Littlehampton Baptist Church



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT to 31st December 2025

Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2025 Motto Text

The Trustees of Littlehampton Baptist Church present their Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVE

The Charity (hereinafter referred to as the Church) is governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the Baptist denomination.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Persons are accepted into membership of the Church on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Constitution.

Members' Meetings are usually held not less than four times a year. In 2025 there were five meetings in the Church building: in February, April, July, September, and November.

The meeting sets the overall Church policy and Members appoint Trustees, who with, the Minister, oversees the running of all day-to-day Church affairs, and oversees the spiritual direction and help for Members and Friends.

The following were Trustees during 2025:

Pastor Darren Lewis (Minister).

Ernest Bridger (Buildings & Fabric) (January - 11 June 2025 - Resigned).

Monica Harris (Administration January – June).

Benjamin N Nkosso (Safeguarding Trustee & Children's Ministry).

Josephine Seymour (Outreach & Hospitality, Fire Officer).

Veronica White (Church Treasurer/) Elected April 2025.

During the year, the Trustees were assisted by teams, each having a leader and separate responsibilities e.g. Hospitality, Finance, and Safeguarding etc.

The Constitution permits decisions at Members' Meetings to be passed by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus whenever possible.

The Trustees regularly review the major risks facing the charity and are satisfied that there are policies in place to mitigate them appropriately.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

A variety of activities are provided both for Church Members and for the local community.

A public service of worship is held each Sunday morning at 10.30am. During the service, a creche room is available for those with small children to use, and part way through the service, school-aged children and young people can engage with our Bible Discoverers and Explorers groups. Additionally, a family service is held on the last Sunday of the month. Light refreshments are served in the Church Hall after the service, which gives Members, Friends and Visitors the opportunity to stay connected with each other.

Services are Livestreamed to YouTube and are viewed by those unable to physically attend including people not directly associated with the Church or residing overseas.

The needs of those with disabilities are regularly reviewed and provision for them includes a loop system in all public rooms for those who are hearing impaired, and specific toilet provision for those with physical disabilities. (This toilet also has changing facilities for babies.) There is reasonable wheelchair access to all areas.

Prayer meetings are held weekly on Sunday mornings prior to the service, Monday mornings, and a men's prayer meeting on Saturday morning. In addition, there are also prayer for healing services and a monthly Prayer for Israel meeting.

Home groups are an important aspect of Church life, providing the members and friends with a safe place to develop their relationships with God and each other. These groups meet in either homes or on church premises.

In addition to the above, there are groups/activities that seek to fulfil the principal purpose of the church, and/or benefit the wider community.

Children, Youth and Families

We provide (term time only) a weekly Rainbows Baby and Toddler group, and Wow Club which is aimed at families of primary school-aged children. (Children outside of this age group may attend with a club member).

We seek to engage our local secondary school through supporting their School Chaplain and his events.

Other Activities, Events and Wider Community Engagement

Coffee and Chat, a social time for anyone, is held weekly in the church lounge.

The Church played an active role in the Christian witness to Littlehampton in partnership with other Littlehampton churches, most notably through the Good Friday Walk of Witness.

The Church continues to play an active part in the wider life of the community through participating in events hosted by Littlehampton Town Council and by supporting other organisations within the community such as:

- The Bonfire society, by making the premises available to use on bonfire night.
- The RNLI, by providing the premises free of charge for their annual Carol Concert.
- Littlehampton Foodbank through support, donations, and use of the premises.

Premises

The premises are also used by local groups and organisations such as the Littlehampton Community Fridge, Child Contact Centre and the Littlehampton Players Operatic Society. In addition, the hall, lounge, and kitchen have, on occasions, been used for children's parties. During the summer holidays the church premises are hired by youth / children's groups, for Summer Camps.

To facilitate most of what has been mentioned, an important and substantial amount of work is put into the running and maintenance of the church premises and manse.

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

As noted above, the Church has sought to reach out to the local community with spiritual and practical advice and help, to fulfil its principal purpose to advance the Christian faith as an act of worship. The Church recognises the success of its activities and engagements is not simply found in numbers and acknowledges the great value in less tangible aspects such as depth of fellowship and the effectiveness of support and encouragement to members and the community.

