Registered Charity No. 1208186

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name	Bethesda Baptist Church, Ipswich
Other names charity is known by	Bethesda Baptist Church
Registered charity number	1208186
Principal address	9 St Margaret's Plain Ipswich IP4 2BB
Trustees	Sheila Aldous Stephen Andrews (Chair) Paul Armstrong (Treasurer) Guy Fairweather (Ministry Team) Linda Green Terence Mann Paul Law (Ministry Team) Prasanna Banna Barry Palmer
Independent Examiners	Larking Gowen LLP Unit 1, Claydon Business Park Great Blakenham, IP6 0NL
Property Trustee	The Fellowship Property Trust 41 The Point Market Harborough, LE16 7QU
Bankers	Barclays plc 1 Princes Street Ipswich, IP1 1PN

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees confirm that the annual report and the financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2019.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was established on 9 May 2024 but did not become operational until 2025. On 6th October 2025, the activities, assets and liabilities of the existing charity were transferred to the CIO, enabling Bethesda's charitable work to continue through a new legal structure rather than creating a new and unrelated organisation. As the transfer represented a continuation of the same charitable activities and operations, the Trustees have prepared these financial statements using merger accounting, presenting the results and financial position as though the two entities had always operated as a single reporting entity.

Structure, governance and management

Governance

The Charity was governed by the Constitution adopted 27 April 2009; Church Rules adopted 13 July 2009, the Trust Deed of the Church building dated 3 April 1834, amended by Resolutions dated 7 February 2011 and 13 December 2011; and Indenture dated 10 February 1912 up until 6th October 2025 when the activities and liabilities were transferred to the new CIO governance continues to be controlled by the Trustees who have all moved across to be Trustees of the new CIO.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The Fellowship Property Trust, as its property trustee, under a Trust which is entirely compatible with the above object. The properties are being transferred to the new CIO during 2026.

During 2025 we completed work of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and Bethesda Baptist Church CIO was registered with the Charity Commission on 9th May 2024. Whilst the CIO is not yet fully operational as we await the final transfer of assets to the new CIO. The CIO is operational in all other aspects. The charity CIO is now fully operational during 2026. And the assets are now in the charities control. The assets are the Church buildings, church offices at 9a St Margarets Plain, a manse at 65 Cheltenham Avenue, Ipswich and a further PDH at 102 Epsom Drive Ipswich.

Trustees

The Managing Trustees of the charity are the Minister of the Church (appointed by the Church Meeting for an unspecified period), the Church Secretary, Treasurer and deacons of the church, some of whom may form part of the Ministry Team, (appointed by the Church Meeting for a period of four years).

The trustees usually meet, either in person or online, 11 times a year to review operations, the financial position and other developments, to ensure the Church's objectives are being fulfilled.

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The deacons and Minister as trustees have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Church's work and witness, as well as the practical and legal aspects of the Charity. The trustees, who are deacons of the Church, will already have been integrated into the life of the Church before being nominated, and they receive on the job training by attending Deacons' Meetings. They are also provided with material on trustee responsibilities produced by the Charity Commission.

Membership

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be, or to have been, baptised on profession of faith in Jesus Christ. The total membership at the end of 2025 was 69. There are many people connected with the Church who do not form part of the membership figure.

Church Meeting

A Church Members' Meeting would normally take place three times per year to review the activities of the Church and make key decisions on strategy and finance, presented by the deacons, as well as approving key appointments. Matters may be raised by members for further consideration by the trustees.

Everyone attending the Church is encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the financial risks faced by the Church. A review of areas of risk is undertaken by the trustees in conjunction with staff and volunteers. We maintain a simple Risk Register, which identifies the major risks to the continuing mission of the Church within the community.

An annual budget of income and expenditure is usually presented to the Church Meeting at the start of each year. Performance is then measured against budget on a monthly basis, with reconciliation of the main Church bank account forming part of this process. We rely on the generous and sacrificial giving of Church Members and the wider congregation to enable our ministries within the community. As a charity, we also benefit from tax relief provided by the Gift Aid Scheme, and this greatly helps enhance the ministries of the Church.

All major insurable risks are subject to church and employer's insurance.

The Church operates a system to ensure that appropriate Disclosure & Barring Service checks are carried out for adults working with children. We provide Safeguarding training for all people (whether church members or not) who are involved in our work with children, as well as providing training on using social media responsibly.

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Objectives and activities

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles outlined in its Basis of Faith. The Church may also carry out other general charitable purposes that will further the work of the Church primarily, but not exclusively, within Ipswich and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year the Trustees have in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities in relation to the advancement of religion.

In seeking to achieve the principal objective set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. Our aim is to be active in sharing the good news of Jesus both by word and by action that many may come to faith in Him; to grow the Church in its likeness to Jesus; and to impact the community in Ipswich and beyond with the love of Jesus. As well as looking to serve the local community, Bethesda supports a range of missionary and outreach activity in other parts of the UK and in other countries.

Sunday Worship

It has been encouraging to see some increase in numbers attending with a typical Sunday having 90 – 120 present. Pre-service prayer times are valuable and more people are meeting in The Key after the service for refreshments and fellowship. Occasional Sunday evening meetings have been arranged with a more informal format.

Recognising that a number of people with health problems or who are elderly can no longer attend in person, the live streaming of services has continued. A recording of the service is also available on DVD, or through the church website. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of either the latest or any previous services are free to do so.

The opportunity to meet corporately for worship and prayer provides times to hear and learn about the Gospel and to develop a knowledge and faith in the Lord Jesus. We continue to uphold the importance of the Bible and of preaching in helping equip us to serve Christ in our world today.

Church services and other events are advertised on the Church notice boards, in the weekly news sheet, through leaflet distribution, and on the website at www.bethesdaipswich.com. The morning service will usually include a short children's item before the youngsters leave for their own dedicated programme. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of the services.

House Groups

House groups provide the opportunity for small groups to come together fortnightly for times of Bible study and prayer. These times together are an encouragement to continue in the faith, to grow in love and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and to support and encourage one another

through the various challenges that come our way. We owe a real debt of gratitude to those that give freely of their time to lead these groups.

Other Activities

In addition to Sunday services other regular activities of the Church would normally include:

For children and young people:
Crèche, Sunday School, Parent and Toddlers.

For adults:
Monday Fellowship, House Groups, Prayer Meetings, Carpet Bowls, Finishing Time and Open Table discussions for those wishing to explore the Christian faith.

Alongside the above, ad-hoc activities during the year such as walks, give people opportunity to introduce friends of all ages to things that are happening at church. We have also introduced pre service refreshments on some Sundays.

There was a well-received 'wreath making' event for ladies in the lead up to Christmas.

Use of Premises by The Wider Community

Alongside the regular activities of the Church, whenever circumstances allow, there are occasions when people from the local community are able to make use of the Church premises.

Global Mission

Throughout 2024 Bethesda continued to support the work of different mission partners in various countries around the world, as well as several individuals and causes based in the UK. Mission Council administers the general mission giving of the Church, as well as ensuring that any restricted gifts given for the support of a particular ministry are used for that purpose. They provide regular mission updates for the weekly news sheet, arrange visits or video messages from mission partners, and provide prayer pointers for both personal and public prayer times.

The range of mission work undertaken by those supported includes bible translation, evangelism, school chaplaincy, the provision of support services, distribution of Christian literature, training, and support ministries among the poor. The financial support provided from the Church comes from a fixed percentage of the weekly offerings received plus other direct gifts.

During the year, around 20 individuals, couples or organisations received support at differing levels dependent on an assessment of their needs (location, family and working requirements), other support that they receive, and the Church's ability to fund them. The situations of those we support are reviewed regularly and revised appropriately as funds allow.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is another important aspect of Bethesda's ministry. The Pastoral Care Team regularly reviews the needs of those associated with the Church who are elderly, shut in, hospitalised, bereaved, or experiencing difficult times. They seek to ensure that regular contact is maintained with those in need and that practical help or support is offered as appropriate. The Church provides live streaming or DVDs of Sunday services to help those, such as residents of

Bethesda Eventide Homes, who are not able to attend worship services to keep in touch with what is happening at Bethesda, and also makes the ministry series publicly available through the Church website. With an increasing number of the elderly, every individual in the church is encouraged to do what they can to care for others.

Grant Making Policy

In accordance with its mission objectives the Church makes grants to both UK and international missions to help further their work.

Support of Other Work

The Church supports a variety of ministries and charitable organisations, whether by providing pastoral support, encouraging members to pray, or through provision of monetary gifts.

Bethesda has a long-established link with Families in Need (FIND), a charity offering a lifeline to those who are experiencing poverty and despair and who are in need of food parcels and personal care items. Special gifts are usually arranged for Harvest and Christmas.

Having supported the provision of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) services since 2021, Bethesda along with other local churches continues to support this project. This includes help with debt management, life skills and job searches. Several from within the church have pledged regular financial support for this initiative.

The church is pleased to maintain links with Ipswich Christian Youth Ministries (CYM) which has been operating since 1983 and provides a valuable ministry to young people in Ipswich and the surrounding area.

The Church continued to support the work of another UK Registered charity, **a little bit of HOPE,** which seeks to raise awareness and funds in the UK to fund locally led, grass-roots development projects in the Butaleja district of Uganda. Focusing effort on the poorest of the poor, the charity endeavours to promote sustainability rather than dependency through education programmes covering issues such as health, water and sanitation, and business innovation. They also provide practical help to vulnerable widows and households.

The Church maintains a focus on wider world needs through donations to Tear Fund and other charities working to alleviate the hardships experienced by refugees and persecuted Christians.

This year it was agreed that we should also support Open Doors who work in many parts of the world where Christians experience real persecution.

Some Bethesda members are actively involved in Town Pastors, a voluntary, independent, inter-denominational church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets of Ipswich to care and listen to them and make sure that they are safe while they are out at night.

Bethesda Eventide Homes

Founded in 1965, Bethesda Eventide Homes was established as a separate Charity by members of the Church to provide high quality residential accommodation for the elderly. Several Church members assist the Homes in a voluntary capacity. From time to time the Church will provide financial support for specific projects being undertaken by the Homes.

Bethesda Community Charitable Trust

The Church also has a very close association with Bethesda Community Charitable Trust, which has operated from nearby premises, known as "The Key", since 1999. This converted former public house is now a Christian based centre of activity in the heart of Ipswich. The Church provides volunteers for several of the activities that take place at The Key.

Volunteers

The ongoing ministry of the Church relies heavily on the work of volunteers. In 2025 we employed just 3 staff, including a Revitalisation Pastor who was employed on a short-term contract to help the church in a revitalisation initiative. The short term contract for the Revitalisation Pastor concluded in August 2025. As well as paid staff, we benefit from the involvement of many volunteers in the different ministries of the Church in areas such as Leadership, Children's and Young People's Work, Finance and Administration, Pastoral Care, Maintenance, Visitation and Ministry.

Achievements and performance

Throughout the year we continued to look at how the ministry of the church could be revitalised since we know that a continual decline in those in membership would ultimately lead to the closure of the church. In particular, consideration was given in how to attract back those who no longer attend and whether we could obtain help from other like-minded churches. Whilst there has been some encouragement in new people coming to the church, the challenge as to where the next generation of leaders will come from remains, and we continue to assess what is practical for the church to provide to make effective use of resources and give the most benefit to those participating in the various activities. The appointment of a new pastor who will start in October 2026 will help in our revitalisation goals.

Sunday Worship
We are so grateful to God for the preaching and teaching ministry that has been enjoyed over the past year. Two thirds of the Sunday services were the responsibility of our Revitalisation Lead, together with ministry team members Guy Fairweather and Paul Law. A number of visiting speakers have also invited whilst we sought our new Pastor. The preaching programme for the year comprised a mix of expository and thematic teaching, as well as themes around the Christian calendar. Care is always taken to ensure that services are accessible for all age groups, both for Christians and those that may be exploring the Christian faith.

On three Sundays following the morning service, a church meal was enjoyed together. We have also introduced pre service refreshments on some Sundays.

We continued to arrange occasional evening meetings that included times for prayer, worship and communion. These have been held in The Key with a more informal format with around 25 - 30 people attending.

Monday Fellowship
Monday Fellowship have met regularly throughout the year, giving people the opportunity to meet together for Bible teaching and fellowship in the context of a more traditional worship style.

Parents and Toddlers
There continues to be a demand for the Tuesday Parents and Toddlers group that gives those from the local community the chance to interact with others in the safe, caring and friendly environment created for them. In addition to providing for the children, it is a good opportunity to talk to parents and carers, many of whom have no other connection with the church.

Open Table
Opportunity has been given to help those wishing to explore the Christian faith to do so in a relaxed and non-threatening way. Those attending included some who have been part of the church family for years as well as those with no church connections at all.

Prayer
Recognising the importance of both personal and corporate prayer, the church family is encouraged to pray through the provision of a regular weekly prayer diary, daily prayer pointer tweets, and prayer chain messages that make known urgent personal needs that arise.

Home groups meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, while a meeting specifically for prayer takes place in The Key on the second Tuesday. There is also the opportunity to meet together in The Key during the day to pray on the fourth Thursday of each month. Pre-service prayer times occur on Sunday mornings.

These times set aside to pray cover the needs of individuals known to the Church; the ministries exercised and supported by the Church; as well as other local, national and international needs. On various occasions during the year Mission Societies or individuals supported by the Church are invited to provide an update of their activity and outline their current prayer needs.

The challenge to get more people to participate in corporate prayer remains as great as ever.

Children and Young People
With the current numbers of children and young families associated with the church fairly small, the challenge remains to reach out to more children and young people so that they can hear of the Christian faith.

Throughout the year, we have been able to care for and teach young people in age-appropriate groups on Sundays. We started a Sunday School group for those aged 11+ during this year.

There is still a desire to re-establish a midweek activity for young people.

Other Community Involvement

We were pleased that we were again able to be involved with Ipswich Music Day and Heritage Weekend.

Future Plans - Development

Planning permission for the potential development of our older East Side buildings and some changes to the church building was initially granted in November 2018. The need to address issues of accessibility, safeguarding and connectivity had been recognised, alongside a desire for some more contemporary facilities to aid both current and future ministries.

The scale of the works, coupled with the impact of Listed Building constraints had already combined to make the project too expensive. Whilst a subsequent reduced scheme was also approved, increased costs particularly seen as a result of the COVID outbreak, unfortunately made this impossible too.

There is still the belief that God will ultimately lead and direct us to a scheme that will enable ministries to be enhanced within the resources available. Consideration is now being given to a phased approach with a significant first phase being to enhance the west side of the building to provide many of the benefits originally hoped for.

Work on the Development on the West side of the church has been approved and will proceed in 2026.

Future Plans - Ministry

Pastor Andrew Docherty retired from ministry June 2023 and since then we have continued to look to God to lead and guide us to a new pastor to take up that role.

We have recently appointed Kyle Hepburn as our Pastor.

Financial review

The CIO was established on 9 May 2024 and became operational during 2025. Following the transfer of the existing charity's activities, assets and liabilities in October 2025, the financial statements have been prepared using merger accounting. Accordingly, the results for the year and the comparative figures reflect the continuing undertaking on a combined basis, providing a consistent presentation of the charity's activities before and after the legal transfer

As at 31 December 2025 the Church reported net assets of £1,996,996, principally comprising fixed assets of £866,201 and cash balances of £1,116,196. Net current assets show a decrease of £26,130 against 31 December 2024 as expenditure for the year exceeded income.

The assets comprising the land and buildings known as Bethesda Baptist Church are classified as heritage assets under FRS 102 and reported at nil value, as further detailed in accounts notes 1p and 8.

Bethesda receives most of its income from members and friends of the Church. Income in 2025 was £198,070, down £21,567 (10%) on the previous year mainly due to:

- £ 4,093 increase in regular donations and gifts
- £10,468 increase in manse rental income – full year let following retirement of Minister
- £41,960 decrease in Legacy income
- £ 4,582 increase in investment income reflecting increased interest rates

We recognise our continuing dependency on the Lord in this area and are grateful to Him for his provision.

Costs in 2025 were £217,872 an increase of £31,017 (17%) on 2024 expenditure levels, principally due to:

- £20,077 spend increase in staff costs following appointment of Revitalisation Lead
- £ 6,306 increase in cost of light and heat
- £ 7,630 increase in Mission grants due to increased gifts

Reserves Policy

The Church continues to raise most of the funds it needs to finance its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The Church believes these monies should be used to further the work of the Church in the community as soon as is practical, this being consistent with responsible stewardship of the funds and the work of the Church.

General Fund

The Church manages its finances through a General Fund and several restricted funds, established for specific purposes. Members and the wider congregation are encouraged to give to the General Fund so that the Trustees can have flexibility in how Church income is used. Trustees remain responsible to members for how these funds are used and expenditure which exceeds pre-determined spending limits requires members' approval.

The excess of expenditure over income on general Unrestricted Funds, before transfers, was £12,424.

The trustees aim to maintain Operating Cash Reserves of at least six month's expenditure in the Unrestricted Fund, known as the General Fund. For this purpose:

- Operational Cash Reserves includes all bank balances, other than those designated for particular purposes or held separately for restricted funds, such as Mission or Development;
- Annual expenditure is based on the annual budget for the Church that is approved by Church members;
- At 31 December 2025 operating cash reserves totalled £115,742 representing 7.4 months of operating expenses, based on the 2025 budgeted full year Unrestricted cost total of £185,463.

At the end of each financial year the Trustees can decide whether to allocate any surplus funds held in the General Fund. In earlier years the surplus has been transferred to a designated fund:

- either the Fabric Fund, to be used to pay for building repairs and maintenance or improvements to the structure or fixed contents; or
- to a New Worker Fund to be used to support ministry team staffing costs.

At 31 December 2024 the net surplus of income over expenditure was more than our reserves requirement of approximately £92,750. .

Designated Funds

Legacy Fund

Any legacies received by the Church are put into this fund unless they are given for a specific purpose. In 2025 no legacies were received, while some of the existing balance was used to further enhance audio visual equipment. The balance as at 31 December 2025 was £88,462.

Development Fund

A Gift and Pledge period early in 2017 confirmed the Church's support for a project that would enhance several areas of the existing church site. In October 2017 the members voted that £400,000 from the Legacy Fund should be specifically designated as Development funds. A Planning Application for the development was approved by the Local Authority in November 2018. With other restricted gifts and grants received the total in this account currently stands at £806,590.

Fabric Fund

The Bethesda Baptist Church building, built in 1912, is Grade 2 listed. It is maintained at the expense of Church members. Several of the other church halls were also built many years ago. The Church needs to maintain a Reserve to pay for repairs and maintenance of the structure of the buildings, or projects for the improvement of the buildings and fixed contents.

The balance in the Fabric Fund is allowed to accumulate from year to year in recognition that some projects will cost more than the annual allocation. The balance in the fund currently stands at £45,025. The Trustees have decided not to make a transfer to this fund in 2025.

New Worker Fund

We have a designated New Worker Fund which will allow us to support new outreach ministry appointments that fall outside our existing headcount, and which will usually require additional freewill offerings to fund them. The 2024/5 appointment of a Revitalisation Lead saw the balance in the fund at 31 December 2025 fall to £53,349.

Investment Policy

Monies are invested into deposit accounts with recognised financial institutions. Bethesda seeks to obtain the highest possible returns consistent with a cautious attitude to risks and short-term availability of monies.

Remuneration Policy

The pay of the minister and other employees is reviewed annually by a Stewardship Committee in April each year, having regard to changes in the Government recommendations on the Living Wage. Should any subsequent change in the recommended Living Wage necessitate further increases then these are actioned as required.

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees

Signature		
Full Name	**Stephen Peter Andrews**	**Paul Armstrong**
Position	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**

Date: **29th October 2026**

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IPSWICH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bethesda Baptist Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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 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.

Larking Gowen LLP provides bookkeeping services to the Charity. I have applied the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard in delivering this report.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Giles Kerkham FCA DChA
Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Ipswich
IP6 0NL

Date: 29 October 2026

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year Total funds £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	**2**	**110,783**	**24,343**	**32,537**	**167,663**	141,793
Investments	**3**	**5,371**	**10,216**	**4,820**	**20,407**	24,634
		116,154	**34,559**	**37,357**	**188,070**	166,427
Other	**4**	**26,595**	**389**	**0**	**26,984**	31,643
Total income		**142,749**	**34,948**	**37,357**	**215,054**	198,070
Expenditure on:	**5**					
Raising funds		**180**	**0**	**0**	**180**	529
Charitable activities						
Church activities		**148,752**	**29,485**	**40,194**	**218,431**	217,343
Total expenditure		**148,932**	**29,485**	**40,194**	**218,611**	217,872
Net income/(expenditure)		**(6,183)**	**5,463**	**(2,837)**	**(3,557)**	(19,802)
Transfers between funds		**(14,887)**	**-**	**14,887**	**-**	**-**
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	(30,000)
Total movement in funds in year		**(21,070)**	**5,463**	**12,050**	**(3,557)**	**(49,802)**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		**981,943**	**623,238**	**391,815**	**1,996,996**	2,046,798
Total funds carried forward		**960,873**	**628,701**	**403,865**	**1,993,439**	1,996,996

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes the activity of Bethesda Baptist Church (unincorporated charity) up to the merger on 1 September 2025 and the activity of Bethesda Baptist Church CIO thereafter. The comparative figures relate to the unincorporated charity. (Note 1r).

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**7**		**855,833**		866,201
Heritage assets	**8**		**-**		-
Current Assets					
Debtors	**9**	**16,992**		24,878	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,153,182**		1,116,196	
		1,170,174		1,141,074	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	**(32,568)**		(10,279)	
Net current assets			**1,137,606**		1,130,795
Total assets less current liabilities			**1,993,439**		1,996,996
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	**11**		**403,864**		391,815
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**12**		**628,701**		623,238
General funds	**13**		**960,874**		981,943
			1,993,439		1,996,996

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 29th October 2026

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S P Andrews
Trustee

P Armstrong
Trustee

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

b Debtors
Other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount.

c Creditors
Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be measured reliably.

d Financial instruments
The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

e Pensions
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

f Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

g Donations
Donations are accounted for gross when received.

h Gift Aid
Gift Aid is recognised when the incoming resource to which it relates is received.

i Legacies
Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

j Investment Income
Investment Income is included in the financial statements in the year for which it is receivable.

k Resources Expended
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay our resources. Any irrecoverable VAT is included within the related expenditure.

l Fund Raising and Publicity Costs
Except in respect to Redevelopment the Church has not made formal appeals for funds and expenditure on these items is not material.

m Charitable Activities
This expenditure incurred in supporting the charitable objectives of the Church and includes ministry, mission and premises expenses.

n Governance Costs
This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church and the costs shown relate to the independent review and legal fees. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

o Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,200. Fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost or value less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Furniture & Fittings	10% per year	Equipment	15% - 20% per year	IT/AV Kit	25% per year

Manse land and building are included at revalued amounts with revaluations to occur every five years. Depreciation has not been charged on the Manse premises, as in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the original cost price.

Office premises are included at depreciated historical cost.

p Going concern
The trustees have prepared forecasts covering a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Having considered these forecasts, available cash resources and the mitigating actions available, the Trustess fully expect that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

q Heritage assets
The land and buildings comprising Bethesda Baptist Church have been classified as heritage assets. These inalienable and specialised buildings must be held indefinitely in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects, i.e. to maintain the buildings and, through their use, to seek the advancement of the Christian faith.

As reliable cost information is not available and conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient meaning given that certain aspects of the site and its historic significance are irreplaceable, no value is included on the balance sheet in respect of these assets.

r Merger Accounting
On 6 October 2025, Bethesda Baptist Church (registered charity number 1131973), an unincorporated charity, transferred its activities, assets and liabilities to Bethesda Baptist Church CIO (registered charoty number 1208186). The combination has been accounted for using merger accounting in accordance with section 27 of the Charities SORP (FRS102)

Accordingly, the financial statements incorporate the results and financial position of the merging charity as though the entities had always been combined. All activity prior to 6 October 2025 relates to the unincorporated charity, as the CIO had no activity prior to that date. The comparative amounts relate entirely to the unincorporated charity.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations and gifts	110,783	-	11,007	121,790
Development donations	-	-	4,530	4,530
Ministry	-	-	17,000	17,000
Legacies received	-	24,343	-	24,343
	110,783	24,343	32,537	167,663

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	101,221	-	35,248	136,469
Development donations	-	-	5,324	5,324
Legacies received	-	-	-	-
	101,221	-	40,572	141,793

3 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable	5,371	10,216	4,820	20,407

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable	2,303	16,763	5,568	24,634

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Other income	897	389	-	1,286
Manse rental income	25,698	-	-	25,698
	26,595	389	-	26,984

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Other income	1,163	3,632	-	4,795
Manse rental income	26,848	-	-	26,848
	28,011	3,632	-	31,643

5 Total Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other Costs	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cost of Raising Funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	**-**	**-**	**180**	**180**
Charitable activities				
Church Activities undertaken directly	**46,318**	**10,368**	**108,890**	**165,576**
Grants for mission	**-**	**-**	**36,001**	**36,001**
Governance costs	**-**	**-**	**16,854**	**16,854**
	46,318	**10,368**	**161,745**	**218,431**
	46,318	**10,368**	**161,925**	**218,611**

	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other Costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Cost of Raising Funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	**-**	**-**	**529**	**529**
Charitable activities				
Church Activities undertaken directly	**56,153**	**8,668**	**100,188**	**165,009**
Grants for mission	**-**	**-**	**41,143**	**41,143**
Governance costs	**-**	**-**	**11,191**	**11,191**
	56,153	**8,668**	**152,522**	**217,343**
	56,153	**8,668**	**153,051**	**217,872**

Governance costs include provision for payments to the accountants of £4,740 (2024 - £3,744) for independent examination of the 2025 church accounts

Grants made to UK and International missions as described in the Trustees' Report.	2025	2024
	£	£
a little bit of HOPE	2,787	2,795
AET	1,000	1,596
AWM - A&S Hanson	5,582	4,340
AWM - General	-	50
Barnabas Fund	-	561
CYM	3,753	3,466
Elam Ministries	4,276	11,215
FIND	471	304
MAF	-	25
Open Doors	5,940	8,231
Premier	-	250
SIM - A Christian	-	666
SIM - General	1,000	0
SIM - P&C Reid	5,200	4,764
Tearfund - General	399	385
Tearfund - Special Appeal	617	902
TWAM	500	0
TWR - General	4,476	1,593
	36,001	**41,143**

6 Employees

Number of employees

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Ministry	1.0	1.0
Administration	1.0	1.0
Cleaning & Caretaking	1.0	1.0
	3.0	3.0

Staff costs	**2025 £**	2024 £
Wages and salaries	46,318	56,153
	46,318	56,153

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Church Land and buildings £	**Manse Land and buildings £**	**Equipment and fittings £**	**AV/IT equipment**	**Total £**
Cost					
At 1 January 2025	-	840,000	25,423	45,206	910,629
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 DECEMBER 2025	**-**	**840,000**	**25,423**	**45,206**	**910,629**
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	-	-	(25,423)	(19,005)	(44,428)
On Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the period	-	-	-	(10,368)	(10,368)
At 31 DECEMBER 2025	**-**	**-**	**(25,423)**	**(29,373)**	**(54,796)**
Net Book Value					
At 31 DECEMBER 2025	**-**	**840,000**	**-**	**15,833**	**855,833**
At 1 January 2025	-	840,000	-	26,201	866,201

The Manse land and buildings are included at the Trustees estimation of market value of £840,000 based on an external professional valuation given by Pennington Surveyors Ltd in July 2025.

Church land and buildings comprise:
- Bethesda Baptist Church. This is classified and accounted for as a Heritage asset (notes 1q and 8)
- Church offices at 9 St Margaret's Plain. This was included within the site gift to the Church in 1911 and was then valued at £800. This is accounted for at historical cost and is fully depreciated. There is no entry in the table above due to immateriality.

8 Heritage assets

The land and buildings comprising Bethesda Baptist Church have been classified as heritage assets for the purposes of these accounts. These inalienable and specialised buildings must be held indefinitely in direct furtherance of the Charity's charitable objects, i.e. to maintain the buildings and, through their use, to seek the advancement of the Christian faith.

The nature of the land and buildings means that any meaningful and/or conventional valuation of them is not possible, as any approach to such a valuation would lack relevance. Certain aspects of the buildings and their historic significance are irreplaceable. The land and buildings, therefore, appear at nil value on the Charity's balance sheet.

The following information regarding the heritage assets is given to provide an understanding of their nature.
The assets comprise the land and buildings known as Bethesda Baptist Church, Ipswich, within the boundaries of the 1834 trust Deed together with the 1912 indenture and including the Chapel and halls.

The above buildings together with the church offices at 9 St Margaret's Plain are valued for insurance purposes only at a gross reinstatement cost of £8.5 million, based on a valuation as at December 2024 by Ansvar Insurance.

The Charity capitalises expenditure, on removable fittings, computers and equipment. The Charity complies with FRS 102 when determing whether to capitalise subsequent expenditure on the fabric of the building, a Heritage Asset. Therefore expenditure on the general upkeep of the building and any like for like' replacements is expensed.

Fixed asset additions to Heritage Assets in 2025 totalled £ Nil (2024 £ Nil).

Significant spend items within the last five years, expensed because these projects did not fit within the criteria for capitalisation detailed within both FRS102 and the old UK GAAP include roof repairs £14,571, external decoration £42,219, and professional fees totalling £82,638 incurred in drafting and costing different iterations of schemes for a planned redevelopment of the current buildings to improve accessibility, safeguarding, and connectivity to better facilitate the activities provided for the local community. Work continues to design an appropriate scheme within the funds available.

In compliance with the disclosure requirements of FRS 102, costs relating to the fabric of the buildings which have either been capitalised or expensed in the last five years are summarised below.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on heritage assets					
Capital expenditure					
The building's structure	-	-	-	-	-
Other building works and fees	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue expenditure					
Facilities for the public	900	-	3,600	-	61,158
The building's structure	30,101	25,243	744	2,664	1,322
Other building works and fees	3,462	10,277	31,012	7,610	882
	34,463	35,520	35,356	10,274	63,362
	34,463	35,520	35,356	10,274	63,362

9 Debtors	**2025**	2024
	£	£
Gift Aid Accrual	15,852	16,701
Other Debtors	1,140	8,177
	16,992	24,878

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**2025**	2024
	£	£
Accruals	**(32,568)**	(10,279)

11 Restricted Funds

Donations receivable during the year for specific purposes as shown below.

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2025	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers Between Funds**	**Balance at 31 December 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Bethesda Eventide Homes	-	-	(38)	38	**-**
Bethesda Fellowship Care Fund	1,185	13	-	-	**1,198**
Bethesda Flower Fund	138	-	-	-	**138**
Bethesda Mission Council	13,473	5,906	(32,336)	12,957	**-**
Bethesda Monday Fellowship	754	881	(1,451)	-	**184**
Bethesda Development	370,188	9,350	-	-	**379,538**
Bethesda Youth Ministries	5,450	-	-	-	**5,450**
Bethesda Social Committee	356	-	-	-	**356**
Third Party Gift Contra Items	0	-	(572)	572	**-**
Christians Against Poverty	271	542	(2,133)	1,320	**-**
Ministry	-	17,000	-	-	**17,000**
	391,815	33,692	(36,530)	14,887	**403,864**

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2024	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers Between Funds**	**Balance at 31 December 2024**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Bethesda Community Charitable Trust	-	35	(35)	-	**-**
Bethesda Eventide Homes	-	40	(40)	-	**-**
Bethesda Fellowship Care Fund	1,103	82	-	-	**1,185**
Bethesda Flower Fund	153	-	(15)	-	**138**
Bethesda Mission Council	13,358	30,246	(41,168)	11,037	**13,473**
Bethesda Monday Fellowship	692	1,746	(1,684)	-	**754**
Bethesda Development	359,428	10,760	-	-	**370,188**
Bethesda Youth Ministries	6,570	6	(1,126)	-	**5,450**
Bethesda Social Committee	174	182	-	-	**356**
Third Party Gift Contra Items	-	1,075	(1,075)	-	**-**
Christians Against Poverty	290	1,968	(1,987)	-	**271**
	381,768	46,140	(47,130)	11,037	**391,815**

The total offering received on Mission Sunday and a 12.5% tithe of the weekly General Fund offering are transferred to Bethesda Mission Council, who administer these funds and any other restricted Mission gifts, to support mission activity around the world.
Bethesda Youth Ministries is the umbrella for Sunday School and other youth activities
The purpose of the Bethesda Fellowship Care Fund is to assist those known to the Church that are in financial need.
Bethesda Development represents funds raised for the future development of both the church and the East side buildings. This is described in more detail in the Trustees' Report.
The purpose of the Ministry fund is for the cost of employing a new minister.
Other funds detailed above are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

12 Designated Funds

The income funds of the Charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for particular purposes:

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2025	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers between funds**	**Balance at 31 December 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Fabric Fund	45,025	-	(29,485)	-	**15,540**
Development Fund	436,402	10,216	-	-	**446,618**
New Worker Fund	53,349	389	-	-	**53,738**
Legacy Fund	88,462	24,343	-	-	**112,805**
	623,238	34,948	(29,485)	-	**628,701**

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2024	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers between funds**	**Balance at 31 December 2024**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Fabric Fund	70,974	834	(26,783)	-	**45,025**
Development Fund	422,743	13,659	-	-	**436,402**
New Worker Fund	90,374	3,795	-	(40,820)	**53,349**
Legacy Fund	101,350	2,107	-	(14,995)	**88,462**
	685,441	20,395	(26,783)	(55,815)	**623,238**

The Fabric Fund represents a reserve to pay for repairs and maintenance of the structure of the buildings, or projects for the improvement of the buildings and fixed contents.
The New Worker Fund is to allow us to support new outreach ministry appointments that fall outside our existing headcount.
The Legacy Fund is generally used to provide something that will enhance the Church's buildings or ministries.
A Development Fund has been established to finance works that will lead to an enhancement of several areas of the existing site and for which Planning Permission has previously been granted. In 2017 the Members agreed that £400,000 of the existing Legacy Fund be redesignated as Development Fund.

13 Unrestricted Funds

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2025	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers between funds**	**Balance at 31 December 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Unrestricted Fund	981,943	142,749	(148,931)	(14,887)	**960,874**

	Movement in Funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2024	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers between funds**	**Balance at 31 December 2024**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Unrestricted Fund	979,589	131,535	(173,959)	44,778	**981,943**

During the year, transfers were made from unrestricted funds to restricted funds where expenditure incurred on restricted activities exceeded the balance available within those restricted funds at the year end. These transfers were made to ensure that the relevant restricted funds did not remain in deficit and to reflect the allocation of unrestricted resources to support activities in accordance with the charity's objectives. The transfers do not represent additional expenditure but are a reallocation of funds within the charity's reserves.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 DECEMBER 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	855,833	-	-	**855,833**
Current assets	117,921	648,389	403,864	**1,170,174**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(12,880)	(19,688)	-	**(32,568)**
	960,874	628,701	403,864	**1,993,439**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 DECEMBER 2024 are are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	866,201	-	-	**866,201**
Current assets	126,021	623,238	391,815	**1,141,074**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(10,279)	-	-	**(10,279)**
	981,943	623,238	391,815	**1,996,996**

15 Related Parties

During the year the following transactions with related parties occurred:

No trustee received any remuneration for their work as trustees (2024 None)

Mr G Fairweather received preaching fees of £1,400 (2024 - £1,000), Mr P D Law received preaching fees of £1,500 (2024 - £1,375), Mr B Palmer received an organist's honorarium and of £100 (2024 - £100) and funeral fees of £75 (2024 - £Nil).
The Trustees previously sought and obtained Charity Commission clarification that these payments are allowed under the Constitution.

16 Merger accounting

As described in note 1r, the net asset and activity of Bethesda Baptist Church (charity number 113197) were merged with the Charity on 6 October 2025. On this date the merging charity's activities, assets and liabilites were:

Transfer of net assets	**£**
Assets transferred	2,034,842
Liabilities transferred	(774)
Net asset transferred	2,034,069

Net assets by class	**£**
Unrestricted	405,015
Designated	641,798
Restricted	987,256
	2,034,069

SOFA amounts before and after merger	£ Up to 6 Oct	£ From 6 Oct	£ Total
Income	144,120	67,265	**211,385**
Expenditure	(107,047)	(107,895)	**(214,942)**
Movement in funds	**37,073**	**(40,630)**	**(3,557)**