

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH
CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NUMBER: 514361

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 01/01/2024 TO 31/12/2024

Legal and administrative information

- Principal Address: Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church
Hall Lane
Great Eccleston
Preston
PR3 0XN
- Governing Document: Trust Deed sealed on 21 April 1983 as amended by scheme dated 9 March 2000, this makes all members of the Official Board (now known as the Church Leadership Team) of Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church Trustees.
- Objects of the Charity: The furtherance of the religious and other charitable work of the Free Methodist Church of North America (United Kingdom District).
- Bank Accounts During the year 2024 two bank accounts were held by the Church:
General fund current account- Santander UK plc.
General fund deposit account- Virgin Money
- Bankers: Santander UK plc
Customer Service Centre
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB
- Virgin Money
Savings Operations
Jubilee House
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 4PL
- Independent Examiner: Rev. Alan Clements, MA, FCIE, ACIB.
15 Carleton Road
Great Knowley
Chorley PR6 8TQ

Trustees and Governance

The trustees legally responsible for the control and management of the charity during 2024 were as follows:

Mr Peter Ayling	(Treasurer) (Appointed 14 th October 2024)
Rev. Stephen Dunn	(Chairman)
Miss Alison Groves	(Secretary)
Mrs Colleen Halsall	(Resigned 14 th October 2024)
Mrs Christine E Kelsall	(Treasurer until resigned 14 th October 2024))
Mr Christopher Matthews	
Mr. Robert Tomkins	(Church Delegate and Vice Chairman)
Mrs Louise Whitaker	(Appointed 14 th October 2024)

Trustee selection method: Trustees are nominated by Members of the Society of the Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church at an Annual Society Meeting.

Charity's Custodian Trustees: Assets are held by the Trustees of the Church.

The Trustees have the following Policies in place relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety, GDPR/Privacy, Equal Opportunities, and Financial Controls(expenses). They are aware that there are further policies to be adopted in due course.

Activities and Achievements

The Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church is part of a worldwide network of "Free Methodist" churches and one of a number of Free Methodist Churches in the United Kingdom Conference. Each Church is an individual charity with its own Charity Document while the Spiritual ethos is laid down in the Free Methodist Book of Discipline.

The vision statement of Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church is 'To be a vibrant, multi-generational, Spirit-filled community of faith, centered on Jesus and sharing Him with others well.'
Our purpose statement 'To Love God and Love People'.

We seek to live out our vision with an aim to achieve the following:

- Points of connection with every age group of society (John 4 v 1 to 30)
- Every member of the church able to attend a connect group and prayer meeting (John 15 and Hebrews 10 v 24)
- Building Community, with village life being central (Matthew 28 v 19 and 20)
- Sharing hospitality and welcome with generosity. (Mark 12 v 31)
- Every member of the church using their God given gifts in service within the church (1 Corinthians 12 v 12-31)
- A new worship centre (Isaiah 54 v 2)

Throughout the year we held the following regular events in addition to Sunday morning worship and Young Church :

- Tiddlers (parent and toddlers group).
- Kidz Clubs (school years 1 to 4) and Plus (school years 5 and above)
- Connect Groups (for Christian fellowship, Bible study and prayer)
- Free weekly Community Coffee Morning
- The Orchard Church Community Garden Project meeting twice a week
- Netball Team (part of the Wednesday evening SportsReach league)
- Prayer and Praise once a month on Sunday evenings
- Prayer meetings twice a month on Sunday evenings and Wednesday mornings.

We have held several regular events across the community for the general public benefit:

- As part of the annual Great Eccleston Agricultural Show in July we hosted a tent providing a rest stop, children's craft activities, balloon art creations and displays of church activities.
- Messy Church craft-based events for young families
- Over the autumn an Alpha Course was held.

Throughout 2024 Rev. Steve Dunn has continued to serve as full time lead pastor.

We are thankful to God for His continued provision of gifts, tithes, and offerings for the work at Great Eccleston, the support of ministries and charities in the United Kingdom and across the world.

The Church benefits from many voluntary hours and unclaimed out of pocket expenses contributed by a significant number of people. It would be impossible to place a value on these gifts in kind for which the trustees are extremely grateful.

The attached Financial Statements show the Church's financial position at the end of 2024 which the Trustees consider to be sound.

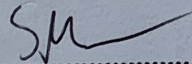
Reserve Policy: That the balance of the Church's General fund is to be maintained so as sufficient to provide cover for 3 months typical expenditure – with this in mind the minimum reserve is currently set at £25,000.

Signature and Declaration

Declaration: I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

the trustees have approved the report above; and
have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Signature:


.....

Full Name:

Rev Stephen Dunn

Position:

Pastor and Chair of the Church Leadership Team

Date:

4/8/..... 2025

Independent Examiner's Report.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Great Eccleston Methodist Church, C.C. number 514361, for the year ending 31st. December 2024.

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st. December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to :

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view', and the report is limited to those matters as set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement.

In connection with my examination, no other matters has come to my attention :

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met,
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed. *Alan A Clements*

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Date *19/8/25*

Rev'd. A. A. Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE.
15 Carleton Road,
Great Knowley,
Chorley PR6 8TQ

Great Ecclestone Free Methodist Church.

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st. December 2024.

Receipts	Unrestricted	Total 2024 £	£	Total 2023 £
Offerings		36,037		
Gift Aid Refund		5,663		
Rental from Houses		22,446		
Rental from Land		7,500		
Bank Interest		428		
Other		1,794		
Total Receipts			73,868	
Payments				
Pastor		36,199		
Travel		1,021		
Mission		5,760		
FMUK Conf		2,631		
Utilities		948		
Licences		310		
Stationery and Printing		238		
Cleaning and Catering		2,148		
Speakers		799		
Building Maintenance		20,656		
Retails Maintenance		739		
Outreach inc. Sportsreach		4,122		
Net Ball Teams		459		
Children Ministries		608		
Child Protection		414		
Minibus		249		
Sound and Vision		139		
Community Garden		337		
Other		2,764		
Total Payments			80,540	
Surplus / (deficit) for the year			(6,672)	
Bank balance as at 1st. January 2024			56,814	
Bank balance as at 31st. December 2024			50,142	56,814

Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st. December 2024.

Monetary Assets	Unrestricted 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £
Virgin Money Charity Deposit Account	31,958	
Santander Business Account	18,184	
Tctal Monetary Assets	<u>50,142</u>	<u>56,814</u>

Non-Monetary Assets

Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church has these assets as follows -

Church premises in Hall Lane, Great Eccleston.
Lodge Farm land and buildings in Hall Lane, Great Eccleston.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on the 4/8/2025

and signed on their behalf by S/D

Rev. S. Dunn