

Trustees' Annual Report Year Ending December 2024

Reference & Administrative Information:	
Name of Charity	Allington Baptist Church Trust
Other Names	Allington Baptist Church: ABC
Charity Registration Number	1049403
Principal Address	76A London Road Maidstone KENT ME16 0DT
Names of Trustees on the date the Report was approved	Barbara Mitchell (Chair) Martyn Colley (Elder) Malcolm Knee Margaret Knee (Elder) John Lambert (Secretary) Jane McCarthy (appointed September 2024)
Names of Other People who have been Trustees during the year	
Officers or Staff responsible for day-to-day delegated management or part management	Martyn Colley (Pastor) Anany Kasongo (Assistant Pastor)
Other Relevant Organisations or Persons	Jeff Wilkinson (Payroll and Gift Aid) Stuart Doyle (Treasurer)

Structure, Governance & Management

The charity was formed under the Deed of Trust dated 22 May 1995 and is run by the Trustees in conjunction with the Elders of the Church. New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees from those who regularly attend the church in accordance with the Deed of Trust, the agreement of the Eldership and the approval of those in regular attendance at the church.

There were four members of the Eldership Team during 2024 including the Pastor.

The Pastor is also a Trustee.

The church had three paid workers during 2024, following the appointment of Anany Kasango as part time Assistant Pastor on 1 September 2024. Volunteers carry out all other church community and outreach activities.

The Trustees monitor various financial and non-financial risks, including Health & Safety, Fire Safety, Child Protection and Data Protection. We subscribe to regular updates on legal and regulatory changes from voluntary sector organisations such as Stewardship Services and thirtyone:eight. The insurance cover was reviewed and renewed in July 2024 and is checked annually.

All reasonable measures are taken to ensure the church remains solvent and there is responsible and prudent use of charitable funds and assets to further its purposes. Financial procedures and controls are in place to ensure that transactions and financial decisions are safeguarded from risks of fraud and mismanagement.

Objectives and activities of the Trust as listed in the governing document are:

- a) To advance the Christian faith in the county of Kent and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit,
- b) To relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are aged or sick and to relieve the distress caused thereby in the said County and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit,
- c) To promote and fulfil such other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in the said County and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

Through the year regular and occasional activities included:

- Regular Sunday services each week including a monthly family service and an additional early morning service once a month as well as special Christmas and Easter services. The regular Sunday service is available on YouTube for anyone unable to attend or wishing to view at an alternative time. Once or twice a month there is also an evening DVD teaching session.
There are concurrent Sunday School and youth classes most weeks
- Weekly men's and women's bible studies
- Regular prayer meetings
- Activities for 5–7 year olds
- Regular Friday evening youth meetings providing a structured programme of fun and bible teaching.
- Get Together, a programme for over 50s, with a series of monthly social events was restarted mid-year. There was also occasional ministry to local nursing and residential homes for elderly people.
- On-line and face to face regular prayer meetings are open to all.
- Table Tennis for adults.
- Christian seeker courses e.g. 321, Christianity Explored or ALPHA courses, programmes helping non-Christians to explore the Christian faith.
- A series of ladies' outreach events designed to attract new, unchurched, women to a social event with existing church attendees.
- A men's breakfast is also held several times during the year and other occasional men's events.
- Provision of food parcels for those in need.
- The pastor chairs the Maidstone Bible Week Committee, which organises an annual event for people from churches across and beyond the town.
- Community carol singing at the Mid-Kent Shopping Centre.
- English Conversation Classes for people whose first language is not English, following a request from the local primary school.

Other events included an Annual 'Away Day' with an invited guest speaker.

The church buildings continue to be used by several external and community groups.

The church is a diverse and growing fellowship and includes an encouraging number of new and relatively new regular attendees with young children.

