



Olton Baptist Church

Trustees Report and Accounts

31 March 2024

Charity number
1130659

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Section A Reference and administration details

Charity Name: Olton Baptist Church

Charity Number: 1130659

Registered Address:

The Branch, 85 Warwick Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7HP

Principal Place of Worship:

Langley School, Kineton Green Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7ER

Trustees:

Name

Ogemdi Ndudi Ekwegh
Martin John McClelland – Church Secretary
Jim Hopton– Chair of trustees & Treasurer
Paul Cheesman
Katharine Nancy Johnston
Joseph David Belcher
Rebecca Diane Ford

Term of Office

09/09/2023 – current
29/01/2023 – current
18/06/2019 – current
05/06/2013 – current
13/07/2012 – current
02/07/2024 – current
17/10/2020 – current

Property Trustees:

The Heart of England Baptist Association
BMS International Mission Centre
Selly Oak
Birmingham
B29 6QX

Bankers:

HSBC Bank Plc
34 Poplar Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 3AF

Section B Structure, governance and management

Olton Baptist Church ('OBC' or the 'Church') is governed and guided by the Trustees, which consists of a Minister, the Vision and Leadership Team ('VLT') the Secretary and the Treasurer. The VLT is led by a Minister and consists of up to 6 Members in addition to any Ministerial staff.

The Trustees each have delegated responsibility for overseeing particular areas of OBC life, in which they are ably supported by other members of the Church. OBC still continues to employ a part-time Children's Ministry Co-ordinator (18 hours). Children's ministry constitutes a major part of our church make-up. In addition, we employ a part-time (12 hours) Church Administrator, the role of which facilitates and guides the back-office function of the Church.

The Trustees are elected by a vote by the members of OBC. The Trustees meet at least 4 times each year, and the VLT meet up to approximately 20 times per year. Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution, where they are encouraged to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Church meets in a Members' Meeting approximately 5 times per year and holds a pivotal role in shaping and agreeing the direction of the Church, as outlined in the Constitution. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by Members in Church Meetings 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.

The Trustees maintain a strong suite of policies which are aimed at safeguarding all those with whom OBC has contact as well as our obligations, legal and otherwise, as an Employer and as a Charity.

Section C Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objective

OBC is a charity by virtue of its Approved Governing Document (Constitution) which states that the principal purpose of the Charity 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.'*

OBC owns and occupies premises in Olton, the title documents of which are held on trust by the Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA). This is entirely compatible with OBC's objectives.

Objectives and Activities

OBC's vision remains sharply focussed on engaging in the communities of which it is a part to share the love of Jesus `Christ and encourage individuals and communities to trust Him as Lord. To that end, when meeting together as the Church we use 'Come and See' as our motif in which the activities that promote fellowship, pastoral care, learning and worship provide an environment from which members are equipped to 'explore' the advancement of Christian faith wherever they may find themselves in daily life. In all of the Church's activities, we aim to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed.

Our Sunday service remains pivotal to our 'Come and See' Message and takes place at 10.30am usually at Langley Secondary School on a Sunday. During this service, there is a full programme of children's activities that are for all children from toddlers to secondary school age.

OBC also runs a series of small groups which enable regular attendees of the Church to meet and pray together, share fellowship, grow in faith, and disciple each other pastorally for the 'explorer life' and pray together regarding all issues affecting us individually and those affecting the wider world.

There are two additional groups for teenagers, one that runs weekly and one fortnightly in school term-times. The Church also runs a toddler's group which meets at St Margaret's Church on Kineton Green Road, every Monday morning during school term-times. This popular 'explorer' group offers an important community service and visibly demonstrates the love of Jesus Christ.

From time to time, as required, the Church also runs Membership and Baptismal courses for those interested in developing their faith and/or becoming more formally committed to OBC.

OBC operates systems to ensure that all people working with children are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service and in accordance with our safeguarding policy.

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities outlined above demonstrate that OBC is involved in charitable and public benefit activities.

Section D Achievements and Performance

Advancement

OBC does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, that is membership and finance, but also in less tangible areas like acts of fellowship and encouragement.

This reporting period has been an exciting time for the church, our new Minister: Ogemdi Ndudi Ekwegh 'ND' was appointed in a special commissioning service in September 2023. ND and his family Emma, Asher and Joshi have already been a real blessing and encouragement to our fellowship. The emphasis in this period has been to ensure that OBC is a 'Safe Place', physically, mentally and spiritually for those meeting with us.

For the reported period we advanced our Objectives by:

- our continued employment of a part time Children's Ministry Co-ordinator to lead the engagement our community of young people in the Church.
- Our continued Employment of a part time Church Administrator
- Introducing Buffet gatherings and Breakfast gatherings to build fellowship.
- Maintaining the toddler group which the church membership continues to support well.
- Continuing contact with other charities, including the support of asylum seekers and refugees with befriending, practical assistance and accompaniment through their legal process.
- Running a T4U (Tea for You) group, which support our older members, continued to engage together with care packages taken door to door and meeting online or outdoors where appropriate.
- Crossroads Homeless Soup Run, as part of a wider project, OBC offers volunteers once a month to take sandwiches, soup, and other items to the homeless in Birmingham.
- Several small groups such as a weekly craft group, Men's social activities etc.

Plans for the Future

Having appointed our new Minister ND at the commissioning service in September 2023, our plans will be for ND and family to be established and lead our activities.

We plan to set up a multi-generational afternoon gathering 'The Hub' which will take place at Langley School and will involve a social space, a craft space and a sports space.

This coming year we will continue improving the facilities at our Church office building including a room used for our Young People 'YOBS Group' so that better use could be made with the space. We will also continue to update our IT equipment.

Other plans for the future will be led and directed by our new Minister, Ogemdi Ndudi Ekwegh 'ND'.

Section E Financial review

OBC continues to raise the funds it requires to continue its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made, or required, for funds during the year.

The most significant expenses relate to staff costs, hire of rooms and giving to charities closely associated with OBC (this is outlined in the Financial Activities and Notes to Accounts report, on pages 10-15).

The Church actively responded to its principal purpose (as outlined earlier in the 'Charitable Object' section of this report) and its moral duty as a Church to tithe a minimum of 10% of its income by making gifts to organisations and missionaries with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

OBC 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 Church's objectives and achievements as outlined earlier in this report.

The financial results for the year are set out on pages 12 to 17. Our finances have remained balanced through the year; and as indicated last year this now gives us the confidence to seek further ways of reinforcing our community approach to church life.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the Church and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reserves

The Trustees still adopt the policy of maintaining a balance in its General Funds to approximately six months' unrestricted fund expenditure at all times. Whilst this is a variable figure it is currently equivalent to circa £60,000 and is in place to ensure that OBC can continue to function effectively in the coming financial year. For 2023/24, the Church has been able to match this target.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.


The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Section FOther optional information

Section GDeclaration

Approved by the board of Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Jim Hopton	Martin McClelland
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	Church Secretary

Date

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 our 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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our 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 our examination, no matter has come to our attention which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

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

Mrs H Arthur



Dated: 10.10.2024

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOME RESOURCES	Notes	Year to 31 March 2024			Year to 31 March 2023
		General -	Restricted	Total	General -
		Unrestricted Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £
Offerings and gifts	1 & 4	113,521	0	113,521	70,340
Income tax refund on gift aid		22,900	0	22,900	17,215
Bank Interest		767	0	767	222
Other income		73	0	0	0
Total		137,261	0	137,261	87,778

EXPENSES - Charitable activities

Administration	5	7,764		7,764	7,009
Buildings	6	33,268		33,268	16,418
Fellowship	7	291		291	419
Giving - Grants payable	8	19,495		19,495	20,215
Leadership	9	5,560		5,560	5,924
Staff Costs	3	49,371		49,371	39,774
Mission	10	-3		-3	779
Support	11	226		226	328
Worship	12	1,345		1,345	3,128
Youth	13	3,255		3,255	3,938
Total		120,572		120,572	97,933

	Notes	Year to 31 March 2024			Year to 31 March 2023
		General -	Restricted	Total	General -
		Unrestricted Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £
GENERAL FUND :					
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		16,689	0	16,689	(10,156)
Balance brought forward		116,831	0	116,831	126,987
				0	0
Balance carried forward		133,520	0	133,520	116,831
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Refugee Support Fund	14	298	0	298	358
Building Fund - Brought Forward		185,300	0	185,300	185,300
Total Funds		319,118	0	319,118	301,395

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

The notes on pages 13 to 16 form part of these accounts

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
BALANCE SHEET

	2024 £	2023 £
ASSETS		
Tangible Fixed Assets		
Freehold Property	185,300	185,300
Fixtures & Fittings	0	0
Total Fixed Assets	<u>185,300</u>	<u>185,300</u>
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	133,802	116,095
Cash Float	16	0
Total Current Assets	<u>133,818</u>	<u>116,095</u>

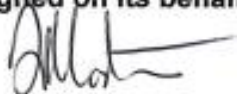
Liabilities : amounts due in one year
Church holiday payments

NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>133,818</u>	<u>116,095</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>319,118</u>	<u>301,095</u>

	£	£
FUNDS		
General Fund	133,520	115,737
Designated Funds	298	358
Building Fund	185,300	185,300
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>319,118</u>	<u>301,095</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 4th November 2024

and signed on its behalf by:



Jim Hopton (Chair of Trustees)

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared on a cash accounting basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and follow the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities 2015 FRSS. The following are the accounting policies which have been applied in dealing with material items:

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a received basis, and only when the charity has legal entitlement, and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Unrestricted & Designated Funds

At present, none of the funds are restricted and are therefore available for general use in accordance with the principal policies of the Charity.

General Fund - the principal operating fund covering the cost of ministry, support for Christian missions, church activities, buildings and administration. Income is mainly coming from regular giving by members of the congregation (plus gift aid where applicable).

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Charitable activities include all costs that directly relate to the work of the Church, including running costs and costs of maintenance and repair. Support costs, Giving to other organisations and governance costs are deemed to relate directly to the work of the Church.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Freehold Buildings are valued at cost. Current market value is considered to be greater than original cost. The buildings are maintained to ensure no dilapidation ensues. Therefore no policy for depreciation is considered necessary.

Other equipment acquired for long term use is capitalised when over £250 and is depreciated on a straightline basis over 4 years.

Pensions - defined contribution schemes

The Church operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Income and Expenditure account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO ACCOUNTS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and Buildings	Plant & Machinery	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	185,300		185,300
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	185,300	-	185,300
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	-		-
Charge for the year	-		-
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	185,300	-	185,300
At 31 March 2024	185,300	-	185,300

3 Staff Costs and Trustee expenses

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries & Emoluments	41,462	34,234
Social security costs		0
Pension costs	7,908	5,541
	49,371	39,774
The average number of employees in the year was	3	3

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2023 None).

The Church also paid contributions to employees own independent defined contribution stakeholder and work place pension schemes. The payments are charged to the Income and Expenditure as they become payable.

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO ACCOUNTS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Year to 31 March 2024 General - Unrestricted Funds	Year to 31 March 2023 General - Unrestricted Funds £
4 OFFERINGS		
Covenant scheme & gift aid	134,263	83,436
Non Gift Aid	2,668	4,167
Cash	330	175
	<u>137,261</u>	<u>87,778</u>
5 ADMINISTRATION		
Staff Expenses	131	201
Advertising & Communications	1,238	456
Office resources	3,274	3,333
Insurance	1,279	1,205
Affiliate subscriptions	1,030	1,039
Payroll charges	742	706
Bank charges	69	68
	<u>7,764</u>	<u>7,009</u>
6 BUILDINGS		
Rent - hire of buildings for worship meetings	22,153	8,393
Utilities	3,589	4,139
Maintenance	7,526	3,887
	<u>33,268</u>	<u>16,418</u>
7 FELLOWSHIP		
Canteen expenses	151	168
Home group resources & Miscellaneous	140	226
Church holiday		25
	<u>291</u>	<u>419</u>
8 GIVING - Grants Payable		
Home Mission - HEBA	5,220	5,220
Baptist Missionary Society	6,120	6,120
Other Mission support	1,866	1,590
Agape	4,728	6,595
Giving - contingency	1,560	689
	<u>19,495</u>	<u>20,215</u>
9 LEADERSHIP		
Speaker fees		712
Colledge fees	5,000	
Training	560	5212
	<u>5,560</u>	<u>5924</u>

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO ACCOUNTS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Year to 31 March 2024 General - Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 31 March 2023 General - Unrestricted Funds £
10 MISSION		
Toddler Group	-140	28
Outreach - Sunday Out and general	137	751
	<u>-3</u>	<u>779</u>
11 SUPPORT		
Pastoral support	226	328
	<u>226</u>	<u>328</u>
12 WORSHIP		
Copyright Licence	1,149	1,061
PA & Projection	195	2,067
	<u>1,345</u>	<u>3,128</u>
13 YOUTH		
Youth Groups	908	879
Travel		
Student support Bursary		0
Sunday Club Expenses	2,347	2,965
Training		94
	<u>3,255</u>	<u>3,938</u>
14 Designated Fund - Refugee Support		
Balance at 1 April 2023	358	704
Donations & Fund raising Received	240	544
Transfer from General Funds	1,000	
Gifts and expenses to Individuals	1,300	890
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>298</u>	<u>358</u>