

Trustees Annual Report Jan-Dec 2025

1 Activities and objectives in the year:

The object of the CIO is, for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the statement of faith in particular (but without limitation) by providing worship, prayer and Christian teaching. We met every Sunday of the year with a traditional worship service in the morning with the focus on how to live the Christian life, and an evening Gospel service with the focus on how to become a genuine Christian. We had about 20 attending in the morning service and about 5 attending in the evening. After the morning service on a Sunday all who attended were welcome to stay on for a fellowship lunch provided by members and friends of the church.

We have been encouraged during the year in the attendance of a family from Nigeria and a family from India.

During Tuesday evenings we had a more in depth online Bible study led by our Pastor, followed by a time of discussion and prayer.

On ten Saturdays during 2025 a team of volunteers helped with the maintenance of the Chapel and its grounds. This included, deep cleaning, painting, and minor repairs:

Our membership has decreased by two and now has a membership of just ten.

2 Structure and details of how it is managed:

The church is registered as a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with the date of inception being the 12th September 2022.

The CIO is an Independent Baptist Church holding onto the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith and the 1966 Baptist Affirmation of Faith. Its spiritual leadership consists of an elder who is financially supported as the recognised Pastor. It has two deacons who are responsible for the practical needs of the church and the church building. Its members are born again Christians who have been baptised by immersion in water and have made a pledge before God to uphold our constitution and family covenant.

The church had four members' meetings in 2025 (as is regular practice each year), with the agenda of the meetings being given out two weeks before (agendas are written by the elder of the church). Some items are reports of various meetings and ministries (such as the youth club and Sunday school), a financial update on the church accounts and a report from the Pastor. Some matters lead to an open vote where two thirds are required for the matter to be accepted.

3 How it recruits trustees:

The Trustees are firstly members of Grace Independent Baptist Church and secondly serving as officers of the church. The chairman is the Pastor and the other trustees are either elders or deacons.

Grace Independent Baptist Church (1200337)

Administrative details

4 Our charity's name:

Grace Independent Baptist Church CIO

5 Registration number:

1200337

6 Address:

Grace Chapel, Grace Hill, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1HE

7 Trustee names:

Andrew Mark Saywell (Chairman), Appointed 12th September 2022,
Joshua William Oliver, Appointed 12th September 2022,
Roy William Rogers, Appointed 12th September 2022

Signature of Chairman of the Trustees Andrew Saywell

Date of signature 26th October 2026

Financial Review

The following accounts present the accounts for year 2025, from the 1st January to the 31st December. The opening figures in the funds were the balances as brought forward from 2024. All funds sit in a single bank account, so the unrestricted, designated, and restricted figures are updated regularly to show a true and current representation, enabling changes in the amounts to be seen and monitored.

General Fund

This fund includes all transactions concerned with the day to day running of the church, church building, the cost of running services and ministries, and the Pastor's Stipend. The largest commitment has historically been the Stipend, however due to the Pastor moving on the Stipend was given up. Regular ministry was continued through visiting preachers, and so there has been an introduction of a Visiting Preachers Fund. Other large costs in the General Fund are for utilities (gas, electric, water, and a contribution for the use of the broadband), and church insurance, including employers' liability, public and products liability, and trustees' indemnity.

We base the budget for the general fund on the previous year's giving plus other expected incomes. The budget outlines a weekly offering (tithe) target, which is agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of all the Members of the Church. The budget presented is designed by the Deacons, who are also the Trustees of the Church. The members have opportunity to review the budget prior to the Annual General Meeting, and to ask questions before, during, and after the meeting. In the AGM for 2025 the budget was agreed unanimously. This set our average weekly offering target for £200 in 2025.

The church recognises the financial strains within society in general, but we trust the LORD to provide. Therefore, we continue to uplift our needs before the LORD and may we be good stewards of what God has entrusted us.

Pastoral Grants

As a small church we are grateful for support given by grant makers to help pay the costs of our Pastor, we see this as God's gracious providential provision for us. We are particularly grateful for the James Tilden Trust who have helped us support our Pastor with his Stipend for a number of years. In 2024 a grant of £10,000 was received from the James Tilden Trust for our Pastor in 2025. Due to our Pastor's stepping down and relocation no new grant was applied for this year.

Our Pastor also works as the Secretary for Truth in Science, and as such receives monetary remuneration into the Chapel account each quarter of £2,500, from which the Pastor may draw at any time. We account for this therefore as a restricted fund under the Pastoral Grants.

