



Annual Report

Central Church Warrington
2025

Introduction

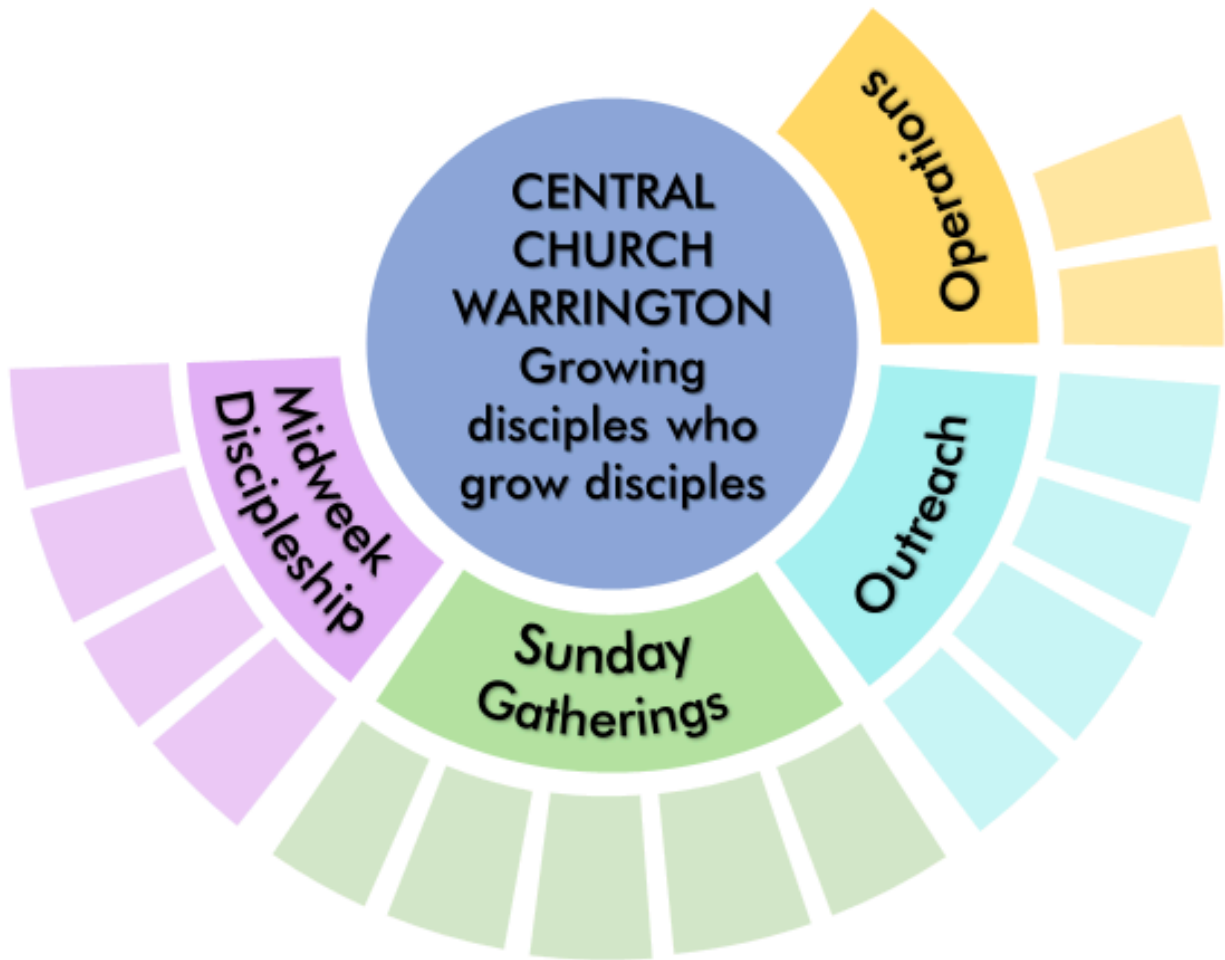
2025 has been a significant year for us a church!

