Charity registration number: 1204759

Grace Baptist Church, Southport

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

http://gracebaptist.org.uk/

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Trustees:	Zelda Bentham Maciek Stolarski David Sutton
Treasurer:	Bill Harrison
Charity number:	1204759
Charity Address:	40 Market Street Southport PR8 1HJ
Charity Website:	http://gracebaptist.org.uk/
Independent Examiners:	O J Grills FCA J A Fell & Co 40 Hoghton Street Southport PR9 0PQ
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank 23 London Street Southport PR9 0UX

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', issued October 2019 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation was a Charitable Trust which was registered on 22 July 2009 with the Charity Commission (previously excepted registration). It was governed by its Constitution adopted on 10 June 2009 as amended 26 September 2009 and 24 March 2010. The charity incorporated into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 18 September 2023 and transferred the assets from the old trust on 1 October 2024. It is now governed by its Foundation Constitution dated 18 September 2023.

Recruitment and appointment of the trustees

The board seeks to achieve a balance of skills and experience amongst the trustees. In order to maintain this, the board reviews its skill and experience mix each year and seeks to recruit new trustees when necessary who are voted in by a majority vote of the church membership.

In appointing trustees due consideration is given to ensuring that the trustees have, between them, the skills and experience necessary to manage the charity effectively and in accordance with charity law.

Normally, the Elders and Deacons form the Charity Trustees. Since February 2022 the charity had no Elders and only one Deacon, until his resignation in September 2022. Temporary Trustees were appointed to serve until the constitutional provision of Elders and Deacons are satisfactorily established to meet the requirements of the Charities Commission.

Trustee induction and training

The current board of trustees will provide any new trustee with an overview of the timetable of board meetings, copies of the recent minutes of meetings, the recent reports and accounts and explains their general and specific responsibilities.

Ongoing training is provided by the board of trustees as and when the need arises.

Risk management

The trustees are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed to and have plans in place to mitigate these as far as possible. These issues included financial controls, health and safety and safeguarding.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects of the charity

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The principal object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Baptist principles and in accordance with the Basis of Faith. The charity may also carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world but in practice operates almost entirely in the local community.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

When planning our activities for the year, we consider the public benefit and, in particular, the advancement of true religion. We preach the truths of Scripture to challenge and help ordinary people to come to a personal knowledge of and trust in Jesus, and live out their faith through worship, prayer and learning about the Bible.

This is also supported through practical pastoral care and support for members and others in the local area, particularly those attending the regular services.

Grace Baptist Church is committed to encouraging as many people as possible to worship with us and to become part of our community of faith. We provide activities for all age groups, both on Sundays and on week days. These include Bible teaching as well as craft and other more energetic activities. Each week Southport Foodpantry (run in co-operation with Compassion Acts Ltd) uses our premises to supply food to those in longer term need of practical support.

Examples of our outreach activities are separate ladies and men's meeting, childrens / youth activities and toddler groups. We offer open invitations to events such as barbeques, coffee mornings, craft evenings and walks in the countryside.

The church runs and maintains its own minibus, which provides transport for the elderly and disabled to church meetings on a weekly basis and transporting the youth to activities and Christian summer camps. The minibus is equipped with a tail lift and has space for wheelchairs.

The church relies extensively on the generous support of volunteers who deliver a substantial part of the programme. This includes those who lead and support the various youth activities; transport the older church members; teach English; lead craft activities; provide food for the hungry; help older and sick friends; clean and maintain the buildings; and carry out administrative and financial work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The major source of income for the charity has come from donations from the church congregation to whom the church are very grateful as it supports the charity in accomplishing its objectives more effectively.

Reserves policy

The Charity's policy on reserves is to generate and maintain a balance which is sufficient:

- to preserve the financial viability of the Charity in the event that unforeseen and/or unavoidable circumstance precipitate a short-term fall in its income; and
- to enable the Charity, in the interests of meeting its objectives, to undertake from time to time the setting up of new and innovative projects on a pilot basis to demonstrate the viability and potential benefits of such activities as a precursor to securing the external funding necessary to maintain such projects on an on-going basis.

For these purposes the Charity will endeavour to generate and maintain reserves which would equate to at least 3 months expenditure.

