

SPORTS
CHAPLAINCY

SERVING SPORT THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN CHAPLAINCY



*Sports Chaplaincy
UK & Ireland serving
sport through
excellence in
chaplaincy.*

ACCOUNTS & IMPACT 2025



People. Presence. Possibility.

Chaplains serving, supporting and strengthening sport across the UK and Ireland.



OUR IMPACT IN 2025

Across England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, chaplains are serving, supporting and strengthening sport. In 2025 we continued to see lives changed, communities encouraged and new doors opened across professional and grassroots sport.



900+

chaplaincy roles



21+

sports served



529

chaplains trained,
inducted or at
conference



15

induction
trainings



2

mental health and
trauma courses



5

conferences



200,000+

voluntary hours
facilitated



£5m+

in-kind services
delivered to the
wider sports community

Year ended 31 December 2025. Volunteer hours and in-kind services are given to the community of sport and are not included in the financial statements.



Small acts of faith are having a lasting impact across sport.

Warren Evans, CEO

A conversation in a changing room. A listening ear in a difficult season. A steady presence when life feels uncertain. Our CEO describes these small moments as seeds of hope, healing and change across the movement.

Chaplains, trustees, volunteers, church partners, donors and prayer supporters make it possible. The stories below show what that support did in 2025, nation by nation.

ENGLAND



Wembley: Faith and Football

Doors opening at every level of sport

National governing bodies and professional organisations are showing growing trust in chaplaincy as a confidential, consistent pastoral presence. A highlight was the Faith and Football Christmas event at Wembley, staged in partnership with the Football Association.

Community chaplaincy grew in local clubs, gyms, health clubs and grassroots organisations. Biggleswade United's chairman approached the team asking for help to set up chaplaincy at the club.

Reported by National Director Matt Baker

History is made as more chaplains are appointed

More chaplains were appointed than at any other time in Scotland's history, mostly in football, where women's chaplaincy keeps growing. The year brought the first Ice Hockey chaplain, at Glasgow Clan, and the first chaplain at Glasgow Warriors Rugby Club.

Links in Africa flourished too. In Zambia the team delivered trauma and mental health awareness training, with a similar visit to Malawi planned this year.

Reported by National Director Mark Fleming

SCOTLAND



Record year for appointments

WALES



Women's sport growing

Growth in support for women's sport

Women chaplains were placed alongside Swansea City and Cardiff City women's teams and with Blackwood Netball. Chaplains supported people through deeply distressing times, including suicide and loss.

The annual conference focused on coping with loss, and the team shared its work at a Wales conference on bereavement, mental health and suicide. Chaplaincy and local churches also supported the Ceredigion Car Rally.

Reported by National Director Martin Lewis

A big year for appointments

Ireland saw 64 chaplain appointments in the year, across 13 sports, including the first chaplain in the Gaelic Athletic Association in the north of Ireland, at East Belfast GAA.

Six chaplains served as official tournament chaplains at The Open at Royal Portrush, the largest annual sporting event the charity has ever served, with 280,000 spectators. Tracey Robinson took over as National Director in August.

Reported by National Director Tracey Robinson

IRELAND



64 new appointments

1,000

Our goal is 1,000 chaplains in amateur and professional sport across the UK. Become a monthly donor or make a one-off gift at sportschaplaincy.org.uk.

The accounts

A summary of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The charity relies on donations and grants, mainly from churches, trusts and individual supporters.

£498,048 total income (2024: £497,933)	£493,130 total expenditure (2024: £522,128)	£4,918 net surplus (2024: £24,195 deficit)	£26,718 total funds, including a £20,000 designated core operational reserve
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Where the money came from

Churches and trusts	£259,483
Grants	£137,125
Individual donations	£71,208
Conference and membership	£26,421
Tax refunds and interest	£3,811

Where the money went

Staff salaries, pensions and housing	£278,495
Consultancy fees	£121,266
Travel and training	£48,236
Conference and newsletter	£18,917
Support costs	£26,216

Cash at bank was £194,154 at year end, of which £158,875 was grant funding received in advance for future work. The trustees' priority is a sustainable funding strategy and rebuilding reserves towards a target of about £70,000, three months of staff costs. The full trustees' report and financial statements follow.

Activate 2026

Our annual magazine, from the Ireland leader's journey from the sidelines to the heart of sport, to a golf chaplaincy couple, a Bradford pastor and the annual round-up from each nation.

The full magazine follows on the next pages. You can also find the latest issue at sportschaplaincy.org.uk.

ACTIVATE



The official magazine of Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland · 2026 ISSUE

Ireland leader's journey from the sidelines to heart of sport

"Church and
sport provide
the perfect
combination"



- God is opening doors at every level of sport
- James Lusted: I'm amazed by team's impact



VOLUNTEER FOR US TODAY



**MANY ROLES AND OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE**

www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk

Welcome

THE PROFOUND IMPACT Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland makes on the individuals and communities we serve never ceases to amaze me.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Activate 2026, the annual publication of Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland and celebrate all that has been achieved.

