

**BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH
STOWMARKET**

Charity No. 1136075

**TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, STOWMARKET

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BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, STOWMARKET

Legal and Administrative Information

Address	Bury Street Stowmarket IP14 1HF
Correspondence Address	Mr J Reeve Stowmarket Baptist Church Bury Street Stowmarket IP14 1HF
Trustees	Mr J Reeve (Treasurer) Mr T Cordle Mr J W R Payne Mr B Levett Mr H Yousif
Bankers	Barclays 19-21 Cornhill Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1DY
Independent Examiner	Mr S J Whayman 51 Cowper Street Ipswich IP4 5JA

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, STOWMARKET

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Constitution

The church was set up by trust in 1797 and is governed by Rules formulated in 1959 and amended on 15 November 1995, 5 April 2000 and 26 May 2004. The church was registered with the Charity Commission on 12 May 2010.

There are no specific restrictions contained in the governing document that limit its activities or any specific investment powers given to the trustees.

The trustees of our properties, for which we are the beneficial owner, is the Grace Baptist Trust Corporation (previous Trustees were the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd.)

Affiliations

The church is a member of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd and a participating church of Grace Baptist Mission.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The purpose of the church is to provide a place of worship, instruction and fellowship for Christians and to carry out the command of Christ to go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is primarily but not exclusively within Stowmarket and the surrounding neighbourhood and will include other such charitable purposes, as shall in the opinion of the church members in church meetings, further the work of the Church.

To this end our regular Sunday services of worship are maintained with two services each Sunday open to members and all visitors.

During school term times, various meetings are held to reach out to different age-groups.

On Tuesday afternoons, the Ladies Meeting offered an afternoon service popular with ladies.

On Thursday afternoons the junior youth group met; and on Thursday evening intermediate youth group met.

On Friday mornings the mothers and toddlers' group met; and on Friday evenings senior youth group met.

The youth meetings are designed to give opportunity for children to participate in organised activities, and to hear a talk from the Bible. This is intended to help the children gain a basic understanding of God's word.

During the week the church regularly met for prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Apart from the 3 church members' business meetings and a few specific members meetings all our meetings for prayer and Bible study were freely open to the public to come and share in worship, prayer and the study of the word of God. From time to time visitors come and share in these services.

The church has been able to respond financially in some measure to specific requests for help both in the UK and overseas as brought to the trustees' attention. We continued to provide ongoing prayerful and financial support for the work of the Gospel and the relief of poverty and hardship. Our provision of public benefit in this way is not limited to the UK as we support missionary organisations, especially Grace Baptist Mission and with the administration of direct support into churches in Kenya and those working with the orphaned and needy children associated with those churches.

All our staff and volunteers who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults have a cleared CRB/DBS enhanced check.

We operate with a child protection policy, vulnerable adults' policy, employment of ex-offenders policy, health and safety policy including risk assessment and evacuation procedures.

Achievements and performance

We are very grateful and thankful to God for our full-time staff member, the Pastor. Through this, all who attend have been enabled to receive a message where the Bible or specific themes were expounded. This has proved to be a great help in many different ways; to some in furthering their biblical understanding, some in increasing their love for the Saviour and others in providing help, encouragement and comfort in times of need.

The interest we have in overseas missionary work has been maintained with reports on the work of various missionaries and whenever possible we take the opportunity for a missionary while at home in the UK to come and visit us. People from other churches or organisations who also have a keen interest in that work, will often come and support these occasions.

Financial Review

We are grateful to God that He continues to bless His Church in Stowmarket in providing the financial resources for the ongoing work of the gospel.

To maintain the financial equilibrium, any assistance given for Gospel work and the relief of poverty both in the UK and overseas is reviewed on a regular basis and help is given when resources enable.

The work of maintaining all our premises both internally and externally continues.

These accounts have been prepared on a non-accrual basis.

The Trustees have reviewed the balances held at 31 March 2025 and they consider these to be sufficient to cover existing commitments and provide a sufficient level of reserves in line with our policies.

Reserve Policy

The church relies chiefly on its income from members from which it pays the running costs of the church. The Trustees have decided to not hold significant reserves as the Church is a member of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia). In the event of significant items of expenditure being incurred, the church would look to the Association for grants or loans to cover the expenditure.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in respect of the accounts

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources during the period of its state of affairs at the end of the year. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the provision and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 17 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



J Reeve



T Cordle



H Yousif



JWR Payne



B Levett

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stowmarket Baptist Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stowmarket Baptist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

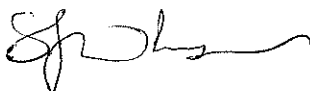
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:-

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:- 

Name:- Mr S J Whayman

Address:- 51 Cowper Street
Ipswich
IP4 5JA

Date:- 15th May 2025



Charity Name Stowmarket Baptist Church	No (if any) 1136075
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £1	Restricted funds to the nearest £1	Endowment funds to the nearest £1	Total funds to the nearest £1	Last year to the nearest £1
A1 Receipts					
Offerings	74,135	5,813	-	79,948	87,579
Gift Aid	9,769	-	-	9,769	9,092
Grants	2,438	-	-	2,438	-
Other income	3,329	-	-	3,329	767
Sale of Minibus	-	-	-	-	3,500
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	89,671	5,813	-	95,484	100,938
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	89,671	5,813	-	95,484	100,938
A3 Payments					
Ministerial Expenses	43,813	-	-	43,813	35,856
Support to other organisations	6,603	5,698	-	12,301	27,834
Premises Costs	25,242	-	-	25,242	20,163
Manse Costs	1,394	-	-	1,394	370
Minibus Costs	1,762	-	-	1,762	2,795
Cost of Activities	1,883	-	-	1,883	1,533
Sundries	3,844	-	-	3,844	3,558
Training	5,788	-	-	5,788	-
Loan repayment	-	-	-	-	5,120
Sub total	90,329	5,698	-	96,027	97,229
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	90,329	5,698	-	96,027	97,229
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 658	115	-	- 543	3,709
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	46,167	1,231	-	47,398	43,689
Cash funds this year end	45,509	1,346	-	46,855	47,398

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Hand	98	-	-
	Current Account	45,411	1,346	
	Total cash funds	45,509	1,346	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval