

**James Tilden's Charities for Baptists**  
**Annual Report & Accounts**  
**for the Year Ended 30 April 2025**

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## **James Tilden's Charities for Baptists**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for year to 30 April 2025**

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting their report and the financial statements of the Charities for the year ended 30 April 2025.

#### **Reference and Administrative Details**

James Tilden's Charities for Baptists are a Registered Charity, no. 216462. The principal address for the charity is: Lashenden Villa, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LF.

The Trustees for the year (and the Particular Baptist churches they represented) were:

Chairman:	Mr Norman Hopkins (Representing Smarden)
Secretary:	Mr Philip J D Hopkins (Representing Biddenden)
Treasurer:	Mr John McDonald (Representing Smarden)
Administrator:	Mr Rowland Wheatley (Representing Cranbrook)

#### Representing:

Bethersden:	Mr Philip Buss
Smarden:	Mr Paul Hopkins
Smarden:	Mr Andrew Watts
Smarden:	Mr Matthew Hopkins
Staplehurst	Mr Marcus Funnell

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

These Charities are constituted by a Charity Commission scheme dated 13 November 1896. A new scheme dated 2 April 2013 was granted by the Charity Commission, altering the 1896 governing scheme; specifically, clause 23 of the 1896 governing document was deleted and replaced with a new clause as detailed in the scheme of 2 April 2013. It is under the terms of these Schemes that the Charities are now regulated.

Copies of the original scheme and the amending scheme may be obtained from the Secretary. From the original scheme it can be seen that there are two separate Charities, although the Trustees are the same in each case.

The Charities are currently administered by nine Trustees (with one position vacant), who are appointed to represent the Particular Baptist churches at Smarden (6), Cranbrook (1), Staplehurst (1), Biddenden (1) and Bethersden (1) as directed in the 1896 scheme. (There is no longer a Particular Baptist church at Egerton Forstal.) The trustees are each appointed for a four year term at a meeting convened and held according to the ordinary practice of the appointing body, i.e. by the Particular Baptist Churches represented on the Trust

#### **Objects and Activities**

The Trusts were originally set up under the will of James Tilden, a Particular Baptist resident in High Halden who died in 1729. Under Mr Tilden's will he directed that (1) a School and Meeting House for Baptists was to be built and maintained, the School being free to children of local Baptists; and (2) a property was to be purchased, the net income from which was to be paid to poor believers of the Particular Baptist communion. Both these projects were carried through in the early 18th century.

**James Tilden's Charities for Baptists****Trustees' Annual Report for year to 30 April 2025 (continued)**

The object of No.1 Charity is primarily to maintain Tilden Particular Baptist Chapel, Smarden and to support the work and witness of other similar churches in adjoining parishes, and then Particular Baptist churches in any part of the county of Kent.

No.2 Charity is very small and the income is distributed from time to time to members of the Particular Baptist Churches represented on the Charity whom the Trustees believe to be in need.

**Achievements and Performance**

This year the Charities were able to provide £88,108 (2024: £48,374) in grants for the promotion of religious worship and education to qualifying churches and projects in the county of Kent. Grants for the promotion of religious worship were made towards the support of Christian workers in qualifying churches, the improvement of church facilities, and the maintenance and repair of church buildings. The Trustees continued to ensure that the Chapel, Schoolroom and graveyard at Tilden, Smarden were adequately maintained.

The total income for the Trust during the year was £92,528, slightly higher than the previous year (£87,360). The value of investments during the year decreased by just over £37,000 (2024, increase £100,000). Prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Trustees are provided with all the details for each grant application and there is then a robust and considered review of each application in the meeting. Other significant expenditure items are also discussed in detail and carefully weighed up at the AGM.

As will be noted from the Accounts, the Trust's non-monetary assets comprise land at High Halden, plus Tilden Particular Baptist Chapel and schoolroom, and the associated car park and stable block.

**Public Benefit**

As indicated above, the Charities continued to provide public benefit by providing grants towards qualifying Baptist churches in Kent. A total of twelve Baptist churches across the county were recipients of Tilden Charity grants.

**Financial Review**

The Trustees regularly review the reserves of the Charities to ensure that sufficient liquid funds are available for the Charities to meet their on-going obligations. The policy is to hold sufficient reserves to enable the Charities to meet these obligations.

