

DIDCOT BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

Didcot Baptist Church
Charity Number 1128696

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Annual Report for 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity, Didcot Baptist Church, for 2024.

Charitable Object

The Church is an unincorporated association, governed by a constitution which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the Baptist denomination, to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church will determine.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd on trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational structure and decision-making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution. Baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith is the normal mode of entry into the membership of a Baptist Church.

Church Membership is open to those who:

- accept the beliefs of the Church
- meet the Church's qualification on baptism
- commit themselves to serving Christ within the Church and beyond
- abide by the decisions of the Church Members' Meeting;
- acknowledge their responsibilities as Church Members
- have their membership application accepted by the Church Members' Meeting.

In regard to baptismal qualification for Church Membership, the Church operates an open membership. It therefore allows that persons who have not been baptised in the manner described in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle may, at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting, be accepted for full membership based on their own public profession of faith.

The members' meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees, who include the Senior Minister (currently vacant), Associate Minister, Children and Youth Director, Administrator and Treasurer, Elders and Deacons and are collectively known as the Leadership Team who are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable object.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for guidance and decision or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both for its membership and for the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as Loving Lord. Our vision is "to be a Welcoming Community, following Jesus, and making Him known".

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the church notice board and the website at www.didcotbaptist.org.uk. A varied programme is also provided for children and young people, on Sundays and also throughout the week. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church holds prayer to be of central importance and seeks to incorporate prayer within our regular activities. Additionally, this year a dedicated monthly church prayer meeting was started, at which all aspects of our church life and witness are brought to God.

The Church runs a series of house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members and in the church building, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

Whenever possible, the Church makes available its premises, at an affordable cost, to community groups. This is done as part of the outworking of our mission statement, and as an acknowledgement of our commitment to serving our community in various ways.

The Church is itself responsible for the following activities with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ:

- A Toddler Group is run by the church on the Church premises on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. A baby group is run on Wednesday afternoons. The church employs a part-time Toddler & Baby Group Leader to facilitate these groups.
- Coffee & Co continues to meet on Monday and provides company for those who wish to meet and chat.
- An International Cafe started in June 2023 and meets on a Thursday where approx. 40-50 people meet from different nations to share food & conversation.
- A conversational English class also takes place on a Thursday which was originally started to help locally placed Ukrainian people to speak English, but now other nationalities are also finding this useful.
- An Emergency Foodbank is operated four hours a week from church premises, led by DBC members, but also supported by other churches and organisations within the town and volunteers. This is a practical, community-based project aimed at providing short term relief by giving food to people in crisis in our local area.
- A weekly meeting point for the older people of the area provides a varied programme of events and speakers. This is known as Welcome Break and attracts up to 35 people each week.
- A Girls' Brigade Group which provides girls and young women with the opportunity to explore faith, develop leadership and life skills, and to engage in social action.
- Occasional men's events, providing the opportunity to develop friendships and provide support for one another.
- A pastoral care team who meet regularly to pray for the church family and provide support through difficult situations and life challenges.

In partnership with other Churches in the Greater Didcot area, DBC supports the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust (registered charity 1194345), which provides ECHO. ECHO is focused on helping young people to discover and share life in all its fullness, by developing and delivering a range of provisions e.g., a sports outreach (Soul Sport), Youth Cafe, and ECHO Events (Discipleship Hub). The ECHO Youth Cafe continues to meet in the Hub of our premises on Thursday afternoons. Engagement has continued to be high, with one week seeing 109 secondary / sixth form students visit after school.

Also, in partnership with other Churches in Didcot and the surrounding area, DBC supports the work of Didcot and Wallingford Area Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre (registered charity 1160343) (CAP). The Didcot branch of CAP have their office on the church premises and also use the space for prayer meetings, some client visits and celebration events.

Our Children and Youth Director and other volunteer church members support faith engagement in local schools e.g. through prayer spaces, serving as Governors, and attending assemblies. This year they also led the All Saints Church of England Primary School Year 6 Leavers Service, at All Saints' Church, in Didcot.

The Church operates a safeguarding system to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service and receive regular safeguarding training.

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Evangelical Alliance and Welcome Churches. It also has a twinning arrangement with a Baptist Church in El Salvador. Over the years, this arrangement has enabled the church to support university students and to provide housing in El Salvador as part of its mission strategy. The Church is a member of an inter-denominational forum in the town, Churches Together in Didcot and District.

The Church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above, clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas. These would include the practical and emotional support of individuals and families within the church and the wider community. Also, through our support of churches, projects and organisations with a national and international reach, the impact of the church is seen in the spiritual and physical transformation of lives in places far from our church.

