



WALLINGFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Registered Address

Thames Street, Wallingford, OX10 0BH

Charity Registration Number: 1132946

Trustees

The Revd Simon Hudson [Minister]
Mr David Bright [Treasurer]
Mrs Judith Payne [Secretary]
Mrs Gale Parlett
Mrs Hilary Mackintosh
Mrs Carol Rhodes
Mr Graham Atkins (from March 2024)

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Peter Willers

Website: www.wallingfordbaptist.co.uk

Annual Report for 2024

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by its Constitution (approved in July 2009 and amended in July 2022) which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision-making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ or, following other modes of induction into the Christian faith, to renew their commitment by their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The members met together on six occasions during the year and have responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees, who together with the Ministers are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Trustees are legally responsible for the overall management of Wallingford Baptist Church.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am and have also been available on Zoom. During the year there has been a children's and youth programme during the morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of Life Groups for the growth of faith and discipleship both at the Church and in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees, or at the Sunday services of worship. We also have Micro Church groups of 3-6 people who meet regularly to pray and support one another in their faith.

The Church is responsible for a Toddler Group which meets in the Church premises on Tuesday mornings during term time, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. This attracts a good number of parents and carers with their young children.

The Church has established the Thames Street Living Room that usually meets during the daytime every Monday on the Church Premises with the purpose of supporting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. During the time that it is open, tea, coffee and cakes are served together with light lunches. During the winter months this has been identified as a "warm space" for the community.

One Alpha course has been run this year.

The Church runs various events and activities for Children and Young People and for those of retirement age.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service and our Safeguarding Policy.

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2024, was another positive year in the life of the Church and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2025 with renewed enthusiasm.

The Revd Simon Hudson continued to serve as the pastor, encouraging the Church Members to commit themselves to their faith, and to their service within the community. Under his leadership the Trustees continued to review various aspects of the Church's life in order to set priorities and ensure as far as possible that the Church fully reflects on its calling to be the Baptist part of the people of God in Wallingford.

Suzie Willers is our part time Family Outreach Coordinator and is responsible for helping to support and develop outreach in the community via our Toddler Group.

Rhonda Sparrey is our part time Youth Work Coordinator to help shape and develop our youth ministry centred around young people in our fellowship but also seeking to reach the wider Wallingford Community. This role has now been extended to include running a lunchtime Christian Union, a lunchtime café style drop-in and has run a youth Kintsugi Group at the local Secondary School and is preparing to launch an after-school space "The Port".

During the year we have had 6 baptisms. At 31 December 2024 the Church Membership was 77

During 2024 we have run events including an inflatables event for primary aged children, Yr6 transition event, a holiday club week, summer trip for Oasis group, weekend family camp, Christmas services, Christmas party for Oasis group, family swim, and light party. Social events for Oasis have been organised by Hilary Mackintosh.

We have continued with midday prayer (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) on Zoom.

Life Groups and Micro Church groups largely meet in person, but some groups have chosen to remain meeting virtually, over zoom.

Youth and Children's work has taken place at Sunday School, during the Sunday morning service, and at the Sunday Evening Youth Hub.

The Thames Street Living Room continues as a drop-in centre for anyone who wishes to meet with others during the day. This has been well supported both by people in the Church and others from the local community

The Church also continues to work with other Churches to provide the Wallingford Foodbank and the Wallingford CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Advice Centre. Two Church members are Trustees of the latter and another member is employed as the Centre Manager and two Church members are trustees and on the management committee of the Foodbank. We have also run a CAP money course for anyone in the community to gain money management guidance.

We engaged with the Wallingford Churches including a Good Friday Service. We were also involved with organising the act of worship on Sunday morning during the towns annual Bunkfest and a space for families to take part in crafts and play.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider Church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements. The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy and are satisfied that they

have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

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

WALLINGFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Weekly/monthly offerings		£93,197	£92,958
Donations and other income	1	£11,058	£7,825
Income tax recovered on gifts		£20,489	£20,702
Interest		£1,487	£1,368
Hire of premises		£2,114	£2,761
Total Receipts		£128,343	£125,614
Payments			
Ministry	2	£47,175	£43,623
Church running costs	3	£18,645	£19,463
Church Activities	4	£49,802	£41,904
Mission giving	5	£12,240	£12,220
Total Payments		£127,864	£117,210
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£479	£8,404
Cash balance at previous year end		£44,133	£42,990
Transfer from SODC Grant		£750	£0
Transfer to Mission Fund		(£6,120)	(£5,760)
Transfer to Capital Fund		(£10,000)	£0
Transfer to Pastoral Fund		(£600)	(£1,500)
Cash balance at current year end		£28,642	£44,133

MISSION FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Gift Day income		£4,677	£9,878
Income tax recovered on gifts		£1,507	£3,267
Donations		£259	£667
Total Receipts		£6,443	£13,812
Payments	6		
Gifts to other charitable organisations		£8,360	£17,840
Gifts to support individuals involved in mission		£350	£825
Total Payments		£8,718	£18,665
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		(£2,275)	(£4,853)
Cash balance at previous year end		(£363)	(£1,270)
Transfer from General Fund		£6,120	£5,760
Cash balance at current year end		£3,482	(£363)

PASTORAL FUND	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Total Receipts		£450	£1,641
Payments			
Total Payments		£1275	£2,885
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		(£825)	(£1,244)
Cash balance at previous year end		£1,344	£1,088
Transfer from General Fund		£600	£1,500
Cash balance at current year end		£1,119	£1,344

