



# CENTRAL

**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**CENTRAL**

**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

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## CENTRAL

### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Report of the Trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the year ended 31 August 2025.

#### Objectives and activities

Central, which was previously called Morningside Baptist Church, is referred to within this report as the Church. The Church is an unincorporated charity, formed for the worship of God and the promotion of the evangelical Christian faith and is a member of the Baptist Union of Scotland. There have been no changes to the charitable purposes since the last annual report. Our vision as a church is to serve the City of Edinburgh. Our goal is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

#### Achievements and Performance

At Central we are as committed as ever to our vision to serve the city, to love one another as a church family and to dedicate our lives to worshipping and following Christ. We continue to have three gatherings each Sunday (except for the last Sunday in the month where we meet around the city in various community groups and allow the teaching of Jesus to shape how we live today). We currently have around 20 communities that meet several times each month and on the last Sunday of the month. These communities are varied but endeavour to support one another in living out the teachings of Jesus and fulfilling the wider church vision.

The church family has been encouraged by 6 of our students and youth choosing to be baptised as a public declaration of their faith. We have also been encouraged by the number of people engaging with church meetings and helping to shape our future plans.

We have continued to see large engagement with our young people's ministries and care ministries. We have seen around 80 students call Central their church this past year with some form of ongoing commitment or involvement in activities. We prayed for a number of graduating students who have now dispersed around the country with a core number remaining in the city and maintaining their connection with Central.

The church family came together for a 'Weekend at Home' event in October 2024 with a Friday night party and ceilidh to celebrate 130 years of Morningside Baptist Church/Central. We were able to reflect on the faithfulness of God to us through the story of the generations of one family, though it was great to also interview other church members who could share something of the faithfulness of God as they have grown in faith and service at Central.

We hosted a children's Easter trail event at Blackford hill which gave a good opportunity to interact and serve a small part of the local community and seemed to be well received by those inside and outside the church.

For around ten years we have been serving and developing relationships with a group of New Scot families. This year we have been encouraged that their children are beginning to connect with our church family through our Friday night youth group.

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Our Care ministries continue to go from strength to strength and are increasingly a source of support and encouragement for people experiencing poverty in our city. The Clothesbank+, SoulFood meal, CAP ministry, Parish Nursing Ministry, Counselling service and the Church café serve hundreds of people each week. It is both fantastic to meet so much need but also alarming to see first-hand how poverty is increasing. Presented in numbers:

<b>Care Ministry Area</b>	<b>Numbers of note</b>
Parish Nursing Service (accredited by Parish Nurses Ministry UK)	<b>393</b> Supportive contact with individuals in 2025
Central Counselling Service (organisational members of BACP)	<b>954</b> Counselling sessions offered
CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre	<b>£14,333.20</b> worth of debt cleared among <b>30</b> families
Clothesbank+	<b>16,719</b> items of clothing, shoes and bedding given away
Cafe	<b>1700</b> free soup lunches, many more hot drinks
Soul Food	In excess of <b>2700</b> meals (about 60 meals provided on a weekly basis)

These numbers, of course, only give an overview of what is happening through our care ministries. So many lives are being impacted, sometimes in small ways, such as a coat given to someone on a cold day or a hot meal on a week where food has been hard to come by. But so often the impact goes deeper than this. One Soul Food guest recounts how they were not only given a meal, but a place to belong. CAP clients describe being given the freedom to live life to the full, having been set free from the trap of debt. It is a true privilege to be able to serve our city through these ministries and one we look forward to continuing into the year to come.

We have also seen challenge and transition in the past year. In April 2025 the Lead Pastor was relieved of his duties by the elders/trustees and as such was removed as a Trustee of the charity.

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### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Report of the Trustees (continued)

##### Achievements and Performance (continued)

Two other SLT staff members, a married couple, gave notice of leaving having secured a call as Lead Pastors with Abbeyhill Baptist Church in Edinburgh at the beginning of the calendar year. They left in April 2025. This was a time of sadness at the loss of two staff members who had served at Central for over ten years, along with joy for them as they followed God's calling in their lives. The call to Abbeyhill was extended to others in Central to follow the couple to help build up, encourage and revitalise the congregation there. This is in line with Central's aim to see multiplication of communities of God's people in Edinburgh and beyond. Around ten households felt called to move to Abbeyhill and in May they were sent with the Central's blessing and prayers.

This gave the elders/trustees an opportunity to re-organise their leadership and governance structure. In addition to the one remaining Senior Leadership Team (SLT) member, one staff member is Acting Up into the SLT team. The SLT roles and responsibilities have been reviewed and they have taken on additional responsibilities on a temporary basis. A new operational executive SLT group of three elders/trustees and the two SLT staff members has been established. This group is responsible for the day-to-day operational delivery of the charity and reports to the wider elder/trustee group. This allows for day-to-day delivery decisions to be made quicker, and the whole elder/trustee group to focus on wider strategy, vision and projects, along with providing accountability and scrutiny of the operational delivery group.

##### Financial Review

Overall, there was net expenditure of £28,819 for the year (2024: net income of £29,892) with net expenditure on unrestricted funds of £41,967 (2024: net income of £66,120), net expenditure on designated funds of £40,567 (2024: net expenditure of £40,567) and net income on restricted funds of £53,715 (2024: net income of £4,339). The main difference in the results this year compared to last is a decrease in donation income and an increase in administrative costs.

The Church continues to aim for a balanced budget. In August 2025 the Trustees approved a budget with income of £654,671 with a deficit of £26,084 which was presented to and agreed by members in September 2025.

The Trustees are grateful for the continued generosity of members giving regular donations. Work continues to communicate the self-funding nature of the church and encourage those members and others who consider Central to be their church to review existing giving or start giving regularly. Efforts will also continue to be made in cost management, ideally seeking to balance the budget.

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### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Report of the Trustees (continued)

##### Reserves policy

The trustees are conscious of the need to maintain reserves sufficient to enable the Church to pay debts as they fall due whilst not accumulating more funds than are necessary. The current policy is to hold no less than the budgeted expenditure for two months' expenditure. This equates to £113,460.

Excluding fixed assets, there is free reserves at 31 August 2025 of £164,340 (2024: £213,399). This is above the Church's reserves policy as efforts continue to be made to balance the income available through donations with the cost of managing the Church and its activities.

##### Taxation

The Church is a registered Scottish charity and is recognised as such by the His Majesty's Revenue and Customs for taxation purposes. Accordingly, the Church is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to the charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

##### Structure, governance and management

The Church was formed on 7th October 1894 by Rev J Cumming Brown and nineteen members. The principles on which the Church was formed are contained in a Covenant agreed at the meeting on 7th October 1894 which is in the relevant Church Minute Book. The Church has a written constitution which has been approved by the Church members and by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) who have a copy of the constitution.

##### Trustees

- Gareth Clegg (resigned September 2025)
- Glenda Wintour (resigned January 2025)
- Duncan Brown
- Don Palmer (removed April 2025)
- Amanda Hamilton
- Peter Hsu (resigned September 2025)
- Katy Pudney
- Jonathan Wright
- Scott Watson
- Robin Nelson (appointed March 2026)
- Lincoln Rozelle (appointed March 2026)
- Kirsty Watkins (appointed March 2026)

The overall leadership structure comprises the elected elders/trustees who are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the Church along with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) led by the Lead Pastor. The ultimate responsibility for the charity rests with the elders/trustees who delegate operational responsibility to the SLT, the wider staff team and other volunteers. The elders/trustees determine the remuneration of the key management personnel.

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### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Report of the Trustees (continued)

To ensure financial oversight the elders/trustees have formed a Finance Committee comprising two elders/trustees, two members of the SLT and the Church accountant. They review salary proposals for all staff which have been prepared by the SLT and Accountant. Any salaries where members of that committee have a conflict are discussed and agreed without them present.

#### Recruitment, appointment, induction and training of Trustees

The elders/trustees are democratically nominated and elected from the membership on a rolling three year basis on the votes of the Church members. For governance purposes they are also trustees of the Church. New elders/trustees are given a pack of information on the charity and OSCR guidance explaining their role and specific responsibilities as a trustee. They are developing further annual updates and training on their role as trustees.