Over the past year, our chaplains have continued to provide vital pastoral and spiritual care across both professional and amateur sport, supporting players, coaches, staff, volunteers, and fans alike. Their dedication ensures that sport remains not only a field of competition, but also a place of community, support, and personal growth.

We exist to train, equip, and facilitate the appointment of chaplains who serve across the sporting landscape. From grassroots clubs to major sporting events, chaplains offer a listening ear, guidance, and encouragement, often in moments of personal challenge or crisis. Their work embodies care, integrity, and respect. As we look ahead to 2026,

our ambition remains clear. Through initiatives such as the 1,000 Chaplain Challenge, we are expanding our network to meet the growing pastoral needs within sport. We are ensuring that everyone, regardless of level or background, has access to compassionate support and trusted guidance.

In this year's magazine, you will discover inspiring stories and reflections that celebrate the extraordinary work of our chaplains and the lives they touch. We hope these accounts encourage, challenge, and motivate you, and that they convey the lasting impact of chaplaincy within sport.

On behalf of the trustees, thank you to all who support our mission.

Together, we look forward to another year of service, connection, and care across the sporting community.

James Lusted
Trustee



Published by Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland.
Keep up to date with our news on social media and at www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk



Editorial: Matthew Murray. Design: The Media Consultancy

Small acts of faith are having a lasting impact across sport

*Faithful presence, quiet courage and simple obedience are making a big difference, says CEO **Warren Evans***

Dear friends and partners

small, but in God's hands they become seeds of hope, healing, and transformation.

I CONTINUE TO be humbled and encouraged by what God is doing through our leadership team, chaplains and supporters across the UK and Ireland.

In this edition of *Activate*, you will see how faithful presence, quiet courage, and simple obedience are making a real difference in the lives of athletes, coaches, staff and communities.

Jesus spoke of faith the size of a mustard seed — small, easily overlooked, yet full of extraordinary potential. That image captures what I see across our movement. A conversation in a changing room. A prayer offered in confidence. A listening ear in a difficult season. A steady presence when life feels uncertain. These moments may seem

God is at work

We often speak of a 'quiet revival' taking place in society. In truth, it is not that quiet in sport. When we listen, we hear stories of lives being restored, faith discovered and relationships being renewed. God is at work in changing rooms, on training grounds, in club offices and community spaces, using ordinary people who are will-

ing to say 'yes' to His call.

Sport remains one of the largest and untapped mission fields of our generation. Millions gather within it every week, searching for belonging, purpose, and meaning. Many may never walk into a church building, yet they are open to spiritual conversations, authentic relationships, and compassionate care. This is where chaplaincy continues to play a vital role, bringing salt and light into the heart of sporting culture.

Trusting Him

Our calling has never been about grand gestures or public recognition. It is about seeing people as God sees them, praying faithfully,

obeying courageously, relating authentically, and trusting Him to bring transformation. It is about walking slowly through the crowds, welcoming interruption and believing God is always at work, even when we cannot see the full picture.

This is not our work. It is God's. We are stewards of His grace and mission. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every prayer whispered in hope is held in His hands and used for His purposes.

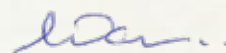
Gratitude

As we look ahead, I am filled with gratitude for all that has been and expectation for all that is to come. To every chaplain, trustee, volunteer,

church partner, donor, and prayer supporter, THANK YOU. Your faithfulness is helping to shape the culture of sport with compassion, humility, and hope.

Let us continue to sow mustard seeds of faith. Let us continue to serve with humility. Let us shine His light in every community called sport. And let us believe together that what God has begun among us will continue to grow and bear much fruit.

With heartfelt thanks and confidence in all that lies ahead,



Warren Evans
CEO, Sports Chaplaincy
UK & Ireland

Don't forget our two annual events, **National Sports Sunday** (second Sunday in May) and **Global Sports Sunday** (third Sunday in September).





How God is opening doors across every level of sport

Witnessing what God has been doing through Sports Chaplaincy England this past year has been a privilege, reports National Director, **Matt Baker**

DOORS HAVE OPENED, relationships deepened and new opportunities emerged across the sporting landscape. There is growing momentum as God places chaplains where care, hope and consistent presence are needed. We look back with gratitude and forward with expectation.

Progress is seen in the growing trust shown by National Governing Bodies and professional sporting organisations. Chaplaincy is increasingly recognised as distinct, trusted pastoral ministry within elite sport, valued as an integral presence offering confidential, consistent and relational integrity. Through faithful presence, chaplains are working closely with governing bodies, clubs and performance staff, walking alongside athletes, coaches and leaders through pressures and transitions of

professional sport.

