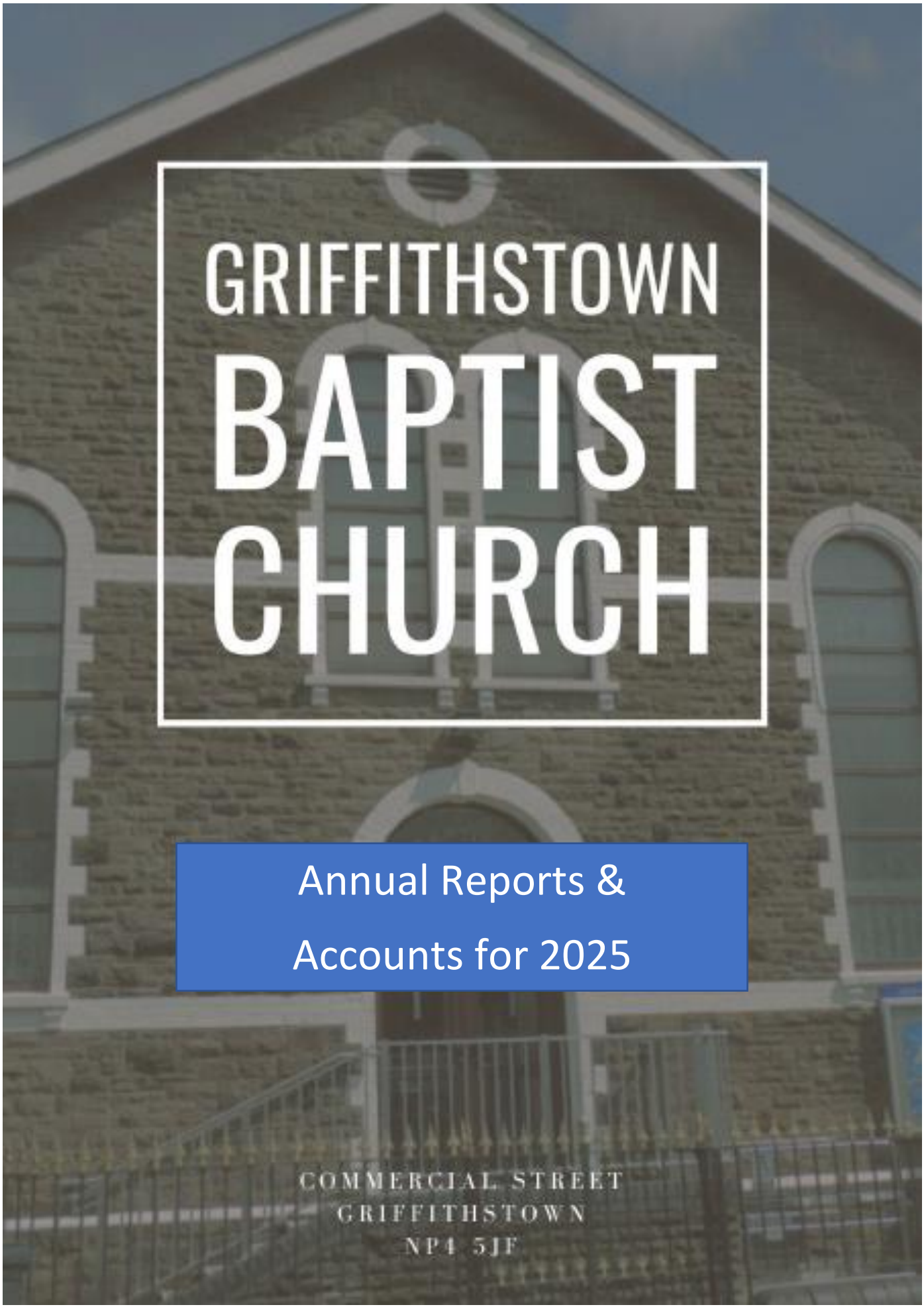


Annual Reports & Accounts for 2025

Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts

for the year ending 31st December 2025

Moderator

Rev Harry Place

Officers & Deacons:

Mrs M Jones (Secretary)

Mr N Snook (Treasurer)

Mrs B Harris

Mr K Harris

Mrs F Perry

Ms K Dorling

Independent Examiners

Mrs W Hassell

Mrs G Parry

Secretary's Report

2025 was a very turbulent year in the life of Griffithstown Baptist Church. At the start of the year, we welcomed Karen Dorling to the diaconate. I would like to begin this report by thanking all members of the diaconate for their hard work, dedication and commitment. Lots of what they do is done behind the scenes and not always seen. We are very lucky as a Church to have such a dedicated team working so hard to keep our Church running during a pastoral vacancy.

The seasons of life have continued to change during 2025 for our Church members and friends. There have been a number of special celebrations as well as times of loss. We have celebrated special birthdays and land-mark wedding anniversaries. We have also supported those who have lost loved ones during this year and our prayers and thoughts continue to be with those families who are feeling the pain of loss.

At the start of the year, I had the privilege of welcoming Jean Robinson into membership and the year ended with two baptisms. Both David and Favour made the decision to dedicate their lives to the Lord and went through the waters of baptism. A huge thank you to Martyn Perry for leading the service and preparing the candidates for Baptism. It was a wonderful end to the year and fantastic that we were able to celebrate with them at Christmas time. I pray God's rich blessing on both of them as they discover the joy of leading a Christian life.

During the summer again we jointly hosted Pirate Cove Holiday Club with Richmond Road Baptist Church. This was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Keith and Jon who wrote the whole holiday club and set it up. At Harvest time we held our annual harvest lunch. It was a lovely service followed by a tasty buffet and lovely fellowship. A big thank you to Ann Coulstock for organising and making the buffet.

We have also supported the wider Baptist family by hosting the SWBA roadshow where Mark and Rob shared the work of the South Wales Baptist Association and the challenges that face them in the years ahead. The deacons and I have been extremely grateful for the support and advice received from our regional ministers. In 2024 and at the start of this year their help and guidance was invaluable in helping the diaconate deal with lingering issues that dated back more than 20 years. The deacons committed to solving these issues before beginning a search for a new minister and following this we started the year with optimism.

As Autumn approached, we hosted a vision morning with our moderator Rev Harry Place. The service took a different format to usual but the buzz and enthusiasm from the members was something special to be part of. This started our discussions about the future of our Church and what might happen as we look for a minister.

Unfortunately, not long after this Rev Harry Place took the difficult decision to stand down as our moderator. So, we are currently facing a future without a moderator or minister. I would like to personally thank Harry for his guidance, wisdom, encouragement and support during the time he was our moderator. He is one of the most Godly men I have had the privilege to work alongside. We will miss him dearly and pray God will continue to bless Harry and Alice as they continue to serve the Lord. Also, two members of the diaconate made the difficult decision not to re-stand so we ended the year with a diaconate of just four. There is a lot of work to be done without a minister and it is too much for just four people. I pray that members will consider what roles they might be able to take on or what they could do to help support the running of the Church. 2026 also sees a number of vacant Sundays where preachers could not be found to take the service. Howard Jones has taken

on the role of filling our pulpit since Jon left and I would like to thank him for all the hard work he puts into this role. The lack of preachers is not unique to our Church. The same picture can be seen across the association. However, I would urge you all again to consider if you would be able to lead a service incorporating a recorded sermon following the deacon's decision to use sermons from YouTube.

As we enter into 2026 the picture for our Church looks unclear but I pray that God will guide us into the future He has planned for us but more importantly that we would listen carefully so we hear His voice and embrace any change that is required.

