



Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Annual Report for 2024-25

Moortown Baptist Church

1. Statutory Information

Registered Address

204 King Lane, LEEDS, LS17 6AA.

Charity Registration Number: 1128960

Trustees

Mr Andy Berry (Appointed March 2024)

Dr Phil Commons (Until October 2024)

Mrs Shelley Dring (Minister – appointed July 2022)

Mr Geoff Fennell (Appointed March 2021)

Mrs Krystyna Gadd (Appointed February 2023)

Mr Zac Mwanje (Until October 2024)

Mrs Mandy Russell (Appointed March 2024)

Mr Rod Russell (Appointed February 2023)

Mrs Diane Sunter (Until October 2024)

Dr Claire Taylor (Appointed March 2024)

Mr John Clark (Appointed October 2024)

Dr Jonathan Darling (Appointed May 2025)

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited /

The Yorkshire Baptist Association (Incorporated)

Baptist House

129 Broadway

DIDCOT

Oxfordshire

OX11 8RT

Bankers

Virgin Money Bank

Yorkshire Baptist Association Trust Fund

Baptist Union

Independent Examiner

Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants,

125 Main St,

Garforth,

Leeds

LS25 1AF

2. Annual Report for 2024/25

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year to 31st March 2025.

3. Charitable Object

Moortown Baptist Church (MBC) is governed by a Constitution which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world. The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on Trust which are entirely compatible with the above object.

4. Public benefit

When reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity, and in planning future activities, the trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission, and in particular the guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. The Church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This benefit is available to all who come into contact with the Church in any way.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

5. Organisation Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to have been baptised on their profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or (at the discretion of the Church Members meeting) on their own public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Governance of a local Baptist church is achieved through the Church Members meeting together to consider matters related to the life and work of the church. Local Baptist churches nevertheless appoint individuals to responsibilities within the church, so its mission can be advanced through the effective and deliberate sharing of tasks, within a framework of mutual accountability.

In accordance with the constitution, deacons have been appointed by the Church Members Meeting, who for 2024/25 together with the minister Shelley Dring (also appointed by the Church Members meeting) have formed the church Leadership Team and shared the responsibility for the church's mission and pastoral care. Nine individuals have served as deacons during the course of 2024/25 with one election at the end of the year. The deacons and minister are together the charity trustees of the church, responsible for governance and administration of the charity. All church members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

The Church Members meeting usually takes place up to six times per year and is where matters affecting the life and activities of the church are discussed in the context of worship, including prayer and the reading of Scripture. Attendance at the meetings through Zoom is an option where members cannot attend in person. At the church meeting in September 2024 it was agreed to change the Constitution to allow online voting where people were attending online. The intention is that, so far as is possible, practical issues are not perceived as being separate from the spiritual

aspects of the Church. Relevant matters may be raised to the Church Members Meeting by the Leadership Team or at the request of church members. The Church Members meeting is where overall policy and key decisions of the church are determined. Although the constitution permits decisions to be made by appropriate majorities at Church Members meetings, the church generally seeks to work by consensus where possible.

6. Objectives and Activities

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in December 2008.

In order to achieve the principal object which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the wider community generally. In loving God and living generously, our 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 living Lord, by following Christ.

Our shared life – Christian worship and discipleship

Moortown Baptist Church continues to be an increasingly diverse community of Christians, drawn from neighbourhoods across Leeds and surrounding areas. We seek to apply a vision of Truth and Grace as a church together and in whatever context we find ourselves in our everyday lives. When we gather together we seek to promote Christian living, offer hospitality and equip our members.

All through this period Shelley Dring, the church's minister, took on responsibility, together with the deacons and supported by many volunteers, of compiling and delivering much of the church's output.

At the heart of this are our Sunday services, in which we share teaching, sung worship, prayer and communion. Sunday services continue to be streamed on YouTube to enable ministry to continue for those who cannot attend in person.

Prayer is a vital part of a thriving church and in the last year we have sought to make it more prominent in the life of our church. This has been evident in a number of different ways:

- 9 o'clock prayers during Lent
 - A group met every evening for 15 minutes, virtually, via a WhatsApp group to pray for the church and many other issues.
- June was designated a month of prayer and we use a guide adapted from the Church Prayer Leaders Network to guide the prayers each day.
- In July, we had a day of prayer, where the congregation were invited to pray at any time during a 24 hour period beginning at 11am on Saturday 22nd the of July and ending Sunday 23rd of July. We also had a period of time of the Saturday where we met in the building to explore prayer and worship in many different forms:
 - Using the Our Father as a model prayer
 - Collage
 - Artwork
 - Movement and breath prayer
- We now have a Sunday prayer team, which started in March 2023. The purpose of this team is on a Sunday to be available after the service to pray for anyone about anything they need.

In addition to the above, faithful ongoing prayer by individuals and in various church groups has continued.

A number of house groups and bible study groups met on a regular basis during the year, either in people's homes or in the church, for fellowship, prayer and bible study as part of their seeking to grow in faith.

YouTube Moortown Baptist YouTube channel continued to be used to stream Sunday services to enable people to "attend" who could not be present in person. This was used both by members of our own church and also by others who were seeking somewhere to worship God.

Facebook is also regularly used to communicate with members of the church and beyond about everything that is happening at Moortown Baptist Church.

Zoom Zoom meetings continued to be used in various ways to enable those to take part who could not attend activities or meetings in person. This has proved particularly useful for church meetings and some house groups.

