SUNDON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Reaching up to GOD | Reaching out to the Community | Reaching in to Each Other
244 Sundon Park Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU3 3AL



ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT 2025

Proverbs 4:5-7
Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight.

REACHING UP TO GOD

As a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, **Sundon Park Baptist Church** subscribes to the union's declaration of principle that the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in flesh is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has liberty under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to interpret and administer His laws.

In 2025, Sundon Park Baptist Church continued to advance its mission as a beacon of light, hope and healing by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serving one another and responding to the needs of the local community. Our 2025 theme, **Godly Wisdom: Aligning with the Purposes and Plans of God**, encouraged the congregation to seek God's guidance and discernment through the book of Proverbs and to trust in His generous provision of wisdom. United and inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Church remained committed to making disciples, building restorative relationships and transforming the community for Christ—reaching up to God, reaching out to the community and reaching into one another.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

THE PAST YEAR/FUTURE

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

As we ended Year 2025, we were grateful for GOD's providence and sustenance which had seen us through. The Church continued to conduct worship services that are open to all. The church services were held onsite, streamed via Zoom for those who were unable to attend in person and uploaded on to our YouTube channel. The Church continued to see new people regularly attending services.

The church premises continued to accommodate an onsite nursery and the Newns Building continued being available throughout the week for use by the Church, local community groups including hiring from people in the community.

2025 EVENTS

At the beginning 2025, the Church continued to host a range of community events such as the Community Trust, Keep Fit, Omnibus Society, Slimming World, Sundon Park Friendship Group, Singing Café and Crafts & Coffee. With church facilitated activities we continued to a provide a safe space of welcome for people to meet, share hobbies, build relationships and reduce isolation.

The Church continued to host events for the local community to engage with and enjoy, these included an Annual BBQ, Christmas flower arranging, celebrating Mothering Sunday, Father's Day, Harvest Celebrations and Easter. We had a maundy Thursday meal, remembering the Thursday before Easter that commemorates Jesus Christ's Last Supper with the disciples. Our Harvest Celebration were focused on collecting donations to help support local Community organisation including Azalea Luton, Luton Food Bank and Breakfast Battery Boxes. Items donated included toiletries, long-life food items and fresh fruit and dairy products. The Community was welcomed to special Christmas celebrations which included Carols' By Candlelight and Church Members were asked to host those on their own to a Christmas Meal. At Christmas, we took part in a Sundon Park community event at the local shops, where our worship team led the carol singing. We delivered Christmas cards to the whole estate inviting people to our Christmas services.

BREAKFAST BATTERY BOXES

The Breakfast Battery Boxes which began in December 2020 as a joint community initiative continued in 2025, helping to alleviate holiday hunger in Luton North for individuals and families experiencing in-work poverty and struggling with cost of living, including people experiencing in-work poverty. Over 260 boxes were distributed to families and individuals in 2025.

WARM HUBS-WELCOME SPACES

In response to the continuing cost-of-living crisis and in-work poverty, particularly the challenge of heating homes, the Church continued to run the Welcoming Space. The Welcome Space provided a welcoming environment for people experiencing financial hardship, social

isolation or other concerns. Visitors could access support, build friendships and enjoy light refreshments. As the need remains evident both locally and nationally, the Welcome Space will continue.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In June we celebrated 15 years of service for the Singing Café. Singing Café is dedicated in providing support to people living on their own, individuals with disabilities, people diagnosed with dementia, and their carers, everyone is welcome to join in. The celebrations were attended by the wider community and the founding minister Reverend Elaine Cockbill. The Church continued to participate in ecumenical events facilitated by Churches Together Luton (CTL) which included Pentecost Praise, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and CTL Luton Leaders Breakfast events.

Special thanks to all the teams who make this work possible.

GoodGym Luton
GoodGym Luton continued to provide dedicated volunteers for the Singing Café and Breakfast Battery Boxes. Their practical support helped these activities run smoothly, strengthened community connections and contributed to a welcoming environment for local people. We are very grateful for their time, energy and valued support.

Luton Community Chaplaincy
In June, the Church began working in partnership with Luton Community Chaplaincy. One of our Church members was commissioned that month, joining a team of four chaplains who serve the local community and meet at the Church every Monday morning. The chaplains provide a visible, trusted presence in the community, listening to residents, offering practical and pastoral support, signposting people to relevant services, and helping those who may feel isolated or vulnerable. They are trained and supervised by Luton Community Chaplaincy and have completed safer recruitment procedures. The Church continues to support the team through prayer, pastoral care and promotion of the chaplaincy service.

REACHING IN TO EACH OTHER

The Church joyfully welcomed families into membership and held baptisms. The Church continued to meet together for Prayers Day throughout the year to seek God's for wisdom with regards meeting the needs of the community and managing the church premises.

