Ministers' Report
April 2025 to April 2026

Before reflecting on the past year, I want to begin by honouring each and every person in this room, and everyone who calls Grantham Baptist their home, whether official members or not. As a family, we are so thankful for the love, support, and care we receive. We may not always agree, but we seem to have reached a point where, even in disagreement, we know that we still love one another.

So many people serve tirelessly, despite already busy lives, contributing to what the Lord is doing here at Grantham Baptist Church. Many of you serve across multiple areas, and your commitment does not go unnoticed.

We genuinely love being part of what the Lord is doing here. We feel incredibly privileged to call this place our family—not just somewhere we have come to serve. Not many leaders and pastors are able to say that.

So thank you—thank you for embracing us, for loving us, and for joining us on this adventurous journey that the Lord is leading us on.

April to August

The best way to reflect on the past year is to divide it into three parts. The first takes us from April to July 2025.

In April, we were journeying through the book of John, with the aim of knowing Jesus more deeply. Our hope is that, as we look back on this time, each of us can say with confidence, "I know my Saviour better." In many ways, this has remained a central focus throughout the year.

Following this, we began a series on *Knowing the Holy Spirit*, which has been an essential and formative time for us as a church.

Over the summer months, it was a real joy to hear from a wide range of voices, including many who would not normally speak. We listened to a number of

powerful, shorter, TED-style talks from different members of the church. It was brilliant to hear what others are carrying and to recognise the depth of gifting among us.

September to December

In September 2025, we began a series exploring the book of Daniel. I believe this was one of the most challenging series we have undertaken together.

We wrestled with what it means to live as foreigners in a foreign land, grappling with the courage required for obedience. We also engaged with the more difficult prophetic visions and considered how we stand firm when earthly powers seek to oppose the Kingdom of God.

January to April

At the beginning of this year, we began exploring what it truly means to obey Jesus when He said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God.”

We started by examining the state of our hearts and the call to live lives of purity. From there, we have moved into the teachings of Jesus and the parables He told. We have only just begun to scratch the surface of this series, and even when we complete the parables, the journey will not be finished.

We will go on to explore themes of freedom, spiritual gifting, and how these gifts are to be expressed today.

I hope you can see the intentionality behind these series, and that it is clear how the Lord is leading us—inviting us to listen and to discern what He is doing among us at this time.

Our Sunday gatherings have been a real blessing over recent months, with a strong sense of the Lord pouring out His Spirit among us. As I have sought the Lord about what He is doing, I keep returning to the sense that He is forming us into a family.

This is not simply a nice idea or a phrase we use—it is something deeper. It will shape everything we do and influence the way we function together. There has also been a season of growth and when I say growth, I don't necessarily means growth in terms of number. I am speaking in a growth in depth of relationship and knowledge of the Lord - a real strengthening of our faith. What a journey we are on together. I cannot wait to see how the Lord leads us over the next 12 months.

Looking Forward

Having reflected on where we have been, we now turn to where we are going.

Over the past couple of months, there have been some very difficult conversations happening behind the scenes, particularly among the elders. These discussions have focused on how we lead and who should be part of the leadership team going forward. It is vital that we have the right people in the right places.

As a result, Dave Lynn will be stepping down from both the Elders Team and the Leadership Team. This decision follows a period of prayer, reflection, and discernment—including discussion around a dream I had, and seeking wisdom and insight from others.

This has not been an easy decision. I want to personally thank Dave for the incredible blessing he has been throughout his time serving the church. Dave was voted onto the eldership team back in 2000, and before that served as treasurer. He has helped lead the church through many seasons of change, including times of interregnum. He has been a constant and a steady presence in leadership for decades.

This is not retirement—it is *refirement*: an opportunity to step into something new and embrace a new season.

Dave, we honour you and thank God for the way you have served and led with such faithfulness and sacrifice. You are a true servant, and your leadership has been deeply inspiring. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you over the past three years, and I look forward to seeing how that relationship continues in the years ahead. You are deeply loved, appreciated, and valued.

Following these same discussions, Malcolm has also agreed that the time is right for him to step down. This will not happen immediately; instead, there will be a period of transition between now and July. During this time, Malcolm will support Abimbola and me as we discern who should be invited into the leadership team. There are already individuals we are praying about.

Ian has also decided that now is the right time to step down as a deacon. We are deeply grateful for his many years of faithful service and all that he has given.

Pastoral Care

Over the past year, many within our church family have faced significant pastoral challenges. One of the real encouragements in this has been seeing how the church has come together to offer support.

