

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

1. Administrative Information

Bridport United Church (Methodist and United Reformed) is part of the Dorset South and West Methodist Circuit (which is part of Southampton Methodist District), and the Wessex Synod of the URC, and is also a member of Churches Together in Bridport & District.

Bridport United Church is registered as **Charity No. 1136354**. **Minister:** Revd Jane Wilson

The Managing Trustees are appointed in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and Schedule (Governing Documents) of Bridport United Church and CPD.

Managing Trustees in 2025:

Rev Jane Wilson (Chair)

Jane Clinton

John Darwood

Susan Herman

Ros Hilliard

Judy Munden (to 28 April 2025)

Wendy Plummer

Tim Tarling

Lyn Wells

Allison White (from 28 April 2025)

Treasurer: Tim Tarling

Independent Examiner: Elliotts Accountants, Weymouth

All official correspondence should be sent to the Minister/Church Secretary/Treasurer at Bridport United Church, East Street, Bridport, DT6 3LJ

2. Aims and Objectives.

The aim of the church as set out in its mission statement is to work to proclaim God's love to all ages through worship, fellowship, outreach, caring, teaching and prayer.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Developing the worship life of the church by offering weekly Sunday morning services and a range of other traditional and informal worship services and events, including Messy Church, Soul Space, Explore Together, Taizé, Café Church, Healing services and other special services.
- Offering ways to deepen understanding of our Christian faith through fellowship groups, prayer meetings, house & bible study groups, and courses.
- Providing pastoral care and support; the Minister and Pastoral Coordinator regularly review the Pastoral List and pastoral needs, with pastoral care and support for individuals and groups being provided by the Minister and a team of pastoral visitors/friends.
- Reaching out to and serving our local community through a variety of activities including twice weekly Coffee mornings, monthly Lunch Club, Fellowship Club, and Big Breakfast, Little Lambs Toddler group.
- Providing opportunities for prayer at worship services and weekly prayer meetings, and via the prayer chain and boxes for prayer requests on tables at Coffee Mornings and Big Breakfast, plus specific prayer-focussed events such as Praying the Labyrinth.

- Working with Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD) supporting and participating in a variety of services and outreach events, including monthly Pray Bridport, Stand for Peace, outdoor Summer Services at West Bay, providing the Family Tent at the annual Melpash Show and hosting the CTiBD Christmas Day Lunch, as well as supporting local community groups such as Pathways to Care, Foodbanks and Helpful Hampers..
- Working towards a fairer, greener world; we have attained a Bronze Eco Church Award and are working towards the Silver Award.

3. Review of Activities, Progress and Achievements

The Minister is Chair of the Managing Trustees/Church Council, which meets at least 4 times a year, and the Church Meeting, which meets at least 3 times a year, to review the various aspects of the life of the church and its ongoing mission to demonstrate the love of God in Jesus by witnessing to and serving the community. Trustees and officers are appointed by the Church Council and Annual Church Meeting.

The Managing Trustees have continued to review and update procedures to manage the risks to which Managing Trustees, church members and visitors are exposed, and risk assessments are carried out as needed. The Managing Trustees have undergone Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

Volunteers are recruited and checked in accordance with the Church Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually by the Managing Trustees. The Church Safeguarding Officer ensures that appropriate Safeguarding training and DBS checks are completed by all relevant church officers and volunteers in accordance with the BUC Safeguarding Policy.

The GDPR Privacy Notice is reviewed annually.

This has been another busy year for Bridport United Church.

We continue to offer a variety of worship services and activities, in addition to the main 10.30am Sunday service, and additional services introduced during the year include Explore Together services, Healing services, an In Loving Memory service, and Holy Week Prayers and services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. During Holy Week this year we hosted a Labyrinth which was open to the public and visitors for prayerful contemplation.

Our monthly Messy Church at 3.30pm on 4th Thursdays is led by a team coordinated by our Children & Families Lay Worker, Peter Jenner, and is attended by around 15-20 local children and their families.

Soul Space , an informal space to, sing, pray, talk and connect with God (with cakes & refreshments) at 4pm on 1st Sundays, continues to attract an intergenerational group of people from the church and local community of around 20-30 people each month.

The Prayer Group meets in church every Wednesday morning to pray for requests received in person or by email, and requests from the local community via the prayer boxes at coffee mornings & Big Breakfast and prays for people, places and local, national and global concerns. Requests for prayer are also shared via the prayer chain. We hosted guided prayers each day of Holy Week and we regularly host the local Churches Together community Pray Bridport event.

Our community outreach activities continue to be well supported with an average of 60-70 people attending the twice-weekly Coffee mornings (including Knit & Natter and Walking for Wellbeing on Wednesdays). The weekly Little Lambs Toddler group has grown significantly and now welcomes 20-30 babies & toddlers and their carers every Monday morning during school term time, for play, stories, songs and snacks.

