Annual report of the Trustees of
Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church,
Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen, West Midlands. B63 2HJ

Year Ending 31 December 2025

Governing Document

The Church is governed by the Trust Deed and its Basis of Faith and Constitution. It is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 518320.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Mr Christopher M Adams
Mr Wesley R Erpen
Mr Alan J Harborne (Chairman)
Mr Richard J Mansell
Mr Paul D Vanden Branden
Mr Robert J Warner (Treasurer and Secretary)

Trustees are appointed after receiving unanimous approval by the other trustees.

Bankers
HSBC UK Bank plc
31 Church Street
Kidderminster DY10 2AY

Independent Examiner
Mrs G Morton
11 Abbey Crescent
Halesowen B63 2HP

Solicitors
PearceLegal Limited
2 The Square
Solihull B91 3RB

The aims of the Charity are to provide a meeting place for its members and others who are interested in the Christian faith. We seek to reach out to those in the community with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. A summary of the achievements in these activities is set out below. The Trustees are satisfied that these achievements clearly demonstrate that the Charity has throughout the year fulfilled its responsibility to meet the requirement of providing a Public Benefit and has thereby complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Church is led by Elders and supported by Deacons who are elected by the Church membership in accordance with the constitution. The Church does not employ anyone, all roles are done by volunteers.

There have not been any related party transactions during the year.

The policy of the Trustees is to try and keep at least £1,500 in cash for the General Fund, as reserves for contingencies. During the year this has been maintained and funds retained for the possibility of making improvements to the Church building. In planning for the future we will also need to increase funds particularly for the possible relocation and upgrade of the kitchen.

The Church does not have any specific investment powers.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are making sure that there are sufficient leaders to look after the Church when others are absent or if any should leave. The Elders and Deacons make any needs known at a Church members meeting and nominations are invited. There is also a need to make sure that the various activities are adequately staffed by appropriate volunteers, again requests are made to the Church as the need arises. The Trustees are satisfied that any risks have been mitigated.

Review of Activities and Future Plans

Once again, we can give thanks to God for bringing us through another year and for all that He has done in us and through us on Fatherless Barn estate.

In 2025, much was made of the report from the Bible Society entitled 'The Quiet Revival,' and we have to say that in a small measure we experienced the Lord speak clearly into people's lives more than we have seen in recent years. It was a joy to see some ten people baptised and there are still a couple more who are being challenged about being baptised this year. We have also seen people just turn up and visit our morning Family Service and some have continued to attend. At the same time, we have seen a couple of people who were reasonably regular stop attending due to family circumstances.

In January we had another outreach evening with the comedian Mark Ritchie. He was very engaging and we had around fifty people attend. Later in the year, in June, we invited the Searchlight Company to come and perform their performance called 'Titanic' on another Saturday evening. They were excellent but unfortunately the attendance was a little disappointing. In contrast, our Games & Pudding night, later in the year, went very well with a good mix of people attending and lots of fun had by all.

The attendance at our Sunday morning Family Service has generally been consistently above sixty, although during holiday periods it drops to forty. The first part of the year we looked at the Gospel of John and the latter part we started a series on Psalms. It has been encouraging to see some of the younger men and women develop their gifting by leading and speaking at services. Most of the ministry is delivered by the leadership team or church members, but we do have the occasional guest speaker which adds variety. We have had occasional 'Bring & Share' lunches following our morning service. Most folk stay and have fellowship and even one or two turn up who weren't at the service! It all adds to the sense of community.

The Encounter Service on a Friday evening once a month sees around forty people attend and the slightly longer time of worship is enjoyed by all. There have been a variety of speakers at this event, and all have been appreciated. Our House Groups have continued on a Tuesday evening with groups in Halesowen and Stourbridge, although the groups haven't met as regularly as other years. We also meet monthly for our church prayer meeting in the church. The once a month 'open' Communion Service on the third Sunday of the month has been a blessed time, and it has been good to see close on twenty people attend. On the first Tuesday of the month we meet for prayer in the church.

Our children's and youth work has continued, and we are thankful that so many people volunteer either in teaching in Sunday School, helping with JAM Club, or running Ignite. Ignite is our teenager's group, and on one occasion they took sixteen young people to BCM's Fulfil event in Birmingham. At our JAM Club, the numbers have regularly been around the fifteen mark. It has been good to have a young lady helping as part of her In-Service Training year with BCM. Everyone enjoys it including the leaders who love the opportunity of teaching the children the Word of God.

Some of the men of the church once again went to Snowdon for the weekend in September and, as on other occasions, had a great time. Some climbed Snowdon and others enjoyed the local amenities, but the highlight was just being together. It was great having some younger men attend. There were three men's breakfasts during the year. On most occasions there were around thirty men who attended. Thanks must go to those who looked after the catering for the event. Towards the end of the year a lady's breakfast was organised with the

men looking after the catering. It has been encouraging to see some of our men restart the Dudley Focus for men event. Over seventy men meet to enjoy a carvery and hear the gospel shared.

Our '60 Plus Lunch Club' has continued once a month on a Monday. The team of volunteers do a great job, and they have over twenty folks attending, all enjoying their meal and time together.

The 'Knit & Natter' group (now called 'Coffee & Crafts') meet on alternate Friday mornings has seen up to sixteen people attend and everyone enjoys the opportunity of just spending time together. The Ladies Bible study group on the other alternate Friday mornings has also continued and people appreciate the opportunity to meet, pray, and share thoughts from the Bible.

The 'Little Sunbeams,' our parent and toddler group, has continued to run on a Wednesday morning. Some Wednesdays there have been up to twenty-five children and lots of positive conversations take place with the parents. It had been good to see three moms bringing their other children to JAM club on a Friday.

Christmas was a very busy time. The young people put on their Christmas presentations in the morning Service and Phil Knox from Evangelical Alliance was the speaker. In our Candlelit Carol Service, the church was full with people standing in the entrance hall, and it was great to have such a clear gospel challenge.

Overall, there is a sense that the church is growing both spiritually as more people commit themselves to serving in the church in one way or another, and in slightly increased numbers attending. We give thanks to God for goodness and mercy.

Dudley MBC have used the Church for the Local Elections. The Church building has also been used a number of times by a local charity 'Freetime' for meetings.

The Safeguarding policy has been updated and training has been given to those who are involved with children and young people.
DBS's are reviewed when needed and are up-to-date. Application forms are completed by anyone wanting to volunteer to help with a particular church ministry.

Risk assessments are completed as appropriate.

The Church House continues to be occupied by Wesley and Jackie Erpen on a rent free basis.

Church Building

All of the annual checks of the gas appliances, electrical appliances and fixed wiring have been done and are up to date.

Outside, work has continued on the grounds at the back of the Church and a new fence has been put up. We hope to put up some sort of building to create some extra storage space.

Finance

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 have been independently examined. The accounts show a very healthy position. We give thanks again to God for His provision and for all who give to the work of the Church.

Principal Funding Sources

Donations and gifts are our main source of income and we are most appreciative of the continued support of church members and others who give in various ways. We do not make appeals for funding to people outside of Church membership other than through collections made at our Sunday morning family service. We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

Future Plans

We are still keeping in mind the need to keep praying that the Lord will guide us regarding whether we employ a part-time worker or a full-time Pastor.
Our bi-annual Church weekend at Quinta will take place in June 2026.
Outreach events such as the breakfasts, will continue.
We are expecting that some more people will be baptised.
We need to continue to pray about appointing additional Trustees.
The kitchen is the next big project. We are looking at probably relocating it to the rear hall, We will get some quotes and then see if we can get some external funding for it.

We have asked our solicitors to start the process of the Church becoming a CIO.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees
On 11 October 2026

AJ Harborne

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Alan J Harborne
Chairman

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	518320
Set out on pages	One to three		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:	G Morton	**Date:**	12 October 2026
Name:	Gillian Morton		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	BOOKKEEPER.		
Address:	11 Abbey Crescent Halesowen West Midlands B63 2HP		

Section B	Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME				
Donations and Legacies	28,700	1,963	30,663	40,991
Charitable Activities	0	1,144	1,144	1,145
Other Income	910	0	910	895
Investments	329	0	329	526
TOTAL INCOME	29,939	3,107	33,046	43,557
EXPENDITURE				
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	24,484	3,147	27,631	53,705
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	24,484	3,147	27,631	53,705
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE	5,455	-40	5,415	-10,148
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year	17,818	40	17,858	28,006
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	23,273	0	23,273	17,858

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2025

2024	INCOME	2025
9,339.50	Offerings & Donations	8,375.95
20,421.07	Gift Aid Donations	17,041.00
18.32	Offertory Box	57.88
3,581.25	HMRC Tax Refund	3,224.50
589.65	Gifts for Maintenance Fund	883.19
680.75	Gifts for Missionary Fund	1,079.64
120.00	Gifts for PA Fund	0.00
1145.00	60+ Lunch Club	1144.00
895.01	Other Income	910.00
526.10	Interest Received	329.41
6,240.00	Quinta 2024	
43,556.65	**Total Income**	33,045.57
28,005.92	Opening Balance	17,858.12
71,562.57		50,903.69
	EXPENDITURE	
1,789.15	Gas	1,772.28
806.15	Electricity	878.46
193.34	Water Rates - Church	248.58
1,140.00	Insurance - Church	1,155.00
810.00	Speakers Expenses and Gifts	590.00
3,300.00	Gifts to Missionaries	4,100.00
3,720.00	Gifts to Birmingham City Mission	4,200.00
24,007.63	Building Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements	4,848.87
1,971.93	60+ Lunch Club	1,319.62
384.80	Youth Expenses	290.44
145.00	Thirty one eight (Formerly CCPAS)	150.00
176.15	Training	0.00
901.91	Outreach Expenses	2,068.85
877.37	CCLI - Copyright Licence	903.69
7,933.50	Quinta 2024	0.00
	Quinta 2026	200.00
1,079.03	Other Miscellaneous Expenditure	378.86
76.50	Bank Charges	51.20
600.00	Legal Expenses	1,140.00
455.38	Insurance - Church House	484.84
1,322.43	Water Rates - Church House	758.80
300.00	Church House Repairs and Maintenance	288.00
1,714.18	Church House Council Tax	1,803.06
53,704.45	**Total Expenditure**	27,630.55
17,858.12	Balance Carried Forward	23,273.14
71,562.57		50,903.69
	Represented By:	
512.06	Current Account	2,548.76
17,285.28	Savings Account	20,657.98
60.78	Cash in Hand	66.40
17,858.12		**23,273.14**

In addition to the cash balances held above the charity owns the freehold Church buildings and the Church house in the unrestricted fund.

Liabilities

There were no liabilities outstanding at the year end.

Restricted Funds

	Missionary Fund	Maintenance Fund	60+ Lunch Club	Total
Balances as at 31 December 2024	40	0	0	40
Income for the year	1080	883	1144	3,107
Expenditure for the year	-1120	-883	-1144	-3,147
Balances as at 31 December 2025	0	0	0	0

Unrestricted Funds

Balance as at 31 December 2024	17,818
Net movement in year	5,455
Balance as at 31 December 2025	23,273

Total Funds

Restricted Funds	0
Unrestricted Funds	23,273
	23,273