As we moved into the Buckley Street building in July, we said farewell to the Salvation Army, which had so graciously hosted us for the first three years of our church life. It was remarked to me in November, 'You are no longer in the pioneering stage of church life but you are an established church.' Adjusting to that shift is going to be an important part of the coming years.

Our aims as a church remain the same: to listen to Jesus as the Bible is carefully taught, to then respond in lives of repentance and faith, and finally to share the good news with others.

In this Annual Report, we'll hear updates from the different ministries within our church. Our formal activities are only meant to help us in the more important task of living and growing as disciples each day, but I thank God for how he is at work amongst us and all the ways we are sacrificially served by one another.

Mark



We split our ministries into three main areas – Sunday gatherings, Midweek discipleship, and Outreach. All of these are supported practically and administratively by our Operations ministries.

I often reflect at how special church is. Not only are we Jesus' great mission – he is building his kingdom amongst us – but we get the honour, blessings and benefits of having brothers and sisters to love, encourage, and walk with us in this dark world. May we continue to put each other first in the year ahead.

*Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"
"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."*

(Luke 18:28-30)

Sunday gatherings

Overview | Mark Cooper

Every Sunday we gather together to listen to Jesus. As we hear the Bible read and preached, sing and pray, or as we share church family news, or as we eat and drink the Lord's Supper together, we remember how wonderful a King we have in Jesus, and we seek to grow and be his disciples.

Through the course of the year, we had major series in Genesis, Acts, and Luke. In each, we have seen God's great plan to build a people for himself. In the summer, we marked the anniversary of the Nicene Creed by looking into it together so that we might declare 'We believe in One God, One Lord, and the Holy Spirit' once more.

Particularly as we moved into Buckley Street, I am reminded of how much effort goes into making our Sunday gatherings good for as many people as possible: it's a wonderful display of our partnership in the gospel.



PRAYER FOR 2026:
That our growth is not just in numbers but in depth of knowing Jesus: that we may be "filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him" (Colossians 1:10).

Music | Sarah Cooper

Singing is a wonderful part of our 24-7 worship to the Lord! It's a real gift from God to encourage one another with truth, whilst singing praises to God. And so we take care to sing songs that are truth-filled, and fit well into the flow of our Sunday gatherings.

I thank God for providing musicians and singers to help us do that each week in 2025, including new people joining the team as we hoped for at the end of 2024. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes, and I'm particularly grateful for our partnership with the tech team in navigating the move to Buckley Street. They have worked so hard to make the transition go smoothly!

PRAYER FOR 2026: In 2026, please pray that the hearts of the music team would be resting securely in the Lord Jesus, free to serve him without focusing on how we feel we 'perform'. Please pray too for the songs to connect with the hearts of people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Sound and Tech | Peter Thomas

The purpose of the tech team is to ensure that people can hear everything they need to during services and events, so that God's Word can go out clearly, with the prayer that God will work through that to build His Kingdom.

The biggest change for us in 2025 was receiving a new tech set up in Buckley Street - the changes that came with the move to Buckley Street were somewhat compounded by the new kit! Thankfully, by the end of the year, there was a lot of familiarity with the new set up in the team, and the kit seems to be helping us fulfil our purpose well.

PRAYER FOR 2026: We'd love to see more people join the team, so the workload can be more comfortably shared. We know people can find serving here a daunting prospect so we're looking to draw up detailed but accessible guides to using the tech kit: please pray these guides would come together well.

Laptop | Sidney Ramella

The goal of the visual media team is to enable smooth and clear communication during Sunday services through visual support like operating the PowerPoint, doing so in a manner that is seamless and avoids distractions. As of the end of 2025, this is a brand new ministry, with no one yet recruited officially to the rota.

PRAYER FOR 2026: I am hoping to both train up and establish a team that loves serving in this way on a Sunday morning.

Sunday Clubs

Scramblers | Sarah Cooper

Scramblers is our Sunday Club group for 5 and unders. Ruth got Scramblers up and running as we moved into Buckley Street, and Sarah took over its leadership in October.

