GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NUMBER: 514361

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 01/01/2025 TO 31/12/2025

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 2025 two current bank accounts were held by the Church: General fund current account- Santander UK plc. General fund current 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 2025 were as follows:

Rev. Stephen Dunn	(Chairman)
Mr Robert Tomkins	(Church Delegate and Vice Chairman)
Mr Peter Ayling	(Treasurer)
Miss Alison Groves	(Secretary)
Mr Christopher Mathews	
Mrs Louise Whitaker	
Mrs Lynn Salthouse	(Appointed 20th October 2025)

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

Trustee Training : This is done informally and dependent on the incoming Trustee's knowledge and experience.

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

The Trustees have the following Policies in place relating to :

Safeguarding (Adults and Children),
Health and Safety,
GDPR/Privacy and
Confidentiality.

They are aware that there are further policies to be adopted in due course, some of which are in progress.

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, centred 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 Club (school years 1 to 4) and Youth club (school years 5 and above)
- Connect Groups (for Christian fellowship, Bible study and prayer)
- Free weekly Community Coffee Morning
- 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, badge making and displays of church activities.
- Sportsreach football and netball coaching for young people.
- Messy Church craft-based events for young families
- Ladies Christmas craft evenings
- Alpha Course for those wishing to find out about Christianity.
- Participating in the Village Scarecrow festival.
- Carol singing in the Village Square with the community.

Throughout 2025 Rev. Stephen 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 2025 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: 2026

Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church.

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st. December 2025.

		Total 2025		Total 2024	
Receipts	**Unrestricted**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Offerings		37,931		36,037	
Gift Aid Refund		9,314		5,663	
Rental from Houses		24,102		22,446	
Rental from Land		7,500		7,500	
Bank Interest		132		428	
Other		8,627		1,794	
Legacy		50,000		0	
Total Receipts			**137,606**		73,868
Payments					
Pastor		43,039		36,199	
Travel		1,793		1,021	
Mission		6,740		5,760	
FM Conference		0		2,631	
Utilities		3,136		948	
Church Insurances		5,058		0	
Licences		365		310	
Stationery and Printing		1,971		238	
Cleaning and Catering		2,519		2,148	
Speakers		880		799	
Building Maintenance		1,098		20,656	
Retails Maintenance		2,734		739	
Outreach inc. Sportsreach		4,581		4,122	
Net Ball Teams		0		459	
Children Ministries		459		608	
Child Protection		409		414	
Minibus		585		249	
Sound and Vision		684		139	
Community Garden		63		337	
Professional Fees		6,902		1890	
Other		1,179		874	
Total Payments			**84,195**		80,540
Surplus / (deficit) for the year			53,411		-6,672
Bank balance as at 1st. January 2025			46,348		56,814
Balance as at 31st. December 2025			**99,759**		46,348
Add Uncashed Cheques at year-end			0		3,794
Bank Balance as at 31st December 2025			**99,759**		50,142

Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church.

Statement of Assets and Liabilites as at 31st. December 2025.

Monetary Assets	**Unrestricted 2025 £**	**Unrestricted 2024 £**
Virgin Money Charity Current Account	86,154	31,958
Santander Business Current Account	13,605	18,184
Tctal Monetary Assets	**99,759**	50,142

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 7/9/2026.

and signed on their behalf by

Rev. S. Dunn

Charities Act 2011.

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 2025.

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st. December 2025.

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 11th. September 2026

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