

GREAT SAMPFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Registered Charity Number 1209650

GREAT SAMPFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

For the year ended 31 December 2025

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Brook House
Moor End
Great Sampford
Saffron Walden, CB10 2RQ

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust

STATUS The church was registered with the Charity
Commission for England and Wales
on 19 August 2024, number 1209650

MINISTER A Wolstenholme

DEACONS (TRUSTEES) B Kemp
A Wolstenholme (Treasurer)
K Cresswell

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE London Baptist Property Board Ltd.

BANKERS Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER K Y Johnson
Pippins, High Street
Great Sampford
Saffron Walden, CB10 2RG

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A Trustee Report is not presented under section 168(2) of the Charities Act 2011

**Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of**

GREAT SAMPFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 3 to 5 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies on page 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees of the church are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirement under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), does not apply. It is my responsibility to:

- * examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- * follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners made under section 145 (5)b of the 2011 Act.
- * state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records, have been met; or
- (2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen Johnson

Pippins
High Street
Great Sampford
Saffron Walden
Essex, CB10 2RG

GREAT SAMPFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Funds 2025 £	Funds 2024 £
Receipts					
Giving to the church	2	63,294	-	63,294	16,683
Use of land and Church building		2,595	-	2,595	1,895
Manse rent		22,200	-	22,200	22,200
Fund raising-building project		-	-	-	-
Fundraising		426	-	426	886
BU Corp. (manse fund)		-	-	-	-
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-
Other income		-	-	-	334
Received from Homes for Aged		55	-	55	-
Total Receipts		88,570	-	88,570	41,998
Payments					
<i>Activities in furtherance of charitable objectives</i>					
Church costs	3	39,245	-	39,245	24,371
Grants paid	5	5,505	-	5,505	1,943
Costs paid on behalf Home for the Aged		-	-	-	-
Total Payments		44,750	-	44,750	26,314
Net Receipts/(Payments) before transfers		43,820	0	43,820	15,684
Transfers between funds		-	-	0	0
Balances 31 December 2024		26,994	-	26,994	11,310
Balances 31 December 2025		70,814	-	70,814	26,994

The notes on pages 4- 5 form part of these accounts

GREAT SAMPFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Fixed Assets

The insurance re-instatement values of the assets owned by the church in 2025 were:

Church Building and hall,	£1,798,527
Other Equipment and contents	£93,128

2. Income From Sale and Rental of the Manse

The old manse was sold during 2017 for £362,000. The funds, held by the Baptist Union Corporation, have been used to create a new manse from the old church hall during 2018. The remaining funds at 31st December 2025 were £520 which will be used to renovate the church building.

Following the appointment of a local Minister in December 2023, the Manse is no longer required as a Minister's residence and is let on a commercial basis. All utility costs are now paid by the tenant.

3. Income Tax Recoverable and other debts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Homes for The Aged Trust	-	-
Gift Aid recoverable to the year end	2,775	3,275
	<u>2,775</u>	<u>3,275</u>

4. Bank and Cash Balances

	2025	2024
	£	£
Community account	70,814	26,994
	<u>70,814</u>	<u>26,994</u>

5. Liabilities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Payments to other organisations	-	-
Accounts preparation/examination	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Charities Act 2011, the trustees are required to prepare a statement of account for each accounting year.

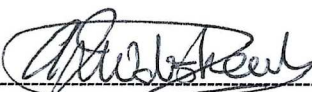
They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and to ensure that such accounts and records comply with the Charities Act 2011

They also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the church and to take reasonable steps to detect fraud or other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurances that :

- 1.The church is operating efficiently and effectively
2. Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition
3. Financial information used within the church or for publication is reliable
4. The church complies with relevant laws and regulations

APPROVAL

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf on _____ by _____



A Wolstenholme

The notes on page 5 form part of these accounts.

GREAT SAMPFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis with a Statement of Assets & Liabilities.