2024 has been a year of a lot of change for the church and through it all our God of faithfulness has shone through, and it is wonderful to see the building being used by many of our own groups and other groups from the wider community too.

We continued our search for a new senior minister during the year with the support of Rev Mike Lowe as a moderator, facilitating us in prayer and reflection, and helping us to think through as a church where we are now and what our vision going forward will be, and how this relates to looking for a new minister. Rev Mark Grant-Jones will be taking up the post of Senior Minister in September 2025.

Examples of highlights from the year include:

- Soul Sport run by ECHO has continued to meet at St Birinus School, and has engaged with the sports of football and rounders, as well as a range of faith exploration themes.
- Supporting the three ECHO Events providing the opportunity for young people (and their friends) from DBC and different churches to meet for food, games, and worship. These events have also seen the development of an 'ECHO Young People's Worship Group'.
- Young people and volunteers from DBC attending an 'Elle Limebear & Band Event' at Wallingford Baptist and having the opportunity to hear Elle's testimony of how God has been at work in her life, as well as to worship with people from a range of churches.
- Uniting with other churches in Didcot to take part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday, leading to an open-air service outside the Cornerstone Arts Centre.
- A student from St Birinus School and DBC undertaking their Year 10 work experience with DBC and ECHO and assisting with the children and youth work activities.
- A number of young people from DBC participating in the ECHO Engage Programme, focusing on the area of 'creative communication' and helping to co-create a couple of ECHO films, which were premiered at 'Celebration Sunday'; a gathering hosted at DBC in September.
- Hosting the 'ECHO EXPLORERS - Summer Activity Sessions' for primary school youngsters, building on the great summer work that has taken place in the past.
- Running a number of discipleship courses, which also encouraged more people to consider attending home groups.
- People from a number of nations including Ukraine, Hong Kong and Afghanistan, have found a welcome and friendship at the international café.
- Several people who come to Coffee & Co have started attending Sunday services too.
- The Girls' Brigade Group playing an active part in the preparation, and delivery, of the All-Age Christingle Service that took place in December.
- Seeing a number of CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Clients go debt free.
- A varied programme of fun and engaging activities being provided at Welcome Break with the opportunity for faith and friendships to grow.
- Gathering together with friends, family, and the wider community, at various points throughout the year including Christmas, and Easter, to worship God, and give thanks for who He is, all He's done, and is doing.

Seeing two young people who have been part of the DBC family (one who has moved away, and the other currently at university) get baptised.

Working alongside other churches in Didcot, the church has also participated in:

- Didcot and Wallingford Area Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre (registered charity 1160343)
- Didcot Churches Refugee Welcome group

During 2024 no new members were welcomed into membership. Two sadly died, and three members resigned, usually due to moving away. The membership on 31 December 2024 stood at 124.

Typical attendances at Sunday worship are difficult to gauge owing to being a mix of live and online throughout the year but attendances have stayed strong with numbers, on a weekly basis, mostly ranging from 120-160 including children. It is always encouraging to see different generations, nations, and backgrounds coming together to worship God. Through its regular activities (across the whole week) the church is in contact with approximately 180 children and young people (0-18 years) and we are grateful to the team, and support of the wider church, for helping to make this possible.

Other activities, including house groups have continued to function, online and in-person at different times of the year, providing the opportunity for fellowship and faith-sharing.

The church runs Didcot Foodbank which distributed food for 7,346 adults and children during the year (2023: 8,590). This figure includes some repeat visits. Didcot Foodbank is supported by other agencies and churches in the area. In addition, a number of hampers were distributed to families at Christmas identified through working with another charity active in the town, Christians Against Poverty debt centre (registered charity 1160343). In addition to donations of food and other supplies, the Foodbank received financial donations in the year of £55,475 (2023: £52,471).

Didcot Baptist Church is blessed to have a great team of volunteers who faithfully serve in a whole range of areas of church and community life. Over 125 people connected with the church are involved in volunteering, and there are always opportunities for more people to get involved

Financial Review

The church continues to raise the majority of the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, except in the case of the Foodbank where a majority of the income is given by the general public, alongside food donations.

General fund donation income fell by 22% or £40,608 to £145,592. Large one-off gifts received in the previous year totalled £34,500 and account for most of the fall. Underlying regular giving increased by 8.5%, and one-off giving (which includes Sunday offerings) also saw an increase (except for the larger gifts). Income from the rental of the premises has reduced slightly to £6,045, partly due to the increase in church activities at the premises. Other income fell as in the prior year two grants were received for both the provision of a new toddler playhouse, and a defibrillator which has been made available to the community. In addition, interest income on cash balances increased by £776 as cash has been put into interest bearing savings where possible.

Restricted income fell by 6% largely due to lower restricted grant income in the year. The majority of restricted income relates to the Foodbank which fell by £7,525 compared with the previous year.

General Fund expenditure increased by £5,645 compared with the previous year, about 4%. This was largely due to the pay increases for ministerial staff. Restricted expenditure largely reflects the cost of running the Foodbank, which have remained similar to the prior year.

The most significant of our general fund expenses relates to the payment of staff to lead and co-ordinate the church's activities including the Sunday Services, to provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and to equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service. In addition to the Associate Minister and the vacancy for a Senior Minister, the church employs (part-time) an Operations Manager and a Toddler Group Leader. We pay Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust for our part-time Children and Youth Director.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants (19% of unrestricted donations) to local, national and international organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy that requires a minimum of three months' expenditure be held in General Reserves at any time. The balance held at the end of the year represented ten months' expenditure (£145k). The Trustees are satisfied they have more than sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with on-going income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year. Given the current level of economic uncertainty, the Trustees consider it prudent to hold a higher level of reserves for the time being, particularly in anticipation of the appointment of a new minister. Although the reserves for the Foodbank are currently high, demand outstripped both food and monetary donations in 2024 and the balance is expected to fall as we meet the needs of the community in the coming year.

Signed by George Ferguson on behalf of the Trustees:

Date: 22 July 2025

LEGAL INFORMATION

The church is a registered charity number 1128696.

CHURCH ADDRESS

Didcot Baptist Church
43 Wantage Road
Didcot
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OX11 0BS
Tel: 01235 813187

TRUSTEES

George Ferguson
Joanna Schüder
Martin Clegg
Julie Excell
Karen Marriott
Bevan Marchand
Sebastian Campanella
Sara Green
Alistair Brown (appointed 3 June 2025)

CHURCH TREASURER (also Trustee)

Kate Andrews

CHURCH MINISTER (also Trustee)

Rev Louise Brown (until 30 June 2025)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIRECTOR (also Trustee)

Hannah Field

BANKERS

Charities Aid Foundation
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Richard Wilson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF DIDCOT BAPTIST CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:

Richard Wilson

Date 21 July 2025

Richard Wilson, FCMA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	145,592	49,074	-	194,666	237,175
Income from investments	3	14,055	-	-	14,055	13,299
Income from charitable activities	4	157	10,781	-	10,938	16,592
Other trading income	5	6,045	-	-	6,045	6,720
Total Income		165,849	59,855	-	225,704	273,786
Expenditure						
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	142,512	74,594	-	217,106	212,382
Other expenditure	7	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		142,512	74,594	-	217,106	212,382
Net income/(expenditure)		23,336	(14,738)	-	8,598	61,404
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of property	11	111,134	-	-	111,134	17,660
Net movement in funds		134,470	(14,738)	-	119,732	79,064
Fund balances at 1 January		569,700	52,633	1,585,000	2,207,333	2,128,269
Fund balances at 31 December		704,170	37,895	1,585,000	2,327,065	2,207,333

All the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above. The notes on pages 10 to 16 also form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	2,095,107	1,983,516
Current assets			
Debtors	13	15,057	14,879
Cash at bank and in hand	14	223,532	217,156
Total current assets		238,589	232,035
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(6,631)	(8,218)
Net current assets		231,958	223,817
Total net assets		2,327,065	2,207,333
Funds			
Endowed funds	16	1,585,000	1,585,000
Restricted funds	17	37,895	52,633
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	18	558,739	451,218
General fund		145,431	118,482
Total unrestricted funds		704,170	569,700
Total funds		2,327,065	2,207,333

The financial statements on pages 8 to 17 were approved by the Trustees at a meeting of Elders and Deacons and signed on their behalf by Kate Andrews:

Date: 22 July 2025

The notes on pages 10 to 16 also form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2021), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of properties. The Trustees have reviewed the church's forecasts and projections, and consider that the church is well placed to manage the risks it faces, with an appropriate level of reserves and cash balances. The Trustees therefore have reasonable expectation that the church has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and believe there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the ability of the church to continue as a going concern. Therefore, the going concern basis has been adopted in preparing the financial statements.

Didcot Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1128696 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value.

Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when notified of entitlement, providing the amount can be accurately measured and receipt is probable.

Investment income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs of raising funds

The church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

Grants Payable

This Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objectives complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

Support Costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance costs. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. These intangible costs are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, as a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt.

