

## Trustees Report 2024/25

### CASTLEHOLD BAPTIST CHURCH

Registered Address

High Street.

Newport,

Isle of Wight.

PO30 IBH

Registered Charity No 1133748

### Trustees

Revd Adrian Redfearn – Minister

Gordon Ainger - Secretary

Dr Stephen Selby

Stephen Chinedum – Treasurer (Resigned January 2025)

Katie Charlton

Gail Duke

Roger Herbert

### Volunteer

Rev Nigel Cox – Acting Treasurer from Jan 2025

### Staff

Administrator:- Mr John Bastin

### Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited Baptist House

129 Broadway

Didcot

Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

### Bankers

NatWest plc St. James Square, Newport, I. W. PO30 1 UT CAF Bank Ltd.

### Independent Examiner

Mrs Ruth Witchard

### Annual Report for 2024/25

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended March 31 2025

### Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that 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.

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

### Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Processes

Membership. Baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith is the normal mode of entry into the membership of the church. Persons seeking membership who have not been baptised in the manner described may at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting be accepted for full membership based on their own public profession of faith.

**Decision Making Process.** The members Meeting normally takes place four times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to nine deacons, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), and collectively known as the Diaconate, 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.

### **Affiliations**

The church is in membership with

- The Baptist Union of Great Britain
  - The Southern Counties Baptist Association – The Island Baptist Fellowship
  - The Evangelical Alliance.
- Churches Working Together in Newport.

Through the Debt Centre, the church is also affiliated to Christians Against Poverty.

### **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 church's focus is set out as: "Reaching out to people, enabling them to become followers of Jesus Christ"

The Church holds public services of Christian worship on Sunday mornings supported by a varied music group. There is an active and busy Sunday school, Girls Brigade, parent and toddler group, young people's activities, men's group, weekly house groups. Details of all church activities are available through the church website at [www.castlehold.com](http://www.castlehold.com). Castlehold Baptist Church continues to support the work of Revive Newport.

The Church has adopted a safeguarding policy based on the Baptist Union "Safe to Grow guidance to churches" that all people working with children are appropriately vetted with regard to the Criminal Records Bureau.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

### **Achievements and Performance**

Castlehold Baptist Church continues to provide a benefit to the Public – and this provision continues to grow and diversify since the last Trustees Report.

We are now in the second year of operating a Debt Centre in partnership with 4 other churches and under the supervision of Christians Against Poverty. The existing Debt Centre manager had to step down for health reasons in September, but a replacement Debt Coach was appointed and is now functioning with a full workload (1 new client a month). The aim is to develop the work to the point where the debt centre becomes an independent charity.

The Children and Young Peoples Ministry is growing at every level since the last Trustees Report. We now provide classes with a range of appropriate educational and pastoral support from 3yrs – 20 plus yrs both on a Sunday and mid-week. It is important to note that these facilities and resources are as available to the Public as they are available to regular church members and attendees. This includes our 1<sup>st</sup> Newport Girls Brigade which has grown numerically between the end of March 2024 and April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

C.B.C. continues with providing Messy Church on a regular basis; an activity which not only provides education and fun games and activities but a meal for the whole family. Anyone can attend Messy Church.

A further development is the closer relationship which C.B.C. now has with I.O.W Youth For Christ. The church is represented on the Y.F.C. Steering Group which has created a new part-time Youth Outreach Post. Like Rock Solid and the C.A.P. Debt Centre, this is an ecumenical outreach. This has now developed into an organisation called "The Newport Youth Project" which works in schools and is involved in detached youth work also, working alongside a longer-established youth organisation called Revive.

C.B.C. continues to have Open Days to the Public. This is an opportunity not only to showcase to the Community the various activities we oversee (such as Girls Brigade and Toddler Group), but also those community groups and activities which we support such as the Alzheimer's Café in Newport where the Minister of C.B.C. is a trained volunteer.

Other ways in which we interact with the Public and inform them of our services to them are an annual stall at a very large Public event called Riverfest and providing free refreshments for the various carnivals in Newport.

Another group we host and support are the local Police. C.B.C. hosts a quarterly "Shopwatch" meeting where local PCs and PCSOs liaise with shop owners on the growing problem of shoplifting on the IOW.

The needs of retired and elderly people have not been neglected as our Public Service to working-age adults, children and young people has developed and diversified.

We continue to host a bi-monthly Coffee Morning for the community and we continue to host Macmillan Coffee Mornings. Our Christmas Celebrations include food and fellowship for the wider community, particularly the elderly.

Our Pastoral Care Team regularly visits those in hospital or not able to leave their homes.

We continue to support charities which aim to reduce poverty and hardship around the globe. This includes Tearfund. Our Tear Fund Quiz in November 2024 raised over £500.

In conclusion, C.B.C. continues to be successful in providing a benefit to all members of its local community – and beyond. This successful performance is evidenced in new initiatives manifesting during this last year with further new initiatives in the planning. These will come to fruition by the time of the next Trustees Report in 2026.

### **Financial Review**

In January, Stephen Chinedum stepped down from the role of treasurer because of pressure of work. The former treasurer, Revd. Nigel Cox stepped in as acting treasurer and commenced a process of identifying a group of people who could form a finance committee to oversee all the financial processes including budget setting and control, book keeping, gift aid claims and regular reports to the Leadership Team and Church Meeting. This will ensure that the trustees continue to have full oversight of the financial affairs of the charity, while at the same time spreading the burden of work away from one person.

### **1 Final Accounts**



The final accounts show a balance in the general fund of ££29,828, an increase of £5,000, despite paying over £25,000 on property maintenance. This was covered by an insurance claim and the transfer of £4,320 from funds held in trust by Baptist Union Corporation. There was a significant increase in income including in Gift Aid. Overall costs have been very similar to the previous year. Ministry costs (The Minister's stipend, pension, provision of a Manse and related costs) are our largest cost (40%). The next largest cost is still upkeep of the church premises (16%) which is an increase on the previous year of 1%. This reflects on the fact that costs have risen in line with inflation and although utility prices are on a fixed contract an increase in the use of the premises has meant an increase in costs. The other large area of expenditure – administration - accounted for 12%, unchanged from the previous year. The final accounts show the support mission at 4.5%. However, this does not account for £6,000 a year given to Revive Newport in the form of reduced rent on their use of 82 High Street, meaning the true total is about 9.5% Youth work and messy church would also appear to be underfunded, but this is because there are a number of people who support this work on a private basis. We will be looking into how we can bring this expenditure into the overall budget in future years.

## 2 Budget

Because of the change in treasurer, the budget for 2025/26 is still in the process of being finalised. It will be based on projected receipts and payments based on the period April to August. The exception is an increase in Ministry costs as from January 2026 when the annual Stipend is increased in line with the Baptist Union recommended figure. Particularly to be noted is that the present fixed contract for Gas & Electricity expires in December and there will be a small decrease in costs.

The church financial situation remains sound but we will need to be vigilant in our expenditure, trust the Lord for increased giving and plan to make significant increases in our mission support. In particular, we should consider increasing significantly, our support for the Newport Youth Project and Samuael Hughes working in Ukraine with Operation Mobilisation.

## 3 Reserves Policy

"Reserves" figure is in many ways a notional figure to cover a situation in which there is a sudden and catastrophic decrease in our income or a major call on our expenses which would cause the Church serious financial difficulties. The reality is that even should this happen the church has assets in the region of £5.25 million

A typical reserves policy as outlined by the Baptist Union Corporation is 3 months of all expenditure + 3 months of staff costs. On current figures, for Castlehold, that would be £26,143 which is only slightly more than the current balance. We also have £30,000 on deposit with the Baptist Union Corporation which is in part the consequence of a large legacy in 2025, giving us scope to consider expanding our mission giving.

The Trustees report was approved by the board of Trustees on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Chairman

Acting Treasurer



Revd Adrian Redfern



Reverend Nigel Cox

# CASTLEHOLD BAPTIST CHURCH

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

### GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Receipts</b>			
Weekly offerings		7703	8,088
Regular Giving and other income	2	73475	58,207
Income tax recovered on gifts		13545	11,481
Confidential Fund			
Rents and contributions for use of premises		4300	6,300
Donations & Legacies	3	5016	3,988
Youth		97	732
CAP Debt Centre			
Insurance claim		18048	11,865
Sundry Income		18	40
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>122,202</b>	<b>100,701</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Ministry	4	49218	58,176
Mission & Outreach	5	5587	3,395
Upkeep of church premises	6	45712	31,773
Youth Work		394	1,378
Administration	7	15245	14,787
Gifts to Organisations	8	3764	998
Other Professional Services			2622
Sundries		456	585
Training			76
Pastoral Care Expenses		304	
BU Subs		870	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>121550</b>	<b>113,790</b>
<b>Net Receipts/(payments) for the Year</b>		<b>652</b>	<b>(13089)</b>
<b>Transfer from BUC</b>		<b>4320</b>	<b>16044</b>
<b>Cash Balance at Previous Year end</b>		<b>24856</b>	
<b>Cash balances at current year end</b>		<b>29828</b>	<b>24856</b>

### CAP DEBT CENTRE Restricted account held in a separate bank account

	Note	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Receipts</b>			
Donations		2275	1,722
Partnership Contributions		3600	3,600
Phone reimbursement		202	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>6077</b>	<b>5,322</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Manager's Expenses		120	251
Office Costs (Phone)		481	306
CAP Support		3600	5,100
Equipment		307	
Bank Charges		48	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>4556</b>	<b>5,657</b>
<b>Net receipts/(payments) for the year</b>		<b>1521</b>	<b>(334)</b>
<b>Transfers (to) / from Debt Centre</b>			
<b>Cash balance at previous year end</b>		<b>1279</b>	<b>1613</b>
<b>Cash balance at current year end</b>		<b>2800</b>	<b>1279</b>

