

Upper Stratton Baptist Church (Swindon)



TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended
31st December 2024

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Name of Charity: Upper Stratton Baptist Church (sometimes shortened to USBC)

Registered Charity Number: 1133910

Registered Address

Upper Stratton Baptist Church
Green Road
Upper Stratton
Swindon
SN2 7JA

Trustees

Rev Simon Govier (Minister) (Until 30. 06. 24)
Mr Trevor Morkham (Treasurer)
Mr David Alderson
Mrs Mary Palmer
Mr John Simmonds

Property Trustees of the Church at Green Road and of 127 Argyle Street, Swindon

West of England Baptist Trust Company Limited
Little Stoke Baptist Church
Kingsway
Little Stoke
Bristol
BS34 6JW

Property Trustees of the Manse at 62 Farrfield, Swindon

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

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Independent Examiner

Mr Ian Wakeham (FCMA, CGMA)
17 Nuthatch Road
Calne
SN11 9SH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published in October 2019.

(a) Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by an approved governing document (the Constitution) which was adopted at a Church Members' Meeting on 22nd September 2009. Resolutions to the Constitution were made by the Church Members' meeting on 23rd May 2017, 26th September 2017, 26th January 2021, 16th November 2021 and 17th May 2022.

Those seeking Church membership are accepted into membership in accordance with the Constitution. Church Members' Meetings are held on at least four occasions in the year. In 2023 we held six hybrid meetings, that is to say in-person and with the option of joining on Zoom. At these meetings, the members seek to discern the mind of God for the overall policy and affairs of the Church.

In accordance with the Constitution the Members appoint Trustees, both Elders and Heads of Ministry. These, together with the Minister and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members) are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and ministry, and the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. Trustees, both men and women, must be baptised Church Members securing the support of at least 75% of the Members voting by secret ballot at a Church Members' Meeting. Apart from the Minister, they are appointed for a period of three years, subject to the on-going support of the Church Members' Meeting. Trustees meet at least monthly to consider the affairs of the Church. All Members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objectives. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for consideration or may be raised by Members in advance of the Church Meeting. 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 confirm that the major risks have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. They also confirm that there have been no incidents or irregularities during 2024 which required reporting to the Charities Commission.

The remuneration package for the Minister (classed as key management personnel of the Charity) is based upon the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) guidelines and national agreements made between BUGB and HMRC. It also takes account of existing historic arrangements with individuals. Remuneration will be reviewed annually each October/November for inclusion in the budget. Recommendations are made by the finance team and are approved by the members at a Church Members' Meeting.

The major risks to which the Church is exposed have been identified by the Trustees as follows, and systems have been established to manage these risks:

- Governance Risks - the Church Constitution adopted at a Church Members' Meeting on 22nd September 2009 (and subsequent Resolutions) outlining the procedures for Church Members' Meetings; Nominations for the role of Charity Trustee, other than a Minister, including the reappointment of a Charity Trustee (Clause 15.12.1). Operational Risks - Safeguarding Policy

and Procedures are in place (in line with Baptist Union model policies); Health and Safety Management Plan and accompanying policies and procedures are under review.

- Financial Risks - Reserves Policy is in place and regularly reviewed.
- External Risks - Regular updates and advice on Government policy is received from the Baptist Union, West of England Baptist Association and the Charity Commission.
- Statutory Compliance - Employers liability, public liability and Charity Trustee indemnity insurance is in place and reviewed annually.

(b) Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance Christian education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. The Church occupies premises that are held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company Limited and the Baptist Union Corporation Limited, in trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objectives.

In order to achieve the charitable objectives which are set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its Membership and to the community generally. The Trustees of the Church have considered and have regard to the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit.

The principal activities of the Church may include, but are not restricted to:

- Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- Baptism, as defined in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle;
- The communion of the Lord's Supper, which is normally observed at least once a month;
- Evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- The teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- Nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- Education and training for Christian and community service;
- Giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- Supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- Encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptist and other Christian communities.

To undertake activities as a means of achieving the charitable objectives, the Church works on its own, or with other Churches or groups. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed; to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord; to support and encourage charitable social action; and to encourage relationships with other Christians.

The most significant events in church life in 2024 were the loss of our minister, Rev. Simon Govier, who moved to a church in South Wales in June 2024 and the death of six members of our church and congregation at times throughout the year. These people were an important part of our church family, are sorely missed and the church is still grieving their loss.

Since the church has been without a minister there has been some cut back in activities but the Leadership Team, assisted by many of our members, has ensured that the life of the church has continued as smoothly as possible. We have been greatly assisted in this by the appointment of Rev Alisdair Longwill as moderator. Various members have taken on new or additional responsibilities, including the Preaching Team who have enabled the continuation of Sunday services. We have been pleased to see some new people in our congregation during this time.

We have begun to think and pray about what future ministry at USBC might look like and are aware that it could be some time before a new minister is appointed. We are also aware that, due to financial constraints, as it stands, this is only likely to be a part-time appointment. In the meantime, we are confident that God will continue to bless us and His work in Upper Stratton.