There is no reliable information available for the cost of the church premises or the manse and so on first time adoption of FRS102, the insurance value used previously was adopted as deemed cost. The manse is revalued each year based upon the insurance valuation as reliable cost information is not available. The church has been valued by a RICS qualified surveyor as at 31 December 2022.

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Freehold land	Nil
Furniture and fittings	4 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Depreciation has not been charged on the church premises and the manse as they are revalued each year.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church premises reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on revaluation of the property form part of the fund.

Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan.

Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and grants	123,429	42,892	166,321	203,131
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Tax refunds	22,163	6,182	28,345	34,044
Total	145,592	49,074	194,666	237,175

In 2023 £50,975 of the donations and legacies income was attributable to restricted funds, with the remaining £186,200 being attributable to unrestricted funds.

3 Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Bank interest	4,169	-	4,169	3,394
Manse rental	9,886	-	9,886	9,905
Total	14,055	-	14,055	13,299

In 2023, all of the investment income was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Income from church activities	-	6,812	6,812	7,238
Government grants	-	3,969	3,969	8,654
Other grants	-	-	-	700
Other income	157	-	157	-
Total	157	10,781	10,938	7,238

In 2023, £12,604 was attributable to restricted funds, with the remaining £3,988 attributable to unrestricted funds.

5 Other Trading income

Other trading income arises from the rental of the premises to community organisations when not in use for church activities. All income is unrestricted.

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Ministry	58,158	-	58,158	54,182
Mission	34,155	64,286	98,441	99,116
Establishment and Premises	50,199	10,308	60,507	59,084
	142,512	74,594	217,106	212,382

In 2023, £66,132 mission costs and £9,383 establishment and premises costs were attributable to restricted funds.

Ministry includes the costs of those employed to carry out the ministry of the church, including ministers and youth workers. Mission represents grants made and outreach activities including the provision of food supplies at the Foodbank (restricted funds). Establishment and premises includes support costs for the church, premises costs and the fellowship activities of the church including the costs of services, children and youth groups, other fellowship groups and an employed toddler group leader.

Support costs are included in Establishment and premises and the amounts included within these figures are broken down as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Administration	13,136	6,568	19,704	16,497
IT	3,928	-	3,928	5,609
Subscriptions	920	-	920	874
Bank charges	154	666	820	865
	18,138	7,234	25,372	23,845

In 2023 all support costs other than £5,494 administration and £730 bank charges were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£
Home Mission – core grant	8,735	-	8,735	10,718
BMS World Mission – core grant	8,735	-	8,735	11,804
El Salvador	-	-	-	-
ECHO	8,260	-	8,260	3,000
Christians against Poverty	7,000	-	7,000	6,500
Other grants and special gifts	1,000	287	1,287	1,250
	<u>33,730</u>	<u>287</u>	<u>34,017</u>	<u>33,272</u>

In 2023, £1,086 grants payable were attributable to restricted funds.

8 Net income for the year

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the year is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Independent examiners' remuneration	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

9 Staff costs and Trustees' expenses

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries	62,069	49,971
Social security costs	6	-
Pension costs	4,218	3,788
Other remuneration	-	-
	<u>66,293</u>	<u>53,759</u>

The average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year was 2 (2023: 2). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2023: none).

The Senior Minister (role currently vacant) and the Associate Minister act as church trustees in accordance with the constitution and with formal assent from the Charity Commission.

In 2024, Rev Brown received remuneration of £40,693 (2023: £37,559) in respect of her services as Minister.

£16,134 was paid to the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust (2023: £14,951) for the services of Hannah Field as the part-time Children and Youth Director.

£nil in total was reimbursed to the Trustees in respect of expenses incurred as Trustees (2023: £nil). Those with ministerial office, who are also Trustees, are deemed to have incurred expenses in discharging their duties as ministers, rather than as Trustees. During the year, the church received donations of £29,005 from the Trustees (2023: £41,197). All donations were received for general funds, with the exception of £90 received for Girls Brigade.

The church pays pension contributions for its Associate Minister to the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan of the Baptist Ministers Pension. Further details are set out in note 21. Pension contributions under auto-enrolment obligations for other staff are made to NEST pensions.

Total aggregate remuneration paid to key management personnel during the year was £40,693 (2023: £37,559).

10 Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets held for the charity's own use

Gains and losses on property assets were recognised during the year. The manse value is based on the revised insurance valuations received from the Baptist Insurance Company PLC. The church value is based upon a valuation carried out by David Parlett, MRICS at 31 March 2022.