Worship and Teaching

The teaching series on a Sunday is planned and coordinated by the Minister, with others prayerfully feeding in and delivering teaching. It is designed to be accessible and included: a series on resurrection, Jesus life and ministry in the light of the Trinity, stories and parables Jesus told in the book of Luke and the power of storytelling, Jesus journeying through Galilee and the ripples his ministry caused and what this might say to us, the book and story of Ruth, David as king – that God looks on the heart, a series about advent and the coming of Jesus into the world and our lives, developing strong roots and the importance of being connected and a Lent series about wilderness, how Jesus chose to move away from busyness and distractions to make space to hear God. On the first Sunday of the month, all ages take part in creative activities in café church and on the other Sundays this takes place both in the service for all and in a separate group next door for children. A live band is led by a worship leader each week. The worship leader chooses songs and arrangements in collaboration with the Minister. Each week they are supported by a tech team who facilitate sound and visuals including live feed, recording content and loop system.

Baptisms. There were six Baptisms of members of the church and two more are planned.

Staff . The church employed four people during the year: the Minister, a Seniors Worker, an Administrator and a young person who prepared various rooms in different parts of the building for the whole variety of activities taking place each week. The church is extremely grateful to have four such amazing employees. Without them it would not have been able to function so well.

Volunteers. In all of its activities, the church relied on volunteers to support its staff and trustees. Numerous volunteers helped with Lunch Club, Sunday services in all its aspects, the pastoral team, toddlers, small study groups, children and youth, overseas mission links, the Beacon cafe, encouraging the prayer life of the church, maintaining the building, helping with administration and compliance with the church's legal duties as a charity and employer in a whole variety of ways. Many individuals helped in a number of different aspects and the church is enormously grateful for all their help and commitment.

Outward Focus

Our local and citywide connections

We are committed to equipping one another in our daily living and work. As a church we partner with others to achieve common goals, through action, campaigning, prayer and financial support. We encourage individuals to get involved with community groups and charities and continue to host open contact groups such as a Monday morning Beacon Café and Thursday afternoon Craft Group. Specific events open to all and attended by many from across the community included Gather 2025 a worldwide event, the annual plant sale and a Christmas Steel Pans Drum event.

As a church we have continued our support for Baptists Together Home Mission. Additionally, we continued to support a range of groups including Leeds and Moortown Furniture Store, Grace Gospel Church and Pathways Counselling Service.

The church continued to offer outreach to members of the local community through its weekly drop in “Beacon” cafe every Monday morning between 10 am – 12pm. Many people (up to 50) may come on any one day. Members of the church chatted with them and they shared in a hot drink and snack. Home-made cakes were on offer! A short prayer session was held at the end for anyone wanting to stay. Prayers were offered for any name put forward and strength was requested for the coming week.

In January 2025 the church received had received a grant from Leeds City Council as part of a ‘Warm Spaces’ initiative in the city. Beacon cafe continued to be designated a Warm Space and as the church already provided this it became a natural part of our week. Everyone was welcome to come inside, get warm, and share in food and fellowship.

The craft group continued over the period and some 20+ members attended. Some brought their own work to continue, some learned new skills. Some preferred to just come to chat! A stock of wools and needles for knitting or crochet work was available. Some made cards or other crafts as requested. This weekly group also continued to be designated a “Warm Space” and again some new people came in to get warm and share in a hot drink and snack. Some have since joined the group whilst others have stopped coming as the weather improved. A record of those attending has helped members to keep a watchful eye on people and check if they are ill or away. This pastoral element has helped a lot and friendships have been formed.

The church operates what it calls the “Lords Pantry” where items of food and supplies are given to those who are struggling. It is available for anyone who approaches the church and regular donations are given by members to restock items. To the same end, the church received a further Government Household Support grants through Leeds City Council and connected agencies to enable it to support people who were struggling with the cost of living. As part of this scheme our Lords Pantry grew substantially. Up to 15 people have been helped weekly. In order to cope with the numbers requiring food the items were limited to eight per family and six per single person. We made up and provided special food hampers at Christmas which were very well received. The grant funding was also used to help towards electricity/gas costs for those who were really struggling to pay their bills. A local postmaster agreed to help us run the scheme. We provided him with the cash and numbered vouchers and he gave out electricity/gas prepayment vouchers. The use of the money was recorded and fed back to the grant provider.

Building and strengthening relationships across communities continued to be important. Organisations we were involved with included Lingfield Living Local and the Leeds Jewish Housing Association. Some of our Jewish friends regularly attended Monday Beacon Café and church services, and some of our church members regularly attended activities and lunches at the Ziff Community Centre.

The church continued its links to the Pathways Christian Counselling service, which offers counselling to all in the community through its team of professionally trained counsellors and students. The service uses the church premises for some of its counselling sessions and one of the church's trustees continued to serve on the Pathways management committee.

The church maintained its partnership with the Leeds and Moortown Furniture Store through encouraging donations of furniture. In addition, several church members were closely involved either through working for the Store or as trustees.

One of our members has continued to pastor the Ethiopian church in Leeds and the Ethiopian church continues to reach out to asylum seekers in the UK with God's love and to supply practical and spiritual support.

Our international links

The Overseas Mission Group currently meets 2 or 3 times a year to try to co-ordinate the church's support of the different overseas mission agencies supported by church members. The group includes The Minister and a Deacon and Representatives of BMS, MAF, Radio Worldwide, The Romania Group and MERF. One aim of this group is to try to keep news of overseas work before the congregation by occasional mission spots in Sunday Services.

