HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1131979

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2009-10-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Hertford Baptist Church 13-15 Chambers Street Hertford SG14 1PL
Phone	01992582951
Email	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION. THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Activities: Advancement of the Christian faith according to Baptist principles by: regular worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching; the nurture and growth of Christian disciples; pastoral care; evangelism and mission locally, in the UK and internationally; education and training for Christian and community service; supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the UK and abroad.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£345,126	£392,123	-	-
2024-12-31	£278,425	£398,438	-	-
2023-12-31	£425,305	£319,390	-	-
2022-12-31	£267,867	£284,376	-	-
2021-12-31	£270,505	£317,569	-	-
2020-12-31	£245,651	£300,827	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claire Mabbett		2023-05-23
Clare Macpherson		2023-05-23
Dawn Rosemary Weston		2019-07-15
Dr David Elder		2026-05-19
Fola Sanu		2026-05-19
Hannah Harding		2022-05-24
Helen Ruth Ward		2023-09-05
Ian Martin Kittredge Davis		2022-05-24
Michael Clifford		2024-05-21
NIGEL ROBIN HOLLINGSWORTH		2025-05-20
Rev Alan Ward		2023-09-05
Sheila Miriam Knowles		2022-05-24
Tim Simmonds		2026-05-19

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HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1131979

Accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

Hertford Baptist Church

'Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'

Port Hill
Hertford

A registered place of worship

Registered Charity No 1131979

Report of the Trustees

&

Accounts

1 January - 31 December 2025

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for the trustees' report and accounts for submission to the Charity Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the 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) (effective 1 January 2019). The 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 the adoption of the 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) for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn.

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken note of all the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission including the specific guidance for religious charities on public benefit. The charity's policy is to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and comply with approved accounting standards.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The Core Purpose of the Church is "Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." Our vision and value statements define the nature of the Church and its vision for growth. The church seeks to encourage individual members to demonstrate these values in their own lives and the Calls to Action of the Church are expressed as 'Meet God', 'Make Friends', 'Make a Difference'.

The Church follows the doctrinal basis contained in its governing document and seeks to apply this in today's society and culture.

The Church's principal aim is to advance the Christian faith in Hertford and surrounding areas and through the Christian church nationally and worldwide, and to serve the spiritual, emotional, moral and physical needs of the local community. To help fulfil these objectives, Hertford Baptist Church maintains a registered place of worship and associated buildings, for Christian worship, fellowship, teaching and community activities.

Public worship services are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises, which attract around 150 people from the local community each week. In addition, a range of evening and weekday activities are provided for all ages and many sections of society, to which all are welcome. To achieve the benefits of smaller scale group activities, Midweek Communities meet weekly for learning, mutual encouragement and, support and play a vital role in welcoming and integrating new people into the church family. In addition to our core purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith, and as an expression of that core purpose, the church seeks to provide additional public benefit through the provision of activities such as lunches for the elderly and breakfasts for men (both once a month), Baby and Toddler groups and a youth club run on the premises in conjunction with Hertford Young Life, Home Start meet weekly in the church premises and Place of Welcome, a weekly coffee drop-in centre.

We continue engagement with the local community through projects including the Food Bank, Street Pastors and Future Hope (working with young people dealing with crises such as addiction, mental health problems and family breakdown), and facilitating a branch of a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre. The church also supports a variety of projects caring for the poorest and neediest around the world through social action and evangelism.

In shaping the charity's objectives and planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit for charities advancing religion. The trustees are satisfied that the activities undertaken during the year further the charity's aims for the public benefit.

Staff

Rev. Dr Alan Ward, Baptist Minister and Ministry Team Leader

Helen Ward, Ministry Leader for Families, Young People and Community Outreach

Dawn Weston, Ministry Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer

John Goligher, Finance Administrator (retired 31.7.25)

Cheri Pienaar, Church Administrator

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2025 has been a significant and encouraging year for Hertford Baptist Church, marked by sustained prayer, spiritual growth, increasing engagement with the local community, and a noticeable rise in attendance, particularly among children, young people and families.

Prayer has been central to the life of the church throughout the year. A whole-church Call to Prayer, supported by regular rhythms of prayer, extended use of the Prayer Room and two 24/7 prayer events, drew wide participation across all ages. This season led to a shared sense of God calling the church to deepen its relationship with Him and to step out more boldly in mission.

This spiritual focus has been reflected in growing engagement with discipleship and teaching. Sunday sermon series, including Following the Way, God Speaks, and Ordinary People: Empowered and Unstoppable, alongside the Talking Jesus course in Midweek Communities, have helped equip over 150 people to grow in faith and confidence in sharing it. Midweek Communities continue to play a vital role in fostering belonging, spiritual growth and pastoral support.

The church has seen steady numerical growth, with increasing numbers of new people attending, including many exploring faith for the first time. This has been particularly evident in the expansion of children's and youth work. Weekly toddler and baby groups regularly welcome 100–120 children, providing an important point of connection with local families. In response to growth, children's and youth provision has been expanded, including restructured Sunday groups, a new youth discipleship group, and participation in the Satellites festival, where young people experienced significant spiritual development.

Outreach and engagement with the local community have been a consistent priority. The church has strengthened its presence in Hertford through events such as the Teddy Bears Picnic, Easter gatherings, and Christmas activities, alongside ongoing partnerships with organisations including CAP, Street Pastors and local schools. Seasonal outreach has been particularly effective, with over 400 attending Family Nativity services and 1,800 goodie bags distributed during the Hertford Christmas Gala and Markets, creating meaningful opportunities to connect with those who would not otherwise engage with church.

There are encouraging signs of deepening faith and commitment. A baptism service held in October saw eight people baptised, reflecting both spiritual growth and the church's widening reach. The church has also demonstrated strong generosity, raising over £10,000 for the Kazakh Child Development Project and £2,000 for the BMS Harvest Appeal. Regular giving has grown significantly, with overall income matching expenditure despite a planned deficit.

To support continued growth, the church has invested in infrastructure and capacity, including appointing a Finance Assistant, establishing a new Prayer Room and completing improvements to the church's outdoor space to enable greater community use.

Alongside these positive developments, the growth experienced during the year has highlighted important challenges around capacity, leadership and space. These areas will be key priorities moving forward, as the church seeks to respond faithfully to increasing opportunities for mission and discipleship.

Overall, 2025 has been a year characterised by prayer, growth, generosity and a deepening commitment to "live the gospel and love the town." The church looks ahead with hope and expectation as it continues to build on these foundations.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hertford Baptist Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No. 1131979, constituted as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. It is governed by a Foundation Trust Deed dated 16 November 1903 enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 21 November 1903, by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 5 October 2009 and by Declaration of The Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 and the Baptist Trusts for Manses 2004, dated 18 April 2006. The church is the beneficial owner of freehold property in Hertford, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

Appointment of trustees

Hertford Baptist Church is a fully independent organisation and the Church Members' Meeting, normally held four times a year, is the decision-making body. The Church Members' Meeting appoints Deacons who act as trustees. The appointment of trustees requires the support of not less than 50% eligible votes cast. Deacons are appointed for a period of three years and may serve for two consecutive periods of three years before being required to stand down for a minimum of one year. Two officers, a Secretary and a Treasurer, are elected annually and are ex officio deacons and trustees. Information is provided for those considering offering themselves for election as deacons and trustees, as is induction and ongoing training for those elected.

Organisation

The day-to-day programme and spiritual welfare of the church is the responsibility of the Ministry Team, in consultation with the Leadership and Staff Teams.

Individual deacons have a lead role in various aspects of the church's ministry. The Ministry Team, deacons and trustees meet monthly to determine, approve and monitor the strategy and programme of the church, to receive financial reports, and to undertake the management responsibilities of the charity, and for prayer. They meet annually for an extended meeting to consider strategic development.

Hertford Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, its regional organisation the Central Baptist Association, and a number of other organisations with which it identifies, including the Evangelical Alliance and the local ecumenical group, Hertford and District Churches Together.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

With the exception of Ministry Team Members, who by nature of their appointment are trustees and also paid employees, none of the charity's other trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity as trustee. John Goligher was employed as the financial administrator for the church until July 2025, having been appointed to this position in November 2014. He retired from the role of Church Treasurer at the AGM in May 2025, a role for which he was not remunerated and which he had held since January 2021. Pauline Strong was appointed to the volunteer role of financial assistant for the church in July 2025.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a supplier or external organisation must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related transactions were reported.

Various organisations are associated with the church and their leaders are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting. Some of these small organisations keep their own accounts and have separate bank accounts; none exceed £5,000 in income or expenditure per annum. Other unrelated organisations, which are compatible with the church's values, use the church premises and usually pay a nominal fee for doing so. There are no other legal or formal links with related parties.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the trustees consider the advice of 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain' when setting pay levels.

Risk management

A policy of continuous risk assessment and review is adopted. A suite of policies has been agreed by the Church Meeting, including a Health & Safety Policy. These policies are reviewed annually, and any revisions reported to the members at the AGM in May.

A range of risk assessments, action plans and work activities are carried out periodically. Built on a model document from the Baptist Union, a combined Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk has been adopted and is reviewed and adopted annually.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial income is derived from voluntary donations and regular giving by church members and those who attend the church, supplemented by contributions to activities by those taking part, and some income from the hiring of the premises. Donations during the year of £185,320 were received through regular offerings. This was an increase on the previous year and the budgeted target.

A significant proportion of the church's income is given, by way of donations, to Christian mission and relief groups and training colleges, to individuals in training for Christian service; people engaged in Christian work, mostly overseas and through their commissioning organisations. These grants are approved annually by the Church Members' Meeting and no commitment is made to grants in advance or to future funding, with the funding for such grants being received during the year of payment. During 2025 the church was able, through the generosity of members and friends, to make donations to external causes amounting to £41,975 or about 13% of total non-capital expenditure.
In 1997 Hertford Baptist Church made a grant of £34k to a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Ware called Emmanuel Share Church (ESC). This was a joint venture between the Baptist denomination and Christ Church Ware, the local parish church. The purpose of the grant was to assist with the purchase of a Manse to be used by the Minister of ESC. In 2022, the members of ESC decided to close the church and following the sale of the property, Hertford Baptist Church received a percentage of the proceeds, proportional to the original contribution, as per the grant agreement.

As a result, in the year 2023 the charity received £171k on the closure of Emmanuel Shared Church. The trustees have decided to invest these funds with CCLA for a long-term return.

RESERVE POLICY

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £321,505.

The trustees consider the free reserves of £321,505 to be adequate for the future purposes of the church for the coming year.

Funds are 'restricted' when given for a specific purpose and generally these are disbursed before the end of the financial year. 'Designated' funds are funds designated by the trustees for a particular purpose, and in the interests of clarity, the tangible fixed assets of the church (land, buildings, fixtures, and fittings) which are not normally available for general purposes are held as designated funds. The expectation is that funds will be used for the furtherance of the church's objectives in the year received and there are no specific investment powers. The policy is that reserves of unrestricted funds (free reserves) should normally be not less than the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and not exceed 12 months' expenditure. Reserves are currently the equivalent of just over 11 months budgeted expenditure, and the trustees consider this adequate for the year ahead. Reserve funds should be readily accessible. Cash investments should be retained in high interest, instant access, bank accounts.

Hertford Baptist Church owns three freehold houses in Hertford originally purchased for use as Manses to further the objectives of the church. This continues to be the intended long-term use, meanwhile these properties are temporary vacant and let short term under the management of Sage Ward, with the income used for the general purposes of the charity. Because they meet the SORP/ FRS 102 definition of investment properties, these houses have been reclassified as Investment Assets. Should any of these properties return to use as a Manse, they will return to classification as Fixed Assets.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

As the church looks ahead, 2026 will be a significant season of consolidation and development, as we seek to steward growth well and respond faithfully to the opportunities before us.

A key priority will be the clarification and articulation of the church's vision and values. This process will involve continued prayer, reflection and engagement across the church family, with the intention of establishing a clear and shared sense of identity, direction and purpose for the future.

In response to ongoing growth, the church will focus on increasing capacity across all areas of ministry. This will include strengthening and expanding volunteer teams and continuing to review how our buildings and facilities can best support both church life and community engagement.

The church will also seek to develop new and creative expressions of mission. This will include creating accessible and relational opportunities for people to engage with the Christian faith, building on our work with seniors and younger generations.

Midweek Communities will continue to play a central role in discipleship and belonging. The intention will be to support and develop leaders, while exploring opportunities to grow and multiply communities so that all those connecting with the church can form meaningful relationships and grow in faith.

Investment in younger generations will remain a key strategic focus. The church will move forward with plans to appoint a Ministry Lead for Young Adults, with the aim of developing discipleship, fostering community, and creating new opportunities for outreach among those aged 18–30.

The trustees will also give ongoing attention to leadership and governance structures, ensuring that they are fit for purpose and able to support the continued growth and development of the church.

Overall, the intention for the coming period will be to establish strong foundations for the future, ensuring that the church is well aligned, well resourced, and well positioned to continue growing in both depth and impact.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

No funds are held on behalf of others as Custodian Trustee.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1131979
Church office:	13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford SG14 1PL
Telephone:	01992 582951
Email:	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website:	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, 68 High Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8EZ
Solicitors:	Longmores, 24 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HP
Auditors:	SCB (Accountants) Limited, 31 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3LZ.

TRUSTEES

Rev. Dr Alan Ward	Baptist Minister
Helen Ward	Ministry Leader for Families, Young People and Community Outreach
Dawn Weston	Ministry Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer
Jemma Chandler	
Ian Davis	
Hannah Harding	
Sheila Knowles	
John Low	Church Secretary *
Claire Mabbett	
Clare Macpherson	
Michael Clifford	
Nigel Hollingsworth	(appointed 20th May 2025)

* Church officers are appointed or re-appointed annually by members vote at the Annual General Meeting in May. The office of Treasurer is currently vacant.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

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 (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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 for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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 Constitution as Amended 22nd March 2022. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees on the 19 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

John Low

John Low

Chair of Trustees

Hertford Baptist Church

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hertford Baptist Church For the year ended 31 December 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hertford Baptist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

Hertford Baptist Church

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hertford Baptist Church For the year ended 31 December 2025

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustee's remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures in place regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We discussed amongst the audit team the identified laws and regulations, and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance.

During the audit we focussed on laws and regulations which could reasonably be expected to give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Charities Act 2011 and SORP 2019. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management.

Hertford Baptist Church

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hertford Baptist Church For the year ended 31 December 2025

Our procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to: inquires of management whether they have any knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, and discussions amongst the audit team regarding risk of fraud such as opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of financial statements. We determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance and management bias through judgements in accounting estimates. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and appropriateness of other entries in the nominal ledger; reviewing transactions around the end of the reporting period; and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act (Regulation 30 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mr Jeffrey Bor FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SCB (Accountants) Ltd
31 Sackville Street
Manchester
M1 3LZ

Date: 20/05/2026

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Regular Offerings		185,320	-	-	185,320	155,374
Special Gifts & Legacies		18,284	120	15,670	34,074	17,617
Thankoffering		-	7,478	-	7,478	5,093
Gift Aid recoverable		34,912	1,678	1,454	38,044	31,954
Charitable activities		6,868	-	-	6,868	4,465
Investments - bank interest and dividends		9,337	-	-	9,337	8,606
Other						
Use of property		64,001	-	-	64,001	55,216
Repayments		4	-	-	4	100
Total		318,726	9,276	17,124	345,126	278,425
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities						
Local Ministry	Note 3	267,082	72,209	813	340,104	348,730
Support Costs	Note 4	10,044	-	-	10,044	8,980
Grants payable:						
National Mission	Note 5	9,999	-	678	10,677	10,800
World Mission	Note 5	15,134	-	3,476	18,610	23,689
Future Mission	Note 5	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Thankoffering & Special	Note 5	-	9,688	-	9,688	6,239
Total	Note 6	305,259	81,897	4,967	392,123	398,438
Net Income/(expenditure)		13,467	(72,621)	12,157	(46,997)	(120,013)
Transfers between Funds		(580)	11,083	(10,503)	-	-
		12,887	(61,538)	1,654	(46,997)	(120,013)
Other recognised Gains/(losses):						
Gain/(loss) in value of Fixed Asset Investments		(8,824)	-	-	(8,824)	1,500
Net Movement in Funds		4,063	(61,538)	1,654	(55,821)	(118,513)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward						
	Notes 17, 18 & 19	317,442	1,904,796	2,172	2,224,410	2,342,923
.						
Total Funds Carried Forward						
	Notes 17, 18 & 19	**321,505**	**1,843,258**	**3,826**	**2,168,589**	**2,224,410**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the result for the year. All of the Church's activities are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 15 to 29 form part of these accounts

Analysis of the comparative funds in the previous year (2024) is provided in Note 9.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	Note 11	905,391	1,853,183
Fixed Asset Investments	Note 12	163,676	172,500
Investment properties	Note 13	886,184	-
Total fixed assets		1,955,251	2,025,683
Current Assets:			
Debtors	Note 14	41,355	34,288
Cash at bank and in hand	Note 15	182,943	174,498
Total current assets		224,298	208,786
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within 1 year	Note 16	(10,960)	(10,059)
Net current assets		213,338	198,727
Net Assets		**2,168,589**	**2,224,410**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted	Note 17	321,505	317,442
Designated	Note 18	1,843,258	1,904,796
Restricted	Note 19	3,826	2,172
		2,168,589	**2,224,410**

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



John Low
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 15 to 29 form part of these accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations, but which has since been withdrawn

Hertford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity's Financial Statements show net deficit before investment losses of £46,997 for the year and free reserves of £321,505.

In order to assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption basis, the Trustees have considered the church's financial position, liquidity, unrestricted reserves and forecasts for the foreseeable future taking into account the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. The Trustees have considered the impact of a severe economic outcome on Hertford Baptist Church and the effectiveness of management actions that might be taken to mitigate the impact of this stress. Trustees have also considered the circumstances under which the activities of the church would be unable to continue. After taking into account the current level of the charity's cash and reserves and the financial performance since 31 December 2025, the Trustees have concluded that the risk of this situation occurring is remote.

Accordingly, and after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of signing of this report.

On this basis these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church. Three such legacies have been notified for the current year (2025). One such legacy was also notified in the previous year (2024).

In 1997 Hertford Baptist Church made a grant of £34k to a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Ware called Emmanuel Share Church (ESC). This was a joint venture between the Baptist denomination and Christ Church Ware, the local parish church. The purpose of the grant was to assist with the purchase of a Manse to be used by the Minister of ESC. In 2022, the members of ESC decided to close the church and following the sale of the property, Hertford Baptist Church received a percentage of the proceeds of the house sale proportional to the original contribution, as per the grant agreement. As a result, in the year 2023 the charity received £171,000 on the closure of Emmanuel Shared Church. The Trustees have invested these funds for a long-term return.

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2025) or previous (2024) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The aim and use of each restricted fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The church has no endowment funds.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:
- Costs of charitable activities, including local ministry and outreach activities undertaken directly in furtherance of the charity's objectives;
- Grants payable, representing donations and support provided to mission organisations and related charitable causes;
- Support and governance costs allocated to charitable activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, payroll and other professional services and governance costs which support the church's activities. These costs have been allocated entirely to local ministry. Decisions on the awarding of grants do not incur support costs as they are made by the church members in the church meeting, based on information provided by the trustees and other members. No support staff time is attributable to the grant awarding process.

Operating leases

The church classifies the lease of the office printer/copier as an operating lease; the title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every 5 years while the economic life of such equipment is normally 5 years.

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Tangible fixed assets

Freehold land and buildings used directly in furtherance of the charity's objectives are classified as tangible fixed assets.
In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors, values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use. Buildings' improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment costing £4,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Freehold buildings classified as tangible fixed assets are depreciated over 50 years following the revaluation in 2011.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum. On this basis, the organ, pews and other fixtures and fittings within the church would have been fully depreciated at 31 December, 2019. As these items are all in continuing use, they were revalued at their insurance valuations at 31 December 2019; organ £146,748 (2018 NBV £4,485) pews, etc. £121,480 (2018 NBV £2,062). They have been depreciated in the current year at a rate of 10% per annum.

Fixed asset investments

Investments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date.

Realised and unrealised gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they arise.

Investment Property

Investment property comprises residential properties held primarily to generate rental income.
Investment property is initially recognised at cost and subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date, with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investment properties are not depreciated in accordance with FRS 102.

Where an investment property subsequently becomes owner-occupied or is used directly in furtherance of the charity's objectives, it is reclassified as a tangible fixed asset at the date of change in use.

The trustees have considered the fair value of the investment properties at the reporting date and are satisfied that the carrying value is not materially different from fair value.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

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 the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when 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 accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Pensions

Employees are enrolled in the statutory pension scheme and the pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the charity during the period.

Related Charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Central Baptist Association. The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 5.

Tax Exemption

The charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income and gains arising on its charitable activities to the extent that these are applied for charitable purposes.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The charity's basic financial instruments include trade debtors, accrued income, cash and bank balances, and trade creditors.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees have exercised judgement in assessing the classification of freehold properties between tangible fixed assets and investment property based on the intended use of the properties.

The trustees have also assessed whether the carrying value of investment properties approximates fair value at the reporting date.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty are as follows:

I. Useful economic lives of tangible assets- Depreciation of tangible fixed assets has been based on estimated useful lives and residual values deemed appropriate by the trustees. Estimated useful lives and residual lives are reviewed annually and revised as appropriate. Revisions take into account actual asset lives and residual values as evidenced by disposals during current and prior accounting periods.
II. Valuation of investment property - Investment properties are carried at amounts which the trustees consider approximate to fair value at the reporting date. In determining fair value, the trustees consider available market information and comparable property values.

2. Legal Status of the Church
Hertford Baptist Church is a registered charity no. 1131979 and the church building is a registered place of worship.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

3. Local Ministry

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Designated 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Premises	60,035	-	-	60,035	58,870
Depreciation	-	72,159	-	72,159	71,825
Ministry	134,605	-	-	134,605	146,441
Church Activities	18,075	-	-	18,075	14,379
Outreach Activities	6,572	50	646	7,268	5,687
Enabling Activities	47,791	-	167	47,958	51,429
Bank charges	4	-	-	4	99
	267,082	72,209	813	340,104	348,730
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2024	273,539	72,436	2,755		348,730

4. Support costs including governance costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fee	6,940	6,550
Professional fees	1,104	401
Secretarial	2,000	2,029
	10,044	8,980

Governance costs are attributed entirely to local ministry and unrestricted funds in both 2025 and 2024. The Professional fees include pension providers' and consultancy fees. Letting agent's fees are now included in Premises costs (note 3 above). The 2024 comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect this here and in note 9.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

5. Grants for Mission		Unrestricted 2025	Designated 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
National Mission		£	£	£	£	£
Baptist Home Mission (CBA)		4,640	-	-	4,640	5,800
Future Hope		2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Hertford Young Life		2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Others	2	359	-	678	1,037	-
		9,999	-	678	10,677	10,800
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2024		10,800	-	-		10,800
World Mission						
BMS World Mission		5,800	-	1,895	7,695	9,393
BMS Relief Fund		-	-	1,390	1,390	-
Other societies		-	-	191	191	1,580
People International (to support a couple)		308	-	-	308	3,690
SIM (to support 1 person)		2,061	-	-	2,061	2,061
Interserve (M LeRoy)		1,365	-	-	1,365	1,365
Matiza Family		3,600	-	-	3,600	3,600
Agape (P & S Weston)		2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000
		15,134	-	3,476	18,610	23,689
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2024		19,629	-	4,060		23,689
Future Mission						
Spurgeons College		1,500	-	-	1,500	-
All Nations Christian College		1,500	-	-	1,500	-
		3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2024		-	-	-		-
Thankoffering & Special Appeal						
Thankoffering		-	9,688	-	9,688	6,239
		-	9,688	-	9,688	6,239
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2024		-	6,239	-	6,239	6,239

16 (2024: 13) separate grants were paid out to institutions. Some single grants are paid in monthly or quarterly instalments. No support costs are apportioned to the payment of grants to Mission.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

6. Total Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Local Ministry	154,603	132,194	53,307	340,104	342,289
National Mission	-	-	10,677	10,677	10,800
World Mission	-	-	18,610	18,610	23,689
Future Mission	-	-	3,000	3,000	-
Thankoffering	-	-	9,688	9,688	6,239
Governance	-	-	10,044	10,044	15,421
	154,603	132,194	105,326	392,123	398,438

Total expenditure was £392,123 (2024: £398,438) of which £305,259 was unrestricted (2024: £312,948), £81,897 was designated (2024: £78,675) and £4,967 was restricted (2024: £6,815).

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and Salaries	141,614	150,868
Social Security Costs	5,808	8,541
Pensions Costs	7,181	7,323
	154,603	166,732

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2024: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

3 pastors were remunerated £110,466 (2024: 3 pastors £106,801) using scales recommended by the Baptist Union and according to the relevant agreement with the Charity Commission. 1 trustee was remunerated £12,948 (2024: £25,041) during the year for work not related to his role as a trustee.

In total, all trustees, including pastors, were remunerated £123,414 (2024: £131,842).The remunerated trustees received remuneration in their capacity as employed ministers and staff of the church. Such remuneration is permitted under the governing document and was authorised in accordance with the charity's conflict of interest procedures.

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: nil).

During the year, travel and meal expenses totalling £711 were reimbursed to 3 pastors and no trustees (2024: travel and meal expenses of £1,030 to 3 pastors and 1 trustee). In addition, 3 pastors and 2 trustees made purchases totalling £7,305 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2024: 3 pastors and 3 trustees, £4,928).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church comprise the church office secretary (who is an employee) and the finance administrator, the two cashiers and the youth and children's work administrator (who are volunteers). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (1 individual) were £18,200 (2024: 2 individuals, £19,026). During the year, travel expenses totalling £71 were reimbursed to one member of key management personnel (2024: nil). In addition, 3 key management personnel (non-trustees) made purchases totalling £1,016 on behalf of the church (2024: nil).

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

8 Staff Numbers

Average Number of Employees

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Ministers 3 people	3	3
Secretaries/Administrators (all part-time)	1.5	2
	4.5	5

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

9 Comparative figures (2024) for the separate classes of funds shown in total on the face of the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies				
Regular Offerings	155,374	-	-	155,374
Special Gifts & Legacies	13,042	110	4,465	17,617
Thankoffering	-	5,093	-	5,093
Gift Aid recoverable	30,112	1,146	696	31,954
Charitable activities	1,993	-	2,472	4,465
Investments - bank interest	8,606	-	-	8,606
Other				
Use of property	55,179	-	37	55,216
Sundry	100	-	-	100
Total	264,406	6,349	7,670	278,425
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Local Ministry	273,539	72,436	2,755	348,730
Support Costs	8,980	-	-	8,980
Grants payable:				
National Mission	10,800	-	-	10,800
World Mission	19,629	-	4,060	23,689
Thankoffering & Special	-	6,239	-	6,239
Total	312,948	78,675	6,815	398,438
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(48,542)	(72,326)	855	(120,013)
Transfers between Funds	-	-	-	-
	(48,542)	(72,326)	855	(120,013)
Other recognised Gains/(losses):				
Gains in value of Fixed Asset Investments	1,500	-	-	1,500
Net Movement in Funds	(47,042)	(72,326)	855	(118,513)
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 January 2023	364,484	1,977,122	1,317	2,342,923
.				
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 December 2024	317,442	1,904,796	2,172	2,224,410

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

10 Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves members of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £35,647 (2024 £20,470).

No expenses were paid to any related party (2024: nil). 2 people related to the trustees made purchases on behalf of the church and were reimbursed £1,180 (2024: 1 person, £429).

1 person related to the key management personnel made purchases on behalf of the church and was reimbursed £135 (2024: nil).

A payment of £353 was made to the Laurel Education Trust (LET) for the hire of the Simon Balle School hall for a baptismal service. One of the Trustees of Hertford Baptist Church is also a Trustee of LET.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost/Valuation	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2025	468,000	1,595,220	483,701	2,546,921
Additions	-	-	10,551	10,551
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfer to investment property	(328,000)	(770,220)	-	(1,098,220)
At 31 December 2025	140,000	825,000	494,252	1,459,252
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2024	-	410,802	282,935	693,737
Charge for the year	-	31,904	40,255	72,159
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfer to investment property	-	(212,036)	-	(212,036)
At 31 December 2025	-	230,670	323,190	553,861
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2025	140,000	594,330	171,062	905,391
At 31 December 2024	468,000	1,184,418	200,765	1,853,183

Freehold Land and Buildings

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately.

The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use.

During the year, certain residential properties previously included within tangible fixed assets were transferred to investment property following a review by the trustees of the use and purpose of the properties.
The properties were transferred at their net book value at the date of transfer, which the trustees consider to approximate fair value.
The reclassification has been treated prospectively and comparative figures have not been restated.

Certain properties are currently held to generate rental income pending their potential future use in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Where a change in use occurs, the relevant property will be reclassified from investment property to tangible fixed assets in accordance with FRS 102.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

12. Fixed Asset Investments

Cost/Valuation	At 1 January 2025	Acquisitions	Revaluations	Disposals	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income units in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	172,500	-	(8,824)	-	-	163,676

13. Investment Property

	2025 £
At 1 January 2025	-
Additions	-
Disposals	-
Transfer from tangible fixed assets	886,184
Fair value movement	-
At 31 December 2025	886,184

Investment property comprises residential properties held primarily to generate rental income.

During the year, certain residential properties previously included within tangible fixed assets were transferred to investment property following a review by the trustees of the use and purpose of the properties.

The properties were transferred at their net book value at the date of transfer, which the trustees consider to approximate fair value.

The reclassification has been treated prospectively and comparative figures have not been restated.

Certain properties are currently held to generate rental income pending their potential future use in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Where a change in use occurs, the relevant property will be reclassified from investment property to tangible fixed assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the fair value of the investment properties at the reporting date and are satisfied that the carrying value is not materially different from fair value.

14. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Accrued Income	-	2,334
Prepayments	981	-
Income Tax Recoverable	37,814	31,954
Other Debtors	2,560	-
	41,355	34,288

15. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Accounts	182,790	174,429
Petty Cash	153	69
	182,943	174,498

16. Liabilities

	2025 £	2024 £
Payroll liabilities	3,313	2,789
Accruals	7,647	7,270
	10,960	10,059

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

17. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance	Movement				Balance
	1.1.25	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and Losses	31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Church Funds	317,442	318,726	305,259	(580)	(8,824)	321,505

18. Designated Funds

	Balance 1.1.25	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thankoffering	-	9,156	9,688	532	-	-
Training Support	2,160	120	-	-	-	2,280
Other designated donations	49,453	-	50	-	-	49,403
	51,613	9,276	9,738	532	-	51,683
Tangible fixed assets	1,853,183	-	72,159	(875,633)	-	905,391
Investment Property	-	-	-	886,184	-	886,184
	1,904,796	9,276	81,897	11,083	-	1,843,258

The Thankoffering funds are raised each year for specific causes. The funds raised in 2025 were given to the Mongolia Project. The Training Support Fund supports individuals training for Christian service through full or part-time courses or on training placements.

The Tangible Fixed Asset Fund represents the net book value of freehold land and buildings, fixtures, fittings and equipment used directly in furtherance of the charity's objectives.
During the year, certain residential properties previously included within the Tangible Fixed Asset Fund were transferred to the Investment Property Fund following a review by the trustees of the use and purpose of the properties.

19. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.25	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Baptist societies	1,452	3,728	3,476	15	-	1,719
Others	720	13,396	1,491	(10,518)	-	2,107
	2,172	17,124	4,967	(10,503)	-	3,826

Baptist societies and other funds are ongoing funds held for specific societies, the majority of which are paid out in the course of the year.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

20. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investment Property £	Net Current Assets £	Total Assets £
Unrestricted Funds (note 17)	-	-	321,505	321,505
Designated Funds (note 18)	905,391	886,184	51,683	1,843,258
Restricted Funds (note 19)	-	-	3,826	3,826
	905,391	886,184	377,014	2,168,589

21. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2025 there were commitments under operating leases

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expiring within 1 year	2,520	907
Expiring within 2-5 years	8,820	1,134
	11,340	2,041

22. Ultimate Controlling Party

The Charity was under the control of the Board of Trustees throughout the year.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
- Regular Offerings	185,320	-	-	185,320	155,374
- Special Gifts & Legacies	18,284	120	15,670	34,074	17,617
- Thankoffering	-	7,478	-	7,478	5,093
- Gift Aid recoverable	34,912	1,678	1,454	38,044	31,954
Charitable Activities	6,868	-	-	6,868	4,465
Activities which generate funds					
- Use of property	64,001	-	-	64,001	55,216
- Repayments	4	-	-	4	100
- Bank interest	9,337	-	-	9,337	8,606
Total	318,726	9,276	17,124	345,126	278,425
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Local Ministry	267,082	72,209	813	340,104	348,730
Governance Costs	10,044	-	-	10,044	8,980
Grants payable:					
- National Mission	9,999	-	678	10,677	10,800
- World Mission	15,134	-	3,476	18,610	23,689
- Future Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
- Thankoffering & Special	-	9,688	-	9,688	6,239
Total	305,259	81,897	4,967	392,123	398,438
Net Income/(expenditure)	13,467	(72,621)	12,157	(46,997)	(120,013)
Transfers between funds	(580)	11,083	(10,503)	-	-
	12,887	(61,538)	1,654	(46,997)	(120,013)
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of fixed asset investments	(8,824)	-	-	(8,824)	1,500
Net Movement in Funds	4,063	(61,538)	1,654	(55,821)	(118,513)
Total Funds brought forward at 1/1/24	317,442	1,904,796	2,172	2,224,410	2,342,923
Total Funds carried forward at 31.12.25	**321,505**	**1,843,258**	**3,826**	**2,168,589**	**2,224,410**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025		2025	2024
Fixed Assets		£	£
	Tangible Fixed Assets	905,391	1,853,183
	Fixed Asset Investments	163,676	172,500
	Investment Property	886,184	-
Current Assets			
	Debtors	41,355	34,288
	Cash at bank & in hand	182,943	174,498
Liabilities			
amounts falling due within 1 year		(10,960)	(10,059)
Net Current Assets		213,338	198,727
Net Assets		**2,168,589**	**2,224,410**
Funds	Unrestricted	321,505	317,442
	Designated	1,843,258	1,904,796
	Restricted	3,826	2,172
		2,168,589	**2,224,410**

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1131979

Accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

Hertford Baptist Church

'Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'

Port Hill
Hertford

A registered place of worship

Registered Charity No 1131979

Report of the Trustees

&

Accounts

1 January - 31 December 2024

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement of the charity for the year ending 31st of December 2024 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for the trustees' report and accounts for submission to the Charity Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the 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) (effective 1 January 2019). The 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 the adoption of the 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) for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn.

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken note of all the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission including the specific guidance for religious charities on public benefit. The charity's policy is to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and comply with approved accounting standards.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The Core Purpose of the Church is “Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.” Our vision and value statements define the nature of the Church and its vision for growth. The church seeks to encourage individual members to demonstrate these values in their own lives and the Calls to Action of the Church are expressed as ‘Meet God’, ‘Make Friends’, ‘Make a Difference’**.**

The Church follows the doctrinal basis contained in its governing document and seeks to apply this in today's society and culture.

The Church's principal aim is to advance the Christian faith in Hertford and surrounding areas and through the Christian church nationally and worldwide, and to serve the spiritual, emotional, moral and physical needs of the local community. To help fulfil these objectives, Hertford Baptist Church maintains a registered place of worship and associated buildings, for Christian worship, fellowship, teaching and community activities.

Public worship services are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises, which attract around 150 people from the local community each week. In addition, a range of evening and weekday activities are provided for all ages and many sections of society, to which all are welcome. To achieve the benefits of smaller scale group activities, Midweek Communities meet weekly for learning, mutual encouragement and, support and play a vital role in welcoming and integrating new people into the church family. In addition to our core purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith**,** and as an expression of that core purpose, the church seeks to provide additional public benefit through the provision of activities such as lunches for the elderly and breakfasts for men (both once a month), Baby and Toddler groups and a youth club run on the premises in conjunction with Hertford Young Life, Home Start meet weekly in the church premises and Place of Welcome, a weekly coffee drop-in centre.

We continue engagement with the local community through projects including the Food Bank, Street Pastors and Future Hope (working with young people dealing with crises such as addiction, mental health problems and family breakdown), and facilitating a branch of a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre. The church also supports a variety of projects caring for the poorest and neediest around the world through social action and evangelism.

Staff

Rev. Dr Alan Ward, Baptist Minister and Ministry Team Leader

Helen Ward, Ministry Leader for Families, Young People and Community Outreach

Dawn Weston, Ministry Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer

John Goligher, Finance Administrator

Anna Saunders, Office Secretary (retired 31.12.24)

Cheri Pienaar, Church Administrator (appointed 1.12.24)

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2024 has been a really encouraging year for Hertford Baptist Church. At the turn of the year there was a growing sense of hope and expectation. Christmas had seen new events which were well attended by people from the local community and through January we saw some of those people start attending church regularly.

Through the year we have seen over a 10% increase in Sunday attendance and have had the privilege of baptising 4 people as they have made or renewed a commitment to Jesus.

During Holy week we combined a week of prayer with new evening reflections and a Good Friday families Service. The family's service was well attended by young families from the community who have been coming to our toddler group.

The long running Toddler Club that has used the Church Hall came under the leadership of the church and two other Baby and Toddler groups have started this year. This has resulted in a 200% increase in the number of families we see each week. Throughout 2024 between 100-120 adults and children from these midweek groups have attended other church events and services.

After Easter we invited the whole church to experience the Alpha Course together. The Alpha course is a 10-week interactive event that gives a wonderful introduction to the Christian faith. Two opportunities were given for the church family to engage with the course, daytime and evening. 150 people signed up and came along. Our existing homegroups paused and it provided a great opportunity to mix up groups and to get to know a wider range of people in the church family, and for new people to serve and facilitate groups.

Towards the end of the course, we asked for feedback and the vast majority of those who responded were keen to continue to meet during the week to grow in their faith.

In September we went through a process of forming new Midweek Communities: growing families, devoted to Jesus and one another. We sought to form groups around time, place and age and stage – time of meeting, the geographical place people live and the age and stage of life. In October we launched 15 communities – 7 were continuing home groups that were open to welcoming new people and 8 were new. We have a wonderful mix of daytime and evening groups, multigenerational communities, groups focussed on young adults, young families and adults with learning difficulties. We also saw a new community form in a retirement home alongside an existing monthly service the church conducts. 140 people are meeting each week in one of our midweek communities.

In the Autumn the ministry team sought to address the deficit budget set for 2024. Sunday teaching focussed on the generosity of God and our response to his provision. At the end of November, we asked the church to consider their committed financial giving to the church and had a very encouraging response, a 24% increase in giving for 2025.

Events that were started in 2023 continued into 2024, including Streets of Light, our participation at the Hertford Christmas Markets and our programme of advent services.

The church continues to be actively involved with the community throughout the week in many and varied ways, including providing key input to local organisations such as Hertford and District Foodbank, Future Hope, Young Life, the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre in partnership with Christ Church Ware and Street Pastors.

Towards the end of the year the leadership team and membership began to wrestle with how to respond to the growth the church was experiencing. Which will be a feature of the coming year.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hertford Baptist Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No. 1131979, constituted as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. It is governed by a Foundation Trust Deed dated 16 November 1903 enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 21 November 1903, by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 5 October 2009 and by Declaration of The Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 and the Baptist Trusts for Manses 2004, dated 18 April 2006. The church is the beneficial owner of freehold property in Hertford, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

Appointment of trustees

Hertford Baptist Church is a fully independent organisation and the Church Members' Meeting, normally held four times a year, is the decision-making body. The Church Members' Meeting appoints Deacons who act as trustees. The appointment of trustees requires the support of not less than 50% eligible votes cast. Deacons are appointed for a period of three years and may serve for two consecutive periods of three years before being required to stand down for a minimum of one year. Two officers, a Secretary and a Treasurer, are elected annually and are ex officio deacons and trustees. Information is provided for those considering offering themselves for election as deacons and trustees, as is induction and ongoing training for those elected.

Organisation

The day-to-day programme and spiritual welfare of the church is the responsibility of the Ministry Team, in consultation with the Leadership and Staff Teams.

Individual deacons have a lead role in various aspects of the church's ministry. The Ministry Team, deacons and trustees meet monthly to determine, approve and monitor the strategy and programme of the church, to receive financial reports, and to undertake the management responsibilities of the charity, and for prayer. They meet annually for an extended meeting to consider strategic development.

Hertford Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, its regional organisation the Central Baptist Association, and a number of other organisations with which it identifies, including the Evangelical Alliance and the local ecumenical group, Hertford and District Churches Together.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

With the exception of Ministry Team Members, who by nature of their appointment are trustees and also paid employees, none of the charity's other trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity as trustee. John Goligher is employed as the financial administrator for the church and was appointed to this position in November 2014. He was re-appointed as Church Treasurer in January 2021, a role for which he is not remunerated.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a supplier or external organisation must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related transactions were reported.

Various organisations are associated with the church and their leaders are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting. Some of these small organisations keep their own accounts and have separate bank accounts; none exceed £5,000 in income or expenditure per annum. Other unrelated organisations, which are compatible with the church's values, use the church premises and usually pay a nominal fee for doing so. There are no other legal or formal links with related parties.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the trustees consider the advice of 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain' when setting pay levels.

Risk management

A policy of continuous risk assessment and review is adopted. A suite of policies has been agreed by the Church Meeting, including a Health & Safety Policy. These policies are reviewed annually, and any revisions reported to the members at the AGM in May.

A range of risk assessments, action plans and work activities are carried out periodically. Built on a model document from the Baptist Union, a combined Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk has been adopted and is reviewed and adopted annually.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial income is derived from voluntary donations and regular giving by church members and those who attend the church, supplemented by contributions to activities by those taking part, and some income from the hiring of the premises. Donations during the year of £155,374 were received through regular offerings. This was an increase on the previous year and the budgeted target.

A significant proportion of the church's income is given, by way of donations, to Christian mission and relief groups and training colleges, to individuals in training for Christian service; people engaged in Christian work, mostly overseas and through their commissioning organisations. These grants are approved annually by the Church Members' Meeting and no commitment is made to grants in advance or to future funding, with the funding for such grants being received during the year of payment. During 2024 the church was able, through the generosity of members and friends, to make donations to external causes amounting to £34,489 or about 14% of total non-capital expenditure.
In 1997 Hertford Baptist Church made a grant of £34k to a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Ware called Emmanuel Share Church (ESC). This was a joint venture between the Baptist denomination and Christ Church Ware, the local parish church. The purpose of the grant was to assist with the purchase of a Manse to be used by the Minister of ESC. In 2022, the members of ESC decided to close the church and following the sale of the property, Hertford Baptist Church received a percentage of the proceeds, proportional to the original contribution, as per the grant agreement.

As a result, in the year 2023 the charity received £171k on the closure of Emmanuel Shared Church. The trustees have decided to invest these funds with CCLA for a long-term return.

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £317,442.

The trustees consider the free reserves of £317,442 to be adequate for the future purposes of the church for the coming year.

Funds are 'restricted' when given for a specific purpose and generally these are disbursed before the end of the financial year. 'Designated' funds are funds designated by the trustees for a particular purpose, and in the interests of clarity, the tangible fixed assets of the church (land, buildings, fixtures, and fittings) which are not normally available for general purposes are held as designated funds. The expectation is that funds will be used for the furtherance of the church's objectives in the year received and there are no specific investment powers. The policy is that reserves of unrestricted funds (free reserves) should normally be not less than the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and not exceed 12 months' expenditure. Reserves are currently the equivalent of just over 4 months budgeted expenditure, and the trustees consider this adequate for the year ahead. Reserve funds should be readily accessible. Cash investments should be retained in high interest, instant access, bank accounts.

The property should be used to further the aims of the church and not used for investment purposes, except for short-term letting of the temporarily vacant housing.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

As the church considered how to respond to the growth we are experiencing, it was felt that the church needed a period of prayer and reflection. This is a significant moment in the life of the church.

There is a plan to call the church to pray during Lent – 40 days in the run up to Easter in 2025. We will seek God's guidance as we ask "What Next?" as we respond to growth and seek to increase our capacity both in opportunities to gather together for worship but also the capacity of our volunteer teams.

Our Midweek Communities are beginning to grow, we will train our leaders and ensure that strategies are in place to continue to grow our capacity to welcome and disciple the people who joining the church.

We will run another Alpha course for those either exploring or new to faith and anyone who missed out in 2024.

In 2025 we will look to launch a new website. Our current website is dated and doesn't give a good reflection of who we are and the events and services we hold.

As the church grows across all age ranges, we will look to grow and deepen our reliance on Jesus in all areas of our lives and community. We will seek to identify and develop leaders through all of our ministries with a special, although not exclusive, focus on the younger generation.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

No funds are held on behalf of others as Custodian Trustee.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1131979
Church office:	13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford SG14 1PL
Telephone:	01992 582951
Email:	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website:	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, 68 High Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8EZ
Solicitors:	Longmores, 24 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HP
Auditors:	SCB (Accountants) Limited, 31 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3LZ.

TRUSTEES

Rev. Dr Alan Ward	Baptist Minister
Helen Ward	Ministry Leader for Families, Young People and Community Outreach
Dawn Weston	Ministry Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer
Jemma Chandler	
Ian Davis	
John Goligher	Treasurer *
Hannah Harding	
Sheila Knowles	
John Low	Church Secretary *
Claire Mabbett	
Clare Macpherson	
Paul Nicholson	Retired 21st May 2024
Michael Clifford	Appointed 21st May 2024

* Church officers are appointed or re-appointed annually by members vote at the Annual General Meeting in May.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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 for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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 Constitution as Amended 22nd March 2022. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees on the 28 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



John Low
Chair of Trustees

Hertford Baptist Church

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hertford Baptist Church For the year ended 31 December 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hertford Baptist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustee's remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures in place regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We discussed amongst the audit team the identified laws and regulations, and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance.

During the audit we focussed on laws and regulations which could reasonably be expected to give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Charities Act 2011 and SORP 2019 Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management.

Our procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to: inquires of management whether they have any knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, and discussions amongst the audit team regarding risk of fraud such as opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of financial statements. We determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance and management bias through judgements in accounting estimates. We also addressed the

risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and appropriateness of other entries in the nominal ledger; reviewing transactions around the end of the reporting period; and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act (Regulation 30 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mr Jeffrey Bor FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SCB (Accountants) Ltd
31 Sackville Street
Manchester
M1 3LZ

Date: 01/08/2025

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Regular Offerings		155,374	-	-	155,374	143,553
Special Gifts & Legacies		13,042	110	4,465	17,617	194,841
Thankoffering		-	5,093	-	5,093	3,535
Gift Aid recoverable		30,112	1,146	696	31,954	32,474
Charitable activities		1,993	-	2,472	4,465	1,005
Investments - bank interest		8,606	-	-	8,606	4,892
Other						
Rental income		55,179	-	37	55,216	44,776
Sundry		100	-	-	100	229
Total		264,406	6,349	7,670	278,425	425,305
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities						
Local Ministry	Note 3	267,098	72,436	2,755	342,289	265,030
Support Costs	Note 4	15,421	-	-	15,421	13,244
Grants payable:						
National Mission	Note 5	10,800	-	-	10,800	12,755
World Mission	Note 5	19,629	-	4,060	23,689	19,036
Future Mission	Note 5	-	-	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering & Special	Note 5	-	6,239	-	6,239	6,325
Total	Note 6	312,948	78,675	6,815	398,438	319,390
Net Income/(expenditure)		(48,542)	(72,326)	855	(120,013)	105,915
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-	-
		(48,542)	(72,326)	855	(120,013)	105,915
Other recognised Gains/(losses):						
Gains in value of Fixed Asset Investments		1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Net Movement in Funds		(47,042)	(72,326)	855	(118,513)	105,915
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward						
	Notes 16,17 &18	364,484	1,977,122	1,317	2,342,923	2,237,009
.						
Total Funds Carried Forward						
	Notes 16,17 &18	**317,442**	**1,904,796**	**2,172**	**2,224,410**	**2,342,924**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the result for the year. All of the Church's activities are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 15 to 28 form part of these accounts

Analysis of the comparative funds in the previous year (2023) is provided in Note 9.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	Note 11	1,853,183	1,925,008
Fixed Asset Investments	Note 12	172,500	-
Total fixed assets		2,025,683	1,925,008
Current Assets:			
Debtors	Note 13	34,288	32,474
Cash at bank and in hand	Note 14	174,498	407,631
Total current assets		208,786	440,105
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within 1 year	Note 15	(10,059)	(22,189)
Net current assets		198,727	417,916
Net assets		**2,224,410**	**2,342,924**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted	Note 16	317,442	364,484
Designated	Note 17	1,904,796	1,977,122
Restricted	Note 18	2,172	1,317
Total church funds		**2,224,410**	**2,342,924**

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



John Low
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 15 to 28 form part of these accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations, but which has since been withdrawn

Hertford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity's Financial Statements show net deficit of £118,513 for the year and free reserves of £317,442.

In order to assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption basis, the Trustees have considered the church's financial position, liquidity, unrestricted reserves and forecasts for the foreseeable future taking into account the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. The Trustees have considered the impact of a severe economic outcome on Hertford Baptist Church and the effectiveness of management actions that might be taken to mitigate the impact of this stress. Trustees have also considered the circumstances under which the activities of the church would be unable to continue. After taking into account the current level of the charity's cash and reserves and the financial performance since 31 December 2024, the Trustees have concluded that the risk of this situation occurring is remote.

