activities - support costs**				
	Staff costs (note 12)	30,454	-	30,454	29,508
	Website costs	1,107	-	1,107	213
	Workers' expenses	253	-	253	279
	Rent	3,300	-	3,300	3,300
	Insurance	996	-	996	951
	Printing, telephone and stationery	1,014	-	1,014	1,435
	Computer costs	1,482	-	1,482	1,429
	Computer software	770	-	770	650
	Staff Training & Travel	206	(15)	191	653
	Promotion leaflets and events	50	-	50	135
	Festivals	857	-	857	432
	Other costs	-	-	-	20
		40,489	(15)	40,474	39,005

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		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
9.	**Governance Costs**	£	£	£	£
	Annual Report	2,808	-	2,808	2,470
	Independent Examiner	695	-	695	675
	Council expenses	137	-	137	460
		3,640	-	3,640	3,605
10.	**Transfers**	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	540	-	-	-
	Designated Funds	(540)	-	-	-
	Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-

Designated Fund
The transfer between the unrestricted fund and the designated reserve fund is required to adjust the closing designated fund to a value of £21, 914 at the year end, which is the amount required in accordance with the agreed policy.

				2025	2024
11.	**Investment**	£	£	£	£
	Gains / (losses) on investments	2,465	-	2,465	1,837
		2,465	-	2,465	1,837

12. **Staff costs**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	29,541	28,624
Employer's National Insurance	-	-
Employer's Pension Contributions	913	884
	30,454	29,508

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year under review (2024: None).

The charity was eligible to claim the Employment Allowance which reduced its liability for Employer's National Insurance liability to £Nil (2024: £Nil).

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13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 January 2025	3,567	3,567
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2025	3,567	3,567
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2025	3,567	3,567
On disposals	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-
At 31 December 2025	3,567	3,567
Net book values		
At 31 December 2025	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	-

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift aid receivable	776	129
Inland Revenue Customs and Excise	-	-
Insurance prepaid	909	829
	1,685	958

15. Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current asset investments	26,322	23,857

Current asset investments comprise 20,522 units in IFSL CAF ESG Income and Growth Fund Accumulation. The market value of each unit is 128.26p (2024: 116.25p) giving a value of £26,322 (2024: £23,857) for the total holding at 31 December 2025. The unrealised gains/(losses) during the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	24	24
Other taxes and social security costs	805	404
Accrued expenses	1,045	946
	1,874	1,374

17. **Movements Between Funds**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
1 January 2025	21,227	19,989	7,262	48,478
Incoming Resources for the Year	43,702	-	2,000	45,702
	64,929	19,989	9,262	94,180
Resources Expended in the year	(50,392)	-	15	(50,377)
	14,537	19,989	9,277	43,803
Transfers between funds	540	(540)	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments	-	2,465	-	2,465
	15,077	21,914	9,277	46,268

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18. Restricted Funds

	At 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers General Funds	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Birmingham Queens	1,278	-	15		1,293
Hull Community Church	671	-	-	-	671
Hull New Project	1,231	-	-	-	1,231
The Gathering	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Sunderland	4,082	-	-	-	4,082
	7,262	2,000	15	-	9,277

At set up of a project: A local partner will normally give an amount of restricted funds (typically £2,500) and Unlock will provide an unrestricted amount available to the project (usually £2,500). The unrestricted portion from Unlock is not held separately. The restricted money is normally used first in order to leave Unlock with more flexibility if the project doesn't continue. If the restricted fund is used up then the project is funded using the money introduced from Unlock's unrestricted funds.

Birmingham (Queen's) Local Partnership
Unlock Birmingham works in Partnership with The Queen's Foundation and St Peter's Saltley Trust. Unlock is ensuring that Methodist Deacons and other students in training at Queen's, as well as those in Urban Ministry in the wider West Midlands area, have opportunities to learn about Unlock's accessible and open approach to Bible engagement with oral learners in poor urban communities.

Hull (Community Church) Local Partnership
This fund is used for work in West Hull, undertaken in partnership with Hull Community Church where Unlock has provided training for church leaders. The remaining funds are available to HCC for further Unlock training or consultancy as required.

Hull (New) Local Partnership
This fund is to be used for work in West Hull and some of it has been provided by the Bible Society. We are searching for new partners in Hull in order to establish new work using what remains of this fund.

Sunderland Local Partnership
This fund is used for work in the Sunderland area. Work in this area is undertaken with funding and partnership from Wearside Deanery, St Hild and St Bede Trust and Seedbed Christian Community Trust. The remaining funds were donated by North Wearside Churches and will be used to provide Unlock support for them at a time of their choosing.

The Gathering
This fund is used for funding the annual Unlock Gathering. In October 2025, £2,000 was received from The Slavanka Trust towards the 2025 Unlock Gathering. Due to unforeseen circumstances the 2025 Gathering did not take place. Agreement was obtained from The Slavanka Trust to use thev funding for the 2026 Unlock Gathering.

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19. Prior Year: Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
Incoming resources	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from Generated Funds					
Voluntary Income	18,226	-	-	18,226	20,131
Activities for Generating Funds	25,148	-	-	25,148	20,092
Investment Income	876	-	-	876	1,043
Total Incoming resources	44,250	-	-	44,250	41,266
Resources expended					
Costs of Generating Funds	4,542	-	-	4,542	4,857
Charitable activities	38,929	-	76	39,005	47,318
Governance costs	3,605	-	-	3,605	3,662
Resources expended	47,076	-	76	47,152	55,837
Total incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year	(2,826)	-	(76)	(2,902)	(14,571)
Transfers	2,061	(1,646)	(415)	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments	-	1,837		1,837	1,576
Net Movement in Funds	(765)	191	(491)	(1,065)	(12,995)
Funds at 1 January 2024	21,992	19,798	7,753	49,543	62,538
	21,227	19,989	7,262	48,478	49,543