Gifts have been made to support Happy Feet, Maidstone Homeless Care, The Maidstone Churches' Winter Shelter, Maidstone Family Trust, the Kenward Trust, the Philo Trust, Maidstone Street Pastors, MADM a local Christian charity, overseas missionaries (OMF, Latin Link, Leprosy Mission), Angel Project (supporting local women prisoners), relief to children and poor communities in Malawi and Uganda via other charities, Open Doors, Tearfund, Christian

Concern and the Christian Institute. Some financial pastoral support was also provided where needed.

The church continues to support the Maidstone area community by working as volunteers for the Street Pastoring Service. The Maidstone Winter Shelter project operated from before Christmas 2023 until Easter 2024, providing meals and accommodation at different churches and housed overnight guests in a hotel. Allington Baptist Church hosted the Shelter for each Wednesday evening during the programme.

The Pastor provides a recognised contact point for those in the Fellowship as well as other churches and people in the locality. An informal but effective network supports members and others who are housebound, sick or in other need. Dedications, baptisms and funerals are arranged as required.

Achievements and Performance: ABC has continued to attract a wide audience to worship services, bible studies and activities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The number and diversity of attendees is encouraging.

An 18 year land lease was agreed with the County Council in October 2015 and an increased rent agreed. The church owns the two buildings used in providing its services.

Financial Review: the gross income of the Trust is below £250k per annum, and the charity is not constituted as a company, so the accounting is undertaken using the Receipts and Payments option open to small charities (s133 Charities Act 2011). The accounts have been independently examined and found to be in keeping with the relevant requirements of the Charities Act.

The Trust relies mainly on voluntary contributions for funding. It does not accept monies from the National, or any other, lottery on ethical grounds. The Trust uses its income in ways that will fulfil its objectives.

The Trust is constrained by the terms of the land lease when considering the level of responsible investment in any new fixed assets.

The Trust reported an overall surplus in 2024 of £21,657.24 comprising total income of £111,409.28 against expenditure of £89,752.04. There was an increase in general giving of £6,263 year to year, and significant specific donations of £18,750 were also made during the year towards funding for the new Assistant Pastor post.

Just over fifty percent of the church's expenditure related to employment costs including training (£45,609). £8,800 of mission gifts were made to both local and national organisations in pursuance of the church's objectives; and pastoral gifts of £1,059 were made to relieve hardship. The largest overhead costs for the church are the property ground rent (£6,409), the insurance cover (£2,235), and utility costs (£1,254). The church also spent £8,777 renewing various elements of the property including replacing doors and external steps.

The General fund increased by £1,659 in the year with £58,187.82 held at the end of the period. A balance is held in reserves according to the Trust's financial risk policy. The Trustees consider that sufficient funds should be held in reserve to allow for dilapidations should we need to terminate the lease early or have unforeseen employment costs, and have identified sums from the General fund to reserve against these risks. The size and use of each of these funds is kept under periodic review at Trustees' meetings and communicated regularly to the church membership.

Serious Incidents: there were no serious incidents to report during the year.

Public benefit statement: direct beneficiaries of the Trust are those who attend church services and other church run activities, those in receipt of pastoral or care home visits and recipients of missionary payments. Indirect beneficiaries include community groups and their clients who use the halls at modest and often discounted rates, and those who benefit from gifts made via other charities.

Plans for Future Periods: the church vision focuses on our spiritual and other resources as effectively as possible to develop existing ministries in outreach, prayer, pastoral care, mission support, worship/music, young people and preaching and spiritual development.

Challenges: whilst the church is in a satisfactory financial position, we will need to renew former three and four year fixed term utility contracts which will raise costs. There will be a five yearly review of our land rental from the landlord, Kent County Council (KCC) in October 2025 and the full year cost of the Assistant Pastor will impact the finances during 2025.