Introduction – Pastor Darren Lewis

Due to the way in which God enabled everyone to 'use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' (1 Peter 4:10) No one would have noticed the challenging start we had to the year; I was ill for 6 weeks which was then followed by a slow return to work, but everything ran smoothly for which we thank God.

Our Motto Text for 2025 was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 'Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus', with the encouragement to 'pray, pray, pray' at our AGM last year. Throughout the year, there was much blessing as we grew in love and knowledge of the Lord and one another, we rejoiced in having a baptism service and God answered our prayers and provided for us immensely. Throughout the year we really

did pray continually, and as you will read, there is so much to be thankful to God for in 2025, and I know what is written only scratches the surface.

Looking ahead to 2026 it is important that we do not forget the posture of 'pray, pray, pray' that was established in 2025, and know the fulfilment of the Apostle Paul's words in Roman's 5:13, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Worship – Pastor Darren Lewis

It is a privilege to be part of worship at LBC. It remains the heartbeat of church life and God really sustains all we do through it, particularly in our Sunday Morning gatherings. Across the year, many have used the gifts (time, skills, finance...) that God has given them to serve us as we worship Him, and we are blessed to have such variety. I thank God for all of you, and I thank you for being obedient servants to Him and hearts of worship.

As well as making the most of the Christian calendar, exploring the Easter Message on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday, celebrating Harvest together and remembering the birth of our saviour Jesus, through our Christmas gatherings, we have been encouraged, challenged, and stretched throughout the year. This has primarily been through the study of the first 8 chapters of the Gospel of Luke and then through the book of Nehemiah. The journey through Nehemiah has been so timely and has spoken into the life of the church acutely and directed much of our thoughts and decisions in the final third of the year.

A highlight for the whole church family was its first baptism for a couple of years. It was a timely reminder and huge encouragement that God is at work in and through us as a worshipping family. Another highlight has been through the development of sung worship, led by the band, who have served us so faithfully. One outcome of 2025 has been the pausing of Sunday evening services or gatherings. No final decision has been made on returning of these and the situation will continue to be assessed.

As you read the rest of the report, it will become clear that Worship at LBC is much more than certain events or days and that it permeates through all aspects of church life.

Prayer – Pastor Darren Lewis

A real strength of LBC is its prayer life, and in 2025 we strived to make sure that continued. As noted above, our church Motto Text for 2025 was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, and it is something we took very seriously.

We continue to thank God for all our prayer gatherings that took place at LBC: Prayer and Share, Men's Prayer Group, Sunday early morning and specific evening gatherings and Prayer for Israel. A wonderful development, which came through challenging circumstances, was the combining of the Monday Morning Prayer

Meeting and the Monday Morning Prayer and Share. Across the year this group has seen many answered prayers and God has spoken in many circumstances through the group. Furthermore, encouragement has also come through the group growing numerically and has seen as many as 14. All those who come have also felt the personal benefit of starting their week in prayer.

Another way prayer has been developed at LBC has been through the Church Members Meetings where we have had more interactive times of discussion preluded or followed by an extended time of prayer, as well as prayer meetings to pray for a specific church situation. Moving forward, we want to continue to develop this in the prayer life of the church, as well as reflecting on other ways in which God is calling us to meet with Him.

Coffee and Chat – Jonathan Souray

Coffee and chat follows on immediately from our 9.30 to 10.30 Monday Prayer Meeting, in our lounge. Through 2025 our numbers grew from Spring through to Summer; but numbers fell during the Autumn term. On average through the year about 15-18 persons drop by; members and friends of LBC; but we also from time to time have guests call in, some who are well known to us now, and others who drop by and who we do not see again or who come occasionally.

We are on the lookout for opportunities to give witness to the Gospel, our faith in Jesus and the difference He makes. Occasionally visitors have been happy to receive books or leaflets; and It has always been a joy when sometimes visitors have then also attended our main Sunday morning meetings.

