



BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Reports
2026

Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church

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Reg. Charity No.: 1184810

Ministers:

Revs James & Julia Henley

Deacons:

Penny Mitchell

Rosie Hunter

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Cottingham

Ministers' Report

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

Know that the Lord is God.

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

*For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

- Psalm 100

Looking back over the last year, it's not hard to see how our church's life together affirms and gives testimony to the truth of this Psalm. There are so many ways in which God has blessed us with his abundant goodness and faithfulness, and so many reasons to join the Psalmist in giving thanks to God and praising his name.

Last year's report mentioned the beginning of The Meeting Place – a weekly drop-in for fellowship, coffee and home-made cakes. We have just passed the first anniversary, and it has been wonderful to see this become a great success – regularly welcoming a number of new people and seeing some of them join us on Sundays to worship. The year also saw the start of a new mum's group, giving space to share the joys and challenges of motherhood together. Again, this has gone really well, and we look forward to seeing the direction the group takes going forward. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to make these (and all our other groups) happen!

Throughout the year we've been able to hold various special events and services, including a quiz night, pancake party, church BBQ and picnic. These have been great fun, and a brilliant way of introducing new people into our fellowship whilst enjoying great food!



A notable area of growth has been among our families. We're incredibly grateful to the Sunday Club team who have stepped up this year to provide a safe space in which our children and young people can have fun, know that they are valued and explore faith for themselves.



Perhaps more important than events and numerical growth has been the deepening of relationships and a sense of walking together in discipleship and mission. The various home groups and theology groups have provided an opportunity to reflect more deeply on God and faith, and meet-ups like Coffee & Chat and the King's Gambit have allowed people to share life—in all its ups and downs—together. We also know there's a lot going on outside

‘formal’ church activities, as people have shared food, hospitality and friendship in all sorts of different ways.

Behind all the visible elements of church life lies, of course, a huge amount of work, admin, maintenance and organising. We’re grateful for everyone who works behind the scenes helping to ensure that everything runs smoothly, safely and legally(!). It often involves a huge sacrifice of time, but the church simply could not function without you.

A final, incredibly exciting, development is the appointment of Jo Bailey as our *Children, Youth & Families Lead Worker & Admin Assistant*. We hadn’t dreamed that this might be a possibility until very recently, and can’t wait to see how God is going to use Jo to continue to bless the church and the local community. Please pray for her, but also ask God what you can do to support her in her new role.



There are still a number of unresolved challenges relating to our building, including space, storage, parking, heating costs and more. As we grow, these challenges—and the associated questions about where we should be worshipping and what our church life should look like—grow ever more pressing

As we head into this new season, we invite everyone to join us in praying and seeking God’s will. As we do so, it’s good to remember that the fact that we are in a position in which we

need to be asking these questions is itself a cause of celebration and a testament to God’s ongoing goodness to us. We don’t pray out of a sense of desperation, but with the words of this Psalm ringing in our ears. The Lord *is* God; we *are* his. We pray trusting that the God who has shown himself to be good and faithful for so many years will continue to be so, and in his timing will lead us into his plans and purposes.

- James & Julia



Sunday Club Report

It has been an exciting year for Sunday Club. As the church has grown, so too has the number of children, with a total of 17 children registered and attending regularly. Attendance varies from week to week, but whether a large or small group, it is always a privilege to meet together, build community, and share God's Word.

Last autumn, to help our young people get the most from each session, we introduced separate younger and older groups. We begin together before splitting into age-appropriate groups, allowing teaching and activities to be tailored to different stages of development. Our youngest children also have the option of spending time in the crèche area.

We have a small but dedicated team of volunteers who serve faithfully, and we are so grateful for their input.

Over the summer, we trialled a more social approach, which included craft activities, a movie morning, and outings within the local community. This was a great success and helped strengthen friendships and a sense of belonging.

As we look ahead to 2026/27, we are excited about all that God has in store for Sunday Club and the children and young people in our community, and we look forward to continuing to grow together in faith and friendship.



- Jo Bailey

Bible Buddies Report

This group takes place in our local school - St Peter's - on Fridays at lunch time, during term time.

It has been running for over four years now, so we have had many different children coming along to listen and take part in the weekly stories from the bible.

We have a "warm up" game to start the session, then a story with opportunities for discussion, followed by a craft relating to the theme for the Buddies to take home (as a reminder of points from the story).

Julia and Penny M plan and deliver these sessions (adapted from the church funded Energize material) with occasional help from Penny H and Morag, which is invaluable.

The school recognises us as an important resource and we feel very welcome in the space allotted to the Bible Buddies group, which is well known throughout the school community.

This September, many new Buddies have come along to join us and it is a delight getting to know them and helping them to learn more about God, Jesus and various characters from the Bible. It's truly wonderful to be sowing seeds of hope for their futures!

- Penny Mitchell

Chess Club Report

Kings Gambit has enjoyed a rich, lively year, marked by friendship, creativity, and the rhythm of meeting together.

For the last year, the group has gathered roughly twice a month, moving between welcoming homes and relaxed cafés.

Ron's place in Sidmouth became a warm anchor point: he continues hosting with tea, snacks, and humour. We have welcomed three or four of his neighbours.

In the Budleigh cafés, we keep things informal, flexible, and friendly while engaging with staff and owners.

The summer soirée at Ron's was a highlight. Members had building challenges, games, drawing tasks, and storytelling—light-hearted activities that sparked laughter and strengthened bonds.

The winter soirée was a different adventure: a Budleigh morning walking treasure trail, followed by pasties at Mark's, where conversation and camaraderie carried on well into the afternoon.

Kings Gambit has remained a safe, relaxed space for men in the church to deepen faith and friendships, enjoy chess, share life, support one another and witness. We have made good connections outside of church resulting in local chaps from Budleigh joining in.

It continues to be a place where faith, fun, and fellowship naturally blend, providing a bond in the midst of busy lives.

- Mark Charlesworth

The Meeting Place Report



Just a year ago, after discussion and agreement at a church meeting, The Meeting Place opened its doors. We had numerous ideas on how we envisioned it would be, but then these things have a way of evolving on their own.

We have a wonderful mixture of people who drop in and others who come regularly. There are four lovely ladies who every week walk from Exmouth to Budleigh, saw our sign, came in for a quick cuppa and now never miss a week. We get

residents from a local care home who have us on their outings list. We have newcomers to the area, and those who have just been passing and have come back for more.

And then we have church members. Who would have thought that we would have a group of men sitting round a table, drinking coffee, playing cards and eating cake? Or the knitting ladies get excited about coloured squares in rows of seven and try to persuade non-knitters to 'have a go'? And then there are those who simply want to chat and eat cake.



I think the words of one of our friends sum up The Meeting Place:

'Thank you. I have had a difficult time recently and I don't know what I would have done without you all.'

To make this all happen, my thanks go to Jan & Colin, Sue & Reg, Marilyn and Penny H.

- Penny Weeks

Mum's Group Report

The group organically formed to meet the needs of mothers in the church congregation who wanted dedicated time to connect, encourage and support one another outside of weekly services and around day-to-day demands.

The group currently meets monthly in a relaxed setting, often in a home, with around 3–6 women from the congregation attending. A relaxed format has provided opportunities to connect, encourage one another and pray together across several in person meet ups.

We have also created a WhatsApp group as a space to share events, life updates and prayer requests. Discussions within the group have helped generate ideas for events such as a Light Party and a women's retreat.

Considerations for the future include:

- Confirming a name for the group and thinking about how invitations to it can be shared more widely.
- Exploring how we can open the group more widely to women in this phase of life, recognising that motherhood and nurturing take many forms.
- Exploring additional opportunities to connect, such as a retreat weekend or day, creative workshops, and attending events organised by other Christian organisations, such as Care for the Family and The Gathering for Children.

Please pray for the group and all its members—for the path the Lord has laid out before us, and that we will be able to respond faithfully and wisely.

- Sam Nixey



Coffee & Chat ('Café Dwellers')

When the Salt Cellars closed in the spring the ladies cafe dwellers suddenly found themselves homeless.

So for the next few months we cruised the various coffee shops of Budleigh. We needed a place willing and able to accommodate a group ranging in size from 2 to a dozen, from 10am to approx. 12 noon, preferably with comfy seats and easy parking.

We eventually settled on the Golf Club, Links Rd, lots of space and comfy seats, plenty of parking for those of us who come from outside Budleigh, there's always offers of lifts for people who don't fancy the walk. And all the coffee, tea, cake, bacon butties you could wish for.

From a group who hardly knew each other God has drawn us together as friends and we chat about anything and everything, have even helped to sort out each other's mobile phone problems, and we share together the struggles and joys of life at the moment.

- Hilary Gibson



Fabric Report

Ebenezer Chapel is the home of Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church and is a grade II listed building.

The main part of the chapel dates to 1844 and is built largely of rubble stone with a slate roof. A flat roofed modern extension at the rear built of concrete block work provides kitchen, meeting rooms and toilets.

The church also owns a manse which our ministers, James & Julia, live in.

Over the last couple of years we have been exploring the possibility of removing the pews in the chapel and making some other small changes in order to improve accessibility. Since the last annual report, we have received the advice that this work was unlikely to be approved unless it was part of a bigger project which also sought to make changes elsewhere. Whilst this remains an option, it was felt at the time that these further changes would be prohibitively expensive whilst not solving many of the current issues we have with space, damp, woodworm and so on. We continue to pray that God would show us the way forward regarding our buildings.

A number of maintenance tasks and other changes have been completed at both the chapel and the manse. These include, but are not limited to:

- Repair of the dado rail in the chapel.
- Ongoing treatment of woodworm
- Installation of a new handrail by the pulpit.
- Replacement of the manse conservatory door.
- Repair of the manse front step.
- Installation of two new spotlights to improve the livestream quality.
- Replacement/repair of various roof slates on the chapel.
- Tidying and general maintenance in the garden.

We are grateful to everyone who helped with these tasks.

Looking ahead, we are due to have our Quinquennial Inspection soon. We anticipate this will help identify any major concerns, including some raised in last year's report, and help us prioritise our budgets and maintenance scheduling.

- The Fabric Team



Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding is a priority for Budleigh Baptist Church and will remain a priority as we grow and welcome people from every part of our community to join our fellowship.

Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated and after being ratified by Church Members at the AGM it will be communicated through our website as well as being displayed on notice boards in the Chapel and Hall. This Policy states how the Church will act to safeguard both children and vulnerable adults who attend church. Our Safeguarding Policy continues to remain in line with best practice in the South West Baptist Union.

A set of procedures is also available to help with the practical matters of safeguarding. These cover areas such as recognising, recording and responding to allegations of abuse, safer behaviour and safer recruitment. In addition, there is guidance on working with children and vulnerable adults and maintaining a safe church community.

Training sessions are given by the SWBA to ensure those with specific responsibilities remain up to date. Relevant church members attend training to ensure their knowledge of best practice is up to date.

DBS checks are made as required for those working with children and/or vulnerable adults.

While I have responded to some requests for guidance in relation to safeguarding matters no formal safeguarding complaints have been made during the past year.

- Myran Larkin
Designated Person for Safeguarding

Safeguarding Policy Statement

1.1 Introduction

This Policy Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying procedures and guidance documents. The policy applies to both children and adults at risk.

1.2 Definition of terms

For the purpose of this policy statement, the term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is no standard single definition for an "adult at risk" so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service):

"Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to a disability, mental function, age illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation"

1.3 Our safeguarding objectives

The safeguarding objectives of Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church are to:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

1.4 Our safeguarding responsibilities

Our church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church attendee to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church attendee to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk. Appropriate training, support and supervision will be provided to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

Respecting children and adults at risk

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

Safer working practices

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

A safer community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

1.5 Safeguarding contacts within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

Myran Larkin, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

She will:

- Advise the church on matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.
- Raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee the implementation of training.

Liz Cottingham, Safeguarding Trustee

She will oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church leaders.

Our church ministers are also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Further definitions of these roles can be found in the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) publications 'Safe to Grow' (2011) & 'Safe to Belong' (2015).

1.6 Putting our policy into practice

A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard in the Ebenezer Chapel and on our church website.

Each church member with a role working with children and/or adults at risk will be given a copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.

A copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

1.7 Safeguarding procedures and guidance

This Safeguarding Policy should be read in conjunction with our safeguarding procedures and guidance. These set out how the Safeguarding Policy is implemented in all the services, groups and meetings that are part of the life of the church.

Each trustee, church leader attendee/worker (paid or voluntary) needs to be familiar with these procedures and guidance.

Those in leadership roles must attend both Level 2 and Level 3 BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding training (delivered through the local Baptist association team) to ensure that you have the knowledge and confidence needed to deal with safeguarding issues as they arise.

All church attendees/workers (paid and voluntary) who work with children and/or adults at risk must attend the BUGB Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding training before undertaking any work with children and/or adults at risk without supervision.

This training must be undertaken every four years. The ‘Introduction to Safeguarding’ guide for new church attendees/workers (paid and voluntary) is also available free of charge from the BUGB website and is recommended reading for all those undertaking work with children and /or adults at risk.

Our safeguarding procedures and guidance give clear, specific information on how to recognise and report abuse and how to respond to concerns raised within the church. It is important that these procedures and guidance are well known and that everyone working with children and/or adults at risk in our church works within these procedures and guidance.

Following guidelines from BUGB, this policy will be read out at every AGM. This is to remind those present that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church, and one we need to take seriously in everything we do together.

Finance Report

As Treasurer my role in this report is to reflect the financial situation in 2025.

2025 showed a deficit of £5439.50. Considering the amount of activity through the year, I feel that we have been a busy church through the year in our community and on a week by week basis. This is a deficit, but on the whole it is an acceptable one.

As always we rely on the generous standing order monthly gifts from you, our church family to sustain us and we are now also benefited from the offering box in the entrance hall which has had gifts in it every week and amounted to just over £2800 last year so it does make a difference, so thank you all for those, you are a generous church.

There have also been some large individual donations, which made a huge difference to the end of year figure so thank you all for your generosity.

We must also be thankful that we do still have a large reserve account to sustain us and at the end of 2025 it was just over £75,000.

We continue to give to other organisations such as SWBA, BMS World Mission and The Wave, Littleham.

All our income is generated by the church, and we do not receive funding from external sources. Please continue to consider prayerfully what you are able to give, including whether you might leave a gift to the church in your will. Individual giving is our only source of income, so, on behalf of the team, thank you sincerely for your generosity and support.

- Liz Cottingham
Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church On the accounts of the church for the year end 31st December 2025

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The church'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.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission and Baptist Union.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church 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.