Chairman  
Date:

*Normal Hopkin*  
14/10/25

**James Tilden's Charities for Baptists****Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees for year to 30 April 2025**

I report on the accounts of the Charities for the year ended 30 April 2025 set out on pages 4 – 7.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The Charities' trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charities' trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's 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 charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of 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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give 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.



**D C S Cooke MA (Oxon) FCA FCIE**  
**Chartered Accountant**

5 Briar Close  
Banbury  
Oxon. OX16 9DS

Date: 21 October 2025

## James Tilden's Charities for Baptists

Receipts & Payments Account  
for the Year ended 30 April 2025

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
RECEIPTS		£	£
Investment income		87,806	83,644
Interest		4,434	3,591
Rent from Holdings		263	50
Other income		25	75
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>92,528</b>	<b>87,360</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Charitable Expenditure	2	100,811	56,459
		<b>100,811</b>	<b>56,459</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(8,283)</b>	<b>30,901</b>
Net gain/(loss) on investments	3	(37,495)	99,820
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>		<b>(45,778)</b>	<b>130,721</b>
Fund balances brought forward		2,664,954	2,534,233
Fund balances carried forward		<b>2,619,176</b>	<b>2,664,954</b>

The notes on pages 6 and 7 form part of these financial statements.

## James Tilden's Charities for Baptists

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 April 2025

		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		£	£
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	4		
COIF Fixed Interest Fund units		439,065	424,593
COIF Ethical Investment Fund units		1,536,043	1,600,266
COIF Property Fund Income units		546,030	528,774
		<u>2,521,138</u>	<u>2,553,633</u>
 <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bank Accounts		98,138	111,321
 <b>TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS</b>		<u>2,619,276</u>	<u>2,664,954</u>

The Charities own the following non-monetary assets:

Tilden Baptist Chapel & Schoolroom, Smarden  
Tilden Stable Block & Car Park, Smarden  
Sanders Land, High Halden

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Sundry Creditors	<u>460</u>	<u>460</u>
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Approved by the Governing Board on 14/10/2025  
and signed on its behalf by:

Norman Hopkins  
Trustee

[Signature]  
Trustee

The notes on pages 6 and 7 form part of these financial statements.



## James Tilden's Charities for Baptists

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2025

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Accounting Convention**

The Financial Statements are prepared under the Historical Cost Convention. Because the Charities' income is under £250,000 the accounts are now prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, to avoid the need to comply with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

**Fixed Assets**

The Charities own the following assets:

- Tilden Baptist Chapel & Schoolroom, Smarden
- Tilden Stable Block & Car Park, Smarden
- Sanders Land, High Halden

As historic assets, it would be difficult to attribute a cost to them. Significant costs would be involved in valuing these assets, which would be onerous compared with the additional benefit derived by users of these accounts in assessing the trustees' stewardship of the assets. They have therefore not been included on the balance sheet.

**Depreciation**

The charity owns no fixed assets apart from those listed above. Depreciation is therefore not applicable.

**Income & Expenditure**

Rental income and investment income are accounted for when received.  
Expenditure is accounted for when payment is made.

**2. Charitable Expenditure**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>1014</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u>		
Grants	<u>88,108</u>	<u>48,374</u>
<u>Support Costs</u>		
Repairs to Chapel & Holdings & equipment	8,882	4,645
Insurances	2,486	2,524
Electricity	412	307
Equipment costs	82	-
Office costs	96	-
Miscellaneous expenses	285	149
Independent Examiner's fee	460	460
	<u>12,703</u>	<u>8,085</u>
	<u>100,811</u>	<u>56,459</u>

## James Tilden's Charities for Baptists

## Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2025 (continued)

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>3. Gain/(Loss) on Investment assets</b>		
Realised gains on sale	-	-
Unrealised gain/(loss) on COIF investments	(37,495)	99,820
	<u>(37,495)</u>	<u>99,820</u>
 <b>4. Investments</b>		
Valuation at 1 May 2024	2,553,633	2,453,813
Additions:		
Purchase of COIF Investments	5,000	-
Unrealised gain/(loss) for the year	(37,495)	99,820
Valuation at 30 April 2025	<u>2,521,138</u>	<u>2,553,633</u>

**5. Trustees and employees**

None of the trustees received any payment for work carried out for the Charities.

Two trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £51 (2024: 2 trustees, £149) in respect of administrative expenses.

The Charities have no employees.