Wem Baptist Church

Accounts

For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Wem Baptist Church

Trustees Annual Report 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2025

Aims and Purposes of the Charity

As an independent, Bible-believing church, Wem Baptist Church's purposes are (as stated in the Church's Constitution):

"(a) the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Church's Basis of Faith, primarily, but not exclusively, in Wem and the surrounding neighbourhood; and (b) such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting, further the work of the Church."

As a church, we are committed to spreading the Bible's message concerning Jesus, to develop people's knowledge of him, and to encourage them to worship, trust and serve him. We seek to encourage as many as possible to follow Jesus's example of love and compassion in serving each other and the wider community.

As in 2024, financial giving remained strong and has, in fact, improved in the light of planned building works at the Church site. Through the grace of God, the Church had no difficulties in meeting regular financial commitments.

Objectives and Activities

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities described below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

To fulfil the aims and purposes of the Church as stated above, a variety of activities are provided for both the benefit of church members and for the benefit of members of the public. Our weekly Sunday services, at 10.00 am and 6.00 pm, are central to our church life, and are open to the whole community. They are advertised in local publications, on the Church's own and other websites, on the Church's Facebook page, and outside the church building.

We seek to encourage attendance by members of the wider community by making these gatherings friendly, informal and joyful occasions. In addition, these services are "streamed" and

are accessible to all via the Internet, whilst recordings of them are available on the Church's website. During most Sunday morning services "Junior Church" is run, which is open to all primary school-aged children. There is also a Bible class for those in school years 5, 6 and 7.

The Church provides a variety of midweek prayer and Bible study meetings to encourage fellowship and growth in the Christian faith, both on the Church premises and in the homes of some members. Once again, these meetings are open to all and are advertised on the Church's website and in the Church's weekly news sheet. One house group has used Zoom to further facilitate attendance for all.

Age-appropriate midweek clubs are also provided for children and young people from both "Church" families and from the wider community. The youth leaders held a particularly successful 'Bonfire night' on one of the member's land with teenagers from several local evangelical churches attending this event. The teenagers were also taken to Wales for a weekend of fun, teaching and building friendships.

During term-time, a weekly parent and toddler group is also run by the Church. This mainly serves families from the community. Parents, grandparents and child minders very much appreciate the activities, songs and stories organised for the toddlers and the adults enjoy the refreshments and the time to talk and share. We believe it is very important for children to have plenty of opportunities to mix and play with others of their own age.

On Wem Market Day (Thursday) the church welcomes the community for coffee, tea and cakes. This is not a profit-making opportunity, which helps to build links with people who do not attend Sunday worship. It is staffed by a committed and enthusiastic group of church volunteers who are always available to provide a listening ear to those who are lonely or troubled.

Where possible, the Church responds to invitations from local primary and secondary schools, radio stations and other organisations to teach the message of the Bible. We have provided speakers for 'Thought for the Day' at the local secondary school, Thomas Adams, Wem and for their lunchtime Christian Union meeting. We are grateful for this link with the community.

From time to time, the Church offers courses to all who are interested in finding out more about the Christian Faith. We also offer occasional courses in personal finance with material supplied by 'Christians Against Poverty.'

Individual pastoral and spiritual advice is offered to people living in the church's locality. We conduct marriages and funerals in accordance with the teaching of the Bible. We support missionary and evangelistic work in North Shropshire, nationally and internationally. The church has also taken up offerings for disaster and relief charities.

For around fifty years Wem Baptist church has organised a Holiday Bible Club. This consisted, this year, of 4 days of activities centred on a series of Bible stories. It is held in the early part of August and is attended by 80-100 local children from the community. It is greatly appreciated by both adults and children. We have provided lunchtime food for those on free school meals and SEN children. The children enjoyed Bible stories and Christian teaching at the appropriate level. These days began with games and sports on the local recreation ground before moving to the church building. This is enjoyed by many families who do not normally attend service in the church building. On the Friday of the week, a parents evening with refreshments was held and it was very well attended.

The Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of the church building in Chapel Street, Wem, and the Manse in Station Road, Wem. They also have oversight of the legal and financial integrity of the charity. The Church has insurance policies in place covering assets and potential liabilities which could arise and meets its legal requirements in this area.

