

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, DORSET

England & Wales · Charity number 1169769

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2016-10-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 27 Bayfields
Gillingham
SP8 4AE

Phone 01747826187

Email email@gillinghambaptistchurch.org.uk

Website www.gillinghambaptistchurch.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO BAPTIST PRINCIPLES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH AS STATED IN SCHEDULE 1. THE CHARITY MAY ALSO CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Activities: The church's principal activities are set out publicly on our web site. The main meetings of the whole church are: two services on Sunday, one in the morning and one in the evening, plus a meeting on Wednesday evening. In addition, mainly during school term times, there is a Parent & Toddler Group, a Ladies Fellowship and a Coffee Morning.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Dorset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£45,744	£32,276	-	-
2023-12-31	£36,926	£32,182	-	-
2022-12-31	£38,683	£32,785	-	-
2021-12-31	£40,710	£30,231	-	-
2020-12-31	£36,413	£27,507	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SIMON VIVIAN CHASE	Chair	2016-10-21
Alexander Edward Chase		2025-01-01
DAVID POOLMAN		2016-10-21
GILBERT JOHN MUSPRATT		2016-10-21
John Alexander Oake		2025-01-01
Terence John Grosvenor Hodgkinson		2025-01-01

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, DORSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1169769

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Appendix 1 Church Annual Accounts & Independent Examiner's Report

Appendix 2 Chapel and Manse Holding Trustees

ELDERS' REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

The church ended the year as it began, with 18 members. Nevertheless, the increased congregations and overall attendance has been encouraging. The Lord has also provided financially for the church.

The church has maintained its concern for the spread the gospel in other parts of this country and the world. We have welcomed those who either are working for the Lord overseas or are representatives of organisations involved in such activities. This helps us to take a global view of the kingdom of God, whilst remaining fully involved with our locality.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

Charity Name: Gillingham Baptist Church, Dorset

Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: John Blake, Simon Chase, Peter Gray, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman. All trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2024.

3. Structure and Governance

The church has a Constitution and Rules & Regulations which were formally revised and adopted in 2016, pursuant to Charity Commission registration.

The functional operation of the church is intended to reflect the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible. Therefore, the leadership is by elders supported by deacons. All these church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Blake	Elder	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
2	Simon Chase	Elder & Pastor	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
3	Peter Gray	Deacon & Treasurer	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
4	Gilbert Muspratt	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
5	David Poolman	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs over 2023, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church's policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church's practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

During the year the house that was the original manse was sold, and an alternative property had been purchased. We are grateful to God for his provision and direction in this matter.

5. Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the 'advancement of religion', one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense 'religion' meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – 'good news' – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus' own summary of the Bible's message. Such an approach in itself is aimed at all the public. And such a message, as a living reality in people's lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

The church is known in the local community and the evidence of this is that people seek us out for spiritual help and encouragement.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

The two Sunday services continued during 2024 and the Bible study and prayer meeting on a Wednesday also continued. On Thursday evenings a Zoom version of the meeting is held to enable those who cannot get out in the evenings to participate.

A Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meets each month during the year, as does a men's monthly Bible study.

During the year we noticed a steady increase in the number of visitors coming to our morning service. This has been very encouraging, not least because those visitors come from across the whole age range and also from the increasing ethnic diversity in Gillingham.

Financially the church has paid its way and has no outstanding obligations.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2024.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024

The trustees have continued to oversee risk management issues connected with the life of the church. While these risks are of low likelihood and consequence, they need regular attention to ensure that situation does not deteriorate.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

There is no separate section included here. The morning and evening Sunday services, along with the Wednesday and Thursday Bible study and prayer meeting arrangements are the principal activities of the church, along with the additional meeting mentioned in section 6 of Regulatory Information.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Gillingham Baptist Church Annual Accounts 2023

Accounts for the year to December 31st 2024				
GENERAL FUND				
RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS		TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2023		26817.52		
Offerings	£ 12,245.00		Missionary Support	£ 1,200.00
Gift Aid	£ 23,772.00		HMRC	£ 3,272.00
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£ 5,166.50		Building & Equipment maintenance	£ 1,867.20
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme	£ 615.00		Sunday ministry	£ 320.00
Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve	£ 246.20		Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability	£ 2,051.25
Memorial Hazel Newman	£ 60.00		Printing costs/Baptistry	£ 672.16
			Rutters solicitors	£ 400.00
			Chaffers Estate agents	£ 1,084.50
			Audit	£ 50.00
			Payroll Services	£ 292.00
			Utility Bills	£ 2,887.16
			Copyright Licence/Zoom Licence	£ 252.88
			Bourne Romsey Fire Inspection	£ 330.04
			Pastors salary	£ 13,597.60
		£ 42,104.70		
				£ 28,276.79
			<i>Balance 31st December 2024</i>	£ 40,645.43
		£ 68,922.22		£ 68,922.22