## Confidential Fund

	Note	2024/25	2023/24
Balance B/fwd		254	254
Transfer from General Fund			
<b>Balance C/fwd</b>		<b>254</b>	<b>254</b>

Note

## GENERAL FUND

	Note	2024/25	2023/24
Balance B/fwd		24856	21,901
Net Receipts (Payments)		634	(13,089)
Transferred from BUC		4320	16044
Transferred to Confidential Fund			
Transferred to Debt Centre			
Total		<b>29810</b>	<b>24,856</b>
From Debt Centre			
Balance C/fwd			<b>24,856</b>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025

	Note	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Assets</b>			
Bank and other cash balances			
Petty Cash		9	3
Nat West Bank No 1 Account		30073	25028
Nat West Bank No 2 Account (CAP Debt Centre)		2800	1358
<b>Total</b>		<b>32882</b>	<b>26389</b>
Representing Balances on following funds			
General Fund		29828	24,856
Debt Centre		2800	1,279
Confidential Fund		254	254
<b>Total</b>		<b>32882</b>	<b>26,389</b>
<b>Assets held in trust by BUC 7 day notice deposit Account</b>		<b>126,299</b>	<b>126,728</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			

## Total Liabilities

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 & 2 relating to the year ending 31 March 2025 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed:



~~Treasurer~~

ACTING TREASURER

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 1. Basis of accounts

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

### 2. Regular giving and other income

	2024/25	2023/24
Gift Aided giving	45676.00	40,018
General Giving	20240.25	18,189
Other income [Overpayment refunds from SSE & Viking)	7559.28	
<b>Total Regular Giving and Other Income</b>	<b>73475.53</b>	<b>58,207</b>

### 3. Donations & Legacies

	2024/25	2023/24
Tear Fund	650	700
Bags for Cambodia		142
Christmas Events	937	
Legacy		2990
Sundry	245	
McMillan Coffee Morning	224	156
Samual Hughes	2960	

<b>Total</b>	<b>5016</b>	<b>3,988</b>
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### 4. Ministry

	2024/25	2023/24
Salaries & N.I.	37255	35,013
Pension contribution	4783	4,530
Minister's Expenses	6	680
Preaching Fees		265
Manse costs	7174	17,688
Other ministry [ <i>detail if material</i> ]		
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>49218</b>	<b>58,176</b>

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.



## 5. Mission & Outreach

	2024/25	2023/24
YFC	3160	660
Operation Mobilisation (Samuel Hughes)	600	600
Go Cardless	174	216
Literature		
Christianity Explored		
Cap Debt Centre	750	1159
Youth		547
Evangelistic Events	903	
Publicity		108
Sundry		105
<b>Total Mission</b>	<b>5587</b>	<b>3,395</b>

## 6 Upkeep of church premises

	2024/25	2023/24
Lighting and heating	11190	4,557
Cleaning	3019	3,301
Insurance	3238	3,164
Repairs and maintenance	25691	19,346
Water	847	264
Other premises insurance	1207	1,141
Equipment	180	
Sundry	340	
<b>Total Upkeep of church premises</b>	<b>45712</b>	<b>31,773</b>

Notes.

Repairs and maintenance included £22,368 of storm damage and wear & tear covered by the Insurance claim and from reserve funds held by BUC

Heating Lighting over charged £7600 & refunded in August 2024

## 7 Administration

	2024/25	2023/24
Bank Charges	558	461
Book Keeping	640	655
Catering	847	552
Web Site	421	246
Miscellaneous	89	35
Stationery & Postage	277	235
Telephone & Broad Band	1459	2,078
Printing		396
Licenses	1758	1,336
Photocopier	892	946
Sundries		163
Wages	8306	7507
Equipment (Laptop)		177
<b>Total Admin &amp; Office Costs</b>	<b>15247</b>	<b>14,787</b>



## 8 Gifts to Organizations

	2024/25	2023/24
Mc Millan Nurses		156
Tear Fund	650	700
Embracing Age	154	
Samuel Hughes - Personal	2960	
Bags for Cambodia		142
<b>Total Gifts to Organisations</b>	<b>3764</b>	<b>998</b>

## 6. 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 High Street, Newport valued in the accounts at £4,784,165 based on insured value
- Church manse at Courtlands, 128 Medina Avenue purchased for £440,000 March 2023
- Shop Premises at 83-4 High Street, Newport valued in the accounts at £550,899 based on insured value
- The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £216,060



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Castlehold Baptist Church

On accounts for the year  
ended

31st March 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1133748

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 2025**.

Responsibilities and  
basis of repo

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

*R. Witchard*

Date:

21-11-25

Name:

Ruth Witchard

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

MIAGSA

**Address:** Eades Farm, Newbridge, Yarmouth IW PO41 0UA

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

*None.*