The Trustees have agreed several policies which are in place and reviewed regularly including the Child Protection Policy and the Health and Safety Policy which are both reviewed annually. The Trustees have put in place a comprehensive range of employment policies and continue to highlight the importance and relevance of the Data Protection procedures. The Trustees meet four times a year. These meetings are formally recorded, and these records are available for inspection by the Charity Commission and the Independent Examiner.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its ministries mainly in numbers, including financial numbers, but in less tangible ways like growth of individuals in their Christian faith and in opportunities to share the Christian gospel with members of the community. Such "success" is difficult to measure, but the Trustees rejoice in another year when the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been shared with the town of Wem and in increasing numbers at all our weekly events.. This year we have provided free literature outside the church building in Chapel Street. This includes Bibles, books and leaflets. These have proved popular and hundreds of items have been taken. We are encouraged to find that they have not then been dropped in the street and have not contributed to littering.

Attendance at the Sunday services in Wem average around 120 in the mornings and around 45 in the evenings. Much of the work of the church was carried out by a large number of volunteers who, amongst other ministries, serve as musicians, home-group leaders, lay preachers, children's and youth leaders, visitors to the sick and elderly, church maintainers, administrators, and so on. We give thanks to the Lord for their faithful and fruitful efforts. This year our Pastor, Nathan

Burley, who led many of the services, contacted those in need of pastoral support and chaired the Trustees and the other decision-making meetings. The church's administrator, financial administrator and cleaner were employed on part-time contracts. We are very grateful to them especially as they give extra time voluntarily.

Wem Baptist Church continues to seek to support those facing financial challenges. The church building is a collection point for the local food bank. The Deacons hold a fund which can be called upon by the church leaders to support those in financial need.

Overseas Missionary work was also supported last year, with continued finance given to a number of organisations. The details of the support given are included in the Treasurer's Report below.

By conviction, Wem Baptist Church is a welcoming group which both encourages the community into our building and seeks to support the town of Wem by getting involved in those events that are compatible with our values and beliefs.

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

Summary of the Year

At the start of 2025 the church had a healthy opening cash position of over £80,000. A summary of the 2025 church finances is as follows:

- Income £134,077 (budget £98,701)
  Mainly due to increased offerings, gift aid and restricted donations (particularly for the building fund).

- Expenditure £106,918 (budget £135,112)
  Budgeted expenditure assumed the building project would commence in 2025, but this was delayed until 2026. Funds are also ring-fenced for a manse kitchen upgrade in the future.

- Surplus £27,161 (budgeted deficit £36,411).

- Closing bank balance £107,918.

Other Causes

A total of £13,741 was distributed during 2025 and included gifts to Operation Mobilisation, CARE, Teach Beyond, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Warwick University Christian Union and the Friends of Wem Cemetery. In addition, a further £5,173 was generously given by Church members via restricted offerings, to a variety of Christian and other charities.

Reserves Policy

The Managing Trustees maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of £12,000 to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

Conclusion

The Church enters 2026 with a solid cash balance of nearly £108,000. Whilst a deficit budget has once again been formulated with significant improvements at Chapel Street anticipated and the appointment of a second worker, this is based on a prudent view of income and will not impact on the reserves policy as covered above,

The Managing Trustees are grateful to everyone involved in the management of the church finances and recognise God's continued financial provision to Wem Baptist Church.

Structure, Governance and Management

Wem Baptist Church is a charitable unincorporated association. The way that the church is governed is set out in the church's constitution that was revised and agreed on 20th September 2022. The members of the church elect elders and deacons to govern, manage and serve the church, and together these act as Managing Trustees for the charity. During 2025, one of the elders was a full-time paid worker (as pastor) and one of the Deacons was also employed part-time as financial administrator. The church's constitution allows for this, with suitable safeguards for the avoidance of conflicts of interest.

The church is affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), The holding trustee for the manse and the Chapel Street premises is the Church Growth Trust.

Administrative Information

Wem Baptist Church is situated in Chapel Street, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5ER.

Wem Baptist Church's Charity Registration Number is 1149374.

Managing Trustees who have served in the period 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2025 are as follows:

Nathan Burley – Chairman

Jonathan Berry – Vice Chairman

Robin Townsend

Elizabeth Dakin

John Paul Towers

Lyn Towers – Financial Administrator/Treasurer

Roger Howarth

Timothy Towers

Benjamin Townsend

Declaration

The Managing Trustees declare that they have approved the above report.

Signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees (1):



Full Name: Nathan Philip Godfrey Burley

Chair of the Trustees

Signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees (2):



Full Name: Elizabeth Patricia Dakin

Trustee & Chair of the Deacons

Independent Examiner's Report to the Management Committee of Wem Baptist Church on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Basis of independent examiner's report

We report on the accounts of Wem Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The Group's officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Group's officers consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts
- to follow the general directions for the conduct of an independent examination
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions for an independent examination. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the committee 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 you as a committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
   - to keep appropriate accounting records; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with applicable financial reporting standards

   have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Community Accounting Services

Community Accounting Services Ltd
7 Napoleon Drive
Shrewsbury
SY3 5PH

Date: 21/09/2026

Wem Baptist Church
Income & Expenditure Accounts
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	*Total Funds 2024 £*
Income				
Offerings	**83,773**	-	**83,773**	*87,799*
Gift Aid & Bank Interest	**17,400**	**2,364**	**19,764**	*18,198*
Grants	-	-	-	*100*
Donations	**140**	**20,453**	**20,593**	*4,733*
Refreshments	**3,375**	-	**3,375**	*2,994*
Bookstall	**201**	-	**201**	*262*
Church Groups	**3,581**	-	**3,581**	*2,998*
Other Income	**2,791**	-	**2,791**	*1,764*
Total Income	**111,261**	**22,817**	**134,078**	*118,848*
Expenditure				
Running costs				
Wages	**35,645**	-	**35,645**	*36,742*
Pension	**2,387**	-	**2,387**	*2,261*
Travel expenses	**579**	-	**579**	*555*
Conference Expenses	**959**	-	**959**	*815*
Repairs & Maintenance	**7,445**	-	**7,445**	*5,205*
Light & heat	**5,427**	-	**5,427**	*5,730*
Insurance	**3,873**	-	**3,873**	*3,700*
Rates	**4,409**	-	**4,409**	*3,906*
Legal & professional	**2,774**	-	**2,774**	*1,648*
Independent examiner	**450**	-	**450**	*450*
Telephone	**1,989**	-	**1,989**	*1,791*
Publicity	**1,270**	-	**1,270**	*1,645*
Computer costs & equipment	**1,532**	-	**1,532**	*4,733*
Licences	**964**	-	**964**	*773*
Bookstall	**210**	-	**210**	*246*
Evangelism	**1,001**	-	**1,001**	*1,312*
Children & Youth	**3,625**	-	**3,625**	*3,656*
Refreshments	**1,793**	-	**1,793**	*1,978*
Donations to other causes	**13,741**	**6,527**	**20,268**	*19,980*
Training	**448**	-	**448**	*24*
Deacon's gifts	**348**	-	**348**	*650*
Printing & Stationery	**1,032**	-	**1,032**	*963*
Subscriptions	**1,750**	-	**1,750**	*1,500*
Events	**4,273**	-	**4,273**	-
General expenses	**2,466**	-	**2,466**	*3,257*
Total Expenses	**100,390**	**6,527**	**106,917**	*103,520*
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers	**10,871**	**16,290**	**27,161**	*15,328*
Transfer Between Funds	-	-	-	-
Net Incoming Resources	**10,871**	**16,290**	**27,161**	*15,328*
Fund balance brought forward at 1 January 2025	**79,698**	**1,059**	**80,757**	*65,429*
Fund Balance Carried Forward at 31 December 2025	**90,569**	**17,349**	**107,918**	*80,757*

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Wem Baptist Church
Statement of Assets
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Cash at bank	90,569	17,349	107,918

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Nathan Philip Godfrey Burley
Chair of the Trustees

Date 27/9/26

Elizabeth Patricia Dakin
Trustee & Chair of the Deacons

Date 27/9/26