Blessings,

Michelle

RENEW@GBC & Craft Group Report

Our attendance numbers continued to remain constant, which in one sense is good but could be considered disappointing if an increase in numbers were the sole object. We continue to be, and appreciate continuing to be a place for shared conversations and activity, together with the opportunity for a quiet, meditative encounter with God during times of prayer and reflection on a set verse from the Psalms. In all this, the objectives of the Renew Wellbeing ethos of Being Present, Being Prayerful, Being in Partnership, continue to be met. As provider of a safe place and space within the community in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), representatives from Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) called in, of which we are also a part, visited us with details about what services are available within the Borough to make known what may not necessarily be common knowledge. This was especially helpful in the light of various changes to procedures and protocol within the Health Authority. Leaflets and cards summarising the information and providing useful contact details for the various aspects of help or assistance were made available that we could use or pass on. They followed this up by telling us about these things, giving us the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. The ladies from TVA were pleased and impressed in the way we engaged, complimenting us that we were more vocal than most groups that they visit!

As ever, conversation centres around the table where teas, coffees, biscuits and cakes are shared, and on when their or significant birthdays are. It's fast becoming a tradition that a birthday card, cake and celebration tea occur that it is reaching the stage of becoming compulsory! This year we have celebrated with a number who have reached significant round-number birthdays! Late November we made what has over the past few years become our annual pilgrimage to The Star at Ponthir for our Christmas Meal who again made their Christmas Menu especially available to us before their planned launch date.

But perhaps the most significant of our sandwich and cake buffets this year undoubtedly was for Anne Withey, who would soon be moving to Liverpool to live with Hugh and Jean. Not only has Anne been a precious part of Renew, but for so many years she has been a respected, significant and cherished member of the Church here at Griffithstown. Her quiet, sincere and wise counsel has proved a blessing and a benefit to many in the church, especially the ladies.

Knitting projects have been low key this year, knitted squares for blankets and Christmas themed covers for Terry's Chocolate Oranges being the staple. And while the knitting and chatter continued, others were in deep concentration working on jigsaws. Some of them took weeks to complete, although it must be noted that at least one was abandoned as a hopeless case very early on and re-boxed. Its exact whereabouts remain a mystery.

The year we've welcomed a number of groups to speak to us, and we were pleased that many other church members came along.

In March, Gareth Thomas of Tarian (Welsh for 'Shield'), the Regional Organised Crime Unit of the three South Wales Police Forces spoke about protecting ourselves from Phone and Cyber Scams, leaving us literature including the Little Booklet of Phone Scams.

During April, ladies from Soroptimist International Cwmbran were with us, setting up their stall with various knitted articles to highlight the wide range of simple knitted aids provided to local hospitals, plus other items that are made, donated or repurposed to sell. All proceeds being donated to a wide and varied range of charities, local, national and international. One of these local charities is Cyfannol Women's Aid, so it was coincidental that Kelly, a local Manager and Coordinator, who just happens to be Beverley's daughter came to talk to us about the work of Cyfannol. She explained

the wider scope of their work assisting children and men too, and the expansion of their work into other parts of Gwent.

In Autumn, we had a visit from our Renew Wellbeing Cymru Coordinator Lisa and her dad from Golau Baptist Church, Llanelli who is covering for Naomi while she is on Adoption Leave. Lisa kindly posted some lovely comments about us on their Facebook page.

We look forward to the new year, continuing to not only maintain our numbers and deepen and broaden our own friendship, but also to welcome more from the locality to add to those who have discovered our group as a safe place, perhaps even a refuge where they have found a genuine welcome, friendship and ready conversation. The same open invitation with which we closed last year's report is repeated, namely to join with us on a Tuesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and to encourage you to make us known amongst your family and friends who may be lonely, in need of some company and a lift.

Sylvia Powell and Howard Jones

Children's Work Report

Sunday School

It has been wonderful to see our Sunday School remain constant during the past year and encouraging to have a couple more children joining us on Sunday mornings. Currently there are around five families represented. On a weekly basis we can have between 4 to 8 children of various ages. This is very encouraging and we thank God that he has blessed us in this way.