As at 31 December 2025, 3 months unrestricted costs was calculated to be about £43,000, whilst the amount held in unrestricted reserves was £59,204. The trustees appreciate that this level is slightly in excess of what is immediately needed but is deemed appropriate for the time being as the trustees consider how to best apply the funding to further achieve its charitable objectives and have planned spending for 2026 which will utilise some of the reserves.

Remuneration of Trustees

All trustees act in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration or other material benefits from their services to the Charity.

Out-of-pocket expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by trustees in promoting the purposes of the Charity are reimbursed at cost.

Financial review of the year

In the year to 31 December 2025 income of £164,063 was received (2024 - £164,470). Expenditure during the year totalled £192,519 (2024 - £206,962) which generated a deficit for the year of -£28,456 (2024 - £42,492). Part of this deficit arose from committing funds to projects to maintain and improve buildings. This was taken from the Legacy Fund (see below).

For clarity, whilst the charity receives the benefit of being able to use the property from which it operates to fulfil its charitable objectives, the property asset is held in a separate trust which is why no amount is included in these accounts for this asset.

In the past the trustees agreed to review the designated funds and create a legacy fund and tithe fund to replace all other designated funds brought forward. An explanation of these can be found at note 9 to these accounts.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

General plans

The charity will continue its operations throughout the year, with a view to further its objectives as much as practical.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

a. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

b. observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP;

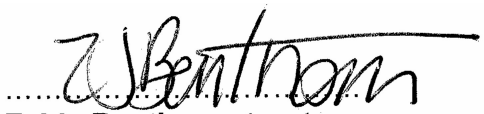
c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

e. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 30 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Zelda Bentham - trustee

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

(i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

(ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and

(iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

OJ Grills FCA (Independent examiner)
for and on behalf of JA Fell and Company
40 Hoghton Street, Southport, PR9 0PQ

Dated: 7 October 2026

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income:					
Donations and gifts	**2**	124,534	20,182	144,716	143,016
Investment income	**2**	10,533	3,095	13,628	18,335
Other income	**2**	5,719	-	5,719	3,119
TOTAL INCOME		140,786	23,277	**164,063**	**164,470**
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	**3**	170,699	20,725	191,424	204,517
Governance	**4**	1,095	-	1,095	2,445
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		171,794	20,725	**192,519**	**206,962**
NET (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		(31,008)	2,552	**(28,456)**	**(42,492)**
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		246,103	61,697	307,800	350,292
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		215,095	64,249	**279,344**	**307,800**

The notes on pages 9 - 13 form part of these financial statements.

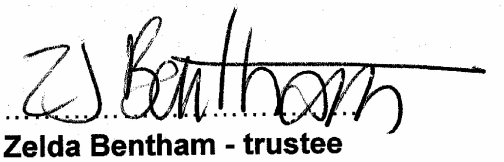
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Tax reclaim due		7,083	6,954
Cash at bank and in hand		273,486	302,878
Prepayments		4,577	4,573
		285,146	314,405
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accruals		3,552	4,345
PAYE owed		2,250	1,949
Other creditors		-	298
Pensions owed		-	13
		5,802	6,605
NET CURRENT ASSETS		279,344	307,800
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**279,344**	**307,800**
FUNDS			
Restricted funds	**10**	64,249	61,697
Designated funds	**9**	188,513	221,240
Unrestricted funds		26,582	24,863
TOTAL FUNDS		**279,344**	**307,800**

Approved and signed on behalf of the board on 30 September 2026 by:



Zelda Bentham - trustee

The notes on pages 9 - 13 form part of these financial statements.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the FRSSE Statement of Recommended Practice (FRSSE SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in March 2015.

b Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements where relevant.

c Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

d Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fund raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management costs. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

e Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including and incidental expenses of acquisition.