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Donations via Toddlers Group		£425	
Individual Donations		£3,600	£7,500
Income tax recovered on gifts		£1,791	
Total Receipts		£5,816	£7,500
Payments			
Church Insulation			£5,822
Work re Washing Machine		£671	
Work re Front of Church Project		£5,672	
Electrical Cupboard and shelving		£2,258	
Total Payments		£8,601	£5,822
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		(£2,785)	£1,678
Cash balance at previous year end		£11,678	£10,000
Transfer from General Fund		£10,000	£0
Cash balance at current year end		£18,893	£11,678

SODC GRANT	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Total Receipts		£8,100	
Payments			
Total Payments	7	£7,350	
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£750	
Cash balance at previous year end		£0	
Transfer to General Fund		(£750)	
Cash balance at current year end		£0	

Summary of Funds	Note	2024	2023
General Fund		£28,642	£44,133
Mission Fund		£3,482	(£363)
Pastoral Fund		£1,119	£1,344
Capital Projects Fund		£18,893	£11,678
SODC Grant		£0	£0
Total Funds		£52,136	£56,792

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account (CAF Bank)		£16,765	£12,873
BUC deposit accounts		£35,371	£43,919
Total Current Assets		£52,136	£56,792
Assets Held for Church's own use	8	£2,574,442	£2,519,888
Total Assets		£2,626,578	£2,576,680
Liabilities			
Total Liabilities		£0	£0

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 and 2 relating to the year ending 31 December 2024 are as approved by the Trustees.

Signed: (on behalf of all the trustees)

Colin F. Allen

Date: 30 Sep '25.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Basis of accounts: These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and Other Income	2024	2023
General Donations	£501	£2,332
Donation from Waitrose (re Christmas Activities)	£1,000	£0
From Living Room [See below]	£866	£322
From Toddlers	£0	£196
Contribution to new Dishwasher	£500	£0
Outings (Living Room and Oasis)	£849	£350
Holiday Club	£296	£540
Family Camp	£1,560	£1,100
Youth Activities	£5,376	£2,965
Miscellaneous Income	£110	£20
TOTAL	£11,058	£7,825

From 2024 we are including all cash donations to the Living Room. In previous years we have only included the money actually banked and not the expenses. reimbursed in cash. All expenses incurred by the work of the Living Room are now included under 'Outreach and Community' Activities

3. Ministry Costs	2024	2023
Minister's stipend, pension and NI contributions	£40,401	£37,607
Pension Deficiency Contributions (see note 9)	£10	£12
Travel and other expenses	£77	£0
Payroll Fees	£486	£444
Manse costs	£6,201	£5,560
Total Ministry	£47,175	£43,623

The Minister acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Minister, including the provision of manse accommodation owned by the church.

3. Church Running Costs	2024	2023
Electricity costs and Water rates	£5,701	£5,989
Phone, TV and Internet	£662	£613
Insurance	£1,917	£1,922
Repairs and maintenance	£1,652	£1,601
Church Cleaning	£3,401	£3,085
Admin & Comms costs (inc subs, licences & technology)	£3,658	£4,195
Preaching Fees	£445	£375
Sundries (inc kitchen and cleaning supplies)	£1,208	£1,683
Total Church Running Costs	£18,645	£19,463

4. Church Activities	2024	2023
Children's Groups and Holiday Club	£400	£770
Youth Work	£11,010	£8,438
Outreach and Community Activities	£7,191	£5,312
Youth and Community/Family Co-ordinators	£18,383	£13,682
Wallingford School Project	£0	£3,572
CAP	£7,500	£7,000
Volunteer Training Courses	£730	£220
Church Family Camp	£4,526	£2,531
Misc Church Activities	£62	£380
Total Church Activities	£49,802	£41,904

5. Mission Giving	2024	2023
BMS World Mission	£6,120	£5,760
Baptist Home Mission	£6,120	£5,760
Individuals	£0	£700
Total Mission Giving	£12,240	£12,220

6. Mission Fund Payments	2024	2023
A2B		£600
Africa Inland Mission (John and Zoe Putman)		£500
A Rocha		£250
BMS World Mission	£1950	
Christian Aid		£500
Compassion		£200
Embrace the Middle East	£200	£500
Home Mission (Baptist Union)		£3,200
Kerusso Trust		£1,800
Latin Link	£400	£3,750
Lily Herring	£250	
Matt Godfrey (via 'Teach Beyond')		£500
Matt Godfrey	£100	£325
Open Doors	£1,818	£1,500
Oxford Schools Chaplaincy	£1,000	
Prison Fellowship (Angel Tree Project)		£840
TearFund		£4,050
UEACU	£200	£150
Viva	£2,800	
Total	£8,718	£18,665

7. SODC Grant Expenditure	2024
Crockery, Kitchen equipment, tea and coffee etc	£733
Laptops, printer ink and paper	£1,244
Promotional material, t-shirts and aprons	£578
Wheelchair ramps and stairgate	£166
Toys and games and new shelving	£563
Clothes to distribute as needed	£133
Washer-Dryer and Laundry pods	£455
Electric heater and cordless vacuum cleaner	£128
TV Monitor and Stand	£407
Music Workshop and Guitar strings	£197
Contribution towards new dishwasher	£1,930
Christmas Lunch, Pantomime tickets etc	£669
Pre-planning request to SODC re awning/storage	£147
Transfer to General Fund re electricity & Christmas lunch	£750
Total	£8,100

8. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

- Church premises at Thames Street, Wallingford,
- Church manse at 1 Newnham Green, Crowmarsh

The value of these in the accounts are the insurance valuations as below

2024	2023
Church - £2,109,440	Church - £2,070,095
Contents - £101,404	Contents - £99,513
Manse - £363,597	Manse - £350,280

**Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Wallingford Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Examiner



Date

30/9/25

Name

PETER WILLERS

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