A highlight was our Football Association partnership in staging a Faith and Football Christmas event at Wembley. London City Lionesses' Jane Branagan shared a prayer pitch side and the event significantly raised Sports Chaplaincy's profile.

Community-based chaplaincy showed strong growth. Chaplains are increasingly welcomed into local clubs, gyms, health clubs and grass-roots organisations where sport intersects with wellbeing and belonging. Living out the love and compassion of God through faithful presence, conversation and prayer, journeying with people who may have little or no connection with church or formal pastoral care. Biggleswade United's chairman approached us seeking support in establishing chaplaincy within the



Jane Branagan, chaplain to London Lionesses FC

club. Central to this expansion is the equipping of new chaplains. Many are already embedded in their sporting communities and sense a clear call to serve God. Formal training grounds this calling in theological reflection, best practice and accountability, enabling chaplains to minister with confidence and integrity.

God is opening doors across every level of sport, reminding us that the gospel belongs wherever people gather. We give thanks for what God has done and remain expectant for how He will continue to grow and guide this ministry.



History is made as more chaplains are appointed

2025 was an exciting year for Sport Chaplaincy Scotland and our growing links in Africa, writes National Director **Mark Fleming**

MORE CHAPLAINS HAVE been appointed than at any other time in our history, for which we give God grateful thanks. Most appointments have been in football, with chaplaincy in the women's game continuing to grow at pace.

We were delighted to appoint our first Ice Hockey chaplain, Fraser Donaldson at Glasgow Clan, as well as our first chaplain at Glasgow Warriors Rugby Club, Ian McEwan, reflecting the widening reach of chaplaincy across Scottish sport.

There have also been important leadership developments. Our Assistant National Director, Stuart Coleman, moved from voluntary service to a paid role one day a week. Rebecca Langlands was

appointed as our new Administrator and Pastoral Director for Female Chaplains.

While our primary focus remains sourcing, training and appointing chaplains throughout Scotland, our work in Africa flourished. Last November, my wife and I were in Zambia delivering trauma training and mental health awareness training to mental health professionals, charity workers and the Sports Chaplaincy Zambia team, strengthening them in their ministries.

I was privileged to provide some mentoring support to them and also join them as they met with the management staff and players



Fraser Donaldson

of NAPSA Stars FC of the Zambian Premier League, as well as the Zambian Under 17 Women's squad. It was a blessing to witness the warm reception they received and to see the clear value chaplaincy holds within Zambian football.



Rebecca Langlands

This year I will be delivering mental health awareness training to a group of sports chaplains from Sports Chaplaincy Malawi, organised by my counterpart in Malawi, Immanuel Chodzeka. We're so grateful for the fundraising efforts of Dunbar United's chaplain James Stout and Stuart Coleman, who made this visit possible.

**Ian McEwan
joins Glasgow
Warriors**





Growth in support for women's sport

We continue to see God's grace and favour in our service for Him across Wales, writes National Director **Martin Lewis**



Pastoral Lead Heather Lewis with new female chaplain at Cardiff Charis Britton

IT HAS BEEN especially encouraging during 2025 to see a number of women chaplains placed to serve alongside women's teams, including Swansea City and Cardiff City seniors and academy, and with Blackwood Netball. With God's help, strong and trusting relationships have been built. In some settings, chaplains have supported through deeply distressing circumstances, like suicide and loss. We have also been helping Hockey Wales ladies and staff navigate a serious situation.

Sadly, it is so often such traumatic events that open the door to our chaplaincy support. Consequently, our annual conference focused on Coping with Loss and we were grateful for the training provided by Dr Jenny Burn, now used by many chaplains.

We had the privilege of being asked to share our work at the Wales conference on bereave-

ment, mental health and suicide with MPs, police, coroners and health professionals. It was humbling to see how chaplaincy's close, relational support was received, particularly in light of the number of suicides in sports clubs in Wales.

We continue to support major events, working with more churches such as Barry Island Elim Church, Gilgal Baptist Porthcawl, Albany Road Baptist Cardiff and Eden Penarth. We pray many more churches will join us.

The honour of supporting the Ceredigion Car Rally was a highlight. It was great to have support from Aberys-

twyth's St Michael's and Freedom Church. Cei Rees lead vicar at St Michael's and Aberystwyth RFC chaplain, led pre-race prayers across a loudspeaker system, lifting the name of Jesus.

We are growing spiritual opportunities, prayer moments, Bible studies, players requesting to go to church and prayer requests. We remain thankful for chances to write for Hockey Wales and include biblical references.

Thank you, Lord, for your grace and favour. We pray for continued growth in 2026, more chaplains, deeper partnerships and financial breakthrough.