We thank God that this weekly get together has proved to be a great opportunity for those of us not at work, to catch up, and share something of our lives and testimonies together; and to welcome in, witness, and offer support to new friends.

We are grateful to those who faithfully serve us with tea, coffee, and biscuits, while the rest of us chat! Occasionally we might share a birthday cake, too.

Oakland Grange – Jonathan Souray

LBC has been visiting Oakland Grange monthly, for quite some years now. Our relationship with the home and our regular visits there were established through John Holden having spent a period of respite there.

We have an informal monthly 50 minute meeting, usually on a Thursday. It is held in the main lounge and is attended by approximately 20 residents and a couple of staff, occasionally a visiting relative or friend, plus a core team of between three and six of us. We sing favourite hymns which the residents often choose. Jean plays the piano for us. We break bread, sometimes one of us shares a testimony, or a poem. We have a short talk, although recently when I have spoken, I have broken up a talk into several short chunks, as we go through the meeting, referencing the content of the hymns, and various scriptures, one of which we will have read together. (This

increases the possibility of those who fall asleep during the service or who have poor concentration ability, nevertheless hearing something that stands alone). We are currently trialling the use of a speaker and microphone, to assist the many with hearing loss.

Afterwards, most of us stay on for a while and chat. We have got to know quite a few of the residents well and some of the staff; we can provide a listening ear. Sometimes our offer of prayer has been taken up; we may also visit individual residents at other times. The courage and gracious acceptance of some of them in their difficult circumstances, and often their humour, is a ministry to us all; as is the care, patience, and kindness of the attentive frontline staff.

Sadly, often those we have got to know pass away. We have been able to remember them during our services, thank God for their lives, and appeal to the gracious comfort of the Holy Spirit. Contacts with relatives currently has also been an opportunity to offer comfort and encouragement.

The residents who attend continue to express their appreciation to us and often tell us that they look forward to our next visit; the more so for some of them as they miss being able to attend their own church services.

We thank God for Kim the senior manager and for Kevin the CEO of the two Oakland homes, who are very supportive of our visits.

Schools Ministry – Pastor Darren Lewis

In 2025, our primary source of engaging with the local schools was through our support of Paul Sanderson OBE, the chaplain of Littlehampton Academy. A significant aspect of this was through the involvement of Pastor Darren and other Members of LBC being involved in their annual Prayer Week. This is an event where the school chapel and stage area become various prayer stations and classes attend sessions and use all the stations available. All those who supported the event acknowledged what a wonderful privilege it was to be involved.

Additionally, the local churches were invited to come and pray in the prayer spaces for the school one evening. Once again, this was a powerful and important time as it gave us an insight into what challenges pupils face.

Another key highlight was a Harvest visit to the church by one of our local nursery schools. The children came to the church, bringing their donations for our Harvest offering for the Foodbank and then Pastor Darren led a short assembly-like time in the sanctuary and finished with a prayer. Each child was then given a 'Kindness Certificate' as a way of encouraging them for their donation. The school were very appreciative of the visit, and it was a great success.

Children's Ministry

Bible Discoverers – Ben N. Nkosso

Watching Bible Discoverers grow in their understanding of the Bible has been the highlight of our year. Whether we are mid-game or mid-song, their curiosity and heart for God are evident. We are so grateful for the parents who step in to assist; you are the backbone of this ministry. Our sessions are led with heart and dedication by Ben NN and Hannah L., with the vital support of our parent volunteers. This partnership ensures a safe, fun, and spiritually nurturing environment for every child.

In 2025, Bible Discoverers saw a wonderful season of consistency and hospitality with an average weekly attendance of 9 children. It is also important to say that we were delighted to welcome approximately 5 visiting children throughout the year. This specific group size has been ideal, large enough for high-energy group games, yet small enough to allow for meaningful, one-on-one instruction and personal connection/ trust.

We successfully went through a major transition in our teaching material this year as we completed our time with the "Bubbles" programme. It provided a fantastic, rich foundation that the children loved; and now introducing the book of James, we have moved into a deeper study. This new program focuses on "Faith in Action," challenging the kids to think about how they can be kind and helpful in their daily lives and by being like Christ. Ben and Hannah want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped tidy up toys, participated in the games, or simply brought their child to the sessions. You make this ministry possible.