LEADERS OF GOD

We give thanks to God for another joyful and fruitful year in our Sunday School ministry, Leaders of God. Throughout the year, we were encouraged to welcome a continued growing number of children each Sunday. It was especially wonderful to hear them share thoughtful and enthusiastic feedback about their time together, reflecting their enjoyment, growing confidence and engagement.

Through Bible teaching, prayer, fellowship and age-appropriate activities, the children have continued to grow in wisdom, deepen their understanding of God's Word and develop a greater awareness of His loving presence in their lives. It has been a privilege to see seeds of faith being planted and nurtured. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated teachers for their faithful service, to our parents and carers for their continued support, and above all to God for

His guidance and blessing. We pray that each child will continue to flourish in faith, grow in love for the Lord and become a shining light in the church and wider community.

YOUTH CLUB

We give thanks to God for a vibrant and fruitful year in the life of the SPBC Youth Club. It has been a blessing to see the club continue to grow and thrive, providing a welcoming space where our young people can develop their gifts, build meaningful friendships and deepen their faith.

Throughout the year, the young people enjoyed a rich variety of activities, including “Learn To Play Music” sessions, community-based activities, a Popeye and Conversation Gathering, and the Mini-Games Festivals. Through engaging discussions, worship, fellowship, service and fun, they have grown in their understanding of God’s Word and taken encouraging steps towards becoming confident, compassionate and Christ-centred leaders.

Our dedicated Youth Leaders also reached out regularly to students at a local school, building positive relationships and signposting young people to supportive activities and opportunities within the community. We are deeply grateful for their faithful commitment, patience and care, and for the enthusiasm and participation of every young person.

We also celebrate the valuable contribution of our youth-led Media Team. Their creativity and dedication strengthened the church’s outreach through the design of banners, an active social media presence, engaging media posts, sermon recordings and support for other youth initiatives.

We praise God for His faithful guidance throughout the year and pray that He will continue to nurture, strengthen and inspire our young people. The Church always endeavours to be a place where all feel welcomed, valued and encouraged to discover their gifts, grow in faith and shine the light of Christ in the church, their schools and the wider community.

BEACON GROUPS

Three Beacon Groups continued to meet throughout the year with the purpose of praying together and sharing the Word of GOD through Bible Study. The groups continued to build deeper relationships, support one another spiritually and practically. The groups continued to reach out to others in the Church and Community through service or evangelism.

MEN’S MINISTRY

The men’s group met together for a time of light refreshments followed by a casual chat about navigating life, faith, in a completely relaxed environment providing a good chance to catch up and connect with other men.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

During 2025, we continued to walk alongside families in our community during their moments of deepest grief. We conducted funeral services which aimed to represent each unique life celebrated and family support by our Church community. The Church continued to provide bereavement support, offering a listening ear, home visits, hospital visits and prayer.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025

The Church recognised and appreciated the work of the Joshua Project Refurbishment Working Party. The Joshua Project Team continued to explore options for addressing the ageing building's urgent repair and refurbishment needs, including concrete deterioration, roof repairs or replacement, and heating concerns. The Church provisionally agreed that refurbishment, including repayment of the existing Baptist Union loan, should be the preferred approach while remaining open to funding and alternative building opportunities.

FINAL REMARKS

As we reflect on 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the faithfulness of God, the devoted service of our Trustees, Members and Volunteers, and the love and unity we share as a church family. Through every ministry, gathering, celebration and challenge, we have seen the gracious hand of God at work—transforming lives, strengthening faith and drawing us closer to Him and to one another.

We give thanks for all that God has done among us, and we look to the future with prayerful hope and expectation. We trust that He who began a good work in us will continue to guide, shape and sustain us until that work is complete.

May we remain rooted in His love, faithful in prayer, joyful in service and generous in our care for one another. May the light of Christ shine through us as we serve our community and reach beyond it with compassion and hope.

As a Church, we will continue to be a people who reach up to God in worship, reach out to our community in love, and reaching in to one another with encouragement, fellowship and care.

SUNDON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT (INCLUDING RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**2025** **£**	2024 **£**
GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
Receipts						
Voluntary Giving		39,579	0		39,579	44,836
Income Tax recovered on gifts		17,062			17,062	0
Raised for other causes				444	444	1,129
Receipts from Church & Community Events		0			0	0
Gift day		0			0	0
Investment income/bank interest		272			272	463
Other Receipts		40			40	417
Total Receipts		56,952	0	444	57,396	46,845
Payments						
Charitable Activities		48,208			48,208	41,284
Grants to Other Causes			4,948		4,948	4,948
Cost of Generating Funds		0			0	0
Administration		1,156			1,156	809
Other Payments		10,655			10,655	1,884
Total Payments		60,019	4,948	0	64,967	48,925
Net Receipts/(Payments)		(3,067)	(4,948)	444	(7,571)	(2,080)
Transfers between Funds	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cash funds brought forward at 31 December 2024		40,954	0	0	40,954	43,033
Cash funds carried forward at 31 December 2025/2024		37,886	(4,948) 0	444 0	33,383	40,954
THE BEACON PROJECT RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
Receipts		66,395	0	0	66,395	53,029
Payments		70,106	0	0	70,106	50,650
Net Receipts/(Payments)		(3,710)	0	0	(3,710)	2,379
Transfers between Funds	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cash funds brought forward at 31 December 2024		18,620	0	0	18,620	16,241
Cash funds carried forward at 31 December 2025/2024		14,910	0	0	14,910	18,620

