Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31 March 2026

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Brian Sweatman Roger Bristow Nigel Hewson Dave Johnston Rebecca Rajakumar
Key Staff	Mike Harrowing, CEO
Company Secretary	Clare Holl
Governing Document	Memorandum & Articles of Association (July 2005)
Company registered number	5503977
Charity registered number	1111351
Registered office and principal office	Christ Church Chislehurst 40 Lubbock Road Chislehurst BR7 5JJ
Independent Examiner	Zachary Ramsden FCA 63 Deakin Leas Tonbridge Kent TN9 2JT
Bankers	HSBC 249 High Street Orpington BR6 0NR Kingdom Bank Ruddington Fields Business Park Mere Way, Ruddington Nottingham NG11 6JS

Chief Executive Officer's Introduction

Mike Harrowing, CEO

Riding high from the successful resource publication (and podcast completion) of the previous year, this year has been characterised, from my perspective, by the contributions of the wonderful team of people in Spinnaker.

A long overdue retreat in the Ashdown Forest allowed the team much needed prayer and fellowship time together – the first day just for the employed team, and the following day opening to all the volunteers. During this time, we were able to fully celebrate the creativity and commitment of the team. This was a time which greatly influenced and motivated the rest of the year ahead...

The most significant achievement came out of the Eastbourne Hub where Co-Hub Leader Chrissie had it laid upon her heart to write a book: 'The Night Lantern'. It was our pleasure to act as advocate for Chrissie's ambition by applying for successful grant funding and then sponsoring not only the publication of a physical print-run, but the delivery of multiple presentations and workshops allowing children to encounter Chrissie's allegory of the Light of Christ coming into our lives. Eastbourne local Gill hand-made large and realistic puppets which not only captured the hearts of children and staff, but inspired the whole Spinnaker team to think further and wider in their ministry to schools.

The dedication and enthusiasm within the whole team never ceases to impress me – Heather in central London covers great distances to visit impoverished schools and promote our work with churches, Katie has seemingly limitless energy for nurturing the hub in Bromley which, by force of reputation alone, has received our first ever invitation into a secondary school!

Not only our paid staff, but we are exceptionally blessed with our volunteers, three of whom run entire Hubs, overseeing fantastic and individually distinctive ministries in their areas.

Back in Central Office, we said goodbye to our talented administrator, Stephen, leaving the team feeling somewhat trimmed and very much stretched. It has been an absolute delight to recruit Samantha as our fundraiser. Her cheery disposition and fantastic quality of work feels rare, and its testimony again to God's provision, not just in finance, but in competent and characterful people. Whilst I have marvelled at the fruit of the labour of our team, it is Clare who has shouldered the majority of the burden of organising everything that allows others to shine, and in recognition of how Clare has held together this fantastic team of people in a transitionary time, we were pleased to give her a titular promotion to 'Senior Manager'.

Further behind the scenes, our Trustees continue to be engaged, being encouraging and diligent in their roles, and our Finance Administrator, Susie, goes above and beyond in reporting, forecasting, and proposing paths forward in our finances.

To misquote Proverbs 29:18: our people have flourished in our vision for outreach! And we have finished the year with exciting forward-focused meetings in each Hub as we look ahead to our 40th anniversary. 40 years is certainly a milestone to praise God for, but more than simple thanks, we will take the opportunity to continue looking to the future, galvanising all our efforts around an even clearer, redefined vision for 'A Christian visitor in every school'.

We are very excited about the year ahead and the opportunity to tell our story, host a celebration, grow our supporter base and redouble our efforts to reach all children and schools with the Good News of the Gospel.

Signed by Mike Harrowing:  On: 17/08/2026

Trustees Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and Activities

Our vision is:

To become a 'beacon of excellence' for education and worship that influences and enables Christian encounter in primary schools.

Our mission is:

To inspire primary school children to engage with the Christian faith and explore its beliefs and values. To partner with churches; helping them to contribute effectively to school communities.

Our aims are:

1. To establish a respected and valued long-term relationship of integrity with each school community visited
2. To create and provide quality resources, appropriate for the teaching of Christianity through RE and Collective Worship
3. To build an effective team through quality training and mentoring
4. To offer appropriate training in primary RE and Collective Worship for school staff
5. To encourage churches to make a prayerful and positive contribution to their local primary schools

Our mission statement and aims support the company objectives as set out in our Memorandum & Articles of Association document which states that the company is for 'the promotion of Christianity through education or otherwise'.