	2024 £	2023 £
Church premises	-	-
Manse	111,134	17,660
	<u>111,134</u>	<u>17,660</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Church Premises £	Manse £	Furniture and Fittings £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<i>Cost</i>					
At 1 January 2024	1,980,357	250,000	57,007	2,996	2,290,380
Additions	-	-	-	5,146	5,146
At 31 December 2024	1,980,357	250,000	57,007	8,142	2,295,526
<i>Depreciation</i>					
At 1 January 2024	-	-	52,117	2,765	54,882
Depreciation charge	-	-	3,273	1,416	4,689
At 31 December 2024	-	-	55,390	4,181	59,571
<i>Gain/loss on revaluation</i>					
At 1 January 2024	(395,357)	143,395	-	-	(251,962)
Gain/(loss) for the year	-	111,134	-	-	111,134
At 31 December 2024	(395,357)	254,529	-	-	(140,828)
<i>Net book value</i>					
31 December 2024	1,585,000	504,529	1,617	3,961	2,095,107
31 December 2023	1,585,000	393,395	4,890	231	1,983,516

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the church premises and the adjacent manse.

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	-	270
Accrued income	10,238	10,648
Prepayments and other debtors	4,819	3,962
	<u>15,057</u>	<u>14,879</u>

13 Bank and cash balances

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	218,347	212,931
Other (organisation accounts)	5,185	4,225
	<u>223,532</u>	<u>217,156</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	6,102	7,571
Deferred income	240	300
Other creditors	289	347
	<u>6,631</u>	<u>8,218</u>

17 Endowment Funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Gains/(losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
Church Premises reserve	1,585,000	-	1,585,000

The Church Premises reserve represents the value attributed to the Church premises, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

18 Restricted funds

	1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	31 December 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Foodbank	44,776	47,950	(62,923)	-	29,802
Other restricted funds under £3,000	3,627	5,093	(4,256)	-	4,466
Church organisations	4,230	6,812	(7,415)	-	3,627
	<u>52,633</u>	<u>59,855</u>	<u>(74,594)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,895</u>

The Foodbank fund represents funds received to support the local foodbank in Didcot which is an activity of the church.

	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
Restricted funds			
Foodbank	-	29,802	29,802
Other restricted funds under £3,000	-	4,466	4,466
Church organisations	-	3,627	3,627
	<u>-</u>	<u>37,895</u>	<u>37,895</u>

19 Designated funds

	1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Transfers £	31 December 2024 £
Designated funds						
Fixed assets reserve	396,968	-	-	111,134	2,005	510,107
Tithe	26,000	-	-	-	-	26,000
Capital projects	27,000	-	(802)	-	(4,816)	21,382
Defibrillator maintenance	1,250	-	-	-	-	1,250
	<u>451,218</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>111,134</u>	<u>(2,811)</u>	<u>558,739</u>

The fixed assets reserve represents amounts set aside equivalent to the net book value of property and equipment used by the church and purchased from unrestricted funds. The tithe represents amounts given which have been set aside to bless other charities as a thanksgiving for the funds raised for the redevelopment project. Following receipt of two large one-off donations during 2023, the church decided to set the funds aside for future capital projects, including the updating of the sound system during 2024. A gift was made to the church to make available a defibrillator – subsequent grant funding was received which covered the entire cost, so the original gift has been designated to cover maintenance of the defibrillator in subsequent years.

19 Designated funds (continued)

	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£
Designated funds			
Fixed assets reserve	510,107	-	510,107
Tithe	-	26,000	26,000
Capital projects	-	21,382	21,382
Defibrillator maintenance	-	1,250	1,250
	<u>510,107</u>	<u>48,632</u>	<u>558,739</u>

20 Analysis of net assets

	Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long term liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£
Analysis of net assets				
Endowment funds	1,585,000	-	-	1,585,000
Restricted funds	-	37,895	-	37,895
Designated funds	510,107	48,632	-	558,739
Unrestricted funds	-	145,431	-	145,431
Pension reserve	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,095,107</u>	<u>231,958</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,327,065</u>

21 Pensions

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund, started in 1925. At the beginning of the financial year, the scheme comprised of a defined benefits scheme which was closed to future accrual on 31 December 2011 and a defined contribution plan which was opened in January 2012. The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For the current financial year, the pension provision for members of the Scheme is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited. Furthermore, members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

In October 2024, the insurance company Just Group completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022 also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just Group from that date.

The Ministers are eligible to join the Scheme.

22 Related Charities and Related Party Transactions

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Registered Charity No. 249635) which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association.

Rev L Brown, is a trustee of the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust (Registered Charity No. 1194345) who run ECHO. The church made a grant of £8,260 to the charity (2023: £3,000). The church also paid the charity £16,134 (2023: £14,951) for the services of Hannah Field as Children and Youth Director.