Building Grants

We are also grateful for the James Tilden Trust providing historic grants for work to be carried out at the Chapel. When included with a number of small amounts left from previous projects it was deemed more coherent and best to consolidate these grants with the Major Projects Fund, as the grants and funds cover the same work. There were no new grants applied for in 2025.

Designated Funds

Missionary

Each year we agree to an amount to provide for our Missionaries sent out for God's service to the Bulacan region of the Philippines. Our Missionaries were sent out in 2022, and we agreed a budget of £83.33 each month for the first six months of 2025. Support and care of our missionaries was transferred to another church who have more capacity and resources. We transfer money for their from the General Fund to the Missionary Fund at the start of each year.

Minibus

We hold a Designated Fund for the running of the Minibus. There was a significant cost to fix the minibus with a part that took some time to acquire. Use of minibus in 2025 was minimal. The primary purpose of the minibus is to assist in the running of ministries, notably in taxiing young people for the Youth Club ministry, and any Youth Club camps, and is an asset for gatherings of the church members during recreational activities, or for external meetings, as the needs may arise. The minibus has reached the end of use for Grace Chapel, and we intend to sell it in 2026.

Major Projects

It was agreed at a meeting of the members that any Gift Aid reclaims will be added to the most appropriate funds at the time of claiming, which will be discussed and agreed by the Deacons. Funds which will receive Gift Aid reclaims include the Visiting Preachers Fund, The Major Projects Fund, and other larger expenses within the General Fund. The use of this income is closely monitored and agreed by the Deacons. Three Gift Aid amounts were reclaimed within the period covered by this report, first covering the 6th April 2024 to 5th April 2025, the remaining two covering 19th June 2024 to 3rd November 2025. We are awaiting further collection through the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme, and will make further claims in 2026 to increase this funds as noted above.

Reserves Policy

It is considered good practice to hold around six months of general expenses as a reserve fund. Based on the 2024-25 expenditure this would amount to around £5,600 from the General Fund. The Church endeavours to keep the general funds in a healthy financial position, and will top up from the Major Projects Fund as the case may require.

Charity Commission

Grace Independent Baptist Church Church is a registered charity with the Charity Commission. There is a requirement to upload financial information with the Annual Report to the Charity Commission website each year. Our charity number is 1200337.

Finance Personnel

The Church appoints the Diaconate as a whole to work as the Treasurer, with Joshua Oliver having oversight, and carrying out the day to day runnings of the financial matters. The Church has a Bank Mandate which confirms the signatories to the accounts.

2026

Having been able to meet our financial needs since the formation of the CIO we now look to the expected financial position of 2026. We base the budget on the previous years giving plus other expected incomes. In 2025 we saw unexpected changes and fell below our weekly tithe target of £250. As we work on free will offerings the amount we fell below sits in misjudging how much income would be achievable week by week from church members and those in regular attendance, or visiting. We have reduced our ministries and expenses practicably, whilst maintaining necessities. With this in mind we have set a budget for 2026 more in line with what was observed in 2025, this being £10,400 for the year. This requires an average weekly offering of £200 per week.

Our particular aims for 2026 will be maintaining the building, and the Sunday ministry. We hope to further our income by selling of the Minibus and other assets we have no need of.

We make known to those regularly attending that those who are tax payers can increase giving without further costs to themselves by signing a Gift Aid Declaration Form, and making their gifts identifiable with their name or given Gift Aid number (which is provided by the Treasury Overseer). On top of our offertory box are small brown envelopes, donations places in these envelopes are noted as those eligible to claim back in line with the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, this is made known by a notice on the offertory box. Please do advise the Treasury Overseer if any gifts are given for a purpose other than the General Fund.

Joshua Oliver
Deacon with Treasury Oversight
Grace Independent Baptist Church (Folkestone)

Accounts 1st January to 31st December 2025						Accounts 1st Jan. 24 to 31st Dec. 24
Receipts	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2025	01.01.24 - 31.12.24
Offering		9,504.56			**9,504.56**	**13,876.99**
Utilities	A1	1,992.74			**1,992.74**	**14.00**
Services					**0.00**	**14.00**
Rental					**0.00**	**100.00**
Gift Aid Recoverable	A2	775.00	3,593.00		**4,368.00**	**4,889.04**
Grants receivable	A3			15,250.00	**15,250.00**	**28,389.03**
Total receipts		**12,272.30**	**3,593.00**	**15,250.00**	**31,115.30**	**47,269.06**