Bible Explorers – Di Brown

The three leaders – Auntie Di, Nana Fran and Mida, have enjoyed another year of teaching a group of 6-14 year olds using the Scripture Union curriculum. The age range is wide, but as the group is small in numbers, this has worked well, and the older children help the younger ones, especially in finding Bible passages.

The group have been learning about stories from the Old and New Testaments with the help of videos, craft activities, games, drama, and memory verses. We always apply the lessons to ourselves, and whenever we test the children, we are always impressed by what they remember! In the holidays, we still meet – but play games! Felicity comes to help once a month. The Explorers enjoy singing and enjoy the Action Song in church every Sunday, and on Christmas Day they, together with Discoverers, sang the chorus of 'Go Tell it on the Mountain' whilst the congregation sang the verses. The children were excellent!

The session normally begins with a time of sharing and prayer, and the children are encouraged to pray themselves, which most of them are happy to do. They are increasing their knowledge of the Bible and seeing its relevance to their own lives as well as learning about the love, faithfulness, and power of our Heavenly Father, and His Son Jesus our Saviour, and we pray that all the children will develop their own personal relationship with Him.

Rainbows – Pastor Darren Lewis and Di Brown

Rainbows meets on a Tuesday morning in the church hall and is led by Darren who has taken over from Auntie Di. She enjoyed leading the group for 24 years but for health reasons was happy to step down. She still leads the singing at the end, and we have a great team who help in the hall and the kitchen. Our numbers have averaged around 11 children who enjoy the many different toys, books, puzzles, and occasionally colouring and craft activities. We provide a place where mums and other carers of young children can come and relax over a cuppa while their children play and learn to share etc. Our songs always include some from church and we have a prayer request box available however, this is rarely used.

At Easter, every family received an Easter Story Book and in December we enjoyed our usual Christmas Party with songs, food and Father Christmas who gave every child a Christmas Story Book. We also gave out invitations to our Christmas events, and some families came to our Christingle Service. Most of our families have no church connections and we aim to show the love of Jesus in our welcome and when chatting with them. The team always pray together before the group starts. We are thrilled that God has provided more team members and looking ahead we are hoping to add a couple more. We are also aiming to replace more of our toys and cups including cups with lids for serving hot drinks.

WOW Club - Pastor Darren Lewis and Hannah Lewis

WOW Club entered 2025 knowing that challenges lay ahead, due to the demanding nature of the sessions and one of the paid team leaders imminently moving on to pastures new. This was compounded when Pastor Darren Lewis was unwell in January, so the decision was made to pause the group. After much reflection, discussion and hard work, WOW Club restarted in September in time for the new academic year.

The sessions took on a new format which saw the children staying in the hall having a structured session linked to the Bible and led by the team, with more games and activities and less of a focus on craft. This has also meant we have been able to make better use of the equipment brought with the grant in 2024 from Littlehampton Town Council. Their parents/responsible adult stayed onsite in the lounge where they could relax, enjoy refreshments and participate in some activities. The three or so months the group has been running in this new format have been very successful with an average attendance steadily increasing.

The team have worked incredibly hard in relaunching the group, making sure that everyone who comes is given a warm welcome and has an enjoyable session. We are very thankful for the love, prayer, and encouragement from the rest of the church family. Looking ahead, we continue to reflect on how the new format is working and continue to try to expand the team, whilst being excited to see all that God will do through WOW Club in 2026.

Pastoral Care – Margaret Dawson (Pastoral Auxiliary and Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care Team)

During 2025, the team consisted of the Pastor, Co-ordinator and 3 other LBC members: JG, CR and AS.

Our aim is to keep in touch with LBC Members and Friends as much as possible, and to offer encouragement, support, and prayer where and when needed. We are grateful to the Home Group Leaders for their care of their Group Members, and their co-operation with us in informing us of troubling situations.

Two of the team, JG and CR, undertake to make fortnightly phone calls to individuals who are housebound and any who are in pastoral need. These calls are still much appreciated, and we are very grateful to J and C for their diligence. In addition, cards are sent at Christmas, and other cards and sometimes flowers are given in special cases.