Accordingly, and after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of signing of this report.

On this basis these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church. One such legacy has been notified for the current year (2024). One such legacy was also notified in the previous year (2023).

In 1997 Hertford Baptist Church made a grant of £34k to a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Ware called Emmanuel Share Church (ESC). This was a joint venture between the Baptist denomination and Christ Church Ware, the local parish church. The purpose of the grant was to assist with the purchase of a Manse to be used by the Minister of ESC. In 2022, the members of ESC decided to close the church and following the sale of the property, Hertford Baptist Church received a percentage of the proceeds of the house sale proportional to the original contribution, as per the grant agreement. As a result, in the year 2023 the charity received £171,000 on the closure of Emmanuel Shared Church. The Trustees have invested these funds for a long-term return.

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2024) or previous (2023) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The aim and use of each restricted fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The church has no endowment funds.

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is classified as relating to charitable activities. These activities are further classified between:

- Local Ministry (to which all governance and support costs are attributed)
- Grants payable

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, payroll and other professional services and governance costs which support the church's activities. These costs have been allocated entirely to local ministry. Decisions on the awarding of grants do not incur support costs as they are made by the church members in the church meeting, based on information provided by the trustees and other members. No support staff time is attributable to the grant awarding process.

Operating leases

The church classifies the lease of the office printer/copier as an operating lease; the title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every 5 years while the economic life of such equipment is normally 5 years.

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Tangible fixed assets

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors' values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use. Buildings' improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment costing £4,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Freehold buildings are depreciated over 50 years following the revaluation in 2011.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum. On this basis, the organ, pews and other fixtures and fittings within the church would have been fully depreciated at 31 December, 2019. As these items are all in continuing use, they were revalued at their insurance valuations at 31 December 2019; organ £146,748 (2018 NBV £4,485) pews, etc. £121,480 (2018 NBV £2,062). They have been depreciated in the current year at a rate of 10% per annum.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. 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 the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when 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 accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Pensions

Employees are enrolled in the statutory pension scheme and the pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the charity during the period.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Related Charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Central Baptist Association. The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 5.

Tax Exemption

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Financial Instruments

The Trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the charity is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods which are addressed as below:

I. Useful economic lives of tangible assets- Depreciation of tangible fixed assets has been based on estimated useful lives and residual values deemed appropriate by the trustees. Estimated useful lives and residual lives are reviewed annually and revised as appropriate. Revisions take in to account actual asset lives and residual values as evidence by disposals during current and prior accounting periods.

2. Legal Status of the Church

Hertford Baptist Church is a registered charity no. 1131979 and the church building is a registered place of worship.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

3. Local Ministry

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Premises	52,429	-	-	52,429	44,879
Depreciation	-	71,825	-	71,825	71,825
Ministry	146,441	-	-	146,441	83,343
Church Activities	12,872	252	1,255	14,379	13,505
Outreach Activities	5,328	359	-	5,687	6,481
Enabling Activities	49,929	-	1,500	51,429	44,900
Bank charges	99	-	-	99	97
	267,098	72,436	2,755	342,289	265,030
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2023	191,581	73,449	-		265,030

4. Governance Cost

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit fee	6,550	6,300
Professional fees	6,842	5,223
Secretarial	2,029	1,721
	15,421	13,244

Governance costs are attributed entirely to local ministry and unrestricted funds in both 2024 and 2023. The Professional fees includes letting agent's fees and pension provider's fees.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

5. Grants for Mission	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
National Mission	£	£	£	£	£
Baptist Home Mission (CBA)	5,800	-	-	5,800	5,800
Future Hope	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,855
Hertford Young Life	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Others	-	-	-	-	1,600
	10,800	-	-	10,800	12,755
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2023	12,755	-	-		12,755
World Mission					
BMS World Mission	5,800	-	3,593	9,393	7,800
BMS Relief Fund	-	-	-	-	520
Other societies	1,113	-	467	1,580	-
People International (to support a couple)	3,690	-	-	3,690	3,690
SIM (to support 1 person)	2,061	-	-	2,061	2,061
Interserve (M LeRoy)	1,365	-	-	1,365	1,365
Matiza Family	3,600	-	-	3,600	3,600
Agape (P & S Weston)	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
	19,629	-	4,060	23,689	19,036
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2023	16,516	-	2,520	-	19,036
Future Mission					
Spurgeons College	-	-	-	-	1,500
All Nations Christian College	-	-	-	-	1,500
	-	-	-	-	3,000
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2023	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering & Special Appeal					
Thankoffering	-	6,239	-	6,239	4,800
Special Appeal	-	-	-	-	1,525
	-	6,239	-	6,239	6,325
Totals for the year ended 31 December 2023	-	4,800	1,525	6,325	6,325

13 (2023: 15) separate grants were paid out to institutions. The number of grants made in each category are disclosed above in brackets. Some single grants are paid in monthly or quarterly instalments. No support costs are apportioned to the payment of grants to Mission.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Total Expenditure

		Staff Costs £	Premises Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Local Ministry	Note 3	166,732	124,254	51,303	342,289	265,030
National Mission		-	-	10,800	10,800	12,755
World Mission		-	-	23,689	23,689	19,036
Future Mission		-	-	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering		-	-	6,239	6,239	4,800
Special Appeals		-	-	-	-	1,525
Governance	Note 4	-	-	15,421	15,421	13,244
		166,732	124,254	107,452	398,438	319,390

Total expenditure was £398,438 (2023: £319,390) of which £312,948 was unrestricted (2023: £237,096) £78,675 was designated (2023: £78,249) and £6,815 was restricted (2023: £4,045).

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and Salaries	150,868	98,756
Social Security Costs	8,541	3,277
Pensions Costs	7,323	3,635
	166,732	105,668

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

3 pastors were remunerated £106,801 (2023: 3 pastors £54,211) using scales recommended by the Baptist Union and according to the relevant agreement with the Charity Commission. 1 trustee was remunerated £25,041 (2023: £23,203) during the year for work not related to his role as a trustee.

In total, all trustees, including pastors, were remunerated £131,842 (2023: £77,108).

No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: nil).

During the year, travel and meal expenses totalling £1,030 were reimbursed to 3 pastors and 1 trustee (2023: travel and meal expenses of £478 to 1 pastor and 1 trustee). In addition, 3 pastors and 3 trustees made purchases totalling £4,928 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2023: 3 pastors and 1 trustee, £2,741).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church comprise the church office secretary and the administrator (who are employees) and the book-keeper, the two cashiers and the youth and children's work administrator (who are volunteers). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (2 individuals) were £19,026 (2023: 1 individual, £17,208). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any member of key management personnel (2023: nil). In addition, No key management personnel (non-trustees) made purchases on behalf of the church (2023: nil).

8. Staff Numbers

Average Number of Employees

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Ministers 2 people (2023 for 4 months of the year)	2	1
Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer	1	1
Secretaries/Administrators (all part-time)	2	2
Cleaner (part-time)	-	1
	5	5

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

9. Comparative figures (2023) for the separate classes of funds shown in total on the face of the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies				
Regular Offerings	142,140	-	1,413	143,553
Special Gifts & Legacies	182,126	11,130	1,585	194,841
Thankoffering	-	3,535	-	3,535
Gift Aid recoverable	31,522	634	318	32,474
Charitable activities	1,005	-	-	1,005
Investments - bank interest	4,892	-	-	4,892
Other				
Rental income	44,776	-	-	44,776
Sundry	229	-	-	229
Total	406,690	15,299	3,316	425,305
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Local Ministry	191,581	73,449	-	265,030
Support Costs	13,244	-	-	13,244
Grants payable:				
National Mission	12,755	-	-	12,755
World Mission	16,516	-	2,520	19,036
Future Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering & Special	-	4,800	1,525	6,325
Total	237,096	78,249	4,045	319,390
Net Income/(Expenditure)	169,594	(62,950)	(729)	105,915
Transfers between Funds	(17,025)	16,913	112	-
Net Movement in Funds	152,569	(46,037)	(617)	105,915
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 January 2023	211,915	2,023,160	1,934	2,237,009
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 December 2023	364,484	1,977,123	1,317	2,342,924

10. Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves members of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £20,470 (2023 £26,655).

No expenses were paid to any related party (2023: nil). 1 person related to the trustees made purchases on behalf of the church and was reimbursed £429 (2023: 1 person, £238).

No reimbursements were made to parties related to the key management personnel (2023: nil).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
At 1 January 2024	468,000	1,595,220	483,701	2,546,921
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	468,000	1,595,220	483,701	2,546,921
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2023	-	378,898	243,015	621,913
Charge for the year	-	31,904	39,921	71,825
At 31 December 2024	-	410,802	282,936	693,738
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2024	468,000	1,184,418	200,765	1,853,183
At 31 December 2023	468,000	1,216,322	240,686	1,925,008

Freehold Land and Buildings

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use.

HEARTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

12. Fixed Asset Investments

Cost/Valuation	At 1 January 2024	Acquisitions	Revaluation	Disposals	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income units in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	-	171,000	1,500	-	-	172,500

13. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued Income	2,334	-
Income Tax Recoverable	31,954	32,474
	34,288	32,474

14. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank Accounts	174,429	407,511
Petty Cash	69	120
	174,498	407,631

15. Liabilities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Payroll liabilities	2,789	3,358
Accruals	7,270	18,831
	10,059	22,189

HEARTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

16. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.24	Movement				Balance 31.12.24
		Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	Gain and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Church Funds	364,484	264,406	312,948	-	1,500	317,442

17. Designated Funds

	Balance 1.1.24	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thankoffering	-	6,239	6,239		-	-
Training Support	2,050	110	-	-	-	2,160
Other designated donations	50,064	-	611		-	49,453
	52,114	6,349	6,850	-	-	51,613
Tangible fixed assets	1,925,008	-	71,825	-	-	1,853,183
	1,977,122	6,349	78,675	-	-	1,904,796

The Thankoffering funds are raised each year for specific causes. The funds raised in 2024 were given to Thailand Project. The Training Support Fund supports individuals training for Christian service through full or part-time courses or on training placements.

The Tangible Fixed Assets Fund (TFAF) is set aside to represent the net book value of the property of the church.

18. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.24	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Baptist societies	1,317	3,728	3,593	-	-	1,452
Others	-	3,942	3,222	-	-	720
	1,317	7,670	6,815	-	-	2,172

Baptist societies and other funds are ongoing funds held for specific societies, the majority of which are paid out in the course of the year.

HEARTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

19. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total Assets £
Unrestricted Funds (note 16)	-	317,442	317,442
Designated Funds (note 17)	1,853,183	51,613	1,904,796
Restricted Funds (note 18)	-	2,172	2,172
	1,853,183	371,227	2,224,410

20. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2024 there were commitments under operating leases

	Other	2023
	£	£
Expiring within 1 year	907	907
Expiring within 2-5 years	1,134	2,041
Expiring in over 5 years	-	-
	2,041	2,948

21 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charity was under the control of Board of Trustees throughout the year.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1131979

Accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

Hertford Baptist Church

'Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'

Port Hill
Hertford

A registered place of worship

Registered Charity No 1131979

Report of the Trustees

&

Accounts

1 January - 31 December 2023

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement of the charity for the year ending 31st of December 2023 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for the trustees report and accounts for submission to the Charity Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the 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) (effective 1 January 2019). The 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 the adoption of the 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) for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn.

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken note of all the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission including the specific guidance for religious charities on public benefit. The charity's policy is to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and comply with approved accounting standards.

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The Core Purpose of the Church is "Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." Our vision and value statements define the nature of the church and its vision for growth. The church seeks to encourage individual members to demonstrate these values in their own lives and the Calls to Action of the church are expressed as 'Meet God', 'Make Friends', 'Make a Difference'.

The church follows the doctrinal basis contained in its governing document and seeks to apply this in today's society and culture.

The church's principal aim is to advance the Christian faith in Hertford and surrounding areas and through the Christian church nationally and worldwide, and to serve the spiritual, emotional, moral and physical needs of the local community. To help fulfil these objectives, Hertford Baptist Church maintains a registered place of worship and associated buildings, for Christian worship, fellowship, teaching and community activities.

Public worship services are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises, which attract around 150 people from the local community each week. In addition, a range of evening and weekday activities are provided for all ages and many sections of society, to which all are welcome. To achieve the benefits of smaller scale group activities, Home Groups meet weekly for learning, mutual encouragement and support.

In addition to our core purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith, and as an expression of that core purpose, the church seeks to provide additional public benefit through the provision of activities such as lunches for the elderly and breakfasts for men (both once a month), Toddler Club, Baby Group and a youth club run on the premises in conjunction with Hertford Young Life, Home Start meet weekly in the church premises and Place of Welcome, a weekly coffee drop in centre.

We continue engagement with the local community through projects including the Food Bank, Street Pastors and Future Hope (working with young people dealing with crises such as addiction, mental health problems and family breakdown), and facilitating a branch of a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre. The church also supports a variety of projects caring for the poorest and neediest around the world through social action and evangelism.

Staff

Rev. Dr Alan Ward, Baptist Minister and Ministry Team Leader

Helen Ward, Ministry Leader for Families, Young People and Community Outreach

Dawn Weston, Ministry Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer

John Goligher, Finance Administrator.

Anna Saunders, Office Secretary

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Much of 2023 has been dominated by the search for a new minister and a third person to complete the ministry team with expertise in children, young people and families, and community outreach.

On the recommendation of the Trustees, the Church Members appointed the Rev Dr Alan Ward, an accredited Baptist Minister and Helen Ward who has extensive relevant experience. They joined the church in September and together with Dawn Weston form the Ministry Team.

Over recent years and as a result of the pandemic the church has steadily declined in number. Since September the church has focussed on rekindling hope through difficult times and joy at Christmas. There has been a new freedom in worship and numbers have begun to climb. Services of public worship are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises, which attracted around 150 people from the local community each week.

Much work has gone into improving the live stream of our 10.15am service. Improvements have enabled us to bring to an end our 9.15am online service and enable more people to participate in the main morning service when the church family gathers.

Children's and young people's activities are also provided on Sunday mornings and at other times with a significant increase in attendance in the last quarter.

Monthly Sunday evening gatherings for informal worship and prayer were held throughout the year.

During autumn half term the church took part in "Streets of Light," an initiative which brings a message of love, hope and light to the streets of cities and towns across the country coinciding with Halloween. Participants decorate windows with words and pictures around the theme which are lit up during the dark evenings. Trails were produced and distributed, and many people joined together to find streets of light windows. There were over 50 windows decorated in and around Hertford and a light party saw lots of children and young families gather and take part.

The church has regularly participated in the Hertford Christmas Gala. This is an opportunity to get out into the town and engage with the local community. This year we also took a stall at the Christmas Market held in the grounds of the Castle. Over the course of the weekend, we sang and spoke to 1000s of people. Over 80 volunteers, prepared resources, sang carols and gave away 1000 children's activity bags and invitations to our Christmas services.

Throughout Advent the church put on different services to engage the local community. A reflective service for those that may not have felt like celebrating. A family nativity with a live donkey, crafts, photo backdrop scene and refreshments. A contemporary carol service that had more of a party feel with mulled wine, refreshments and music afterwards and a carols by candlelight service. The services were well attended by the church family and lots of people from the community.

The church continues to be actively involved with the community throughout the week in many and varied ways, including providing key input to local organisations such as Hertford and District Foodbank, FutureHope, Young Life and the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre in partnership with Christ Church Ware.

There were 180 Church Members at the end of the year.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hertford Baptist Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No. 1131979, constituted as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. It is governed by a Foundation Trust Deed dated 16 November 1903 enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 21 November 1903, by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 5 October 2009 and by Declaration of The Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 and the Baptist Trusts for Manses 2004, dated 18 April 2006. The church is the beneficial owner of freehold property in Hertford, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

Appointment of trustees

Hertford Baptist Church is a fully independent organisation and the Church Members' Meeting, normally held six times a year, is the decision-making body. The Church Members' Meeting appoints Deacons who act as trustees. The appointment of trustees requires the support of not less than 50% eligible votes cast. Deacons are appointed for a period of three years and may serve for two consecutive periods of three years before being required to stand down for a minimum of one year. Two officers, a Secretary and a Treasurer, are elected annually and are ex officio deacons and trustees. Information is provided for those considering offering themselves for election as deacons and trustees, as is induction and ongoing training for those elected.

Organisation

The day-to-day programme and spiritual welfare of the church is the responsibility of the Ministry Team, in consultation with the Leadership and Staff Teams.

Individual deacons have a lead role in various aspects of the church's ministry. The Ministry Team, deacons and trustees meet monthly to determine, approve and monitor the strategy and programme of the church, to receive financial reports, and to undertake the management responsibilities of the charity, and for prayer. They meet annually for an extended meeting to consider strategic development.

Hertford Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, its regional organisation the Central Baptist Association, and a number of other organisations with which it identifies, including the Evangelical Alliance and the local ecumenical group, Hertford and District Churches Together.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

With the exception of Ministry Team Members, who by nature of their appointment are trustees and also paid employees, none of the charity's other trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity as trustee. John Golgher is employed as the financial administrator for the church and was appointed to this position in November 2014. He was re-appointed as Church Treasurer in January 2021, a role for which he is not remunerated.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a supplier or external organisation must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related transactions were reported.

Various organisations are associated with the church and their leaders are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting. Some of these small organisations keep their own accounts and have separate bank accounts; none exceed £5,000 in income or expenditure per annum. Other unrelated organisations, which are compatible with the church's values, use the church premises and usually pay a nominal fee for doing so. There are no other legal or formal links with related parties.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the trustees consider the advice of 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain' when setting pay levels.

Risk management

A policy of continuous risk assessment and review is adopted. A suite of policies has been agreed by the Church Meeting, including a Health & Safety Policy. These policies are reviewed annually, and any revisions reported to the members at the AGM in May.

A range of risk assessments, action plans and work activities are carried out periodically. Built on a model document from the Baptist Union, a combined Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk has been adopted and is reviewed and adopted annually.

The Pension and BUGB Trustees sent a joint communication at the end of July 2022 to participating churches stating that the pension scheme was no longer in deficit. This resulted in the monthly debt calculations ceasing and the deficit contribution reducing to £1 per month.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial income is derived from voluntary donations and regular giving by church members and those who attend the church, supplemented by contributions to activities by those taking part, and some income from the hiring of the premises. Donations during the year of £142,140 were received through regular offerings. This was a decrease on the previous year and the budgeted target.

A significant proportion of the church's income is given, by way of donations, to Christian mission and relief groups and training colleges, to individuals in training for Christian service; people engaged in Christian work, mostly overseas and through their commissioning organisations. These grants are approved annually by the Church Members' Meeting and no commitment is made to grants in advance or to future funding, with the funding for such grants being received during the year of payment. During 2023 the church was able, through the generosity of members and friends, to make donations to external causes amounting to £32,271 or about 14% of total non-capital expenditure.
A pastoral care fund is also available for immediate relief of need. Full disclosure of material grants made is included in the notes to the accounts including the names of individuals ultimately benefiting from material amounts.

In 1997 Hertford Baptist Church made a grant of £34k to a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Ware called Emmanuel Share Church (ESC). This was a joint venture between the Baptist denomination and Christ Church Ware, the local parish church. The purpose of the grant was to assist with the purchase of a Manse to be used by the Minister of ESC. In 2022, the members of ESC decided to close the church and following the sale of the property, Hertford Baptist Church received a percentage of the proceeds, proportional to the original contribution, as per the grant agreement.

As a result, during the year the charity received £171k on the closure of Emmanuel Shared Church. The trustees have decided to invest these funds for a long-term return.

RESERVE POLICY

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £364,484.

The trustees consider the free reserves of £193,484 to be adequate for the future purposes of the church for the coming year.

Funds are 'restricted' when given for a specific purpose and generally these are disbursed before the end of the financial year. 'Designated' funds are funds designated by the trustees for a particular purpose, and in the interests of clarity, the tangible fixed assets of the church (land, buildings, fixtures, and fittings) which are not normally available for general purposes are held as designated funds. The expectation is that funds will be used for the furtherance of the church's objectives in the year received and there are no specific investment powers. The policy is that reserves of unrestricted funds (free reserves) should normally be not less than the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and not exceed 12 months' expenditure. Reserves are currently the equivalent of 4 months budgeted expenditure, and the trustees consider this adequate for the year ahead. Reserve funds should be readily accessible. Cash investments should be retained in high interest, instant access, bank accounts.

The property should be used to further the aims of the church and not used for investment purposes, except for short-term letting of the temporarily vacant housing.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

As the church grows across all age ranges, we will look to grow and deepen our reliance on Jesus in all areas of our lives and community. We will seek to identify and develop leaders through all of our ministries with a special, although not exclusive, focus on the younger generation.

We will provide opportunities for our church family to explore their faith, grow in confidence and experience God for themselves. Those on the edge of the community and new to faith will be welcomed in and invited to join us, explore faith, make a commitment, and find ways to serve alongside others through church activities and in their everyday lives.

We will seek further ways to engage with local families and provide new spaces for them to gather and meet others. Families' events will be held regularly throughout the year to deepen relationships and give opportunity to make new friends and meet God.

We will look to encourage and grow our current home groups to be a place of discipleship and support, and a vehicle for outreach to the local community. We aim to stimulate and grow new communities that will play a significant role in maturing the faith of the church family and will extend friendship to those who are exploring faith.

We will continue to develop our presence in Hertford and on the internet, improving our livestream, website, and social media presence.

We will look for ways to partner with other churches and organisations in the local area and internationally to improve the lives of others and lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

No funds are held on behalf of others as Custodian Trustee.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1131979
Church office:	13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford SG14 1PL
Telephone:	01992 582951
Email:	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website:	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, 5/6 Market Place, Hertford SG14 1DF
Solicitors:	Longmores, 24 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HP
Auditors:	SCB (Accountants) Ltd, 31 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3LZ

TRUSTEES

Rev. Dr Alan Ward	Baptist Minister (Appointed 4th Sept 2023)
Helen Ward	Ministry Leader for Families, Young People and Community Outreach (Appointed 4th Sept 2023)
Dawn Weston	Ministry Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer
Jemma Chandler	Appointed 23rd May 2023
Ian Davis	
John Goligher	Treasurer *
Hannah Harding	
Paula Hine	Retired 23rd May 2023
Sheila Knowles	
John Low	Church Secretary *
Claire Mabbett	Appointed 23rd May 2023
Clare Macpherson	Appointed 23rd May 2023
Paul Nicholson	
David Snell	Retired 31st December 2023

* Church officers are appointed or re-appointed annually by members vote at the Annual General Meeting in May.

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 (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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 for that period. In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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 Constitution as Amended 22nd March 2022. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

The auditors, SCB (Accountants) Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on the 7th October 2024 **and signed on their behalf by:**

Thomas John S Golligher, Treasurer/Trustee

John Low, Chair of Trustees

Hertford Baptist Church

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hertford Baptist Church For the year ended 31 December 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hertford Baptist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance sheet and Notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.
Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustee's report.
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the industry in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We discussed with the trustees the policies and procedures in place regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We discussed amongst the audit team the identified laws and regulations, and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance.

During the audit we focussed on laws and regulations which could reasonably be expected to give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Charity Act 2011, SORP 2019 and UK tax legislation. Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management.