CONTINGENCY FUND				
RECEIPTS		TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2023		£ 22,173.30		
				£ -
			<i>Balance 31st December 2024</i>	£ 22,173.30
		£ 22,173.30		£ 22,173.30
MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND				
RECEIPTS		TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2023		£ 6,613.41	Insurance/Council Tax/utility bills/Electrical Test	£ 3,999.86
Manse Rent/Bap ins refund/Chaman moore refund	£ 3,639.47	£ 3,639.47		
				£ 3,999.86
			<i>Balance 31st December 2024</i>	£ 6,253.02
		£ 10,252.88		£ 10,252.88
SUMMARY				
General Fund	£ 40,645.43		<i>Represented by</i>	
Manse Maintenance Fund	£ 6,253.02			
Contingency Fund	£ 22,173.30		Current Account	£ 51,937.13
			Reserve Account	£ 3,297.17
			Liquidity manager Account	£ 13,837.45
	TOTAL	£ 69,071.75	Total monies held	£ 69,071.75
NOTE				
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership</u>				
Other than the above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, 2 pianos, a laser printer, one digital projector, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer, hymn books. The value of these is unknown.				
ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS				
Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY				



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Gillingham Baptist Church

**On accounts for the
year ended**

December 31 st 2024	Charity no (if any)	1169769
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Set out on pages

1
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

**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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Tom Oaks

Date: 25th March 2025

Name:

Tom Oaks

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

N/A

Address:

North Knapp, Rosemary Street
Milborne Port, SHERBORNE, Dorset DT9 5AR

Appendix 2 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2024

Mr J A C Blake, 'Sundown', Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9PT

Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB

Pastor S V Chase, 27 Bayfields, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AE

Mr A E Chase, 16 Linden Lea, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8QZ

Mr P C Gray, 21 Thrift Close, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LE

Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR

Mr D Poolman, 22 Long Cross, Shaftesbury, SP7 8QP

Mr B Thomason, The Old Malt House, Bridge Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BZ Mr P

The Trust properties and assets consist of the Chapel Building and Hall with the Pipe Organ, Fixtures and Fittings, together with a residential property situated in Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4TD.

The Holding Trustees have no financial administration responsibilities, as there are no trust funds and management of the Manse tenancy has been delegated to the Management Trustees.

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, DORSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1169769

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Appendix 2 Chapel and Manse Holding Trustees

ELDERS' REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

The church ended the year with 18 members. Our dear sister Poppy Muspratt went to be with the Lord in the autumn. However, the numbers in the congregation have increased steadily and we regularly see visitors and new faces.

This is one of several reasons for thankfulness for 2023. The Lord had provided financially for the church and there have been two new monthly meetings begun to strengthen fellowship and encourage outsiders to visit us.

The church has maintained its concern for the spread the gospel in other parts of this country and the world. We have welcomed those who either are working for the Lord overseas or are representatives of organisations involved in such activities. This helps us to take a global view of the kingdom of God, whilst remaining fully involved with our locality.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

Charity Name: Gillingham Baptist Church, Dorset

Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: John Blake, Simon Chase, Peter Gray, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman. With the exception of Peter Wick (see below) these trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2023.

3. Structure and Governance

The church has a Constitution and Rules & Regulations which were formally revised and adopted in 2016, pursuant to Charity Commission registration.

The functional operation of the church is intended to reflect the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible. Therefore, the leadership is by elders supported by deacons. All these church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Blake	Elder	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
2	Simon Chase	Elder & Pastor	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
3	Peter Gray	Deacon & Treasurer	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
4	Gilbert Muspratt	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
5	David Poolman	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
6	Peter Wick*	Deacon & Secretary	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church

*Peter Wick ceased to be a managing or a holding trustee in May 2023.

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs over 2023, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church's policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained in order to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church's practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

During the year the trustees were overseeing the process of selling the house that is the current manse and purchasing an alternative property. By the end of the year the manse was on the open market and an alternative property was being identified.

5. Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the 'advancement of religion', one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense 'religion' meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – 'good news' – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus' own summary of the Bible's message. Such an approach in itself is aimed at all the public. And such a message, as a living reality in people's lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues

and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

The church is known in the local community and the evidence of this is that people seek us out for spiritual help and encouragement.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

The two Sunday services continued during 2023 and the Bible study and prayer meeting on a Wednesday also continued. On Thursday evenings a Zoom version of the meeting is held to enable those who cannot get out in the evenings to participate.

A Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship ran regularly each month during the year and a men's monthly Bible study also began. This latter meeting is held in a local café to enable fellowship over a meal as well, and to witness to others and perhaps prompt interest from them.

Financially the church has paid its way and has no outstanding obligations.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2023.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2022

With the far lower risk profile of Covid-19, church life could return to its familiar patterns, whilst remaining ready to introduce mitigations if the virus re-emerged as a threat.

Other risk management issues of a more routine order have still been overseen by the church officers and the fellowship has benefited from a safe environment during the year.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

There is no separate section included here. The morning and evening Sunday services, along with the Wednesday and Thursday Bible study and prayer meeting arrangements are the principal activities of the church, along with the additional meeting mentioned in section 6 of Regulatory Information.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Gillingham Baptist Church Annual Accounts 2023

Accounts for the year to December 31st 2023				
GENERAL FUND				
RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2022		18036.36		
Offerings	£ 11,660.00		Missionary Support	£ 330.00
Gift Aid	£ 19,725.00		HMRC	£ 2,883.96
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£ 4,426.25		Building services	£ 2,560.64
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme	£ 615.00		Buildings & equipment maintenance	£ 4,700.70
Bank Account Inetrest Liquidity/Reserve	£ 186.74		Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability	£ 2,006.13
Transfer Ladies fellowship	£ 222.52		New Toner cartridge	£ 524.83
Transfer Toddlers	£ 90.79		Sunday Ministry	£ 350.00
			Payroll services	£ 312.00
			Mme you Ltd	£ 181.00
			Copyright Licence	£ 93.00
			Zoom Licence	£ 143.68
			Charity payment re Audit	£ 50.00
			Rutters solicitors	£ 623.20
			Government records office	£ 33.00
			Pastors salary	£ 13,352.80
		£ 36,926.30		
				£ 28,144.94
			<i>Balance 31st December 2023</i>	£ 26,817.72
		£ 54,962.66		£ 54,962.66

CONTINGENCY FUND					
RECEIPTS		TOTAL	PAYMENTS		TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2022		£ 22,173.30			
					£ -
			Balance 31st December 2023		£ 22,173.30
		£ 22,173.30			£ 22,173.30
MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND					
RECEIPTS		TOTAL	PAYMENTS		TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2022		£ 10,650.69	Baptist Insurance(Manse)	£ 1,242.47	
			Council Tax/Utility Bills/Plumbing	£ 2,794.81	
		£ -			
					£ 4,037.28
			Balance 31st December 2023		£ 6,613.41
		£ 10,650.69			£ 10,650.69
SUMMARY					
General Fund	£ 26,817.52		Represented by		
Contingency Fund	£ 22,173.30		Current Account	£ 38,715.81	
Manse Maintenance Fund	£ 6,613.41		Reserve Account	£ 3,250.02	
			Liquidity manager Account	£ 13,638.40	
	TOTAL	£ 55,604.23		Total monies held	£ 55,604.23
NOTE					
Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership					
Other than the above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, 2 pianos, Digital Projector, OHP, printers, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer and compact disc duplicating equipment, hymn books etc. The value of these is unknown.					
ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS					
Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY					



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Gillingham Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended

December 31st 2023

Charity no (if any)

1169769

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Tom Oaks

Date:

1st March 2024

Name:

Tom Oaks

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

N/A

Address:

North Knapp, Rosemary Street

Milborne Port, SHERBORNE

Appendix 2 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2022

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Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB

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Mr P C Gray, 21 Thrift Close, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LE

Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR

Mr D Poolman, 22 Long Cross, Shaftesbury, SP7 8QP

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England & Wales - Charity number 1169769

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ELDERS' REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

Whilst 2021 could be characterised as recovery from Covid 19, this year has seen development and progress. Again the Lord has been faithful and has blessed the church. But this year has seen an expansion in the organised life of the church, which had not been possible for a few years.

By the end of the year the church had 21 members, a decrease of three over 2021. Nevertheless, the congregation has increased and this gives grounds for hope of numerical increase as well as the increase in fellowship and love that we have seen.

The leadership and 'management' of the church has returned to its usual format, with quarterly church members' meetings and regular meetings of the elders and deacons.

The church has maintained its concern for the spread the gospel in other parts of this country and the world. We have welcomed those who either are working for the Lord overseas or are representatives of organisations involved in such activities. This helps us to take a global view of the kingdom of God, whilst remaining fully involved with our locality.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

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Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: John Blake, Simon Chase, Peter Gray, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman, Peter Wick. These trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2022.

