prettygate
baptist church

The Charity's Principal Address
Prettygate Baptist Church
25-27 Prettygate Road
Colchester
Essex.
CO3 4EQ

The Charity's Trust

The Charity is governed by a constitution dated 23 January 2024

Trustees and Governance

The appointment of Trustees is governed by the constitution. The Trustees named below all served throughout the calendar year 2025: Mr. P. Shirtcliffe, Mr. M. Hodson, Mr. J. Calver, Mr. L. Clark, Mrs. S. Clayton, Mrs. J. Dorward, Mrs. P. Fujii and Mr. S. Nobbs.

Objectives of the Charity

The principal objective of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Baptist principles and in accordance with the Articles of Faith as stated in Schedule 1 of our constitution.
Our Mission Statement is: 'Prettygate Baptist Church exists to glorify God by helping individuals to become Christians, and encouraging Christians to become more like Christ'.

Main Activities in Relation to Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of, and have taken regard to, the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, with particular reference to the section on the advancement of religion.
We believe that the main activities detailed below, which are an outworking of the Objectives above, provided a benefit to the public by advancement of religion (Baptist Christianity) and education.

Objectives and Activities

We are in the community of Prettygate and seek to reach out to those around us by teaching about the Christian faith and how to live out that faith to the glory of God.
We have a church building in the heart of the Prettygate estate and use it for regular Sunday services, midweek meetings, a Toddler Group and a Community Café. Church events are advertised on a noticeboard, so that passers-by will read about our activities. Through these activities and our engagement with the surrounding population, we hope to come alongside local people in a friendly and non-threatening environment.
We encourage our members and other worshippers to learn more about the Gospel and to develop their knowledge of Jesus and the Bible. They are thereby encouraged to share their faith with those around them and so increase public awareness of Christianity. Other activities include one-to-one pastoral visiting and appropriate care where necessary. Two independent groups—a counselling service and a local charity—also use the church building for their declared purposes.

Achievements and Performance

On Sundays, our congregation is regularly about 80–90 strong, and we often have people with us who have not attended previously. We welcome them and are pleased to see them when they start coming more often. Our Sunday School has had varying numbers of children, and our group for teenagers has attracted attendances of up to 12 young people aged 11 to 18 years. At Christmas, we held carol services that were well attended by people who might not worship with us at other times. At Easter, we joined another local church for a 'Walk of Witness' around the estate. Following an invitation from the local primary school, we organised and ran a weekly after-school activity called 'Messy Church' at the school. We also held a children's Holiday Club during the Easter holiday. Our weekly term-time Toddler Group has seen an average attendance of 30 people. This figure includes parents, grandparents, childminders and, of course, children- aged from a few weeks up to four years. Twice a month, the main church hall is transformed into Our Hub Café. This attracts many people who do not otherwise attend church, including groups of friends, a walking group, and the local Colchester City Councillor. A charity donation box is provided, and the proceeds are given to a variety of other, often secular, charities, such as the local Air Ambulance and the British Heart Foundation. A men's breakfast is organised on the first Saturday of each month, with an average attendance of about 15 men—usually from the church, although other guests also join them.

We also held a ‘Christianity Explored’ course for several new Sunday service attendees. As part of our outreach activities, we give financial support to several other Christian charities that share our objectives. One of our stated purposes is to give approximately 10% of our income to external organisations. To assist in this aim, we have had guest speakers from some of these charities. We also operate a ‘Care Fund’, which gives financial support to those in need. This includes both those associated with the church and others in the community who are brought to our attention.

Financial Review

Our total receipts were £130,998, which partly comprises £120,450 to the General Fund, £1,918 to the Care Fund and £570 to the Building Fund. The remainder is £5,227 for Hub Café, £1,896 for our sponsored missionary and varying smaller amounts for Holiday Club, Men’s Breakfast and Toddler Group. Most of our income comes from regular giving by many individuals through standing orders paid directly into the church bank account. There is a Giving Station in the church where people can donate by debit or credit card, or give cash in envelopes. Many members of the congregation are registered with us for Gift Aid, which is a welcome source of income. Gift Aid payments from HMRC make up about 20% of giving to the General Fund. The General Fund is used to pay for the day-to-day running of the church, including pastors’ stipends and administration and cleaning pay for the staff involved. Other significant expenses are church utility costs and rent for the property occupied by one of our pastors. The net result for the 2025 General Fund was a reduction of approximately £5,100. Part of this was due to essential repairs to the manse which is our pastor’s residence. Another reason was a reduction in income because one regular donor died and two others left the church for family reasons, so we lost their contributions and Gift Aid associated with them. The policy on reserves is that we retain sufficient money to keep the church going for 3 months. This amount covers staff salaries and church running costs.

Volunteers
All church members and others in the congregation are encouraged to help voluntarily in many aspects of church work. These activities include teaching in Sunday School and Youth Groups, staffing the Toddler Group, working for Hub Café, being part of the music worship team, being part of the Sunday Welcome Team and maintaining the church building. The number of volunteers involved in all the different activities is approximately 40.
We hold regular Trustee meetings, and a church members’ meeting is convened every three months. The Trustee meetings determine general policies and future events, and these decisions are presented to the quarterly church meetings for information and approval where needed. The Trustees are grateful to the wider church membership for all the voluntary work that takes place to keep the church running smoothly.

Approved by all the Trustees on 15th August 2026

And signed on their behalf by Leslie Clark (Treasurer and Trustee)

L Clark

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Prettygate Baptist Church, Colchester. Charity Number: 1211009

For the Financial Year 1st January -31st December 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

Fund:	General Fund	Care Fund	Building Fund	Sarah Clay	HUB Café	Under 5s	Holiday Club	Reserve Fund	Men's Group	Explorers	2025	2024
											2025 Total	2024 Total
A1 RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Offerings and Donations	87,645.55	1,906.20	570.00	1,522.00	5,226.89	281.14	70.00		583.95	0.83	£97,806.56	£96,123.70
Other income	13,847.87										£13,847.87	£13,161.80
Tax reclaimed	17,768.19	12.50		374.00							£18,154.69	£22,893.39
Interest	1,189.17										£1,189.17	£1,257.01
TOTAL RECEIPTS	120,450.78	1,918.70	570.00	1,896.00	5,226.89	281.14	70.00	0.00	583.95	0.83	£130,998.29	£133,435.90
A3 PAYMENTS												
Ministry	65,075.91										£65,075.91	£60,369.34
Donations (Ext Giving)	2,780.00			9,376.53	1,400.00						£13,556.53	£26,270.93
Chapel costs	13,055.59										£13,055.59	£13,379.09
Manse costs	25,218.73										£25,218.73	£22,238.66
Activities	11,824.41				1,811.83	47.38	205.56		308.96		£14,198.14	£14,111.34
Other expenditure	961.47	412.50	1,960.00								£3,333.97	£21,304.97
TOTAL PAYMENTS	118,916.11	412.50	1,960.00	9,376.53	3,211.83	47.38	205.56	0.00	308.96		£134,438.87	£145,540.10
Receipts less payments	1,534.67	1,506.20	-1,390.00	-7,480.53	2,015.06	233.76	-135.56	0.00	274.99	0.83	-£3,440.58	-£12,104.20
A5 Transfers between funds	-6,609.40	800.00	324.41	7,358.67	-1,222.93	-700.00	107.25	0.00		-58.00	£0.00	£0.00
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,032.91	350.00	17,052.01	1,511.73	3,981.17	795.87	74.40	5,000.00	1,341.69	57.17	£39,196.95	£51,051.21
Cash Funds this year end	**3,900.18**	**2,656.20**	**15,986.42**	**1,389.87**	**4,773.30**	**329.63**	**46.09**	**5,000.00**	**1,616.68**	**0.00**	**£35,698.37**	£39,139.78

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

Cash funds	**This Year**	**Last Year**
	£	**£**
Cash held by Hub	343.07	407.46
Barclays Current Account	703.50	2,551.96
Hub Café Bank account	2,130.23	3,573.71
Barclays Business Reserve	34.00	1,152.49
Balance held at AGBC	32,391.98	31,244.36
Cash held by treasurer & U5s	95.59	209.80
TOTAL	**35,698.37**	**39,139.78**

Representing balances on the following funds

Church General Fund	3,900.18	8,977.74
Care fund	2,656.20	350.00
Building Fund	15,986.42	17,052.01
Sarah Clay Fund	1,389.87	1,511.73
HUB café Fund	4,773.30	3,981.17
Under 5s Fund	329.63	795.87
Holiday Club Fund	46.09	74.40
Reserve Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00
Men's Group	1,616.68	1,341.69
Explorers	0.00	55.17
TOTAL	**35,698.37**	**39,139.78**
Other Monetary Assets	**NIL**	**NIL**
Investment Assets	**NIL**	**NIL**

shown at insurance value/estimated value

Assets retained for the church's use

Church Building	1,850,000.00	1,739,095.00
Manse	345,000.00	315,000.00
Church Contents	50,000.00	48,963.00
TOTAL	**2,245,000.00**	**2,103,058.00**

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

L J Clark

Signed: _____ Date: 6 August 2026

LESLIE CLARK
Treasurer

Prettygate Baptist Church, Colchester
25-27 Prettygate Road
Colchester
Essex
CO3 4EQ
Registered Charity Number: 1211009

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Prettygate Baptist Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Prettygate Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

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

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.

K C Munford

Signed: _____

Date: 6 August 2026

Keith Munford Independent Examiner

(Treasurer, Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church)