At the monthly Big Breakfast on Saturday around 90 breakfasts are cooked for people from the local community and visitors from further afield.

The monthly Wednesday Lunch Club also offers an opportunity for local people to meet for fellowship and a 2 course hot home-made lunch is provided for c. 60 people each month.

The monthly Thursday afternoon Friendship Club is open to everyone to come and chat, play board games, do puzzles, or creative crafts, with high tea included and around 10-12 people attend regularly.

The annual Christmas Tree Festival we host each year as part of the Bridport Town Christmas celebrations was well attended again attracting over 3500 visitors. We also hosted several visits from local schools, pre-schools and care homes.

The CTiBD Christmas Day Lunch hosted by BUC again provided Christmas lunch, entertainment and fellowship for around 85 people from the local community who would otherwise be on their own.

4. Finances and Resources.

The Resources Committee meets regularly to encourage good stewardship of the church's financial and property resources in order to further the church's mission activities and ensure that the premises are a safe and secure space.

The accounts include the employment costs of those directly employed by the Church. The church is grateful for and reliant upon donations and offerings, but inevitably regular giving has reduced due to the death of several church members and others who have moved away, and the usual annual donation from South Street was not made this year.

The DONA card machine has resulted in increased giving and it is hoped that the recent members Giving campaign, coupled with encouragement to visitors to Big Breakfast, Coffee mornings and Lunch Club to pay online and Gift Aid where possible will have a positive outcome. The transition to online banking is now complete. Gift Aid is claimed on all donations where appropriate. Income from lettings was slightly increased from the previous year, but rates have been reviewed and increased this year.

Careful consideration continues to be given to the expenses of the church, most of which relate to essential expenditure in maintaining church life and buildings. The female toilets have been refurbished and work to the heating and drainage systems carried out which is essential to the church's outreach activities. Ongoing maintenance continues to be scheduled and grants applied for where appropriate. The church has a Reserves Policy which aims to hold reserves of 50% of average annual operating expenditure to ensure that any unforeseen expenditure or short-term annual deficits can be met.

The on-going challenge of an ageing congregation remains, as does the need to be able to cover annual expenditure with annual income, and replenish reserves when it has been necessary to use them for urgent major work. This is regularly considered and monitored by the Managing Trustees.

Signed:

on behalf of the Managing Trustees

Bridport United Church
Report and Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

Bridport United Church
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Bridport United Church
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT
to Bridport United Church on the unaudited financial statements for the financial
year ended 31 December 2025

We have compiled the financial statements of Bridport United Church for the financial year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet, from the accounting records, information and explanations you have given to us.

As a member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <www.icaew.com/membershandbook>.

This report is made solely to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet, that we have been engaged to compile, report to you that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Bridport United Church, for our work, or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and have complied with the Rules of Professional Conduct and the ethical guidance laid down by the Institute.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Bridport United Church. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

ELLIOT & CO LLP
Chartered Accountants
7 King Street
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 7BJ
United Kingdom

18 March 2026

Bridport United Church

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Income				
Collection		4,502		6,703
Standing orders		18,339		20,760
Car park		2,589		1,344
Other donations		1,330		6,801
J Stevens fund		-		2,481
Little lambs, big breakfast, lunches, coffee etc		14,718		10,713
Other non-fee income		-		10,000
Lettings		17,872		17,326
Dorset South and W Mission Award - Circuit grants		2,700		8,164
Service charges		841		360
Commission receivable		6,448		11,816
Sundry income		6,229		1,582
Bank deposit interest		466		300
		<u>76,034</u>		<u>98,350</u>
Expenditure				
Purchases of goods	4,141		1,225	
Admin, office and secretarial	11,147		9,897	
Rent payable	-		850	
Assessments	47,352		43,232	
Insurance	6,200		6,132	
Light and heat	7,281		5,729	
Cleaning	2,050		505	
Equipment	5,444		13,560	
Repairs and maintenance	8,965		9,156	
Printing, postage and stationery	471		1,464	
Donations	-		1,650	
Accountancy fees	420		-	
General expenses	953		343	
Subscriptions	3,109		1,278	
		<u>(97,533)</u>		<u>(95,021)</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus		<u>(21,499)</u>		<u>3,329</u>

Bridport United Church
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>23,110</u>	<u>44,609</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>23,110</u>	<u>44,609</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>23,110</u>	<u>44,609</u>
 Capital Account	 <u>23,110</u>	 <u>44,609</u>

Bridport United Church
Approval Statement
Report and Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

We approve the financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet.
We acknowledge our responsibility for the financial information, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis
for providing Elliot & Co LLP with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

Revd Jane Wilson
On behalf of the Managing Trustees of Bridport United Church

Bridport United Church
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