

# Gillingham Baptist Church

## Annual Report 2021

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## **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**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
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
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GENERAL FUND
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## RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward from 2020  
Offerings  
Gift Aid  
Gift Aid Tax Refund  
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme  
Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve

£ 8,362.00  
£ 21,821.00  
£ 3,932.71  
£ 750.00  
£ 1.76

10943.73

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£ 34,867.47

## PAYMENTS

Missionary Support  
NI Payments  
Building services  
Buildings & equipment maintenance  
Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability  
Cullingfords carpets  
Sunday Ministry  
Payroll services  
Mmeyou communion  
Hire of Baptistry heater  
CCLI Licence renewal  
Zoom licence renewal  
Bourne-Romsey fire certificate  
Charity payment re Audit  
Advertising  
EMF travel expenses Jose de Segova  
Pastors salary

£ 3,570.00  
£ 1,158.60  
£ 2,089.68  
£ 4,090.60  
£ 1,820.05  
£ 1,241.15  
£ 460.00  
£ 283.00  
£ 184.94  
£ 102.00  
£ 83.00  
£ 113.71  
£ 231.50  
£ 50.00  
£ 206.54  
£ 70.00  
£ 13,926.48

## TOTAL

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£ 29,681.25

Balance 31st December 2021

£ 16,129.95

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£ 45,811.20

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£ 45,811.20

**CONTINGENCY FUND**

## RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward from 2020  
From Manse maintenance fund

£ 20,000.00

## TOTAL

£ 2,173.30

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£ 20,000.00

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**£ 22,173.30**

## PAYMENTS

Balance 31st December 2021

## TOTAL

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£ -

£ 22,173.30

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**£ 22,173.30**
**MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND**

## RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward from 2020

Manse rent (nett)

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£ 5,842.66

## TOTAL

£ 21,366.12

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£ 5,842.66

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**£ 27,208.78**

## PAYMENTS

Baptist Insurance(Manse)  
Transfer to Contingency fund

£ 550.11

£ 20,000.00

## TOTAL

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£ 20,550.11

Balance 31st December 2021

£ 6,658.67

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**£ 27,208.78**
**SUMMARY**

General Fund £ 16,129.95  
Manse Maintenance Fund £ 6,658.67  
Contingency Fund £ 22,173.30

**TOTAL £ 44,961.92***Represented by*

Current Account £ 28,280.13  
Reserve Account £ 3,204.22  
Liquidity manager Account £ 13,477.57

**Total monies held £ 44,961.92****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 unknown.

**ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS**

Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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: 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.