2 VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts:				
Donations received	105,457	20,182	**125,639**	116,939
Gift aid recoverable	18,077	-	**18,077**	18,499
Legacies received	1,000	-	**1,000**	7,578
Investment income:				
Bank interest received	9,283	3,095	**12,378**	16,085
Church rental income	1,250	-	**1,250**	2,250
Other income:				
Other income	5,719	-	**5,719**	3,119
	140,786	23,277	**164,063**	**164,470**

3 COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Administration costs:				
Wages and salaries	64,977	-	**64,977**	68,227
Pensions	1,528	-	**1,528**	1,672
Administration	2,284	-	**2,284**	847
Computer, internet and subscriptions	3,909	-	**3,909**	8,991
Minibus and travel	4,281	-	**4,281**	3,921
Printing	2,872	-	**2,872**	785
Other costs	1,185	-	**1,185**	1,328
Property costs:				
Repairs and maintenance	31,553	-	**31,553**	11,238
Cleaning	3,459	-	**3,459**	3,961
Manse repairs and maintenance	3,669	3,049	**6,718**	6,751
Utilities	17,739	-	**17,739**	17,767
Insurance	4,224	-	**4,224**	4,042
Mission costs:				
Grants and donations	17,640	17,676	**35,316**	61,890
Other ministry activities	3,637	-	**3,637**	3,618
Visiting speakers	4,130	-	**4,130**	5,580
Youth work	2,239	-	**2,239**	2,490
Training	446	-	**446**	315
Support costs:				
Bank charges	387	-	**387**	554
Accountancy and bookkeeping	540	-	**540**	540
	170,699	20,725	**191,424**	**204,517**

4 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Independent examination	722	-	**722**	660
Legal fees	373	-	**373**	1,785
	1,095	-	**1,095**	**2,445**

5 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION

No trustee received any remuneration throughout the year.

6 EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the year were:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Number (head count)	2	2

7 EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	63,418	68,227
National insurance	1,559	-
Pension costs - defined contribution	1,528	1,672
	66,505	**69,899**

No employee earned more than £60,000 throughout the year (2024 - none).

8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	220,897	64,249	**285,146**	314,405
Current liabilities	(5,802)	-	**(5,802)**	(6,605)
	215,095	64,249	**279,344**	**307,800**

9 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 25 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Dec 25 £
General funds:	24,863	139,551	(125,538)	(12,294)	26,582
Designated funds:					
Tithe fund:	16,147	235	(13,020)	12,394	15,756
Legacy fund:					
A (General fund deficit)	38,334	-	(5,712)	-	32,622
B (Capital projects)	104,859	1,000	(24,524)	(100)	81,235
C (Relief/urgencies)	33,900	-	-	-	33,900
D (Committed)	28,000	-	(3,000)	-	25,000
	205,093	1,000	(33,236)	(100)	172,757
	246,103	**140,786**	**(171,794)**	**-**	**215,095**

In past years the trustees reviewed legacies that the church had received and allocated those to a new designated legacy fund, which was subsequently split into 4 parts as described above. The purpose of these designated funds is to separate those generous gifts for special and specific projects rather than be swept up into the general day to day running of the church.

At the same time, a designated tithe fund was also created and 10% of the designated legacy fund was transferred into it as a starting balance. The designated tithe fund is setup as a mechanism to set to one side 10% of all unrestricted income the church receives each year so that its regular giving can be better monitored and taken from that designated fund.

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 25 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance at 31 Dec 25 £
Bryan Scholes pastor training	55,974	3,095	-	**59,069**
Manse repairs	3,049	-	(3,049)	**-**
Mission: -				
Christmas card scheme	238	45	(238)	**45**
Madeira member gifts	-	2,500	(2,500)	**-**
Myanmar member gifts	2,000	10,893	(10,968)	**1,925**
Netherlands member gifts	-	1,250	(1,250)	**-**
Pakistan member gifts	425	-	-	**425**
Peru member gifts	11	1,220	-	**1,231**
Roxy Green member gifts	-	845	-	**845**
Sundry other member gifts	-	2,095	(2,095)	**-**
GBM general support	-	709	-	**709**
Blytheswood Christmas Boxes	-	625	(625)	**-**
	61,697	23,277	(20,725)	**64,249**