We're very thankful for the space and volunteers to be able to offer provision for this age group. We're thankful, too, for the patience of parents with young children bearing with the lack whilst we met in the Salvation Army.

In Scramblers, we teach the children a Bible Story using the God's Big Promises Bible Storybook and have been developing a structure for sessions to use in 2026. At Christmas, we enjoyed a Scramblers Christmas Party, as we seek to develop relationships between the Scramblers families and team.

PRAYER FOR 2026:
Excitingly, the number of under 5s in our church has grown significantly recently, so please pray for us as we seek to love these families well with the resources available to us as a church.



Climbers | Rebecca C

Looking back over the past church reports, it has been so encouraging to see how God has answered prayers! I'm so thankful that we now have our own church building with the space for the children to spread out into more age-specific groups.

The Climbers children have loved meeting in the church hall where they have the freedom to run around playing games, but also gather to learn from the Bible and discuss how we can apply the teaching to our lives. We have around 10 Climbers who never fail to delight us with their enthusiasm for learning about Jesus... another answer to prayer!

PRAYER FOR 2026: Our main hope and prayer for this coming year is much the same - that the children would grow in knowing and trusting the Lord as they learn from the Bible and that his Holy Spirit would transform them to become more like Jesus.

Explorers | Ethan K

At Explorers we aim to provide age-appropriate teaching for our year 6 to 11, and to prepare them to move onto spending Sunday morning with the rest of the church family after they leave the group.

2025 was relatively unsettled for our Explorers age group and saw them spend a portion of the year without meeting. However, since moving into Buckley street, Explorers have met consistently throughout the year, and the young people have enjoyed carrying on studying the Bible on Sunday's. This year also saw the Explorers spend one Sunday a month in the main service to help them get used to listening to a sermon which seems to be going well.

PRAYER FOR 2026: This year we hope to change up Explorers a bit to be more focused on preparing our youth for spending Sundays in with the rest of the church family, so prayer wisdom as we work out how to best do that would be greatly appreciated.

Hospitality | Ruth Kunar

The move to Buckley Street means that we've seen a lot of changes to how we help people connect by serving refreshments after the service. A few long-standing members have stepped back, and we are grateful for their faithful service. We have also welcomed several new volunteers, bringing fresh energy and flexibility to the rota.

In the coming year, we hope to continue building a relaxed, welcoming space for conversation and to grow the team, so the workload is shared sustainably.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Please pray for everyone who serves in Hospitality, especially that they will have the energy and encouragement they need as we meet the exciting challenges of a growing congregation.

Welcome | Sidney & Kaylee Ramella

The Welcome Team's aim is to warmly welcome with Christ's love everyone who enters our church building, whether through greeting familiar faces or helping newcomers feel invited and comfortable. With the move into Buckley Street, we have needed more helpers on the rota to spread throughout a bigger building, and thankfully, we have had multiple people join the team this year! As part of our transition, we started to serve drinks from a trolley before the service. At the end of 2025, due to our numbers, we only had two people serving each week.

PRAYER FOR 2026: We are praying that by the end of the year, we might have as many as four people welcoming during a given week as our church body grows.



Midweek Discipleship

Prayer | Mark Cooper

As children of God, our great need and privilege is to pray, and our health as a church depends on if we recognise that. 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain' (Psalm 127:1). We produce a daily prayer diary to help us pray individually: we pray for every person in our church, for partners, and for needs in our church life. But our monthly prayer meeting is the key meeting in our church calendar. On the first Wednesday of every month, we gather together. Throughout 2025, 20-25 of us joined together at these meetings, some joining online. After starting with a message from the Bible, we pray through different areas of our church life and for the world.

PRAYER FOR 2026: We don't want to grow in numbers as a church without growing in fear of the Lord. Let's pray our prayer life continues to grow and especially in attendance at the prayer meeting, but that this flows from hearts that are "devoted to God in prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Colossians 4:2).