The Wales chaplaincy and church teams at Rali Ceredigion





A big year for appointments

The last 12 months have seen incredible growth in Ireland, reports newly-appointed National Director **Tracey Robinson**



WE WERE PRIVILEGED to see 64 appointments in the last year, bringing the total to 326 chaplains across 13 sports. A particular highlight was our first chaplain in Gaelic Athletic Association in the north of Ireland, with Jack McMahon at East Belfast GAA.

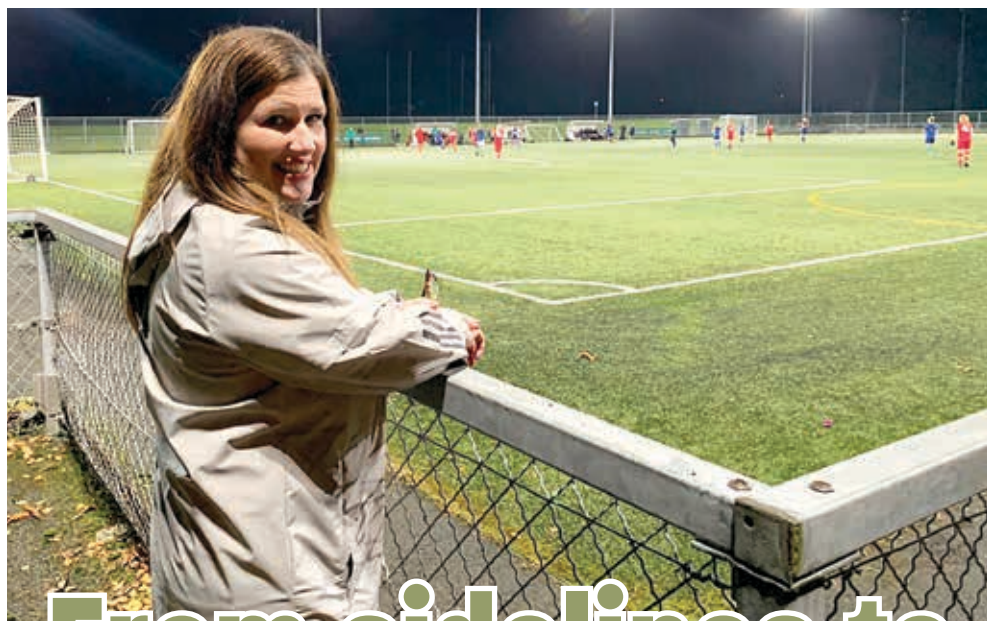
Following the conclusion of Philip Mitchell's phenomenal leadership, I took up the role of National Director in

August. Philip supported a generous handover and will continue serving as volunteer sports chaplain. His heart for sportspeople and the mission of God remains undiminished.

Highlights this year included our National Conference where the Spirit of God was powerfully at work, moving through our speakers, chaplains and all who attended. Sports chaplains were

blessed, strengthened and equipped to go out in the sports clubs and communities where God has placed them.

The Open Championship at Royal Portrush Golf Club provided a landmark opportunity, with six chaplains serving as official tournament chaplains. It was the largest annual sporting event Sports Chaplaincy has ever served at in the UK and Ireland, with 280,000 spectators in attendance. We are grateful to the County Antrim FA and Irish FA for their generous financial support and continued favour from all the National governing bodies League of Ireland, Football Association Ireland (FAI) Northern Ireland football league, Professional Football Associations in Ireland and Northern Ireland, recognising the vital work of our chaplains. These partnerships enable us to continue offering love and support.



From sidelines to the heart of sport

Tracey Robinson's Journey to Sports Chaplaincy Ireland's Leadership

LIVING CLOSE TO the realities of sport has had a profound impact on Tracey Robinson.

Appointed National Director of Sports Chaplaincy Ireland last year, her deep understanding is borne from personal experience, shaped by years alongside the professional game as a wife and mother.

Those lived experiences, away from the spotlight, and discovering her faith

in 2012, formed a powerful heart for ministry marked by deep empathy, discretion and empowering resilience.

Formerly married to Northern Ireland international Stephen Robinson and mother to Harry Robinson, who played professionally, she understands hidden challenges.

It was during a period of loss, following the close deaths of her father and a close friend when something



shifted when that friend, battling cancer, asked her to attend church with her.

"I went to church to support her through her cancer battle," she said.

"The three times I was there, I could not stop crying. And I was thinking, what's going on? It was like she had rung ahead and said, 'Please preach on this because my friend needs to hear this.' Obviously, she hadn't, but that's just how I felt."

Tracey started visiting church alone.

She recalls, "God took me on a journey and revealed himself to me quite dramatically over the years."

Although the journey was sometimes hard, she feels God was equipping her for what was ahead, long before she knew why.

She explained, "I didn't play football myself. But God's equipped me as a wife and as a mother, of knowing these people that we're serving in sports chaplaincy, everything that they have to go through to actually get on the pitch. So I can help our chaplains understand better, not from a player's viewpoint, but from a wife, from a mother and being involved in that world for some 35 years."

