



# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024

# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

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# **FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **REPORT FOR 2024**

### **Full Name, Address, and Introduction of the Church**

Fishponds Baptist Church, Downend Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 5AS, is incorporated under a Charitable Deed of Trust. The Church registered as a charity (1131411) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The Church Office Telephone Number is 0117 965 3421.

The Church, which is affiliated with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland and the West of England Baptist Association, aims to uphold the Declaration of Principle of the aforesaid Baptist Union, which is:

- That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His Laws.
- That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried and rose again on the third day.
- Every disciple has to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and take part in the evangelisation of the world.

### **Objects**

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination including the advancement of education, community service and other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

### **Aims**

The main aim and objective of Fishponds Baptist Church (FBC) is to know and share the good news of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

At the heart of the Church is its ministry to the membership, congregation, and the wider community at large so that the messages contained in Scripture are shared and celebrated and the understanding and acceptance that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Saviour grows.

FBC is gifted in practical terms as the church has a range of resources and facilities that enable fellowship to be enjoyed, not just on Sunday but also on a continuous basis. The church is also organised into smaller networks for fellowship through fortnightly small group meetings and care/well-being through a care group structure which encourages a sense of personal belonging within what is quite a large congregation.

To maintain and develop its ministry, premises, and facilities, FBC collects donations, predominantly from the congregation. These donations also provide the opportunity to contribute financially to a wide range of Faith-based organisations both within the UK and overseas providing a variety of outreach and ministry programmes or practical projects.

# **FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **Public Benefit**

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

FBC is committed to being a place of worship of God for the people who live in Fishponds and neighbouring communities. All are warmly welcomed when they enter the church.

In addition, FBC is committed to serving the community in many ways. Please see the Main Focus of Activities for more details about this.

## **Leadership**

The Deacons, who are the Managing Trustees of the charity, administer the Church. Charity Law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts which consist of a Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Activities, together with accompanying notes, and which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure, in line with FRS102 SORP.

Deacons are voted onto the Diaconate by the membership at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting. Deacons are appointed for an initial three-year term with the opportunity to be nominated for reappointment at the end of each three-year term. Deacons fulfil their role voluntarily and are assisted by many other volunteers helping within all areas of the Church. The Pastor (Minister) who is the "Holder of Office" and is a paid employee of the church, also sits on the Diaconate. Those who have served in the Diaconate are listed on page 7.

## **Independent Examiner and Bankers**

The appointed Independent Examiner of the Church is Joshua Kingston BSc ACA, Burton Sweet Limited, The Clock Tower, 5 Farleigh Court, Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton, Bristol BS48 1UR.

The Church's bankers are:

- CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling.
- NatWest Bank Plc, 778 Fishponds Rd, Fishponds, Bristol.

# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

## Main Focus of Activities

This year the church has continued to see growth in many areas of church life.

Sunday services have experienced further numerical growth with more adults and children attending each week. The stronger stewarding, hospitality, worship, prayer, children's and youth teams we began developing in 2023 continue to be a key element in both caring for and developing growth as a church.

Our Cantonese sermon stream, which happens twice a month, celebrated its first anniversary and continues to be a strong and valued part of the church. During the summer, a Cantonese worship event was hosted by our church and many people from across the city attended. We also began two new Cantonese-speaking small groups during the year to help encourage and support Cantonese-speaking adults who attend the church.

Beyond the Sunday morning service, many other activities happened in the building. During term time, two toddler groups met each week and throughout the year there was a monthly Family Messy Church and Dads and Tots event – all enjoying growth and with a connection with people beyond the church family. Each week the church hosted a luncheon club for seniors and a weekly foodbank that supports people with food, conversation, and advice via external partners. The church also continues to be involved with churches across Bristol offering soup and sandwiches and care for the homeless and runs two Hope into Action houses which seek to help and support people vulnerable to homelessness.

The church also ran activities to engage with young people, both independently and in partnership with other local churches. The team running the youth work grew during 2024, and at the end of the year decided to officially partner with the George Muller Trust – an organisation that seeks to mentor and resource church youth groups.

During the autumn term, the church ran an Alpha course welcoming 40 guests and volunteers to eat together and explore the Christian faith. Throughout the year several social events were also held to build community both within the existing church and beyond.

Throughout the year some external organisations use the church building, including the Scouts, the Brownies, and an independent preschool. At the end of 2024, the Scouts moved out of church premises into a larger facility based at a local school. They also removed a significant number of resources that they were storing at the church. This departure comes after a very long connection with the church, but the need for further space and the church not being able to provide it prompted this move. All parties were thankful for what had been done over the years and wished each other well for the next chapter before them.

During the year, the building encountered a variety of upgrades, changes, and adjustments. The foodbank store was relocated, enabling the main church office to be re-established at the heart of the church building. The old office was then converted into a small meeting room, CCTV feeds were rewired to the new office and a new large TV screen was added to the small conference room. Other upgrades include replacing office windows, sorting out drainage, replacing many roof lights and removing some large built-in storage units.

A major six-phased building refit was developed by an internal building team, a plan which will take several years to implement, but will see the refurbishment of the building. Phase 1 was the heating system replacement and new toilets which was completed in 2023. Phase 2 will include rebranding, signage, a refurbished sanctuary, and an upgraded main entrance. The rebranding has taken place, signage has been ordered, and the refurbishment will begin in 2025 as funds allow.

## **FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**

Several significant changes in personnel happened during the year. Due to the growth in so many areas of church life, it was agreed to seek to employ a part-time Associate Minister, to work with the Senior Minister in all aspects of church leadership, and to specifically focus on integrating the many new people who are joining the church. An amazing person was voted into this post in November and will start on the 1st of January 2025.

In 2024, a new treasurer and a new head of pastoral care were appointed, both bringing further changes as new procedures and processes were developed. Much work was also invested in developing further team leaders in preparation for when the Children's and Families team leader went on maternity leave at the beginning of 2025.

We are hugely grateful to everyone - both volunteers and paid staff for their unstinting involvement which enables the work of FBC to be carried out in such a committed, positive and effective manner.

We thank God for how He has blessed the church during 2024, and we look forward to all that He will do in 2025 at Fishponds Baptist Church. The fellowship is open and committed to being a "Beacon on a hill" and to "shine brighter" with the love of God as we seek to serve God and the local community.

### **Fellowship**

Two people attested to their faith by going through the waters of baptism in obedience to scripture.

Our Fellowship now has a membership of 152 (2023: 154). The changes to our membership were as follows:

- New Members – 22
- Transfer In – 0
- Transfer Out to Another Church – 3
- Resignations – 11
- Removed due to loss of contact – 7
- Deceased – 3 were called to be with the Lord

### **Custodian Trustee**

The Custodian Trustee for the Church is Webnet (registered as the West of England Baptist Association). Webnet holds in trust the title deeds of the Church properties.

### **Concluding Remarks**

We are grateful to all those who have contributed to the work at FBC throughout this past year. A church is dependent on the commitment of its membership and here at Fishponds we have many who work tirelessly and without recognition. To these, we give our heartfelt thanks and pray that God will bless them in the days that lie ahead. Finally, we record on behalf of the fellowship our gratitude to the diaconate for their work in leading and guiding us under God's headship.

# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **Senior Minister:**

Reverend Mark Madavan

### **Deaconate:**

Senior Minister, plus

### **Deacons:**

Mr Graeme Betts

Mr Peter Keenan (treasurer to February 2024)

Mrs Catherine Madavan

Mr John Ray (term ended April 2024)

Mr Jason Tinley (appointed & treasurer from February 2024)

Mr Adam Mitchell-Baker (appointed September 2024)

Mrs Kathleen Jinadu (appointed January 2025)

# **FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **INCOME**

### **GIFT AID**

The amount shown in the accounts for gift aid reclaimed in 2024 is £42,200 (2023 - £42,034). By the end of the year, 56 active supporters had signed Gift Aid Declarations and had given during 2024.

### **REGULAR GIVING**

The regular giving which includes giving by members and worshippers, member gifts and special collections, has increased by 12%. This is due to an increase in the congregation. There was also a generous gift of £40,000 gift during the year.

### **GRANTS**

We benefitted from an Access to Work Grant from DWP to fund the post of Ministerial Assistant to support the Senior Minister.

### **INVESTMENT INCOME**

The church follows a 'low risk' policy when investing its surplus cash which is normally placed on deposit (short notice or instant access) with the Bank. Whilst the interest yield is not substantial, the deacons consider that the overriding requirement is to protect the sum invested.

### **OTHER INCOME**

During the year we benefitted from gifts and donations from Church organisations for use of premises and general support.

## **EXPENDITURE**

Total expenditure in 2024 rose to £291,191 (2023: £247,174), reflecting an increase in mission giving, church repair and improvements, and additional administrative support.

### **STAFFING COSTS**

Ministerial Staffing: Increased by 2% to £76,458 (2023: £75,227), aligning with annual salary increases.

Administrative Salaries: Rose 68% to £41,927 (2023: £24,896), reflecting the first full year of the DWP-funded Ministerial Assistant role and expanded administrative support with a five-day office presence.

### **MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Mission Giving: Achieving our target of mission giving of at least 10% of our unrestricted income, mission giving rose to £33,346 (2023: £21,621). Notable increases include:

- Webnet Home Mission: +78% (£12,000), reinforcing support from Webnet for our local Baptist family of churches.
- Other Mission Giving: +103% (£6,390), increasing our giving to local Christian missions, such as inHope and overseas relief efforts, such as Nepalese Flood Relief.

Outreach: Decreased to £6,582 (2023: £8,648), following a realignment of activity allocations (e.g. Soup Run now under Other Mission Giving)



# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

## PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Property Repairs and Maintenance: An expected increase of 187% to £8,942 (2023: £3,120) due to essential works, including gutter clearance, pigeon netting installation, and ceiling repairs.

Energy Costs: Increased 42% to £13,054 (2023: £9,178) following the installation of energy-efficient boilers in late 2023, which improved heating reliability but raised gas consumption.

Church Rates: Increased to £9,945 (2023: £5,137) due to the first full-year lease cost of the minister's new manse.

## OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

Manse Rates: Reduced by 10% to £3,857 (2023: £4,296) as utility costs are now paid for by the tenants.

HIA Houses: £365 allocated to Furniture and Equipment (2023: nil) for essential household items in supported housing.

Routine Maintenance: Decreased 9% to £27,728 (2023: £30,351), reflecting stabilised building upkeep (new boilers) and reduction of costs through changes in suppliers.

## OTHER KEY ITEMS

Training: Reduced to £1,160 (2023: £1,942), prioritising cost-effective solutions.

Worship Equipment: Costs remained negligible (£16) as 2023 repairs extended asset lifespans, avoiding new purchases. New equipment costs of £2,497 were added to the fixed asset register (not added to the expenditure) and depreciated accordingly.

## CONCLUSION

Our 2024 expenditure supported vibrant growth and service: nurturing Cantonese ministries, expanding youth partnerships, and welcoming newcomers through Alpha courses. Investments in building upgrades — like relocating the foodbank store and planning sanctuary refurbishments — ensured our spaces remained welcoming for those attending Messy Church, toddler groups, and our other ministries. Every pound spent echoes the generosity and dedication of our congregation, united in purpose. Together, we steward God's provision to *shine brighter* — equipping Fishponds Baptist Church to be a beacon of hope in 2025 and beyond.

# **FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **GRANT MAKING POLICY (MISSION GIVING)**

Fishponds Baptist Church entrusts grant allocation to the Mission Task Force, a dedicated group of members delegated by the Charity Trustees to manage the annual mission budget and recommend partnerships. Final grant decisions are approved by the Trustees to ensure alignment with our charitable purposes and vision, while the total mission budget, including grant allocations, is ratified by the Church Members' Meeting as part of the annual budget.

The Mission Task Force ensures faithful stewardship of resources in line with our vision to “shine brighter” as a beacon of God’s love, prioritising initiatives that advance evangelism, community development, and crisis relief, with a focus on Baptist partners such as Webnet and BMS World Mission.

## **ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW**

The Church’s Total Assets (excluding the value of Land and Buildings) grew by £104,920 in the past year. This increase reflects a £106,776 surplus in unrestricted funds (available for general purposes), partially offset by a £1,856 deficit in restricted funds (allocated for specific initiatives).

## **RESERVES**

As a church, we are committed to being good stewards of both income and assets. We are also committed to the vision and values of this church to be a healthy growing community. This requires strategic planning, budgeting, and monitoring of all income and assets. It is the practice of this church to hold a cash reserve equivalent of at least three months of general running costs to cover unforeseen circumstances. General running costs include all liabilities (salaries, contracts, and financial commitments). For 2025, the reserves target is £72,223.

At the year-end, the free reserves are £153,332 (2023 - £145,785), being the total general unrestricted funds. The fixed assets are held in a designated fund, as these are not readily available.

The church’s reserves are currently higher than our reserves policy for the following reasons:

- The church has grown in numbers and giving, and we received one-off significant gifts.
- The building needs further investment, and reserves will be allocated towards this as plans evolve. In 2024 we designated £85,000 of the free reserves for this purpose (Designated Building Fund).

# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

<b>Charity details</b>	<p>Fishponds Baptist Church Downend Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 5AS.</p> <p>Charity number 1131411 (registered in England and Wales)</p>
<b>Trustees (Deacons)</b>	<p>Rev Mark Madavan (senior minister) Mr Graeme Betts Mr Peter Keenan (treasurer to February 2024) Mrs Catherine Madavan Mr John Ray (term ended April 2024) Mr Jason Tinley (appointed &amp; treasurer from February 2024) Mr Adam Mitchell-Baker (appointed September 2024) Mrs Kathleen Jinadu (appointed January 2025)</p>
<b>Independent examiner</b>	<p>Joshua Kingston BSc., ACA Burton Sweet Ltd., Chartered Accountants, The Clock Tower, Farleigh Court, Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton, Bristol. BS48 1UR.</p>
<b>Bankers</b>	<p>CAF Bank Ltd., 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.</p> <p>Natwest Bank PLC, 778 Fishponds Road, Fishponds, Bristol.</p>

# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and 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/constitution. 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.

Signed by order of the Trustees.

*Mark Madavan*

Reverend Mark Madavan

*Jason Tinley*

Jason Tinley - Treasurer

Approved by the Trustees on 15 May 2025.

# FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Fishponds Baptist Church (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the Charity, 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 Charity'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.

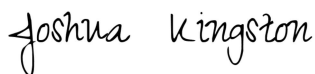
### Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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. The accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity 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.



Signed:

Dated 15 May 2025

Joshua Kingston BSc ACA  
Burton Sweet Limited,  
Chartered Accountants,  
The Clock Tower,  
Farleigh Court,  
Flax Bourton,  
Bristol. BS48 1UR

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

		Unrestricted					
		General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
			£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	254,822	3,790	37,398	-	296,010	273,431
Charitable activities	3	714	-	40,124	-	40,838	45,416
Other trading activities	4	53,835	-	-	-	53,835	29,825
Investments		5,334	-	94	-	5,428	5,132
<b>Total income</b>		<u>314,705</u>	<u>3,790</u>	<u>77,616</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>396,111</u>	<u>353,804</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	213,064	9,155	68,972	-	291,191	247,174
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>213,064</u>	<u>9,155</u>	<u>68,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>291,191</u>	<u>247,174</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		101,641	(5,365)	8,644	-	104,920	106,630
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	13	(94,094)	104,594	(10,500)	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>7,547</u>	<u>99,229</u>	<u>(1,856)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,920</u>	<u>106,630</u>
<b>Total funds at start of year</b>	13	145,785	346,515	17,954	268,950	779,204	672,574
<b>Total funds at end of year</b>	13	<u>153,332</u>	<u>445,744</u>	<u>16,098</u>	<u>268,950</u>	<u>884,124</u>	<u>779,204</u>

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form part of these financial statements  
See note 9 for fund-accounting comparative figures

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	578,674	568,115
		<u>578,674</u>	<u>568,115</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	11	21,110	11,824
Cash at bank and in hand		295,825	215,078
		<u>316,935</u>	<u>226,902</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	12	(11,485)	(15,813)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>305,450</u>	<u>211,089</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>884,124</u></u>	<u><u>779,204</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General funds	14	153,332	145,785
Designated funds	14	445,744	346,515
<b>Restricted funds</b>	14	16,098	17,954
<b>Endowment funds</b>	14	268,950	268,950
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>884,124</u></u>	<u><u>779,204</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 May 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

*Jason Tinley*

.....  
 Jason Tinley  
 Church Treasurer

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention (except where otherwise stated in the accounting policy note) and 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 in October 2019, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined under FRS102.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, despite the uncertainty being caused by the cost-of-living crisis. The Trustees have carefully considered the effect of this when preparing budgets for the coming year. The increase in the congregation and the increase of giving through physical offerings, gives the Trustees confidence that there will be minimal effect on the charity's operations and reserves in the coming years, and that the charity has sufficient reserves to sustain the current level of activity.

**Income**

Income from donations is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- I. When donors specify that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods;
- II. When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred until the pre-conditions have been met.

Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor, and any gift aid recovered on a donation is considered to be part of the gift and treated as an addition to the same fund as the original gift.

Legacies are included on a receivable basis where charity is entitled to the income, it can be measured reliably and receipt is probable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is not included in income but is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Investment income is included on a receivable basis.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.



**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies (*continued*)**

***Charitable Activities***

Grants awarded are allocated to charitable activities.

Grants awarded are treated as expenditure and a liability in the accounts as soon as they become legal or constructive obligations. In the case of multi-year grant awards, the funding for all years is immediately recognised unless there are conditions which need to be met by the recipient to enable the release of subsequent years' funding.

***Governance costs***

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are included within charitable activities.

***Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits***

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

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

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

***Tangible fixed assets***

Fixed assets are held at cost less accumulated depreciation. Assets costing less than £100 are not capitalised. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated ultimate residual value, over the useful life of that asset as follows:

Church Building Improvements 10% straight line

Fixtures & Fittings: 20% Straight Line

Equipment: 25% Straight Line

Land and buildings Two Manses in Bristol are included in these accounts at their respective purchase prices (i.e. £94,000 and £174,950). The accounts are not charged with depreciation in respect of the Manses, as it is felt that the amount that would be charged would be immaterial as an amount on its own and in the context of the balance sheet as a whole.

***Debtors***

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

***Cash at bank and in hand***

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies (*continued*)**

***Creditors***

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

***Fund accounting***

Endowment funds represent the two manses in Bristol.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and have been identified as being for particular purposes by the Trustees. They are not restricted and can be transferred to general funds at any time at the discretion of the Trustees.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes of the financial statements.

**2 Income from: Donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations	280	3,790	-	-	4,070
Grants - Access to Work	-	-	28,970	-	28,970
Regular giving	213,821	-	-	-	213,821
Building fund donations	-	-	6,949	-	6,949
Gift aid	40,721	-	1,479	-	42,200
	<u>254,822</u>	<u>3,790</u>	<u>37,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>296,010</u>

Prior year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations	400	-	1,200	-	1,600
Grants	5,661	-	8,250	-	13,911
Grants - Access to Work	-	-	18,651	-	18,651
Regular giving	192,065	-	-	-	192,065
Building fund donations	-	-	4,170	-	4,170
Legacies	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Gift aid	41,678	-	356	-	42,034
	<u>240,804</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,627</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>273,431</u>

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**3 Income from: Charitable activities**

	<b>General Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
Tenant rent	-	-	36,086	-	36,086
Tenant charges	-	-	4,038	-	4,038
Sundry receipts	714	-	-	-	714
	<u>714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,838</u>
Prior year					
	<b>General Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Tenant rent	-	-	40,226	-	40,226
Tenant charges	-	-	4,134	-	4,134
Sundry receipts	1,056	-	-	-	1,056
	<u>1,056</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,360</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,416</u>