At the beginning of 2025 we explored the life of Jesus and his teachings. The children enjoyed wrapping teddy bears in bandages as we looked at Jesus the healer. They had fun acting out how Jesus calmed the storm and exploring what floats and what sinks when we looked at Jesus walking on water! They always love it when there is food involved and enjoyed decorating donkey shaped biscuits as we began looking at the events of Easter week. This topic concluded at the end of the summer term with talking about the ascension.

As the new school year started in September, so we began a new topic – Creation. This is continuing at the start of this new year. So far, we have explored how God made the universe, then how he chose to focus on the earth. We've looked at the creation of light, water and land, then plants, weather and seasons. In October the children were excited to have a visit from Patch the Pumpkin (a World Vision alternative to Halloween) and think about the importance of sharing what God gives us. Once again, they got to decorate biscuits, this time Pumpkin shaped ones!

We paused our Creation theme to do some Christmas activities. Once again, food featured as the children decorated Christmassy shaped biscuits. They also made Christmas cards. The children all had a present from the church.

Please continue to pray for our children and young people as well as for the Sunday School workers.

Sparks

This was a primary age Bible based youth club that met every Thursday during term time, presenting the word of God through stories, games, drama and craft. It ran up until the summer holidays, but only two or three children were turning up to the sessions. They did however, enjoy the theme of the life of Jesus, where they followed the same program as was being done in Sunday School.

Since one of the regular attendees could not attend after the summer holidays, it was decided not to continue with this activity at the present time.

Rosemary Martin

Christmas Fayre Report

We were blessed with a fine day for this year's Fayre. There was a steady flow of customers creating a happy friendly atmosphere and the final total taken was £841.81.

We again this year gave donations to B.M.S., Home Mission, World Vision and Link to Hope, the usual gifts of biscuits were taken to the sick and housebound of the Church, also a gift voucher was sent to Mrs Anne Withey.

Over the years the money raised has been used for various projects in the Church, one of which was the conversion of two small classrooms into one larger room, creating a more practical size for Sunday school use. This year some of the money raised was used to purchase chocolate selection boxes for the Christmas Eve Carol Service.

A big thank you to all who helped in any way to the success of the fayre, also, those who supported by coming on the morning, if only to enjoy the delicious refreshments on offer.

It was decided by some of the fayre helpers, that they no longer felt able to continue to be part of the group needed to make the fayre a success.

It is with sadness that unless more people volunteer to become active participants, this will have been the last Christmas Fayre at our church for the foreseeable future.

Best Wishes for the New Year.

Workshop Team

Link to Hope shoe box appeal

As a Church we donated 34 Shoe Boxes to families in countries experiencing very difficult times. During World War Two the American people sent gifts of chocolate to the children of this country, at the time food was being rationed and chocolate was just a dream. It was my older sister who related this to me, saying how thrilled they were that the American people cared enough to send gifts to the British children. I pray that the recipients of the shoe boxes will experience the same feeling as the British people felt in their hour of need.

This year the Congregational Church very kindly included our shoe boxes in their delivery to Cardiff.

Thank you to all who took time to fill a box(s) as well as those who donated to this very worthwhile cause.

Janet Day

Coffee Cups Report

The Coffee morning has been well supported again this last year. People are enjoying the welcome and happy atmosphere on a Thursday morning.

Thanks must be given to those who take it in turns to make the teas and coffees week by week.

If you have a free Thursday morning, we would like you to come and join us between 10am and 12 noon, and we pray that the coming year will be as good as the last.

Janat Cocks

Prayer Time Report

2025 has seen a consistent gathering for prayer on a Wednesday morning 10-10:30am for approximately half an hour on Zoom. We pray for the Church in general, the housebound and the community. Prayer time is available for everyone who would like to join us.

God will honour and bless us as a Church when we meet together for prayer. Scripture encourages us as believers to join together for worship and to study God's word. In this way we can build a togetherness and experience the presence of God corporately within the Church.