The present elders/trustees hold the building for the use of the congregation. They are responsible for dealing with Church property and are the custodian trustees in terms of the SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice).

The elders/trustees and staff are considered to have the necessary skills and attributes to fulfil their roles. The Church receives a range of willing, voluntary help, without which many of its activities would be curtailed or impossible to run.

#### Risk management

The Trustees maintain a Risk Register which is amended as risks are identified and managed and reviewed annually. The key risks facing the Church and mitigating factors include:

Financial Controls: the trustees ensure that suitable financial controls are in place and these are checked annually as part of the external audit.

Vulnerable Groups: The church operates a strict recruitment policy for all volunteers prior to involvement with children or vulnerable adults, and compliance is monitored. All individuals working with vulnerable groups are required to join the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

Major Decisions: All major projects are discussed and approved by the elders and the Church members in meeting prior to implementation.

#### Plans for future periods

In the year ahead here at Central Church we are looking to support our community as we work to Love Edinburgh, Be Family and Follow Jesus.

We continue to reach outside of our walls through our Care Ministries and our Communities who meet across our city and aim to share the love of Jesus in both word and deed. We are looking to increase overlap between our Sunday gatherings and the connections made in our scattered spaces, whether Care Ministries or Communities. We long to point these contacts to Jesus and invite and include them in the gathered family as we learn to follow Jesus together.

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### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Report of the Trustees (continued)

##### Plans for future periods (continued)

We continue to meet together regularly as part of our commitment to Being Family and to equip us for our missional activities wherever we find ourselves during the week so that we may both Love Edinburgh better and follow Jesus better.

We also continue to be aware that we need to maintain financial vigilance as we consider recruitment and staffing costs as we are mindful of our income levels through primarily giving, and income from hire of the building. Ultimately, though, we seek to be good stewards of all the gifts from our members and friends, and ultimately God, and therefore closely monitor both income and expenditure against budget throughout the year.

We are in a season of renewal in many areas of church life: training the teams who run our gathering; re-establishing a Prayer and Prophecy team; making preliminary steps towards renewing our senior team with support from the Baptist Union of Scotland.

The difficult decision has been made to move our weekly Soul Food meal to a monthly one. We had difficulty finding enough volunteers every week to fulfil its full purpose of 'being more than just a meal' and building community. However, by moving to a monthly meal we believe we will be able to feed our guests whilst spending time with them, deepening the impact of what we are able to do.

We are thrilled at how significant our externally funded Parish Nursing Ministry has underpinned and supported our other care ministries. We will be working to secure funding to maintain this vital ministry beyond August 2026.

In addition to considering senior staffing we are anticipating the appointment of additional elders/trustees at our AGM in March 2026. We look forward to broadening the leadership team with these new appointments and are praying ahead of the meeting that God would prompt those he calls to serve in this capacity as we continue through a transitional season.

We are, and will be, continuing to work towards becoming a SCIO in the coming years. We do not anticipate this will be a quick piece of work that will be completed in 2025-26 as our primary focus will be on renewing our leadership team through elder elections and recruitment. However, we look forward to considering godly governance and best governance practice as we initially seek to review and renew our constitution as first steps on the road to becoming a SCIO.

#### Reference and administrative detail

<b>Charity Name</b>	Central
<b>Charity Number</b>	SCO05871
<b>Church Office and Principal Address</b>	Central Hall, 2 West Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9BP
<b>Auditors</b>	MHA, 6 St Colme Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6AD
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Scotland, 8 Morningside Road, Edinburgh

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**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**

**Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees' and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 5 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

*Scott Watson*

Scott Watson  
**Trustee**

## CENTRAL

### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Independent Auditor's Report to the trustees of Central

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Central for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 charity 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 charity'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.

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**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Central (continued)**

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Report of the Trustees; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees 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 charity'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.

**CENTRAL**

**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Central (continued)**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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.