Teams | Mark Cooper

Teams are our small groups, and at the heart of our pastoral care as a church. We look up (to God) as we read his word; we look in to care for each other; and we look out to work together in sharing the gospel. Team leaders meet together once a month to be equipped for leading their individual Team.

In 2025, we embarked on the study of Romans together and saw how amazing the gospel is, in the prayer that we might be unashamed of it ourselves.

PRAYER FOR 2026: That more and more people find it easy to join a Team, and that we can start new Teams, including in the South.

Youth Night/Team | Ethan Kee

Our aim is to help our young people develop as disciples of Jesus by providing a fun space to dig deeper into the Bible and bring questions, which is open to their friends – whatever they believe.

During 2025, Youth Teams saw several positive developments in how it met and engaged with the young people. The group moved into the church building, which provided more space and allowed time for the youth to play games and spend time together before settling down to read and discuss the Bible. This helped create a welcoming and relaxed environment while still keeping the focus on learning from Scripture. Teaching throughout the year was also aligned with the adult teams, which meant the young people were covering the same topics as the wider church. This created opportunities for them to talk with their parents at home about what they were learning and encouraged greater connection between the youth and the wider church family. Towards the end of the year, the group also held its first Christmas social at the church, which was a great opportunity for the young people to invite their friends along, helping them feel more confident about bringing others into a church setting and strengthening friendships within the group.

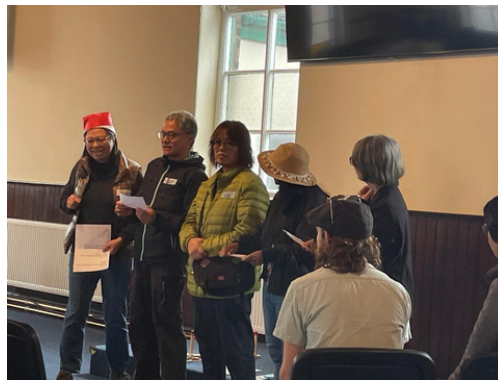
PRAYER FOR 2026: Please pray that we would be able to organise more social events for the youth, and that these would be opportunities where they feel confident and encouraged to invite their friends along. Pray also for the Year 6 young people who will be joining the group, that they would quickly feel welcomed, become part of the group, and settle in well as they begin attending.



Practical Care | Ruth Kunar

Practical Care is a way of loving and helping members of our church family who need extra support. In 2025, this continued on a very informal basis, with people involved in different practical ways, from providing meals, offering support to the more vulnerable and helping some of the Asylum seekers settle into their new homes.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Our prayer for 2026 is that we can extend this ministry further by building a bigger team with differing skills to enable us to continue to serve our church family in tangible ways.



Daytime | Sidney Ramella

It was so exciting and such a blessing to be able to serve and run midweek groups out of a space that we can call our own this year. Throughout 2025, there were many things that went on—from Hong Kong outreach ministries to a Teams Bible study that meets during the early morning, to even a Christianity Explored course that was done in Persian with a handful of Persian men. Over this year, from each of these different ministries, we have seen people come to a saving faith, take steps to be baptised, or even just become more connected with our church family as a whole.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Moving forward into 2026, our prayer is that there would be more “cross-pollination” between our daytime ministries and our Sunday gatherings—that they wouldn’t feel like isolated communities but that as a family we could share in fellowship throughout the week.

Weekend Away | Ruth Kunar

The Weekend Away continues to be an important part of our church life, giving us space to grow in faith and deepen our sense of family as we spend extended, unhurried time together.

Following the success of our first visit, we returned to Cloverley Hall in Shropshire in October 2025. This time we were delighted to bring together an even larger group from our congregation for a weekend of fellowship, teaching, and shared experiences. Once again, the beautiful surroundings provided the perfect setting for walks, conversations, and moments of quiet reflection.

We enjoyed excellent teaching from our guest speaker, as well as plenty of relaxed time together over meals, games, and another lively quiz night. The atmosphere throughout the weekend was warm, encouraging, and full of laughter.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Although we will not have a Weekend Away in 2026, we look forward to planning a future weekend in the Spring of 2027 and our prayer is that even more people will be able to join us next time.