2. Giving to the Church

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Gifts, offerings & collections	12,549	-	12,549	13,349
Tax recoveries	3,360	-	3,360	3,334
Other gifts - Legacy	47,385	-	47,385	-
	<u>63,294</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,294</u>	<u>16,683</u>

3. Church costs

Minister's stipend & expenses	Note 6	15,796	-	15,796	15,389
Manse costs	Note 4	325	-	325	1,709
Church property maintenance		14,932	-	14,932	381
Utilities		4,648	-	4,648	3,165
Other ministry expenses		665	-	665	380
Insurance and subscriptions		1,936	-	1,936	2,482
Accounts and examination		-	-	-	-
Renovations		-	-	-	-
CCL Licence		310	-	310	300
Other church costs		633	-	633	565
Prior year expenses		-	-	-	-
		<u>39,245</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,245</u>	<u>24,371</u>

4. Manse costs

Rates and water	-	-	-	-
Telephone	-	-	-	-
Renovations for rental	-	-	-	1,200
Maintenance	325	-	325	509
Council tax	-	-	-	-
	<u>325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>1,709</u>

5. Grants paid

Eastern Baptist Association	410	-	410	300
Baptist Missionary Society	410	-	410	1,000
World Vision	404	-	404	343
Other	3,000	-	3,000	300
Homes for Aged	1,281	-	1,281	-
	<u>5,505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,505</u>	<u>1,943</u>

6. Staff & trustees

The Minister of the church received an annual stipend of £14787.50 for the period January – December 2025, No remuneration or expenses were paid to any other trustee or to any person connected with them.

7. Connected charities

The church administers 'Homes for the Aged' which does not have a bank account. Amounts are paid and refunded on behalf of that charity.

8. Restricted funds

The restricted funds are where amounts have been received from donors for specific purposes.

Trustee Report 2025

During 2025 we have opened weekly for services at 10.30am on a Sunday with 10 -12 people in attendance most normal weeks.

We have continued to run our monthly Coffee morning on the second Saturday of the month. These have been generally well attended with ten to fifteen people regularly catching up with each other. The Cake and Cheese Scones have gone down well. Thank you to Beryl, Yvonne and Gillian for running these so well.

WI continue to meet monthly in our building and occasionally the President has been seen at our Coffee Mornings. The Sampford Singers continue to practice in our building on a weekly basis.

During 2025, Ann, Jan and Sue have taken assemblies at Great Sampford Community Primary School biweekly. We bring the Christian message to the Children, through Bible stories and the celebration of the Christian Festivals. We have talked to the children about the teaching and miracles of Jesus and looked at the stories of Christmas and Easter to name but a few.

Also at the school, Ann and Jan with Sue run a weekly Puppet Club and the Children have performed plays in assembly. More precious than Gold – a play showing that we may not look much on the outside but that we are all valuable to God and are diamonds on the inside because we are wonderfully made; Noah's Ark – all the children loved being the animals and The Muppets real Christmas Story – where Kermet and Miss Piggy tell the story of the first Christmas to their Muppet children. The Christmas production was performed at our Carol service and was enjoyed by those who attended.

During Lent, we ran a Lent course on a Wednesday evening based on the film 'The Kings Speech'. This was attended by a few but those who attended found it inspirational.

Bardfield Brass Band have graced us with two band concerts one in Spring and one at Christmas. At these events were not attended as well as in 2024 but the church was reasonably full and all enjoyed the concerts.

Jan and Ann have been actively involved in the monthly 'Seedling Services' a messy church run in partnership with the local Anglican benefice. (see attached report)

The Christmas Eve service was well attended and with children doing Christmas Crafts. The children made stain glass stars and coloured Christmas nativity pictures. Ann told the Christmas story by looking at the Christmas tree and of course distributed sweets to the congregation when they identified the sweets hidden in the Christmas Story.