3. Structure and Governance

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church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
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2	Simon Chase	Elder & Pastor	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
3	Peter Gray	Deacon & Treasurer	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
4	Gilbert Muspratt	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
5	David Poolman	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
6	Peter Wick	Deacon & Secretary	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs over 2022, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church's policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained in order to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church's practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

5. Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the 'advancement of religion', one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense 'religion' meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – 'good news' – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus' own summary of the Bible's message. Such an approach in itself is aimed at all the public. And such a message, as a living reality in people's lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from

other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

The church is known in the local community and the evidence of this is that people seek us out for spiritual help and encouragement.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

The core elements of church life were resumed during 2022. In 2022 we began a monthly afternoon meeting to provide increased opportunities for church fellowship. This is particularly aimed at those who are unable to get out in the evenings. It also is an opportunity for those interested in the faith to relate to us, and we have been encouraged by the success on both counts. Financially the church has paid its way and has no outstanding obligations.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2022.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2022

The church continued to implement safely the Covid secure environment that regulations required. The local arrangements were discussed and agreed with the officers and members, always seeking to ensure the well-being of more vulnerable persons.

The advantage of a large Victorian chapel is that there is plenty of space for distancing, and plenty of capacity for good ventilation. This meant that we did not have to place restrictions on numbers. The congregation is not large, but the building is, so there was even scope for the occasional visitor.

Other risk management issues of a more routine order have still been overseen by the church officers and the fellowship has benefited from a safe environment during the year.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

There is no separate section included here. The morning and evening Sunday services, along with the Wednesday and Thursday Bible study and prayer meeting arrangements are the principal activities of the church, along with the additional meeting mentioned in section 6 of Regulatory Information.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Gillingham Baptist Church Annual Accounts 2022

Accounts for the year to December 31st 2022
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GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS		TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2022		16129.95		
Offerings	£ 9,817.00	Missionary Support	£ 4,350.00	
Gift Aid	£ 17,375.00	NI Payments	£ 1,214.84	
HMRC	£ 5,215.00	Building services	£ 1,993.00	
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme	£ 750.00	Buildings & equipment maintenance	£ 2,408.62	
Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve	£ 19.89	Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability	£ 2,006.16	
Estate of Late Jane Harris	£ 500.00	Cullingfords carpets	£ 991.15	
		Sunday Ministry	£ 465.00	
		Payroll services	£ 292.00	
		Mmeyou communion	£ 81.05	
		New Hymn books/Bibles	£ 650.40	
		CCLI Licence renewal	£ 87.00	
		Zoom licence renewal	£ 143.88	
		Bourne-Romsey fire certificate	£ 252.20	
		Charity payment re Audit	£ 50.00	
		Advertising	£ 209.54	
	£ 33,676.89	New Projector	£ 549.99	
		Pastors salary	£ 14,400.96	
		Printing costs	£ 481.66	
		Chaffers Solicitors	£ 1,020.00	
		Sundry items	£ 123.03	
			<u>£ 31,770.48</u>	
		<i>Balance as at 31st December 2022</i>		<u>£ 18,036.36</u>
	<u>£ 49,806.84</u>			<u>£ 49,806.84</u>

CONTINGENCY FUND

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS		TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2021				
From Manse maintenance fund				
	£ 22,173.30			
				£ -
		<i>Balance 31st December 2022</i>		<u>£ 22,173.30</u>
	<u>£ 22,173.30</u>			<u>£ 22,173.30</u>

MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2021	£ 6,658.67	Baptist Insurance(Manse)	£ 761.71
Manse rent (nett)	£ 5,006.50	Electric/Gas	£ 252.77
	£ 5,006.50		
			£ 1,014.48
		<i>Balance 31st December 2022</i>	£ 10,650.69
	£ 11,665.17		£ 11,665.17

SUMMARY

General Fund	£ 18,036.36	<i>Represented by</i>	
Manse Maintenance Fund	£ 10,650.69	Current Account	£ 34,158.67
Contingency Fund	£ 22,173.30	Reserve Account	£ 3,211.20
		Liquidity manager Account	£ 13,490.48
TOTAL	£ 50,860.35	Total monies held	£ 50,860.35

NOTEStatement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership

Other than the above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, 2 pianos, a laser printer, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer, hymn books etc. Projector. The value of these is unknown.

ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS

Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (Dorset)

On accounts for the year ended

December 31 2022

Charity no (if any)

1169769

Set out on pages

This page only

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) 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 Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Tom Oaks

Date:

9th March 2023

Name:

TOM OAKS

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

N/A

Address:

North Knapp, Rosemary St, Milborne Port, Sherborne, Dorset DT95AR

Appendix 2 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2022

Mr J A C Blake, 'Sundown', Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9PT

Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB

Pastor S V Chase, 27 Bayfields, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AE

Mr P C Gray, 21 Thrift Close, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LE

Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR

Mr B Thomason, The Old Malt House, Bridge Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BZ Mr P

J Wick, Oak Cottage, 10 Olde Fairfield, Bourton, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5YG

The Trust properties and assets consist of the Chapel Building and Hall with the Pipe Organ, Fixtures and Fittings, together with the Baptist Manse, situated at Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5HZ.

The Holding Trustees have no financial administration responsibilities, as there are no trust funds and management of the Manse tenancy has been delegated to the Management Trustees.

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, DORSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1169769

Accounts

Gillingham Baptist Church

Annual Report 2021

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Appendix 1 Church Annual Accounts & Independent Examiner's Report

Appendix 2 Chapel and Manse Holding Trustees

ELDERS' REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

Covid-19 continued to limit the church's life at the start of the year, but gradually we were able to return to our regular pattern of fellowship and worship. Covid 19 has not interrupted this and for this we are profoundly thankful. The Lord has blessed in many other ways as well.

By the end of the year the church had 24 members, an increase of two. This includes one who was baptised on profession of faith. This was a great encouragement to the fellowship as the baptistry had not been used for several years.

Quarterly Members' Business Meetings were restarted in the Spring and so three of the four planned meetings were held. The Elders and Deacons also restarted formal meetings and a more familiar routine of church life emerged as the year progressed.

We have been delighted to welcome several visitors, some locally, some from further afield and some who are holidaying in the area. Although our opportunities for organised activities have been limited, people have come to us, and we thank God for that too.

Our concern for the spread the gospel in other parts of this country and the world has continued. The church again agreed to make lump sum gifts to several societies and families involved in gospel work in the United Kingdom and various parts of the world.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

Charity Name: Gillingham Baptist Church, Dorset

Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: John Blake, Simon Chase, Peter Gray, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman, Peter Wick. These trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2021.

3. Structure and Governance

The church has a Constitution and Rules & Regulations which were formally revised and adopted in 2016, pursuant to Charity Commission registration.

The functional operation of the church is intended to reflect the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible. Therefore, the leadership is by elders supported by deacons. All these church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Blake	Elder	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
2	Simon Chase	Elder & Pastor	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
3	Peter Gray	Deacon & Treasurer	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
4	Gilbert Muspratt	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
5	David Poolman	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
6	Peter Wick	Deacon & Secretary	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs over 2021, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church’s policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained in order to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church’s practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

5. Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the ‘advancement of religion’, one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense ‘religion’ meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – ‘good news’ – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus’ own summary of the Bible’s message. Such an approach in itself is aimed at all the public. And such a message, as a living reality in people’s lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the

vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

The past year has seen the church resume regular meetings for worship and fellowship and we have often been encouraged by being able to welcome visitors. The church is known in the local community and the evidence of this is that people seek us out for spiritual help and encouragement.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

The core elements of church life were resumed during 2021. We look to the Lord for his guidance as to how and when other activities can be resumed or begun. Financially the church has paid its way and has made gifts to missionary activity.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2021.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2021

The church continued to implement safely the Covid secure environment that regulations required. The local arrangements were discussed and agreed with the officers and members, always seeking to ensure the well-being of more vulnerable persons.

The advantage of a large Victorian chapel is that there is plenty of space for distancing, and plenty of capacity for good ventilation. This meant that we did not have to place restrictions on numbers. The congregation is not large, but the building is, so there was even scope for the occasional visitor.

Other risk management issues of a more routine order have still been overseen by the church officers and the fellowship has benefited from a safe environment during the year.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

There is no separate section included here, as the morning and evening Sunday services, along with the Wednesday and Thursday Bible study and prayer meeting arrangements are the whole programme of the church for the time being.