Babs Humphry and Sue Jones

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2025

Main Account Income & Expenditure

INCOME:

		£	£
Offering			
	Closed	6,581.72	
	Open	9,462.28	
	Standing Order / Bank Transfer	23,110.00	39,154.00
Donations / Miscellaneous			
	Holiday Club	579.58	
	Coffee Morning	668.14	
	Manse Rent	6,000.00	
	Weddings and Funerals	100.00	
	World Vision	892.00	
	Probus	450.00	
	St Mathews Ladies Forum	60.00	
	Messy Church	0.00	
	Torfaen Council - Renew WellBeing	96.00	
	Torfaen Borough Council-Holiday Club	200.00	
	Christmas Card Donations	97.50	
	Quiz Night	400.00	
	Christmas Fayre Workshop	50.00	
	Transfer from Santander	10.00	
	Anonymous Donation	1,500.00	
	Donation in memory Pam Roberts	300.00	
	Donation in memory Richard Evans	200.00	
	Link to Hope Donation & Postage	84	
	On Line / Card Reader Donations	0	11,687.22
Income Tax Recovered			
	Gift Aid Declaration	6,520.23	6,520.23
			57,361.45

EXPENDITURE:	**NOTES:**		
		£	£
Ministry	1	1,962.00	
Upkeep of Church	2	15,317.84	
Upkeep of Manse	3	4,171.91	
Home Mission		1,500.00	
BMS		1,500.00	
Donations	4	2,999.00	
Holiday Club		1,284.01	
Nic's Cleaning		746.89	
Flowers		174.99	
Sunday School		36.83	
Coffee Morning		285.14	
Miscellaneous Expenses	5	2,691.09	
Renew / Craft		354.95	
Sundries	6	1,939.13	34,963.78
Administration Costs			
Printing / Stationery / Postage		1,893.46	1,893.46
Transfer to Santander		5,000.00	5,000.00
Transfer to HSBC BMM Account		20,000.00	20,000.00
Other Payments			
Church Kitchen / Meals / Refreshments		509.58	509.58
			62,366.82
Surplus/Deficit for the year			-5,005.37
Balance Brought forward from Previous Year			22,937.97
Balance Carried forward at End of Year			17,932.60
December Bank Statement Balance			17,997.60
Uncleared/Uncashed Items			65.00
			17,932.60

Notes to the Accounts

		£
1. MINISTRY		
	Pastor's Stipend	0.00
	NIC.	0.00
	Pension	0.00
	Tax	0.00
	Minister / Moderator Expenses	260.00
	Pulpit Supply	1,702.00
		1,962.00
2. UPKEEP OF CHURCH		
	Utilities	10,021.15
	Insurance	3,805.71
	Broadband	426.28
	Maintenance	1,064.70
		15,317.84
3. UPKEEP OF MANSE		
	Utilities	2,758.87
	Insurance	900.04
	Council Tax	0.00
	Maintenance	513.00
		4,171.91
4. DONATIONS		
	World Vision	1,325.00
	Cariad Kenya	600.00
	Christmas Card Donation - Water Aid	90.00
	SWBA Donation	500.00
	Torfaen Women's Aid	400
	Link to Hope	84
		2,999.00

Notes to the Accounts (contd.)

5. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	£
SWBA Subscriptions	228.00
BU Subscriptions	319.20
CCLI	833.69
Messy Church	77.65
Sparks	0.00
Waveley Fire & Security Ltd – Annual Check	216.00
Bank Charges	158.68
UPS for Church NAS	123.89
Zoom License 2025	155.88
Proclaim License / Pro Media 2025	317.78
Blackwood Fire - Annual Checks	260.32
	2,691.09

6. SUNDRIES	
Source - Words Edition x2	28.26
Paper Towels	49.98
Air Horn Sounder Fire Alarm	32.99
Computer AV Software	64.99
Present for Anne Withey	107.10
Christmas Items 2025	321.29
GDPR - ICO Registration	47.00
Bibles for Baptismal Candidates	35.68
Gift for Moderator	1,051.84
Gift for Retiring Deacons	200
	1,939.13