Tracey became a chaplain for squads in the Northern Ireland Women's Senior International Team in 2020, but



Tracey speaking during a national Sports Chaplaincy Ireland conference

learnt pressures faced by all sportspeople are similar.

"It doesn't matter what sport, if it has a bat or a ball, they're still human beings with the same pressures."

Tracey speaks with deep admiration of women in sport, who she believes often navigate a more complex reality than male counterparts. With lower pay, many juggle professional sport alongside employment, family life and competing demands. She says these pressures frequently go unseen, yet shape their resilience, commitment and wellbeing.

She is hugely grateful to former national director Philip Mitchell, and the pioneering impact he made over the past

decade, significantly expanding the reach of sports chaplains across Ireland.

Today, they have 428 unique sports chaplaincy roles across 13 individual sports. She feels God has placed three clear priorities on her heart.

She adds, "The first is to deepen the ministry of prayer, creating regular rhythms that unite chaplains. The second is to strengthen connections with churches and bridge to people who may otherwise not enter a church."

"Finally, I want us to equip chaplains with clarity of mission and resources to feel supported and fully prepared to serve where God has placed them."



One of the events arranged by Sports Chaplaincy was an evening with Stewart Cink, which drew crowds, above

Getting chaplaincy off to a tee on the greens

Power couple **Tim** and **Suzanne Brown's** prayers to reach their community were answered...

FOR MANY YEARS we, as a married couple, prayed for a specific opportunity to use our gifting in our local community. Initially we thought it might be to help set up a church plant, but unexpectedly, a friend at Portstewart Golf Club wondered whether we would consider the role of sports chaplains.

Although nervous at first, three years on, it has been such an honour to be entrusted in many difficult situations. Tim and I have

been members of our club for 50 and 25 years respectively, so we already had long standing relationships with folk and many knew our faith in Jesus was a central part of our daily life.

Golf is unique in that it often allows one-to-one time with people, and natural opportunities for people to open up.

It has been an honour to be entrusted in many difficult situations.

Often the subject of faith is included in the chat in

a very natural way. Unlike other sports chaplaincies, a golf club membership's average age is much older, meaning we also support people who are sick or dying and we've helped with funerals.

Caring and loving people well must be genuine. As relationships grow, we hope to move beyond polite conversation and ask, "How are you really doing?" The expected reply is often 'I'm fine'. As relationships grow we always hope to get the opportunity to dig a little deeper and ask, "How are you really doing?"

We can easily compare ourselves with those who



Suzanne enjoys nothing better than a round of golf



Philip Mitchell and Tim Brown



Suzanne with
former Ireland
Director Philip
Mitchell

“We’d encourage anyone thinking about becoming a sports chaplain to step out in faith”

seem gifted in evangelism, but we believe God calls each of us simply to be faithful in the opportunities we are given.

It is not about how many people respond immediately, but about being part of someone’s journey towards Jesus. The Holy Spirit does the work; we are simply available and obedient.

We would encourage anyone thinking about becoming a sports chaplain to step out in faith. We certainly feel very privileged to have had the honour of being part of this amazing movement within sport.

We're a church with open doors and open hearts...

Church and sport provide the perfect combination,
writes pastor and chaplain **Oliver Evans**

NATIONAL SPORTS SUNDAY

(NSS) has become a really special part of life at Rock Church Bradford. It's a moment where church and community, faith and sport, come together.

As a local church pastor and chaplain at Bradford City AFC, I have the privilege of walking in two worlds that deeply matter. I see the pressures, joys, disappointments, and hopes that come with sport. I see the deep hunger many have for connection, meaning and encouragement. NSS gives us a wonderful opportunity to bring those worlds together.

Our heart has always been simple: to open our doors wide and create space where people feel valued, relaxed and at home. One way is our shared meals after



services. Conversations flow, barriers come down and friendships begin. Players, coaches, families, supporters and church members mix together. Real community, formed.

We welcome coaches and former players to share stories. Hearing honestly about the challenges, sacrifices and resilience involved in professional sport helps people see God is present.

These moments have led to deeper relationships. Some people ask for prayer. Some open up about

personal struggles. Others find a safe place to belong. All of it matters. None of this happens in isolation. I'm so grateful for a church family that believes in mission, hospitality, and presence. Rock Church consistently supports the work of chaplaincy.

For us, NSS is a reminder of what God calls us to do every day: to love people where they are, listen well and point them gently towards Jesus. Not just in church but in training grounds, changing rooms and everyday life.

Our prayer is simple: that we remain a church with open doors and open hearts, building bridges between sport and faith. Helping people encounter the love, grace and hope of Jesus.

Check out www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk for information on this year's National Sports Sunday, which takes place on the second Sunday in May.