General news is shared on the LBC Fellowship app which has 44 members, and specific requests for prayer are put on the LBC Prayer app, which has 46 members. These groups play an important role in keeping LBC Members and Friends informed and offering instant support. The Prayer Group particularly offers immediate prayer support when requested which is much appreciated, and the PC Team are grateful for the efforts made to achieve this so successfully. We make efforts to keep updated the small number of the congregation who are not online.

The team also make home and Hospital visits where appropriate. All visits are noted on the Pastoral Care Team app for prayer support from the other team members. This can be very worthwhile.

Much of the work done by the team is seen by them as part of their service to the Lord and His people, but the cost of flowers, cards and postage may be claimed from the LBC petty cash.

Towards the end of 2025, MD felt it was right to resign as LBC Pastoral Auxiliary, and PCT Co-ordinator. This was approved by the Church at the Members' Meeting on 16th November 2025. She will remain on the Team and suggests that the visiting side should be enlarged when possible.

Littlehampton Baptist Church recognises the value of the work done by the Pastoral Care Team and continues to support it. The team meet quarterly for Prayer and discussion. The next meeting will be in February.

Home Groups – Pastor Darren Lewis

Homegroups continue to play an important role in the life of LBC and are appreciated by those who attend. 2025 has seen us build upon the work begun in 2024 with the outcome of the survey.

We would like to begin by thanking all those who support and run homegroups at LBC. A significant part of this has been achieved through supporting the homegroup leaders and allowing them to feedback on behalf of their groups. The outcome of this has seen.

- the establishment of termly meetings with homegroup leaders and P.D.L and Deacon M.H.
- M.H. begun visiting different HG sessions.
- a development in Bible Studies through using a resource across all groups.
- the introduction of homegroups being involved in serving communion.
- the exploration of an additional course to be run in 2026 for everyone to do together at church, at the same time, instead of in homegroups.

In 2026, the aim is to sustain the level of support that is being provided and run the additional course. We are conscious of the challenge of ensuring our existing groups are still utilised and there is a need to create at least one additional homegroup, preferably in the evening.

Outreach Events and Community Support – Pastor Darren Lewis

2025 was a great year for reaching out to our community and seeking to provide support as we sought to be part of every significant town event.

In partnership with other local churches, we played an active part in the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness, which was an incredible display of Christian unity. Additionally, we took the lead on the Christmas Nativities provided by the Littlehampton Churches on the night of the Christmas Light Switch On. Sadly, this event was cancelled due to unsafe weather conditions.

We are blessed to have an active local and district council that seek to provide events for the community, and we have sought to be involved at each one. We had a stall at the new Community Support and Information Fair in the high street, where we were able to engage with the local community informing them of events and groups they might like to attend at the church, as well as providing support on the day to those who needed it. This event also gave us a great opportunity to network with other organisations and charities. We planned to do something similar, but on a larger scale at the annual Town Show, however we had to pull out of the event due to our equipment not being able to withstand the high winds forecasted. Additionally, we were present at a local council meeting as well as the Littlehampton Town Council AGM. Pastor Darren also attended the gathering for the outgoing Town Mayor.

It was a delight that we could continue our support for other local charities. Throughout the year we supported and donated to the Littlehampton and District Foodbank, as well as providing a venue for the Littlehampton Bonfire Society for their brilliant bonfire night celebrations. We also hosted a fundraising event for our local RNLI with the support of Morrisons and Worthing Salvation Army Band and Singers.

Highlights for 2025 were our Christmas services. Along with our Carol Service and Christingle Family Service, we saw the return of a Light Up a Light Service. This is a service for those who have been bereaved and want to take a moment at Christmas to remember their loved one who has died. It was a powerful and emotional service where members of our local community chose to attend, and it was very much appreciated. As part of this event, we were kindly supported by one of the local funeral directors who provided the order of service free of charge.

Moreover, the church also held several events across the year where members of the local community attended. These ranged from the life events such as the funerals and baptism that took place, to the Palm Sunday lunch, church picnics and Harvest Lunch and Quiz, which was great fun.