Signed for and on behalf of the Elders and Trustees of Allington Baptist Church Trust



Barbara Mitchell
Chair of Trustees

Date: 19th October 2025

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2024

<u>INCOME - Unrestricted</u>	£	£	£	Prior Year £
Balance brought forward as at 1st January 2024 as per 2023 accounts			82,399.95	61,973.78
Giving	65,435.90			59,173.13
Hall Hiring	11,046.94			11,438.00
Other income & rebates	189.67			398.38
Tax Recovery	12,236.78			11,586.37
Interest Received	704.02			593.52
	<u>89,613.31</u>			<u>83,189.40</u>
<u>INCOME - Restricted & Reserved Funds</u>				
Pastoral Fund	500.00			1,920.00
Food bank	70.00			30.00
Church Away Day	836.00			785.00
Missions - Sundry	240.90			20.00
Children and Youth work	0.00			130.00
Get Together	193.78			95.07
Babies & Toddler Group	195.29			301.39
Assistant Pastor Fund	18,750.00			8,178.05
Other Income	0.00			564.00
Tax Recovery	1,010.00			265.00
	<u>21,795.97</u>			<u>12,288.51</u>
Total Income		<u>111,409.28</u>		<u>95,477.91</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Employment</u>				
Pastor	37,800.40			36,936.30
Assistant Pastor	5,000.00			0.00
Cleaner	2,057.25			1,938.00
Staff Travel expenses	41.36			0.00
Staff Training / Conferences	710.84			196.90
	<u>45,609.85</u>			<u>39,071.20</u>
<u>Running Expenses</u>				
Ground Rent	6,408.68			6,408.68
Storage and Hired Facilities	0.00			219.60
Insurances	2,235.10			2,244.24
Utilities	1,253.83			1,951.99
Service Contracts	2,554.20			1,354.44
Property & Equipment Repairs	8,777.41			770.69
IT and Audio-Visual Equipment	2,155.22			703.58
General Equipment	732.98			1,868.90
	<u>24,117.42</u>			<u>15,522.12</u>
<u>Operational Expenses</u>				
Office Expenditure	2,104.69			2,512.53
Bank Charges	109.92			118.92
Licences & Subscriptions	1,319.77			1,300.05
Visiting preacher gifts	1,200.00			1,025.00
Outreach & Evangelism	1,205.15			1,773.17
Pastoral Care	1,058.70			2,315.95
General Supplies	686.20			900.74
C/Fwd	<u>7,684.43</u>	<u>69,727.27</u>		<u>9,946.36</u>

Expenditure (Cont'd)

Operational Expenses (Cont'd)	B/Fwd	7,684.43	69,727.27	9,946.36
Library & DVDs		131.05		311.20
Church Services		489.06		287.80
Away Day & Social Events		1,077.40		1,242.62
Publicity		286.91		395.85
Mission Giving		8,800.00		7,070.00
Volunteer Training		0.00		10.00
Miscellaneous Expenditure		451.39		129.77
		18,920.24		19,393.60
Church Groups				
Babes & Toddlers		173.66		316.65
Children's work		47.95		47.95
Messy Church & Family Outreach		71.99		125.99
Youth groups		610.82		389.76
Get Together		200.11		184.47
		1,104.53		1,064.82
Total Expenditure			89,752.04	75,051.74
Surplus/(Deficit) in year				21,657.24
				£20,426.17
			BALANCE at 31st December 2024	£ 104,057.19
				82,399.95

RESTRICTED AND RESERVED FUNDS

Missions	Donations Received	Payments Made
	(restricted)	(restricted and general)
	£	£
Open Doors	0.00	500.00
Kenward Trust	63.25	500.00
Latin Link	0.00	1,000.00
Leprosy Mission	0.00	500.00
Homeless Care	63.25	500.00
O.M.F	0.00	1,000.00
TearFund	114.40	850.00
Starfish Malawi	0.00	500.00
Maidstone Street Pastors	0.00	500.00
Uganda Women's Concern	0.00	500.00
Christian Institute	0.00	350.00
Christian Concern	0.00	350.00
The Philo Trust	0.00	250.00
Family Trust	0.00	300.00
MADM	0.00	300.00
Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter	0.00	300.00
Happy Feet (Saturation Trust)	0.00	200.00
Angel Tree Prisons' Ministry	0.00	400.00
	240.90	8,800.00
Transfer from Church General Funds	8,800.00	
		9.8% (represents 9.8% of unrestricted income)
Balance B/Forward 01/01/24	140.00	
	9,180.90	8,800.00
Balance C/Forward 31/12/24	380.90	

