Barton Baptist Church Trustees' Annual Report for 2025

Reference and Administrative Details

Church Name: Barton Baptist Church
Charity Number: 119837
Principal Address: Barton Baptist Church, Happaway Road, Torquay, TQ2 8EU
Trustees:

- Rev Christine Fry
- Rev Rosemary Millard
- Lorraine Wills
- Hannah Barker
- Christian Ross-Hamilton
- Beth Upham
- Heather Chamberlain-Drury (term ended November 2025)

Independent examiner: Hugh Rodway

Structure, Governance, and Management

Barton Baptist Church is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and operates under a constitution based on the Baptist Union's Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches.

Church membership is open to individuals who have made a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ and who wish to share in the life and mission of the Church. Applicants for membership confirm their acceptance of the Church's beliefs, their willingness to participate in its activities, and their agreement to fulfil the responsibilities of membership as set out in the governing document. Individuals who have not been baptised in accordance with the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle may nevertheless be accepted into membership at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting on the basis of their own public profession of faith.

The Church Members' Meeting normally gathers four times each year and serves as the principal decision-making body of the Church. Members determine the overall direction and policy of the charity and appoint Trustees in accordance with the constitution, including the Church Secretary and Treasurer. Alongside the Ministers, who also act as

Trustees, they are responsible for overseeing the Church's day-to-day operations, governance, finances and spiritual leadership.

The Church values the active involvement of its members and encourages participation in both its worshipping life and its practical ministry. Through serving, volunteering and contributing to Church activities, members play an important role in furthering the charity's objectives.

Issues requiring consideration may be brought to the Church Members' Meeting by either the Trustees or Church members. While formal voting arrangements are available where necessary, the Church seeks wherever possible to make decisions through prayerful discussion and consensus, reflecting a commitment to unity and shared discernment..

Objectives and Activities

The charity exists to advance the Christian faith in accordance with Baptist principles. This purpose is pursued through worship, teaching, pastoral care, community engagement and other charitable activities undertaken both locally and, where appropriate, more widely within the United Kingdom and beyond.

In support of these aims, Barton Baptist Church provides a broad programme of activities for members, attendees and the wider community. These activities seek to demonstrate Christian faith through service, fellowship and practical support, while creating opportunities for individuals to explore and develop their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Regular Sunday worship remains at the heart of Church life, with services taking place each week at 10.30am. Additional services and events are publicised through the Church's website and weekly communications. Children's and youth activities run alongside many services, providing age-appropriate opportunities for learning and spiritual growth.

The Church seeks to be a welcoming and accessible community, with all worship services open to the public. Small groups meeting in members' homes continue to provide opportunities for discipleship, fellowship and mutual support. Further information about these groups is available through the Ministers, Church Secretary or Sunday services.

Serving the local community remains a significant aspect of the Church's ministry. "Little Feet", the Church's toddler group, meets on Friday mornings and provides support, friendship and connection for local families. The Church also facilitates the Bereavement Journey course, offering guidance and support to those processing grief and loss. In addition, one of the Ministers maintains a regular presence at a local primary school through weekly lunchtime visits.

Throughout the year, the Church has also offered a range of activities for children, young people and older adults. These have included family play days during school holidays, a monthly seniors' group, Bible journalling sessions, a craft group, and a music group. The weekly Renew Wellbeing gathering continues to provide a supportive environment that promotes mental and emotional wellbeing.

Safeguarding remains a key priority. Appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are undertaken for those working with children and vulnerable adults, and the Church's safeguarding arrangements continue to be based on Baptist Union guidance. The safeguarding policy is reviewed and reaffirmed annually.

Having considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees are satisfied that the Church's activities provide clear and tangible benefit to both its congregation and the wider community..

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees recognise that the effectiveness of the Church's ministry cannot be measured solely through attendance figures or financial performance. Equally important are the relationships formed, the support offered, and the spiritual development experienced by individuals involved in the life of the Church. Whilst these outcomes are less easily quantified, the Trustees believe that 2025 was a year of encouraging progress and strengthening community engagement.