We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of charity management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including the testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of the charity's activities and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

**CENTRAL**

**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Central (continued)**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)**

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of the report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



MHA  
Statutory Auditor  
6 St Colme Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 6AD

5 May 2026

MHA is the trading name of MHA Audit Services LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC455542).

*MHA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.*

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31 Aug 2025 £	Year ended 31 Aug 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	449,686	-	113,260	562,946	623,223
Charitable activities	3	111,655	-	1,204	112,859	108,288
Other trading activities	4	104,905	-	-	104,905	72,337
Investments	5	4,974	-	-	4,974	3,143
Other income	6	-	-	-	-	10,000
<b>Total income</b>		<u>671,220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,464</u>	<u>785,684</u>	<u>816,991</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	101,953	-	-	101,953	93,413
Charitable activities	8	611,234	40,567	60,749	712,550	693,686
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>713,187</u>	<u>40,567</u>	<u>60,749</u>	<u>814,503</u>	<u>787,099</u>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds</b>		(41,967)	(40,567)	53,715	(28,819)	29,892
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	17	<u>246,599</u>	<u>1,555,354</u>	<u>23,098</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>	<u>1,795,159</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	17	<u>204,632</u>	<u>1,514,787</u>	<u>76,813</u>	<u>1,796,232</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Balance Sheet**

	Notes	31 Aug 2025 £	31 Aug 2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	14	<u>1,555,079</u>	<u>1,588,554</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	15	52,217	62,918
Fixed term deposits		104,864	101,801
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>130,349</u>	<u>144,116</u>
Total current assets		287,430	308,835
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(46,277)</u>	<u>(72,338)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>241,153</u>	<u>236,497</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,796,232</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>1,796,232</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds	17,18	76,813	23,098
Designated funds	17,18	1,514,787	1,555,354
Unrestricted funds	17,18	<u>204,632</u>	<u>246,599</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>1,796,232</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 5 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

*Scott Watson*

Scott Watson  
Trustee

The notes on pages 15 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per the SOFA)</b>	(28,819)	29,892
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	49,875	49,904
Gifts in-kind	-	6,000
Decrease in debtors	10,701	5,921
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(26,061)	45,765
Gain on sale of fixed assets	-	(10,000)
Investment income	(4,974)	(3,143)
	<u>722</u>	<u>124,339</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>722</u>	<u>124,339</u>

## Statement of cash flows

		2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>		<u>722</u>	<u>124,339</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Investment income		4,974	3,143
Fixed asset purchases		(16,400)	-
Fixed asset sale proceeds		-	4,000
		<u>(11,426)</u>	<u>7,143</u>
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>		<u>(11,426)</u>	<u>7,143</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period</b>	19	(10,704)	131,482
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	19	<u>245,917</u>	<u>114,435</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	19	<u>235,213</u>	<u>245,917</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents comprise:</b>			
Fixed term deposits		104,864	101,801
Cash at bank		130,349	144,116
		<u>235,213</u>	<u>245,917</u>

## CENTRAL

### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Notes to the financial statements

##### 1 Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2006, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Church and rounded to the nearest £.

Central meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

##### **Going Concern**

The trustees have considered the impact of the current economic environment on the financial position and future performance of the charity. At the time of approving these financial statements, the trustees are confident that the charity has adequate funds to continue in operational existence. Steps have been taken to prevent further losses from arising. Trustees have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements.

##### **Income**

Income is recognised when the Church has entitlement to the funds, when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources are included in the period in which they are receivable, which is when the Church becomes entitled to the resource.

Income from charitable activities comprises rental income from groups with shared charitable purposes and income from community activities which is recognised when the Church has delivered the service and is therefore entitled to the income.

Income from other trading activities comprises rental income from other users of the church premises, which is recognised in accordance with the use of the property, which is when the Church becomes entitled to the income.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Church; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

##### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**CENTRAL**

**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**

**1 Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Expenditure (continued)**

Expenditure on raising funds includes costs associated with generating income for the Church through rental of space within the church building. Expenditure on charitable expenditure includes costs incurred in supporting the Church in the delivery of its activities and services.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Church in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities, those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them and an allocation of governance costs.