Outreach

Overview | Mark Cooper

To share the good news of Jesus is at the heart of why we are here, and what Jesus calls us to do as we wait for his return. Individually, that looks like us boldly speaking to our friends, neighbours, family members. As a church, we ran various activities, events, and courses. At the beginning of the year we held a Christianity Explored course. The aim was to give attendees an opportunity to dig deeper into the message of Christianity and ask their questions. We also held a group for those who do not speak English as a first language: Practice Makes Perfect particularly served the Hong Kongers in our community. When that drew to a close, Come Together emerged as a daytime tea and coffee group for anyone in our church and community. Other particular events around Easter and Christmas, and building opening events in September, saw us share the good news with a range of people.

PRAYER FOR 2026: In our recent church review, we have identified our need to help us speak about the good news with others. Let's pray we grow in courage and know how to give an answer to everyone about our hope in Jesus.





Events | Sarah Cooper

Our events seek to be enjoyable times for our church family to bring friends and family along to, at which the good news of the gospel is proclaimed.

During 2025, we enjoyed an Easter and Summer Picnic for families, aided by a 'Feast of Fun' grant. The move into Buckley Street provided the opportunity for an 'Open House', inviting the community in for coffee and cake. Over Christmas, it was a joy to welcome non-Christians into the church for Wreath Making and Gingerbread Making.

PRAYER FOR 2026: We pray that people who made a first step in coming to an event might make a next step, whether coming to a future event, trying church on a Sunday, or going to Christianity Explored.



Operations

Overview | Mark Cooper

Behind the scenes, there are a lot of legal and practical tasks that help our church function. Most of this is done by volunteers and we're so grateful for everyone who make this happen. Our Trustees have done a wonderful job managing the move to the building. We continue to make progress on our policies and governance in the church. We conducted a church review in November to help us take stock of where we are and the feedback from this will shape our work in 2026.

On a formal level, we grew by 9 members (to a total of 43). Membership serves a legal and practical purpose in our church life as we seek to operate well as a church, but it has an important spiritual aspect in defining who we are and how we seek to be Jesus' disciples together as a church.

PRAYER FOR 2026: For new trustees and wise decisions to be made about our structures and governance so that as we grow, we are good stewards of all the gifts and resources entrusted to us.

Building | Tom Ridout

The Buildings ministry area seeks to ensure that CCW has a physical home for the Church's other ministries. In 2025 we celebrated a significant milestone in Church life, completing the renovations and moving into the Buckley St building in July. We are deeply grateful to God for how smoothly the transition from the Salvation Army premises to Buckley St has gone, and for the many people whose time, skills, and generosity made this possible. As we look ahead in 2026, we plan to continue improving the building through the next phase of renovations, while also ensuring that the necessary areas of compliance—such as fire safety—are properly in place so the building can continue to serve the church well.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Praise God for His provision of a permanent space at Buckley St and for the many volunteers and workers who helped prepare the building for use in 2025. Pray for the year ahead—for wisdom as further improvements are planned, for the right resources and people, and that the building would be a safe place that serves the church and the wider community well.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

OVERVIEW

| Income | Expenditure | End of Year Balance |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| £90,953.93 | £97,540.59 | £64,955.06 |

We budgeted a deficit of:

- £11,384

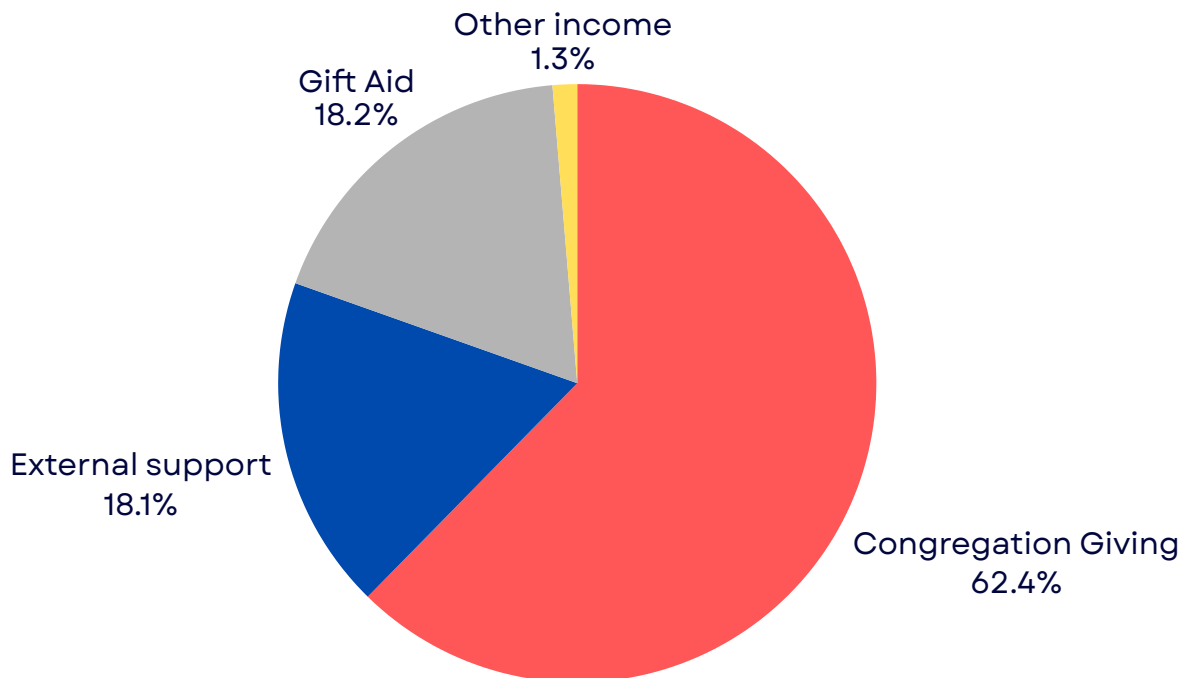
Our actual deficit was:

- £5,657

Our bank balance includes:

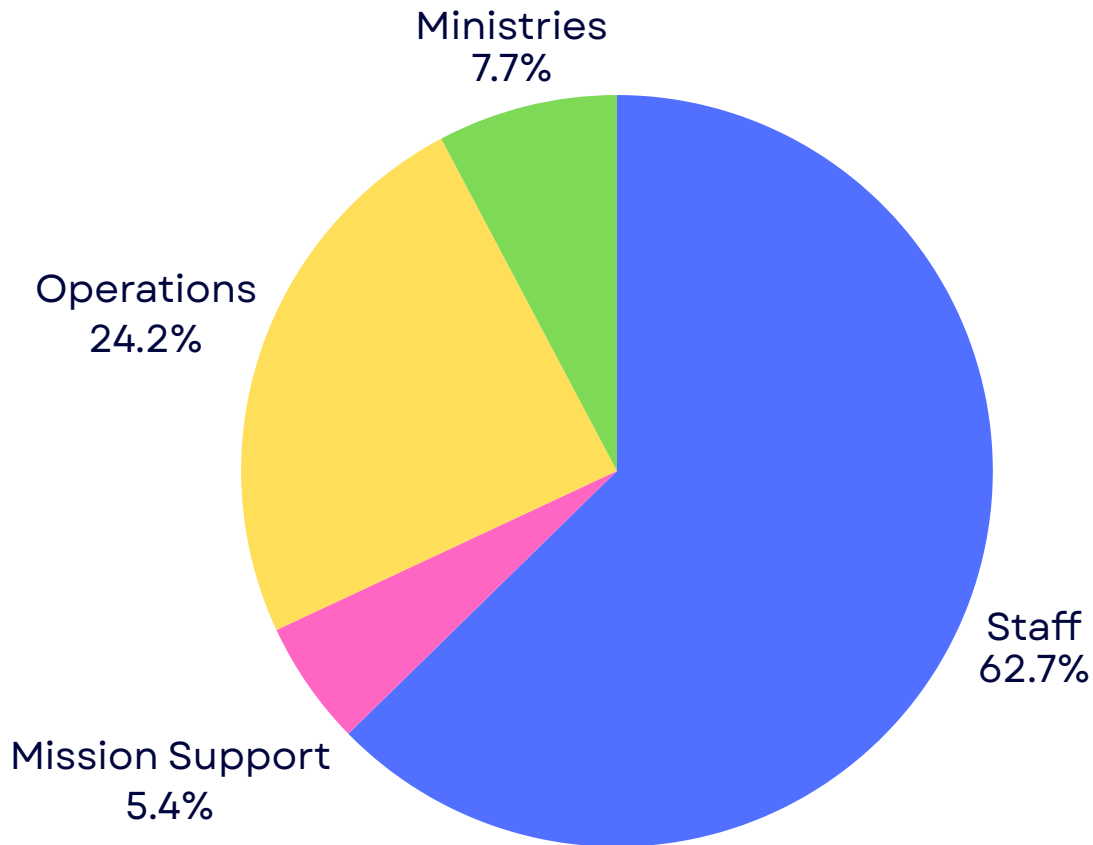
- Practical care fund: £500
- Weekend away fund: £50
- Church plant fund: £1078