With fear of missing someone out, the Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped make all these events possible. To those who helped fold flyers and prepare food, to those who moved equipment and gave out flyers, you were all great!

Buildings and Premises- Pastor Darren Lewis

As has been noted in previous reports and at Church Meetings, we have been conscious of the amount of work that is needed to be done on the church buildings and premises. As a result, a Building Fund was created as part of a larger fundraising initiative. We are glad to already be seeing the impact of this.

At the church site, members of the church continue to work very hard in a volunteer capacity to ensure the building and premises, are clean, safe, and tidy. They also ensure certain in-house safety checks like fire safety are done, as well as ensure external professionals are brought in to do appropriate testing and maintenance. Their contribution throughout the year and special cleaning days make an incredible difference, and we are so very thankful. A special mention should also go to the kitchen team who received another 5-star safety rating in our latest food hygiene inspection. Furthermore, various work has been undertaken around the building as planned or required. Examples of this have been the replacement of lighting in certain rooms for safety reasons, and the replacement of the Wi-Fi system to ensure that we have a secure, faster internet which is GDPR compliant.

Work has also taken place at the Manse. Importantly, the dangerous garden wall has now been replaced with concrete fence posts, concrete gravel boards, and wooden fence panels. Unfortunately, there was a need for the replacement of the garage door to be brought forward, and the shower fixings replaced due to them breaking.

It is important to note that a great deal of work has gone into fulfilling the necessary refurbishment work on the baptistry and organising the Planned Preventative Maintenance Surveys to be done on both the manse and church sites. Both surveys are expected to be undertaken in January 2026.

Before stepping down from his role as Trustee and Deacon, Ernest Bridger did a great amount of work overseeing the buildings and premises and we are thankful for all he did.

Membership and Attendance:

At the end of 2025, there were 67 Members in Fellowship at LBC (3 were new members). During 2025 there were 6 deaths.

Additionally, we were pleased to say that across the year there were 3143 adult visits and 476 children visits to the Sunday morning gatherings. This is an average Sunday morning congregation of 60 adults and 9 children.

Governance

We are thankful to report that 2025 was a very encouraging year even if there are still some significant challenges. Unfortunately, the year began with Pastor Darren Lewis being unwell and needing to have some time off, however the Trustees and the rest of the church worked incredibly hard to ensure things continued.

A great benefit to the trusteeship was the return of Veronica White and her role of Church Treasurer. This lifted a weight from the rest of the Trustees. We also benefitted from having Ernest Bridger's input as Trustee before he stepped down. We are thankful to God for all that He did through Ernest.

Work also went into training individuals with some of the Trustees receiving Core Leadership Training and Safeguarding Training. Additionally, those attending the Sunday service were shown Stage 1 Safeguarding Film and we had several people receive First Aid training and a grant was obtained to cover the cost of this. For 2026 work will be put in to having individuals renew their training in Food Hygiene.

Once again, the church policies and procedures were reviewed and renewed. A significant development was made to our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures with a far more substantial and thorough document being adopted, this keeps us in line with the latest information available from the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

We continue to give thanks to Jose Seymour who is our Fire Officer and all those who support her in her role to ensure the necessary signage, regular alarm checks, fire drills, and general paperwork are in place. Unfortunately, the role of Health and Safety Officer and a Deputy Safeguarding Officer remain vacant and filling these roles with the right people will remain a priority for 2026.

Safeguarding – Ben N. Nkosso

LBC remains dedicated to the principle that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This year, we have successfully strengthened our internal procedure, elevated leadership competency, and formalised our recruitment steps to ensure we remain a vigilant and caring church.

Policy Update: All safeguarding policies and procedures are fully updated to align with the 2025 Baptist Union (BU) guidance. Leadership Training: All the

Deacons/Trustees, and the DPS have completed their Level 3 updated Safeguarding Training, equipping them to manage complex cases and collaborate with external agencies. Safer Recruitment: Our formalised process is now up and running. Most of the volunteers have had their DBS checks done, gone through safeguarding interviews, and have had references checked.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of our safeguarding team, we are currently seeking a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person (Deputy DPS). This role provides vital support and oversight alongside our current DPS. In conclusion, LBC is moving toward operating at a high standard of safety with a fully trained leadership team and robust vetting procedures.