APPENDICES

Accounts for the year to December 31st 2021

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2020	10943.73		
Offerings	£ 8,362.00	Missionary Support	£ 3,570.00
Gift Aid	£ 21,821.00	NI Payments	£ 1,158.60
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£ 3,932.71	Building services	£ 2,089.68
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme	£ 750.00	Buildings & equipment maintenance	£ 4,090.60
Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve	£ 1.76	Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability	£ 1,820.05
		Cullingfords carpets	£ 1,241.15
		Sunday Ministry	£ 460.00
		Payroll services	£ 283.00
		Mmeyou communion	£ 184.94
		Hire of Baptistry heater	£ 102.00
		CCLI Licence renewal	£ 83.00
		Zoom licence renewal	£ 113.71
		Bourne-Romsey fire certificate	£ 231.50
		Charity payment re Audit	£ 50.00
		Advertising	£ 206.54
		EMF travel expenses Jose de Segova	£ 70.00
		Pastors salary	£ 13,926.48
	<hr/> £ 34,867.47		
			<hr/> £ 29,681.25
		<i>Balance 31st December 2021</i>	£ 16,129.95
	<hr/> £ 45,811.20		<hr/> £ 45,811.20

Gillingham Baptist Church - Dorset

CONTINGENCY FUND

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2020	£ 2,173.30		
From Manse maintenance fund	£ 20,000.00		
	<hr/>		
	£ 20,000.00		
			<hr/>
			£ -
		<i>Balance 31st December 2021</i>	
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 22,173.30		£ 22,173.30

MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2020	£ 21,366.12	Baptist Insurance(Manse)	£ 550.11
Manse rent (nett)	£ 5,842.66	Transfer to Contingency fund	£ 20,000.00
	<hr/>		
	£ 5,842.66		
			<hr/>
			£ 20,550.11
		<i>Balance 31st December 2021</i>	
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 27,208.78		£ 6,658.67
			£ 27,208.78

SUMMARY

General Fund	£ 16,129.95	<i>Represented by</i>	
Manse Maintenance Fund	£ 6,658.67		
Contingency Fund	£ 22,173.30	Current Account	£ 28,280.13
		Reserve Account	£ 3,204.22
		Liquidity manager Account	£ 13,477.57
TOTAL	£ 44,961.92	Total monies held	£ 44,961.92

NOTE

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership

Other than thee above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, 2 pianos, a laser printer, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer, hymn books etc. The value of these unknown.

ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS

Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY



**Independent examiner's report on
the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Gillingham Baptist Church - *Dorset*

**On accounts for the
year ended**

December 31st 2021

**Charity
no (if any)**

1169769

Set out on pages

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**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**

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the 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 content 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Tom Oaks

Date:

23rd Feb 2022

Name:

Tom Oaks

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

N/A

Address:

North Knapp, Rosemary Street

Milborne Port, SHERBORNE

Dorset, DT95AR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

There is no material of concern to highlight.

Appendix 2 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2021

Mr J A C Blake, 'Sundown', Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9PT

Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB

Pastor S V Chase, 27 Bayfields, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AE

Mr P C Gray, 21 Thrift Close, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LE

Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR

Mr B Thomason, The Old Malt House, Bridge Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BZ Mr P

J Wick, Oak Cottage, 10 Olde Fairfield, Bourton, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5YG

The Trust properties and assets consist of the Chapel Building and Hall with the Pipe Organ, Fixtures and Fittings, together with the Baptist Manse, situated at Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5HZ.

The Holding Trustees have no financial administration responsibilities, as there are no trust funds and management of the Manse tenancy has been delegated to the Management Trustees.

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, DORSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1169769

Accounts

Gillingham

Baptist

Church

Annual Report 2020

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Appendix 1 Church Annual Accounts & Independent Examiner's Report

Appendix 2 Ladies' Fellowship Annual Accounts

Appendix 3 Parent & Toddler Group Annual Accounts

Appendix 4 Chapel and Manse Holding Trustees

ELDERS' REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

Introduction

The single most significant influence on church life in 2020 'under the sun' was the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected the whole of the world. Apart from the first twelve weeks of the year, this novel coronavirus has – along with government direction – severely limited the church's ability to function.

Nevertheless, we recognise that even such things are under the wisdom and purpose of God. Jesus told his disciples that during the course of history after his ascension and until his second coming 'there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences.' (Luke 21:11) In 2020 we had a pestilence. But God's Word has not been bound.

Though two lockdowns prevented us from gathering, we used the internet, telephone and Royal Mail to maintain ministry and fellowship. The Lord has kept us safe, and the bond of unity in Christ has remained strong. God has been good to us and we give thanks for his care and blessing.

This annual report is shorter than would otherwise have been the case as there is less to describe. Our active life and witness has been circumscribed by circumstance, but we have continued, and our salvation now is nearer than when we first began 2020. For this, the Lord should have all the glory.

Membership matters

The number of members declined to 22 by the end of the year due to four deaths. Muriel Bolt, Joyce Boughton, Eileen Sparks and Patrick Underwood went home to glory. None succumbed to Covid-19 but rather they reached the end of their days and are now with their Saviour, which is far better.

