SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Charity No. 1190379

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st December 2025

SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Reference and administration details

Trustees:

Mr. James Anthony Lawson Briggs
Mrs Elizabeth Mary Briggs
Mrs. Linda Anne Moors
Mrs Vivienne Marshall (died 19th September 2025)
Dr. Marjoleine Wilhelmina Onrust

Registered Office

Sabden Baptist Church, Clitheroe Road, Sabden, Clitheroe, BB7 9HD.

Operating from: Sabden Baptist Church – as above.

Bankers

Santander Bank

Independent Examiner

Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE
KM
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf,
Manchester Road,
Burnley
BB11 1JG

SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their report on the activities of the Church.

Objects

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian Faith according to 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.

Our Activities

The Charity operates from Sabden Baptist Church. The trustees of the church building and the graveyard are The Baptist Union Corporation. The Charity is responsible for the maintenance of the building and the cost of insurance and utilities and all the usual outgoings.

Our Sunday morning services are well attended. The day begins with a Prayer Meeting before the service. We celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month when this is taken by members of the fellowship. We have visiting lay preachers on a regular basis throughout the year and for the remaining Sundays the service is taken by members of our own Church.

Each Tuesday morning, we have a group who meet together to study the bible, to pray and to support each other. This is a Caring and Sharing Group. On Wednesday evening we meet again to study the Bible, and these meetings are led by various members. The topics are many and lively discussion takes place. We have an evening of prayer each month. Several people meet on a Thursday evening for music practice when we plan the service for the following Sunday and we regularly practice a few new songs. This is a lovely evening of worship, fellowship and singing. Communion is taken to those who are not able to attend church.

Our social activities have included a games evening, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a Maundy Thursday supper, a Good Friday Walk and an annual BBQ. We have meetings during the year with the Anglican and Catholic Churches when join activities are discussed. Early in December, we had a joint Carol Service at the local Anglican Church which was a great success.

Our own church building in Sabden is used between Monday and Friday every week by a pre-school group which operates from 7 am to 6 pm. They cater for up to 25 children each day. The staff are very dedicated and are receiving excellent reports from Ofsted. They pay a regular rent and also contribute towards utilities.

We have made donations to the Baptist Missionary Society for work in Uganda, India and worldwide, and this also involves a Birthday Scheme for BMS. Other donations were made to Home Mission, Action Aid and the local Food Bank. We have a very generous congregation, and we are always looking for ways to carry outreach into the village and the wider community.

Work on the Graveyard continues with support from members and friends. The springtime bulbs continue to provide a sense of tranquillity under Pendle Hill. We have a Poppy display in November.

Progress continues to be made with our IT system and each Sunday our services are streamed to several of our fellowship who are unable to attend in person. This service is particularly used by one of our young people in London who listens to the service with several of his friends and is much appreciated by them. The services are also available on social media. Our link in Scotland continues to give advice and help whenever necessary.

We continue to support two young people through our church who have missionary training in Reading and are looking forward to a placement abroad through WEC. Although our fellowship is not large it is a very caring and thoughtful family, providing support for each when needed. Almost everyone connected with the church plays a very active role.

As reported last year we were approached by the North West Baptist Association to support our daughter church, Ebenezer in Billington, Whalley, which had been closed for some time and was in danger of being sold. During the first six months of the year, the property had been completely rewired, a new kitchen installed, redecoration, and other vital repair works. The garden area has been substantially cleared to enable outdoor activities to take place. We now refer to this building as Ebenezer Church and Community Hub. It is open every Saturday from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm when refreshments are served including bacon sandwiches. It is well attended by the local community, and our own members together with many friends, prepare and serve the above and also offer support when needed. We also hold a Communion Service at Ebenezer on the first Wednesday evening of each month. A local support group for young men and women are to use the garden area one morning once a month, and we are in contact with other groups who are interested in using the building. This is very encouraging as we approached this project with faith, and we have been able to finance this through our own resources.

Financial Review

The attached receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities set out the finances of the church in the accounting period. At the year end the church held £105,560 (2024: £98,591) in unrestricted bank accounts and investments, together with £73,384 invested in the Dawson Trust, administered by the Baptist Union Corporation which can be used with agreement for works on the Church Building. The property trustees are the Baptist Union Corporation.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to hold £10,000 with the balance held for improvements to the buildings, emergency repairs and to provide additional income from the investments.

Risk Management

Risks to the charity include those mitigated by comprehensive policies and training and insurance covering buildings, contents and activities. A formal risk assessment is in the course of preparation for both properties.

Structure, Governance and Management

The church is an independent charity. In accordance with our Constitution Trustees are appointed as required and aim to have a broad range of skills and contacts with the Church community. The Trustees are also Deacons of the church.

The Charity is a Charitable incorporated organisation number 1190379 governed by its constitution.

Approved by order of the Trustees and singed on their behalf on 15th May 2026

Dr Marjoleine Wilhelmina Onrust
Trustee

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Sabden Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
(2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE
KM
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf,
Manchester Road,
Burnley
BB11 1JG

15th May 2026

SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Weekly offerings	20,570	20,375
Investment income	7,697	1,344
Gift aid	4,849	6,649
Room hire including utilities	12,750	7,800
Contribution to utilities	-	4,590
Other receipts	23,211	21,875
Total receipts	**69,077**	**62,633**
PAYMENTS		
Property maintenance and repairs	3,829	10,798
Utilities and internet	5,435	6,260
Multimedia equipment	411	90
Insurance	2,296	2,227
Donations to mission organisations	3,740	4,663
Other payments	1,180	1,749
Pulpit supply	855	780
Ebenezer chapel maintenance and repairs	44,362	-
Total payments	**62,108**	**26,567**
Net receipts less payments	**6,969**	**36,066**
Bank balances as at 1/1/2025	**98,591**	**62,525**
Bank balances as at 31/12/2025	**105,560**	**98,591**

SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Bank balance - Santander	**£55,560**
Baptist Union – deposit	**£50,000**
Baptist Union – accrued interest	**£368**
Total balances	**£105,928**
Charifund investment at valuation	**24,963**
Dawson Trust investment at valuation	**73,384**

Church buildings - historical cost not available
The church only receives income from The Dawson Trust

Approval

These financial statements set out above were approved by the Deacons as Managing Trustees on 15th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Dr. Marjoleine Wilhelmina Onrust
Trustee

SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Fund accounting

a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity

b) Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3. Taxation

The charity is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.

The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

4. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any trustees or to persons connected with them during the year or the previous year, except for reimbursed expenses.