Sheddingdean Baptist Church
Annual Report and Accounts
for year ended 31st December 2025

The Leadership Team (all of whom are the church's trustees under the Charities Act) are pleased to present the Annual Report, together with the accounts that have been examined in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, for the year to 31 December 2025.
The financial statements comply with the required Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
The Trustees are so thankful for all the encouragement and support that they have received from the membership and congregation throughout the year.

Reference and Administrative details of the Charity and its Trustees

Charity Status

Sheddingdean Baptist Church is a Registered Charity - number 1168341. 20 July 2016.
The Church does not currently own a place of worship but meets at Sheddingdean Primary School.

Managing Trustees

The Church is administered by the current Diaconate who are the Managing Trustees of the Charity comprising:

Pastor: Rev. Colin Baker from September 2025
Moderator: Rev. Stuart Davison until June 2025
Deacons: Treasurer: Susan Jenkinson
Colin Allen (from November 2025)
Richard Humphreys (from November 2025)
Sylvia Lewis
Deborah McDonald
Valerie Dando
Gillian Davison
Eric Pollard (until November 2025)

Bankers: Nat West Bank, 1 Muster Green, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4AP
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 44JQ

Independent Examiner:
Mr Neil Watts, F.P.M.I., 25 Greenlands Close, Burgess Hill, RH15 0AR

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Sheddingdean Baptist Church is an un-incorporated body, a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Didcot, Oxfordshire. It is governed by the terms set out in its own Constitution.
The current Constitution was adopted on 27 January 2015 at a Special Church Meeting and was amended on 27 November 2018 in order to allow a higher number of Trustees, and in July 2022 to allow 'equivalents to be Treasurer and Secretary'. It was again updated in February 2023 to allow up to nine Deacons.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The method of recruitment and appointment of trustees is set out in section 15 of the Church Constitution. Under guidelines issued by the Baptist Union, those appointed by the constitutional process to serve as Elders or Deacons, and those appointed to specific posts by the constitutional process, such as Secretary and Treasurer, automatically become Trustees on their appointment.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members where all aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church meeting that is normally held five times a year. The Minister of the Church, when in office, is a paid Managing Trustee, and with the Deacons, and Moderator, gives leadership to the Church. The Deacons assist the Minister in his/her role and are also responsible for preparing the business for the Church Meetings.

The Baptist Union and South Eastern Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the South Eastern Baptist Association (SEBA) and of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to SEBA and to BUGB based upon its membership numbers and also makes a donation to BUGB (Home Mission Fund) for the Baptist family in the UK.

Custodian Trustee

The Baptist Union holds the deeds for the Manse. This property is 31 Chestnut Close, Burgess Hill, RH15 8HN. No property valuation has been undertaken in recent years and the value shown in the accounts is the estimated value based

on local market house sale prices and the Nationwide price increase index for the area.

Relationships between the Charity and Related Parties

The Church has endeavoured to continue to build relationships with the local community. This has included working and engaging with Burgess Hill Town Football Club who have made their premises available to us and also shared events with us. Other organisations are Christmas Wishes, Southdown FC, Windmills Opportunity Playgroup, Sheddingdean Primary School, Sheddingdean Co-op and Mid Sussex District Council. Individual members serve in the Community with involvement in Sheddingdean School and the local community Youth Club. Some members of Church now regularly support the PTA of Sheddingdean School at their Summer and Christmas Fayres.

Mid Sussex District Council published a statement about Volunteering in Burgess Hill
"We look forward to continuing to work with volunteers again in 2026, and a huge thank you goes to every single volunteer we worked with in 2025!"
Sheddingdean Baptist Church was amongst many other named organisations who have made a difference to the community. The photo shows representatives from BH District Lions, Councillors and Council Officers and members of SBC at a free activity morning for local children which included BMX biking, basketball and crafts, the latter being provided by the Church.



Charity Vision and Mission Statement

'Connecting more deeply with God (worship) so that we can connect God to every part of our lives (discipleship) and then connect others to Jesus (mission).'

At Sheddingdean Baptist Church we are seeking to be

- A praying community
- A kingdom community
- A welcoming community
- A caring and loving community
- A community in which trusting relationships are built
- A community who loves the scriptures
- A spirit led community
- A diverse but integrated community
- A community in which God's creation is respected and nurtured

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Holy Scripture and the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.
The Activities, which seek to serve both the membership and the local and wider community include, but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching
- baptism, as defined in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples
- education and training for Christian and community service
- giving and encouraging pastoral care
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians

Church Life

Worship

Weekly services have been held at Sheddingdean Primary School.
For the first 8 months of the year services were led by members of the church and there have been visiting preachers most weeks. Rev. Stuart Davison, a church member and our Moderator, has preached once a month.
After following Baptist procedure to fill a Pastoral Vacancy we were delighted to formally accept Rev. Colin Baker to the Pastorate of the Church at a Church Meeting where the vote by Church Members was 100% in the affirmative of votes cast. He commenced his ministry in September and was inducted at a special service in November. Rev. Stuart Davison retired as Moderator in September.

Students from the International Bible Training Institute which is based in Burgess Hill attend services on a rotational basis.
Sermons are recorded and put on the website each week.
We are fortunate to have a number of gifted musicians in the church and appreciate their contribution to our Sunday times of worship.
Communion is observed on the first Sunday of the month and on other occasions such as Awaydays, within Connection Groups, etc.

Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental part of our life at Sheddingdean Baptist Church.
During 2025 our online half hour Tuesday morning Prayer Zoom has continued and flourished. We usually focus on specific relevant topics as well as praying for pastoral needs in the church.
We also met for prayer in person once a month on a Tuesday evening at the Community Centre. This has been well supported. (However, towards the end

of 2025 the Community Centre was closed for structural reasons and members have kindly opened their homes so we can continue to pray monthly).
Throughout 2025 the weekly prayer walk around our community on Thursday afternoons has continued. During this time, we have prayed all around our area: Sheddingdean Estate, the Business Park, Bedelands and the new areas of Brookleigh, Fallow Wood View and Abbeville. 'Welcome' booklets put together by the Churches of Burgess Hill have been delivered to all the new occupied houses and flats during our walks. We have also picked up litter and engaged in conversations. It is a good time of fellowship.
The Church also operates a Prayer Partners Scheme where two people are on a rota to pray together each week, for the needs of the church and the fellowship. Each 'turn' comes round about once every 8 or 9 weeks, with a different person each time.

Connection Groups
There are seven Connection or Home Groups in the church meeting for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, encouraging members to grow in faith and love, and mutually caring for each other and they remain the first port of call for pastoral support. Each group has its own unique identity and meets weekly, fortnightly or monthly and at different times of the day according to the needs of the group. Some have members who do not attend our regular Sunday services. Most of the groups have benefitted from being able to study follow up questions from the previous Sunday's sermon.
Pastoral visits are made to members of the Fellowship who are not able to attend a Connection Group, are housebound, in residential care, nursing homes or hospital. Visits may also include the sharing of communion.

Away Day
In the early part of 2025 the church enjoyed an "Away Day" at Barcombe Jubilee Centre.
Nearly the whole church was present where we enjoyed worshipping, learning and eating together. Some were able to take in a walk and generally enjoy being together.





The Sheddingdean Strummers, all of whom are members of the church, have continued to perform in 2025 bringing music and hope to various groups locally and further afield. Their repertoire of songs are performed with the intention of bringing joy to people, particularly seniors and residents of care homes. Venues also include secular groups, young people at Chailey Heritage, Befriended monthly tea etc.



Easter Egg Hunt



We held our 5th Community Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday. The weather favoured us and we had about 260 children take part along with their associated adults. We are grateful to the Mid Sussex District Council who own the 80 acre Nature Reserve to allow us to hang 28 pictures of decorated Eggs in the trees, for the children to find as they follow a preset route. At the end they received a boxed Easter Egg and a book about Easter. This year the Burgess Hill Town Football Club partnered with us and we were able to serve tea and buns from within their premises and provide craft tables for the children. The pictures of decorated Eggs are provided by the children at Sheddingdean School.





Children and Youth/Messy Church

Messy Church was held every other month throughout 2025 with an average attendance of 30 children accompanied by their parents/guardians. All meetings, with the exception of the April Easter Egg Hunt, were held at Sheddingdean Primary School and volunteers from the church prepared a packed morning of crafts, games, bible stories and songs. Refreshments were provided at the end of each session, giving opportunities for good conversations between the church and the families. Messy Church is provided free of charge and is recognised in the church as a really good outreach into the community where we worship.

Pudding and Coffee Club

Pudding and Coffee Club currently meets at a Garden Centre on the third Saturday of each month. It is intended to maintain contact between the ladies, who over the years, have had a connection with the church fellowship. Attendance varies between ten and fifteen.

Pilgrim Walks

Following the completion of the walk from Winchester to Canterbury, the ‘pilgrims’ walk together about three times a year. The group is open to anyone, and we have been joined by two extra people. The walks are usually about four miles long, relatively near to Burgess Hill, and include a visit to a church. It is a good time to talk and have fellowship together.

Community Carol Singing



This year we repeated our Carol Singing in the Community walking from the new housing development, Brookleigh, to the Football Club. We were joined by a donkey who patiently let children sit on him for photos. A good number of families joined us and we ended up in the Football Club for more singing, refreshments and a

drink from the bar. It was an evening enjoyed by all who joined in. Our thanks to the Burgess Hill Town Football Club for their hospitality.

We also held a more traditional Community Carol Service to which we invited our local community. Again this proved popular and was followed by drinks and mince pies.

Activities for men



There is an active group of men walkers which includes men from the church and their friends. The walks are not arduous and usually end with a pub lunch. Some who are unable to walk just enjoy the lunch!
The same group also meet up for a Curry Night every now and then, again this includes men from the church and their friends and colleagues.

Sheddingdean Baptist Church is involved in a quarterly Men's Breakfast hosted by St Andrew's Church. A breakfast is provided for a small cost and there is a Christian speaker.

Links with other churches.

We continue to maintain close links with Gateway Baptist Church and are grateful that we have been able to use their premises for meetings, funerals and the Induction Service. We also hire an office space.
Church leaders across the town meet monthly to pray. We joined with other churches to host prayer evenings in the week leading up to Pentecost.

Mission

The Church provides financial and prayer support to organisations working for the advancement of the Christian faith both in the UK and in the wider world. Each year the church fellowship gives to various organisations.

Total mission giving was 12.83% of total receipts (excludes Cornerstone income)

- Baptist mission giving was £17,196 (71% of mission giving)
- Giving to other causes was £3,344 (29% of mission giving)

The Church has maintained its support for its mission partners across the world through the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS); Baptist Union Home Mission; Baptist Twinning in Israel (for NETS – Nazareth Evangelical Theological

Seminary); Tek Ura, a charity in Albania originally supported by BMS; Brighton and Hove City Mission and to the Protestant Evangelical Church Plant in Hem, (Lille) France.

The Church regularly has specific offerings to recognise anniversaries, Christmas, Harvest etc. The recipients are usually suggested by members of the church and decided at a Church Meeting. These could be local or overseas. The Church Anniversary Appeal was shared between A Training Project for Christian Leaders in South Asia, and an organisation started in Sussex called "Road to Recovery" which supports people who struggle with addiction.
At Harvest-time our offering was for the BMS Appeal 'Refugees Welcome'. A Welcome Centre and Food Bank in Cyprus supporting refugees who have fled violence and persecution.
At Christmas we supported a local project called Christmas Wishes, by providing gifts and a financial offering for those who experience hardship at Christmas and throughout the year.

Members of the fellowship regularly contribute items of food and toiletries to the Food Bank at Brighton and Hove City Mission, and our Harvest Food Collection went to The Burgess Hill Pantry.
The church supported Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoe Box Appeal. This was the final year and we are looking at a possible Shoe Box Project through a local organisation which sends to Eastern Europe.

Local Mission - The Church is situated on the edge of the Northern Arc development which will see thousands of new homes built over the next 15 years. We see this this as a significant part of our mission field as we seek to serve and build relationships in the area and create a bridge between the existing and new communities.

The Church remains committed to promoting and using fairly-traded produce.

Data Protection Regulation
The Trustees are fully committed to implementing GDPR. Three people attended a course at Gateway Baptist Church organised by SEBA. Subsequent to this, a GDPR Policy was drawn up and passed by the Membership at the AGM. The Church now holds signed permission by everyone on the database. The Leadership will update the policy as and when required to make sure that we conform to the regulations.

Safeguarding
We have a robust Safeguarding Policy which is based on the recommendations of the BUGB and it is reviewed every year, and updated training is undertaken by those with Safeguarding responsibilities and shared with others. The Church has a Safeguarding Policy Statement which Church Members agree to annually and is on permanent display.

The Cornerstone Project.

Following many months of prayer and discernment about the Cornerstone building project members voted at a Special Church Meeting in April that they believed it was not God's Will to go ahead with the proposal at this time. The Church remain committed to the missional purpose of the Cornerstone project as it continues to reach out in love to the local community.

Church Website.
Our website has been redesigned by our tech team to make it more accessible. It is updated regularly and is visited by church members and those outside the church.

Achievements and Performance
The Church does not measure the success of its activities purely by numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible factors such as fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees acknowledge that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2025 was a good year in the life of the Church, particularly in the current climate.

As at 31st December there were:

Baptisms	0
New Members	4
Deaths	2
Total Members	56

The average attendance for 2025 was 52 and the wider church fellowship prospered through various activities in and with the local community

Throughout 2025 Sheddingdean Baptist Church has sought God's direction on Church life and Mission. We continued to build relationships with local organisations and individuals.
Whilst the Church at present does not have a building, we are fortunate to have been able to fulfil our Objectives and Activities through the support of Sheddingdean CP School, the Football Club, the MSDC Community Centre (for the first 9 months) and latterly for smaller gatherings, in members' homes.

Minister's Report for the year ending 31st December 2025

This report covers the period September to December 2025, reflecting the commencement of ministry at Sheddingdean Baptist Church

1. Arrival and Settlement: What a joy these first months have been! Alison and I could not have hoped for a warmer or more gracious welcome from the Sheddingdean family. Having begun ministry in September 2025, we were temporarily based in Newick – a twenty-minute journey from Burgess Hill – and that commute quickly became one of the unexpected pleasures of this season, a chance to pray and reflect as we drove back and forth with growing excitement about all that God seemed to be doing. It was clear from the very first Sunday that Sheddingdean is a church alive with love for God and love for one another. We have both felt genuinely embraced and cared for, and we look back on these opening months with deep gratitude and more than a little

wonder at the goodness of the Lord in bringing us here. I'm particularly glad to say that Alison has found her feet here in a wonderful way. She has been so happy at Sheddingdean and has been touched by the friendship and support she has received from so many in the congregation. Alison is also enjoying getting to know people across the fellowship in a relaxed and non-official way, and those growing friendships have already meant a great deal to us both. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the church leaders and to our Moderator, Stuart Davison, for their faithful oversight and leadership of the church during the ministry vacancy. They carried significant responsibility with wisdom, grace and commitment, and I am deeply thankful for all their wonderful work during that season.

2. Preaching, Worship and Supporting Resources: The autumn months leading up to 31st December 2025 were shaped by a preaching series on the theme of "Singing a New Song" – a call to embrace with fresh faith the new things God is always doing among his people. Then, as we entered the new year of 2026, we began our new "Say Yes" series together, exploring what it means to respond wholeheartedly to the prompting and leading of the Holy Spirit. Week by week I have sensed the Holy Spirit at work as the Word has been opened, and the responses I've received have been wonderfully encouraging. There is a real hunger in this congregation to hear from God, and that is a gift beyond measure to any preacher! Alongside the weekly sermons, I have been producing accompanying notes sheets for the congregation – designed with fill-in sections to help people engage actively with the message as it unfolds – as well as Connection Group Bible studies linked to each sermon theme. My heartfelt hope is that these resources are genuinely helping people go deeper in their walk with God, nurturing not just a Sunday encounter with Scripture but a week-long conversation with it. If these notes and studies are playing even a small part in someone's spiritual growth, then they are more than worth the effort of producing them. Seeing the congregation engage with the Word of God with such openness has been one of the most encouraging aspects of this early season, and I look forward to developing these resources further as our ministry together unfolds.

3. Prayer, Pastoral Care and Community Life: If preaching is one of the great joys of ministry, then prayer is surely its heartbeat – and I have been genuinely stirred by the prayer culture at Sheddingdean. I have been joining the weekly Zoom prayer meetings, and they have become one of the highlights of my week. There is something really special about gathering – even virtually – with people who mean business with God, who bring their faith and their intercessions with such warmth and sincerity. I have come away from those meetings many times feeling truly built up and expectant. Beyond the Zoom meetings, the prayer walks and the litter picking have given a wonderfully tangible shape to the church's life of prayer – walking the streets of Burgess Hill with open eyes and open hearts, asking God to move in this town and doing something quietly beautiful in its streets at the same time. This is the kind of outward-facing, prayerful witness that can quietly transform a community, and I'm proud to be part of a church that does it. Pastoral visiting has also been a great joy during these opening months, and I look forward to including everyone as the coming year unfolds. Thank you so much for your patience as I

gradually get round to seeing everybody. Please never feel hesitant about inviting me round for a coffee or arranging a visit whenever it would be convenient for you – it is always a privilege to spend time together. I should also reassure everyone that pastoral visiting is undertaken primarily for fellowship and prayer, not merely to assess hospitality, food or biscuit quality! Sadly, these early months have also included a couple of funerals of dear members of our fellowship who made immense contributions to the life of this church over many years. We remember them with deep gratitude to the Lord and give thanks that we were able to share such precious moments with them during their lives and witness.

4. Leadership and Connection Groups: I want to say something quite simply: the leaders at Sheddingdean are a joy to work with. They love the Lord, they love each other, and they love this church – and it shows in everything they do. Serving alongside them has felt less like stepping into an institution and more like joining a family, and I am grateful for every conversation, every prayer, and every decision shared together in these early months. Alison and I have had the great pleasure of visiting all the Connection Groups during this period, and what a treat that has been! Every group has its own personality, its own warmth, and its own gifted people – and together they paint a picture of a congregation richly blessed with the Spirit's gifts. Getting to know people in that more relaxed, around-the-table setting has been invaluable, and I am excited about what God might do as those gifts are increasingly released in the life of the church and the wider community.

5. Ecumenical and Community Links: One of the things I believe strongly is that the church of Jesus Christ in any town is bigger than any one congregation, and I have loved beginning to build friendships with the other ministers in Burgess Hill. These are early days, but there is already a sense of shared vision and genuine camaraderie, and I look forward to seeing what

we might do together for the sake of the Gospel in this town. The cluster of Baptist ministers has also been a wonderful source of fellowship and mutual encouragement. I am also thrilled to share that I have been developing a close relationship with Burgess Hill Town Football Club, with the exciting prospect of serving as their chaplain – an announcement that is coming very soon! This feels like a significant open door: football clubs are at the heart of so many people's lives, and the opportunity to bring the love and care of Christ into that world is one I embrace with great enthusiasm. Please do pray for this developing ministry.

6. Christmas Season: Christmas at Sheddingdean was simply brilliant. The Celtish Night was atmospheric, creative and deeply moving – the kind of evening that stays with you. And then there was the Carol Singing Evening, which – complete with a very real and very memorable donkey – was pure, unfiltered joy. Laughter, music, community, and the Good News of Jesus wrapped up together in one unforgettable evening. These events spoke volumes about the creativity and the generous spirit of this church, and I am still smiling about the donkey.

7. A Word of Blessing: Before I close, I want to pause and offer something from the heart of Scripture – because a minister's report is, at its best, not just an account of activities but a testimony to the faithfulness of God.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."
Numbers 6:24–26 (NIVUK)

This ancient blessing – spoken over God's people for thousands of years – is my prayer for every person reading these words. Whether you have been part of Sheddingdean for decades or have only recently begun to find your way here, whether you would call yourself a committed Christian or are still on the journey of finding out what you believe – this blessing is for you. God's face is turned toward you. His grace is not a reward for the good enough; it is a gift for the searching, the weary, the hopeful, and the curious. We are a church that believes the best news in the world – that God, in Jesus Christ, has come to us, loves us, and invites every one of us into life in all its fullness. If you're not yet sure what that means for you personally, I would love nothing more than to have a conversation with you. That door is always open.

8. Looking Ahead: What an extraordinary privilege it is to be the minister of Sheddingdean Baptist Church. I say that not as a formality but as a genuine, heartfelt conviction. God has been so good to us in these first months, and I am full of faith and expectation for all that lies ahead. Alison and I are so looking forward to deepening our relationships with everyone in the church family, to exploring new avenues of mission and ministry together, and to discovering – with great anticipation – the new things the Spirit wants to do in and through this community. The best, I truly believe, is yet to come. To God be all the glory – now and always.

Pastor Colin & Alison Baker, Minister, Sheddingdean Baptist Church



Rev. Colin and Alison Baker and Keith Saynor

Financial Review

Sheddingdean Baptist Church's principal source of income arises from gifts received from members and others who are personally associated with the church.
Finance is also required for the upkeep of the Manse, the stipend and housing of the Pastor and the hiring of venues for church activities. There are no other paid employees.
During the year the church continued to make significant gifts to home and overseas missions and relief appeals: some of these gifts were made directly by individual members online, rather than through the church's accounts.

Policy on Reserves
While the Trustees continue to believe that it is not appropriate to hold excessive reserves, they recognise that a general reserve is required to provide:

- Working capital
- A cushion against seasonal variations in income and expenditure
- Contingency provision against unexpected costs
- Flexibility to respond to unexpected needs and opportunities
- Provision for speedy access to capital for premises demands

All payments are subject to the availability of funds. In order to provide for these requirements, the Trustees believe that an appropriate level for the general reserve should fall about midway between the average of three months expenditure and one quarter of the annual budget. It is reviewed on an annual basis.
In 2018 the prudent balance figure was changed to £17,500 which, although slightly higher than the requirements set out above, was considered prudent whilst the Cornerstone Project is active. Reserves remained above this figure at all times throughout this year. In the event of the general reserve falling short of this 'prudent balance', action would be taken at the earliest opportunity to inform all members, and further steps would be taken to address the situation through the budgetary process. From December 2021 the majority of this money has been in an interest- bearing account. Given the requirement to give

3 months' notice to withdraw the funds, the decision was made to leave the remaining £2,500 within the General current account.
The examined Accounts for the year 2025 follow in the subsequent pages of the report.

Sheddingdean Baptist Church - General Accounts - Receipts								
Analysis of Receipts and Payments - 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2025								
Headings	General Account £s						Totals £s	Totals £s
Page 1 of 2	Un-restricted			Designated		Restricted	This year	Last year
Receipts	General Fund	General Reserves	BU Account	Mission	Com-passion	CStone Fund	2025	2024
Donations and legacies								
General Collection, BACS receipts	£58,586.66						£58,586.66	£50,996.32
Mission				£40.00			£40.00	£0.00
Mission - Anniversary				£488.00			£488.00	£117.00
Mission - Seasonal				£745.00			£745.00	£1,172.15
Mission - Love Gift				£1,573.00			£1,573.00	£233.00
Received Funds from Operation other	£97.00						£97.00	£9.83
Community Outreach	£1,570.00						£1,570.00	£70.00
Premises repayments by clubs	£0.00						£0.00	£167.40
Compassion					£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Gen Funds owed to CS paid or owed from CS and received	£0.00						£0.00	£1,000.00
Donations and legacies Totals	£60,253.66			£2,846.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£63,099.66**	**£53,765.70**
Charitable Activities								
	£0.00						£0.00	£0.00
Total Receipts - charitable activities	**£0.00**			**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**
Investments								
Interest on Bank Accounts		£1,218.67	£33.56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,252.23	£1,591.65
Investments Totals	£0.00	£1,218.67	£33.56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£1,252.23**	**£1,591.65**
Other Income								
Gift Aid/GASDS received[a]	£10,561.41						£10,561.41	£15,613.47
Manse Rent received	£15,064.89						£15,064.89	£16,742.97
Other Receipts Totals	**£25,626.30**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£25,626.30**	**£32,356.44**
Receipts Grand totals	**£85,879.96**	**£1,218.67**	**£33.56**	**£2,846.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£89,978.19**	**£87,713.79**

Sheddingdean Baptist Church - General Accounts - Expenses and Final Balances

Analysis of Receipts and Payments - 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Headings	General Account £s						Totals	Totals
Page 2 of 2	Un-restricted					Restricted	This year	Last year
Payments	General Fund	General Reserves	BU Account	Mission	Com-passion	Corner-stone	2025	2024
Raising funds								
Payments on charitable activities								
Operational								
Administration	£6,134.12						£6,134.12	£4,542.48
Community & outreach	£1,507.43						£1,507.43	£687.24
Youth	£126.38						£126.38	£575.57
Operational other - Café	£0.00						£0.00	£0.00
Operational other	£1,058.00						£1,058.00	£0.00
Pastorlal Connection Group	£0.00						£0.00	£0.00
Pastoral Gifts/flowers	£348.67						£348.67	£322.43
Compassion					£1,200.00		£1,200.00	£1,000.00
Training & BU Assembly	£618.49						£618.49	£20.00
Worship	£2,407.44						£2,407.44	£2,749.27
Premises	£20,595.00						£20,595.00	£14,206.40
Operational Sub-total	**£32,795.53**	**£0.00**		**£0.00**	**£1,200.00**		**£33,995.53**	**£24,103.39**
Manse								
Insurance	£354.42						£354.42	£349.53
Maintenance/repairs	£18,918.54						£18,918.54	£6,124.65
Manse Sub-total	**£19,272.96**						**£19,272.96**	**£6,474.18**
Minstry								
In lieu payments							£0.00	£0.00
Retirement Pension payments	£4,427.94						£4,427.94	£0.00
Minister & allowances	£8,115.35						£8,115.35	£976.25
Ministry Sub-total	**£12,543.29**						**£12,543.29**	**£976.25**
Mission								
Budgeted Mission				£9,060.00			£9,060.00	£8,460.00
Non Budgeted Mission[b]				£0.00			£0.00	£500.00
Mission Anniversary Gift[b]				£660.00			£660.00	£439.11
Appeals/seasonal[b]				£1,135.40			£1,135.40	£1,423.48
Mission - Love Gift[b]				£685.00			£685.00	£0.00
Mission Sub-total				**£11,540.40**			**£11,540.40**	**£12,045.59**
Payments-charitable activities Sub-totals	**£64,611.78**	**£0.00**		**£11,540.40**	**£1,200.00**		**£77,352.18**	**£43,599.41**
Other Payments								
	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other Payments Totals	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Payments Grand totals	**£64,611.78**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£11,540.40**	**£1,200.00**	**£0.00**	**£77,352.18**	**£43,599.41**
In year surplus/deficit	**£21,268.18**	**£1,218.67**	**£33.56**	**-£8,694.40**	**-£1,200.00**	**£0.00**	**£12,626.01**	**£44,114.38**
Transfers between General A/C funds[c]	-£25,934.40	-£29,000.00	£45,000.00	£8,734.40	£1,200.00	£0.00	**£0.00**	**£0.00**
Net Transfers betwn Funds during year[d]						-£546.25	-£546.25	£546.25
In Year Balances	**-£4,666.22**	**-£27,781.33**	**£45,033.56**	**£40.00**	**£0.00**	**-£546.25**	**£12,079.76**	**£44,660.63**
Balance b/f	£25,413.26	£71,013.90	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£546.25	£96,973.41	£52,312.78
Balance c/f	**£20,747.04**	**£43,232.57**	**£45,033.56**	**£40.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£109,053.17**	**£96,973.41**
End of year fund adjustments[c]				**-£40.00**	**£0.00**		-£40.00	-£546.25
Balance after end of year adjustments (does not include fixed assets)	**£20,747.04**	**£43,232.57**	**£45,033.56**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£109,013.17**	**£96,427.16**

Sheddingdean Baptist Church - Cornerstone Accounts

Analysis of Receipts and Payments - 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Headings	Cornerstone Account £s		General Funds held £s		Totals £s	Totals £s
	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted		This year	Last year
Receipts	**Cornerstone**	**Cornerstone**	**Missn**	**Gen Fund**	**2025**	**2024**
Donations and legacies Totals						
Cornerstone Offering	£414.62				£414.62	£4,220.41
CS Regular online giving	£7,110.00				£7,110.00	£12,480.00
CS Regular Giving (cash/cheques)	£1,160.00				£1,160.00	£1,330.00
Cornerstone Large Gifts	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Money from Trusts	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Donations and legacies Totals	£8,684.62	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,684.62	£18,030.41
Charitable Activities						
Fund Raiser Event	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Fundraising sponsored	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Memorial Funds/Funerals	£0.00				£0.00	£770.00
Gift Day	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Collection boxes	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Sale of coins/cables	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Easy Fundraising	£236.48				£236.48	£41.89
Sheddingdean Sewers	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Sheddingdean Strummers	£0.00				£0.00	£402.00
Total Receipts - charitable activities	**£236.48**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£236.48**	**£1,213.89**
Investments						
Interest on CAF Current account	£83.31				£83.31	£218.68
Interest on CAF Gold Account	£2,137.01				£2,137.01	£473.38
Interest on Liquidity Account	£1,221.31				£1,221.31	£1,690.54
Interest on BU Deposit Accounts	£9,462.29				£9,462.29	£10,709.30
Investments Totals	**£12,903.92**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£12,903.92**	**£13,091.90**
Other Receipts						
Gift Aid/GASDS received	£2,605.75				£2,605.75	£3,734.36
Other Receipts Totals	**£2,605.75**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£2,605.75**	**£3,734.36**
Receipts Grand totals	**£24,430.77**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£24,430.77**	**£36,070.56**
Expenses	**Cornerstone**	**Cornerstone**	**Missn**	**Gen Fund**	**2025**	**2024**
Payments						
Surveys and Planning	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Publicity	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Solicitor's fees	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Cornerstone Consultancy Fees	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Architect Fees	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Cornerstone Fundraising costs	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00
Monthly Account Fees CAF	£60.00				£60.00	£60.00
ExGratia Payment[e]	£28,200.00				£28,200.00	
Payments Grand totals	**£28,260.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£28,260.00**	**£60.00**
In year surplus/deficit	**-£3,829.23**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**-£3,829.23**	**£36,010.56**
Net money received for and paid out to General fund during year	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
In Year Balances	**-£3,829.23**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**-£3,829.23**	**£36,119.56**
Balance B/F	**£405,455.62**	**£72,850.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£478,305.62**	**£442,186.06**
Bal c/f [f]	**£401,626.39**	**£72,850.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£474,476.39**	**£478,305.62**
End of year fund adjustments					£0.00	£0.00
Balance after end of year adjustmts (does not include fixed assets)	**£401,626.39**	**£72,850.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**£474,476.39**	**£478,305.62**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund) as at 31 December 2025					
			Balance		Previous Balance
Tangible Assets	General Fund		31.12.25		31.12.24
Equipment: Computer Equipment and PA[g]			£7,928.00		£4,684.00
Manse[h]			£375,000.00		£371,500.00
		Tangible Assets	**£382,928.00**		**£376,184.00**
General Funds					
			31.12.25 Balance		**31.12.24** Previous Balance
		Funds			
General Bank Account					
	Cornerstone	Restricted	£0.00		£546.25
	Mission Designated		-£40.00		£0.00
	Compassion Designated		£0.00		£0.00
	General	Unrestricted	£20,827.04		£25,413.26
			£20,787.04		**£25,959.51**
35 day Liquidity Manager Account Reserve Account	General	Unrestricted	**£43,232.57**		**£71,013.90**
BU account	General	Unrestricted	**£45,033.56**		
Cash at bank and in hand General			**£109,053.17**		**£96,973.41**
Cornerstone Funds			**31.12.25**		**31.12.24**
			Balance		Previous Balance
Cash at bank and in hand					
Cornerstone Current Account NatWest - Asset		**Funds**			
	Cornerstone	Restricted	£31,058.97		£22,732.12
	General Fund	Unrestricted	£0.00		£0.00
	General Fund Mission	Designated	£0.00		£0.00
			£31,058.97		**£22,732.12**
Cornerstone Liquid Manager NatWest		Restricted	£30,365.10		**£54,143.79**
CAF Bank Cornerstone Account					
	Cornerstone	Restricted	£41,580.18		£41,556.87
	Cornerstone	Designated	£0.00		£0.00
	General Fund	Unrestricted	£0.00		£0.00
	General Fund - mission	Designated	£0.00		£0.00
			£41,580.18		**£41,556.87**
CAF Bank Gold Account[f]	Cornerstone	Restricted	£39,760.39		£37,623.38
	Cornerstone	Designated	**£72,850.00**		£72,850.00
			£112,610.39		**£110,473.38**
BU Deposit Account NS024		Restricted	£198,898.42		**£192,999.83**
BU Deposit Account CS0007[i]		Restricted	£59,963.33		£56,399.63
Cash at bank and in hand Cornerstone			**£474,476.39**		**£478,305.62**
Total General and Cornerstone Cash at bank and in hand			**£583,529.56**		**£575,279.03**
Grand Total			**£966,457.56**		**£951,463.03**

1. The Receipts and Payments of the General accounts and the Cornerstone accounts are presented separately on Excel software, and this allows them to be managed independently. Columns within each section indicate which funds are held within these accounts.
2. The church holds a NatWest Current account for Sheddingdean Baptist Church General Funds as well as a 3 month notice interest generating Liquidity Manager Saver Account which holds the majority of the Reserve funds (see also the information given in the Financial Review) and a Baptist Union Deposit Account. The church also holds two CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) bank accounts for Cornerstone funds, as well as a NatWest Current Account, two Baptist Union Deposit Accounts and a NatWest Liquidity Manager Saver Account.
3. The format for these accounts is set out to comply with SORP regulations. This shows in detail the Receipts and Payments, and Assets and Liabilities of the Church.
4. Assets and liabilities are recorded on a separate page. Depreciation is calculated by the British straight-line method.
   S Jenkinson, VB Dando & JT Styles

These notes form an integral part of the Statement of Accounts

a. Gift Aid was received at the rate of 20% tax of gross (before tax) income. Benefit was also received from the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS). All Gift Aid is received into the General account and the proportion of Gift Aid that is received for donations to Cornerstone is then transferred into the Cornerstone account. Gift Aid raised on Mission Giving is given to the relevant mission.

b. Mission income is that due to special appeals for mission and donations that are marked for mission. These are accounted for, over and above the church's normal allocation for mission work which is included in the Annual Budget, and funded from the general Fund. Giving to mission (that was processed through the church accounts) amounted to 12.83% of total receipts in 2025.

c. Transfers between General funds during the year included the levelling off of the compassion and mission funds, as, unless a specific donation has been made for a particular project or cause, the funds are set to '£0' for the following year. A budget amount is set for both these funds. Where donated funds are still to be paid to the beneficiary, these show as a negative figure in the In Year Balances. The outstanding donation of £40 is payable to Tear Fund and will be paid in 2026. See end of year adjustment row.

d. Net Monies owing to the Cornerstone account, but held in the General Current Account, and vice versa, that were transferred during the year are recorded as 'Net Transfers between Funds during year'. £546.25 still remained to be transferred to the Cornerstone Account at the end of 2024 (see brought forward figure). This transfer was done in 2025. All monies received into the General Fund for Cornerstone in 2026 were transferred to Cornerstone during the year.

e. (Page 16) It was agreed at the church meeting on 27th May 2025 that although not legally required to do so, ex-gratia payments (returning donations previously made to Cornerstone Fund) would be made as an act of grace. Apart from smaller sums, charities are not able to return funds to donors without obtaining authority from the Charity Commission. This is because, once given, funds are legally designated for charitable purposes under trust law. A formal application process is therefore required for each request. Certain criteria must be fulfilled, and they examine each case individually to decide if they will agree to the donations being returned.

f. There has been an adjustment made to the figures for the Designated amount. This is because earlier funds transferred to the Cornerstone from the General Fund had been labelled as Restricted in error, and we have been informed by the Charity Commission that these should be labelled as Designated funds.
The Designated monetary figure is now shown in the CAF Bank Gold account as the figure is now too high to show in the Cornerstone NatWest Current account.

g. Assets & Liabilities (P.17): Depreciation of equipment (re B.S.M. – see note 4 above), plus addition of new equipment: Church computer, Minister's computer and printer.

h. The value of the Manse has been calculated using the Nationwide index and by researching recent sales in the area.

i. BU a/c no G08S006 (1 year's notice) was switched to a 6 month notice a/c no CS007 on 1/8/2025.

Further notes:
The church building project is called The Cornerstone Project (labelled as Cornerstone in the accounts) and records monies given specifically for this purpose. The majority of standing orders to Cornerstone are paid into the NatWest Account and Cornerstone Collection monies are generally paid into the NatWest bank account. In order to keep the balance of money held in the NatWest Cornerstone Current Account to a level that does not attract business rates, transfers of money are made to the CAF bank account during the year. This account is used to make payments relating to Cornerstone. Cornerstone has been nominated as a recipient for some memorial funds.

S Jenkinson (Treasurer), VB Dando & JT Styles (Treasury Team)

Examiner of Accounts

The examiner of the 2025 accounts was Mr Neil Watts, F.P.M.I. We are very grateful to him for all his help.

Declaration

Accounts prepared by the Treasury Team.

Approved by the Trustees of Sheddingdean Baptist Church on 10.06.26 and signed on

their behalf by:

Susan Jenkinson — Treasurer/Trustee

Valerie Dando — Trustee

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: SHEDDINGDEAN BAPTIST CHURCH BURGESS HILL SUSSEX

On accounts for the year ended: 31st December 2025

Charity no (if any): 1168341

Set out on pages: 1 - 20 PLUS EXAMINERS REPORT (1/2)

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Signed: N Watts **Date:** 27/07/2026

Name: NEIL WATTS Mr

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): F.P.M.I.

Address: 25 Greenlands Close Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 0AR