BMS World Mission

The Church continues to channel most of its support for overseas mission, Development and Medical Work and Relief Aid, through the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS World Mission).

We have slightly increased the level of monthly financial support for BMS from general church funds. Individual giving by church members on a monthly or annual basis (including through the Birthday Scheme – inviting people to donate on their birthdays) continues to be generous, but the numbers involved have diminished and attempts to recruit new donors have failed.

During the Autumn our Medical Mission Partners working in Chad led a morning service with a challenging message highlighting the effects of Climate change on poor countries as they described unprecedented Damaging floods in the Sarah Desert! Following the Retirement of our Mission Partners in France we need to find new BMS Overseas Partners - perhaps in South Asia.

We continue to circulate regular letters from overseas workers through the Church's weekly online newsletter and through the BMS free Engage Magazine.

MAF

Members of the Church support the Mission Aviation Fellowship {MAF} in its mission of providing transportation of Church and Aid organisations to many of the most remote and needy areas of the

world. The publicity of this work has been less this year due to illness of the church MAF rep. However, individuals continue to give to MAF and to receive prayer diaries from pilots working in increasingly difficult situations,

Work with Asylum Seekers

We referred earlier to the church's links with the Ethiopian church in Leeds. In addition to that, one of our church members who pastors that church has made a number of trips to France and Belgium to give practical support and show the love of God to people in refugees' camps there.

Romania

Over the year we have continued to maintain our links with four churches in Romania and to provide financial support to their ministries. £4,350 was raised through donations and other activities including a successful strawberry cream tea.

As a result we were able to send £4,300 to Romania this year which was used to support summer camps for young people from churches in Cluj, Cserefalva and Udvarhely. We also supported an outreach to a church in a deprived gypsy community as well as providing assistance for needy people and bursaries for some students. In addition, we sent £2,000 donated by church members to Manastur church in Cluj for their continued work in supporting Ukrainian refugees.

Two visits to Romania by members of Moortown church took place during the year including two people for whom it was their first visit. The visit in February was mainly to Udvarhely and the husband and wife pastors who previously spent time at our church in Leeds. The three people who visited in September spent time in Cluj and Manastur church visiting the gypsy church we support and a Christian centre in the mountains. They also stayed in Cserefalva and visited Udvarhely as well as some tourist sites.

In addition, there is regular communication between our churches, including updates for the congregation as a whole. Communication also takes place on an individual basis as part of the friendships that have developed over the years.

WEC International

The Church continues to support (through an annual donation and regular giving by individuals) the work of two of our members working with Radio Worldwide (WEC International). Chris continues to serve as a full-time missionary, while Bela is retiring from WEC, while continuing to work in Christian ministry as a volunteer. This includes ministering to women and girls in Sri Lanka, training them in skills to make them self-sufficient by generating funds using vocational skills. Bela is also seeking to help hospital chaplains by visiting and encouraging patients spiritually in hospitals.

Chris' work is carried out in two main ways.

Firstly, by running training courses by travelling to different countries and also online on Zoom in the use of radio and other social-media for Christian work – most notably in African countries.

Secondly by producing an audio and video, Christian Thought for the Day, in Hindi, which is distributed via radio stations in India, Australasia, Fiji etc, and also through social media to thousands of Hindi speaking people online in India and other countries.

In these ways we continue to witness, in words, service and actions, to the truths of the Good News of Jesus Christ for the wider world.

Sri Lanka

Two people from MBC went out in February to Sri Lanka to a refuge run by the Women's Development Centre in Kandy. The refuge is for girls who have suffered gender-based violence and have fled there for safety. Krys Gadd one of our deacons, has had connections with the charity since 2019 and this was her second visit.

The two people from MBC funded themselves to go and stay in Kandy and money was also raised to take out to the refuge. Monies raised from a tabletop sale and other events helped with not only with the running costs of the refuge but several other projects.

One weaving project was to make a bag from recycled fabric and another to make reusable nappies for the babies in the refuge. The sewing teacher knows how to make them now and will teach the girls how to sew them. A third project which involved learning to crochet a bag from cotton yarn was also a huge success.

The trip went really well. Prayers really made all the difference – no delays, illnesses, mishaps or even insect bites. Tea towels made by some of the girls have been brought back and sold to raise nearly £500 so far.

Children and Young People

On Sunday mornings, except when there is cafe church, a faithful group of volunteers have taken children and young people into an adjoining room where they have carried out a range of teaching and activities on the same theme as is being followed in church. The children have then usually shared with the whole congregation what they have learnt and been doing.

Toddlers

Stepping Stones Parent and Toddler Group was started in April 2022 following Lockdown for people in the local community. The group meets once a week during term time on Tuesday mornings. The group is an opportunity for children to explore, play and mix with other young children. For parents and carers' the group offers a chance to socialise in a relaxed environment, build friendships, and

share worries and concerns within a trusted group. Attendees include Mums, a few Dads and a significant number of grandparents who are caring for grandchildren while parents are at work.

Stepping Stones is run entirely by a team of dedicated volunteers from the church who are DBS checked. The volunteers aim to offer a safe and stimulating environment for the children who attend, and to offer friendship, care, support, understanding and acceptance to all the families who attend. Above all the volunteers seek to demonstrate the Love of God to all who attend through the care and friendship they offer. Activities within the group include craft activities, messy play, role play opportunities, construction play, and physical activities. The weekly session ends with everyone coming together for a joint singing time together.

