



JOINT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM UK
Charity Number: 1143776
ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Dear fellow members, friends, staff and trustees,

The opening words of Hymn 527 have provided comfort, guidance and inspiration throughout the past year:

“Lord, ... open his eyes, that he may see.”

The mighty prophet prayed:

“Lord, open my eyes that I may see

Your presence everywhere.”

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Joint Christian Science Reading Room UK (JCSRRUK) during the past year.

I would particularly like to express our appreciation to our staff for the good humour, creativity, dedication and the commitment they bring to their work. Their contribution supports the charity's purpose of promoting to the public the practical healing method of Christian Science, particularly through the sale and distribution of 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' by Mary Baker Eddy, the provision of public talks and other events, and the operation of our virtual Reading Room, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our History

JCSRRUK was originally established as the 'United Christian Science Reading Room (South East England)', with its constitution registered with the Charity Commission in 2006. The charity's early activities included pop-up Reading Rooms at public events, including those commonly known as Mind Body Spirit festivals. These activities subsequently expanded to include bookshop talks and airport advertising. Initially, the work was carried out using a small number of boxes of materials. As the activity developed, bespoke exhibition stands were created and Reading Room premises were leased.

The present form of the charity was established when its constitution was registered with the Charity Commission in 2013. It was subsequently listed in the 'Christian Science Journal' as the 'Jointly Maintained Christian Science Reading Room', commonly referred to as JCSRRUK.

Membership remains open to Christian Science churches and societies throughout the UK and Ireland. The trustees and officers are elected annually, with nominees put forward by Christian Science churches and societies in the UK.

The current trustees are drawn from Nottingham, High Wycombe-M Maidenhead, Poole, Claygate & Esher, and Watford.

Staff and Contractors

JCSRRUK has a dedicated part-time staff team, working remotely from locations including Altrincham (Holly) Carmarthen (Natalie), Cumbria (Annabel), Dorset (Helen) and York (Margaret).

The charity also benefits from the expertise and support of a number of contractors whose work contributes significantly to the effective operation and development of JCSRRUK. These include Edwin of 'deLeon AV', Mike of 'Sites in Mind', Angie of 'Angie Bishop Consulting', Jill of 'Heartfelt HR', and Nicki of 'NHR-Resourcing'.

During the year, we said farewell to Louis Sentinella, who had supported JCSRRUK for six years, including through the development and maintenance of code supporting the Reading Room website. We are very grateful for his contribution and wish him every success in his future career following his graduation from the University of Bath with an MSc in Computing.

Staff Changes

There have been a number of changes within the staff team during the year.

Margaret commenced maternity leave in April following the birth of her second child. Holly Bell joined the organisation as maternity cover.

During the year, a review of staffing requirements, undertaken with Jill and subsequently with Nicki, identified the need for an additional member of staff in the role of Office Manager. A detailed job description and benchmarking exercise were completed, and Nicki managed the subsequent recruitment process. More than 70 applications were received. Candidates were shortlisted and interviewed in accordance with fair recruitment principles and procedures recommended by the Charity Commission. We are pleased to report that Natalie Morgan joined the organisation in early August as Office Manager. Natalie is an active Christian Scientist, class-taught an answer to all our prayers.

Finance and Accounting

The trustees have reviewed the processes surrounding the reconciliation of the charity's accounts. The work involved had become increasingly time-consuming and was placing a significant burden on the day-to-day operation of the charity. It was therefore agreed in July 2026 to appoint Angie Bishop Consulting to assist with the monthly reconciliation process. Angie is now providing supervision and guidance to staff and trustees, helping to develop a clearer understanding of the charity's financial position and the actual cost of its various areas of activity.

The trustees remain committed to maintaining appropriate governance arrangements and to ensuring that the charity's resources are used effectively in support of its charitable purposes.

Trustee Responsibilities and Governance

The trustees have continued to provide oversight, guidance and support to the charity throughout the year.

In view of the changes within the staff team and the associated changes in workload, trustees have attended weekly staff meetings. This has enabled them to provide appropriate support while maintaining their responsibility for ensuring that the charity continues to work towards and fulfil its stated objectives.

During April, the trustees reviewed the requirements of the charity's constitution and identified the need to appoint a volunteer trustee Treasurer and Clerk, rather than filling these positions through staff appointments. With assistance from Nicki, role profiles and job descriptions were prepared but to date no volunteers have been identified. The charity would welcome expressions of interest from suitably qualified members of Christian Science churches or societies who may feel able to undertake these important roles.

The recruitment of a Treasurer has been particularly challenging because of the onerous and technical duties of the role but it is hoped that the support of Angie Bishop will make this role more accessible.

Activity

The continued generous support of the Westminster Fund and Trust Brit, together with contributions from churches, societies and individuals, has enabled JCSRRUK to maintain and develop its programme of activities throughout the year. This support has enabled us to continue providing a well-stocked Reading Room service, as well as supporting public lectures and other activities.

With the support of churches, eight lectures were available on our website during the year. We also helped to facilitate publicity and live streaming of a single lecture given by a group of churches who came together to try to reach a wider audience through teamwork and sharing.

From March onwards, lectures made use of new technical equipment purchased with assistance from the Westminster Fund and Trust Brit. This included a new computer and interface technology, which was purchased, trialled and subsequently implemented by Edwin.

The charity has continued to assist churches with their websites. Work has also continued on the installation, relocation and management of content displayed on church screens.

TrustBrit and Westminster Fund

In July, the Clerk of The Mother Church wrote to the UK field regarding changes to the Christian Science Trust in Great Britain (TrustBrit), particularly in relation to the distribution of restricted funds. There is an expectation that, following the distribution of TrustBrit's restricted funds to churches and societies, it is hoped that churches will undertake some of the responsibility for funding activities previously supported by

TrustBrit, and that the money transferred to them during the closure of these funds enables them to do so.

JCSRRUK will, however, remain eligible to apply for grants from the Westminster Fund. We wish to express our deep gratitude for their continuing generosity and support, which has made an important contribution to the charity's ability to fulfil its objectives.

Looking Ahead

The past year has brought a number of changes to JCSRRUK, particularly in relation to staffing, financial administration and governance. The trustees are confident that the steps taken during the year will strengthen the charity's administrative and financial foundations and enable the staff and trustees to focus more effectively on the charity's central purpose. We remain committed to supporting the public availability of Christian Science alongside our member churches and societies as well as well providing opportunities for people to learn more about its practical healing method.

The trustees are deeply grateful to the churches, societies, staff, contractors, volunteers, grant-making organisations and individual supporters whose contributions make this work possible.

Closing Thought

I would like to close with a passage from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, page 84, lines 28–30:

“All we correctly know of the Spirit comes from God, divine Principle, and is learned through Christ and Christian Science.”

May these words continue to guide and inspire the work of JCSRRUK in the coming year.

John Houston

Chairman

Joint Christian Science Reading Room UK