Support costs are allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise those costs involving the public accountability of the Church and its compliance with regulations and good practice. They therefore include the cost of statutory audit. Other support costs relate to the administrative costs of running the Church and are allocated to charitable activities accordingly.

The Church is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT where appropriate.

**Pensions**

The Church operates a defined contribution scheme for members of the Church staff. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**Fixed assets and depreciation**

Fixed assets comprise the Church building (Central Hall) and the adjoining shop at 2 Earl Grey Street. These are included in the balance sheet at cost, including the cost of refurbishment. The Trustees do not consider there to have been any impairment in the value of the property as stated in the balance sheet. Property is insured at an estimated full rebuilding cost and is maintained in a good state of repair.

Other fixed assets costing individually more than £1,500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Property	50 years
IT and other electronic equipment	5 years
Furniture and fittings	10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

**Debtors**

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

**Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and any short term highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**CENTRAL****Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 August 2025

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)****1 Accounting Policies (continued)****Investments**

Current asset investments are fixed term deposits that mature within one year.

**Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provision are recognised where the Church has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**Financial instruments**

The Church only has financial assets and financial 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.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, as specified by the donor.

<b>2 Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and gifts	389,806	105,892	495,698	540,211
Tax reclaim	59,880	7,368	67,248	83,012
	<u>449,686</u>	<u>113,260</u>	<u>562,946</u>	<u>623,223</u>

Income from donations and legacies of £562,946 (2024: £623,223) comprises £449,686 (2024: £556,095) of unrestricted income and £113,260 (2024: £67,128) of restricted income.

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

<b>3 Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Rental income	82,191	-	82,191	75,995
Student and youth weekend income	3,825	-	3,825	4,416
Other charitable activities	25,639	1,204	26,843	27,877
	<u>111,655</u>	<u>1,204</u>	<u>112,859</u>	<u>108,288</u>

Income in the previous year related wholly to unrestricted funds.

<b>4 Income from other trading activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Rental income	<u>104,905</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,905</u>	<u>72,337</u>

Income in both years relates wholly to unrestricted funds.

<b>5 Investment income</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Bank interest	<u>4,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,974</u>	<u>3,143</u>

Income in both years relates wholly to unrestricted funds.

<b>6 Other income</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Gain on sale of fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>

Expenditure in both years relates wholly to unrestricted funds.

<b>7 Cost of raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Salary costs	82,384	-	82,384	74,897
Property costs	19,569	-	19,569	18,516
	<u>101,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,953</u>	<u>93,413</u>

Expenditure in both years relates wholly to unrestricted funds.

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**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**

<b>8 Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Designated £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Care	155,762	-	26,966	182,728	233,206
Partnerships: Love Edinburgh & Wider Mission	29,810	-	25,324	55,134	45,282
Scattered and Gathered Communities	104,198	-	-	104,198	102,355
	<u>6,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,332</u>	<u>10,161</u>	<u>16,194</u>
Total direct costs (note 9)	296,599	-	55,622	352,221	397,037
Administration costs (note 10)	174,478	-	5,127	179,605	125,044
Property costs (note 11)	133,333	40,567	-	173,900	165,495
Governance costs (note 12)	<u>6,824</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,824</u>	<u>6,110</u>
	<u>611,234</u>	<u>40,567</u>	<u>60,749</u>	<u>712,550</u>	<u>693,686</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities of £712,550 (2024: £693,686) comprises £611,234 (2024: £590,330) of unrestricted expenditure, £40,567 (2024: £40,567) of designated expenditure and £60,749 (2024: £62,789) of restricted expenditure.