**Oliver Evans is a
pastor and chaplain
at Bradford City AFC**



CAN YOU DONATE TO SPORTS CHAPLAINCY?

HELP US REACH OUR TARGET OF 1,000 CHAPLAINS

"Supporting Sports Chaplaincy is strategic.
Sport is one of the most culturally
influential arenas — it matters that the
Church shows up here,"

Jon Norman, Soul Church, Norwich.

***GIVE TODAY AND
JOIN THE TEAM***

www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk





Partner With Us

The **1000**
Chaplain Challenge

**Our goal is to have
1,000 chaplains in amateur and professional
sports settings across the UK.**

Can you help us?

**BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR
MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION**



Give Today

Full trustees' report and financial statements

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Charity information and trustees

Registered charity number 1168051. Registration in Scotland SC049820. Correspondence address: Thorpe House, 9 School Lane, Dronfield S18 1RY. Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ. Independent examiner: Richard Knapp, Chartered Accountant, FCA, 18 Bradgate Road, Hinckley, LE10 1LA.

The following trustees served throughout the year ended 31 December 2025 and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated: Dave Courteen (Chair), Daniel Caldwell, Bob Hamer, James Lusted, Haydon Spenceley, Dean Thorpe (Treasurer), Anne Wafula-Strike, Robert Wilson.

Changes since the year end: Robert Wilson resigned as a trustee on 23 July 2026. Justine Barnes was appointed as a trustee on 30 June 2026.

Trustees' report

History and objectives of the charity

The original charity was formed as a successor charity of Sports Chaplaincy UK (Charity reference 1005446) to take advantage of the newly available CIO structure. Assets and liabilities were transferred from the original charity on 1 April 2017 in agreement with the Charity Commission and relevant creditors (including the Baptist Pension Fund with whom the charity had a large contingent liability at the time). The predecessor charity was dissolved on 31 December 2018 and the Charity Commission notified on 1 January 2019.

The original charity (formerly known as SCORE) was formed in September 1991 with the objective of the advancement of the Christian religion chiefly supporting and resourcing sports chaplaincy and pastoral support for both amateur and professional participants. The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and activities of the charity and we consider our charitable activities, free at the point of delivery, support the advancement of religion, citizenship and community development in sport without discrimination of age, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or health disability.

Management and governance arrangements

Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by its constitution dated 5th July 2016, as amended 6th May 2025. The constitution provides for a minimum of three charity trustees with no maximum number. New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees. The Chair is responsible for the induction of any new Trustee which involves the awareness of their responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures and the history and philosophical approach of the charity. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

The Trustee Board annually reviews the risks the charity faces and considers the following risks which may affect the work of the charity:

- Operational: related to the geographical locations of the work
- Statutory and Legal: relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Charities' governance
- Financial: relating to reduction in income or excessive expenditure

- Reputation: from adverse publicity and associated professional risks

Steps are in place to minimise these risks by specific Trustees monitoring the staff and volunteers and the work of the charity reviewing their statutory responsibilities. The Trustee Board receives their reports and prepares an annual budget and monitors the financial performance as well as operational and statutory matters at its regular meetings. The charity makes itself accountable to the public and its stakeholders in producing its annual report and accounts alongside a brochure currently called "Activate" highlighting its achievements in the year in a more user-friendly medium which is also available on the charity's website.

Achievements and performance of the charity

The charity supported over 900 chaplaincy roles in more than 21 sports. We have a strong presence across all the home nations of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) and are increasingly supporting chaplains in women's, disability, all-ability and grassroots sport.

Volunteer hours and in-kind services facilitated by the charity (over 200,000 hours and over £5 million respectively) are services provided to the community of sport. They are not resources of the charity and are not included in these financial statements.

During the year, SCUKE lost the longstanding support of Racing Welfare due to their financial standing. We were grateful for their support and wish them every success. We adjusted our racing activities to reflect the funding available. Our Racing Lead resigned to continue his work with support directly from the racing community. He remains an accredited SCUKE chaplain.

These changes were managed through a planned adjustment to our activity. The charity remained operationally active and ended the year with a small financial surplus. Trustees recognise that unrestricted reserves remain below their target level, and rebuilding them remains a priority.

Recognition of the work of the Charity continues to grow through the use of digital media channels with the number of expressions of interest in Chaplaincy continuing to be strong. The Charity is in the process of establishing charitable status in the Republic of Ireland given the growing cross border interest and engagement.

The ongoing work of the Finance, EDI, HR and Policy sub-groups continues to serve the Board of Trustees well and reflects the skill sets now evident in the make-up of the Board.

The main sporting partners continue to include the Professional Footballers Association, the Premier League and the English Football League, SFA and NIFL, with relationships being built with other significant sporting bodies. Efforts also continued to develop the support base and build an appropriate administrative structure to support continued growth, including the roll-out of a new website and improved data collection.

None of these achievements would be possible without the commitment and excellent work of our volunteer chaplains, staff and trustees, together with the faithful prayer and encouragement of so many who share our vision. The Trustees are deeply grateful for the generous support of individual donors, churches, trusts and foundations whose partnership enables Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland to train, support and facilitate chaplains serving communities across sport. We particularly acknowledge the valued support of trusts and foundations including Benefact Trust, the Joseph Rank Trust and Christian trusts and foundations across Ireland and the UK. Their generosity, alongside that of many other faithful supporters, enables SCUKE to continue extending compassionate pastoral and spiritual care throughout the sporting community.

Contingent liability

As disclosed in previous years' accounts, the charity was a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme, a multi-employer defined-benefit scheme. Following an insurance buy-in and favourable market movements, the scheme's funding position was resolved during 2022, and the charity has had no outstanding liability or contingent liability in relation to the scheme since that date, including as at 31 December 2025.

Financial

The charity relies on donations and grants to finance its growth. Income is in the form of gifts and grants primarily from Trusts and churches, and from individual supporters.

Grants are for the support of specific work and these are accounted for as restricted or designated funds where appropriate. Movements on these funds are set out in note 6. Individual funding arrangements allow for a percentage of income to support the administration and management of the charity and these are reflected in the accounting.

A number of gifts are indicated to be for the support of specific activities and, although these gifts are not supported by a formal agreement, the Trustees may designate these to specific areas/activities. Again, an administration fee is taken to support the associated administration and management.

The charity is seeking further funds to develop the management of the charity but has structured activities so that costs can be scaled to the income level. The Accounts are subject to an independent examination in line with the OSCR/Charity Commission guidelines for a charity of this size and nature.

The Trustees' reserves policy, the target of approximately £70,000 (three months of staff costs) and the level of reserves held at the year end are set out in note 1.

Future plans

Over the next 12 months the charity will continue to develop chaplaincy appointments in its core sports, consider opportunities to develop chaplaincy in other sports, including golf and gyms, and seek to broaden its supporter base. A key goal of the Charity will be the development and delivery of a sustainable funding strategy and the replenishment of reserves following COVID-19, to provide for the ongoing development of the Charity.

The trustees have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare these accounts on that basis.

Statement of the trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, ensuring that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.

The charity has trustee indemnity insurance in place, providing cover of up to £250,000, held as part of the charity's overall insurance arrangements. The insurance covers the trustees against liability incurred in the proper discharge of their duties as trustees of the charity.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees: D Courteen, Chair of Trustees. Date: 28th September 2026

Signature:



Independent examiner's report

To the Trustees of Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland. I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out in pages 25 to 29

Respective responsibilities of 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 Charities Act) or under Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- a. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
- b. Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- c. 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 and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with these 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 set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act; and (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006; have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Richard Knapp, Chartered Accountant, FCA. 18 Bradgate Road, Hinckley, LE10 1LA. 29 September 2026

Signature:  _____

Statement of financial activities

Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Income and endowments from	2025 £	2024 £
Donations from individuals	71,208	58,981
Donations from churches and trusts	259,483	201,162
Grants	137,125	214,987
Tax refunds	3,549	6,011
Conference and membership	26,421	16,574
Bank interest	262	218
Total income	498,048	497,933

Expenditure on	2025 £	2024 £
Staff salaries, pensions and housing (note 3)	278,495	275,567
Consultancy fees	121,266	123,654
Travel and training costs	48,236	57,351
Conference and newsletter	18,917	12,846
Support costs: insurance and office property	2,479	2,885
Stationery, postage and telephone	3,496	7,230
Publicity, printing and reproduction	1,840	1,078
Secretarial and accountancy costs	3,454	16,872
IT costs	8,104	16,773
Awards and subscriptions	2,522	4,572
Legal and professional costs	4,006	3,300
Fundraising expenses	315	0
Total expenditure	493,130	522,128
Net income / (expenditure)	4,918	(24,195)

The income and expenditure lines above are shown in total. The analysis by fund and the reconciliation of funds follow (see note 6).

Analysis by fund, 2025	Unrestricted £	Designated gifts £	Restricted £	Total £
Total income	221,923	54,125	222,000	498,048
Total expenditure	(493,130)	0	0	(493,130)
Net income / (expenditure) before transfers	(271,207)	54,125	222,000	4,918
Transfers between funds	276,125	(54,125)	(222,000)	0
Net movement in funds	4,918	0	0	4,918
Total funds brought forward 1 January 2025	21,800	0	0	21,800
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2025	26,718	0	0	26,718

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2025. Approved by the Trustees on 28th September 2026 and signed on their behalf by D Courteen, Chair.

Signature:



	2025 £	2024 £
Sundry debtors and prepayments (note 4)	0	4,090
Cash at bank and in hand	194,154	117,396
Current assets	194,154	121,486
Current liabilities: sundry creditors (note 5)	167,436	99,686
Restricted funds	0	0
Unrestricted funds: designated funds (core operational reserve)	20,000	20,000
General unrestricted funds	6,718	1,800
Total charity funds	26,718	21,800

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - effective 1 January 2019), the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the charity is responsible in law.

Income. Income from gifts, subscriptions, and donations is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Where sporting bodies provide funding for specific periods, this income is deferred and apportioned over the period to which it relates. All income is accounted for gross.

Expenditure. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for gross and includes costs expended on supporting and resourcing chaplaincy work in sports.

Tangible fixed assets. Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are stated in the accounts as equipment. Equipment used for charity purposes is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful economic life. Items costing less than £1,000 are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the year of acquisition.

Funds. Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charity's objects. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the Trustees have set aside for particular purposes. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions imposed by donors or grantors. Where expenditure meeting the purposes of a designated or restricted fund is incurred, it is charged to unrestricted funds and an equal transfer is made from the designated or restricted fund.

Reserves policy. The Trustees define reserves as unrestricted funds that are freely available and not committed or designated, held to meet the ongoing running costs of the charity in the event of a shortfall in income or an unforeseen need. The Trustees' policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves of approximately £70,000, equivalent to three months of staff costs, so that core activities and staff commitments can continue in the event of a shortfall in income. The Trustees have designated £20,000 as a Core Operational Reserve, to protect the continuity of core activities given that a significant proportion of income is received as grants restricted or deferred to specific periods.

At 31 December 2025, unrestricted funds were £26,718, comprising free (general unrestricted) reserves of £6,718 and the £20,000 designated Core Operational Reserve. The Trustees recognise that reserves are currently below the £70,000 target and are addressing this through the funding strategy described under Future Plans.

2. Taxation

As a registered charity, the charity is exempt from taxation on its income and gains to the extent that they are applied exclusively for charitable purposes.

3. Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross salaries	237,194	227,766
Employer's social security costs	29,863	20,156
Employer's pension contributions	11,438	11,388
Pension deficit payments	0	10
Housing and other benefits	0	16,247
Total	278,495	275,567

During the year, the Trustees engaged 5 members of staff under contracts of employment to undertake core charitable activities (2024: 5). Bookkeeping, payroll, administration, and other specialized operational roles were provided on a contracted-out basis. The charity also made contributions to support the ministry of Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland activities into new regions. Further operational support to the charity was generously provided on a voluntary basis.

All employees were regarded as key management personnel during 2025. Their aggregate employee benefits were £278,495 (2024: £275,567), comprising salaries, employer National Insurance and employer pension contributions. The number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer National Insurance) exceeded £60,000 during the financial year was as follows: £60,000 – £70,000: 2 employees (2024: 0).

Trustee remuneration and expenses. No Trustee received any remuneration or compensation from the charity during the current or prior financial year. One Trustee was reimbursed for travel expenses during the year for £197.20 (2024: £Nil). During the year, there were no related-party transactions requiring disclosure other than those disclosed above regarding trustee expenses.

4. Analysis of debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepaid expenses	0	0
Outstanding debts	0	4,090
Total	0	4,090

5. Analysis of creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income (grants)	158,875	85,500
Inland Revenue, PAYE etc.	8,561	6,580
Accounts payable	0	6,230
Money held re Global Chaplaincy	0	1,376
Total	167,436	99,686

Deferred income note. Deferred income comprises grant funding received in advance of the specific operational periods or performance criteria set out by sporting bodies and institutional trusts. Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025: £85,500. Amount released to income in the current year: £(85,500). New grant income deferred in the current year: £158,875. Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025: £158,875.

6. Movement in funds

	At 1 Jan 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2025 £
Unrestricted funds (general and core operational reserve)	21,800	221,923	(493,130)	276,125	26,718
Designated funds: gifts for specific activities	0	54,125	0	(54,125)	0
Restricted funds	0	222,000	0	(222,000)	0
Total funds	21,800	498,048	(493,130)	0	26,718

Restricted funds are grants and gifts received for specific work. Designated gifts are gifts the Trustees have designated to specific activities. Expenditure on that work was charged to unrestricted funds, and the related income was transferred to unrestricted funds to meet it. Unrestricted funds of £26,718 comprise general funds of £6,718 and the £20,000 designated Core Operational Reserve (2024: £1,800 and £20,000).

Analysis of net assets between funds. Net assets of £26,718 (current assets £194,154 less current liabilities £167,436) are all held in unrestricted funds. There were no restricted or designated gift funds at 31 December 2025 (2024: nil).

Sports Chaplaincy UK & Ireland is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation CIO). Registered charity number 1168051 (England and Wales). Registered in Scotland SC049820.

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