Payments	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2025	01.01.24 - 31.12.24
Stipend	A4	3,750.02		24,262.50	**28,012.52**	**25,726.21**
Utilities		5,478.53			**5,478.53**	**5,103.20**
Insurance	A5	2,909.65			**2,909.65**	**5,941.48**
Speaker fees	A6		1,950.00		**1,950.00**	**69.63**
Ministries					**0.00**	**403.92**
Miscellaneous			549.87		**549.87**	**256.92**
Maintenance			1,441.92		**1,441.92**	**12,887.23**
Manse				5,750.00	**5,750.00**	**6,159.40**
Vehicles				1,700.51	**1,700.51**	**1,962.59**
Grants payable	B1		583.31		**583.31**	**1,575.33**
Total payments		**12,138.20**	**4,525.10**	**31,713.01**	**48,376.31**	**60,085.91**
Net receipts/(payments)		**134.10**	**(932.10)**	**(16,463.01)**	**(17,261.01)**	**(12,816.85)**

Grace Independent Baptist Church (Folkestone) Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025											
Assets 2025	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated funds				Restricted funds				Total
		General	Vehicles	Missionary	Major Projects	Visiting Speakers	Grants Pastoral		Grants Building		
	C1						Tilden Trust	Truth in Science	Chapel	Manse	
Balance at 1st Jan. 2025		3,998.46	4,794.28		5,950.55		9,000.50	2,512.00		3,250.00	**29,505.79**
Bank C/F		**3,549.25**			**7,551.76**	**1,143.77**					**12,244.78**
Vehicles	C2										**6,995.00**
Buildings	C3										**1,500,000.00**

Liabilities 2025 (Funds)	Notes	General	Vehicles	Missionary	Major Projects	Visiting Speakers	Grants Pastoral		Grants Building		Total
							Tilden Trust	Truth in Science	Chapel	Manse	
Balance at 1st Jan. 2025		3,998.46	4,794.28		5,950.55		9,000.50	2,512.00		3,250.00	**29,505.79**
Income		12,272.30			3,593.00		1,500.00	11,250.00		2,500.00	**31,115.30**
Expenditure		(12,138.20)	(1,700.51)	(583.31)	(1,991.79)	(1,950.00)	(10,500.50)	(13,762.00)		(5,750.00)	**(48,376.31)**
Result		134.10	(1,700.51)	(583.31)	1,601.21	(1,950.00)	(9,000.50)	(2,512.00)		(3,250.00)	**(17,261.01)**
Transfers	C4	(583.31)	(3,093.77)	583.31		3,093.77					**0.00**
C/F		**3,549.25**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**7,551.76**	**1,143.77**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**12,244.78**

Notes

A1. *Utilities* - return of money collected by Direct Debit which was a water leak external to the property, giving appearance of higher use than was actual.

A2. *Gift Aid Recoverable* - claimed on gifts received from the 6th April 2024 to 3rd November 2025.

A3. *Grants Receivable* - from the Tilden Trust (return of amount given in advance £1,500), from the Stewardship Trust for Pastor's Stipend (£11,250), and for the Manse (£2,500).

A4. *Stipend* - from the General Fund and from the Restricted Funds, of which the latter was from two Grants Received (see Note A3).

A5. *Insurance* - following negotiation, and change in circumstances a lower insurance premium was achieved this year.

A6. *Speaker fees* - transfers of funds originally designated for the minibus now designated for visiting preachers meant speaker fees were covered from funds outside of the general fund for 2025. Due to the Pastor's resignation visiting preacher fees rose as compared to previous years.

*B*1. *Grants payable* - £583.31 agreed upon to send in support of our missionaries, under designated.

C1. Grants Pastoral is made up of two grants given, The James Tilden Trust, and Truth in Science. Truth in Science pays the Pastor for work carried out on their behalf, from which the Pastor may draw at any time. The Manse fund is from The Stewardship Trust.

C2. The Church owns one minibus.

C3. The Church purchased the site on Grace Hill in 1993, which was held by the Particular Baptist Trust Corporation, who were trustees of the church until the formation of the CIO, at which point the asset was made over to the charity.

C4. Transfer of £3,093.77 from *Minibus Fund* to *Visiting Preachers* designated fund as a redistribution of funds received under authorisation to apply funds to a more immediate need, and due to the desired sale of the minibus.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees (Charity name) GRACE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2025 **Charity no (if any)** 1200337

Set out on pages 8 AND 9 (Insert number of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended .

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 Trust'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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 05/10/2026

Name: MICHAEL SAMBAR

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body ICAEW FCA

(if any):	
Address:	42 KEW COURT, RICHMOND ROAD
	KINGSTON UPON THAMES KT2 5BF

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE