Chew Valley Baptist Church Annual General Meeting Report July 2026

Disciples of Jesus sharing God's transforming love.

AGM Report 2026 (Nigel)

As we look back over 2025/26 our overwhelming response is one of thanksgiving and gratitude to God for his faithfulness. Whilst we may well have a long way to go, our church is beginning to reflect more of the meaning of what the New Testament describes as 'fellowship': meaning partnership, joint participation, and sharing a common life. *Disciples of Jesus sharing God's transforming love* reminds us all of those twin essential dimensions of relationship – our vertical relationship with God, which overflows into deep, horizontal unity and mutual support for one another. We then need to share this transforming love beyond ourselves. My sense is much of our energy has been taken up with maintaining what we've become accustomed to doing together and our leadership team have served us well. Our challenge, as we look to the year ahead, is to lean more into God's preferred future for his church: *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

Sundays (Margaret)

Our Sunday 10 am services have continued in an informal style with worship, teaching and fellowship. We are blessed by the wide age range of the congregation and participation from young to old. It is good to welcome a group from our Winford congregation who are now joining us on a Sunday morning.

We have a steady number of 25 to 30 attending each week including a growing number of families. There are always activities available for children in line with the theme each week and we run Family Zone most weeks that are not planned as all age.

Our themes over the year have included 'words of faith', Advent, Colossians, an extended time in the gospels following the whole life story of Jesus, and then an LICC series 'Frontline Sundays', and a focus on 'belonging'. In September 2025 we enjoyed our annual church weekend away to Port Eynon where we enjoyed worshipping together on the beach.

We have been diversifying our worshipping style by including more all age Sundays and "dwelling in the word" to encourage participation from the congregation. This has been well received and we continue to evolve this part of our service, aiming to ensure that everyone feels welcome and included.

We welcomed over 50 people at our Carol Service, including a number from our Renew space at Bishop Sutton, and our Easter services were also well attended including a time of reflection on Good Friday and our celebration on Easter Sunday.

Children and Young People (Kay)

Open the Book continues in Winford, Chew Magna and Dundry schools with a focus upon sharing bible stories with the children. Thanks go to all who volunteer for this invaluable outreach and have now built strong links with the schools over many years.

Acorns continues to thrive and grow and Catharine has continued to build a supportive and nurturing group in which families feel welcome and looked after. Thanks go to the many volunteers who support Acorns; these include the willing hands, who set up the toys and games each Sunday after Church, to the regular volunteers who help with hospitality and packing up; all are visibly sharing God's transforming love every week!

Messy Church In the last year we have held three outreach "messy church" style events in partnership with St Andrew's: All were well attended by local families, including some from Acorns, plus others from across the wider Chew Valley and we met several children who mentioned Open the Book. We celebrated Light in October half term, Christingle in December and an Easter celebration in April.

Safeguarding Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually in line with Baptist Union guidance and we are able to seek advice at anytime from the WEBNET safeguarding lead. The safeguarding policy statement is on display on church noticeboards and also on the Church website. Our annual whole church safeguarding update took place during a morning service in June 2025. Further statutory training is attended on a needs basis throughout the year and/or as updates are needed.

Renew Wellbeing (Margaret)

Our Renew Wellbeing space at Bishop Sutton continues to develop with around 10 to 15 regular attenders and team. Simple activities are always provided, such as puzzle books and games, but our current regulars do enjoy a good conversation on topics from trains and motorbikes, to travel and holidays. As ever, we enjoy the cakes that Catharine provides for us most weeks and we share with the preschool staff, building some great relationships there and with key members of the library team.

Attendance in our prayer space can vary from two to eight of us in any given week. One of the real joys over recent weeks has been the conversations about faith that flow easily out of the other conversations. There are some really encouraging ongoing conversation about faith, with some exploring and others revisiting faith. Some of these conversations are one to one whilst others can include the whole group. It's great to feel that people trust one another and are happy to be open with each other. It has also been great to witness and hear about how the members of our group support one another away from the Renew space with some strong friendships developing.

We also continue to hold a Renew Wellbeing space at Winford on the third Thursday of each month. It has been lovely to spend time with and get to know members of our Winford community including a couple who are not regular Sunday attenders.

Community Links (Cordula)

We continue to build good relationships within our community through the use of our buildings and the many lettings which take place in them. It is really good that we can share our buildings with all the different local communities; they are spaces that can be shared and appreciated by all. Chew Magna regular lettings include three Community choirs, three Youth Theatre groups, two Art groups, several Pilates exercise classes, an Adult Drama group, a Dancing for health group and a monthly Memory cafe.

Additionally both Chew Magna and The Link (Bishop Sutton) are occasional venues for local events, hosted by outside organisers, including CV Fringe Festival, Baby Boppers, Youth Theatre workshops and Holiday Clubs. Bristol Baptist College, and other Baptist churches, also occasionally hire our Chew Magna building and all say what a special place it is. Our Chew Magna premises were again used to host the Easter lunch for Chew Chat - a group for older people (over 70). Children's parties are also popular on Saturdays - everyone thinks it's a great venue and really appreciate using it. In October we will be one of the venues on the Chew Valley Arts Trail and we look forward to welcoming many visitors through our doors.

Through our Link building we have partnerships and good relationships with both Bishop Sutton Pre School and Chew Valley Community Library - they are our main users; the Parish Council and local WI are also regular users. We hold a Renew Café there and then there is the weekly Thursday Community Café which also hosts the "Death Cafe" for an hour each month (we don't charge for this). The Community Library , along with running their Saturday breakfast, recently offered refreshments to a local Mendip cycling event which many cyclists enjoyed.

Additionally our chapel in Winford hosts a Renew Café space once a month. Our Blagdon building is also appreciated by the community with a play group, a scout group plus numerous children's parties using the premises. A local creative organisation called Trigger are in the process of purchasing the building but they also enjoy current use of the premises. They have involved the local community in how they would like to see the building used in the future and look forward to being a part of it.

All in all, our buildings are our spaces through which we can share the love of Jesus with all in the local community.

Giving - Mission and Charities (Cordula)

It is so important that we, who have more, give of what we have in whatever way, to enable those who have less to flourish and to be able to share in the transforming love of Jesus. Our giving during 2025 included regular monthly donations of £200 from the church to support Webnet. Webnet exists to support, encourage and equip churches in our region to enable people to encounter and grow in relationship with Jesus.

We also supported the Baptist Missionary Society with regular monthly payments of £80. BMS World Mission is a Christian mission organisation, working in over 30 countries on four continents, to help people experience fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

We also donated to Caring in Bristol. We held a special service in December and,together with St Andrew's, gave over £600 to the charity that supports the homeless.

We held a Christingle service as well. Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Through this we managed to give the Children's Society £150.

Another way in which we've given last year is to give all the Year 6 pupils in our 'Open the Book' schools a Christian booklet called 'It's your move', to help them with their transition from primary to secondary school. We've also given away Christmas story books to our Acorns families and easter eggs too! All so important in building our relationships and encouraging others to come to know Jesus.

Pastoral and Spiritual Care (Kay)

A distinctive guiding principle for the early Baptists was the importance of "walking together and watching over each other in love" and in our own Church care is shown and shared in our fellowship together, through informal chats, through friendship and prayer. A particular blessing during the last year has been the sharing of individual faith journeys and discussion about faith, including Baptism, as this helps us to grow and discern the mind of Christ together.

Home groups are a great way to share fellowship and learn more about God together in a relaxed and supportive environment. We currently have one group (which meets in West Harptree) and it would be wonderful to nurture and establish other groups in the year ahead.

Prayer requests are welcomed and home visits or time to chat can readily be arranged and all are encouraged to speak with a member of the leadership team as needed. Additionally Ian and Maggie have kindly offered to support the coordination of practical pastoral support within the Church.

As we look towards the coming year we continue to seek to discern the mind of Christ together and to grow as disciples of Jesus sharing God's transforming love with others.

AGM Report July 2026 *compiled by members of the Leadership Team.*

A finance overview and buildings update will be shared with the Church at the **AGM on Sunday 12th July 2026** following the morning service.

Chew and Yeo Baptist Network

Statement of Financial Activities for Year Ended

31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total CYBN Funds 2025**	CYBN Funds 2024
Receipts and Payments account						
Receipts						
Donations		22,969	-	50	**23,019**	24,221
Gift Aid tax refunds		6,044	-	-	**6,044**	9,184
Bank Interest		293	-	-	**293**	342
Property Income		19,919	-	-	**19,919**	20,042
Other Causes Income	2	-	-	631	**631**	568
Other Income	3	1,326	-	-	**1,326**	1,112
Total Receipts		**50,551**		**681**	**51,232**	55,469
Payments						
Ministry	4	257	-	-	**257**	389
Mission	5	6,298	-	-	**6,298**	4,591
Church Life & Administration	6	7,699	-	-	**7,699**	6,394
Premises	7	44,183	-	-	**44,183**	29,878
Other Causes Payments	8	130	-	681	**811**	1,018
Other (Legal fees)		-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		**58,567**	-	**681**	**59,248**	42,270
Net Receipts (Payments)		**(8,016)**	-	-	**(8,016)**	£ 13,199
Opening Balances		22,944	-	-	**22,944**	9,745
Closing Balances		**14,928**	-	-	**14,928**	22,944
Statement of Assets and Liabilities						
Assets						
CAF Cash Bank account		2,422			**2,422**	2,505
Nat West		94			**94**	64
CAF Gold Savings account		12,412			**12,412**	20,375
Total Assets		**14,928**	-	-	**14,928**	22,944
Liabilities						
		-			-	-
		-			-	-
Total Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
		14,928	-	-	**14,928**	22,944

1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis and accord with S.133 Charities Act 2011.

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
2. Other Causes income					
Caring In Bristol			367	**367**	303
Sisters of the Church			110	**110**	185
Childrens Society			52	**52**	80
Bible Society			102	**102**	-
	-	-	631	**631**	568
3. Other income					
Return on Solar Electricity	1,301			**1,301**	1,112
Reimb B.Sutton Costs	-			-	-
B Sutton Crowd Funding	-			-	-
Port Eynon Weekend	-			-	-
Other	25			**25**	-
	1,326	-	-	1,326	1,112
4. Cost of Ministry					
Minister's Expenses	-			-	-
Minister's Stipend	-			-	-
Regular Activities. Home grps etc	102			**102**	49
Ministry Resources & Training	25			**25**	90
Ministerial & Preacher Fees	130			**130**	250
	257	-	-	**257**	389
5. Cost of Mission					
Pre-school and Youth Work	2,017			**2,017**	648
Activities & Outreach	871		-	**871**	583
Giving To Baptist Causes	3,410			**3,410**	3,360
	6,298		-	**6,298**	4,591
6. Church Life & Administration					
Administration & IT	3,090			**3,090**	1,843
Health & Safety	-			-	715
Subscriptions & Copyright	3,910			**3,910**	2,988
Consumables	239			**239**	137
Equipment	460			**460**	711
	7,699			**7,699**	6,394

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
7. Premises Costs					
Churchyard and external	1,035			**1,035**	1,617
Repairs & Maintenance	14,804			**14,804**	10,488
Utilities	11,820			**11,820**	8,291
Cleaning Costs	3,427			**3,427**	3,531
Insurance & Survey	13,097			**13,097**	5,951
	44,183		-	**44,183**	29,878
8. Other Causes & disbursements					
Caring In Bristol	40		367	**407**	504
Sisters of the Church	90		110	**200**	360
Collection for GW WEBA			50	**50**	-
Bible Society			52	**52**	-
Childrens Society			102	**102**	154
	130	-	681	**811**	1,018

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with statutary regulations relating to charities. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities, set out on previous pages, relating to the year ended 31st December 2025 are as approved by the Trustees.

Signed: _____ **Date:** 12/7/2026

Position: TREASURER

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: Chew and Yeo Valley Baptist Network

On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1184270

Set out on pages: 1-3

1-2(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 December 2025 DD / MM / YYYY.

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.

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

Signed: R A Martyn-Johns **Date:** 12 October 2026

Name: R A Martyn-Johns

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

Address: The Rookery, East Dundry Lane, East Dundry, Bristol BS418NJ