



Olton Baptist Church

Trustees Report and Accounts

31 March 2025

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
Dawn Nicholls – Chair of Trustees & Treasurer
Nina Susan Clark
Katharine Nancy Johnston
Joseph David Belcher
Rebecca Diane Ford

Term of Office

09/09/2023 – current
29/01/2023 – current
18/06/2019 – 29/06/2025
29/06/2025 - current
23/03/2025 – current
13/07/2022 – 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.

In the last year OBC has been building on its vision around the 'Come and See' motif in the Gospel of John. We have broken down our values as being a people who empower others to:

- Know Jesus
- Speak Jesus
- Reveal Jesus

And this aligns with the three words that describe a disciple in the Gospels: Mimic, Student and Apprentice. In having this structure to understand who we are called to be as a community it has enabled us to better understand the journey we are on and how we move forward in it.

Know Jesus

We continue to ensure that OBC is a safe space where people grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Jesus at the centre remains our priority as a community.

To this end we continue to invest in spaces that help fulfil this objective. This includes: our Worship space on a Sunday, Fellowship spaces in meals and relaxed times together, Small Groups, Prayer Spaces and Online Spaces.

Speak Jesus

It is also important to us to invite others into relationship with Jesus and so we also invest in making this a reality.

This includes the continued employment a part time Children's and family Ministry Coordinator to help our children know the love of Jesus.

The last year has also seen our YOBs ministry (secondary school aged young people and above) grow tremendously. We have been delighted to see so many of our young people invested in Jesus and inviting others to be part of the journey. As part of our commitment to speaking Jesus, we invested in taking them to the Satellite Youth Camp for the second year in a row, taking a total of 19 young people. It was a tremendous time that was greatly enjoyed.

We also began a 321-course aimed towards providing a safe place for those with questions about faith to share thoughts and ask more about a life with Jesus.

Reveal Jesus

Also of great importance is our desire to bring the light of Jesus into our world by intentionally investing in our community. We continue to run our Toddler and Tea4U groups to support those at both ends of the age group in our local community. OBC also continue to have a good number of volunteers involved in the Crossroads Homeless Support group.

In addition to this, the OBC HUB, which is an inter-generational space that provides activity, friendship and hospitality for those in the Olton area, continues to go from strength to strength.

OBC have also partnered with Langley Secondary School to support local families in need in these times of economic hardship for a number of people across the UK. And we continue to explore more ways we can work with the school to bless our community.

Our Carol and Easter services have also been a highlight of the last 12 months, as the OBC musicians draw our community into seasons of joy and reflection.

The employment of a full-time minister and part time staff (an administrator and children's worker) helps facilitate our work in sharing the love of Jesus with each other and with our community.

Plans for the Future

We seek to build on our Come and See Vision by following God's leading in understanding how we can build on the things we are already doing and understand what new areas exist to create come and see spaces in our community that are safe and lead people towards a fulfilling life in the love of Jesus.

We will also be exploring how we become more of a presence in the Olton area and how our physical spaces can better serve these come and see spaces that we are looking to develop.

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 2024/25, 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 F	Other optional information

Section G Declaration

Approved by the board of Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:

Signature(s)

M. J. McClelland

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: 28.07.25

**OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

		Year to 31 March 2025		Year to 31 March 2024
		General - Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
INCOME RESOURCES	Notes	£	£	£
Offerings and gifts	1 & 4	107,575	0	107,575
Income tax refund on gift aid		24,042	0	24,042
Bank Interest		1,734	0	1,734
Other income		479	0	479
Total		133,830	0	133,830
EXPENSES - Charitable activities				
Administration	5	7,894		7,894
Buildings	6	41,247		41,247
Fellowship	7	453		453
Giving - Grants payable	8	19,704		19,704
Leadership	9	962		962
Staff Costs	3	64,579		64,579
Mission	10	248		248
Support	11	970		970
Worship	12	1,856		1,856
Youth	13	2,931		2,931
Total		140,844		140,844
GENERAL FUND :				
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		(7,014)	0	(7,014)
Balance brought forward		133,799	0	133,799
				0
Balance carried forward		126,785	0	126,785
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
Refugee Support Fund		0		0
Building Fund - Brought Forward		185,300	0	185,300
Total Funds		312,085	0	312,085

