West Craven Baptist Church

Annual Report 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report for the period ending 30th December 2025.

Charity Name	West Craven Baptist Church
Charity Registration Number	1190946
Address	Baptist Church Centre, Manchester Road, Barnoldswick BB18 5NZ
Board of Trustees	Julie Bryan Michael Dewhirst Helen Edmondson Helen Keegan Susan Martin Melanie Mitchell Ruth Thomas

Structure, governance and management

Governing document: West Craven Baptist Church is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission. The Governing Document is in line with Baptists Together and was prepared by Anthony Collins Solicitors and submitted to the Charity Commission on incorporation of the charity.

Organisational structure: The charity trustees are responsible for general control and management of the charity. The trustees meet monthly, giving their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

Appointment of trustees:

Trustees are selected in line with the constitution.

The Church Members Meeting shall appoint Charity Trustees, including a Church Secretary (or equivalent) and a Church Treasurer (or equivalent) to be responsible for the governance of the Church and where there is a minister, that person is also a Charity Trustee because of their role and responsibilities. (Const 14.1.1)

The appointment of Charity Trustees shall be undertaken by processes that are public, clear and open, so that all Church Members are enabled to consider prayerfully who should be appointed as Charity Trustees. The processes shall ensure that notice is given of any forthcoming election so that Church Members may freely nominate prospective Charity Trustees whose names shall be submitted (after they have indicated a willingness to be appointed) for decision to the Church Members with the intention of ensuring that those appointed have a sufficient level of support from them (Const 14.6.6)

Nominations for the role of Charity Trustee, other than the minister, shall be made to the Church Secretary (or equivalent) no later than 3 Sundays (or other regular weekly meeting time when the Church gathers together) before the Church Members Meeting at which the election is to be held. Nominations must be submitted in writing with the supporting signatures of two other Church Members and the consent of the candidate. No person may nominate more candidates than there are places vacant. Requests for nominations shall be made at all services on the two Sundays (or other regular weekly meeting time when the church gathers together) before that Sunday when nominations must cease, (Const 14.7)

Voting shall be by secret ballot at an Ordinary Church Members Meeting. Church members shall be asked to vote for those nominated candidates who they believe would serve the Church well as Charity Trustees. Each member may vote for as many nominees as they believe meet these criteria.

Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Church Meeting to count the votes and shall report the outcome in confidence and in writing to the chairperson of the meeting.

The number of candidates, being no more than the number of vacancies receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected providing each candidate shall have received votes from at least 60% of those members voting (Const 14.8)

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian Faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination (Const 3.1.1). In fulfilling this purpose, the Church will engage in a range of activities either on its own or with others. These will vary from time to time with activities being initiated, expanded or closed as appropriate.

These activities may 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 which is normally observed at least once a month
- 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 of Christian and community service
- giving and encouraging pastoral care
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the UK and abroad
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians (const 5)

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer
Most Sunday mornings we meet at Barnoldswick for a time of praise and worship, with a mix of modern and traditional styles. Usually, these services are based on one or more passages from the Lectionary, however during Lent 2025 we studied the book of Philippians, and in Advent looked at the theme of waiting.

Our habit of meeting in a different way on the first Sunday of each month has continued and we have enjoyed the variety that Sunday Stroll and CAFÉ style services bring. Some of our faith-based meetings happen midweek: Mick's Big Chat groups connect with around 10 people each month, and Wednesday at Mount Zion sees a small group of around eight people starting the day together in prayer, in addition to the regular prayer time at Renew Wellbeing in the afternoon.

We also welcomed visitors to special services such as the Christmas Eve Crib service in Earby and the Carol Service at Barnoldswick.

Membership
We welcomed five people as members of the church; two of these were by baptism. Sadly, we also mourned the loss of two long-serving members, meaning that our total membership is 43.

Pastoral Care
This year has been a difficult one for several members of our church family as they have faced significant health issues.

Our church pastoral team has reduced in size but continues to keep in touch with those who can no longer get to church and support those within our wider church family who are in need. The team met regularly to share concerns and pray for our church family. In September, 12 church members received Mental Health Awareness training from a member of the Social Prescribing Team which has enabled us to improve our pastoral care.

Each week our Warm Welcome space, Community Café and playgroups aim to offer safe spaces for people in our local community. The Social Prescribing Team signpost people to our afternoon groups which is helping to increase attendance and reduce social isolation. Our playgroups continue to provide bright and welcoming environments for pre-school children and the adults who care for them.

Leadership
This year saw changes to our team of deacons, and we faced the challenge of not having a church secretary. This was partly met by the development of areas of oversight for the deacons to help manage all the various aspects of church life, which will continue to evolve in the coming year.
The deacons, our minister and Community Partnership Co-ordinator also benefitted from some training on responses to conflict and team dynamics, which was delivered by Joanna Williams from The Blackley Centre.

Community engagement and partnerships
In addition to our successful weekly playgroups and afternoon groups for adults, we have offered hospitality to people attending community events in Earby. Typically, over 100 people visited Mount Zion on each event that took place on the Green. The recent Film Nights have also proved popular with people of all ages.

Our partnership with West Craven Food Bank is another important way that we care for the community. The food bank operates from our Barnoldswick building every Thursday, and several of our church members serve as volunteers.

Our ecumenical partnerships have continued to help us engage with the local community this year. These have included Hope Barlick's Good Friday Tableaux on the Town Square, united services with Earby Christians Together, and the Beer & Hymns events.

