Paulsgrove Baptist Church (1200307)

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2025

Stewardship
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	1 Woofferton Road Portsmouth PO6 4DW
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 8th September 2022
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1200307
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	David Aarons Stephen Mountain Robert Milliken David Ouwehand (Appointed 1 July 2026)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Hannah Clack Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with Baptist principles and the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Paulsgrove and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

During 2025, lots of new people have been coming along to PBC. Some are Christians looking for a church family to settle in, some are seeking Jesus and asking questions. Some came and went, some have stuck and are being drawn in more to our church family.

We've been establishing a Welcome team again at PBC, not simply to greet people with a handshake and a smiling face (great as these things are!), but also to pray for newcomers, follow up with them, and help them settle into church life. Our new Welcome Point which was made in 2025 acts to house our literature, including Bibles, tracts, and leaflets with events and information about our church.

Our Sunday services gather our whole church together in praise, learning and growing in faith in Jesus.

Opening the Bible and hearing God's Word read and taught is a key part of us gathering.

Our pattern is to sing, pray and share church news all together and then children and young people have their own age group sessions. On the 4th Sunday of the month, we stay all together for our Lord's Supper celebrations.

As elders, we pray and ask God to show us what He wants us to teach in our Sunday services, according to what our church needs:

- In the early new year leading to Easter our series was called: "Power for living - how the Holy Spirit works in our lives today". We'd previously asked our Partners (members) to assess our strengths and weaknesses from our church's values 2020 Vision series | Paulsgrove Baptist Church and we received some feedback about not being confident about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Having in the past couple of years covered the topics of God being our Heavenly Father, and being apprentices of Jesus, this was a good opportunity to teach more deeply on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Having a mature understanding of the 3 persons in the Trinity meant that this series was well worthwhile. We concluded the series with a Q&A so we could address any outstanding questions that people had.
- In the Summer and then Autumn term (with a break for something different over August), we embarked on a series from the book of Isaiah, which we subtitled, "The Holy God of Hope". How do you do justice to this long prophetic book without getting so swamped and lost along the way? It wouldn't be beneficial to simply cover the passages that are most well-known, but to appreciate the flow and themes of the book, so that the many messianic prophecies made sense in their original context. So, we split the series into the two main sections of Isaiah. Chapters 1-39 were covered in the summer term: "God is the Judge of Everyone". And then Chapters 40-66 in the Autumn: "God is the Saviour for Everyone". It was quite a ride, and while the prophetic style takes a bit of work to grapple with, many said how helpful it was to have tackled Isaiah, and that it gives confidence that no book is "off limits" for our church. A number of people listened to chunks of Isaiah during the week using an audio Bible to help concentrate – a great idea! How wonderful for us to see God's working in the lives of his people Israel in the 7th Century B.C. as well as pointing them to the hope of salvation that would be fulfilled in Jesus!
- Our monthly Lord's Supper celebrations are all-age so that as a whole church family we can remember and thank Jesus for the cross – around tables, eating and drinking, opening the Bible, discussing, praying and singing. Our

2025 series was called “Names for Christians in the New Testament” – learning and reminding ourselves of who we are in Christ and how we can grow to become more like him!

- Over the Easter weekend, we once again held all-age services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday – with the opportunity for an indoor picnic and games time on the Friday to spend more time together as a church family.
- Over August, we invited some guest speakers to PBC, including Ian Crossley from ‘Walk Through the Bible’, who gave a taster of the themes he will be teaching on in our 2026 Church weekend away.
- Our Advent and Christmas series was called “Which way this Christmas?” as we looked at some of the Gospel stories and characters and questioning where our focus is and what is our response to Jesus. Once again our Carol Service and Christmas morning service brought along many guests, whom we pray will not leave Jesus alone for another year but would be struck by their need to respond to him.
- On, our final Sunday of the year we again enjoyed a bring and share lunch, with the opportunity to reflect on and thank God for what He has done in our lives and the life of PBC over 2025 and ask Him what He wants for us as we approach 2026.

Prayer remains an important part of church life, and we continue to try to equip and support people to pray and depend on the Father:

- We began the year again with a prayer and fasting week – encouraging our church to spend time seeking God for the year ahead, both personally and for the body of Christ. We had some centralised prayer times, for reflection, intercession, and for families with children, to give people the opportunity to meet together as well as pray at home.
- After the success of the 2024 Holy Week prayer room, we again transformed the lounge during that week in 2025, for people to come and pray through the events of Jesus’ last week before his death. This was really appreciated by all who came, enjoying quiet space, being encouraged and challenged by Jesus.
- Our Sunday morning prayer at 10am is now embedded in our church culture, with not simply those who are serving formally, but others who value being able to pray for the service and wider aspects of church life, coming and praying for PBC together.
- Our prayer diary and prayer chain exists to help our church pray regularly for each other and for various ministries, at home and with others – we’re thankful for those who look after these important mechanisms for prayer.

We had the joy of developing and expanding our midweek Growth Groups in 2025. As an important way to build on and apply our Sunday teaching, and to grow deeper relationships of accountability. We had previously held centralised groups on Tuesday mornings and evenings but were aware that there were some people unable to make these times who would like to be part of a group. Mark Benford and James Smith were keen to start another group, particularly to encourage men in their spiritual walk – and so in May, a new group was established on a Wednesday evening. And Steve & Margaret offered to host a mixed group on a Thursday evening at their house, which also began in May. Praise God that more people are now able to attend and enjoy being part of a Growth Group, and our prayer is that all adults would in time join one and reap the benefits.

Dave and Rob, our elders, meet each month for a whole morning, to pray and think about our church’s spiritual life and direction. As elders, we visit many people throughout the year – supporting and helping them in their lives with Christ. We’re praying for more elders to be raised up to join them.
Our Leadership team of elders and deacons meet 4 times per year, as we work together to fulfil our church’s mission: “Growing lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ, by being a Christian, caring, community.” Sarah Aarons was elected in 2025 as deacon for Women’s ministry and joins the existing team of deacons: Steve Mountain (governance), Rosemary Seddon (finance), Cheryl Bowen (mission partners). Rosemary was re-elected in 2025 and is willing to stand for one more period of 3 years.
Our trustees (Dave, Rob, Steve) also meet 4 times per year in their responsibility of stewarding the church’s resources.

Our church “Partners” (members) meet 4 times per year, to praise, pray, and seek God for the spiritual life of our church, and we are continuing to use these times to equip our Partners in their Christian life and service.

We marked various important life events during 2025:

- What a thrill to baptise Shay in July, as she returned to PBC and accepted Jesus as her saviour! We rejoice that she and Tali are walking with the Lord together and can bring up the girls in Jesus. We are now preparing them for marriage in May 2026!
- Along with this, we are also preparing Juliet Charters and Matthew Strain for marriage in July 2026 – two weddings at PBC to look forward to!
- We rejoiced with Richie and Sonia as they welcomed their newborn son, Enzo, in the summer.
- We supported Kim Mills as she lost her father in the summer, and were able to host & lead a memorial service for him in August.
- We also walked with and supported Liz Mullard as her husband Kev passed away in September, with a service of thanksgiving in October – praying for Liz's journey of faith in Jesus to develop, and for Marc to turn to Christ.
- Triniti Benford moved to Jersey in the summer to join an apprenticeship scheme at Jersey Baptist church, and we prayed for her and 'commissioned' her for this exciting step!

Other important ongoing aspects of church life continued in 2025:

- Dave and Ella, our Safeguarding coordinators, continued to head up this responsibility – meeting during the year to review and pray for our working practices, and keep safeguarding on the agenda of the various groups in our church.
- Our Gardening team continued to do a great job of looking after our grounds, but as a group also encouraging each other through prayer and friendship.
- Derek Agar continued the unseen work of coordinating maintenance tasks on our building, that we might look after what God has given us and make our church a safe and welcoming space.
- We're thankful for all the ways that people contribute to church life, much of which is 'unseen' – admin, cleaning, putting out chairs, buying refreshments, phone calls, one to one meet-ups, hospitality – all in Jesus' name!

In all our activity, our aim is to grow disciples of Jesus – our fruitful doing for Jesus can only come out of becoming more like Jesus. And so our prayer is that to be transformed into the likeness of Christ remains our top priority.

In planning the activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Organisational structure

Paulsgrove Baptist Church has transferred the unincorporated charity Paulsgrove Baptist Church (charity number 1130799) to the CIO Paulsgrove Baptist Church (charity number 1200307). The CIO was initially registered with the Commission in August 2022, however the assets and activities were transferred during 2024.

Governance

Trustees oversee the governance of the charity and meet quarterly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees.

Elders have spiritual oversight and direction of the ministries of the church and meet monthly. They are assisted in the practical outworking of these ministries by deacons, with the combined Leadership Team (elders and deacons) meeting quarterly.

As per our governing document, all church elders are also trustees while others other trustees are elected to the role.

The expenditure of large sums of money, major policy decisions and the appointment of trustees, elders and deacons require the approval of the church membership. The members ('partners') meet four times a year, to discuss and pray through decisions and review church life together.