Quarterly Members' Business Meetings were suspended for most of the year, but we had one in January and were able to hold one further meeting, including the Annual General Meeting, in October.

The Elders and Deacons held one formal meeting, but continued to lead and support church life through continual communication in various ways.

Outreach

Our opportunities to proclaim the gospel through organised activities has been very limited. However, when the church has been able to meet, we have been pleased to be able to welcome visitors. In addition, we have prayed for those we know and for our country during this trying time, asking the Lord to show grace and mercy to many. Even personal witness has been reduced by the need for social distancing, but the Lord has his ways of bringing people to himself. When circumstances allow, we shall consider how to return to a more active witness.

Missionary matters

We are also concerned to spread the gospel to other parts of this country and overseas. We were glad to have visits from Chris Menzfeld of Slavic Gospel Association, and Andrew Alsop, who presented the work of Covenant College in Zambia. Later in the year the church agreed to provide prayer and financial support to this ministry, which equips pastors in a very rural part of Africa.

The church was pleased to be able to agree lump sums to a number of societies and families involved in gospel work in various parts of the world.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

Charity Name: Gillingham Baptist Church, Dorset

Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: John Blake, Simon Chase, Peter Gray, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman, Peter Wick. These trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2020.

3. Structure and Governance

The church has a Constitution and Rules & Regulations which were formally revised and adopted in 2016, pursuant to Charity Commission registration.

The functional operation of the church is intended to reflect the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible. Therefore, the leadership is by elders supported by deacons. All these church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Blake	Elder	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
2	Simon Chase	Elder & Pastor	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
3	Peter Gray	Deacon & Treasurer	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
4	Gilbert Muspratt	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
5	David Poolman	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
6	Peter Wick	Deacon & Secretary	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs over 2020, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church’s policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained in order to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church’s practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

5. Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the ‘advancement of religion’, one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense ‘religion’ meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – ‘good news’ – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus’ own summary of the Bible’s message. Such an approach in itself is aimed at all the public. And such a message, as a living reality in people’s lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

2020’s pandemic has been a challenging time to reach out to the local community. Our web site has information and contact details for the church. When meetings in person have been

possible these have been open to visitors as well as regular attenders. We have been pleased to welcome new faces and will continue to provide an open but Covid secure environment within the constraints of our times.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

For the first part of 2020 the church held its usual pattern of services, meetings and activities. Lockdown very nearly meant shutdown, but use of the internet enabled twice-weekly Zoom meetings. Whilst our technical prowess fell short of implementing live streaming, Zoom allowed virtual gatherings for the majority of the congregation. Such a context is superior to streaming in that it allows interaction between participants and that helped sustain Christian fellowship.

Whilst government guidance could only conceive of private prayer or public worship, the Bible speaks eloquently of the fellowship of mutual love in Christ. That was the aspect of church life that was most difficult to replicate during lockdowns. By the end of the year, the church was able to hold an in person service on a Sunday and a midweek Bible study, but the governmental direction was still that individuals outside their 'bubbles' ought not to 'interact'. So one of the distinctive marks of Christian life was inhibited by the virus and prohibited by the government.

Jesus said "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35) How can a church be a church without such mutual 'interacting'? We long for the day when we may freely express this once more.

Financially the church has paid its way and also made gifts to missionary activity.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2020 despite the difficulties.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2020

The major challenge the church faced during 2020 was to digest and implement safely the Covid secure environment that was required in order to restart in person meetings. With the invaluable support of officers and particular church members this was achieved and regular Sunday morning and Wednesday evening meetings on the church's premises have been possible at times during the year.

The advantage of a large Victorian chapel is that there is plenty of space for distancing, and plenty of capacity for good ventilation. This meant that we did not have to place restrictions on numbers. The congregation is not large, but the building is, so there was even scope for the occasional visitor.

Other risk management issues of a more routine order have still been overseen by the church officers and the fellowship has benefited from a safe environment during the year.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

For the first part of the year the usual activities of the church continued as normal, but in mid March all the following meetings had to cease. They remain in suspension at year end. During 2021 there may be opportunity to restart some or all these activities.

As circumstances improve and opportunity to recommence meetings is possible, each activity will be reviewed by the leaders and elders in fellowship, and a way forward agreed.