**4 Income from: Other trading activities**

	<b>General Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
Rental income	53,835	-	-	-	53,835
	<u>53,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,835</u>
Prior year					
	<b>General Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Rental income	29,825	-	-	-	29,825
	<u>29,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,825</u>

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**5 Expenditure on: Charitable activities**

	<b>General Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
<b>Direct costs</b>					
<i>Ministry</i>					
Wages and Salaries	76,458	-	-	-	76,458
Pastor's expenses	581	-	-	-	581
Pulpit supply	3,500	-	-	-	3,500
Young peoples' work	5,844	-	-	-	5,844
Outreach	6,582	-	-	-	6,582
Worship equipment	16	-	-	-	16
Training	1,160	-	-	-	1,160
Sundry expenditure	884	-	-	-	884
<i>Mission Giving</i>					
Baptist Missionary Society	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Webnet Home Mission	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
GO MAD UK	4,956	-	-	-	4,956
Other Mission Giving	6,390	-	-	-	6,390
<i>HIA Houses</i>					
Rent	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Empowerment worker salaries	-	-	9,270	-	9,270
HiA monthly fee	-	-	1,200	-	1,200
<b>Support costs</b>					
Utility Costs	-	-	4,268	-	4,268
Insurance	7,815	-	392	-	8,207
Furniture and equipment	-	-	365	-	365
Council tax	-	-	3,700	-	3,700
Manse rates	3,857	-	-	-	3,857
Banking charges	-	-	130	-	130
Property repairs and maintenance	-	-	8,942	-	8,942
Travel and training expenses	-	-	356	-	356
Sundries	-	120	1,379	-	1,499
Depreciation	-	9,035	-	-	9,035
Church Rates	9,945	-	-	-	9,945
Administrative salaries	12,957	-	28,970	-	41,927
Other expenses and consumables	5,275	-	-	-	5,275
Professional fees	4,062	-	-	-	4,062
Routine maintenance	27,728	-	-	-	27,728
Energy costs	13,054	-	-	-	13,054
	<b>213,064</b>	<b>9,155</b>	<b>68,972</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>291,191</b>

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**5 Expenditure on: Charitable activities (continued)**

Prior year

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>					
<i>Ministry</i>					
Wages and Salaries	75,227	-	-	-	75,227
Pastor's expenses	781	-	-	-	781
Pulpit supply	1,792	-	-	-	1,792
Young peoples' work	3,186	-	-	-	3,186
Outreach	8,648	-	-	-	8,648
Worship equipment	3,687	-	-	-	3,687
Training	1,942	-	-	-	1,942
Sundry expenditure	2,263	-	-	-	2,263
<i>Mission Giving</i>					
Baptist Missionary Society	6,750	-	-	-	6,750
Webnet Home Mission	6,750	-	-	-	6,750
GO MAD UK	4,980	-	-	-	4,980
Other mission giving	3,141	-	-	-	3,141
<i>HiA Houses</i>					
Rent	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Empowerment worker salaries	-	-	8,188	-	8,188
HiA monthly fee	-	-	1,140	-	1,140
<b>Support costs</b>					
Utility Costs	-	-	3,917	-	3,917
Insurance	7,354	-	169	-	7,523
Furniture and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Council tax	-	-	3,471	-	3,471
Manse rates	4,296	-	-	-	4,296
Banking charges	-	-	120	-	120
Property repairs and maintenance	-	-	3,120	-	3,120
Travel and training expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	-	-	646	-	646
Depreciation	-	7,670	-	-	7,670
Church Rates	5,137	-	-	-	5,137
Administrative salaries	6,245	-	18,651	-	24,896
Other expenses and consumables	3,998	-	-	-	3,998
Professional fees	4,376	-	-	-	4,376
Routine maintenance	30,351	-	-	-	30,351
Energy costs	9,178	-	-	-	9,178
	190,082	7,670	49,422	-	247,174

**6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examiners fees - for independent examination	2,370	2,370
- for accounts preparation	1,170	1,170
Trustees' travel, meeting and training expenses	-	-
Depreciation	9,035	7,674

Aggregate donations from Trustees, key management personnel, and other related parties was £26,713 (2023: £37,800).