Restricted funds represent donations and legacies from church members for specific missional giving as described above.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	General Fund 2025 £	Tithe Fund 2025 £	Legacy Fund 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
INCOME					
Donations and gifts:					
Donations received	94,735	10,722	-	20,182	**125,639**
Gift aid recoverable	16,270	1,807	-	-	**18,077**
Legacies received	-	100	900	-	**1,000**
Investment income:					
Bank interest received	9,283	-	-	3,095	**12,378**
Church rental income	1,250	-	-	-	**1,250**
Other income:					
Other income	5,719	-	-	-	**5,719**
	127,257	12,629	900	23,277	**164,063**
EXPENDITURE					
Administration costs:					
Wages and salaries	59,265	-	5,712	-	**64,977**
Pensions	1,528	-	-	-	**1,528**
Administration	2,284	-	-	-	**2,284**
Computer, internet and subscriptions	3,909	-	-	-	**3,909**
Minibus and travel	4,281	-	-	-	**4,281**
Printing	2,872	-	-	-	**2,872**
Other costs	1,185	-	-	-	**1,185**
Property costs:					
Repairs and maintenance	7,029	-	24,524	-	**31,553**
Cleaning	3,459	-	-	-	**3,459**
Manse repairs and maintenance	3,669	-	-	3,049	**6,718**
Utilities	17,739	-	-	-	**17,739**
Insurance	4,224	-	-	-	**4,224**
Mission costs:					
Grants and donations	1,620	13,020	3,000	17,676	**35,316**
Other ministry activities	3,637	-	-	-	**3,637**
Visiting speakers	4,130	-	-	-	**4,130**
Youth work	2,239	-	-	-	**2,239**
Training	446	-	-	-	**446**
Support costs:					
Bank charges	387	-	-	-	**387**
Accountancy and bookkeeping	540	-	-	-	**540**
Governance costs:					
Independent examination	722	-	-	-	**722**
Legal fees	373	-	-	-	**373**
	125,538	13,020	33,236	20,725	**192,519**
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	1,719	(391)	(32,336)	2,552	**(28,456)**
Starting balance	24,863	16,147	205,093	61,697	**307,800**
Closing balance	**26,582**	**15,756**	**172,757**	**64,249**	**279,344**

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHPORT

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	General Fund 2024 £	Tithe Fund 2024 £	Legacy Fund 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME					
Donations and gifts:					
Donations received	75,983	8,925	-	32,031	**116,939**
Gift aid recoverable	16,649	1,850	-	-	**18,499**
Legacies received	-	758	6,820	-	**7,578**
Investment income:					
Bank interest received	11,750	-	-	4,335	**16,085**
Church rental income	2,250	-	-	-	**2,250**
Other income:					
Other income	3,119	-	-	-	**3,119**
	109,751	11,533	6,820	36,366	**164,470**
EXPENDITURE					
Administration costs:					
Wages and salaries	56,561	-	11,666	-	**68,227**
Pensions	1,672	-	-	-	**1,672**
Administration	847	-	-	-	**847**
Computer, internet and subscriptions	8,991	-	-	-	**8,991**
Minibus and travel	3,921	-	-	-	**3,921**
Printing	785	-	-	-	**785**
Other costs	1,239	-	-	89	**1,328**
Property costs:					
Repairs and maintenance	2,648	-	6,090	2,500	**11,238**
Cleaning	3,961	-	-	-	**3,961**
Manse repairs and maintenance	585	-	-	6,166	**6,751**
Utilities	17,767	-	-	-	**17,767**
Insurance	4,042	-	-	-	**4,042**
Mission costs:					
Grants and donations	-	21,000	13,000	27,890	**61,890**
Other ministry activities	3,618	-	-	-	**3,618**
Visiting speakers	5,580	-	-	-	**5,580**
Youth work	2,490	-	-	-	**2,490**
Training	315	-	-	-	**315**
Support costs:					
Bank charges	554	-	-	-	**554**
Accountancy and bookkeeping	540	-	-	-	**540**
Governance costs:					
Independent examination	660	-	-	-	**660**
Legal fees	285	-	1,500	-	**1,785**
	117,061	21,000	32,256	36,645	**206,962**
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	(7,310)	(9,467)	(25,436)	(279)	**(42,492)**
Starting balance	32,173	25,614	230,529	61,976	**350,292**
Closing balance	**24,863**	**16,147**	**205,093**	**61,697**	**307,800**