Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

References and Administrative Details

Registered Address:- Red Lane, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5AL

Registered Charity Number:- 1134511

Trustees:- Timothy Appleton (Treasurer), Deborah Denmade, Timothy Grainger, Stephen Gray (Church Secretary), Sarah Harris (until March 2026), Joseph Martin, Graham Palmer, Erica Raggett

Property Trustees:- Baptist Union Corporation Limited, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers:- Santander and Lloyds Bank

Independent Examiner:- Lisa Price

Annual Report for 2025

The trustees present their Annual Report for 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is an unincorporated association governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches. Members of the church are accepted in accordance with the constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ or following other modes of publicly professing their faith in Jesus Christ.

The members Meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members have appointed six Trustees, who together with the Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in Church Meeting for further consideration by the Trustees.

Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the church shall determine.

To achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.45am and a smaller gathering at 5.30pm. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the church website at https://www.hillcliffe.info/ . There is a full children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The church runs a series of house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The church runs a café on Friday mornings which is open to all members of the public, with the purpose of providing an inviting place to meet, making links with the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.

From time to time the church runs Alpha courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity.

The church runs various events for Young People, including groups on a Sunday, both a children's club and a youth group on a Thursday and summer camps.

The church runs a children's holiday club "Day Camp" each August for 80+ children which is open to both church families and children from the local area to attend. This involves a significant number of volunteers from the church coming together to run the event.

The church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The church holds regular Men's Breakfasts and regular Women's Ministry events.

Hospitality is a key factor of the church's life, creating a welcoming environment, including many catered events.

The church's A'Capella group has sung at various Christmas events both within the church and the local community. A Shine Your Light outdoor event at the top of the graveyard was held at Christmastime where a short carol service was held in the community.

The church has held numerous funerals throughout the year, both for families associated with the church and for families in the local area. The church graveyard has been well maintained by a contractor along with volunteers and there have been a number of burials during the year.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2025 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2026 with renewed enthusiasm. Seven baptisms were held during the year. At 31 December 2025 the membership stood at 106 members.

The church continues to operate with a pastoral vacancy and is advertising for the appointment of a Minister in accords with the Baptist Union Settlement process looking to appoint a new Minister. During the period without a Minister, members of the church have been involved in leading of services and preaching and fulfilling various roles and responsibilities.

Average attendance at worship services has been maintained throughout the year.

Members also served as volunteers in other local charities and organisations, including Broomfields Youth Project, Active Hope and Warrington Street Pastors. The church linked with Stockton Heath Festival to host a film night and also had a stand on the festival field. The church took part in local initiatives with wider organisations such as Bridgewater Churches Together and Church Warrington.

The church held regular slots during services to develop links with our mission partners based overseas and in the UK.

Financial Review

The church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal beyond the church was made for funds during the year. Income in 2025 was £184,327.

A significant expense related to the upkeep of church premises, in particular repairs and maintenance one-off costs.

During 2025, the church employed a part-time youth worker, a part-time office administrator and a part-time youth work assistant and a part time youth work intern.

The church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants totalling £31,982. to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church’s own charitable purpose.

The church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church’s activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church’s expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church’s objectives.

Total expenditure in 2025 was £143,257. The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy to enable the church to function effectively and meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost. Having considered the relevant risks of changes in income and expenditure, the Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is in the range £40,000. As at 31 December 2025, the church held total reserves of £85,349.

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	2025	2024
Receipts			
Offerings	2	120,317	117,306
Income tax recovered on offerings		28,482	31,162
Youth and Children events		9,121	7,702
Rents and contributions for use of premises		18,845	1,375
Café and catered events		3,208	3,863
Graveyard		2,675	3,565
Other		1,418	909
Legacies		-	-
Interest	3	260	408
Total Receipts		**184,327**	**166,289**
Payments			
Ministry	4	43,527	71,462
Mission	5	31,983	32,782
Upkeep of church premises	6	45,112	46,401
Administration	7	4,603	4,227
Children and Youth	8	12,014	9,906
Serving, reaching and discipling	9	6,018	3,216
Total Payments		**143,257**	**167,994**
Surplus (Deficit)		**41,069**	**(1,705)**
Cash balance at previous year end		**44,280**	**45,986**
Cash balance at current year end		**85,349**	**44,280**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2025	2024
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		41,779	25,970
BUC deposit account		43,570	18,310
Money received not banked			
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	3,577,786	3,476,969
Total Assets		**3,663,135**	**3,521,249**
Liabilities	**Note**	**2025**	**2024**
Current Liabilities	11		
Long Term Loans	12		
Other liabilities			
Total Liabilities		**-**	**-**

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to the year ending 31 December 2023 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Treasurer or other Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

[Date]

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1.Basis of Accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and other income	2025	2024
Donations	120,317	117,306
Total Donations and Other Income	**120,317**	**117,306**

3. Investment income	2025	2024
Savings interest	2,594	408
Total Investment Income	**2,594**	**408**

4. Ministry	2025	2024
Staff stipends, NI and pension contributions	43,612	64,484
Manse costs	- 299	5,034
Study and conference expenses	214	1,943
Total Ministry	**43,527**	**71,462**

For the interim period between the resignation of Stuart McPhail as pastor in September 2024 and the appointment of a new minister, (Position still vacant as at 31/12/2025), the manse which is owned by the church has been privately let to limit the financial burden on the church. This will be reviewed when a new minister is appointed.

5. Mission	2025	2024
Home Mission	7,140	7,140
BMS World Mission	7,140	7,140
Christians Against Poverty	-	-
Warrington Youth For Christ	960	960
Tearfund	103	223
Active Hope	1,020	1,020
SIM	6,115	6,115
Broomfields Youth Project	1,700	3,400
Warrington Street Pastors	1,020	1,020
Sponsorship and Other mission	3,365	2,344
Engineering In Mission	2,400	2,400
TEK URA	1,020	1,020
Total Mission	**31,983**	**31,762**

6. Upkeep of church premises	2025	2024
Energy/Telephone	6,876	6,175
Cleaning	1,403	1,478
Insurance	5,200	5,900
Repairs and maintenance	7,735	21,214
Manse Maintenance	12,265	2,993

Minibus Maintenance	2,044	1,146
Graveyard Contractor	8,800	7,495
Consumables	790	-
Total Upkeep of church premises	**45,112**	**46,401**

7. Administration	**2025**	**2024**
Printing and stationery	521	827
Subscriptions	4,082	3,400
Total Administration	**4,603**	**4,227**

8. Children and Youth	**2025**	**2024**
Resources and equipment	4,040	2,124
Day camp	4,631	4,935
Mission and other trips	3,343	2,847
Total children and youth	**12,014**	**9,906**

9. Serving, Reaching and discipling	**2025**	**2024**
Welcome and Stewarding	312	100
Teaching and Worship	199	132
Pastoral	-	-
Adult/Family outreach	2,439	176
Investing in leaders and discipleship	36	-
Kitchen/catering	3,033	2,807
Total Serving, reaching and discipling	**6,018**	**3,216**

10. Assets held for the Church's Own Use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee [the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd]:

Church Premises and Land, (Including Burial Ground), at Red Lane valued in the accounts at £2,819,197 based on insured value

additional £25,000 insured for contents.

The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £162,469

11. Current Liabilities	**2025**	**2024**
Cheques written but not cashed		
Total Current Liabilities	**-**	**-**

12. Long Term Liabilities	**2025**	**2024**
Long term liabilities	-	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	**-**	**-**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Charity Name: Hillcliffe Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 **Charity no (if any)** 1134511

Set out on pages 1-2 (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 31/12/2025

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: LmPrice **Date:** 23/08/2026

Name: Lisa Marie Price

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body AAT

(if any):	
Address:	17 Wood Lane Appleton Warrington, WA4 3DB

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.	