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**7 Staff costs and numbers**

The aggregate payroll costs were:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages & salaries	116,845	82,797
Social security costs	3,554	727
Pension contributions	7,247	6,136
	<u>127,646</u>	<u>89,660</u>

During the year, the church employed people as follows:

	<b>Number 2024</b>	<b>Number 2023</b>	<b>FTE 2024</b>	<b>FTE 2023</b>
Ministry	5	5	3.3	2.85
Administration	2	1	0.5	0.5
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

Key management personnel are the minister and deacons. The total salary and benefits for these people including pension contributions to the Baptist Union pension scheme covering existing and previous pastors were £56,708 (2023: £46,536).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 in either the current, or preceding year.

Rev Mark Madavan, a trustee, received remuneration of £41,296 (2023: £38,938) for his role as Senior Minister. This is permitted under the governing document for the Charity. He is also provided with living accommodation in the form of a Manse which is rented by the church, and received £11,582 (2023: £4,058) in reimbursement of housing and broadband costs.

**8 Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**9 Statement of Financial Activities comparative figures**

<b>For the year ended 31 December 2023</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	240,804	-	32,627	-	273,431
Charitable activities	1,056	-	44,360	-	45,416
Other trading activities	29,825	-	-	-	29,825
Investments	5,132	-	-	-	5,132
<b>Total income</b>	<b>276,817</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>76,987</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>353,804</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	197,752	-	49,422	-	247,174
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>197,752</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,422</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>247,174</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>	<b>79,065</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,565</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,630</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>(179,350)</b>	<b>354,185</b>	<b>(174,835)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(100,285)</b>	<b>354,185</b>	<b>(147,270)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,630</b>
<b>Total funds at start of year</b>	<b>238,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>165,224</b>	<b>268,950</b>	<b>672,574</b>
<b>Total funds at end of year</b>	<b>138,115</b>	<b>354,185</b>	<b>17,954</b>	<b>268,950</b>	<b>779,204</b>

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**10 Tangible fixed assets**

	Asset under construction	Church Building Improvements £	Land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 January 2024	286,875	-	268,950	67,703	-	623,528
Additions	-	15,303	-	1,079	3,212	19,594
Disposals	-	-	-	(2,362)	(5,747)	(8,109)
Transferred In/(Out)	(286,875)	312,395	-	(62,173)	36,653	-
At 31 December 2024	-	327,698	268,950	4,247	34,118	635,013
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 January 2024	-	-	-	55,413	-	55,413
Charge for the year	-	5,855	-	11	3,169	9,035
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	(2,362)	(5,747)	(8,109)
Transferred In/(Out)	-	20,463	-	(49,883)	29,420	-
At 31 December 2024	-	26,318	-	3,179	26,842	56,339
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 December 2024	-	301,380	268,950	1,068	7,276	578,674
At 31 December 2023	286,875	-	268,950	12,290	-	568,115

**Fixed Asset Reclassification**

During the year, assets under construction costing £286,875 were completed and reclassified to 'Church Building Improvements'. Depreciation commenced from the date of completion (1st November 2024)

During the year, the existing 'Fixtures and Fittings' category was reclassified into three new categories: 'Church Building Improvements,' 'Equipment,' and 'Fixtures and Fittings.' Historical cost and accumulated depreciation were apportioned based on the relative value of assets in each new category.

Category	Fixtures & Fittings (Original)	Church Building Improvement s	Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings (Remaining)
<b>Cost</b>				
Opening Balance	67,703	-	-	-
Transfers Out	(67,703)	25,520	36,653	5,530
Closing Balance	-	25,520	36,653	5,530
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
Opening Balance	55,413	-	-	-
Transfers Out	(55,413)	20,463	29,420	5,530
Closing Balance	-	20,463	29,420	5,530

**11 Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	2,577	5,562
Prepayments	8,822	6,262
Accrued income	9,711	-
	21,110	11,824



**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	1,410	8,290
Accruals	9,086	6,175
Deferred income	989	1,348
	<u>11,485</u>	<u>15,813</u>