Spinnaker has the privilege of working with and visiting many primary schools, giving input into the Christian elements of Religious Education by complementing the prescribed locally agreed or diocesan RE syllabus. We also give support to teachers, especially NQTs, both in class and through staff training. Schools can be confident they have trusted members of the local church community, inducted, trained, and monitored by Spinnaker, who will deliver appropriate content that supports the curriculum and the ethos of the school.

We offer schools various forms of support, including regular assemblies, RE lessons, RE days, and clubs. We produce high-quality materials that meet current educational standards, and these are available to everyone via our website. It is the added value we bring to the Christian content, and the caring way we seek to interact with the staff, that makes Spinnaker valued and sought after in more schools than we often have capacity to visit.

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of education.

Achievements and Performance

In a year when the focus for Spinnaker has been less about content creation and more on delivery and engagement in schools, the creativity and dedication of the Spinnaker team continues to have significant impact on the children who have attended our collective worship, RE Days and workshops. It is always encouraging for the team and trustees to receive such overwhelmingly positive feedback from both schools and children

The vision for creating our 'Beyond Belief' series of collective worship resources was perfect in its timing and fulfils the desire for many schools to focus on the values that they wish to embrace and promote within their school community. After their initial concentration on restoring the correct behaviours that define a good learning environment, following the disruption of the pandemic restrictions, schools are keen to engage with the values that encourage a creative, respectful, cohesive and resilient community. The fact that these values are presented as part of the children's encounter with the Christian faith is an added bonus for the schools, since it clearly addresses some of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) requirements of the curriculum. It is interesting that in at least one community school these foundations of the school ethos mean that the 'Beyond Belief' series has been received in a much more relaxed way than our previous 'It's Jesus' assemblies.

"The Value Assemblies are so much more us" – Deputy Head

It is also encouraging that it is not only the children that enjoy the Spinnaker visits, but they are appreciated by the staff and that the schools feel supported.

'Thank you so much for supporting our school. Your assemblies are always so informative with a lovely message and the children really enjoy them.' – Teacher

It was also encouraging to hear from one church leader about the quality of Spinnaker collective worship and the engagement with the children that he had observed when accompanying one of our team on a regular visit.

'The impact of this work has been tangible. Through Spinnaker's involvement, in the last year five local schools have gone on to visit our church as part of their curriculum.' – Church Leader

As a result, the subsequent church visits had been positive opportunities for the children to ask questions about the Christian faith.

Even in a year when content creation was not a specific focus, in addition to the Beyond Belief assemblies, our team members have continued to use their creativity and resourcefulness to develop new ways to engage with the children.

Our Lewisham team worked with one of our partner churches to organise a Christmas Journey for Year 2 pupils from 3 schools. The children were able to take part in different activities as they 'visited' Mary's kitchen, the shepherd's hillside, the stable and a wise man's palace. It was an experience that clearly made an impression on the children:

"It was like I was really in the Christmas story – I didn't want it to end."

"The workshop was fun and I learned so much about the first Christmas."

"I liked all the different activities – the acting, the stories, and the crafts."

It was also valued by the adults accompanying them:

"What an absolutely amazing and heartwarming experience."

"My heart was full of joy when I left. What a fantastic time we had!"

"So well thought out."

"I hope we get invited next year!

The Epsom & Ewell team have had opportunities to participate in RE Days for Years 3-6 and created a special Christmas Assembly based on the Marvel Comics. One of the RE Days looked at the question of **'How did Jesus Change Lives?'** with a Detective Inspector helping the children find clues and train to be junior detectives. Another for Year 6 considered the issue of transition to a new school using the example of Joseph's faith and resilience in the face of difficult circumstances. The team received many colourful 'Thank You' cards designed and created by the children.

In Eastbourne creativity is also flourishing and there have been many encouragements during the year, some in unexpected ways. A team member on the way into one of the schools was asked by two boys whether they were going to be talking about Jesus in the assembly, because one said he liked to find stories about Jesus on YouTube.