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

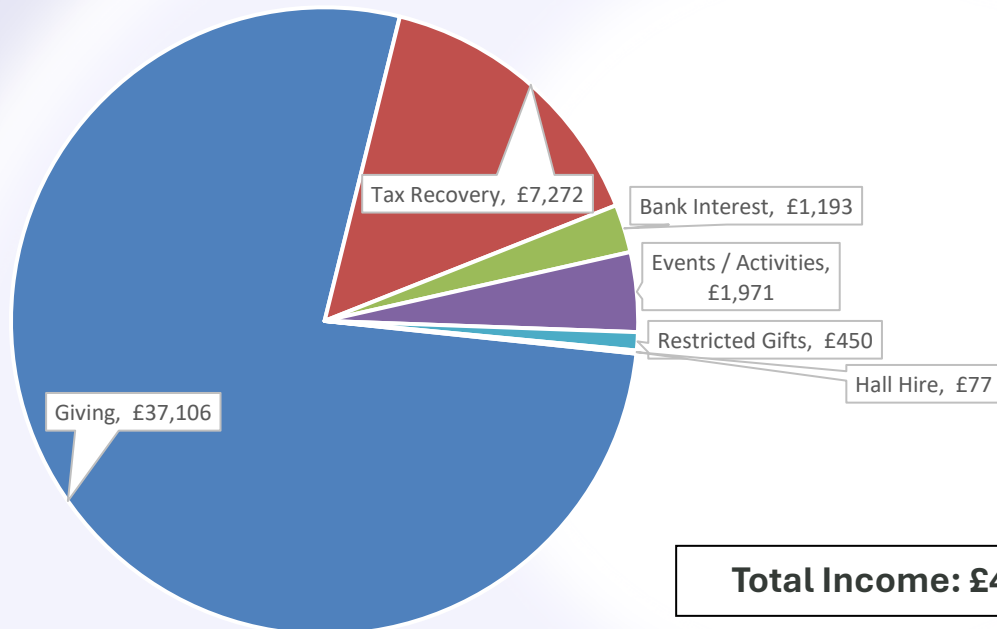
Signed by the Examiner


.....
Graham Jackson

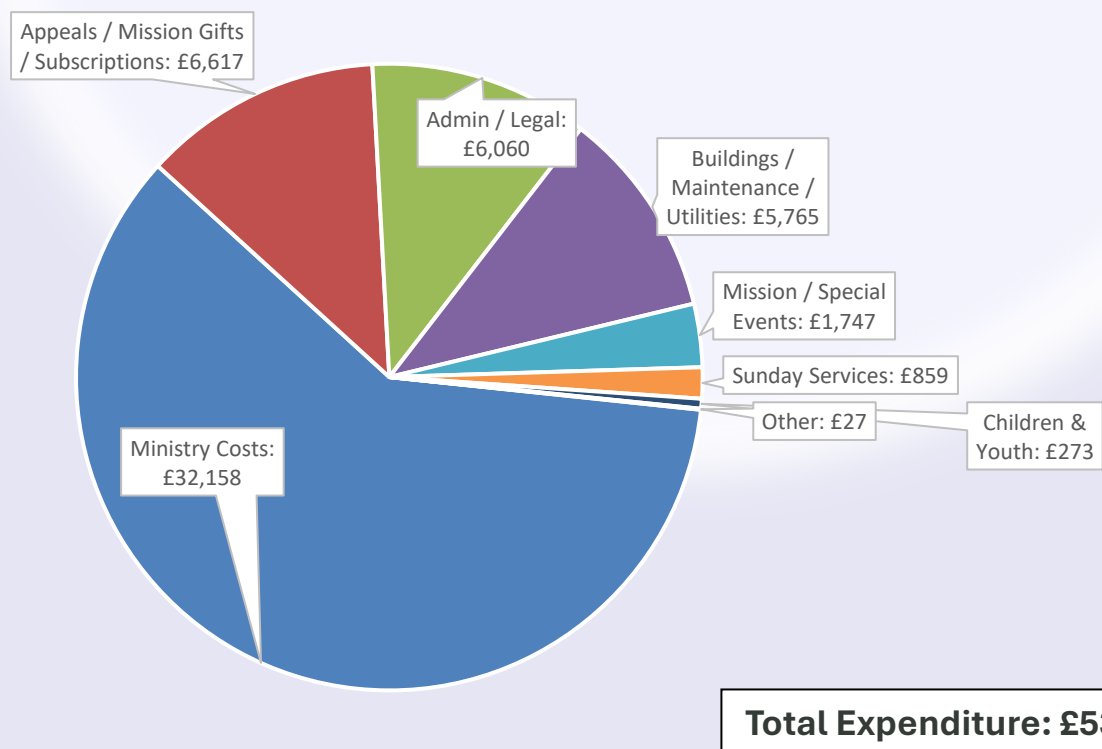

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Date

2025 Accounts

Income 2025



Expenditure 2025



Account Balances 31st Dec 2025

Lloyds Current	3,772
Lloyds Saver	332
BUC House	36,305
Cambridge & Counties	34,873
Total	75,283

Income Jan – Dec 2025

Income

Bank Interest

Interest - Cambridge & Counties	1,151.39
Interest - Lloyds Savings	41.40
Total Bank Interest	1,192.79

Bibles

GASDS	265.00
Gift Aid	110.00
Non Gift Aid	75.00
Total Bibles	450.00

Christmas Lunch Money	989.85
Dedication	50.00
Eggs	20.00
Flower Festival Gifts	795.76
Flowers FF	
GA	45.00
Total Flowers FF	45.00

Giving

GASDS	2,567.92
Gift Aid	25,535.00
Non Gift Aid	8,879.40
Total Giving	36,982

Legacy	9
Quiz Dinner	185
Room Hire	77
Tax Recovery	7,272
Total Income	48,068

Expenditure Jan-Dec 2025

AV	449
Away Day Deacons	
Subsistence	75
Total Away Day Deacons	75
Baptists Together Subs	216
Beverages etc	401
Bible Buddies	9
Bibles Gift	627
Childrens Work	
Energize	252
Childrens Work - Other	12
Total Childrens Work	264
Christmas	22
Christmas Decorations	33
Christmas lunch	
Meal	815
Room Hire	70
Total Christmas lunch	885
ChurchSuite	65
Cleaners	576
Coffee Flask	55
Conference	240
Copyright Licence	153
Council Tax	2,959
Data Protection ICO	47
Donation Box	26
Eggs Exp	27
Electricity	
Church 399	1,718
Total Electricity	1,718
Equipment	42
Fire & Safety	25
First Aid Training	186
Flower Festival	474
Gala Week Exps	20
Guest Speakers	400
Insurance	
Church	1,078
Manse	706
Total Insurance	1,784

Maintenance	
Manse	65
Total Maintenance	65
Ministry Costs	
James Henley	11,772
Julia Henley	14,591
PAYE & NI	1,520
Pension Contribution	3,960
Total Ministry Costs	31,843
Mission	
BMS Annual Donation	2,123
Home Mission Donation	2,123
The Wave	1,497
Total Mission	5,743
Music Items	38
Open the Book	5
PA Equipment	45
Payroll Expenses	144
Phone & WiFi Chapel	652
Phone & WiFi Manse	781
Printer	69
Publicity	133
Quiz Exps	179
Refurbishing Chapel	100
Remembrance Wreath	20
Repairs	
Church	
Roof	100
Total Church	100
Manse	
Fencing	56
Total Manse	56
Total Repairs	156
Safeguarding	120
Training - Food Hygiene	66
Water	
Church 901	345
Manse 001	756
Total Water	1,101

Web Hosting	255
Zoom	212
Total Expense	<u>53,508</u>
Balance Income/Expenditure	<u>-5,440</u>