During the year, two individuals were welcomed into membership. The Church also saw a number of newer attendees establish themselves as regular participants in Church activities and worship. Sadly, one member passed away during the year. Membership at 31 December 2025 stood at 58, compared with 56 at the end of 2024. Following a review of membership records, it was agreed that during 2026 conversations would be held with those no longer actively involved in Church life regarding whether transferring to the Friends List would be more appropriate.

Attendance at worship services increased across the year, reflecting continued growth in engagement. The Little Feet toddler group remained extremely popular, with demand continuing to exceed available capacity and a waiting list remaining in place. Renew Wellbeing continued to attract regular participants and provide valuable support within the community. The Bereavement Journey courses also remained well attended, highlighting the ongoing need for pastoral and emotional support.

After careful consideration, the decision was taken to discontinue the Alive Saturday group due to falling attendance and the significant volunteer resource required to sustain it. In its place, a family play day was organised during the summer, which proved highly successful and attracted strong community participation.

The Church also invested in its facilities during the year, replacing the carpeting in the hall, stairway and landing. These improvements have enhanced the environment for both Church users and community groups using the premises.

The Trustees are encouraged by the continued growth in participation, the positive response to Church activities and the deepening sense of fellowship within the Church community. They believe these developments demonstrate the Church's continuing effectiveness in serving local individuals and families while advancing its charitable purposes.

Financial Review

The Church's activities continue to be funded primarily through the generous giving of members and attendees, supplemented by income generated through the letting of Church property, including the premises and manse.

Receipts from Gift Aid and the Small Donations Scheme totalled £11,201 during the year, broadly consistent with the level received in 2024. Although interest rates reduced during the year, the Church generated investment and deposit interest of £693.68 on funds held in reserve, representing a slight increase on the previous year.

Total income for 2025 was £84,883, approximately £3,000 lower than in 2024. Income from the rental of the manse increased following a review of rental arrangements against local market rates. A further increase is planned during 2026, as the current rental remains significantly below market value.

The largest area of expenditure continued to be the support and employment costs associated with the Church's Ministers. The Ministers provide leadership, coordinate worship and ministry activities, offer pastoral support, and equip members in their service and outreach. Both Ministers remain members of the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund.

As an expression of its commitment to the wider Christian community, the Church donated £7,025 during the year to organisations whose charitable purposes align closely with those of the Church. This represented a modest increase compared with 2024.

Many areas of Church life depend upon the significant contribution of volunteers. The time, skills and commitment offered by members enable a wide range of activities to be delivered at relatively low financial cost while making a substantial contribution to the achievement of the Church's aims.

Total expenditure during 2025 amounted to £96,236, representing a reduction from the previous year. This was due in part to 2024 including the one-off costs associated with the installation of a new upstairs kitchen. Restricted funds were utilised during the year to support the costs of maintaining two Ministerial posts.

The Church continues to maintain both designated and restricted funds, with five restricted funds in operation throughout 2025.

Further details of the year's financial performance and the accounting policies adopted can be found in the accompanying financial statements.

Reserves

The Trustees continue to develop a formal reserves policy to provide a structured framework for managing future financial challenges and ensuring the Church can respond effectively to unforeseen expenditure or reductions in income. Alongside this work, attention has been given to identifying opportunities to strengthen and diversify income streams.

At 31 December 2025, total reserves stood at £52,790.69. Of this figure, £19,857.63 related to restricted funds and £7,922.08 to designated funds. Unrestricted reserves available for general use amounted to £25,010.98..

Plans for the Future

The Church remains committed to maintaining and developing its existing ministries while continuing to identify opportunities to serve the wider community effectively. Current programmes and activities will continue throughout 2026, providing ongoing opportunities for worship, discipleship, fellowship and community engagement.

Addressing the recurring budget deficit will be a key priority during 2026. The Trustees intend to launch a financial stewardship initiative aimed at strengthening the Church's long-term financial sustainability and ensuring that healthy reserve levels can be maintained for future ministry and mission.

