

# Witham Baptist Church

## Serving Christ and Our Community

### Trustees Annual Report 2024-2025

#### **Trustees**

The Church currently has three Trustees: Rev'd. Michael R Child (Chairman); Mrs Ann M Coleman (Secretary); Philip J West (Treasurer).

The Trustees met once during the year.

#### **Membership**

As at end of March we had 9 members as we had the privilege of welcoming 4 new members. We have also been greatly encouraged that the regular weekly congregation continues growing numerically.

#### **The Diaconate**

The Church is served by a Diaconate of two: Ann Coleman and Philip West.

#### **Baptismal Service**

There were no Believers' Baptisms during the year, but one is planned, our first in 15 years, during April 2025

#### **Giving**

Members and Friends are still giving sacrificially and generously to the work of the Church. The Building Fund is continuing to grow.

The Church supports the ministry of Leslie and Elizabeth Message (Belgium); we were delighted that they join us for Sunday Services and Wednesday Prayer Meetings via Zoom.

During the period April 2024 to March 2025 the Church gave a donation to the Leprosy Mission. The Harvest Thanksgiving produce and products were given to the Witham Food Bank and monetary donations to Mill Grove Centre, South Woodford.

The Church also donated shoe boxes this year for the Samaritan's Purse "Operational Christmas Child" appeal.

The Carols by Candlelight Service offering was given to Farleigh Hospice.

#### **Services and Auxiliaries**

We held weekly Sunday Services for Worship, Prayer and Preaching at the Royal British Legion Hall and mid-week Prayer Meetings each Wednesday via Zoom.

Others join our Sunday Services and Mid-week Meetings via Zoom.

We joined our friends at Maldon Baptist Church for a Christmas Service and held a Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the Royal British Legion Hall at which an offering was taken for Farleigh Hospice.

Our Pastor continues as Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Air Forces Association and serves the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (Air Training Corps) as Essex Wing Chaplain and Chaplain 295 (Witham & Rivenhall) Squadron.

### **Church Premises**

The Trustees are still actively seeking a suitable site or premises for Sunday Services and to develop the Church's ministry.

### **Baptist Union of Great Britain**

Witham Baptist Church is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

### **Eastern Baptist Association**

Witham Baptist Church is also affiliated to the Eastern Baptist Association.

### **Churches Together in Witham and District**

We continue to be part of Churches Together in Witham and District. There were less United activities, but we participated in the open-air Witham Town carol Service.

### **Harvest**

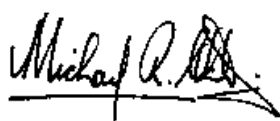
Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and the produce donated to the Witham Food Bank and monetary offering to Mill Grove Centre, South Woodford, a Christian charity working with children and deprived families in South Woodford.

### **Special Services**

The Church celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

The Annual Carols by Candlelight Service was on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024. and an offering was taken for the Farleigh Hospice. A short Family Service was also held on Christmas Day.

We are thankful to God for His loving faithfulness to us throughout a difficult and challenging year and for providing for our needs and we trust Him for all that is to come as we seek further ways of serving our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael R. Child', with a horizontal line underneath.

Revd Michael R Child  
Pastor and Chairman of the Trustees

# WITHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

## Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2025

### Receipts and Payments Account (General Purposes Fund)

#### Income Receipts

	£	£	<u>2024</u>
Donations			21481
Weekly Offerings	23922		
L & E Message	2565		2390
Leprosy Mission	100		97
D & A Boyle	-		-
Millgrove	35		75
BRE Ukraine	-		-
Farleigh Hospice	170		160
Preacher's Fees Gifted Back	171		174
Other	<u>402</u>		-
	27365		
Trading Activities			
Subscriptions and Tuck Sales	-		-
Investment Income			
Bank and Building Society Interest	<u>88</u>		-
	27453		<u>24377</u>
Income Tax Rebate			
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>32803</u>		<u>28710</u>

#### Direct Charitable Expenditure

Hire of Premises	2910		1970
Minister's Stipend and NI	18097		17578
Minister's Council Tax	3113		2933
Preacher's Expenses	<u>428</u>		<u>477</u>
	24548		22958

#### Other Expenditure

Advertising	324		324
Churches Together in Witham	40		-
Baptist Union Subscription	28		26
Millgrove	35		-
L & E Message	2565		2390
Data Protection	40		40
D & A Boyle	-		-
P C Help	72		53
Farleigh Hospice	170		160
CCL Licence	148		98
Insurance	445		428
The Leprosy Mission	100		80
Website Costs	-		-
Purchase of Bibles	216		-
Transfer Building Fund	-		-
Sundry Expenses	410		<u>312</u>
			<u>3911</u>
<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>29141</u>		<u>26869</u>

**Net Receipts/(Payments) for the Year** 3662 1841

Cash and Bank balances at 31 March 2024 4415 2574

**Cash and Bank balances at 31 March 2025** 8077 4415

# WITHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

## Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2025

### Receipts and Payments Account (Building Fund)

Income Receipts	£	£	<u>2024</u>
Donations			
In Memory Of	260		100
Other	50		-
Sundry	-		-
Sundry	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
	310		100
Trading Activities			
Buy a Brick		-	-
Knitting	16		27
Sundry Sales		-	-
Investment Income			
Bank and Building Society Interest	<u>6596</u>		<u>2717</u>
Total Receipts	6922		2844
Other Expenditure			
	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Payments	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Net Receipts for the Year	<u>6922</u>		<u>2844</u>
Building Fund Balance at 31 March 2024		<u>147592</u>	<u>144748</u>
Building Fund Balance at 31 March 2025		<u>154514</u>	<u>147592</u>

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Witham Baptist Church**

We report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - . to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - . to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**RONALD W CHIVERS & CO**  
**ACCOUNTANTS**

61 Manor Street  
Braintree  
Essex  
CM7 3HP

13 November 2025