SUNDON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025	2024
					£	£
Cash Funds						
Santander					5,303	14,476
Santander					1,529	1,513
Baptist Union Deposit Account					25,220	24,964
Christian Aid Foundation (cash account)					3,888	13,113
CAF Gold account					12,353	5,507
CAF Gold Client account					0	0
		0	0	0	**48,292**	59,573
Represented by						
Beacon Project Account					14,910	18,620
General Fund					33,382	40,954
		0	0	0	**48,292**	59,573
Other monetary assets					**0**	0
Non-monetary assets held for investment purposes					**0**	0
Held for Church's own use	3					
Freehold properties known as:						
Sundon Park Baptist Church				0	1,382,672	1,335,895
Furniture, fistures & fittings, equipment				0	74,630	72,105
Newns Building (community hall)				0	1,355,295	1,309,444
Furniture, fistures & fittings, equipment				0	21,377	20,654
The Manse, 244 Sundon Park Road LU3 3AL				0	355,453	276,080
Furniture, fistures & fittings, equipment				0	25,000	0
				0	**3,189,427**	3,014,178
Liabilities						
Outstanding balance on Baptist Union loan					113,292	164,144
					113,292	**164,144**

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting Policies
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015)

2 The associated fund movements are detailed on a separate sheet

3 Property held for the Church's own use consist of a suite of Church buildings including one hall and its contents, together with a detached Manse situated behind the church. Each is included on the basis of the current insurance valuation
The modular 2 storey church/community hall (Newns Building) is now complete and in full operation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

Receipts and Payments Analysis	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
Receipts						
Voluntary Giving						
Weekly Offerings		39,579			39,579	44,836
Donations and other voluntary income		0			0	0
Gift Day		0	0		0	0
Income tax recovered on gifts		17,062			17,062	0
Raised for other causes				444	444	1,129
Receipts from Church & Community Events		0			0	0
Generated funds						
Investment receipts/bank interest		272			272	463
Other Receipts		40			40	417
Total Receipts		**56,952**	**0**	**444**	**57,396**	**46,845**
Payments						
Charitable Activities						
Public Worship		200			200	250
Cost of Pastorate		36,630			36,630	30,955
Upkeep of Manse						
Maintenance		0			0	85
Council Tax		1,732			1,732	1,650
Buildings Insurance		466			466	411
Pastoral Care		0			0	0
Church & Community Events		560			560	387
Upkeep of Church premises						
Utilities		5,587			5,587	3,130
Maintenance & cleaning		878			878	2,274
Insurance		1,678			1,678	1,625
Youth & Children's Work		478			478	60
Conferences & Training		0			0	458
Cost of generating funds		0			0	0
Administration						
Telephone		0			0	0
Stationery		37			37	100
Licences & Subscriptions		863			863	396
Website		255			255	313
Other Payments		10,655			10,655	1,884
Grants to Other Causes			4,948		4,948	4,948
Total Payments		**60,019**	**4,948**	**0**	**64,967**	**48,925**
Net Receipts/(Payments)		(3,067)	(4,948)	444	(7,571)	(2,080)
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0	0
Cash funds brought forward at 31 December 2024		40,954	0	0	40,954	43,033
Cash funds carried forward at 31 December 2025/2024		37,886	(4,948)	444	33,383	40,954
THE BEACON PROJECT RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
Receipts						
Grants & Donations Received		66,395	0	0	66,395	53,029
Payments		70,106	0	0	70,106	50,650
Net Receipts/(Payments)		(3,710)	0	0	(3,710)	2,379
Transfers between Funds			0	0	0	0
Cash funds brought forward at 31 December 2024		18,620	0	0	18,620	16,241
Cash funds carried forward at 31 December 2025/2024		14,910	0	0	14,910	18,620

SUNDON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH (Registered Charity No. 1144181)
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees And Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 43(a) of the Act);

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis Of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction 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 seeking explanations from the 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 accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

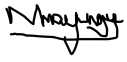
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

(a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
(b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not 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.

Signature  Date 31/07/2026

Mark Mayungu
92 Bluebell Close

Beds
MK45 1NR