Looking ahead, the Church plans to introduce a parenting course to provide additional support for families within both the congregation and the local community. The Church will also strengthen its partnership with the local primary school through one Minister co-leading a risk and resilience programme for pupils.

Planned improvements to Church facilities during 2026 include redecorating the upstairs children's room and replacing locks on the main entrance doors, helping to ensure that the premises remain safe, welcoming and fit for purpose.

The Trustees remain committed to regularly reviewing the Church's activities, resources and facilities so that they continue to meet the needs of both the congregation and the wider community while supporting the Church's mission for the future.

Barton Baptist Church

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2025

CHARITY REGISTRATION No, 1199387

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	2025	2024
Receipts		£	£
GENERAL- Gift Aided Donations		39,347.23	41,099.37
GENERAL- Non Gift Aided		13,036.67	12,586.57
OTHER GIVING		1,129.82	1,080.48
Income Tax recovered on Gifts		11,201.00	11,345.00
TOTAL GIVING " OTHER INCOME		**64,714.72**	**66,111.42**
Rental Income	1	18,885.00	20,122.45
Investment Income & Other Income	2	1,283.68	2,180.70
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**84,883.40**	**88,414.57**
Payments			
Tithes	3A	7,025.00	6,625.00
Ministry	4	39,024.90	46,149.46
Manse Costs	5	10,655.37	10,335.03
Church Activity Costs	6	1,432.48	1,633.90
Property costs	7	25,537.37	20,025.84
Other Costs	8	3,319.68	4,554.64
TOTAL		***86,994.80***	***89,323.87***
Surplus (deficit) for the year		*-2,111.40*	*-908.30*
Balance brought forward bank accounts		54,333.09	65,300.02
Increase in Restricted and Designated Funds		-79.00	-9,391.63
Balance Carried foward		***52,808.69***	***54,999.09***

RESTRICTED FUNDS & BALANCES	3B	*Restricted*	*Restricted*
Lounge Refurbishment		589.00	589.00
Pastoral Care		1,176.81	753.46
Alpha		90.83	90.83
Community Use/Assoc minister		16,502.35	8,502.35
Youth		1,498.64	1,498.64
Total of Restricted Funds		***19,857.63***	***11,434.28***
Total of General Fund (Unrestricted)		25,010.98	35,642.73
Designated Funds(legacies)		7,922.08	7,922.08
Restricted Funds		19,857.63	11,434.28
TOTAL of ALL FUNDS		**52,808.69**	**54,999.09**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

Bank and other cash balances:	9	**52,808.69**	**54,999.09**
Non Monetary Assets	10	**2,193,253.00**	**2,120,410.00**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11	**0.00**	**0.00**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Barton Baptist Church	119837

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/25		31/12/25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings	52,383	-	-	52,383	53,686
Income Tax Recoverable	11,201			11,201	11,345
Bank Interest	1,284	-	-	1,284	2,181
Lettings	18,885	-	-	18,885	20,122
Other Receipts	1,130	-	-	1,130	3,330
Internal Organisations income		1,164	-		
Community Ministry	-	8,000	-	8,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	84,883	9,164	-	92,883	90,664
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	84,883	9,164	-	94,047	90,664
A3 Payments					
Ministerial	39,024	-	-	39,024	56,149
Manse	10,655			10,655	10,335
Donation Tithes	7,025	-	-	7,025	6,625
Repairs & Maintenance	17,860	-	-	17,860	13,461
Utilities	7,678	-	-	7,678	6,565
Administration	3,320		-	3,320	4,555
Other Donations	-	740	-	740	1,641
Internal Organisations Expenditure	1,432	8,502	-	9,934	1,634
Community/Ministry	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	86,994	9,242	-	96,236	100,965
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	86,994	9,242	-	96,236	100,965
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,111	- 79	-	- 2,190	- 10,301
	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds	35,063	19,936	-		
Cash funds this year end	32,952	19,857	-	52,809	55,000

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF BANK	7,780		-
	CAF BANK Deposit A/C	19,055	19,857	-
	Santander Current A/C	6,117		
	Total cash funds	32,952	19,857	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	[signature]		22.04.2026