Designated Restricted and Reserved Funds

	<u>Get Together</u>	<u>Pastoral and Food Bank</u>	<u>Babes & Toddlers</u>
Balance B/Forward 01/01/24	491.24	37.92	110.90
Donations Received	193.78	570.00	195.29
Gift Aid Tax Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Church General Funds	0.00	400.00	0.00
Payments Made	200.11	988.02	173.66
Balance C/Forward 31/12/24	<u>£ 484.91</u>	<u>£ 19.90</u>	<u>£ 132.53</u>

	<u>Assistant Pastor</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Legacy fund</u>	<u>IT fund</u>
Balance B/Forward 01/01/24	8,328.05	140.00	16,428.35	334.73
Donations Received	18,750.00	240.90	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid Tax Recovery	1,010.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Church General Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments Made	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance C/Forward 31/12/24	<u>£ 28,088.05</u>	<u>£ 380.90</u>	<u>£ 16,428.35</u>	<u>£ 334.73</u>

<u>General Fund reserves (unrestricted)</u>	<u>01/01/24</u>	<u>31/12/24</u>	<u>Movement</u>
	£	£	£
Employment Cost Reserve	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Lease rent & dilapidation Reserve	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Infrastructure Reserve	14,942.25	14,942.25	0.00
Other reserves including contingency	16,586.51	18,046.00	1,459.49
Total General fund reserves	<u>56,528.76</u>	<u>57,988.25</u>	<u>1,459.49</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Dec 2024</u>	<u>Dec 2023</u>
	£	£
HSBC Bank - Current A/c	60,027.20	39,073.98
Kingdom Bank A/c	33,607.23	33,042.80
Virgin Charity Deposit A/c	10,422.76	10,283.17
Cash	0.00	0.00
	<u>104,057.19</u>	<u>82,399.95</u>

Representing Balances on the following Assets:

General Fund (Unrestricted Fund)	58,187.82	56,528.76
Assistant Pastor Fund (Restricted Fund)	28,088.05	8,328.05
Legacy Fund (Restricted Fund)	16,428.35	16,428.35
Missions (Restricted Fund)	380.90	140.00
Get Together (Restricted Fund)	484.91	491.24
Babes & Toddlers (Restricted Fund)	132.53	110.90
IT Fund (Restricted Fund)	334.73	334.73
Pastoral and Foodbank (Restricted Fund)	19.90	37.92
	<u>104,057.19</u>	<u>82,399.95</u>

Non Monetary Assets:

Church Building - cost to purchase £8,390 (Aug. 1995). Refurbishment costs 2016/17 c.£89,000
Annexe Building - cost to purchase, enable and commission c. £132,000 (2017)

There are no loans, mortgages or other long term financial liabilities. The charity has an 18 year land lease with 5 year break clauses with its landlord, the Kent County Council. The latest lease commenced on the 12th October 2015.

Accounts prepared

S Doyle
B Mitchell

S Doyle

B Mitchell

Church Treasurer

Chair to the Trustees
on behalf of the Trustees

Approved & Accepted

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Allington Baptist Church Trust

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- have not been met; or

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

E. B. Ejiofor FCCA
Financial Consult Ltd
Chartered Accountants



Name: Mr Emmanuel Ejiofor

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCCA

Address: 3, Meteor Road, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TH

Date: 15th October 2025