**13 Movement in funds**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
Capital fund	268,950	-	-	-	268,950
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Building fund	-	8,473	(5,194)	-	3,279
HIA House 1	415	17,130	(21,612)	-	(4,067)
HIA House 2	17,539	23,043	(13,196)	(10,500)	16,886
Access to Work fund	-	28,970	(28,970)	-	-
	<u>17,954</u>	<u>77,616</u>	<u>(68,972)</u>	<u>(10,500)</u>	<u>16,098</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	145,785	314,705	(213,064)	(94,094)	153,332
Missionary fund	47,350	-	-	-	47,350
Building fund	-	-	-	85,000	85,000
Fixed Assets	299,165	-	(9,035)	19,594	309,724
HIA Support and Enrichment fund	-	3,790	(120)	-	3,670
	<u>492,300</u>	<u>318,495</u>	<u>(222,219)</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>599,076</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>779,204</u>	<u>396,111</u>	<u>(291,191)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>884,124</u>

**Endowment funds**

**Capital fund** - This relates to the two church manses.

**Restricted funds**

**Building fund** - This has been set up as the source of income for the re-development of the Fishponds Baptist Church buildings. This will include changes to the building such as a lift, new heating systems, etc.

**HIA House 1 (renamed from D Fund)** - This fund has been established to support the setup and ongoing work of empowering individuals as they transition from homelessness, providing them with stable housing and a supportive community in our *first* Hope into Action house. The tenants are individuals who have overcome addictions and are now rebuilding their lives within the community, supported by stable housing and meaningful relationships.

**FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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**13 Movement in funds (continued)**

**HIA House 2** (renamed from V Fund) - This fund has been established to support the setup and ongoing work of empowering individuals as they transition from homelessness, providing them with stable housing and a supportive community in our second Hope into Action house. The tenants are individuals who have overcome addictions and are now rebuilding their lives within the community, supported by stable housing and meaningful relationships. A transfer of £10,500 was made from this fund in lieu of rent paid to the church, who own the building.

**Access to Work Fund:** This fund was set up to support the post of Ministerial Assistant, funded by an Access to Work Grant from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

**Missionary Fund** - These funds represent amounts given to help the church undertake missionary work. Investigations into the source of these funds confirm that there was no restriction made on these funds by the donor, and that the restriction was added by the deaconate. The funds were therefore transferred to a new designated fund.

**Designated funds**

**Missionary Fund** - Investigation into the original donation into this fund confirmed that the funds were given without restriction, meaning the funds were incorrectly classified. The deacons wanted to reserve the funds for mission work, so the funds were transferred to a designated fund during the year to recognise this.

**Fixed Assets** - This fund represents the value of fixed assets, apart from the manse which are held in the endowment fund. Funds representing the net book value of the church's assets were transferred into this fund during the year.

**Building Fund** - This represents commitment of free reserves against the cost of the re-development of the Fishponds Baptist Church buildings, alongside that of the restricted fund.

**HIA Support and Enrichment Fund** - This fund is for the support and enrichment of the tenants in the Hope into Action houses. It is funded through donations to the project and expenditure is managed through the Project Lead and Steering Group.

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
Capital fund	268,950	-	-	-	268,950
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Building fund	104,209	12,776	-	(116,985)	-
Missionary fund	47,350	-	-	(47,350)	-
HIA House 1	(301)	19,693	(18,977)	-	415
HIA House 2	13,966	25,867	(11,794)	(10,500)	17,539
Access to Work fund	-	18,651	(18,651)	-	-
	<u>165,224</u>	<u>76,987</u>	<u>(49,422)</u>	<u>(174,835)</u>	<u>17,954</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	238,400	276,817	(190,082)	(179,350)	145,785
Missionary fund	-	-	-	47,350	47,350
Fixed Assets	-	-	(7,670)	306,835	299,165
	<u>238,400</u>	<u>276,817</u>	<u>(197,752)</u>	<u>174,835</u>	<u>492,300</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>672,574</u>	<u>353,804</u>	<u>(247,174)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>779,204</u>