The relationships with the Community Schools are growing, there is always a warm friendly welcome from teachers and children and there have been new requests for Enrichment RE Workshops. One activity was the creation of an Easter Prayer Space in a C of E church nextdoor to the local school, by getting the children involved in writing and drawing prayers, pictures and thoughts to be included in the artwork. There was extremely positive feedback from both the church and the school.

"I had many comments from the congregation on Easter day valuing seeing that all. We had a good number of children on the Sunday, many from the school, and it was lovely to see parents then engaging with it all afterwards, too."

"I am so pleased the artwork was able to support the Easter services and that others were able to enjoy the beautiful work. It is also lovely to hear that so many more of our children are engaging with the church outside of school."

Spinnaker's work in primary schools is not just in supporting the Christian element of RE and SMSC as curriculum topics, but also encouraging young people to further explore the Christian faith outside of school.

The vision and creativity of one of the Eastbourne team leaders was finally realised this year in the publication of a children's picture storybook called **'The Night Lantern',** written by Chrissie Slezacek and illustrated by Malcolm Mackinnon (ISBN: 978-1-0369-5365-2). **'It is a story of courage, faith and hope, it's also an invitation to us all to carry the King's Night Lantern into the darkness of our world.'** The local team is creating a workshop based on the book, to be used as resource in schools.

All of these achievements would not have been possible without the continued financial support of so many individuals, churches, schools and grant makers, for which we are extremely grateful. Their generous support enables Spinnaker to function as an organisation and to create and distribute free resources for use in primary schools, home-school settings and church youth work. The trustees are also grateful to all of the volunteers who work in the Spinnaker teams and who regularly and reliably visit schools for collective worship and support for the RE curriculum.

In the last year there has been a small increase in the number of volunteers on the team so that we now have 8 part-time staff and 35 volunteers. The new recruits are currently working as part of a small team, before taking on their own schools. In the last year (Summer Term 2025 – Spring Term 2026) we made 994 visits across 82 schools, which is down 15% on the previous year. This is mostly due to a decrease in the number of Assemblies, from 976 to 837 (-14%), with a continued decrease in RE lessons, from 56 to 40 (-29%). The number of Clubs remained similar at 56, compared with 57 last year, but the number of RE Days/Special Events continued to grow from 46 to 53 (+15%).

The opportunities for Spinnaker to engage with schools appears to be gradually changing away from collective worship and more towards RE Days and Special Events that require a greater time commitment from our team. As an organisation committed to providing age-appropriate resources for educators to use in support of their RE and SMSC curriculums, we will continue to adapt our offer to schools so that we can meet their evolving needs. The evidence, at least anecdotally, is that during the last year our engagement with both schools and individuals has been good.

As we look forward to celebrating our 40th Anniversary next year, the trustees are confident that we can do so knowing that Spinnaker is still fulfilling the mission for which it was originally established, **'to inspire primary school children to engage with the Christian faith and explore it's beliefs and values.'** The feedback that we get from the children, adults, teachers and RE Coordinators in the schools that we have the privilege to visit, is testimony to the impact of the enthusiasm and creativity of the Spinnaker team.