Ann has continued to visit the elderly around the village helping to alleviate their loneliness.

Financially, we have been very blessed with generous giving through the offering on a Sunday or through the bank. The rent from The Old Baptist Hall our Manse and a generous legacy has meant that our funds have been very healthy.

We have continued to give 10% of our income to other causes along with our regular giving to BMS, EBA and World Vision, we have given monies to Pastor John, a pastor in India who runs several churches and homes for homeless boys, and to Chapel Community Church for their food bank.

I pray that we will continue to shine the light of Jesus in Great Sampford and offer a safe meeting place for the community. I pray that people will see Jesus through us and want to give their lives to him too.

Ann Wolstenholme

Pastor

Seedlings Report – A Review of 2025.

We moved with exuberance into 2025, our amazing Seedlings Team taking us into our 22nd year of mission and ministry in the benefice. I would like to start by thanking the Seedlings Team for their hard work, dedication and bringing their God given skills to Seedlings, a perfect ecumenical collaboration.

As a team, we have continued to deliver lively and imaginative Services to demonstrate God's love to the children. Our intention is always to bring the Bible stories to life through Godly play, puppets, dressing up and interaction during the Service. This continues with our wonderful refreshments and craft activities, reinforcing God's message whenever we can.

We are indebted to our benefice PCC's and Great Sampford Baptist Church for their ongoing spiritual and financial support. We are also very grateful for the kind and generous donation gifted to us from Great Sampford Primary School.

During 2025, the children have enjoyed Services on the following topics: Epiphany, Joseph and his coat, The Good Samaritan, Easter – from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Noah's Ark, The Wedding at Cana, Harvest and The Parable of The Sower, Kindness and God's love and The Nativity.

What better way to start the year, than bumping up and down on a camel at our Epiphany Party! Great fun was had by all the Radwinter Seedlings, dressing up as wise men, imitating camels, playing party games, enjoying the homemade refreshments (star shaped!) and craft activities.

Another highlight was our transformation of the baptistry at the Baptist Church into a Lion's den! The Great Sampford Seedlings loved going down into the den and pretending to be lions. They enjoyed making and wearing lion masks and roaring with great effect!

Helen was brilliant in her role as Mrs Noah at our Noah's Ark Service, sending the children to find eggs which her chickens had hidden in the Church. The children brought along animal soft toys to be in the ark. We had a plethora of animals from giraffes to zebra and plenty of (teddy) bears!

Ann and Jan make an amazing team telling our stories with the help of the wonderful puppet, Mischief the monkey who the children have come to know and love. At our Summer Party Service in Great Sampford, Mischief had a brilliant cameo role as a guest at The Wedding at Cana. The children were mesmerised as the water turned into "wine". Party games such as musical kneelers, musical statues and hot parcel were enjoyed. The children went back to school carrying prizes and balloons in a colourful convoy!

In November the Radwinter children made decorations for our Seedlings tree at the Radwinter Christmas Tree Festival. The theme for 2025 was Dickens or Dahl. Books either by Charles Dickens or Roald Dahl. We chose Esio Trot by Roald Dahl but linked the theme to kindness and God's love. Our tree looked resplendent covered with tortoises of various sizes and love hearts. Our tree was voted as the best tree decorated by children. Well done all the Radwinter Seedlings! The tree is always recycled after the festival and ends up in one of our churches.

The year culminated in our beautiful Nativity Service where our knitted Nativity puppets take centre stage. The children enjoyed amazing homemade biscuits (thankyou Kate!) and enjoyed making Advent candles, Christmas wreaths and Nativity stable Christmas cards.

Thank you to our amazing Churchwardens Sue and Wendy for providing the wonderful refreshments without fail and tolerating the brandishing of glitter and paint in our beautiful churches! I am very grateful for the invention of the Henry Hoover!

We look forward to working with the children and their families in 2026 and sowing the seed of God's love in the benefice.

Sarah Kidd.