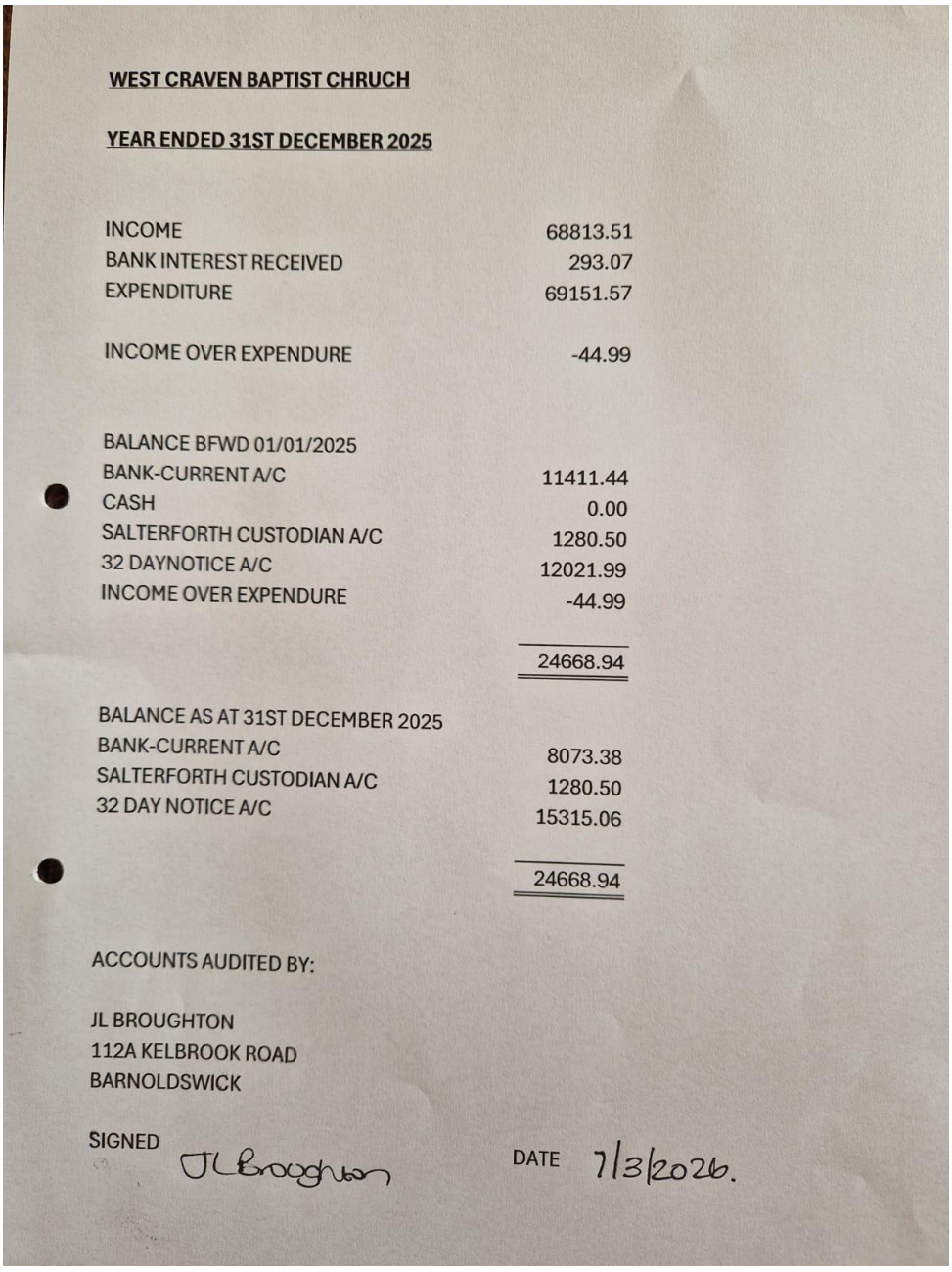
Julie provides pastoral care for people in the wider community in several ways, for example, her position as School Chaplain for Coates Lane Primary School, which

involves offering a listening ear to staff, and leading special assemblies at Harvest and a Christingle in December.

Our new website launched in September which, together with our Facebook page, helps us connect with a wider audience.

Buildings
In the last year we upgraded our buildings by installing stairlifts at Barnoldswick to improve accessibility and fitting new doors at Mount Zion making the building more inviting and providing better security.

Financial Report



WEST CRAVEN BAPTIST CHRUCH

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

INCOME	68813.51
BANK INTEREST RECEIVED	293.07
EXPENDITURE	69151.57
INCOME OVER EXPENDURE	-44.99

BALANCE BFWD 01/01/2025	
BANK-CURRENT A/C	11411.44
CASH	0.00
SALTERFORTH CUSTODIAN A/C	1280.50
32 DAYNOTICE A/C	12021.99
INCOME OVER EXPENDURE	-44.99
	24668.94

BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025	
BANK-CURRENT A/C	8073.38
SALTERFORTH CUSTODIAN A/C	1280.50
32 DAY NOTICE A/C	15315.06
	24668.94

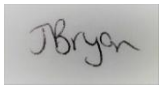
ACCOUNTS AUDITED BY:

JL BROUGHTON
112A KELBROOK ROAD
BARNOLDSWICK

SIGNED JL Broughton DATE 7/3/2026.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above

Signature: 

Full Name: Revd Julie Bryan

Position: Minister

Date: 15th July 2026