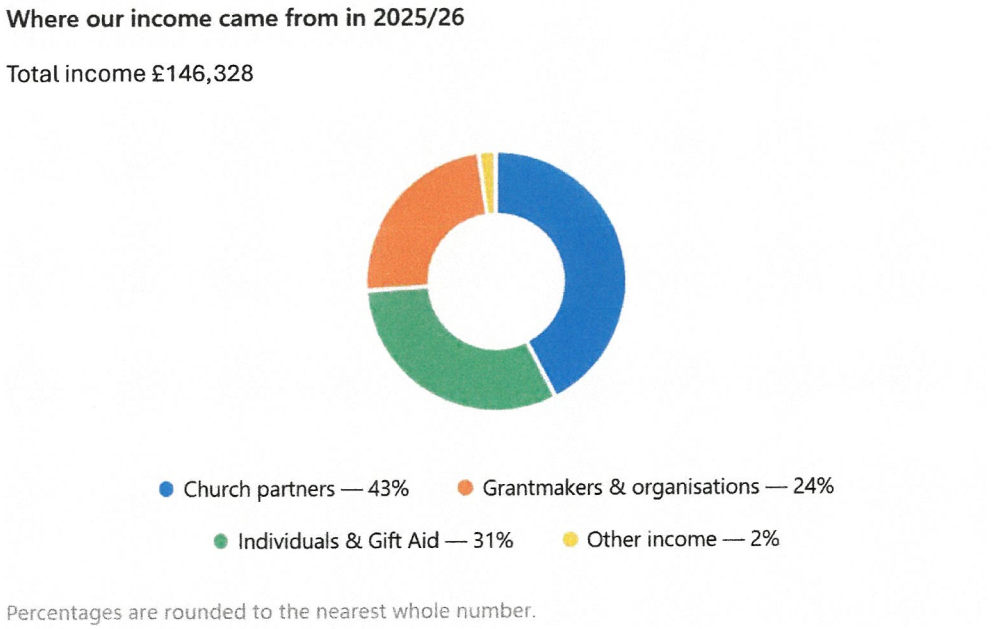
A look ahead

Our 40th Anniversary frames our thought and practice for the coming academic year, and we intend to use the opportunity not to look back, but to look forward. By the end of the year, we hope to have:

- Celebrated with a significant public event
- Launched our renewed vision to see 'A Christian visitor in every school'
- Embedded our Head Office better into the Christian community of Bromley
- Increased our Funding support from individuals significantly

Financial Review for 2025/26 Accounts

Our income and support this year



We are deeply grateful for the generosity of everyone who has supported our work during the year. **Total income was £146,328**, coming from a wonderful mix of churches, individuals, grantmakers and other supporters.

Our **church partners contributed £62,412, representing 43% of our total income**, while **individual giving and Gift Aid provided £46,079, or 31%**. We were also very grateful to **grantmakers and other organisations, who contributed £34,891, representing 24% of income**.

The remaining **£2,946 (2%)** came from The Night Lantern book sales, fundraising activities, interest and membership subscriptions.

Individual giving was lower than the previous year, making the continued generosity and commitment of all our supporters especially valuable.

74% of our income came directly from our church partners and individual supporters.

We remain enormously thankful for every gift and for the prayer and encouragement that accompanies this financial support.

God's grace has enabled us to reduce outgoings in the year, with expenditure decreasing to **£135,498** (2025: £148,710), mainly attributed to paid staff members requesting to work on a voluntary basis, which has been a wonderful blessing to the team.

There was a much-needed flurry of funds at the end of the financial year, increasing the charity's net assets to **£119,871** at 31 March 2026 (2025: £109,041) of which £16,353 was restricted. This resulted in a surplus for the year of **£10,830** (2025: £24,842).

We continue to be grateful to God for His provision and to all our generous supporters who join with us on this exciting journey as we fulfil our Mission together.

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy that the equivalent of 3 months of expenditure should be held in unrestricted funds for reserves. Should the unrestricted funds fall below this amount, a review would be undertaken by the Trustees.

Structure Governance & Management

The organisation is a charity that was incorporated on 8th July 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which sets out the 'objects and powers' of the charitable company.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee.

Directions relating to the charity are made by the trustees and day-to-day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the Executive Committee (which consists of Mike Harrowing - CEO; Clare Holl - Operations Manager; Samantha Merrett - Engagement & Administration Lead; Brian Sweatman – Chair of Trustees; Nigel Hewson – Trustee, and Susie Arthur - Finance Admin) with budgets set and monitored by the trustees.

The powers of appointment or removal of trustees rests with the trustees. On being appointed new trustees spend time with existing trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the charity operates.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the Charity and monitor risk areas on an ongoing basis, reviewing policies and maintaining robust communication with the Management team via the Executive Committee. Risks are identified and assessed, and controls established throughout the period. Our risk assessment helps us identify the risks and their possible impact on the charity and this is reviewed annually. This, together with the Charity Commission's 'Internal Financial Controls checklist', were considered helpful tools for reviewing the risks faced by Spinnaker Trust. Through the risk management processes we have adopted for the Charity; the trustees are

satisfied that the major risks have been adequately mitigated where necessary. It is recognised that the systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that the major risks have been managed.

Responsibilities of directors under company law

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

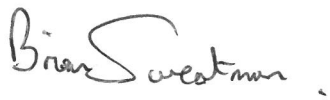
Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
4. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
5. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Brian Sweatman: 

Date: 21/09/2026