Financial Review

The charity's income reduced by £18,556 to £145,585, while the expenses increased by £31,358 to £137,406. As a result, the charity had a surplus of £8,180 (2024: £58,094 surplus)

During 2025 the cash held in our bank accounts for charitable purposes increased by the same value, from £158,391 at the start of the year to £166,571 at the year end. £93,377 at year end is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £30,000 (which equates to about three months of unrestricted expenditure) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £93,377 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy, as well as holding additional funds for the purpose of engaging the services of a second worker.

Risk Statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

S J Mountain
S J Mountain (Sep 9, 2026 19:11:46 GMT+1)
S Mountain

Date: Sep 9, 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Paulsgrove Baptist Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 on pages 7 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:
1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hannah Clack
Hannah Clack (Sep 10, 2026 09:20:56 GMT+1)

Hannah Clack

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Sep 10, 2026

PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Income receipts						
Donations		55,879	2,661	35,195	93,735	105,642
Gift aid receipts		9,092	-	-	9,092	10,520
Income from letting of facilities		39,700	-	-	39,700	46,088
Interest		2,869	-	-	2,869	1,871
Other		190	-	-	190	20
		107,729	2,661	35,195	145,585	164,141
Total receipts		107,729	2,661	35,195	145,585	164,141
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	125,364	275	2	125,641	94,327
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	11,765	-	-	11,765	11,720
		137,129	275	2	137,406	106,047
Total payments		137,129	275	2	137,406	106,047
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(29,400)	2,386	35,193	8,180	58,094
Transfers between funds	5	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(29,400)	2,386	35,193	8,180	58,094
Cash funds as at last year end		120,391	-	38,000	158,391	100,297
Cash funds at this year end	A	90,991	2,386	73,193	166,571	158,391

The notes on pages 9 - 10 form part of these accounts.

PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds: General funds £	Unrestricted Funds: Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 £	2024 £
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank		90,991	2,386	73,193	166,571	158,391
		90,991	2,386	73,193	166,571	158,391
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity		1,452	-	-	1,452	2,458
Other debtors		1,343	-	-	1,343	1,199
		2,795	-	-	2,795	3,657
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
Fee for Independent Examination		1,032	-	-	1,032	1,260
Accrued expenses		2,097	-	-	2,097	3,868
		3,129	-	-	3,129	5,128

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Current value £
Land and buildings	
Paulsgrove Baptist Church Building	3,055,787
Manse [Woofferton Road]	395,610
	3,586,730

Current insurance values have been used above.

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

S J Mountain
S J Mountain (Sep 9, 2026 19:11:46 GMT+1)

Stephen Mountain

Date: Sep 9, 2026

The notes on pages 9 - 10 form part of these accounts.

PAULSGROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly

	Unrestricted Funds				
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Employment costs (see note 4)	51,803	-	-	51,803	50,274
Ministry expenses	3,651	275	2	3,928	11,840
Cleaning & Catering	1,037	-	-	1,037	1,480
Maintenance of buildings & equipment	45,276	-	-	45,276	8,958
Utilities	8,425	-	-	8,425	9,853
Insurance	3,422	-	-	3,422	3,090
Governance Costs	1,120	-	-	1,120	-
Office costs	8,226	-	-	8,226	7,790
Other costs	424	-	-	424	1,041
	125,364	275	2	125,641	94,327

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

Grants for:	Purpose:					
UFM Worldwide	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,830	-	-	1,830	1,800
Counties H R F	UK Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800	1,800
European Christ	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,890	-	-	1,890	1,800
Frontiers	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800	1,800
Latin Link	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,800	-	-	1,800	1,830
Open Doors	Overseas Evangelism Support	1,875	-	-	1,875	1,800
Other small grants to organisations		770	-	-	770	890
		11,765	-	-	11,765	11,720

4 Transactions with related parties

David Aarons served as church leader and was paid £45,810 (2024:£43,248) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

No expenses were paid to, or for, the trustees other than the reimbursement of expenses

5 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	120,391	107,729	(137,129)	-	90,991
Designated funds					
Church Away Day	-	2,661	(275)	-	2,386
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	2,661	(275)	-	2,386
Restricted funds					
Missionary Donations	-	150	-	-	150
Food Bank	-	45	(2)	-	43
Funds for youth worker salary	38,000	35,000	-	-	73,000
Youth Camp	-	-	-	-	-
	38,000	35,195	(2)	-	73,193
Total funds	158,391	145,585	(137,406)	-	166,571