<b>9 Direct costs</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Salary costs	214,494	8,256	222,750	273,255
Project costs	<u>82,105</u>	<u>47,366</u>	<u>129,471</u>	<u>123,782</u>
	<u>296,599</u>	<u>55,622</u>	<u>352,221</u>	<u>397,037</u>

  

<b>10 Administrative costs</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Salary costs	116,865	-	116,865	79,482
Office support costs	<u>57,613</u>	<u>5,127</u>	<u>62,740</u>	<u>45,562</u>
	<u>174,478</u>	<u>5,127</u>	<u>179,605</u>	<u>125,044</u>

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

11	Property costs	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
	Church running costs	124,025	-	-	124,025	109,874
	HVI project costs	-	-	-	-	5,717
	Depreciation	9,308	40,567	-	49,875	49,904
		<u>133,333</u>	<u>40,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>173,900</u>	<u>165,495</u>
12	Governance costs				2025 £	2024 £
	Audit fee				5,824	6,110
	Accounts fee				1,000	-
					<u>6,824</u>	<u>6,110</u>
13	Wages and salaries				2025 £	2024 £
	Wages and salaries				401,069	410,974
	Social security costs				20,879	22,902
	Pension costs				15,039	17,905
					<u>436,987</u>	<u>451,781</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024: None).

The average number of employees during the year was 29 (2024: 34).

None of the trustees received any remuneration nor were reimbursed any expenses in their capacity as trustees during the year (2024: None). Trustee, Don Palmer, was employed as Lead Pastor and received a salary of £53,342 and pension contributions of £1,914 before leaving in April 2025. A settlement of £15,064 was paid to Don Palmer upon his departure. Remuneration of Trustees is permitted under section 16 of the Church Constitution.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £162,005 (2024: £190,831). The key management personnel comprise the members of the senior leadership team.

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

14 Tangible Fixed Assets	Heritable Property £	IT and other electronic equipment £	Furniture and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
As at 1 September 2024	2,029,574	13,022	182,063	2,224,659
Additions	-	-	16,400	16,400
<b>As at 31 August 2025</b>	<u>2,029,574</u>	<u>13,022</u>	<u>198,463</u>	<u>2,241,059</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
As at 1 September 2024	474,220	11,609	150,276	636,105
Charge for the year	40,567	339	8,969	49,875
<b>As at 31 August 2025</b>	<u>514,787</u>	<u>11,948</u>	<u>159,245</u>	<u>685,980</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>As at 31 August 2025</b>	<u>1,514,787</u>	<u>1,074</u>	<u>39,218</u>	<u>1,555,079</u>
<b>As at 31 August 2024</b>	<u>1,555,354</u>	<u>1,413</u>	<u>31,787</u>	<u>1,588,554</u>
<b>15 Debtors</b>			<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Gift Aid recoverable			4,400	5,797
Prepayments			15,174	19,561
Other debtors			32,643	37,560
			<u>52,217</u>	<u>62,918</u>
<b>16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
PAYE creditor			7,650	6,927
Other creditors			28,129	14,480
Accruals and deferred income			10,498	50,931
			<u>46,277</u>	<u>72,338</u>

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

17 Analysis of funds	At 31 Aug 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 Aug 2025 £
<b>2024/25</b>					
Unrestricted funds	246,599	671,220	(713,187)	-	204,632
Designated funds	1,555,354	-	(40,567)	-	1,514,787
	<u>1,801,953</u>	<u>671,220</u>	<u>(753,754)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,719,419</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Property Fund	21,646	28,344	-	-	49,990
Just Christmas	169	24,031	(24,120)	-	80
Project Pants	370	-	-	-	370
Nursing	-	31,366	(17,396)	-	13,970
Clothesbank	913	1,237	(1,315)	-	835
CAP Salaries Fund	-	8,256	(8,256)	-	-
Soul Food	-	6,276	(3,207)	-	3,069
EVOC Mental Health	-	13,750	(5,251)	-	8,499
Youth Fundraiser	-	1,204	(1,204)	-	-
	<u>23,098</u>	<u>114,464</u>	<u>(60,749)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,813</u>
Restricted funds					
Total funds	<u>1,825,051</u>	<u>785,684</u>	<u>(814,503)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,796,232</u>
	At 31 Aug 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 Aug 2024 £
<b>2023/24</b>					
Unrestricted funds	180,479	749,863	(683,743)	-	246,599
Designated funds	1,595,921	-	(40,567)	-	1,555,354
	<u>1,776,400</u>	<u>749,863</u>	<u>(724,310)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,801,953</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Property Fund	-	27,362	(5,716)	-	21,646
Just Christmas	91	22,783	(22,705)	-	169
Project Pants	292	78	-	-	370
Soul Surfers Campervan	5,796	1,312	(7,108)	-	-
Nursing	12,580	-	(12,580)	-	-
Clothesbank	-	1,872	(959)	-	913
CAP Salaries Fund	-	8,721	(8,721)	-	-
Soul Food	-	3,500	(3,500)	-	-
Café Salary Fund	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
	<u>18,759</u>	<u>67,128</u>	<u>(62,789)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,098</u>
Restricted funds					
Total funds	<u>1,795,159</u>	<u>816,991</u>	<u>(787,099)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>