INCOME BREAKDOWN



Note: Gift Aid was higher in 2025 due to claims made for previous years.

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



Our split of spending within our ministries was:

- Sundays: £1601.03
- Midweek: £2893.47
 - including weekend away: £1631.36
- Outreach: £3410.53
 - including grant-supported events for the HK community: £2384.13

We also operated a separate Building Appeal budget through 2024–25 that is not covered in this financial summary.

Copies of the Budget 2026 and 2025 Financial Summary will be available at the AGM for those who would like to see our accounts in some extra detail.

Cleaning | Ruth Kunar

With the move to Buckley Street came the need for a Cleaning Team to care for the space together and keep it a clean, welcoming environment.

Most of the work happens behind the scenes, but we're so grateful to have built a committed team of volunteers and developed simple routines that help us look after the building consistently. We're grateful for everyone who has given their time to help keep our new home clean and well cared for.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Looking ahead into 2026 we pray that more people will join the team so that each volunteer only needs to serve once per quarter.

Safeguarding | Beth Hanson

This past year has seen the handover of the Parish Safeguarding Officer role from Sarah Cooper to myself, and Megan becoming the lead recruiter. The new team, together with the move into Buckley Street have been the main challenges for the past year.

The move into the new church premises has been an excellent opportunity for us to review and create new policies, always with the aim to keep our church a safe place. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we need to keep it at the heart of all the activities that take place as part of our church family.

So, we are thankful for all the hard work that has got us to this point, but do continue to pray for myself and Megan as we lead and advise team leaders and volunteers on safe recruitment and safeguarding training.

PRAYER FOR 2026: Pray that CCW will continue to be a safe place for all who come through our doors.

Partnership

As we serve Jesus in Warrington, we are blessed to receive support from outside our church and want to support others ourselves as they proclaim the gospel around the world. During 2025 we committed to support and pray for three particular partners:

-Locally: Youth for Christ, particularly Alex Stewart who works in the town centre and Penketh.



-Regionally: further church planting.

We have put the money towards a future ReNew church plant as we seek to plant three churches across Merseyside by 2035.

-Globally: Kantipur Church (Nepal). Prem Bhattarai is the preaching pastor of the church as it seeks to grow as a Biblically-grounded church in Kathmandu.



At the end of the year, we also started to support Anna (Pioneers), as she moves to the Middle East and serve Jesus there.

We continue to be part of the North West Gospel Partnership, the ReNew movement within the Church of England, and we partner with AT3 (the charity that supports Sidney as our Ministry Apprentice).

PRAYER FOR 2026: We have now formed a Gospel Partners Group to help us coordinate our efforts to be good partners with others: pray for Mark and Holly as they seek to establish this group in the year ahead.