There is a growing sense of love and compassion among us. We are increasingly sharing in one another's burdens—feeling each other's pain and responding with care. Please continue in this.

We are also aware that some people are currently on the fringes of church life. The Gathering Leadership Team will be considering how we can better welcome and integrate people into the heart of the community. Although it has been great to hear of people visiting us recently and have commented afterwards that they have never felt so loved and welcomed by a church community.

Outreach

At present, our main outreach events (aside from The Passage) tend to centre around Christmas and Easter.

Our carol service, while perhaps smaller than expected, still welcomed a number of new people. Our Easter banquet was a particular highlight—those who attended will testify to the value of sitting around a table, sharing good

food, and engaging in intentional conversation with those we do not yet know well. We hope to repeat this in the near future.

Looking ahead, we need to grow in two key areas:

Firstly, developing a stronger culture of invitation.

Secondly, increasing our confidence and willingness to engage in everyday mission within the contexts God has placed us.

Priorities Looking Forward

- Build on the foundations the Lord has been laying over the past 12 months
- Learn how to live and function more fully as a family
- Create more space to practise and grow in spiritual gifts
- Begin conversations about becoming less organisational and more organic as a church
- Think more strategically about how we embody good news to the world around us - this will include stepping up stepping into different fields to scatter the seed - becoming more vocal. In the sharing of the gospel
- Consider how we can multiply what the Lord is doing
- Explore how we might see new gatherings of believers established

Grantham Baptist Church

Income & Expenditure Summary (by Fund) - Quarterly

Fund: General Fund | **Financial Year:** 2025 | **Date:** 31/12/2025 | **Transaction Group:** No filtering | **Projections:** Shown | **Categories Displayed:** Category Groups Only

Income

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Actual	Anticipated	Variance	Total Budget	Budget Received	Projected Total
Donations	18,449.38	25,023.11	19,871.54	23,948.10	87,292.13	91,847.00	-5%	91,847.00	95%	87,292.13
Gift Aid	3,507.60	3,594.00	3,438.75	3,840.73	14,381.08	17,500.00	-18%	17,500.00	82%	14,381.08
Other Income	558.00	747.85	510.00	643.80	2,459.65	4,000.00	-39%	4,000.00	61%	2,459.65
Total	22,514.98	29,364.96	23,820.29	28,432.63	104,132.86	113,347.00	-8%	113,347.00	92%	104,132.86
Budgeted	28,336.72	28,336.72	28,336.72	28,336.84						

Expenditure

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Actual	Anticipated	Variance	Total Budget	Budget Spent	Projected Total
Admin	1,841.49	1,739.44	1,035.82	2,425.37	7,042.12	8,250.00	-15%	8,250.00	85%	7,042.12
Church Building	9,114.65	3,493.30	1,521.82	4,872.24	19,002.01	23,550.00	-19%	23,550.00	81%	19,002.01
Church causes	383.08	680.00	0.00	264.20	1,327.28	4,000.00	-67%	4,000.00	33%	1,327.28
Manse	439.00	886.74	1,438.96	891.00	3,655.70	4,254.00	-14%	4,254.00	86%	3,655.70
Other causes	1,204.00	5,628.00	4,500.00	6,588.67	17,920.67	18,200.00	-2%	18,200.00	98%	17,920.67
Staffing	10,315.64	9,767.32	9,891.00	14,831.60	44,805.56	51,093.00	-12%	51,093.00	88%	44,805.56
Teaching	93.66	366.72	190.94	187.13	838.45	4,000.00	-79%	4,000.00	21%	838.45
Total	23,391.52	22,561.52	18,578.54	30,060.21	94,591.79	113,347.00	-17%	113,347.00	83%	94,591.79
Budgeted	30,586.77	26,586.77	26,586.77	29,586.69						

Summary Totals

	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Total to Date
Opening Balance	41,279.55	40,403.01	47,206.45	52,448.20	41,279.55
Income	22,514.98	29,364.96	23,820.29	28,432.63	104,132.86
Expenditure	23,391.52	22,561.52	18,578.54	30,060.21	94,591.79
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	-876.54	6,803.44	5,241.75	-1,627.58	9,541.07
Fund Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance	40,403.01	47,206.45	52,448.20	50,820.62	50,820.62

Surplus Summary	Amount
Anticipated Surplus to Date	0.00
Actual Surplus to Date	9,541.07
Budgeted Annual Surplus	0.00
Projected Annual Surplus	9,541.07

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grantham Baptist Church

Charity Number: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grantham Baptist Church ("the Church") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 which give 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 those 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: RJ Woodcock
Name: Miss Rebecca J Woodcock
Date: 27 September 2026