The safeguarding team would like to remind LBC members that if you have any concerns about the wellbeing of a child, vulnerable adults, or LBC members in general, they must report it promptly to our Designated Safeguarding Person, Carol Taylor. She will take the required steps to handle the situation or will request guidance from relevant agencies on how to proceed. The safeguarding email address is: safeguarding@littlehamptonbaptistchurch.com

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church raises the funds needed to carry out its activities and responsibilities from within its own membership and congregation, this is by means of regular offerings at services and regular giving via the banking system. In accordance with Church policy, no wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The most significant regular expense is the stipend paid to the Minister.

During this year, the Church again relied on its members and friends serving in voluntary capacities in all its activities, thus making little impact on Church expenditure.

Our income for the year was higher than that of 2024, due mainly to the receipt of 2 legacies, a substantial amount of money raised during the year and from a Gift Day in July for the Building Fund. We anticipate the maintenance of the church buildings, and the manse to need a significant amount of money spent on them soon to maintain them in sound condition and a survey of the church and manse is to be carried out early in 2026 to ascertain the extent of work needed. Work on the church commenced towards the end of 2025 with the installation of new lighting in the hall and adjoining rooms. The renovation of the baptistry is scheduled for early 2026. During the year we have made savings by switching to fibre broadband and changing the printer/photo copier.

Our premises are used regularly by local groups and organisations such as the Child Contact Centre, the Littlehampton and District Foodbank, the Littlehampton Players Operatic Society, the Littlehampton Bonfire Society and the Littlehampton Community Fridge. During the summer holidays the church premises were hired by 2 Boys and Girls Brigade groups for their Summer Camps

The Church designates 5% of its General Fund income to the support of missionaries serving overseas, and charities in the UK. These were:

Judy Cook at Hope Home in Thailand through BMS Compassion
Turning Tides
Operation Romania Trust
Creative Heart

The Church also made other donations to the following local and national charities:

Spurgeon's Children's Homes
Tear Fund
The Littlehampton Foodbank
The RNLI

The Church also gives 5% of its General Fund to the Baptist Home Mission Fund, funding Baptist work and witness in the UK.

The Trustees are aware that at some time in the future, significant sums will need to be spent on the Church buildings and Manse. Informal estimates suggest that the cost will exceed £100,000. This future expenditure is behind the reserves policy which suggests that £25,000 is needed for maintaining cash flow as well as the £100,000 plus for potential repairs. The current reserves held of £64535 plus £29547 held in the Building Fund are therefore insufficient in the opinion of the Trustees.

The Financial Reports for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The correspondence address is:

Littlehampton Baptist Church, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5NY.

office@littlehamptonbaptistchurch.org

Registration number: 1134865

Bankers: Santander Bank and Baptists Together

Independent Examiner: Mrs Carol Boreham

The Trustees approved this report on

And signed on their behalf by

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH	1134865

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	TO	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations and Grants	Note 1	82,557	35,775	-	118,332	80,073
Projects and Events	Note 2	197	-	-	197	908
Other Income	Note 3	17,824	-	-	17,824	13,515
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*		100,579	35,775	-	136,353	94,496
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts		100,579	35,775	-	136,353	94,496
A3 Payments						
Ministry Costs	Note 4	34,711	-	-	34,711	34,304
Project Costs	Note 5	232	-	-	232	4,002
Gifts	Note 6	12,675	1,114	-	13,789	13,287
Premises Costs	Note 7	28,474	5,311	-	33,785	61,330
Other Support Costs	Note 8	10,235	-	-	10,235	10,226
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		86,327	6,425	-	92,752	123,149
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		86,327	6,425	-	92,752	123,149
Net of receipts/(payments)		14,251	29,350	-	43,601	28,654
A5 Transfers between funds		2,708	- 2,708	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		47,576	4,756	-	52,332	
Cash funds this year end		64,535	31,398	-	95,933	52,331