## CENTRAL

### Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

#### Notes to the financial statements (continued)

##### 17 Analysis of funds (continued)

The Designated Fund represents the net book value of the Church building, which has been set aside as a separate fund. Depreciation is charged to this fund on an annual basis. Transfers to the fund represent fixed assets purchased in the year.

The Property Fund is used to address the property requirements (in a general sense) of the church going forward. Previously, its main use was to repay the loan to the Baptist Union Loan Corporation and we received donations each month to fund the monthly repayments of capital and interest. Going forward, the fund will be used to meet ongoing repairs and maintenance costs.

The Just Christmas fund was established for special collections taken over the Christmas period.

The Project Pants fund relates to a project to provide clothing for vulnerable people during the winter period.

In October 2013 the Church purchased a VW Campervan for use by the Soul Surfers missional community. A restricted fund was set up to accommodate donations and gifts for the purpose of funding the purchase and running costs of the vehicle. The Campervan was sold during 2023/24.

The Nursing Fund started with funding from TOR Christian Foundation for a feasibility study to scope the establishment of a nursing ministry within Edinburgh churches. We have now completed that and are running a pilot scheme.

Clothesbank – this fund receives income to part fund the operation of a Clothesbank we operate in partnership with Edinburgh City Mission in Central Hall.

CAP Salaries Fund – income received to part fund CAP staff salaries.

Soul Food Fund comprises income to contribute towards the cost of providing a weekly freshly prepared meal, while also offering some respite and support to anyone dealing with the challenges of homelessness, poverty or loneliness.

Café Salary Fund – income received to part fund café salaries.

EVOC Mental Health – grant funds used to develop volunteer and staff knowledge and awareness of mental health issues, allowing increased confidence in developing services and supporting service users.

Youth Fundraiser – funds raised by our youth ministry activities for external charities.

## CENTRAL

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £
Balances at 31 August 2025 represented by:				
Tangible assets	40,292	1,514,787	-	1,555,079
Net current assets	164,340	-	76,813	241,153
	<u>204,632</u>	<u>1,514,787</u>	<u>76,813</u>	<u>1,796,232</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £
Balances at 31 August 2024 represented by:				
Tangible assets	33,200	1,555,354	-	1,588,554
Net current assets	213,399	-	23,098	236,497
	<u>246,599</u>	<u>1,555,354</u>	<u>23,098</u>	<u>1,825,051</u>
19 Analysis of net funds	1 Sep 2024 £	Cashflows £	Non-cash Movements £	31 Aug 2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents	245,917	(10,704)	-	235,213
<b>Total net funds</b>	<u>245,917</u>	<u>(10,704)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>235,213</u>

## 20 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting date the church has outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	1,790	1,790
Between two and five years	-	-
	<u>1,790</u>	<u>1,790</u>

## 21 Related party transactions

During the year the Church made payments of £nil (2024: £3,150) to Daysix Limited, a company in which Trustee James Cant is also a director. The charity also made a charitable gift to Cairn Movement of £nil (2024: £2,500), a charity in which Edwin Backler was a trustee until 31 August 2024. The wife of Trustee, Jonathan Wright, is employed by Central as Operations and Finance Manager and she received a salary of £26,237 and pension contributions of £1,312 in the year. The wife of Trustee, Scott Watson, is employed by Central to run the Parish Nursing Project and she received a salary of £5,141 in the year.

The charity received donations of £71,284 (2024: £44,120) from 8 Trustees (2024: 6 Trustees) during the year.