Our procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to: inquires of management whether they have any knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, and discussions amongst the audit team regarding risk of fraud such as opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of financial statements. We determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance and management bias through judgements in accounting estimates. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and appropriateness of other entries in the nominal ledger; reviewing transactions around the end of the reporting period; and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.
A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report
This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act (Regulation 30 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008) and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mr Jeffrey Bor FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of SCB (Accountants) Ltd
31 Sackville Street
Manchester
M1 3LZ

Date : 08/10/2024

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Regular Offerings		142,140	-	1,413	143,553	145,484
Special Gifts & Legacies		182,126	11,130	1,585	194,841	42,473
Thankoffering		-	3,535	-	3,535	6,960
Gift Aid recoverable		31,522	634	318	32,474	31,729
Charitable activities		1,005	-	-	1,005	1,472
Investments - bank interest		4,892	-	-	4,892	968
Other						
Use of property		44,776	-	-	44,776	38,465
Repayments		229	-	-	229	316
Total	Note 15	406,690	15,299	3,316	425,305	267,867
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities						
Local Ministry	Note 3	191,581	73,449	-	265,030	236,185
Support Costs	Note 4	13,244	-	-	13,244	11,473
Grants payable:						
National Mission	Note 5	12,755	-	-	12,755	13,260
World Mission	Note 5	16,516	-	2,520	19,036	23,458
Future Mission	Note 5	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Thankoffering & Special	Note 5	-	4,800	1,525	6,325	-
Total	Note 6	237,096	78,249	4,045	319,390	284,376
Net Income/(expenditure)		169,594	(62,950)	(729)	105,915	(16,509)
Transfers between Funds		(17,025)	16,913	112	-	-
		152,569	(46,037)	(617)	105,915	(16,509)
Other recognised Gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		-	-	-	-	100,000
Net Movement in Funds		152,569	(46,037)	(617)	105,915	83,491
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward	Notes 15, 16 & 17	211,915	2,023,160	1,934	2,237,009	2,153,518
Total Funds Carried Forward	Notes 15, 16 & 17	**364,484**	**1,977,123**	**1,317**	**2,342,924**	**2,237,009**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the result for the year. All of the Church's activities are classed as continuing

The notes numbered 1 to 20 form part of these accounts

Analysis of the comparative funds in the previous year (2022) is provided in Note 9.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	Note 11	1,925,008	1,975,737
Current Assets:			
Debtors	Note 12	32,474	31,709
Cash at bank and in hand	Note 13	407,631	238,092
Total current assets		440,105	269,801
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 14	(22,189)	(8,529)
Net current assets		417,916	261,272
Total assets less current liabilities		2,342,924	2,237,009
Total net assets		**2,342,924**	**2,237,009**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted	Note 15	364,484	211,915
Designated	Note 16	1,977,123	2,023,160
Restricted	Note 17	1,317	1,934
		2,342,924	**2,237,009**

Approved by the Diaconate on 1st October 2024 **and signed on their behalf**

by ..... **, Trustee**

The notes numbered 1 - 20 form part of these accounts

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a. Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The 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. Hertford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

In order to assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption basis, the Trustees have considered the church's financial position, liquidity, unrestricted reserves and forecasts for the foreseeable future taking into account the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. The Trustees have considered the impact of a severe economic outcome on Hertford Baptist Church and the effectiveness of management actions that might be taken to mitigate the impact of this stress. Trustees have also considered the circumstances under which the activities of the church would be unable to continue. After taking into account the current level of the charity's cash and reserves and the financial performance since 31 December 2023, the Trustees have concluded that the risk of this situation occurring is remote.

Accordingly, and after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of signing of this report.

On this basis these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

c. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church. One such legacy has been notified for the current year (2023). One such legacy was also notified in the previous year (2022).

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

d. Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2023) or previous (2022) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

e. Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The church has no endowment funds.

g. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is classified as relating to charitable activities. These activities are further classified between:

- Local Ministry (to which all governance and support costs are attributed)
- Grants payable

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

h. Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, payroll and other professional services and governance costs which support the church's activities. These costs have been allocated entirely to local ministry. Decisions on the awarding of grants do not incur support costs as they are made by the church members in the church meeting, based on information provided by the trustees and other members. No support staff time is attributable to the grant awarding process.

i. Operating leases

The church classifies the lease of the office printer/copier as an operating lease; the title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every 5 years while the economic life of such equipment is normally 5 years. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Tangible fixed assets

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use. Buildings' improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment costing £4,000 or more are capitalised at cost.
Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold buildings are depreciated over 50 years following the revaluation in 2011.
Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum. On this basis, the organ, pews and other fixtures and fittings within the church would have been fully depreciated at 31 December, 2019. As these items are all in continuing use, they were revalued at their insurance valuations at 31 December 2019; organ £146,748 (2018 NBV £4,485) pews, etc. £121,480 (2018 NBV £2,062). They have been depreciated in the current year at a rate of 10% per annum.

k. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l. 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 the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

m. Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when 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 accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n. Pensions

The church was previously a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme) which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

A cessation event occurred in 2022, but no liabilities arose because the Scheme was fully funded.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited), continues to consider the Scheme to be fully funded and there are no liabilities.

The church does not contribute to any defined benefit pension scheme for its employees.

o. Related Charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Central Baptist Association. The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 5.

p. Tax Exemption

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

q. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

r. Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors,including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

(i) Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets are sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary.

(ii) Going concern
The trustees consider the trust to be a going concern, for the reasons as detailed in accounting policies to these financial statements.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2. Legal Status of the Church

Hertford Baptist Church is a registered charity no. 1131979 and the church building is a registered place of worship.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Local Ministry

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Designated 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Premises	44,879	-	-	44,879	35,053
Depreciation	-	71,825	-	71,825	70,366
Ministry	83,343	-	-	83,343	78,507
Church Activities	13,505	-	-	13,505	5,850
Outreach Activities	4,857	1,624	-	6,481	5,219
Enabling Activities	44,900	-	-	44,900	41,186
Bank charges	97	-	-	97	4
	191,581	73,449	-	265,030	236,185
2022 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	163,136	73,049	-		236,185

4. Support Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Audit fee	6,300	5,874
Professional fees	5,223	3,995
Secretarial	1,721	1,604
	13,244	11,473

Governance costs are attributed entirely to local ministry (see note 1h) and unrestricted funds in both 2023 and 2022. The Professional fees relate to other financial services from the auditor, letting agent's fees and advice regarding GDPR policies.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

5. Grants for Mission		Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
National Mission		£	£	£	£	£
Baptist Home Mission (CBA)	(1)	5,800	-	-	5,800	5,800
Future Hope	(1)	2,855	-	-	2,855	2,500
Hertford Young Life	(1)	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Others	(1)	1,600	-	-	1,600	2,460
	(4)	12,755	-	-	12,755	13,260
2022 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(6)	12,960	-	-	-	12,960
World Mission						
BMS World Mission	(1)	5,800	-	2,000	7,800	10,773
BMS Relief Fund	(1)	-	-	520	520	283
Other societies	(1)	-	-	-	-	160
People International (to support a couple)	(1)	3,690	-	-	3,690	3,690
SIM (to support 1 person)	(1)	2,061	-	-	2,061	2,061
Interserve (M LeRoy)	(1)	1,365	-	-	1,365	1,365
Matiza Family (2020 OM)	(1)	3,600	-	-	3,600	3,600
Latin Link (W Davies)	(1)	-	-	-	-	1,526
	(6)	16,516	-	2,520	19,036	23,458
2022 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(8)	18,510	-	4,948	-	23,458
Future Mission						
Spurgeons College	(1)	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
All Nations Christian College	(1)	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
	(2)	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
2022 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds		-	-	-	-	-
Thankoffering & Special Appeal						
Thankoffering	(2)	-	4,800	-	4,800	-
Special Appeal	(1)	-	-	1,525	1,525	-
	(3)	-	4,800	1,525	6,325	-
2022 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-

15 (2022:14) separate grants were paid out to institutions.The number of grants made in each category are disclosed above in brackets. Some single grants are paid in monthly or quarterly instalments. No support costs are apportioned to the payment of grants to Mission.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

6. Total Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Local Ministry	105,668	116,704	42,658	265,030	236,185
National Mission	-	-	12,755	12,755	13,260
World Mission	-	-	19,036	19,036	23,458
Future Mission	-	-	3,000	3,000	-
Thankoffering	-	-	4,800	4,800	-
Special Appeals	-	-	1,525	1,525	-
Governance	-	-	13,244	13,244	11,473
	105,668	116,704	97,018	319,390	284,376

Total expenditure was £318,928 (2022: £284,376) of which £236,634 was unrestricted (2022: £206,0867) £78,249 was designated (2022: £73,049) and £4,045 was restricted (2022: £5,240).

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Stipends, Expenses & Wages	98,756	90,536
Social Security Costs	3,277	3,240
Pensions Costs	3,635	6,076
	105,668	99,852

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

3 pastors were remunerated £54,211 (2022: 2 pastors £48,594) using scales recommended by the Baptist Union and according to the relevant agreement with the Charity Commission. 1 trustee was remunerated £23,203 (2022: £21,671) during the year for work not related to his role as a trustee.

In total , all trustees, including pastors,were remunerated £77,108 (2022 :51,360).
No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: nil).

During the year, phone, travel and meal expenses totalling £478 were reimbursed to 1 pastors and 1 trustee (2022: phone, travel and meal expenses of £1,052 to 2 pastors and 1 trustee). In addition, 3 pastors and 1 trustees made purchases totalling £2,741 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2022: 2 pastors and 2 trustee, £2,005).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church comprise the church office secretary and the administrator (who are employees) and the book-keeper , the two cashiers and the youth and children's work administrator (who are volunteers). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (1 individual) were £17,208 (2022: 1 individual, £16,041).

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

8 Staff Numbers

Average Number of Employees

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Ministers	1	1
Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer	1	1
Secretaries/Administrators (all part-time)	2	2
Cleaner (part-time)	1	1
	5	5

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Comparative figures (2022) for the separate classes of funds shown in total on the face of the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies				
Regular Offerings	145,484	-	-	145,484
Special Gifts & Legacies	2,622	37,552	2,299	42,473
Thankoffering	-	6,960	-	6,960
Gift Aid recoverable	29,512	2,007	210	31,729
Charitable activities	1,472	-	-	1,472
Investments - bank interest	968	-	-	968
Other				
Use of property	38,465	-	-	38,465
Repayments	316	-	-	316
Total	218,839	46,519	2,509	267,867
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Local Ministry	163,136	73,049	-	236,185
Support Costs	11,473	-	-	11,473
Grants payable:				
National Mission	12,968	-	292	13,260
World Mission	18,510	-	4,948	23,458
Total	206,087	73,049	5,240	284,376
Net Income/(Expenditure)	12,752	(26,530)	(2,731)	(16,509)
Transfers between Funds	(30,664)	31,389	(725)	-
	(17,912)	4,859	(3,456)	(16,509)
Other recognised Gains/(Losses)Gains & (Losses)				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	100,000	-	-	100,000
Net Movement in Funds	82,088	4,859	(3,456)	83,491
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 January 2022	129,827	2,018,301	5,390	2,153,518
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 December 2022	211,915	2,023,160	1,934	2,237,009

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

10 Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves members of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £26,655 (2022 £23,060).

No expenses were paid to any related party (2022: nil). 2 person related to the trustees made purchases on behalf of the church and was reimbursed £238 (2022:nil).
No reimbursements were made to parties related to the key management personnel (2022: nil).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost/Valuation	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
At 1 January 2023	468,000	1,595,220	462,605	2,525,825
Additions	-	-	21,096	21,096
At 31 December 2023	468,000	1,595,220	483,701	2,546,921
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2022	-	346,994	203,094	550,088
Charge for the year	-	31,904	39,921	71,825
At 31 December 2023	-	378,898	243,015	621,913
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2023	468,000	1,216,322	240,686	1,925,008
At 31 December 2022	468,000	1,248,226	259,511	1,975,737

Freehold Land and Buildings

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use.

The value of buildings will be depreciated over 50 years under FRS 15 following the valuation in December 2011. Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum on the valuation figure.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Gift Aid Recoverable	32,474	31,709
	32,474	31,709

13. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank Accounts	407,511	237,983
Petty Cash	120	109
	407,631	238,092

Includes £171,000 received from Emmanuel Shared Church held pending investment.

14. Liabilities

	2023 £	2022 £
Payroll liabilities	3,358	1,737
Accruals	18,831	6,792
	22,189	8,529

15. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.23 £	Movement Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Pension Liability £	Balance 31.12.23 £
General Church Funds	211,915	406,690	237,096	(17,025)	-	364,484

In 1997 Hertford Baptist Church made a grant of £34k to a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in Ware called Emmanuel Share Church (ESC). This was a joint venture between the Baptist denomination and Christ Church Ware, the local parish church. The purpose of the grant was to assist with the purchase of a Manse to be used by the Minister of ESC. In 2022, the members of ESC decided to close the church and following the sale of the property, Hertford Baptist Church received a percentage of the proceeds of the house sale proportional to the original contribution, as per the grant agreement.

During the year, out of the total unrestricted income of £406,690 the charity received £171,000 on the closure of Emmanuel Shared Church. The Trustees have decided to invest these funds for a long term return and its been included in general church funds.

A transfer was made to Designated Funds to reflect capitalised improvements to the church's fixtures and fittings.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

16. Designated Funds

	Balance 1.1.23 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31.12.23 £
Thankoffering	-	4,169	4,800	631	-	-
Training Support	1,931	120	-	-	-	2,051
Other designated donations	45,492	11,010	1,624	(4,814)	-	50,064
	47,423	15,299	6,424	(4,183)	-	52,115
Tangible fixed assets	1,975,737	-	71,825	21,096	-	1,925,008
	2,023,160	15,299	78,249	16,913	-	1,977,123

The Thankoffering funds are raised each year for specific causes. The funds raised in 2023 were given to all Nations Christian College and Spurgeon's College. The Training Support Fund supports individuals training for Christian service through full or part-time courses or on training placements.

The Tangible Fixed Assets Fund (TFAF) is set aside to represent the net book value of the property of the church. £21,096 was transferred from General Funds to the TFAF to reflect the capitalisation of refurbishment of one of the Garretts Close manse in accordance with the accounting policies.

17. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.23 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31.12.23 £
Baptist societies	1,934	1,903	2,520	-	-	1,317
Others	-	1,413	1,525	112	-	-
	1,934	3,316	4,045	112	-	1,317

Baptist societies and other funds are ongoing funds held for specific societies, the majority of which are paid out in the course of the year.

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total Assets £
Unrestricted Funds (note 15)	-	364,484	364,484
Designated Funds (note 16)	1,925,008	52,115	1,977,123
Restricted Funds (note 17)	-	1,317	1,317
	1,925,008	417,916	2,342,924

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

19. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2023 there were commitments under operating leases

	2023		2022
	Land & Buildings	Other	Total
	£	£	£
Expiring within 1 year	-	907	907
Expiring within 2-5 years	-	2,041	2,948
	-	2,948	3,855

20. Post Balance Sheet

There are no material post balance sheets events to report, although Trustees note the inflationary pressures which may impact future financial performance and events in Ukraine, the Israel Gaza conflict and navigation issues in the Red Sea which may contribute to above inflation increases in energy costs once current hedges expire.

Hertford Baptist Church

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted Funds £**	**Designated Funds £**	**Restricted Funds £**	**Total Funds 2023 £**	**Total Funds 2022 £**
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
- Regular Offerings	142,140	-	1,413	143,553	145,484
- Special Gifts & Legacies	182,126	11,130	1,585	194,841	42,473
- Thankoffering	-	3,535	-	3,535	6,960
- Gift Aid recoverable	31,522	634	318	32,474	31,729
Charitable Activities	1,005	-	-	1,005	1,472
Activities which generate funds					
- Use of property	44,776	-	-	44,776	38,465
- Repayments	229	-	-	229	316
- Bank interest	4,892	-	-	4,892	968
Total	406,690	15,299	3,316	425,305	267,867
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Local Ministry	191,581	73,449	-	265,030	236,185
Governance Costs	13,244	-	-	13,244	11,473
Grants payable:					
- National Mission	12,755	-	-	12,755	13,260
- World Mission	16,516	-	2,520	19,036	23,458
- Future Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
- Thankoffering & Special	-	4,800	1,525	6,325	-
Total	237,096	78,249	4,045	319,390	284,376
Net Income/(expenditure)	169,594	(62,950)	(729)	105,915	(16,509)
Transfers between funds	(17,025)	16,913	112	-	-
	152,569	(46,037)	(617)	105,915	(16,509)
Actuarial Gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	100,000
Net Movement in Funds	152,569	(46,037)	(617)	105,915	83,491
Total Funds brought forward at 1/1/23	211,915	2,023,160	1,934	2,237,009	2,153,518
Total Funds carried forward at 31.12.23	**364,484**	**1,977,123**	**1,317**	**2,342,924**	**2,237,009**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023		**2023 £**	**2022 £**
Fixed Assets			
	Tangible Fixed Assets	1,925,008	1,975,737
Current Assets			
	Debtors	32,474	31,709
	Cash at bank & in hand	407,631	238,092
Liabilities			
amounts falling due within 1 year		(22,189)	(8,529)
Net Current Assets		417,916	261,272
Net Assets		**2,342,924**	**2,237,009**
Funds	Unrestricted	364,484	211,915
	Designated	1,977,123	2,023,160
	Restricted	1,317	1,934
		2,342,924	**2,237,009**

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1131979

Accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

Hertford Baptist Church

'Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'

Port Hill
Hertford

A registered place of worship

Registered Charity No 1131979

Report of the Trustees

&

Accounts

1 January - 31 December 2022

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement of the charity for the year ending 31st of December 2022 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for the Trustees report and accounts for submission to the Charity Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015). The 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 the adoption of the 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) for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn.

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken note of all the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission including the specific guidance for religious charities on public benefit. The charity's policy is to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and comply with approved accounting standards.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The Core Purpose of the Church is "Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." Our vision and value statements define the nature of the Church and its vision for growth. The church seeks to encourage individual members to demonstrate these values in their own lives and the Calls to Action of the church are expressed as 'Meet God', 'Make Friends', 'Make a Difference'.

The Church follows the doctrinal basis contained in its governing document and seeks to apply this in today's society and culture.

The Church's principal aim is to advance the Christian faith in Hertford and surrounding areas and through the Christian church nationally and worldwide, and to serve the spiritual, emotional, moral and physical needs of the local community. To help fulfil these objectives, Hertford Baptist Church maintains a registered place of worship and associated buildings, for Christian worship, fellowship, teaching and community activities.

Public worship services are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises, which attract around 120 people from the local community each week. In addition, a range of evening and weekday activities are provided for all ages and many sections of society, to which all are welcome. To achieve the benefits of smaller scale group activities, Home Groups meet weekly for learning, mutual encouragement and support.

In addition to our core purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith, and as an expression of that core purpose, the church seeks to provide additional public benefit through the provision of activities such as lunches for the elderly and breakfasts for men (both once a month), and a youth club run on the premises in conjunction with Hertford Young Life, Port Hill Toddler Club, Home Start meet weekly in the church premises and Place of Welcome, a weekly coffee drop in centre.

We continue engagement with the local community through projects including the Food Bank, Street Pastors and Future Hope (working with young people dealing with crises such as addiction, mental health problems and family breakdown), and facilitating a branch of a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre. The church also supports a variety of projects caring for the poorest and neediest around the world through social action and evangelism.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Staff

Rev. Andrew Clark, has continued as Pastor & Ministry Team Leader until 31st July 2022 when he moved to another ministry on the Island of Arran.

Dawn Weston, has continued as Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer.

John Goligher has continued to work as Finance Administrator.

Anna Saunders has continued as Office Secretary and a part time cleaner remains in post.

ACTIVITIES and ORGANISATIONS

This has been a year of transition and the church continued to build-back from the COVID restrictions and adapt to the departure of the Pastor and Ministry Team Leader in July 2022. The church has strived to re-establish and develop all its major areas of work during the year through this period of change.

Weekly 9.15 Sunday morning services have been streamed live on Facebook offering those who are unable or lacking confidence to attend physical gatherings to participate in public worship, prayer, readings and reflection.

Services of public worship are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises, which attracted around 120 people from the local community each week. Initially sermons were video recorded and uploaded to Facebook a few hours later, but from September this moved to regular live streaming of much of the service that has led to greater participation.

Children's and young people's activities are also provided on Sunday mornings and at other times.

Monthly Sunday evening gatherings for informal worship and prayer were started in January 2022.

Activities for Seniors were progressively restarted, with afternoon teas, CAMEO and full Golden Lunches restarting in March 2022.

In-person Communion was held in August 2022 for the first time since lockdown with appropriate precautions.

The Crosslinks group particularly for adults (18+) with learning disabilities was restarted in September 2022 by a refreshed team of volunteers after a detailed review of the risk framework and plan.

Early in 2022, a lounge was refitted as a Prayer Room, creating a comfortable quiet space to draw aside for reflection and prayer. This is open from 09:00 to 14:00 each weekday.

In cooperation with Hertford Churches Together, a Warm Hub was opened in November 2022, providing a warm and friendly environment with refreshments for those struggling to heat their homes. This was widely advertised and open to everyone, although take-up was limited.

These and many other activities and initiatives have only been possible with the dedication of volunteers from the fellowship who have given of their time, resources and energy throughout the year, especially after the Pastor moved on in July. We are also particularly indebted to Dawn Weston, the only remaining member of the Ministry Team, whose flexibility and commitment has been remarkable.

Significant pastoral work continues to support members and the community through the challenges and complexities of life.

There were 180 Church Members at the end of the year.

It also became possible during the year to carryout building improvements including the fitting of a new kitchen with commercial extraction system and dishwasher; an upgrade to the heating system to improve energy efficiency and reliability; and fitting replacement windows to the Youth Lounge and Crèche, improving safety and energy efficiency.

The Church has been pleased to continue working with the Young Life organisation in Hertford, hosting their youth club in the church premises on a weekly basis.

Future Hope, 'helping people in crisis gain hope and a future', focussing primarily on young people ages 11-19, continued to be supported by members of the Church.

The Hertford Foodbank continues to draw volunteers from Hertford Baptist Church and other churches in Hertford. Many people are involved in the organisation and there is a good partnership with other agencies working in the community.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hertford Baptist Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No. 1131979, constituted as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. It is governed by a Foundation Trust Deed dated 16 November 1903 enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 21 November 1903, by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 5 October 2009 and by Declaration of The Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 and the Baptist Trusts for Manses 2004, dated 18 April 2006. The church is the beneficial owner of freehold property in Hertford, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

Following consultation with Church Members, the Constitution was amended by resolution at a Special Church Meeting held on 22 March 2022, to allow Members who had been baptised other than by immersion to be appointed as Trustees.

Appointment of trustees

Hertford Baptist Church is a fully independent organisation and the Church Members' Meeting, normally held six times a year, is the decision-making body. The Church Members' Meeting appoints Deacons who act as trustees. The appointment of trustees requires the support of not less than 50% eligible votes cast. Deacons are appointed for a period of three years and may serve for two consecutive periods of three years before being required to stand down for a minimum of one year. Two officers, a Secretary and a Treasurer, are elected annually and are ex officio Deacons

and trustees. Information is provided for those considering offering themselves for election as deacons and trustees, as is induction and ongoing training for those elected.

Organisation

The day-to-day programme and spiritual welfare of the church is the responsibility of the pastors, in consultation with the Leadership and Staff Teams.

Individual deacons have a lead role in various aspects of the church's ministry. The pastor, deacons and trustees meet monthly to determine, approve and monitor the strategy and programme of the church, to receive financial reports, and to undertake the management responsibilities of the charity, and for prayer. They meet annually for an extended meeting to consider strategic development.

Hertford Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, its regional organisation the Central Baptist Association, and a number of other organisations with which it identifies, including the Evangelical Alliance and the local ecumenical group, Hertford and District Churches Together.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

With the exception of Pastors, who by nature of their appointment are trustees and also paid employees, none of the charity's other trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity as trustee. John Goligher is employed as the financial administrator for the church and was appointed to this position in November 2014. He was re-appointed as Church Treasurer in January 2021, a role for which he is not remunerated.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a supplier or external organisation must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related transactions were reported.

Various organisations are associated with the church and their leaders are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting. Some of these small organisations keep their own accounts and have separate bank accounts; none exceed £5,000 in income or expenditure per annum. Other unrelated organisations, which are compatible with the church's values, use the church premises and usually pay a nominal fee for doing so. There are no other legal or formal links with related parties.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff (including Pastors) is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the trustees consider the advice of 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain' when setting pay levels.

Risk management

A policy of continuous risk assessment and review is adopted. A suite of policies has been agreed by the Church Meeting, including a Health & Safety Policy. These policies are reviewed annually, and any revisions reported to the members at the AGM in May.

A range of risk assessments, action plans and work activities are carried out periodically. Built on a model document from the Baptist Union, a combined Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk has been adopted and is reviewed and adopted annually.

The Pension and BUGB Trustees sent a joint communication at the end of July 2022 to participating churches stating that the pension scheme was no longer in deficit. Resulting in the monthly debt calculations ceasing and the deficit contribution reducing to £1 per month.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial income is derived from voluntary donations and regular giving by church members and those who attend the church, supplemented by contributions to activities by those taking part, and some income from the hiring of the premises. Donations during the year of £145,484 were received through regular offerings. This was a decrease on the previous year and the budgeted target.

A significant proportion of the church's income is given, by way of donations, to Christian mission and relief groups and training colleges, to individuals in training for Christian service; people engaged in Christian work, mostly overseas and through their commissioning organisations. These grants are approved annually by the Church Members' Meeting and no commitment is made to grants in advance or to future funding, with the funding for such grants being received during the year of payment. During 2022 the church was able, through the generosity of members and friends, to make donations to external causes amounting to £23,458 or about 11% of total non-capital expenditure. A pastoral care fund is also available for immediate relief of need. Full disclosure of material grants made is included in the notes to the accounts including the names of individuals ultimately benefiting from material amounts.

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £211,915. The Baptist Union defined pension is no longer in deficit therefor the provision of £100,000 is no longer required. The Trustees have taken the decision to add the £100,000 to the free reserves total.

The trustees consider the free reserve of £211,915 to be adequate for the future purposes of the church for the coming year.