Santander Account Income & Expenditure

Account Closed & Transferred to HSBC BMM Account

HSBC BMM Account

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Total Transfer from Santander		B/F	76,516.22
Transfer from Main Account	20,000.00		
Interest	£324.35		
		C/F	96,840.57

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Members
of
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Griffithstown

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts, Payments & Accounts of Ebenezer Baptist Church set out on Pages 1-5 relating to the Year ended 31st December 2025. We confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the Accounting Records of the Church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed ..... Signed .....

Name: Mrs Gillian Parry

Address:
207 Adventurers Quay
Cardiff
CF10 4NS

Date: 27th January 2026

Name: Mrs Wendy Hassell

Address:
6 Victoria Street
Griffithstown
NP4 5HH

Date: 27th January 2026

Expenses Budget 2026

Ministry	Stipend/Nic/Tax/Pension	£36,000
	Minister's Expenses	£0
	Pulpit Cover	£2,000
Church Building	Utilities	£10,600
	Maintenance	£3,000
	Insurance	£4,000
	Broadband	£450
Manse		£4,400
Children's Work	Sunday School	£100
	Messy Church	£200
Outgoings		
	Flowers	£175
	Donations	£3,000
	Home Mission	£1,500
	BMS	£1,500
	SWBA & BU Subs	£792
	CCLI	£876
	Miscellaneous	£1,000
	Cleaning	£750
	Kitchen	£180
	Refreshments	£350
	Holiday Club	£1,400
	Emergency Reserve	£1,000
	Technical	£650
	Printing/stationery	£2,000
	Sundries	£2,050
	Total	**£77,973**

Average Required Income per Week = **£1,499.48**
Average Required per Month = **£6,497.75**

Home Mission

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/25	164.09	Home Mission	200.00
Boxes	42.15		
Workshop	100.00		
		Balance @ 31/12/25	106.24
	306.24		306.24

Baptist Missionary Society

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/25	25.35	BMS	37.68
Workshop	100		
Donations	12.33		
		Balance @ 31/12/25	100
	137.68		137.68

BMS Birthday Scheme

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/25	146.50		
Donations	343.00	Service charges	45.67
		Balance @ 31/12/25	443.83
	489.50		489.50

Christmas Fayre/Workshop

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/25	2115.15	Janet Day	43.17
Christmas Fayre	830.81	Home Mission	100.00
Donation	11.00	BMS	200.00
		World Vision	50.00
		Church	50.00
		Goods	197.84
		Goods	79.06
		Service Charge	7.65
		Balance @ 31/12/25	2229.24
	2956.96		2956.96

Craft

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/25	98.83	Refund for meals	48.00
Donations	204.00	Flowers for Sandra	10.00
Donations	183.00	Flowers for Eileen	6.00
Donations	115.00	Postage	7.37
Donations	322.00	Postage	11.78
		Refund	34.00
		Meal	654.00
		Tip	40.00
		Cash in hand	111.68
	922.83		922.83

Membership Numbers

Membership at 1st January 2025	63
Admissions	1
	64
Dismissals:	
By Resignation	6
Called Home	3
Membership at 31st December 2025	**55**

Members called home:

Noel Bateman
Pam Roberts
Margaret Hearn

Friends called home:

Richard Evans

Baptisms:

Favour
David

Dates for your diary

Friday 3rd April	Good Friday	10:30am
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday	11am
Saturday 18th April	Sŵn y Gân Concert	7pm
Sunday 26th April	150th Church Anniversary followed by buffet lunch	11am
Sunday 24th May	Pentecost	11am
Sunday 27th September	Harvest	11am
Sunday 8th November	Remembrance Sunday	11am
Sunday 20th December	Carols by Candlelight	5:30pm
Thursday 24th December	Carols Around the Tree	5:30pm
Friday 25th December	Christmas Day Celebration	10:30am