

AGM REPORT 2026

1. Before I start on the details of the report, I wanted to say how very grateful we are to all our members for your support of the Trust in so many ways. Without your support we would not be able to provide financial assistance towards the maintenance and preservation of the churches and chapels in our area of benefit. In whatever way you have helped us during the last year, that help has been greatly appreciated. Whilst on the subject of members, a special thanks should go to our membership secretary Keith Miller who works so hard keeping in touch with members. Thanks also to Michael Woodhall who has agreed once again to pay for the wine this evening
2. This report provides the edited highlights of the accounts for 2025. The accounts have been prepared and approved without comment by our independent examiners Rothmans. They will be lodged shortly with the Charity Commission and published on their website later this year if you want to see a copy.
3. At the end of December 2025 the balances in our bank and building society accounts amounted to £264,907. This is an increase on the previous year caused by a delay in churches to whom we had promised grants completing their projects.

4. At the end of the year, we had made commitments to provide grants to churches when their work was completed in the sum of £86,000.
5. The balance of our funds, apart from our reserve for meeting expenses if the Trust is wound up, is available for the Grants Committee to offer grants to churches.
6. In 2025 we made 16 grants to churches totalling £47,000. This was one fewer grants than the previous year.
7. One of our main sources of income during the year was from Ride and Stride. Including the reclaimed Gift aid, the total raised by the event was £48,447, a few hundred pounds less than the previous year. Churches raising money for the event received back 50% of the funds that they raised.
8. Our second main source of income comes from donations and legacies. In 2025 the total of these amounted to £46,562. The majority of this came from the estate of the late Richard Osmond, a long standing committee member, to whom we are most grateful. It is legacies such as this that enable us to continue the level of grant making to which we have become accustomed.
9. Finally, I should just make a comment about expenses during the year. In 2025 our expenses including insurance and accountant's fees were £1,342. We have no paid staff and expenses claims are limited. What is achieved is achieved by hard working volunteers and means that almost all funds that are raised are applied to the

maintenance and preservation of churches and chapels. It is easy to take this for granted. I recently read a review of the statistics for a national charity that is paying its chief executive £250,000 and has a total wages bill of £1.3 million. Inevitably this means that a sizeable chunk of the funds that they raise does not go towards their objects. I give thanks every day for the generosity of our members, both in terms of time committed and funds raised. Thank you.

10. On that positive note I can conclude this report. If there are any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them over a glass of wine after the meeting.