Funds are 'restricted' when given for a specific purpose and generally these are disbursed before the end of the financial year. 'Designated' funds are funds designated by the trustees for a particular purpose, and in the interests of clarity, the tangible fixed assets of the church (land, buildings, fixtures, and fittings) which are not normally available for general purposes are held as designated funds. The expectation is that funds will be used for the furtherance of the Church's objectives in the year received and there are no specific investment powers. The policy is that reserves of unrestricted funds (free reserves) should normally be not less than the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and not exceed 12 months' expenditure. Reserves are currently the equivalent 4 months budgeted expenditure, and the trustees consider this adequate for the year ahead. Reserve funds should be readily accessible. Cash investments should be retained in high interest, instant access, bank accounts.

The property should be used to further the aims of the Church and not used for investment purposes, except for short-term letting of the temporarily vacant housing.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

With the departure of the Rev. Andrew Clark in July 2022, it was necessary to establish methods by which activities and purpose of the church could continue and develop in healthy new ways. This could only be achieved by the active involvement of church members and the wider church community in the work and ministry. Many have stepped forward to take on new roles and duties, and it is heartening to see the breadth of engagement across the church family.

Going forward, a priority will be to extend, support and train these volunteers and many others to effectively minister within the church across all areas of activity.

Preparations, both individual and collective are being made to prepare for the next phase of growth as we seek to move beyond the church into the community around, to engage with and support those for whom the Christian faith is unfamiliar and attending church an alien experience.

In consultation with members, a Church Profile has been developed which sets out their aspirations for the future and the expectations of those who will be recruited to join the ministry team.

Utilising the Pastoral Vacancy recruitment facilities provided by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and word of mouth introductions, the search has begun for two people to join the ministry team. The members have appointed a Search Committee to be responsible for process and to make recommendations to the trustees.

The authority to call a minister(s) lies exclusively with the church members on the recommendation of the Deacons and trustees.

Virtual meetings continue to be employed regularly alongside in person activities and this hybrid model of interacting is expected to continue and become a regular aspect of the ongoing work of the church. Much greater use and acceptance of online services and social media also changes the way communications and engagement operates and will develop further.

The Hope Fund has proved a particularly effective vehicle for supporting and blessing individuals both in the wider community and within the church fellowship. Most of the funds initially raised during the Pandemic had been disbursed, but the 2022 Easter Thank Offering was allocated to replenishing the Hope Fund, so that this aspect of care and support of those in need can continue.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

No funds are held on behalf of others as Custodian Trustee.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1131979
Church office: Telephone:	13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford SG14 1PL 01992 582951
Email:	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website:	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, 5/6 Market Place, Hertford SG14 1DF
Solicitors:	Longmores, 24 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HP
Auditors:	Cansdales Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors, St. Marys Court, The Broadway, Amersham HP7 0UT

TRUSTEES

Rev. Andrew Clark	Resigned 31st July 2022
Dawn Weston	Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer
John Goligher	Treasurer *
Paula Hine	
John Low	Church Secretary *
Paul Nicholson	
David Snell	
Sheila Knowles	Appointed 24th May 2022
Hannah Harding	Appointed 24th May 2022
Ian Davis	Appointed 24th May 2022
Tim Strong	Term ended 24th May 2022
Carey White	Term ended 24th May 2022

* Church officers are appointed or re-appointed annually by members vote at the Annual General Meeting in May.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

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 (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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 for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping 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 Constitution as Amended 22nd March 2022. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's company's auditors are unaware; and

- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Diaconate on the 16th May 2023 **and signed on their behalf by:**

Thomas John S Goligher Treasurer/Trustee

John Low Chair of Trustees

Hertford Baptist Church

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hertford Baptist Church For the year ended 31 December 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hertford Baptist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).
In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the entity.
- We communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. We examined and discussed with management any known or suspected instances of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- The audit team discussed whether there were any areas that were susceptible to misstatement as part of their fraud discussion.
- In addressing the risk of management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries with a focus on large or unusual transactions based on criteria determined using our knowledge of the organisation and industry. We also challenged assumptions and judgements made.
- We incorporated an element of unpredictability in the selection of the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures.

- Based on the results of our risk assessment we designed our audit procedures to identify and to address material misstatements in relation to fraud, including bribery and non compliance

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Foskett.

Mr James Foskett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Cansdales Audit LLP
St Mary's Court
The Broadway
Amersham
HP7 OUT

17 May 2023
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HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Regular Offerings		145,484	-	-	145,484	148,636
Special Gifts & Legacies		2,622	37,552	2,299	42,473	43,120
Thankoffering		-	6,960	-	6,960	4,350
Gift Aid recoverable		29,512	2,007	210	31,729	39,239
Charitable activities		1,472	-	-	1,472	1,205
Investments - bank interest		968	-	-	968	511
Other						
Use of property		38,465	-	-	38,465	33,277
Repayments		316	-	-	316	166
Government furlough schemes		-	-	-	-	-
Total		218,839	46,519	2,509	267,867	270,504
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities						
Local Ministry	Note 3	163,136	73,049	-	236,185	248,562
Support Costs	Note 4	11,473	-	-	11,473	13,275
Grants payable:						
National Mission	Note 5	12,968	-	292	13,260	10,800
World Mission	Note 5	18,510	-	4,948	23,458	35,162
Future Mission	Note 5	-	-	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering & Special	Note 5	-	-	-	-	6,770
Total	Note 6	206,087	73,049	5,240	284,376	317,569
Net Income/(expenditure)		12,752	(26,530)	(2,731)	(16,509)	(47,065)
Transfers between Funds		(30,664)	31,389	(725)	-	-
		(17,912)	4,859	(3,456)	(16,509)	(47,065)
Other recognised Gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Net Movement in Funds		82,088	4,859	(3,456)	83,491	(47,065)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward	Notes 15, 16 & 17	129,827	2,018,301	5,390	2,153,518	2,200,583
Total Funds Carried Forward	Notes 15, 16 & 17	**211,915**	**2,023,160**	**1,934**	**2,237,009**	**2,153,518**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the result for the year. All of the Church's activities are classed as continuing.

The notes numbered 1 to 20 form part of these accounts

Analysis of the comparative funds in the previous year (2021) is provided in Note 9.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	Note 11	1,975,737	2,012,591
Current Assets:			
Debtors	Note 12	31,709	39,208
Cash at bank and in hand	Note 13	238,092	215,333
Total current assets		269,801	254,541
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 14	(8,529)	(13,613)
Net current assets or liabilities		261,272	240,928
Total assets less current liabilities		2,237,009	2,253,519
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	Note 14	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Net assets or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability		2,237,009	2,253,519
Defined benefit pension scheme asset or liability		-	(100,000)
Total net assets or liabilities		**2,237,009**	**2,153,519**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted	Note 15	211,915	129,827
Designated	Note 16	2,023,160	2,018,301
Restricted	Note 17	1,934	5,390
		2,237,009	**2,153,518**

Approved by the Diaconate on 14th May 2023 **...and signed on their behalf**

by ......, Thomas John S Goligher, Trustee

The notes numbered 1 - 20 form part of these accounts

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a. Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The 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. Hertford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

In order to assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption basis, the Trustees have considered the church's financial position, liquidity, unrestricted reserves and forecasts for the foreseeable future taking into account the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. Recognising the uncertainty associated with predicting the economic impact of Covid-19 in particular, the Trustees have considered the impact of a severe economic outcome on Hertford Baptist Church and the effectiveness of management actions that might be taken to mitigate the impact of this stress. Trustees have also considered the circumstances under which the activities of the church would be unable to continue. After taking into account the current level of the charity's cash and reserves and the financial performance since 31 December 2022, the Trustees have concluded that the risk of this situation occurring is remote.

Accordingly, and after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of signing of this report.

On this basis these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

c. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church. One such legacy has been notified and received for the current year (2022). No such legacy was notified in the previous year (2021).

d. Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2022) or previous (2021) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

e. Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The church has no endowment funds.

g. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is classified as relating to charitable activities. These activities are further classified between:

- Local Ministry (to which all governance and support costs are attributed)
- Grants payable

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h. Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, payroll and other professional services and governance costs which support the church's activities. These costs have been allocated entirely to local ministry. Decisions on the awarding of grants do not incur support costs as they are made by the church members in the church meeting, based on information provided by the trustees and other members. No support staff time is attributable to the grant awarding process.

i. Operating leases

The church classifies the lease of the office printer/copier as an operating lease; the title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every 5 years while the economic life of such equipment is normally 5 years. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Tangible fixed assets

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use. Buildings' improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment costing £4,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold buildings are depreciated over 50 years following the revaluation in 2011.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum. On this basis, the organ, pews and other fixtures and fittings within the church would have been fully depreciated at 31 December, 2019. As these items are all in continuing use, they were revalued at their insurance valuations at 31 December 2019; organ £146,748 (2018 NBV £4,485) pews, etc. £121,480 (2018 NBV £2,062). They have been depreciated in the current year at a rate of 10% per annum.

k. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l. 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 the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

m. Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when 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 accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n. Pensions

At the start of the year, the Church was a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers. However, the departure of the minister in July 2022 brought about a cessation event under Section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995 and the Church is no longer a participating employer.

The Cessation Event would have made the Church liable for the proportion of the overall deficit (assessed by reference to the cost of securing benefits by the purchase of annuities) applicable to its previous Ministers who were members of the Scheme. However, at the time of the minister's departure, the Scheme was considered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited) to be fully funded and no such liability arose. Accordingly, the balance sheet liability (2021 £100,000) has been removed from the accounts. Until July 2022, the church was paying ongoing deficiency contributions as outlined below.

Background to the Scheme:

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date, the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited. Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the Scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

The church does not contribute to any defined benefit pension scheme for its employees.

o. Related Charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Central Baptist Association. The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 5.

2. Legal Status of the Church

Hertford Baptist Church is a registered charity no. 1131979 and the church building is a registered place of worship.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

3. Local Ministry

	Unrestricted 2022	Designated 2022	Restricted 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Premises	35,053	-	-	35,053	28,309
Depreciation	-	70,366	-	70,366	68,859
Ministry	78,507	-	-	78,507	94,382
Church Activities	5,850	-	-	5,850	7,722
Outreach Activities	2,536	2,683	-	5,219	7,456
Enabling Activities	41,186	-	-	41,186	41,744
Bank charges	4	-	-	4	90
	163,136	73,049	-	236,185	248,562
2021 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	175,367	73,195	-		248,562

4. Support Costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Audit fee	5,874	5,646
Professional fees	3,995	6,044
Secretarial	1,604	1,585
	11,473	13,275

Governance costs are attributed entirely to local ministry (see note 1h) and unrestricted funds in both 2022 and 2021. The Professional fees relate to to other financial services from the auditor, letting agent's fees and advice regarding GDPR policies.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

5. Grants for Mission

		Unrestricted 2022	Designated 2022	Restricted 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
National Mission		£	£	£	£	£
Baptist Home Mission (CBA)	(1)	5,800	-	-	5,800	5,800
Future Hope	(1)	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Hertford Young Life	(1)	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Others	(3)	2,168	-	292	2,460	-
		12,968	-	292	13,260	10,800
2021 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(3)	10,800	-	-		10,800
World Mission						
BMS World Mission	(1)	6,108	-	4,665	10,773	5,800
BMS Relief Fund	(1)	-	-	283	283	-
Other societies	(1)	160	-	-	160	17,120
People International (to support a couple)	(1)	3,690	-	-	3,690	3,690
SIM (to support 1 person)	(1)	2,061	-	-	2,061	2,061
Interserve (M LeRoy)	(1)	1,365	-	-	1,365	1,365
Matiza Family (2020 OM)	(1)	3,600	-	-	3,600	3,600
Latin Link (W Davies)	(1)	1,526	-	-	1,526	1,526
		18,510	-	4,948	23,458	35,162
2021 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(9)	18,662	16,500	-		35,162
Future Mission						
Spurgeons College	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
All Nations Christian College	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Training Support	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	3,000
2021 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds		3,000	-	-		3,000
Thankoffering & Special Appeal						
Thankoffering	-	-	-	-	-	3,252
Special Appeal		-	-	-	-	262
		-	-	-	-	3,514
2021 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(2)	-	6,770	-		6,770

14 (2021: 14) separate grants were paid out to institutions. The number of grants made in each category are disclosed above in brackets. Some single grants are paid in monthly or quarterly instalments. No support costs are apportioned to the payment of grants to Mission.

6. Total Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Local Ministry	99,852	105,419	30,914	236,185	248,562
National Mission	-	-	13,260	13,260	10,800
World Mission	-	-	23,458	23,458	35,162
Future Mission	-	-	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering	-	-	-	-	6,770
Special Appeals	-	-	-	-	-
Governance	-	-	11,473	11,473	13,275
	99,852	105,419	79,105	284,376	317,569

Total expenditure was £284,376 (2021: £317,569) of which £206,087 was unrestricted (2021: £221,104) £73,049 was designated (2021: £96,465) and £5,240 was restricted (2021: nil).

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2022 £	2021 £
Stipends, Expenses & Wages	90,536	101,490
Social Security Costs	3,240	4,364
Pensions Costs	6,076	9,444
	99,852	115,298

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

2 pastors were remunerated £48,594 (2021: 2 pastors £59,972) using scales recommended by the Baptist Union and according to the relevant agreement with the Charity Commission. 1 trustee was remunerated £21,671 (2021: £12,514) during the year for work not related to his role as a trustee. No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: nil). During the year, phone, travel and meal expenses totalling £2,483 were reimbursed to 2 pastors and 1 trustee (2021: phone, travel and meal expenses of £1,052 to 2 pastors and 1 trustee). In addition, 2 pastors and 2 trustees made purchases totalling £2,005 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2021: 2 pastors and 1 trustee, £3,292).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church comprise the church office secretary and the administrator (who are employees) and the two cashiers and the youth and children's work administrator (who are volunteers). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (1 individual) were £15,153 (2021: 2 individuals, £23,939). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any member of key management personnel (2021: nil). In addition, No key management personnel (non-trustees) made purchases on behalf of the church (2021: nil).

8 Staff Numbers

Average Number of Employees

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Ministers (1 person for 7 months of the year)	0.6	1
Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer	1	1
Secretaries/Administrators (all part-time)	2	2
Cleaner (part-time)	1	1
	4.6	5

9 Comparative figures (2021) for the separate classes of funds shown in total on the face of the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies				
Regular Offerings	148,636	-	-	148,636
Special Gifts & Legacies	27,335	13,690	2,095	43,120
Thankoffering	-	4,350	-	4,350
Gift Aid recoverable	35,572	3,402	265	39,239
Charitable activities	1,125	-	80	1,205
Investments - bank interest	511	-	-	511
Other				-
Use of property	33,277	-	-	33,277
Repayments	166	-	-	166
Government furlough schemes	-	-	-	-
Total	246,623	21,442	2,440	270,505
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Local Ministry	175,367	73,195	-	248,562
Support Costs	13,275	-	-	13,275
Grants payable:				
National Mission	10,800	-	-	10,800
World Mission	18,662	16,500	-	35,162
Future Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000
Thankoffering & Special	-	6,770	-	6,770
Total	221,104	96,465	-	317,569
Net Income/(Expenditure)	25,519	(75,023)	2,440	(47,064)
Transfers between Funds	(8,808)	8,930	(122)	-
	16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,064)
Other recognised Gains/(Losses)Gains & (Losses)				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-
Gain/Loss on fixtures, fittings and equipment written off or revalued	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,064)
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 January 2020	113,115	2,084,396	3,072	2,200,583
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 December 2020	129,826	2,018,303	5,390	2,153,519

10 Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves members of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £23,060 (2021 £35,926).

No expenses were paid to any related party (2021: nil). No person related to the trustees made purchases on behalf of the church and was reimbursed (2021: 1 related party, £100).
No reimbursements were made to parties related to the key management personnel (2021: nil).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2022	468,000	1,595,220	429,094	2,492,314
Disposals				-
Revaluation			-	-
Additions	-	-	33,511	33,511
At 31 December 2022	468,000	1,595,220	462,605	2,525,825
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2021	-	315,090	164,632	479,722
Disposals				-
Revaluation			-	-
Charge for the year	-	31,904	38,462	70,366
At 31 December 2022	-	346,994	203,094	550,088
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2022	468,000	1,248,226	259,511	1,975,737
At 31 December 2021	468,000	1,280,130	264,462	2,012,592

Freehold Land and Buildings

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use.

The value of buildings will be depreciated over 50 years under FRS 15 following the valuation in December 2011. Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum on the valuation figure.

12. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	-	-
Income Tax Recoverable	31,709	39,208
	31,709	39,208

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

13. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank Accounts	237,983	215,288
Petty Cash	109	45
	238,092	215,333

14. Liabilities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Payroll liabilities	1,737	2,751
Accruals	6,792	10,862
	8,529	13,613
Creditors Due > 1 year	-	-
	-	-

15. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance	Movement				Balance
	1.1.22	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Pension Liability	31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Church Funds	129,827	218,839	206,087	(30,664)	100,000	211,915

A transfer was made to Designated Funds to reflect capitalised improvements to the church's fixtures and fittings.

16. Designated Funds

	Balance 1.1.22	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thankoffering	2,122	8,377	-	(10,499)	-	-
Training Support	1,791	140	-	-	-	1,931
Other designated donations	1,796	38,002	2,683	8,377	-	45,492
	5,709	46,519	2,683	(2,122)	-	47,423
Tangible fixed assets	2,012,592	-	70,366	33,511	-	1,975,737
	2,018,301	46,519	73,049	31,389	-	2,023,160

The Thankoffering funds are raised each year for specific causes. The funds raised in 2022 were transferred to the church's HOPE Fund, which supports people known to the church who are suffering difficult times. The Training Support Fund supports individuals training for Christian service through full or part-time courses or on training placements.

The Tangible Fixed Assets Fund (TFAF) is set aside to represent the net book value of the property of the church. £33,511 was transferred from General Funds to the TFAF to reflect the capitalisation of kitchen improvements in accordance with the accounting policies.

17. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.22	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Baptist societies	4,665	2,509	4,948	(725)	-	1,501
Others	725	-	292	-	-	433
	5,390	2,509	5,240	(725)	-	1,934

Baptist societies and other funds are ongoing funds held for specific societies, the majority of which are paid out in the course of the year.

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total Assets
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds (note 15)	-	211,915	211,915
Designated Funds (note 16)	1,975,737	47,423	2,023,160
Restricted Funds (note 17)	-	1,934	1,934
	1,975,737	261,272	2,237,009

19. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2022 there were commitments under operating leases

	Land & Buildings	Other	2021
	£	£	£
Expiring within 1 year	-	907	1,736
Expiring within 2-5 years	-	2,948	3,402
Expiring in over 5 years	-	-	-
	-	3,855	5,138

20. Post Balance Sheet

There are no material post balance sheets events to report, although Trustees note the inflationary pressures which may impact future financial performance and events in Ukraine which may contribute to above inflation increases in energy costs once current hedges expire.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
- Regular Offerings	145,484	-	-	145,484	148,636
- Special Gifts & Legacies	2,622	37,552	2,299	42,473	43,120
- Thankoffering	-	6,960	-	6,960	4,350
- Gift Aid recoverable	29,512	2,007	210	31,729	39,239
Charitable Activities	1,472	-	-	1,472	1,205
Activities which generate funds					
- Use of property	38,465	-	-	38,465	33,277
- Repayments	316	-	-	316	166
- Bank interest	968	-	-	968	511
- Government furlough schemes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	218,839	46,519	2,509	267,867	270,504
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Local Ministry	163,136	73,049	-	236,185	248,562
Governance Costs	11,473	-	-	11,473	13,275
Grants payable:					
- National Mission	12,968	-	292	13,260	10,800
- World Mission	18,510	-	4,948	23,458	35,162
- Future Mission	-	-	-	-	3,000
- Thankoffering & Special	-	-	-	-	6,770
Total	206,087	73,049	5,240	284,376	317,569
Net Income/(expenditure)	12,752	(26,530)	(2,731)	(16,509)	(47,065)
Transfers between funds	(30,664)	31,389	(725)	-	-
	(17,912)	4,859	(3,456)	(16,509)	(47,065)
Actuarial Gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Net Movement in Funds	82,088	4,859	(3,456)	83,491	(47,065)
Total Funds brought forward at 1/1/22	129,827	2,018,301	5,390	2,153,518	2,200,583
Total Funds carried forward at 31.12.22	**211,915**	**2,023,160**	**1,934**	**2,237,009**	**2,153,518**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

		2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets		1,975,737	2,012,591
Current Assets			
Debtors		31,709	39,208
Cash at bank & in hand		238,092	215,333
Liabilities			
amounts falling due within 1 year		(8,529)	(13,613)
Net Current Assets		261,272	240,928
Defined benefit pension scheme net asset or liability		-	(100,000)
Net Assets		2,237,009	2,153,519
Funds	Unrestricted	211,915	129,827
	Designated	2,023,160	2,018,301
	Restricted	1,934	5,390
		2,237,009	2,153,518

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1131979

Accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

Hertford Baptist Church

'Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'

Port Hill
Hertford

A registered place of worship

Registered Charity No 1131979

Report of the Trustees

&

Accounts

1 January - 31 December 2021

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement of the charity for the year ending 31st of December 2021 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for the Trustees report and accounts for submission to the Charities Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the 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) (effective 1 January 2019). The 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 the adoption of the 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).

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken note of all the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission including the specific guidance for religious charities on public benefit. The charity's policy is to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and comply with approved accounting standards.

Chair's report

'Recovery' has been the watchword at Hertford Baptist Church during 2021 as we have worked to gather the congregation together again on site, and to re-establish ministries that had been impossible during Covid-19 lockdown regulations. Our text for the year gave shape to the year, where all were encouraged through a verse from Hebrews 10:23 – 'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.'

During 2021, the work of the church has been led, in partnership with the Leadership Team, by the Reverend Andrew Clark as Pastor and Ministry Team Leader, with Dawn Weston as Team Leader for Pastoral Care and Prayer. The appointment of a Family and Children's Worker to supplement the team has not been made, however, the search for a suitable candidate is proceeding. Anna Sanders continues to serve as part-time Office Administrator and John Goligher continues as part-time Finance Administrator. Church members continue to volunteer to support all aspects of the ministry of the church, however some volunteers have shifted focus and involvement post-lockdown.

In May 2021, we began holding in-person services, initially in the evenings, but moving to re-establishing our morning service in July. In addition, an early morning online service on Facebook Live was retained to continue ministry to those unable to attend worship in person. Significant pastoral work continues to support members and the community through the challenges and complexities of life.

As part of our re-opening activities, three 'Big Conversation' sessions were held, focussed on developing our future ministry centred around building a Discipleship Culture, a Pastoral Culture and a Missional Culture. These conversations are to aid participation in the process of enabling us to carry out a key purpose of teaching and preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and ministering to people's felt needs in the fellowship and beyond.

In May 2021, the Church Members Annual General Meeting was held in church. Church Secretary Nigel Hollingsworth stepped down, and Sir John Low was elected as the new Church Secretary and John Goligher agreed to continue as Church Treasurer. Church Officer roles are appointed for renewable one-year terms. The extended appointment of Paula Hine for a second term agreed last year was ratified by the Church Meeting. Three deacons stood down, and two new deacons (Paul Nicholson and David Snell) joined the team.

In addition to our Sunday worship services, the church continues to be actively involved with the community throughout the week in many and varied ways, including providing key input to local organisations such as the Hertford and District Foodbank, Future Hope, Young Life and our continued facilitation of our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre in partnership with Christ Church Ware. Mrs Debs Thompson fulfils the role of Debt Coach in the CAP centre on behalf of Hertford Baptist Church and means that the church is actively seeking to reduce the impact of debt and poverty in the community.

Our 'Hope Fund', set up as a pastoral and relief support scheme during the pandemic, has continued to provide financial gifts, food vouchers, and gifts of encouragement to those who have been vulnerable or in need.

Andrew Clark tendered his resignation as Pastor and Ministry Team Leader in November 2021 and will continue to serve in post until July 2022. The Leadership Team will lead the process of finding his replacement during 2022.

Rev Andrew M Clark, MA
Pastor and Ministry Team Leader

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The Core Purpose of the Church is "Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." Our vision and value statements define the nature of the Church and its vision for growth. The church seeks to encourage individual members to demonstrate these values in their own lives and the Calls to Action of the church are expressed as 'Meet God', 'Make Friends', 'Make a Difference'.

The Church follows the doctrinal basis contained in its governing document and seeks to apply this in today's society and culture.

The Church's principal aim is to advance the Christian faith in Hertford and surrounding areas and through the Christian church nationally and worldwide, and to serve the spiritual, emotional, moral and physical needs of the local community. To help fulfil these objectives, Hertford Baptist Church maintains a registered place of worship and associated buildings, for Christian worship, fellowship, teaching and community activities. Under non-pandemic conditions public worship services are conducted every Sunday morning on the premises.

Physical Sunday morning worship services recommenced in July 2021, these attracted around 100 people from the local community each week. In addition, a range of weekday activities are provided for all ages and many sections of society, to which all are welcome. To achieve the benefits of smaller scale group activities, Home Groups meet weekly for learning, mutual encouragement and support.

In addition to our core purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith, and as an expression of that core purpose, the church seeks to provide additional public benefit through the provision of activities such as lunches for the elderly (once a month) and youth club run on the premises in conjunction with Hertford Young Life, Port Hill Toddler Club, Home Start meet weekly in the church premises and Place of Welcome a weekly coffee drop in centre.

We continue engagement with the local community through the projects including the Food Bank, and Future Hope (working with young people dealing with crises such as addiction, mental health problems and family breakdown), and we have linked to the church a branch of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) , this activity has continued to operate during 2021. The church also supports a variety of projects caring for the poorest and neediest around the world through social action and evangelism.

At the end of 2021 the staffing included a Pastor & Ministry Team Leader, a Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer, one part-time administrator, a part-time office secretary and a part-time cleaner. These employees work alongside many voluntary workers without whom the church could not function.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Staff

Rev. Andrew Clark, has continued as Pastor & Ministry Team Leader

Dawn Weston, has continued as Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer

John Goligher has continued to work as Finance Administrator

Anna Saunders has continued as Office Secretary and a part time cleaner remains in post

ACTIVITIES and ORGANISATIONS

The church has strived to re-establish and develop all its major areas of work during the year, through a period of considerable uncertainty and change.

The church continued to offer a single Sunday morning service online until circumstances allowed a return to physical gatherings in the church buildings in July 2021.

As Government guidance changed, a progressive and risk-based approach to in-person activities was taken, initially meeting outside on a one-to-one basis where practical and in small groups when permitted. Activities within the church buildings and homes have been slowly reinstated, consistent with our COVID Risk Framework and COVID Safe Guidelines. Initially numbers were restricted and the details of those attended recorded to support the work of Test and Trace.

Measures to maintain the safest possible environment placed many restrictions on activities, including ventilation, social distancing, avoiding physical contact and eliminating touch points where cross infection could occur. The duration of Worship Services was reduced, as were the number of songs and quieter songs were chosen. Initially there was large spread reluctance to attend in person, but numbers increased slowly through the year.

Alongside physical meetings for public worship, weekly 9.15am Sunday services have been streamed via Face Book Live and Sermons preached at the physical services were video recorded and uploaded each Sunday. This provided support to those unable or lacking confidence to attend church in person and facilitated the transition from full isolation to community participation in church activities.

There were 198 Church Members at the end of the year.

Youth and children's activities have continued throughout 2021 continuously adapting to changing circumstances. Weekly online meetings were provided for 5-11 year olds, led by Dawn Weston supported by a dedicated voluntary team, moving to physical sessions when practical. Activities aimed at young people have been key to maintaining and growing these age groups in the church family. The work with older young people has grown and has been strengthened by the clear leadership and support of Ian & Jemma Chandler and their team and this has continued strongly during 2021 with online contact and meeting up, socially distanced externally where appropriate.

The Church has been pleased to continue working with the Young Life organisation in Hertford where circumstances allowed and the youth club returned to the church premises on a weekly basis later in the year. Future Hope, 'helping people in crisis gain hope and a future', focussing primarily on young people ages 11-19, continued to be supported by members of the Church.

The Hertford Foodbank continues to draw volunteers from Hertford Baptist Church and other churches in Hertford. Many people are involved in the organisation and there is a good partnership with other agencies working in the community.

The Crosslinks group at Hertford Baptist Church is particularly for adults (16+) with learning disabilities has been suspended since the start of the pandemic. The vulnerability and needs of the people involved and the difficulty of adequately resourcing this work has so far prevented it from recommencing. Options are being considered for reopening in 2022.

The Church's work with Senior Citizens remained suspended throughout the year due to the pandemic. Every effort has been made to maintain regular contact with the senior citizens by the leaders of the groups throughout the year. This work recommenced in 2022.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hertford Baptist Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No. 1131979, constituted as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. It is governed by a Foundation Trust Deed dated 16 November 1903 enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 21 November 1903, by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 5 October 2009 and by Declaration of The Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 and the Baptist Trusts for Manses 2004, dated 18 April 2006. The church is the beneficial owner of freehold property in Hertford, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

Appointment of trustees

Hertford Baptist Church is a fully independent organisation and the Church Members' Meeting, normally held six times a year, is the decision-making body. The Church Members' Meeting appoints deacons who act as trustees. The appointment of trustees requires the support of not less than 50% eligible votes cast. Deacons are appointed for a period of three years and may serve for two consecutive periods of three years before being required to stand down for a minimum of one year. Two officers, a Secretary and a Treasurer, are elected annually and are ex officio Deacons and trustees. Information is provided for those considering offering themselves for election as deacons and trustees, as is induction and ongoing training for those elected.

Organisation

The day-to-day programme and spiritual welfare of the church is the responsibility of the pastors, in consultation with the Leadership and Staff Teams.

Individual deacons have a lead role in various aspects of the church's ministry. The pastor, deacons and trustees meet monthly to determine, approve and monitor the strategy and programme of the church, to receive financial reports, and to undertake the management responsibilities of the charity, and for prayer. They meet at least once annually for an extended meeting to consider strategic development.

Hertford Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, its regional organisation the Central Baptist Association, and a number of other organisations with which it identifies, including the Evangelical Alliance and the local ecumenical group, Hertford and District Churches Together.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

With the exception of Pastors, who by nature of their appointment are trustees and also paid employees, none of the charity's other trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity as trustee. John Goligher is employed as the financial administrator for the church and was appointed to this position in November 2014. He was re-appointed as Church Treasurer in January 2021 following John Thompson's retirement from the Church Treasurer role in December 2021.

Any connection between a trustee and senior manager of the charity with a supplier or external organisation must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related transactions were reported.

Hertford Baptist Church has a liability emanating from its participation in the Baptist Union Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; this scheme was closed at the end of 2011. This liability is a result of previously employed Ministers/Pastors being enrolled in the scheme while employed by Hertford Baptist Church. The trustees of the Baptist Union Pension Scheme had stated their intention that each participating church will have their actual debt calculated. As at 28/02/2017, the technical provisions deficit was £156 million, equating to an estimated debt of £208,300 for HBC.
The trustees considered it prudent to make a provision in the accounts to the value of £120,000 at the end of 2016 and increased this provision further at the end of 2017 by £10,000 making a total provision of £130,000. As the deficit has decreased over time, the deficit provision has been reduced by £10,000 at the end of 2017 and by a further £20,000 at the end of 2020. The current Baptist Union (defined benefit) pension scheme provision now stands at £100,000.

Various organisations are associated with the church and their leaders are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting. Some of these small organisations keep their own accounts and have separate bank accounts; none exceed £5,000 in income or expenditure per annum. Other unrelated organisations, which are compatible with the church's values, use the church premises and usually pay a nominal fee for doing so. There are no other legal or formal links with related parties.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff (including Pastors) is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the trustees consider the advice of 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain' when setting pay levels.

Risk management

A policy of continuous risk assessment and review is adopted. A Health & Safety Policy Document was formally adopted by the Church Meeting in May 2004, and a Health & Safety Officer appointed. These policies are reviewed annually, and any revisions reported to the members at the AGM in May.

A range of risk assessments, action plans and work activities are carried out periodically. Formerly, a Safeguarding Children & Youth Policy and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy was reviewed yearly and is adopted at the Church meeting. In September 2018, built on a model document from the Baptist Union, a new combined Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk was adopted and will now be reviewed and adopted annually as before.

Policies have been continuously updated during 2021 to ensure the organisation is complying with Government guidelines regarding the COVID pandemic. The church has purchased appropriate screens, hand sanitiser machines and installed necessary signage throughout the building to ensure that when the buildings reopened, all those attending will be able to meet and worship in a COVID safe environment. As part of this strategy the old fabric covered chairs in the hall were replaced by new chairs that can easily be wiped down with necessary antiseptic products.

The church currently makes a deficit contribution of 12% (£4,000) from January 2016 (previously 11% during 2015) to the BU defined benefit pension scheme and while these payments continue there is no immediate expectation that this debt will require to be paid. This contribution increased from 12% to 14% from January 2018 and the contribution for 2020 was £4,184.

During 2021 the trustees of the Baptist Union Pension DC contribution scheme took the decision to reduce the employer's deficit contribution, HBC's deficit contribution for 2021 was £3,057.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial income is derived from voluntary donations and regular giving by church members and those who attend the church, supplemented by contributions to activities by those taking part, and some income from the hiring of the premises. Donations during the year of £148,763 were received through regular offerings. This was a decrease on the previous year and the budgeted target. This decline in the most part is due to impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. The church building has been closed for regular worship and therefore weekly cash offerings have not been possible.

A significant proportion of the church's income is given, by way of donations, to Christian mission and relief groups and training colleges, to individuals in training for Christian service; people engaged in Christian work, mostly overseas and through their commissioning organisations. These grants are approved annually by the Church Members' Meeting and no commitment is made to grants in advance or to future funding, with the funding for such grants being received during the year of payment. During 2021 the church was able, through the generosity of members and friends, to make donations to external causes amounting to £32,462 or about 15% of total non-capital expenditure.
A pastoral care fund is also available for immediate relief of need. Full disclosure of material grants made is included in the notes to the accounts including the names of individuals ultimately benefiting from material amounts.

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £212,671 before making provision of £100,000 for the shortfall in the BU Pension defined benefit scheme. This leaves a free reserve of £112,671 which is a decrease of just £444 on the previous year. The sum of £15,000 was given for the refurbishment of the church kitchen and this has been kept separate from the 2022 reserves.
The trustees consider the free reserve of £112,671 to be adequate for the future purposes of the church for the coming year.

Funds are 'restricted' when given for a specific purpose and generally these are disbursed before the end of the financial year. 'Designated' funds are funds designated by the managing trustees for a particular purpose, and in the interests of clarity, the tangible fixed assets of the church (land, buildings, fixtures and fittings) which are not normally available for general purposes are held as designated funds. The expectation is that funds will be used for the furtherance of the Church's objectives in the year received and there are no specific investment powers. The policy is that reserves of unrestricted funds (free reserves) should normally be not less than the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and not exceed 12 months' expenditure. Reserves are currently the equivalent 4 months budgeted expenditure and the managing trustees consider this adequate for the year ahead. Reserve funds should be readily accessible. Cash investments should be retained in high interest, instant access, bank accounts.

The property should be used to further the aims of the Church and not used for investment purposes, except for short-term letting of the temporarily vacant housing.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the course of 2021, the Church was challenged to reflect on their own faith and desire to grow the Christian community within Hertford and the surrounding areas. This has progressed to us looking at how we can develop Missional Communities within our Church to reach out to those around us in a positive Christian manner and share the gospel with others in a practical and meaningful way.

Our Pastor, Andrew Clark is supported by Dawn Weston as Pastoral Care and Prayer Worker together with a team of office staff. We are proposing to appoint a Children and Families Worker to grow the team and reach out to families in particular.

We are also reviewing the use of our premises and considering how we need to develop these facilities to enable better and wider use of the space to further support our mission of leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Rev Andrew Clark tendered his resignation as Pastor and Ministry Team Leader in November 2021 and will continue to serve in post until July 2022. The Leadership Team will lead the process of finding his replacement during 2022.

COVID 19 - 2021

COVID 19 continued to have a very significant impact on the work and activities of Hertford Baptist Church throughout 2021. Active management of the COVID Safe Guidelines and Risk Framework has allowed a proportionate and effective response that has tracked changing Government guidance and the progression of the pandemic.

Although it has proved possible to reopen the buildings and restart in-person weekly worship and a wide range of activites, nevertheless many people have been unable or slow to return. Many have not returned to voluntary leadership and support roles, and the best ways to address needs in the community have changed.

Virtual meetings continue to be employed regularly and when spikes in COVID infections impact specific activities. This flexible hybrid model of interacting is expected to continue and become a regular aspect of the ongoing work of the church. Much greater use and acceptance of online services and social media also changes the way communications and engagement operates and will develop further.

The Hope Fund has proved a particularly effective vehicle for supporting and blessing individuals both in the wider community and within in the church fellowship. Most of the funds initially raised has now been disbursed and the decision has been taken to allocation the 2022 Easter Thank Offering to replenishing the Hope Fund so that this aspect of care and support of those in need can continue.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

No funds are held on behalf of others as Custodian Trustee.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1131979
Church office:	13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford SG14 1PL
Telephone:	01992 582951
Email:	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website:	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, 5/6 Market Place, Hertford SG14 1DF (New address as at 25th January 2018)
Solicitors:	Longmores, 24 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HP
Auditors:	Cansdales Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors, Bourbon Court, Nightingales Corner, Little Chalfont, Bucks HP7 9QS

TRUSTEES

Rev. Andrew Clark	Pastor & Ministry Team Leader
Dawn Weston	Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer
John Goligher	Treasurer *
Paula Hine	
John Low	Church Secretary *
Paul Nicholson	
David Snell	
Tim Strong	to May 2022
Carey White	to May 2022

* Church officers are appointed or re-appointed annually by members vote at the Annual General Meeting in May.

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 (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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 for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping 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 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and

- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Diaconate on the 24th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Thomas John S Goligher Trustee



John Low Trustee

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 11, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach was as follows:
We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the entity.
We communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. We examined and discussed with management any known or suspected instances of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We assessed the risks of material misstatement in respect of fraud as follows:
The audit team discussed whether there were any areas that were susceptible to misstatement as part of their fraud discussion.
In addressing the risk of management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries with a focus on large or unusual transactions based on criteria determined using our knowledge of the organisation and industry. We also challenged assumptions and judgements made.
We incorporated an element of unpredictability in the selection of the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures.

Based on the results of our risk assessment we designed our audit procedures to identify and to address material misstatements in relation to fraud, including bribery and non compliance.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt

on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of Report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

CANSDALES Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants & registered Auditors

Bourbon Court
Nightingales Corner
Little Chalfont
Bucks, HP7 9QS

Date.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
- Regular Offerings	148,636	-	-	148,636	152,497
- Special Gifts & Legacies	27,335	13,690	2,095	43,120	24,932
- Thankoffering	-	4,350	-	4,350	930
- Gift Aid recoverable	35,572	3,402	265	39,239	31,114
Charitable Activities	1,125	-	80	1,205	284
Activities which generate funds					
- Use of property	33,277	-	-	33,277	34,013
- Repayments	166	-	-	166	277
- Bank interest	511	-	-	511	502
- Government furlough schemes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	246,623	21,442	2,440	270,505	244,549
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Local Ministry	175,367	73,195	-	248,562	253,569
Governance Costs	13,275	-	-	13,275	11,998
Grants payable:					
- National Mission	10,800	-	-	10,800	11,116
- World Mission	18,662	16,500	-	35,162	20,630
- Future Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
- Thankoffering & Special	-	6,770	-	6,770	3,514
Total	221,104	96,465	-	317,569	300,827
Net Income/(expenditure)	25,519	(75,023)	2,440	(47,065)	(56,278)
Transfers between funds	(8,808)	8,930	(122)	-	-
	16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,064)	(56,278)
Actuarial Gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	20,000
Net Movement in Funds	16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,065)	(35,176)
Total Funds brought forward at 1/1/20	113,115	2,084,396	3,072	2,200,583	2,235,759
Total Funds carried forward at 31.12.21	**129,826**	**2,018,303**	**5,390**	**2,153,518**	**2,200,583**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

		2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets		2,012,591	2,070,807
Current Assets			
Debtors		39,208	31,114
Cash at bank & in hand		215,333	222,073
Liabilities			
amounts falling due within 1 year		(13,613)	(23,411)
Net Current Assets		240,928	229,776
Defined benefit pension scheme net asset or liability		(100,000)	(100,000)
Net Assets		**2,153,519**	**2,200,583**
Funds	Unrestricted	129,826	113,115
	Designated	2,018,303	2,084,396
	Restricted	5,390	3,072
		2,153,519	**2,200,583**

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Regular Offerings		148,636	-	-	148,636	152,497
Special Gifts & Legacies		27,335	13,690	2,095	43,120	24,932
Thankoffering		-	4,350	-	4,350	930
Gift Aid recoverable		35,572	3,402	265	39,239	31,114
Charitable activities		1,125	-	80	1,205	284
Investments - bank interest		511	-	-	511	502
Other						
Use of property		33,277	-	-	33,277	34,013
Repayments		166	-	-	166	277
Government furlough schemes		-	-	-	-	1,102
Total		246,623	21,442	2,440	270,505	245,651
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities						
Local Ministry	Note 3	175,367	73,195	-	248,562	253,569
Support Costs	Note 4	13,275	-	-	13,275	11,998
Grants payable:						
National Mission	Note 5	10,800	-	-	10,800	11,116
World Mission	Note 5	18,662	16,500	-	35,162	20,630
Future Mission	Note 5	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Thankoffering & Special	Note 5	-	6,770	-	6,770	3,514
Total	Note 6	221,104	96,465	-	317,569	300,827
Net Income/(expenditure)		25,519	(75,023)	2,440	(47,065)	(55,176)
Transfers between Funds		(8,808)	8,930	(122)	-	-
		16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,065)	(55,176)
Other recognised Gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes			-	-	-	20,000
Gain/Loss on Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment written off or revalued					-	-
Net Movement in Funds		16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,065)	(35,176)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward						
	Notes 15, 16 & 17	113,115	2,084,396	3,072	2,200,583	2,235,759
Total Funds Carried Forward						
	Notes 15, 16 & 17	**129,826**	**2,018,303**	**5,390**	**2,153,518**	**2,200,583**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the result for the year. All of the Church's activities are classed as continuing.

The notes numbered 1 to 20 form part of these accounts

Analysis of the comparative funds in the previous year (2020) is provided in Note 9

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	Note 11	2,012,591	2,070,807
Current Assets:			
Debtors	Note 12	39,208	31,114
Cash at bank and in hand	Note 13	215,333	222,073
Total current assets		254,541	253,187
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 14	(13,613)	(23,411)
Net current assets or liabilities		240,928	229,776
Total assets less current liabilities		2,253,519	2,300,583
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	Note 14	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Net assets or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability		2,253,519	2,300,583
Defined benefit pension scheme asset or liability		(100,000)	(100,000)
Total net assets or liabilities		**2,153,519**	**2,200,583**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted	Note 15	129,826	113,115
Designated	Note 16	2,018,303	2,084,396
Restricted	Note 17	5,390	3,072
		2,153,519	**2,200,583**

Approved by the Diaconate on 24th May 2022 and signed on their behalf

by ..... Trustee

The notes numbered 1 - 19 form part of these accounts

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The 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. Hertford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

In order to assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption basis, the Trustees have considered the church's financial position, liquidity, unrestricted reserves and forecasts for the foreseeable future taking into account the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. Recognising the uncertainty associated with predicting the economic impact of Covid-19 in particular, the Trustees have considered the impact of a severe economic outcome on Hertford Baptist Church and the effectiveness of management actions that might be taken to mitigate the impact of this stress. Trustees have also considered the circumstances under which the activities of the church would be unable to continue. After taking into account the current level of the charity's cash and reserves and the financial performance since 31 December 2021, the Trustees have concluded that the risk of this situation occurring is remote.

Accordingly, and after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of signing of this report.

On this basis these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church. No such legacies have been notified for the current (2021) or previous (2020) years.

d. Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2021) or previous (2020) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

e Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The church has no endowment funds.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is classified as relating to charitable activities. These activities are further classified between:

- Local Ministry (to which all governance and support costs are attributed)
- Grants payable

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h. Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, payroll and other professional services and governance costs which support the church's activities. These costs have been allocated entirely to local ministry. Decisions on the awarding of grants do not incur support costs as they are made by the church members in the church meeting, based on information provided by the trustees and other members. No support staff time is attributable to the grant awarding process.

i. Operating leases

The church classifies the lease of the office printer/copier as an operating lease. the title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every 5 years while the economic life of such equipment is normally 5 years. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Tangible fixed assets

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use. Buildings' improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment costing £4,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold buildings are depreciated over 50 years following the revaluation in 2011.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum. On this basis, the organ, pews and other fixtures and fittings within the church would have been fully depreciated at 31 December, 2019. As these items are all in continuing use, they were revalued at their insurance valuations at 31 December 2019: organ £146,748 (2018 NBV £4,485) pews, etc. £121,480 (2018 NBV £2,062). They have been depreciated in the current year at a rate of 10% per annum.

k. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l 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 the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

m Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when 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 accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n. Pensions

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date, the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited. Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the Scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

The Minister is eligible to join the Scheme.

Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan as at 31 December 2019 was carried out by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date, the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, while the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increase adjustment (above CPI)	0.50
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement (gilt yield plus 1.75% pa)	2.95
- Post retirement (including benefits matched by the insurance policy) (gilt yield plus 0.5% pa)	1.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 0.5%)	3.20
Deferred pension increases (based on RPI)	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
-Based on CPI with an annual floor of 0% and annual cap of 5%	2.70

Mortality is assumed in accordance with 80% of the S3NA standard mortality table. Future improvements projected from 2013 in line with the "CMI 2019" projection with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.75% p.a. for males and 1.5% p.a. for females with the core smoothing parameter and an additional mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Recovery Plan

In addition to the contributions to the DC plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB plan.

Under the current recovery plan signed in September 2020, deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions are broadly based on the employer's membership as 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

Movement in Balance Sheet Liability

Section 28.11A of FRS102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below

	2021 £	2022 £
Balance Sheet liability at the year start	100,000	120,000
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(4,391)	(3,056)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	0	0
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	4,391	(16,944)
Balance sheet liability at the year end	100,000	100,000

*Comprises any change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in assumptions between year ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

	31 Dec 2021	31-Dec-2020	31-Dec-2019
Discount rate	2.0%	1.4%	2.1%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	4.1%	3.2%	3.3%

The church has been advised that the cost for the church to buy out their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was approximately £40,100 plus cessation event expenses circa £4,500.

As an employer, the church does not contribute to any other defined benefit pension schemes in respect of other employees.

Cessation Event

Consequent upon the departure of the Minister from the church in any given year, the Church would have a cessation event under Section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995. This makes the Church liable for the proportion of the overall deficit (assessed by reference to the cost of securing benefits by the purchase of annuities) applicable to its previous Ministers who were members of the Scheme. At present the church is paying the ongoing deficiency contributions outlined above, and the balance sheet liability is based on those deficiency contributions. However, the Pension Scheme Trustee has the right to quantify and seek payment of the debt at any time at its discretion.

o. Related Charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Central Baptist Association. The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 5.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

2. Legal Status of the Church

Hertford Baptist Church is a registered charity no 1131979 and the church building is a registered place of worship.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

3. Local Ministry

	Unrestricted 2021 £	Designated 2021 £	Restricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Premises	28,309	-	-	28,309	26,063
Depreciation	-	68,859	-	68,859	72,304
Ministry	94,382	-	-	94,382	64,594
Church Activities	7,261	461	-	7,722	7,409
Outreach Activities	3,581	3,875	-	7,456	19,213
Enabling Activities	41,744	-	-	41,744	63,986
Bank charges	90	-	-	90	-
	175,367	73,195	-	248,562	253,569
2020 totals for unrestricted. designated and restricted funds	162,471	91,098	-		253,569

4. Support Costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Audit fee	5,646	5,094
Professional fees	6,044	5,618
Secretarial	1,585	1,286
	13,275	11,998

Governance costs are attributed entirely to local ministry (see note 1h) and unrestricted funds in both 2021 and 2020. The Professional fees relate to to other financial services from the auditor, letting agent's fees and advice regarding GDPR policies

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

5. Grants for Mission

		Unrestricted 2021	Designated 2021	Restricted 2021	Total 2021	Total 2020
National Mission		£	£	£	£	£
Baptist Home Mission (CBA)	(1)	5,800	-	-	5,800	6,116
Future Hope	(1)	2,500	-	-	2,500	3,125
Hertford Young Life	(1)	2,500	-	-	2,500	1,875
Others	-				-	-
		10,800	-	-	10,800	11,116
2020 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(3)	11,116	-	-		11,116
World Mission						
BMS World Mission	(1)	5,800	-	-	5,800	10,174
BMS Relief Fund	-				-	-
Other societies	(3)	620	16,500	-	17,120	900
People International (to support a couple)	(1)	3,690	-	-	3,690	3,690
SIM (to support 1 person)	(1)	2,061	-	-	2,061	2,061
Interserve (M LeRoy)	(1)	1,365	-	-	1,365	1,365
Matiza Family (2020 OM)	(1)	3,600	-	-	3,600	2,440
Latin Link (W Davies)	(1)	1,526	-	-	1,526	-
		18,662	16,500	-	35,162	20,630
2020 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(6)	18,623	-	2,007		20,630
Future Mission						
Spurgeons College	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
All Nations Christian College	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Training Support	-	-	-	-	-	-
		3,000	-	-	3,000	-
2020 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds		-	-	-		-
Thankoffering & Special Appeal						
Thankoffering	(2)	-	6,770	-	6,770	3,252
Special Appeal		-	-	-	-	262
		-	6,770	-	6,770	3,514
2020 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(2)	-	3,252	-		3,252

14 (2020 11) separate grants were paid out to institutions. The number of grants made in each category are disclosed above in brackets. Some single grants are paid in monthly or quarterly instalments. No support costs are apportioned to the payment of grants to Mission.

6. Total Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Local Ministry	115,298	28,309	104,955	248,562	253,569
National Mission	-	-	10,800	10,800	11,116
World Mission	-	-	35,162	35,162	20,630
Future Mission	-	-	3,000	3,000	-
Thankoffering	-	-	6,770	6,770	3,252
Special Appeals	-	-	-	-	262
Governance	-	-	13,275	13,275	11,998
	115,298	28,309	173,962	317,569	300,827

Total expenditure was £317,569 (2020: £300,827) of which £221,104 was unrestricted (2020: £204,208) £96,465 was designated (2020: £94,350) and none was restricted (2020: £2,269)

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2021 £	2020 £
Stipends, Expenses & Wages	101,490	93,005
Social Security Costs	4,364	3,429
Pensions Costs	9,444	8,182
	115,298	104,616

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds

2 pastors were remunerated £59,972 (2020: 2 pastors £56,050) using scales recommended by the Baptist Union and according to the relevant agreement with the Charity Commission. 1 trustee was remunerated £12,514 (2020: Nil) during the year for work not related to his role as a trustee.
No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: nil).
During the year, phone, travel and meal expenses totalling £1,052 were reimbursed to 2 pastors and 1 trustee (2020: phone, travel and meal expenses of £559 to 2 pastors and 1 trustee). In addition, 2 pastors and 1 trustees made purchases totalling £3,292 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2020: 2 pastors and 2 trustees, £5,410).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church comprise the church office secretary and the administrator (who are employees) and the two cashiers and the youth and children's work administrator (who are volunteers). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (2 individuals) were £23,939 (2020: 3 individuals, £32,484). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any member of key management personnel (2020: 1 individual, £47). In addition, No key management personnel (non-trustees) made purchases on behalf of the church (2020: 2 key management personnel (non trustees), £181).

8 Staff Numbers

Average Number of Employees

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Ministers	1	1
Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer	1	1
Secretaries/Administrators (all part-time)	2	2
Cleaner (part-time)	1	1
	5	5

9 Comparative figures (2020) for the separate classes of funds shown in total on the face of the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies				
Regular Offerings	152,497	-	-	152,497
Special Gifts & Legacies	1,967	21,396	1,569	24,932
Thankoffering	-	930	-	930
Gift Aid recoverable	27,933	2,921	260	31,114
Charitable activities	284	-	-	284
Investments - bank interest	502	-	-	502
Other				-
Use of property	34,013	-	-	34,013
Repayments	277	-	-	277
Government furlough schemes	1,102	-	-	1,102
Total	218,575	25,247	1,829	245,651
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Local Ministry	162,471	91,098	-	253,569
Support Costs	11,998	-	-	11,998
Grants payable				
National Mission	11,116	-	-	11,116
World Mission	18,623	-	2,007	20,630
Future Mission	-	-	-	-
Thankoffering & Special	-	3,252	262	3,514
Total	204,208	94,350	2,269	300,827
Net Income/(Expenditure)	14,367	(69,103)	(440)	(55,176)
Transfers between Funds	(19,332)	19,332	-	-
	(4,965)	(49,771)	(440)	(55,176)
Other recognised Gains/(Losses)Gains & (Losses)				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	20,000	-	-	20,000
Gain/Loss on fixtures, fittings and equipment written off or revalued	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	15,035	(49,771)	(440)	(35,176)
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 January 2020	98,080	2,134,167	3,512	2,235,759
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 December 2020	113,115	2,084,396	3,072	2,200,583

10 Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves members of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £35,926 (2020 £27,683)

No expenses were paid to any related party (2020: nil). 1 person related to the trustees made purchases totalling £100 on behalf of the church and was reimbursed (2020: 1 related party. £367)
No reimbursements were made to parties related to the key management personnel (2020: nil).

The daughter-in-law of one of the trustees was paid nothing for book-keeping work (2020: £963) carried out by her on behalf of the church.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2021	468,000	1,595,220	418,450	2,481,670
Disposals				-
Revaluation			-	-
Additions	-	-	10,644	10,644
At 31 December 2021	468,000	1,595,220	429,094	2,492,314
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2020	-	283,393	127,470	410,863
Disposals				-
Revaluation			-	-
Charge for the year	-	31,697	37,162	68,859
At 31 December 2021	-	315,090	164,632	479,723
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2021	468,000	1,280,130	264,462	2,012,591
At 31 December 2020	468,000	1,311,827	290,980	2,070,807

Freehold Land and Buildings

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street. Hertford. currently used as offices and meeting rooms. are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use.

The value of buildings will be depreciated over 50 years under FRS 15 following the valuation in December 2011. Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum on the valuation figure

12. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	-	-
Income Tax Recoverable	39,208	31,114
	39,208	31,114

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

13. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank Accounts	215,288	222,016
Petty Cash	45	57
	215,333	222,073

14. Liabilities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Payroll liabilities	2,751	5,810
Accruals	10,862	17,601
	13,613	23,411
Creditors Due > 1 year	-	-
	-	-

15. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance	Movement				Balance
	1.1.21	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Pension Liability	31.12.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Church Funds	113,115	246,623	221,104	(8,808)	-	129,826

A transfer was made to Designated Funds to reflect capitalised improvements to the church's fixtures and fittings. The balance of funds related to the Christians Against Poverty project was transferred to General Funds as the project is now supported as part of the General work of the church.

16. Designated Funds

	Balance				Gains and	Balance
	1.1.21	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	losses	31.12.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thankoffering	3,510	5,383	6,770	-	-	2,123
Training Support	1,431	360	-	-	-	1,791
Other designated donations	8,648	15,699	20,836	(1,714)	-	1,797
	13,589	21,442	27,606	(1,714)	-	5,711
Tangible fixed assets	2,070,807	-	68,859	10,644	-	2,012,592
	2,084,396	21,442	96,465	8,930	-	2,018,303

The Thankoffering funds are raised each year for specific causes. The Training Support Fund supports individuals training for Christian service through full or part-time courses or on training placements. The balance of funds related to the Christians Against Poverty project was transferred to General Funds as the project is now supported as part of the General work of the church.

The Tangible Fixed Assets Fund (TFAF) is set aside to represent the net book value of the property of the church. £10,644 was transferred from General Funds to the TFAF to reflect the capitalisation of kitchen improvements in accordance with the accounting policies.

17. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.21 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31.12.21 £
Baptist societies	2,347	2,440	-	(122)	-	4,665
Others	725	-	-	-	-	725
	3,072	2,440	-	(122)	-	5,390

Baptist societies and other funds are ongoing funds held for specific societies, the majority of which are paid out in the course of the year.

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total Assets £
Unrestricted Funds (note 15)	-	129,826	129,826
Designated Funds (note 16)	2,012,591	5,712	2,018,303
Restricted Funds (note 17)	-	5,390	5,390
	2,012,591	140,928	2,153,519

19. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2021 there were commitments under operating leases

	Land & Buildings £	Other £	2020 £
Expiring within 1 year	-	1,736	828
Expiring within 2-5 years	-	3,402	-
Expiring in over 5 years	-	-	-
	-	5,138	828

20. Post Balance Sheet

There are no material post balance sheets events to report, although Trustees note the inflationary pressures which may impact future financial performance and events in Ukraine which may contribute to above inflation increases in energy costs once current hedges expire

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
- Regular Offerings	148,636	-	-	148,636	152,497
- Special Gifts & Legacies	27,335	13,690	2,095	43,120	24,932
- Thankoffering	-	4,350	-	4,350	930
- Gift Aid recoverable	35,572	3,402	265	39,239	31,114
Charitable Activities	1,125	-	80	1,205	284
Activities which generate funds					
- Use of property	33,277	-	-	33,277	34,013
- Repayments	166	-	-	166	277
- Bank interest	511	-	-	511	502
- Government furlough schemes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	246,623	21,442	2,440	270,505	244,549
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Local Ministry	175,367	73,195	-	248,562	253,569
Governance Costs	13,275	-	-	13,275	11,998
Grants payable:					
- National Mission	10,800	-	-	10,800	11,116
- World Mission	18,662	16,500	-	35,162	20,630
- Future Mission	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
- Thankoffering & Special	-	6,770	-	6,770	3,514
Total	221,104	96,465	-	317,569	300,827
Net Income/(expenditure)	25,519	(75,023)	2,440	(47,065)	(56,278)
Transfers between funds	(8,808)	8,930	(122)	-	-
	16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,064)	(56,278)
Actuarial Gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-	20,000
Net Movement in Funds	16,711	(66,093)	2,318	(47,065)	(35,176)
Total Funds brought forward at 1/1/20	113,115	2,084,396	3,072	2,200,583	2,235,759
Total Funds carried forward at 31.12.21	**129,826**	**2,018,303**	**5,390**	**2,153,518**	**2,200,583**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

		2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets		2,012,591	2,070,807
Current Assets			
Debtors		39,208	31,114
Cash at bank & in hand		215,333	222,073
Liabilities			
amounts falling due within 1 year		(13,613)	(23,411)
Net Current Assets		240,928	229,776
Defined benefit pension scheme net asset or liability		(100,000)	(100,000)
Net Assets		**2,153,519**	**2,200,583**
Funds	Unrestricted	129,826	113,115
	Designated	2,018,303	2,084,396
	Restricted	5,390	3,072
		2,153,519	**2,200,583**

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1131979

Accounts

Hertford Baptist Church

Hertford Baptist Church

'Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'

Port Hill
Hertford
Hertfordshire

A registered place of worship

Registered Charity No 1131979

Report of the Trustees

&

Accounts

1 January - 31 December 2020

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement of the charity for the year ending 31st of December 2020 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for the Trustees report and accounts for submission to the Charities Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015). The 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 the adoption of the 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) as amended by the Update Bulletin for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn.

In preparing this report, the trustees have taken note of all the requirements and guidance issued by the Charity Commission including the specific guidance for religious charities on public benefit. The charity's policy is to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and comply with approved accounting standards.

Chair's report

Hertford Baptist Church has risen admirably to the challenge presented by Covid-19 during 2020 in spite of a significant upheaval to the way it carries out its work and ministry in the community of Hertford. During 2020, the work of the church has been led, in partnership with the Leadership Team, by Andrew Clark as Pastor and Ministry Team Leader, with Dawn Weston as Team Leader for Pastoral Care and Prayer. Advertising in early 2020 for a Family and Children's Worker to supplement the team yielded no appointment being made, and with the advent of the pandemic, the recruitment process was put on hold. Our long-serving Office Secretary, Heather Read, resigned her post at the end of 2019 and Anna Sanders was appointed as part-time Office Administrator from February 2020. John Goligher continues as part-time Finance Administrator.

The year began with a strong focus on our key text for the year – '*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*' (Joshua 1:9). This very quickly took on new significance as national lockdowns were announced in March, and as in-person services and activities were halted and much of our communication moved online via Facebook Live, Youtube and Zoom. Considerable pastoral work was undertaken to ensure vulnerable members were supported and reassured, particularly those who are elderly or who were instructed to enter shielding.

For much of the second and third quarters of 2020, Facebook Live was the host for live daily midday prayer services accessible to the whole community, and live Sunday morning and evening services were broadcast live each week before moving to pre-recorded worship services for the last quarter. This methodology has enabled the church to carry out its key purpose of teaching and preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and ministering to people's felt needs in the fellowship and beyond. Our online services have enabled us to significantly extend the reach of our preaching and teaching ministry.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

May 2020 was due to contain the Church Members Annual General Meeting, however this meeting was postponed due to the pandemic. In a Leadership Team meeting of trustees, the Church Officers (Church Secretary Nigel Hollingsworth and Treasurer Jon Thompson) agreed to serve for one more year. One Deacon, Paula Hine, whose three-year term expired in May 2020 agreed to take on an initial three year term, which will be ratified by vote in the next Church Members AGM. In December 2020, Jon Thompson became unable to continue his duties and so John Goligher was enlisted as Treasurer, serving until the next AGM in May 2021.

During 2020, Jon Thompson begun exploration of the requirements of becoming a CIO, and this work will be continued into 2021. The church had also launched in early 2020 on a 'Big Conversation' regarding the future direction of the church's ministry. As this was predicated on in person workshops and consultations, this work was put on hold.

In addition to our Sunday worship services, the church continues to be actively involved with the community throughout the week in many and varied ways, including providing key input to local organisations such as the Hertford and District Foodbank, FutureHope, Young Life and our continued facilitation of our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre in partnership with Christ Church Ware. Mrs Debs Thompson fulfils the role of Debt Coach in the CAP centre in behalf of Hertford Baptist Church and means that the church is actively seeking to reduce the impact of debt and poverty in the community. Through our 'Hope Fund', set up as a pastoral and relief support scheme during the pandemic, we have been able to provide financial gifts, food vouchers, and gifts of encouragement to those who have been vulnerable. We have been able to extend this encouragement and support to key workers in schools, the local food bank, and to the CAP debt centre clients.

This momentous year has stretched the ministry of the church in new directions, but we have made significant contributions to the lives of many people, and continue in our work to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, serving the community, and adding hope and cohesion in a confusing season of life.

Rev Andrew M Clark, MA
Pastor and Ministry Team Leader

OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The Core Purpose of the Church is "Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ." Our vision and value statements define the nature of the Church and its vision for growth. The church seeks to encourage individual members to demonstrate these values in their own lives and the Calls to Action of the church are expressed as 'Meet God', 'Make Friends', 'Make a Difference'.

The Church follows the doctrinal basis contained in its governing document and seeks to apply this in today's society and culture.

The Church's principal aim is to advance the Christian faith in Hertford and surrounding areas and through the Christian church nationally and worldwide, and to serve the spiritual, emotional, moral and physical needs of the local community. To help fulfil these objectives, Hertford Baptist Church maintains a registered place of worship and associated buildings, for Christian worship, fellowship, teaching and community activities. Under non pandemic conditions regular weekly public Sunday morning services are conducted on the premises. These historically attract between 150 – 170 people from the local community each week. In addition, we provide a wide range of weekday activities for all ages and many sections of society, to which all are welcome. To achieve the benefits of smaller scale group activities, Home Groups meet weekly for mutual encouragement and support.

However 2020 has been very different. The church closed for services within the building following government guidelines in March 2020. Weekly services have been prepared and run on line on a weekly basis since the lockdown.

In addition during the first lockdown daily midday prayers were on line. During the later part of the year as restruictions were lifted, arrangements were made for a number of prayer meetings and reflective services which were held in the church building. people wishing to attend had to pre book and arrangements were made within the building to ensure that we were COVID 19 compliant following Government and Baptist Union guidelines.

All other church based activites such as young peoples work, meetings for the elderly, golden lunch, brownies and toddlers club have been stopped during the year from meeting in the church building.

Young peoples work has continued on a weekly basis on line and when possible, complying with COVID rules, socially distanced in the open.
although the work with the elderly has stopped face to face people involved have been regularly communicated with by telephone.

Bible study groups within the church have migrated to Zoom or similar meetings.

In addition to our core purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith, and as an expression of that core purpose, the church seeks to provide additional public benefit through the provision of activities such as lunches for the elderly (once a month), support for those with learning disabilities (monthly), youth club run on the premises in conjunction with Hertford Young Life. as stated above all these activities have been suspended during the pandemic.

We continue engagement with the local community through the projects including the Food Bank, and Future Hope (working with young people dealing with crises such as addiction, mental health

problems and family breakdown), and we have linked to the church a branch of Christians Againsts Poverty (CAP) , this function has continues to run during 2020. The church also supports a variety of projects caring for the poorest and neediest around the world through social action and evangelism.

At the end of 2019 the staffing included a Pastor & Ministry team leader, a Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer, one part-time administrator, a part-time secretary and a part-time cleaner. These employees work alongside over 150 voluntary workers without whom the church could not function.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Staff

Rev. Andrew Clark, has continued as Pastor & Ministry team leader.

Dawn Weston, team Leader for Pastoral Care was appointed in July 2019.

John Goligher has continued to work as Finance Administrator.

The Office Secretary, Anna Saunders, worked to support the functions of the Church. Anna saunders started her role at Hertford Baptist Church at the beginning of the year. Our part-time cleaner remains in post.

ACTIVITIES and ORGANISATIONS

The church has maintained all its major areas of work during the year, although in a very different manner to previous years following the start of the COVID pandemic early in the year.

The church continued to offer a single morning service, since march 2020 this has been offered on line rather than in the church buildings. There were 268 Church Members at the end of the year. Before COVID approximately 156 adults and 26 young people attend one or more services on Sundays. The children and young people's activities, the toddler club and the regular meetings for more elderly folk are all well supported. Fifteen mid-week home groups meet regularly.

Since the start of the pandemic we have held weekly church services on line. At the time of broadcasting approximately 70 devices are recorded logging in but by the end of the week the viewing numbers are approximately 275 – 300.

As stated previously Youth and children's activities have continued throughout 2020 but in a very different format to previous years. Weekly online meetings have been run for 5 – 11 year olds and this has been led by Dawn Weston. Activities aimed at young people have been key to maintaining and growing these age groups in the church family. The work with older young people has grown and has been strengthened by the clear leadership and support of Ian & Jemma Chandler and their team and this has continued strongly during 2020 with on line contact and meeting up, socially distanced externally where appropriate.

The Church has been pleased to work closely with the Young Life organisation in Hertford through which a number of young people with little or no knowledge of Christianity have come to faith

during the year with a youth club being run in the church premises on a weekly basis. FutureHope, 'helping people in crisis gain hope and a future', focussing primarily on young people ages 11-19, and is supported by members of the Church.

A variety of groups and activities continue in their important work at Hertford Baptist Church. The premises were used at the start of the year on a weekly basis by a Homestart Group who work with young parents and children. Meeting in person at the church premises has been suspended since March 2020. it is hopped to resume as soon as government guidline allow.

The Hertford Foodbank continues to draw volunteers from Hertford Baptist Church and other churches in Hertford. Many people are involved in the organisation and there is a good partnership with other agencies working in the community.

The Crosslinks group at Hertford Baptist Church is particularly for adults (16+) with learning disabilities and is run by 19 leaders and helpers. This social network with a Christian foundation has been going for thirteen years. Crosslinks provide opportunities for fun, food and friendship as well as enabling individuals to express themselves spiritually. Members of the group are included and involved in worship and fellowship and are supported in making informed choices about Christianity. The meeting of this group has been suspended, particularly bearing in mind the vulnerability of the people involved, until the pandemic crisis is over.

The Church's work with Senior Citizens has been suspended since March 2020 until the end of the year due to the pandemic. Normally this would include Tuesday Fellowship and Tuesday Fellowship Activities draw 15 - 20 people and is enjoyed by all who attend. The monthly "Golden Lunch" welcomes around 70 people for a hot lunch and fellowship. Several times a year, a day-long event called CAMEO is organised when Seniors enjoy a day of recreation and fellowship together. Regular contact has been maintained with the senior citizens by the leaders of the groups throughout the year.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hertford Baptist Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission No. 1131979, constituted as an Unincorporated Charitable Association. It is governed by a Foundation Trust Deed dated 16 November 1903 enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 21 November 1903, by a constitution approved by the Charity Commission on 5 October 2009 and by Declaration of The Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 and the Baptist Trusts for Manses 2004, dated 18 April 2006. The church is the beneficial owner of freehold property in Hertford, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

Appointment of trustees

Hertford Baptist Church is a fully independent organisation and the Church Members' Meeting, held six times a year, is the decision-making body. The Church Members' Meeting appoints deacons who act as managing trustees. The appointment of trustees requires the support of not less than 50% eligible votes cast. Deacons are appointed for a period of three years and may serve for two consecutive periods of three years before being required to stand down for a minimum of one year. Two officers, a secretary and a treasurer, are elected annually and are ex officio deacons and managing trustees. Information is provided for those considering offering themselves for election as deacons and trustees, as is induction and ongoing training for those elected.

Organisation

The day-to-day programme and spiritual welfare of the church are directed by the the pastors, in consultation with the, Leadership and Staff Teams.

Individual deacons have a lead role in various aspects of the church's ministry. The pastor, deacons and trustees meet twice-monthly to determine, approve and monitor the strategy and programme of the church, to receive financial reports, and to undertake the management responsibilities of the charity, and also for prayer. They meet at least once annually for an extended meeting to consider strategic development.

Hertford Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, its regional organisation the Central Baptist Association, and a number of other organisations with which it identifies, including the Evangelical Alliance and the local ecumenical group, Hertford and District Churches Together.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

With the exception of Pastors, who by nature of their appointment are trustees and also paid employees, none of the charities other trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity as trustees. John Goligher (Treasurer until 21st May 2019 when he retired as a trustee) is employed as the financial administrator for the church and was appointed to this position in November 2014. John Goligher was re-appointed as Church Treasurer in January 2021 following John Thompson's retirement from the Church Treasurer role in December 2020.
Any connection between a trustee and senior manager of the charity with a supplier or external organisation must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related transactions were reported.

Hertford Baptist Church has a liability emanating from its participation in the Baptist Union Defined Benefit Pension Scheme; this scheme was closed at the end of 2011. This liability is a result of previously employed Ministers/Pastors being enrolled in the scheme while employed by Hertford Baptist Church. The trustees of the Baptist Union Pension Scheme had stated their intention that each participating church will have their actual debt calculated. As at 28/02/2017, the technical provisions deficit was £156 million, equating to an estimated debt of £208,300 for HBC.
The trustees considered it prudent to make a provision in the accounts to the value of £120,000 at the end of 2016 and increased this provision further at the end of 2017 by £10,000 making a total provision of £130,000. As the deficit has decreased over time, the deficit provision has been reduced by £10,000 at the end of 2017 and by a further £20,000 at the end of 2020. The current Baptist Union (defined benefit) pension scheme provision now stands at £100,000.
Various organisations are associated with the church and their leaders are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting. Some of these small organisations keep their own accounts and have separate bank accounts; none exceed £5,000 in income or expenditure per annum. Other unrelated organisations, which are compatible with the church's values, use the church premises and usually pay a nominal fee for doing so. There are no other legal or formal links with related parties.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff (including Pastors) is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the trustees consider the advice of 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain' when setting pay levels.

Risk management

A policy of continuous risk assessment and review is adopted. A Health & Safety Policy Document was formally adopted by the Church Meeting in May 2004, and a Health & Safety Officer appointed. These policies are reviewed annually, and any revisions reported to the members at the AGM in May.

A range of risk assessments, action plans and work activities are carried out periodically. Formerly, a Safeguarding Children & Youth Policy and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy was reviewed yearly and is adopted at the Church meeting. In September 2018, built on a model document from the Baptist Union, a new combined Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk was adopted and will now be reviewed and adopted annually as before.

Policies have been put in place during 2020 to ensure the organisation is complying with Governement guidelines regarding the COVID pandemic. The church has purchased appropriate screens, hand sanitiser machines and installed necessary signage throughout the building to ensure that when the buildings are able to be opened up again to all those attending will be able to meet and worhip in a COVID 'safe' environment. as part of this strategy agreement was reached to change all the old fabric covered chairs in the hall for new chairs that can easily be wiped down with necessary anticeptic products.

The church currently made a deficit contribution of 12% (£4,000) from January 2016 (previously 11% during 2015) into the BU defined benefit scheme and while these payments continue there is no immediate expectation that this debt will require to be paid. This contribution increased from 12% to 14% from January 2018 and the contribution for 2020 was £4,184.
During 2020 the trustees of the Baptist Union Pension DC contribution sheme took the decision to reduce the employers deficit contribution, HBC's deficit contribution for 2020 was £3,057
It should be noted that since February 2017 the estimated debt for HBC has steadily reduced and trustees believe that reducing our provision from £120,000 to £100,000 is both prudent and justified.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial income is derived from voluntary donations and regular giving by church members and those who attend the church, supplemented by contributions to activities by those taking part, and some income from the hiring of the premises. Donations during the year of just under £152,500 were received through regular offerings. This was a decrease on the previous year and the budgeted target.This decline in the most part is due to impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. The church building has been closed for regular worship and therefore weekly cash offerings have not been possible.

A significant proportion of the church's income is given, by way of donations, to Christian mission and relief groups and training colleges, to individuals in training for Christian service; people engaged in Christian work, mostly overseas and through their commissioning organisations. These grants are approved annually by the Church Members' Meeting and no commitment is made to grants in advance or to future funding, with the funding for such grants being received during the year of payment. During 2020 the church was able, through the generosity of members and friends, to make donations to external causes amounting to £35,260 or about 16% of total non-capital expenditure.
A small pastoral care fund is also available for immediate relief of need. Full disclosure of material grants made is included in the notes to the accounts including the names of individuals ultimately benefiting from material amounts.

Reserves at the end of the year stood at £213,115 before making provision of £100,000 for the shortfall in the BU Pension defined benefit scheme. This leaves a free reserve of £113,115 which is an increase of £ 25,035 on the previous year. The trustees consider the free reserve of £113,115 to be adequate for the future purposes of the church for the coming year.

Funds are 'restricted' when given for a specific purpose and generally these are disbursed before the end of the financial year. 'Designated' funds are funds designated by the managing trustees for a particular purpose, and in the interests of clarity, the tangible fixed assets of the church (land, buildings, fixtures and fittings) which are not normally available for general purposes are held as designated funds. The expectation is that funds will be used for the furtherance of the Church's objectives in the year received and there are no specific investment powers. The policy is that reserves of unrestricted funds (free reserves) should normally be not less than the equivalent of 3 months' expenditure and not exceed 12 months' expenditure. Reserves are currently the equivalent 4 months budgeted expenditure and the managing trustees consider this adequate for the year ahead. Reserve funds should be readily accessible. Cash investments should be retained in high interest, instant access, bank accounts.

The property should be used to further the aims of the Church and not used for investment purposes, except for short-term letting of the temporarily vacant housing.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the course of 2020, the Church was challenged to reflect on their own faith and desire to grow the Christian community within Hertford and the surrounding areas. This has progressed to us looking at how we can establish Missional Communities within our Church to reach out to those around us in a positive Christian manner and share the gospel with others in a practical and meaningful way.

Our Pastor, Andrew Clark is supported by Dawn Weston as Pastoral Care and Prayer Worker together with a team of office staff. We are proposing to appoint a Children and Families Worker to grow the team and reach out to families in particular. This position has been for from the 1st May 2021.

We are also reviewing the use of our premises and considering how we need to develop these facilities to enable better and wider use of the space to further support our mission of leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

COVID 19 - 2020

The Church has continued to operate during the COVID 19 pandemic using electronic means for meetings and communications. One service is held online on a Sunday on Facebook live and, on average, 250 individuals or households participate, either during the live stream or by watching the recordings. The services are also made available on CD when requested. The other principal means of meeting is via Zoom. Zoom meetings have been used to maintain the Youth and Children's work, outreach to the community and Home Group meetings. These new forms of meetings have reached a wider audience than their physical equivalents and many people who would not ordinarily attend a church have been keen participants. A church newsletter has been prepared weekly and is distributed across the fellowship by email and post.

The Leadership Team has continued to meet regularly via Zoom. Its meetings are held privately using headphones to maintain confidentiality.

The COVID 19 pandemic has had some impact on the finances of the church. For the full year income was down by 6% a decline against budget of £13,865. However, expenditure also reduced during this time by £18,911 or 7%.Therefore there are currently no concerns with regard to cash flow.
In addition, a Hope Fund was set up to provide support and blessing to people in the fellowship or known to the church affected by the pandemic. This has received income in excess of £18k including gift aid.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

No funds are held on behalf of others as Custodian Trustee.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1131979
Church office:	13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford SG14 1PL
Telephone:	01992 582951
Email:	theoffice@hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Website:	www.hertfordbaptist.org.uk
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc, 5/6 Market Place, Hertford SG14 1DF (New address as at 25th January 2018)
Solicitors:	Longmores, 24 Castle Street, Hertford SG14 1HP
Auditors:	Cansdales Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors, Bourbon Court, Nightingales Corner, Little Chalfont, Bucks HP7 9QS

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

TRUSTEES

Pastor & Ministry Team Leader	Rev. Andrew Clark appointed from Sept 2017**
Pastoral Care & Prayer Worker	Dawn Weston appointed from July 2019

The Managing Trustees when this report was approved were the Pastors named above and:

Caroline Davies	to May 2021
Jeremy Forrester	to May 2021
John Goligher	Appointed as Treasurer - January 2021
Nigel Hollingsworth	Church Secretary – to May 2021
Paula Hine	from May 2017
John Low	Church Secretary – May 2021
Rosalind McFiggans	to May 2021
Paul Nicholson	from May 2021
David Snell	from May 2021
Tim Strong	from 2016
Jonathan Thompson	to December 2020
Carey White	from July 2016

*Church officers are appointed or re-appointed annually by members vote at the annual general meeting in May.

** Andrew Clark appointed Pastor and Ministry Team Leader 20th November 2018

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

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 (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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 for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping 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 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and

- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Diaconate on the 8th of June and signed on their behalf by:





Thomas John S Goligher Trustee **John Low Trustee**

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Hertford Baptist Church

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hertford Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and the related notes numbered 1 to 19 to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 11, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of Report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

CANSDALES Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants & registered Auditors

Bourbon Court
Nightingales Corner
Little Chalfont
Bucks, HP7 9QS

Date:

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Regular Offerings		152,497	-	-	152,497	167,546
Special Gifts & Legacies		1,967	21,396	1,569	24,932	12,735
Thankoffering		-	930	-	930	10,031
Gift Aid recoverable		27,933	2,921	260	31,114	37,578
Charitable activities		284	-	-	284	2,240
Investments - bank interest		502	-	-	502	1,580
Other						
Use of property		34,013	-	-	34,013	21,959
Repayments		277	-	-	277	186
Government furlough schemes		1,102	-	-	1,102	-
Total		218,575	25,247	1,829	245,651	253,855
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities						
Local Ministry	Note 3	162,471	91,098	-	253,569	214,897
Support Costs	Note 4	11,998	-	-	11,998	15,398
Grants payable:						
National Mission	Note 5	11,116	-	-	11,116	10,220
World Mission	Note 5	18,623	-	2,007	20,630	15,871
Future Mission	Note 5	-	-	-	-	-
Thankoffering & Special	Note 5	-	3,252	262	3,514	10,303
Total	Note 6	204,208	94,350	2,269	300,827	266,689
Net Income/(expenditure)		14,367	(69,103)	(440)	(55,176)	(12,834)
Transfers between Funds		(19,332)	19,332	-	-	-
		(4,965)	(49,771)	(440)	(55,176)	(12,834)
Other recognised Gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Gain/Loss on Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment written off or revalued					-	261,681
Net Movement in Funds		15,035	(49,771)	(440)	(35,176)	248,847
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds Brought Forward	Notes 15, 16 & 17	98,080	2,134,167	3,512	2,235,759	1,986,912
Total Funds Carried Forward	Notes 15, 16 & 17	**113,115**	**2,084,396**	**3,072**	**2,200,583**	**2,235,759**

There are no recognised gains and losses other than the result for the year. All of the Church's activities are classed as continuing.

The notes numbered 1 to 20 form part of these accounts

Analysis of the comparative funds in the previous year (2019) is provided in Note 9.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	Note 11	2,070,807	2,122,226
Current Assets:			
Debtors	Note 12	31,114	35,578
Cash at bank and in hand	Note 13	222,073	206,617
Total current assets		253,187	242,195
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 14	(23,411)	(8,662)
Net current assets or liabilities		229,776	233,533
Total assets less current liabilities		2,300,583	2,355,759
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	Note 14	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Net assets or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability		2,300,583	2,355,759
Defined benefit pension scheme asset or liability		(100,000)	(120,000)
Total net assets or liabilities		**2,200,583**	**2,235,759**
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted	Note 15	113,115	98,080
Designated	Note 16	2,084,396	2,134,167
Restricted	Note 17	3,072	3,512
		2,200,583	**2,235,759**

Approved by the Diaconate on 8th of June 2021 and signed on their behalf



by ....., Trustee

The notes numbered 1 - 19 form part of these accounts

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) as amended by the Update Bulletin for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn and in accordance with charity law applicable in the UK.

The 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. Hertford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The church currently has a membership of 262 and about 350 people attended one or more services on Sundays before the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions were introduced. The Church has continued to operate during the pandemic using electronic means for meetings and communications. Two services are held each Sunday on Facebook live and, on average, 250 individuals or households participate, either during the live stream or by watching the recordings. The services are also made available on CD when requested. The church relies on the continued support of the membership and others who attend services, and on their donations.

The pandemic has had an impact on the finances of the church. At the end of 2020 our regular offerings had reduced by 7% and total income by 6%. Operating restrictions applying during the COVID 19 pandemic have reduced expenditure in the same period by 7% of what was budgeted. There were no concerns regarding cash flow during 2020 and none foreseen for 2021. In addition, a Hope Fund was set up to provide support and blessing to people in the fellowship or known to the church affected by the pandemic. This has received income of £18,029 including gift aid.

The church's individual share of liability for the shortfall in the Baptist Union's Defined Benefit Pension Scheme (now closed, see note 1n) has been the subject of an actuarial calculation by the Baptist Union as at 31st of December 2016. At that time the value of the assets held in the scheme were valued at £219m. The target level of assets needed to pay benefits was £312m. The Deficit was £93m. Hertford Baptist Church had an estimated employer Debt as at the 31st December 2019 of £58,300. The estimated employer debt for Hertford Baptist Church as at the 31st December 2020 was £59,700. The estimated debt for Hertford Baptist Church has reduced considerably over the past years and may be more or less than has been provided for in these accounts.

On this basis these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

c. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. 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 treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. No such legacies have been notified for the current (2020) or previous (2019) years.

d. Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2020) or previous (2019) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

e. Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The church has no endowment funds.

g. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is classified as relating to charitable activities. These activities are further classified between:

- Local Ministry (to which all governance and support costs are attributed)
- Grants payable

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h. Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the church but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, payroll and other professional services and governance costs which support the church's activities. These costs have been allocated entirely to local ministry. Decisions on the awarding of grants do not incur support costs as they are made by the church members in the church meeting, based on information provided by the trustees and other members. No support staff time is attributable to the grant awarding process.

i. Operating leases

The church classifies the lease of the office printer/copier as an operating lease; the title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every 5 years while the economic life of such equipment is normally 5 years. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Tangible fixed assets

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use. Buildings improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment costing £4,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold buildings are depreciated over 50 years following the revaluation in 2011.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum. On this basis, the organ, pews and other fixtures and fittings within the church would have been fully depreciated at 31 December, 2019. As these items are all in continuing use, they were revalued at their insurance valuations at 31 December 2019; organ £146,748 (2018 NBV £4,485) pews, etc. £121,480 (2018 NBV £2,062). They have been depreciated in the current year at a rate of 10% per annum.

k. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l. 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 the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

m. Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when 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 accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n. Pensions

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited).

The Ministers are eligible to join the Scheme, which is not contracted out of the State Second Pension.

Since January 2012, pension provision has been made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme.

In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income (or 3% if the employer is in the segregated DC section) to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Unum Limited. Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan showed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £18 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). As a result of the valuation, in addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, it was agreed that the standard rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan will remain at previously agreed levels, increasing each year in line with increases in the Minimum Pensionable Income. The deficiency contributions are broadly based on 12% of Pensionable Income / Minimum Pensionable Income, reflecting each employer's contributions in March 2015. Some employers that were involved in the DB plan for a short period pay lower contributions. The Trustee and the Council agreed a 50% reduction for all deficiency contributions payable between 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020.

In addition, the Baptist Union of Great Britain agreed to contribute a lump sum of £0.5m by 31 December 2020. The current Recovery Plan dated 30 September 2020 envisages deficiency contributions continuing until 30 June 2026.

BAPTISTS TOGETHER
BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME

The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 1.0% pa)	3.20
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	2.95
- Post retirement	1.70
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	2.70

As there is a large number of contributing employers participating in the Scheme, the Church is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, due to the nature of the Scheme, the profit and loss charge for the period represents the employer contributions payable. The total pension cost for the Church is £8,182 (2019 £10,589).

Consequent upon the departure of the Minister from the church in any given year, the Church would have a cessation event under Section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995. This makes the Church liable for the proportion of the overall deficit (assessed by reference to the cost of securing benefits by the purchase of annuities) applicable to its previous Ministers who were members of the Scheme. It is not possible to quantify this debt without an actuarial calculation. In order to avoid the cost of such a calculation and because the church may not be able to continue its charitable activities following payment of the employer debt which arises upon a cessation event, the Pension Scheme Trustee (after consulting the Pensions Regulator) is not currently pursuing the employer debt, but is instead permitting the church to pay the ongoing deficiency contributions outlined above. However, the Pension Scheme Trustee has the right to quantify and seek payment of the debt at any time at its discretion.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due as at 31 December 2022.

As an employer, the church does not contribute to any other defined benefit pension schemes in respect of other employees.

2. Legal Status of the Church

Hertford Baptist Church is a registered charity no. 1131979 and the church building is a registered place of worship.

3. Local Ministry

	Unrestricted 2020	Designated 2020	Restricted 2020	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Premises	26,063	-	-	26,063	31,372
Depreciation	-	72,304	-	72,304	44,631
Ministry	64,594	-	-	64,594	58,808
Church Activities	7,369	40	-	7,409	12,409
Outreach Activities	459	18,754	-	19,213	4,919
Enabling Activities	63,986	-	-	63,986	62,727
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	31
	162,471	91,098	-	253,569	214,897
2019 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	166,087	48,192	618		214,897

4. Support Costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Audit fee	5,094	5,101
Professional fees	5,618	8,435
Secretarial	1,286	1,862
	11,998	15,398

Governance costs are attributed entirely to local ministry (see note 1h) and unrestricted funds in both 2020 and 2019. The Professional fees relate to to other financial services from the auditor, letting agent's fees and advice regarding GDPR policies.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

5. Grants for Mission

		Unrestricted 2020	Designated 2020	Restricted 2020	Total 2020	Total 2019
National Mission		£	£	£	£	£
Baptist Home Mission (CBA)	(1)	6,116	-	-	6,116	5,220
Future Hope	(1)	3,125	-	-	3,125	2,500
Hertford Young Life	(1)	1,875	-	-	1,875	2,500
Others	-				-	-
		11,116	-	-	11,116	10,220
2019 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(3)	10,220	-	-		10,220
World Mission						
BMS World Mission	(1)	8,207	-	1,967	10,174	5,220
BMS Relief Fund	-				-	-
Other societies	(1)	900	-	-	900	50
People International (to support a couple)	(1)	3,690	-	-	3,690	3,600
SIM (to support 1 person)	(1)	2,061	-	-	2,061	2,061
Interserve (M LeRoy)	(1)	1,365	-	-	1,365	1,340
OM (Matiza Family)	(1)	2,400	-	40	2,440	3,600
		18,623	-	2,007	20,630	15,871
2019 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(6)	15,821	-	50		15,871
Future Mission						
Spurgeons College	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Nations Christian College	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training Support	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
2019 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds		-	-	-		-
Thankoffering & Special Appeal						
Thankoffering	(1)	-	3,252	-	3,252	10,092
Special Appeal	(1)	-	-	262	262	211
		-	3,252	262	3,514	10,303
2019 totals for unrestricted, designated and restricted funds	(2)	-	10,303	-		10,303

11 (2019: 12) separate grants were paid out to institutions. The number of grants made in each category are disclosed above in brackets. Some single grants are paid in monthly or quarterly instalments. No support costs are apportioned to the payment of grants to Mission.

6. Total Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Local Ministry	104,616	26,063	122,890	253,569	214,897
National Mission	-	-	11,116	11,116	10,220
World Mission	-	-	20,630	20,630	15,871
Future Mission	-	-	-	-	-
Thankoffering	-	-	3,252	3,252	10,092
Special Appeals	-	-	262	262	211
Governance	-	-	11,998	11,998	15,398
	104,616	26,063	170,148	300,827	266,689

Total expenditure was £300,827 (2019: £266,689) of which £204,208 was unrestricted (2019: £207,526) £94,350 was designated (2019: £58,495) and £2,269 was restricted (2019: £668).

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2020 £	2019 £
Stipends, Expenses & Wages	93,005	90,547
Social Security Costs	3,429	3,858
Pensions Costs	8,182	10,589
	104,616	104,994

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2019: nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

2 pastors were remunerated £56,050 (2019: 3 pastors £48,099) using scales recommended by the Baptist Union and according to the relevant agreement with the Charity Commission. No trustee was remunerated (2019: 1 trustee £6,648 for work not related to his role as a trustee) during the year. No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2019: nil). During the year, phone, travel and meal expenses totalling £559 were reimbursed to 2 pastors and 1 trustee (2019: phone, travel and meal expenses of £1,408 to two pastors and 1 trustee). In addition, 2 pastors and 2 trustees made purchases totalling £5,410 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2019: 2 pastors and 2 trustees, £1,955).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church comprise the church office secretary and the administrator (who are employees) and the two cashiers and the youth and children's work administrator (who are volunteers). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (3 individuals) were £32,484 (2019: 3 individuals, £31,871). During the year, travel expenses totalling £47 were reimbursed to 1 member of key management personnel (2019: Nil). In addition, 2 key management personnel (non-trustees) made purchases totalling £181 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2019: 2 key management personnel (non trustees), £157).

8 Staff Numbers

Average Number of Employees

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Ministers	1	1
Team Leader for Pastoral Care & Prayer	1	1
Secretaries/Administrators (all part-time)	2	2
Cleaner (part-time)	1	1
	5	5

9 Comparative figures (2019) for the separate classes of funds shown in total on the face of the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies				
Regular Offerings	167,546	-	-	167,546
Special Gifts & Legacies	5,800	4,686	2,249	12,735
Thankoffering	-	10,031	-	10,031
Gift Aid recoverable	34,504	2,684	390	37,578
Charitable activities	2,240	-	-	2,240
Investments - bank interest	1,580	-	-	1,580
Other				-
Use of property	21,959	-	-	21,959
Repayments	186	-	-	186
Total	233,815	17,401	2,639	253,855
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Local Ministry	166,087	48,192	618	214,897
Support Costs	15,398	-	-	15,398
Grants payable:				
National Mission	10,220	-	-	10,220
World Mission	15,821	-	50	15,871
Future Mission	-	-	-	-
Thankoffering & Special	-	10,303	-	10,303
Total	207,526	58,495	668	266,689
Net Income/(Expenditure)	26,289	(41,094)	1,971	(12,834)
Transfers between Funds	(3,258)	4,298	(1,040)	-
	23,031	(36,796)	931	(12,834)
Other recognised Gains/(Losses)Gains & (Losses)				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	-	-
Gain/Loss on fixtures, fittings and equipment written off or revalued		261,681		261,681
Net Movement in Funds	23,031	224,885	931	248,847
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward at 1 January 2019	75,049	1,909,282	2,581	1,986,912
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 December 2019	98,080	2,134,167	3,512	2,235,759

10 Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Hertford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves members of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £27,683 (2019 £30,981).

No expenses were paid to any related party (2019: nil). 1 person related to the trustees made purchases totalling £367 on behalf of the church and was reimbursed (2019: 1 related party, £430).
No reimbursements were made to parties related to the key management personnel (2019: nil).

No payments were made to the husband of a church office secretary for work (2019: £2,282 for decorating and cleaning work) carried out by him as a contractor on behalf of the church.
The daughter-in-law of one of the trustees was paid £963 for book-keeping work (2019: Nil) carried out by her on behalf of the church.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2020	468,000	1,595,220	397,565	2,460,785
Disposals				-
Revaluation			-	-
Additions	-	-	20,885	20,885
At 31 December 2020	468,000	1,595,220	418,450	2,481,670
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2019	-	251,696	86,863	338,559
Disposals				-
Revaluation			-	-
Charge for the year	-	31,697	40,607	72,304
At 31 December 2020	-	283,393	127,470	410,863
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2020	468,000	1,311,827	290,980	2,070,807
At 31 December 2019	468,000	1,343,524	310,702	2,122,226

Freehold Land and Buildings

In December 2011 all freehold land and buildings were surveyed and revalued at current market rates by Iain Davies MRICS and on the advice of the auditors values for land and buildings were assessed separately. The church and halls are shown at their fair value for realistic alternative use of £600,000. 13/15 Chambers Street, Hertford, currently used as offices and meeting rooms, are shown at the fair value assigned to them if they were to revert to residential use.

The value of buildings will be depreciated over 50 years under FRS 15 following the valuation in December 2011. Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum on the valuation figure.

12. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Other debtors	-	-
Income Tax Recoverable	31,114	35,578
	31,114	35,578

13. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2020	2019
	£	£
Bank Accounts	222,016	206,469
Petty Cash	57	148
	222,073	206,617

14. Liabilities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Payroll liabilities	5,810	2,716
Accruals	17,601	5,946
	23,411	8,662
Creditors Due > 1 year	-	-
	-	-

15. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance	Movement				Balance
	1.1.20	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Pension Liability	31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Church Funds	98,080	218,575	204,208	(19,332)	20,000	113,115

A transfer was made to Designated Funds to reflect capitalised improvements to the church's fixtures and fittings. The balance of funds related to the Christians Against Poverty project was transferred to General Funds as the project is now supported as part of the General work of the church.

16. Designated Funds

	Balance 1.1.20	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thankoffering	5,832	930	3,252	-	-	3,510
Training Support	981	450	-	-	-	1,431
Other designated donations	5,128	23,867	18,794	(1,553)	-	8,648
	11,941	25,247	22,046	(1,553)	-	13,589
Tangible fixed assets	2,122,226	-	72,304	20,885	-	2,070,807
	2,134,167	25,247	94,350	19,332	-	2,084,396

The Thankoffering funds are raised each year for specific causes. The Training Support Fund supports individuals training for Christian service through full or part-time courses or on training placements. The balance of funds related to the Christians Against Poverty project was transferred to General Funds as the project is now supported as part of the General work of the church.

The Tangible Fixed Assets Fund (TFAF) is set aside to represent the net book value of the property of the church. £20,885 was transferred from General Funds to the TFAF to reflect the capitalisation of internet infrastructure in accordance with the accounting policies.

17. Restricted Funds

	Balance 1.1.20 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31.12.20 £
Baptist societies	1,816	1,305	1,967	-	-	1,154
Others	1,696	524	302	-	-	1,918
	3,512	1,829	2,269	-	-	3,072

Baptist societies and other funds are ongoing funds held for specific societies, the majority of which are paid out in the course of the year.

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total Assets £
Unrestricted Funds (note 15)	-	113,115	113,115
Designated Funds (note 16)	2,070,807	13,589	2,084,396
Restricted Funds (note 17)	-	3,072	3,072
	2,070,807	129,776	2,200,583

19. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2020 there were commitments under operating leases expiring in two to five years of £828 (2019: £1,932). None of the commitments relates to land and buildings.

Of this £828, £828 was payable not later than one year (2019: £1,104) and nothing was payable later than one year and not later than 5 years (2019: £828).

20. Post Balance Sheet

Since March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on organisations worldwide. As a result operations have been restricted although they are continuing to be performed remotely and in house where possible. There has been a financial impact on the current organisation, which, so far, it has been able to absorb.
The longer term impact once the organisation starts to move out of current restrictions has yet to be seen. The trustees are continuing to monitor, assess and act in response to the current changing environment and guidelines.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
- Regular Offerings	152,497	-	-	152,497	167,546
- Special Gifts & Legacies	1,967	21,396	1,569	24,932	12,735
- Thankoffering	-	930	-	930	10,031
- Gift Aid recoverable	27,933	2,921	260	31,114	37,578
Charitable Activities	284	-	-	284	2,240
Activities which generate funds					
- Use of property	34,013	-	-	34,013	21,959
- Repayments	277	-	-	277	186
- Bank interest	502	-	-	502	1,580
- Government furlough schemes	1,102	-	-	1,102	-
Total	218,575	25,247	1,829	245,651	253,855
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Local Ministry	162,471	91,098	-	253,569	214,897
Governance Costs	11,998	-	-	11,998	15,398
Grants payable:					
- National Mission	11,116	-	-	11,116	10,220
- World Mission	18,623	-	2,007	20,630	15,871
- Future Mission	-	-	-	-	-
- Thankoffering & Special	-	3,252	262	3,514	10,303
Total	204,208	94,350	2,269	300,827	266,689
Net Income/(expenditure)	14,367	(69,103)	(440)	(55,176)	(12,834)
Transfers between funds	(19,332)	19,332	-	-	-
	(4,965)	(49,771)	(440)	(55,176)	(12,834)
Actuarial Gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schem	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Net Movement in Funds	15,035	(49,771)	(440)	(35,176)	248,847
Total Funds brought forward at 1/1/20	98,080	2,134,167	3,512	2,235,759	1,986,912
Total Funds carried forward at 31.12.20	**113,115**	**2,084,396**	**3,072**	**2,200,583**	**2,235,759**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
Fixed Assets		£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets		2,070,807	2,122,226
Current Assets			
Debtors		31,114	35,578
Cash at bank & in hand		222,073	206,617
Liabilities			
amounts falling due within 1 year		(23,411)	(8,662)
Net Current Assets		229,776	233,533
Defined benefit pension scheme net asset or liability		(100,000)	(120,000)
Net Assets		**2,200,583**	**2,235,759**
Funds	Unrestricted	113,115	98,080
	Designated	2,084,396	2,134,167
	Restricted	3,072	3,512
		2,200,583	**2,235,759**