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

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	1 & 2		
Freehold Property		185,300	185,300
Fixtures & Fittings			0
Total Fixed Assets		<u>185,300</u>	<u>185,300</u>
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts		126,785	133,802
Cash Float			16
Total Current Assets		<u>312,085</u>	<u>133,818</u>

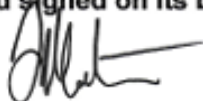
Liabilities : amounts due in one year

NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>312,085</u>	<u>133,818</u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>312,085</u></u>	<u><u>319,118</u></u>

FUNDS		£
General Fund	126,785	133,818
Building Fund	<u>185,300</u>	<u>185,300</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>312,085</u></u>	<u><u>319,118</u></u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 8 Sept 2025

and signed on its behalf by:



Jim Hopton (Chair of Trustees)

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 FRSSSE. 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 supports defined contribution pension schemes. 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 2025

2 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and Buildings £	Plant & Machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	185,300		185,300
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	185,300	-	185,300
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	-		-
Charge for the year	-		-
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	185,300	-	185,300
At 31 March 2025	185,300	-	185,300

3 Staff Costs and Trustee expenses

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries & Emoluments	56,038	41,462
Social security costs		
Pension costs	8,541	7,908
	64,579	49,371
The average number of employees in the year was	4	3

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2024 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 2025

	Year to 31 March 2025 General - Unrestricted Funds	Year to 31 March 2024 General - Unrestricted Funds £
4 OFFERINGS		
Covenant scheme & gift aid	131,617	134,263
Interest	1,734	
Non Gift Aid	440	2,668
Cash	39	330
	<u>133,830</u>	<u>137,261</u>
5 ADMINISTRATION		
Staff Expenses	169	131
Advertising & Communications	57	1,238
Office resources	5,383	3,274
Insurance	1,299	1,279
Affiliate subscriptions	150	1,030
Payroll charges	659	742
Bank charges	177	69
	<u>7,894</u>	<u>7,764</u>
6 BUILDINGS		
Rent - hire of buildings for worship meetings	33,056	22,153
Utilities	2,767	3,589
Maintenance	1,324	7,526
Refurbishment	4,100	
	<u>41,247</u>	<u>33,268</u>
7 FELLOWSHIP		
Catering expenses	453	151
Home group resources & Miscellaneous		140
	<u>453</u>	<u>291</u>
8 GIVING - Grants Payable		
Home Mission - HEBA	6,548	5,220
Baptist Missionary Society	5,586	6,120
Other Mission support	1,618	1,866
Agape	5,102	4,728
Giving - contingency	850	1,560
	<u>19,704</u>	<u>19,495</u>
9 LEADERSHIP		
Colledge fees		5000
Expenses	672	
Training	290	560
	<u>962</u>	<u>5560</u>

OLTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO ACCOUNTS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Year to 31 March 2025 General - Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 31 March 2024 General - Unrestricted Funds £
10 MISSION		
Toddler Group	248	-140
Outreach - Sunday Out and general		137
	<u>248</u>	<u>-3</u>
11 SUPPORT		
Refugee support	750	
Pastoral support	220	226
	<u>970</u>	<u>226</u>
12 WORSHIP		
Copyright Licence	1,220	1,149
PA & Projection	636	195
	<u>1,856</u>	<u>1,345</u>
13 YOUTH		
Youth Groups	1,246	908
Sunday Club	1,685	2,347
	<u>2,931</u>	<u>3,255</u>
14 Designated Fund - Refugee Support		
Balance at 1 April 2023		358
Donations & Fund raising Received		240