Initially the group met together in one large room in the church. As the group has become more popular and numbers have increased Stepping Stones has now expanded to utilise 3 rooms of the church. The initial large toddler room, the sports hall for physical activities and a third room as a “quiet room” for those wanting a more relaxed environment. There is also opportunity to use an outdoor secure gated area in the better weather. Parents/ carers and their children are able to move between the rooms and the outside area as they choose.

Stepping Stones makes a nominal charge per family per session to cover the cost of resources and drinks and snacks. However, no family is excluded if they are unable to pay.

Stepping Stones group started with a small number of families, but the numbers continue to grow with around 30 families each session, mainly due to word of mouth, and the group continues to be very popular.

Just before Christmas, the group offered a toddler friendly interactive Nativity in the afternoon. The youth within the church were actively involved in the making of the Nativity story by acting, singing or music making. The nativity was open to all the toddlers who attend and their families, along with the wider church family and local community. This was a very successful event that we hope to repeat again in the future.

Youth

Introduction

It's been another interesting and encouraging year for the youth groups that meet in church on a Sunday night. We have continued to run 2 groups (split by age) and have a regular core of youth who come each week. Whilst we as leaders can see some great things happening, we are also aware of the need for some support to help us widen the reach and impact of the youth ministry. A member of staff dedicated to reaching youth would be a superb and would allow us to reach more youth who are not yet part of the church family, as well as being available at other times during the week.

It's been great this year to welcome two new regular volunteers (Ruth Berry and Pete Argyle) as well as one of the older youth making the commitment to get baptised! We continue to trust God's leading and are committed to this essential ministry.

Younger age group

We continue to meet alongside the older age group, but we use the meeting area for the video input and bible study, the pool table and table tennis table in the lounge, along with the sports hall and kitchen for our drink and snack break.

Pete has joined us this year and is showing the youth a thing or two about playing pool as well as prayer!

Our numbers have ranged between 6 and 14 youth this year, but we usually have about 10 that come most weeks. The Rock Solid sessions provided by Youth For Christ are a good basis for our group but sometimes they are aimed at larger numbers so we often adapt the activities. Each week we ask the youth to read the verses from the bible passages being studied, we watch the 'video talk' they provide and have the opportunity to discuss these. A quick snack break then gives us time to socialise followed by a response activity. 8pm usually comes round too quickly!

This year has seen new people come to us and we feel incredibly lucky to be leading the younger group in their journey with Christ.

Older age group

The numbers in the older group have fluctuated this year – and this will change again after the summer, when some of the younger group 'move up'. Whilst some of the youth are very committed and are regulars, we have some who are more sporadic. Whilst this can make planning a little harder, God is good and the conversations we are able to have as we read and study the bible have been great. Over the course of the year we have looked at the book of James, the story of Joseph and have spent time considering how the stories of old have relevance today. In addition, we have had many conversations about how the challenges in the world today can be shaped and influenced by faith or even how they might challenge our belief systems, causing us to re-evaluate what we thought we knew! The youth join in with these and are confident to not only ask questions of and challenge each other, but feel quite comfortable challenging the leaders too

We have also had several social nights (lots of them over Christmas) and are in early stage planning for trips and calendar events for the next year. That said, we were very encouraged when the youth asked for more time to be spent studying the bible!

Seniors

Our Seniors Worker worked alongside a team of over 20 volunteers who supported her in her work with seniors.

The Lunch Club met weekly during term time with a summer special in August, a multi- generational event with our Youth Group and two outings for lunch. There are up to 24 Lunch Club members aged from their 60's to 90's who normally attend. A fresh meal was cooked onsite each week and a variety of activities took place.

The monthly midweek worship service continued to flourish with an average of 30 people meeting together. It was attended by a mixture of people from lunch club, from church and some with little connection with either.

The Seniors Worker and volunteers stayed in touch with members by telephone when they were absent from the group through illness or other issues and through the school holidays.

The Seniors Worker continued to signpost to or liaise with other organisations as appropriate to help people's particular needs and requests.

The Management Committee continued to meet during the year to plan and oversee the running of Lunch Club.

The Seniors Worker offered Dementia Awareness Training on an informal basis to groups within the church.

7. Pastoral Care

The church is committed to the pastoral care of its members and those connected with it and has a Pastoral Care Team (PCT) and a volunteer Team Leader. Pastoral care is one of the 5 key areas of ministry and gives opportunity for many people to be involved in the life of the church. The church has continued to develop and offer quality pastoral care under the leadership of the Minister, Shelley Dring, and the Leadership Team of the church, with the support, involvement, and advice of our Designated Leaders for Safeguarding, as required. The Pastoral Care Team Leader meets as required with the Minister to review and to share needs within the fellowship.

The priority of the PCT has been to maintain contact, connection and communication with people in the church, and those connected with it. The team has been involved with individuals and families offering precise, targeted and consistent support, with the emphasis of our involvement being confidentiality. Our ability to offer a wide range of support to members and friends has of late been limited by the reduction in numbers of the team and in some cases their own health needs. In this situation, much of the support has been given through the Home Groups and Bible Study Groups that are operating well in the fellowship. Groups such as Lunch Club for senior members, Mums and Toddler Group, Safe Spaces Beacon Café, Craft Group and Wednesday Worship have successfully grown to offer a wide range of support to both church and community.

The church has a Prayer Team who are available after service every Sunday morning, led by our Minister and a Member of the Leadership Team, with a trained and supported team of church members, offering specific prayer for those who seek this support and help. The PCT are also committed to praying for individuals and families, and the confidential WhatsApp Group Prayer link is well established. Specific prayer requests are shared in the group and are held in the strictest confidence.

A Baptist Union Level 3 Safeguarding Training course was attended by one of the Leadership Team and three members of church in group leadership

Our Church Administrator, who is often the first point of contact for pastoral care, attended completed a Risk Assessment and Mental Health Awareness course.

8. Health and Safety / Facilities / Data Protection

Our Health and Safety Policy and Practice was monitored by the Health & Safety Deacon working alongside a dedicated Health & Safety team supported by our church administrator. A recent visit by the Health & Safety Executive found Moortown Baptist Church to be fully compliant with their practices and procedures and the building was deemed a safe place to be.

The church has an agreed GDPR policy and privacy statement and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

An inspection by the Food Hygiene inspector in April 2024 awarded MBC a Level 5 Food Hygiene Certificate.

9. Leadership Team and Church

During the year the Leadership Team of the deacons and Shelley Dring the minister sought to ensure the continuing ministry and mission of the church. They met approximately fortnightly to pray and discuss a full range of issues.

The deacons, as well as all being committed Christians, brought a range of skills to their roles as trustees, including media, education, coaching, training, childcare, health, accountancy, construction and business.

A continuing focus for the church was on strengthening relationships to build a community centred on Christ. Our congregation grew gradually in numbers as they sought to continue to grow in their Christian faith.

10. Online and electronic communications

The continued use of our website (www.moortownbaptistchurch.org.uk) together with a weekly online E newsletter has more or less guaranteed that MBC is served not simply with a fresh face to face look but also vibrant online news. It has helped to keep families in touch with what the church is doing and the website currently holds a library of many hundreds of stored items all of which can be easily traced and downloaded.

The weekly newsletter, which the Minister has emailed out to all those on the church's email address list, included a message in which she shared thoughts on our Christian lives and faith and also set out information about what was happening in the coming week and where appropriate further ahead. For those without email and who wished to receive news, a printed version was photocopied and either hand delivered or posted out. Further copies were available at the Sunday service for anyone to collect.

11. Future Plans

As we move from one financial year to another, Moortown Baptist Church's main focus will be to continue to try and discern what God wants from us and for us and for those we have yet to meet.

We will continue to pray and to seek to put Jesus at the centre of everything we do. We will continue to offer pastoral support where needed via our dedicated pastoral team.

We will continue to be outward looking by offering outreach to our local community (Beacon cafe, Seniors, Toddlers, support for those struggling financially through the Lords Pantry and external funding), across our wider city (Grace Gospel Church, Leeds and Moortown Furniture store,

Pathways Counselling service) and supporting mission across the world (for example BMS and WEC). In short, we aim to continue to be Christ to our neighbours both near and far.

12. Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds needed to carry out its activities primarily through voluntary giving from within its own membership and congregation, from our charitable activities and from tax refunds through the Gift Aid scheme. The Church is intensely grateful for the continuing generous giving of its membership.

The year saw an increase in unrestricted income for the church compared with the previous year of £6,830 (after allowing for a legacy of £10,000 in 2023/24). Offsetting that was an increase in unrestricted expenditure of £826. There was a surplus in year in unrestricted funds of £10,050.

Unrestricted funds at the beginning of the year were £68,398 and the surplus above meant that unrestricted funds at the end of the year amounted to of £78,448. Total funds amounted to £282,931 (2024 £276,008). The church was able to make grants during the year of £29,660 to individuals and other organisations.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted, are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The trustees will continue to report the ongoing financial situation to the whole church.

13. Reserves

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy to hold six months' worth of running costs, equivalent to about £65,000 based on unrestricted running costs. At March 2025 unrestricted reserves stand at £78,448 as described above.

The trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with anticipated ongoing income, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year. The reserves at March 2025 exceed six months' worth of running costs and will be closely monitored. The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies and plans in place to minimise these risks.

14. Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year.

We are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2022.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

15.Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 9th June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Geoff Fennell (Treasurer and Trustee)



Claire Taylor (Deacon and Trustee)

Moortown Baptist Church Annual Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Moortown Baptist Church
204 King Lane
Leeds
LS17 6AA

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Moortown Baptist Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Moortown Baptist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 3 to 15 following, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 5 and 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

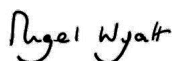
The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Nigel Wyatt B.Sc, FCA
Independent Examiner

125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income & endowments from:							
Donations & legacies	5	131,070	-	17,891	-	148,961	170,998
Charitable activities	6	7,602	-	-	-	7,602	5,978
Grants	7	-	-	6,269	-	6,269	12,344
Investments	8	2,415	-	-	-	2,415	3,258
Total		<u>141,087</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,247</u>	<u>192,578</u>
Expenditure on:							
Costs of generating funds						-	-
Charitable activities	9	131,037	6,525	20,762	-	158,324	162,748
Total		<u>131,037</u>	<u>6,525</u>	<u>20,762</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,324</u>	<u>162,748</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		10,050	(6,525)	3,398	-	6,923	29,830
Transfers between funds	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>10,050</u>	<u>(6,525)</u>	<u>3,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,923</u>	<u>29,830</u>
Total funds brought forward		<u>68,398</u>	<u>70,595</u>	<u>11,824</u>	<u>125,191</u>	<u>276,008</u>	<u>246,178</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>78,448</u>	<u>64,070</u>	<u>15,222</u>	<u>125,191</u>	<u>282,931</u>	<u>276,008</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

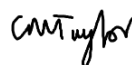
	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	13		149,261		155,786
Current Assets					
Debtors	14	3,698		4,077	
Prepayments	14	1,408		1,358	
Cash at Bank	15	<u>130,068</u>		<u>119,983</u>	
		135,174		125,418	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within one year	16	<u>(1,504)</u>		<u>(5,196)</u>	
Net Current Assets			133,670		120,222
Net Assets	18		<u>282,931</u>		<u>276,008</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Endowment Funds	17		125,191		125,191
Restricted Funds	17		15,222		11,824
Unrestricted Funds	17		142,518		138,993
Total Funds			<u>282,931</u>		<u>276,008</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 9th June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Geoff Fennell
Treasurer and Trustee



Claire Taylor
Deacon and Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

1. Charitable Status

Moortown Baptist Church is a registered charity in England and Wales, number 1128960. The address of the registered office is 204 King Lane, Leeds, LS17 6AA.

The financial statements are presented in sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the Charity, and are rounded to the nearest £.

2. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019.

The following are the accounting policies which have been applied in dealing with material items:-

b) Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis, as there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue. Based on the adequacy of the charity's reserves as at the balance sheet date, along with their knowledge of the charity's ability to meet bills, payments and other liabilities as they fall due, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

c) Income

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income received in circumstances where a claim for repayment of tax has been or will be made to HM Revenue & Customs is grossed up for the tax recoverable. Any amount of tax reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs but not yet received is shown within the charity's debtors. Income from donated goods is accounted for on the basis of the value of average donation times no. donations received.

Legacies are recognised when the charity is entitled to the income, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably. Entitlement is usually the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. Pecuniary legacies are recognised upon grant of probate provided there is sufficient evidence of the estate's solvency. Residuary legacies are recognised when estate accounts are received or reliable estimates of value are available.

The charity has relied significantly upon volunteers in carrying out its activities during the year. In accordance with paragraph 6.22 of the SORP, the role of volunteers has not been recognised as income from donated services in the accounts.

Investment income is taken into account when receivable and expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made.

d) Fund raising and publicity costs

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

e) Grants payable

The church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. Grants payable are taken into account at the earlier of when they are paid or become constructive obligations.

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

f) Governance costs

Other than the costs of independent examination of the accounts, direct expenditure on the governance of the church is not material. Most of the management of the church is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

g) Funds

Income is allocated to specific funds based on any restrictions by the donor or grant provider. Where funds are received for a particular purpose, they are classified as restricted and applied accordingly. Income which is not subject to specific restrictions is treated as unrestricted and is used in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees for specific future purposes or projects.

h) Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These include cash at bank, short-term debtors and creditors. Financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the trustees to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The key areas of estimation and judgement that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include depreciation rates and useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets.

j) Fixed Assets

The church premises are included in the balance sheet at deemed cost of £125,191, a valuation obtained on 1st January 1977, plus the cost of new windows installed in the year of account. Furniture and equipment in the church premises is included at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Assets costing less than £2,500 are not capitalised.

k) Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the main church premises because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the deemed cost. In addition, there is a long estimated useful life of the building and depreciation in any year would not be material. Depreciation on replacement windows and other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Replacement windows	10%
Furniture and Equipment:	20%
Computer equipment	33%

l) Pension liability

In previous years there were significant amounts due to the Baptist pension scheme. However, during the previous year the scheme announced that it was no longer in deficit. To reserve its position, it maintained the requirement for monthly deficit payments by churches at a nominal £1 per month up until October 2024. Payment of the previously stated full employer debt to the pension scheme would still be triggered by a cessation event, such as the Church still not employing a member of the Baptist Pension Scheme. However, the church's minister has now joined the scheme which means that the situation is not currently relevant and therefore there is no longer the need to account for a pension creditor.

3. Independent Examination Costs

Net income for the year is stated after charging £655 (2024; £650) for costs of independent examination.

4. Government Grants

Grants totalling £6,269 were received from Leeds City Council and via Leeds City Council approved organisations to help support households with food and energy costs and to support the church in providing a warm and welcome space (2024: £12,344).

5. Income from Donations & Legacies

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Offerings	109,135	-	15,035	-	124,170	147,368
Tax Refunds	21,935	-	2,856	-	24,791	23,630
Totals	131,070	-	17,891	-	148,961	170,998
Total by Fund 2024	135,021	-	35,977	-	170,998	

2024 General Funds offerings included a £10,000 legacy

6. Income from charitable activities

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Room Hire	5,305	-	-	-	5,305	4,420
Toddlers	1,806	-	-	-	1,806	1,370
Other	491	-	-	-	491	188
Totals	7,602	-	-	-	7,602	5,978
Total by Fund 2024	5,978	-	-	-	5,978	

7. Income from grants

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Household Support	-	-	5,450	-	5,450	5,750
Warm & Welcome Space	-	-	819	-	819	750
Digital Hub	-	-	-	-	-	5,701
Grit Bin	-	-	-	-	-	143
Totals	-	-	6,269	-	6,269	12,344
Total by Fund 2024	-	-	12,344	-	12,344	

8. Income from Investments

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Interest:						
Yorkshire Baptist Account	1,057	-	-	-	1,057	1,856
Baptist Union	1,358	-	-	-	1,358	1,402
Totals	2,415	-	-	-	2,415	3,258
Total by Fund 2024	3,258	-	-	-	3,258	

9. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Activities £	Grant Funding (note 11) £	Support Costs (note 10) £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Ministry, Fellowship & Outreach	61,382	29,659	48,135	139,176	144,491
Childrens & Toddlers Work	1,169	-	618	1,787	2,074
Youth	150	-	79	229	-
Seniors Work	11,206	-	5,925	17,131	16,183
Totals	73,907	29,659	54,757	158,323	162,748

Restricted funds included above are:

	Direct Activities £	Grant Funding (note 11) £	Total 2025 £
Ministry, Fellowship & Outreach	3,186	17,576	20,762
Totals	3,186	17,576	20,762

10.Support costs

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Administrator	13,485	-	-	-	13,485	12,536
Printing, Stationery, Telephone	1,616	-	-	-	1,616	1,524
Governance Costs	650	-	-	-	650	1,166
Buildings Costs	27,082	-	-	-	27,082	30,824
Depreciation	-	6,525	-	-	6,525	6,525
Other Costs	5,399	-	-	-	5,399	5,946
Totals	48,232	6,525	-	-	54,757	58,521
Total by Fund 2024	51,996	6,525	-	-	58,521	

11.Grant Funding

Recipient	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
BMS World Mission	4,310	2,051	-	-	6,361	6,245
Caring for Life	-	612	-	-	612	809
Grace Gospel Church	1,961	-	-	-	1,961	1,870
Household Support Fund	-	3,917	-	-	3,917	7,264
Leeds & Moortown Furniture Store	431	1,423	-	-	1,854	410
Lingfield Living Local	-	-	-	-	-	500
MAF	431	1,499	-	-	1,930	1,410
MBC Romania Fund	-	2,734	-	-	2,734	3,075
MBC Romania Fund (Ukraine)	-	2,001	-	-	2,001	2,262
Pathways Counselling	431	-	-	-	431	410
Radio Worldwide	1,260	1,952	-	-	3,212	2,650
Love Gospel Mission International	-	1,050	-	-	1,050	625
Personal gifts to deacons	-	247	-	-	247	281
YBA Home Mission	3,260	-	-	-	3,260	3,110
Other	-	90	-	-	90	76
Totals	12,084	17,576	0	0	29,660	30,997
Total by fund for 2024	11,745	19,252	0	0	30,997	

11. Grant Funding (continued)

The organisations to which grants have been given serve the following purposes:

- BMS World Mission: a Baptist missionary society that works worldwide to share the Christian faith
- Caring For Life is a local Christian charity that seeks to "Share the Love of Jesus" with at-risk and hurting people, including those who are homeless, through providing long-term support .
- Grace Gospel Church: a Leeds church that works mainly with Ethiopian immigrants and refugees
- Household Support Fund – Government grants distributed in Leeds via Leeds Community Anchor Network to fund direct support to people struggling to pay for essentials such as food and energy
- Leeds & Moortown Furniture Store: a charity that provides donated furniture free of charge to those who could not afford to buy it
- Lingfield Living Local – an organisation that works with people in local socially and economically disadvantaged communities
- MAF – Mission Aviation Fellowship flies pastors and relief and medical workers and their necessary supplies into otherwise difficult to reach parts of the world
- MBC Romania Fund: providing support to two partner churches in Romania
- MBC Romania Fund (Ukraine) – providing support to our partner churches in Romania to assist them as they support refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine
- Pathways Counselling – a professional counselling service previously part of the church
- Radio Worldwide: a missionary organisation that shares the Christian faith through radio and media
- Love Gospel Mission International – Works with refugees in France and Belgium, sharing the gospel and providing material support
- Personal Gifts to Deacons – private gifts for deacons from within the church membership
- YBA Home Mission: Association of Yorkshire Baptist churches that supports churches in carrying out their work including with new initiatives
- Other – for 2024/25 support for a women's refuge in Sri Lanka

12. Staff costs and Trustees expenses

	2025	2024
All Staff	£	£
Salaries	71,110	67,131
Social Security Costs	946	329
Pension Costs - Current	5,040	4,725
Pension costs - deficit contributions	7	12
Other Costs	1,352	1,084
Totals	78,455	73,281
The average number of employees during the year was:	4	4
The full time equivalent number of staff was:	1.9	2.0

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2024 none). None of the Deacons who served the church was paid in an employment capacity. No sums were reimbursed to the Trustees for their work as Trustees (2024 none). The minister as a trustee received remuneration in respect of her employment providing services as Minister:

Minister remuneration	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	47,200	44,279
Social Security Costs	824	277
Pension Costs	3,649	3,428
Other Costs	951	830
Totals	52,624	48,814

The total value of monetary gifts given by trustees (and their connected persons), to the church during the year ended 31 March 2025 is £20,913 (2024: £28,460).

Four (2024: three) trustees incurred reimbursable out of pocket expenses totalling £2,297 (2024: £3,786) towards the day to day running of the charity.

The key management personnel comprises the Trustees and the Minister. The total cost of the key management personnel of the Charity during the year was £52,624 (2024: £48,814).

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church Premises	Building Improvements	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
1 April 2024	125,191	8,988	28,132	162,311
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
31 March 2025	125,191	8,988	28,132	162,311
Depreciation				
1 April 2024	-	899	5,626	6,525
Additions	-	899	5,626	6,525
Disposals	-	-	-	-
31 March 2025	-	1,798	11,252	13,050
Net Book Value				
31 March 2025	125,191	7,190	16,880	149,261
31 March 2024	125,191	8,089	22,506	155,786

The Church premises are included at a valuation undertaken on 1 January 1977. The current insurance value of the property (at June 2024) is £3,101,594.

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

14. Debtors and prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift Aid Recoverable	3,108	4,077
Prepayments	1,408	1,358
Other debtors	590	-
Totals	5,106	5,435

15. Bank and cash balances

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at Bank and In Hand	58,708	51,038
Yorkshire Baptist Account	28,507	27,450
Baptist Union Short Term Deposits	42,853	41,495
Totals	130,068	119,983

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
General Accruals	1,504	5,196
Totals	1,504	5,196

17. Funds

	1 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Transfers	31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	
Endowment Funds						
Endowment Funds	125,191	-	-	-	-	125,191
Restricted Funds						
Restricted Funds:						
Donations for specific grants	4,491	19,894	(17,576)	-	-	6,809
Lords Pantry	935	2,410	(1,538)	-	-	1,807
Donations for specific expenditure	6,398	1,856	(1,648)	-	-	6,606
Total restricted funds	11,824	24,160	(20,762)	-	-	15,222
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds:						
Building Fund	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
Legacies Projects Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Capital Fund	30,595	-	(6,525)	-	-	24,070
	70,595	-	(6,525)	-	-	64,070
General Funds	68,398	141,087	(131,037)	-	-	78,448
Total Unrestricted Funds	138,993	141,087	(137,562)	-	-	142,518
Total Funds	276,008	165,247	(158,324)	-	-	282,931

Restricted Funds

These are comprised of donations and grants made to the church for a specific purpose and include the following:

- Donations for specific grants; see note 11 above
- Lords Pantry; a fund that provides food and other essentials free of charge to those who are struggling to make ends meet
- Donations for specific expenditure and Children's and Youth Work Fund; where donations or grants have been given to enable the church to make specific purchases or carry out specific works

17. Funds (continued)

Designated Funds

Building Fund

The Trustees and the Church Members Meeting designated an amount of £30,000 during 2023/24 for possible future capital spend on major building maintenance and improvements.

Legacies Projects Fund

During 2023/24 a legacy of £10,000 was received, which the Trustees and the Church Members Meeting agreed to designate towards unspecified future projects.

Capital Fund

This fund represents the depreciated value of those tangible assets subject to depreciation in the Accounts which cannot be disposed of without limiting the scope of the Church's activities.

There were no transfers between funds during 2024/25. Transfers in 2023/24 were:

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £
For future spend on major building maintenance and improvements	(30,000)	30,000	
Legacy receipt allocated towards unspecified future projects	(10,000)	10,000	
Transfer of fixed assets purchased during the year	(20,215)	20,215	
Transfer of fixed assets purchased during the year		16,905	(16,905)
Tithe – transfer to Lords Pantry	(225)		225
Miscellaneous	(149)		149
Total	(60,589)	77,120	(16,531)

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Fixed Asset £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
At 31 March 2025			
Endowment Funds	125,191	-	125,191
Restricted Funds	-	15,222	15,222
Designated Funds	24,070	40,000	64,070
General Funds	-	78,448	78,448
Totals	149,261	133,670	282,931
At 31 March 2024			
Endowment Funds	125,191	-	125,191
Restricted Funds	-	11,824	11,824
Designated Funds	30,595	40,000	70,595
General Funds	-	68,398	68,398
Totals	155,786	120,222	276,008

19. Baptist Ministers Pension Scheme

The Church is a participating employer in 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 Minister is eligible to join the Scheme and has chosen to do so.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The present value of the agreed deficit contributions were immaterial at the beginning of the financial year and were fully extinguished once buy out was completed by Just Group in October 2024.

The total pension cost in respect of the Baptist Minister's Pension Scheme was as follows:

Accounting date	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Contributions to DC scheme for current employees	£2,189	£2,057
Deficit contributions	£7	£12
Administration Costs	£1,460	£1,371
	£3,656	£3,440

20. Funds Received as an Agent

During the year the church received a number of donations from church members that were given confidentially as gifts for specific individuals and which were passed on in accordance with the donors' wishes. The money received and passed on in this way totalled £900 but is not included in either the income or expenditure in these accounts. Included in this total was £300 given for the minister and related persons.

21. Related Charities and Parties

The Custodian Trustee of the Church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635. The Church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA). The church made donations to the following related charities: YBA Home Mission Fund - £3,260 (2024 £3,110) of which £3,260 (2024: £3,110) was from general funds. A close family relative of a trustee received £423 for work done.

22. Statement of financial activities comparative note

		General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2025
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income & endowments from:							
Donations & legacies		135,021	-	35,977	-	170,998	148,961
Charitable activities		5,978	-	-	-	5,978	7,602
Grants		-	-	12,344	-	12,344	6,269
Investments		3,258	-	-	-	3,258	2,415
Total		144,257	-	48,321	-	192,578	165,247
Expenditure on:							
Costs of generating funds							
Charitable activities		130,211	6,525	26,012	-	162,748	158,324
Total		130,211	6,525	26,012	-	162,748	158,324
Net income/(expenditure)		14,046	(6,525)	22,309	-	29,830	6,923
Transfers between funds	17	(60,589)	77,120	(16,531)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(46,543)	70,595	5,778	-	29,830	6,923
Total funds brought forward		114,941	-	6,046	125,191	246,178	276,008
Total funds carried forward		68,398	70,595	11,824	125,191	276,008	282,931