The list of regular meetings is set out below as a reminder of better times;

Bible Roots

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

Ladies' Fellowship

Parent & Toddlers

Two Ys' Club

Coffee Morning

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Gillingham Baptist Church Annual Accounts 2020

Accounts for the year to December 31st 2020

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2019				
	£ 5,114.83			
Offerings	£ 7,786.54	NI Payments	£ 1,016.56	
Gift Aid	£ 14,420.00	Building services	£ 1,783.16	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£ 3,651.25	Coronavirus safety items	£ 202.74	
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme	£ 675.00	Buildings & equipment maintenance	£ 1,628.18	
Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve	£ 21.33	Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability	£ 1,813.76	
Gift from Ladies fellowship	£ 235.00	New Toner cartridge	£ 92.39	
Funeral expenses P Underwood paid	£ 200.00	Sunday Ministry	£ 240.00	
		Pastors Salary	£ 13,476.20	
		Bourne-Romsey Fire certificate	£ 48.00	
		Payroll Services	£ 310.00	
		New communion sets	£ 49.94	
		Copyright Licence	£ 80.00	
		Kitchen items/Cleaning materials	£ 38.00	
		Charity payment re Audit	£ 50.00	
		SGA meeting	£ 75.00	
		Evangelical Times advert	£ 156.29	
		Andrew Allsop	£ 100.00	
	£ 26,989.12			
				£ 21,160.22
		<i>Balance 31st December 2020</i>		£ 10,943.73
	£ 32,103.95			£ 32,103.95

CONTINGENCY FUND

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2019	£ 7,999.30	Total Energy	£ 5,826.00
			<u>£ 5,826.00</u>
		<i>Balance 31st December 2020</i>	<u>£ 2,173.30</u>
	<u>£ 7,999.30</u>		<u>£ 7,999.30</u>

MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND

RECEIPTS	TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2019	£ 15,463.07	Baptist Insurance(Manse)	£ 520.50
Manse rent (nett)	<u>£ 6,423.55</u>		
	£ 6,423.55		<u>£ 520.50</u>
		<i>Balance 31st December 2019</i>	<u>£ 21,366.12</u>
	<u>£ 21,886.62</u>		<u>£ 21,886.62</u>

SUMMARY

General Fund	£ 10,943.73	<i>Represented by</i>	
Contingency Fund	£ 2,173.30	Current Account	£ 17,803.12
Manse Maintenance Fund	£ 21,366.12	Reserve Account	£ 3,203.79
		Liquidity manager Account	£ 13,476.24
TOTAL	£ 34,483.15	Total monies held	£ 34,483.15

NOTE

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership

Other than the above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, 2 pianos, a laser printer, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer, hymn books etc. The value of these is unknown.

ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS

Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (DORSET)

On accounts for the year ended

31st DECEMBER 2020 Charity no (if any) 1169769

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2020

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the 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 content 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Thomas Oaks

Date: 12th March 2021

Name: THOMAS OAKS

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

N/A

(if any):

Address:

NORTH KNAPP, ROSEMARY ST,
MILBORNE PORT, SHERBORNE,
DORSET, DT95AR

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Appendix 2 Gillingham Baptist Church Ladies' Fellowship

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2019

Receipts		Donations	
Balance at 1 January	33.88	Speakers' expenses & gratuities	20.00
Donations	245.00	Gift to church funds	235.00
Offerings to 18 March	198.64		
		Balance as at 31 December 2020	222.52
	477.52		477.52

These figures were independently examined by Mrs M Challen and found correct according to records provided, 28 January 2021.

Appendix 3 Gillingham Baptist Church Parent & Toddler Group

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 2020

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Balance brought forward 1 January 2020	137.73	Purchase of Play-Doh	4.99
Donations received to 16 March 2020	36.87		
		Balance as at 31 December 2020	169.61
	174.60		174.60

I have undertaken an independent examination of the books of account of Gillingham Baptist Church Parent & Toddler Group, and I am satisfied that the above figures represent a true record of the transactions throughout the year ended 31 December 2020.

The transactions relate to the period 1 January 2020 to 16 March 2020 when, owing to Covid-19 government directions, activity ceased for the rest of the year.

Peter J Wick January 2021

Appendix 4 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2020

Mr J A C Blake, 'Sundown', Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9PT

Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB

Pastor S V Chase, 27 Bayfields, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AE

Mr P C Gray, 21 Thrift Close, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LE

Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR

Mr B Thomason, The Old Malt House, Bridge Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BZ Mr P

J Wick, Oak Cottage, 10 Olde Fairfield, Bourton, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5YG

The Trust properties and assets consist of the Chapel Building and Hall with the Pipe Organ, Fixtures and Fittings, together with the Baptist Manse, situated at Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5HZ.

The Holding Trustees have no financial administration responsibilities, as there are no trust funds and management of the Manse tenancy has been delegated to the Management Trustees.