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Deposit	57,653	29,547	-
	Current	6,877	1,851	-
	cash	5	-	-
	Total cash funds	64,535	31,398	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Church Premises Insurance Value	General	-	2,832,608
Manse Premises Insurance Value	General	-	487,310
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Note 1 Donations and Grants					
Church Offerings	55,290			55,290	56,058
Gift Aid	15,294			15,294	11,408
Grants	350			350	350
Gifts / legacies	14,150			14,150	11,602
Building / Baptistry Fund	32,134			32,134	0
Specified Gifts	1,114			1,114	655
	£118,332	£0	£0	£118,332	£80,073
Note 2 Projects and Events					
Events receipts	197			197	908
Other income	0			0	0
	£197			£197	£908
Note 3 Other Income					
				£197	
Use of premises	12,992.00			12,992	10,763
Miscellaneous	2,184.95			2,185	1,156
Bank Interest	2,647.18			2,647	1,596
	£17,824			£17,824	£13,515
Total receipts	£136,353	£0	£0	£136,353	
Note 4 Ministry Costs					
Salaries and NIC	29,575			29,575	28,601
Sundry expences	879			879	1,732
Pension contributions	3,732			3,732	3,631
Visiting speakers	470			470	340
Home Groups	55			55	0
	£34,711	£0		£34,711	£34,304
Note 5 Project Costs					
Salaries and NIC	23			23	3,131
Childrens Clubs	185			185	170
General Project costs	0			0	262
Youth projects	19			19	350
Evangelism and Publicity	6			6	89
	£232			£232	£4,002

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Note 6 Gifts					
Home Mission	4,971				4,544
Fellowship Fund	0				300
Specified Gifts	1,114				434
ORT Sponsorship	0				90
World Mission	7,704				7,920
	£13,789	£0		£0	£13,287
Note 7 Premises Costs					
Church Utilities	5,004				13,419
Church Insurance	3,154				3,081
Cleaning salaries	1,148				3,971
Cleaning and refuse	2,954				2,582
Church Maintenance	10,973				28,538
Live streaming equipment	0				0
Manse Insurance	623				602
Manse repairs	5,798				5,404
Manse utilities / telephone	4,132				3,734
	£33,785	£0	£0	£33,785	£61,330
Note 8 Other support costs					
Catering	510				805
Training	77				60
Administrators salary	0				0
Photocopier and stationery	3,219				3,263
Telephone / internet	2,255				2,036
Office equipment and maintenance	22				0
Licences and subscriptions	3,441				3,510
Music	280				0
Grant	198				
Accountancy fees	0				0
General expenses	235				551
	£10,235	£0	£0	£10,235	£10,226

Restricted Funds

	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ payments	Balance 31.12.24	Balance 31.12.25
Mission Account	4,996	7,704	(2,708)	4,008	1,300
Fellowship Fund	0	0	0	551	551
Building Fund	34,661	5,311	29,350	197	29,547
	39,657	13,015	£26,642	£4,756	£31,398

Note 10 Specified Gifts

	Payments
World Mission account	
Judy Cook (BMS)	2,000
Operation Romania Trust (ORT)	2,120
Creative Heart	1,600
Turning Tides	1,600
Compassion	384
	7,704
Miscellaneous accounts	
Spurgeons Childcare	149
Tear Fund	454
Foodbank	28
RNLI	483
	1,114

Note 11 Assets

The Church is the benificial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal tittle of which is held by the Church's Custodian Trustee, the Baptist Union Corperation Limited

The church premises at Fitzalan Road Littlehampton	£2,832,608
The church manse at 34 St Flora's Road Littlehampton	£487,310

All additions to the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment are charged through the year

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

Charity Name: LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year ended: 31st DECEMBER 2025

Charity no (if any): 1134865

Set out on pages (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 DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives 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 the 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 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: C Boreham **Date:** 29/7/2026

Name: CAROL BOREHAM

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 8 HARSFOLD ROAD
RUSTINGTON
WEST SUSSEX BN16 2QE