Gillingham Baptist Church

Annual Report 2025

Registered Charity Number 1169769

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ELDER'S REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

The eldership was reduced to one during the course of this year, a situation which is not ideal and for which we need to ask the Lord to provide gifted and gracious men. John Blake, who had served the church in many ways, died in the middle of the year. He is with the Lord, which is far better, but we have lost a godly, gracious and wise brother.

This meant that church ended the year with 17 members. The majority are in their senior years and some have limited mobility. Consequently the capacity of our membership to engage in various ministries is limited and we sense the need for people to be added to the number.

Despite this, the Sunday morning congregations have been encouraging. There have been a number of visitors and there is a core of people who are very supportive without having come into formal membership. We would love to see families form a larger proportion of our attendance, but we are certainly grateful for all those we do have.

The church continues to support the wider work of the gospel, both in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world.

Challenges relating to the ageing condition of the premises have taken up time, money and energy and the coming year looks to follow a similar pattern. The deacons have taken on increasing responsibility for overseeing this element of church life. At the start of the year three new deacons began to serve and the church has benefited from the activities of them all.

We look forward to 2026 knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, is all wise, provides for his people and will guide and uphold us in the days ahead.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

Charity Name: Gillingham Baptist Church, Dorset

Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: Simon Chase, Alex Chase, Terry Hodgkinson. John Oake, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman. These trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2025.

During the year John Blake went to be with the Lord and Peter Gray resigned as Deacon and Treasurer.

3. Structure and Governance

The church has a Constitution and Rules & Regulations which were formally revised and adopted in 2016, pursuant to Charity Commission registration.

The functional operation of the church is intended to reflect the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible. Therefore, the leadership is by elders supported by deacons. All these church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Simon Chase	Elder & Pastor	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
2	Alex Chase	Deacon & Treasurer	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
3	Terry Hodgkinson	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
4	Gilbert Muspratt	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
5	John Oake	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church
6	David Poolman	Deacon	Members of Gillingham Baptist Church

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs during 2025, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church's policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church's practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

Currently the church has substantially more than £10,000, but this is expected to reduce considerably in the coming year due the level of expenditure expected to be required for the maintenance of the chapel buildings.

5. Public Benefit
The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the 'advancement of religion', one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense 'religion' meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – 'good news' – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus' own summary of the Bible's message. Such an approach is, by definition, directed to all the public. Such a message, as a living reality in people's lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

The church is known in the local community and the evidence of this is that people seek us out for spiritual help and encouragement.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance
The two Sunday services continued during 2025 and the Bible study and prayer meeting on a Wednesday also continued. On Thursday evenings a Zoom version of the meeting is held to enable those who cannot get out in the evenings to participate.

A Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meets each month during the year, as does a men's monthly Bible study.

During the year we noticed a steady increase in the number of visitors coming to our morning service. This has been very encouraging, not least because those visitors come from across the whole age range and also from the increasing ethnic diversity in Gillingham.

Financially the church has paid its way and has no outstanding obligations.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2025.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2025

The trustees oversee risk management issues connected with the life of the church. These risks are of low likelihood and consequence but are considered regularly and monitored appropriately. As mentioned already, the condition of the chapel premises demands considerable resources but the trustees are alert to this and the church has committed to a programme of improvement.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

There is no separate section included here. The morning and evening Sunday services, along with the Wednesday and Thursday Bible study and prayer meeting arrangements are the principal activities of the church, along with the additional meeting mentioned in section 6 of Regulatory Information.

As and when the Lord is pleased to add to our numbers we anticipate the gifts of those people would increase and enrich the activities of the church.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Gillingham Baptist Church Annual Accounts 2025

Accounts for the year to December 31st 2025

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2024		£ 41,032.07			
Offerings	£ 27,355.00		Missionary Support	£ 6,650.00	
Gift Aid	£ 19,372.00		HMRC	£ 3,805.40	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£ 6,255.00		Building & Equipment maintenance	£ 11,081.88	
Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme	£ 390.00		Ministry and Missionary Payments	£ 420.00	
Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve	£ 191.64		Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability	£ 2,133.93	
Electricity Refund	£ 1,349.35		Arch Project	£ 4,782.00	
			Bibles & Reading Plans	£ 67.72	
			Audit	£ 75.00	
			Payroll Services	£ 355.00	
			Utility Bills	£ 1,686.07	
			Zoom Subscription	£ 155.88	
			Pastor's stipend	£ 13,983.20	
	£ 54,912.99				£ 45,196.08
			Balance 31st December 2025		£ 50,748.98
		£ 95,945.06			**£ 95,945.06**

CONTINGENCY FUND

RECEIPTS		TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2024		£ 22,173.30	N/a	
				£ -
			Balance 31st December 2025	£ 22,173.30
		£ 22,173.30		**£ 22,173.30**

MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND

RECEIPTS		TOTAL	PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Balance brought forward from 2024		£ 6,253.02	Baptist Insurance(Manse)	£ 391.75
Manse rent (nett)	£ 8,191.33			
		£ 8,191.33		
				£ 391.75
			Balance 31st December 2025	£ 14,052.60
		£ 14,444.35		**£ 14,444.35**

SUMMARY

		Represented by	
General Fund	£ 50,748.98		
Contingency Fund	£ 22,173.30	Current Account	£ 69,617.38
Manse Maintenance Fund	£ 14,052.60	Reserve Account	£ 3,334.00
		Liquidity manager Account	£ 14,023.50
TOTAL	**£ 86,974.88**	**Total monies held**	**£ 86,974.88**

NOTE

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership

Other than the above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, two pianos, one digital projector, a laser printer, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer and speaker, hymn books etc. The value of these is unknown.

ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS

Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY

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
Gillingham Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended

December 31st 2025

Charity no (if any) 1169769

Set out on pages

1
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025

Responsibilties 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 ~~(other than that disclosed below *~~) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records. examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Tom Oaks **Date:** 8th April 2026

Name: Tom Oaks

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): N/A

Address: North Knapp, Rosemary Street
Milborne Port, SHERBORNE, Dorset DT9 5AR

Appendix 2 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2025

Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB
Pastor S V Chase, 27 Bayfields, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AE
Mr A E Chase, 16 Linden Park, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8QZ
Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR
Mr D Poolman, 22 Long Cross, Shaftesbury, SP7 8QP
Mr B Thomason, The Old Malt House, Bridge Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BZ Mr P

The Trust properties and assets consist of the Chapel Building and Hall with the Pipe Organ, Fixtures and Fittings, together with a residential property situated in Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4TD.

The Holding Trustees have no financial administration responsibilities, as there are no trust funds and management of the Manse tenancy has been delegated to the Management Trustees.