Central to the work and ministry of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place on each Sunday morning and occasionally on Sunday evening. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised within the Church and its website at www.usbc.org.uk. Services of a special nature are advertised more widely in Upper Stratton and Swindon. There is a full programme for children and young people during the 10.30am service on Sundays. Each service has its own style to suit the differing preferences of the Church and community. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these gatherings.

The services were also available on Zoom during the whole of the year for people to safely view and engage with. It has been successful and inclusive, with good numbers of people 'attending' these services including some who are either new to the Church or have not been able to physically attend worship at USBC for a number of years.

Through the further use of Zoom, the Church was also able to organise gatherings on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning to provide opportunities to meet, reflect and pray together on issues facing the Church, our Members, our local community and our world. With biblical reflection at the heart of each meeting, these gatherings were regularly attended and have become important in the life of the Church family. We also operated an email/telephone prayer chain through which Members could request prayer when needed, which connected well with these gatherings.

Simply Social coffee morning - a midweek group providing a fellowship opportunity for anyone in our local community - afforded a means of encouragement and support for those able to attend, particularly those more senior in years. There was a pleasing overall increase in regular attendance.

The Church runs a series of small groups and prayer meetings for friendship, the growth of faith, pastoral care and relationship with the local community. During 2024 there were four such groups, comprising some sixty people meeting online and in various homes each week (or every other week) within the catchment area of the Church. The Bible study element of these groups follows the Sunday service or independent teaching arranged by the groups. All who consider themselves part of the Church are encouraged to integrate into the life of a small group. A significant amount of time and effort has been given by the small group leaders in maintaining contact with those people in their groups and nurturing their spirituality.

Some of the members met together, along with anybody else in the Church family that wanted to come, at the Church 'Away Day' in October at the Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing. The day was led by Rev Alisdair Longwill to help us in the early stages of our quest for a new minister. We explored what type of church we are, what type of church God wants us to be and what type of person would lead this type of church.

The Church is privileged to have contact with children and young people through various outreach and teaching opportunities with the local schools (particularly at Easter and Christmas), ministry opportunities to the families in the wider community, and with those families that worship at USBC on a regular basis. Groups for children and young people are run during our Sunday services, tailored to the specific needs of each age group, which are called Kidzone.

Make Lunch, which seeks to bring hope to struggling children and their families through a holiday lunch club, continued to impact the community by helping to address the problems of holiday hunger. Each session provided free, hot and healthy meals to local families, gave support to some of the most vulnerable children in our community and, in addition, built relationships with those in

need of the loving care of the Church family. This was achieved despite the member who initiated and inspired make Lunch moving away and the transition to a new leadership team. Thank you to everyone involved and well done!

We also held our annual week-long holiday club called 'Summershine' at the beginning of the summer school holidays. The theme of the event was 'Breaker Rock Beach' and the holiday club was helped by a mission team from a Church in USA. With the support of the local schools and community we were greatly blessed. During the course of the week we engaged with many children (and their families) - many of whom were new to the Church and some of which have since attended our other family based activities e.g. Make Lunch.

As part of our continued efforts to reach out to the local community, in the week leading up to Easter, USBC in partnership with other local Churches ran a 'Pop-Up' Café next to the local shops and library. This was done with the purpose of promoting the real meaning of Easter amongst the people of Upper Stratton. Each passer-by was offered a free hot drink and a hot cross bun, explaining the importance of Easter. Free literature was available to take away and a listening ear provided to anyone who wanted to chat. Invitations to our Church gatherings were provided along with prayer requests, which were responded to by some people. The event was repeated at Christmas, offering mince pies with similar success in seeking to share 'the reason for the season'. We also enjoyed joint services with the other local Churches at Easter and Christmas, which were considered spiritually uplifting by those in attendance. We remain grateful to everyone involved.

The Church supports the wider work of the Baptist denomination through our membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the West of England Baptist Association (trading as Webnet), and through our financial contribution to the Partnership in Mission scheme. We also support BMS World Mission financially and offer other support to our link missionaries, Paul and Sarah Brown in Thailand.

The Church has close connections with several local and national charities including The Filling Station, a local Charity that provides food and provisions to those in need on the streets of Swindon; Samaritan's Purse, which distributes Christmas gifts to needy children in deprived areas of the world via the Shoebox scheme; and Compassion UK, which administers our financial provision for a Sponsored Child in Mexico. An overview of donations made in 2024 is in the financial statements.

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

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

(c) Achievements and Performance

The Church does not only measure the success of its programmes in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, support and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2024 was a good year in the life of the church, especially in that we were able to impact and make a positive difference to so many people's lives through our activities in the community. This was despite the loss of our minister and several members of the church and congregation.

At 31st December 2024 the membership roll stood at 89, which was a net loss of over 4 over the year. A review of the membership list is currently being undertaken.

The numbers worshipping at USBC were similar to those in 2023. That said, there has been a good measure of spiritual formation and growth in discipleship across the Church family.

The small groups in the Church play an important part in the life of the Church community. The leadership team has encouraged the leaders of these groups who have become increasingly important in the pastoral ministry of the Church. Leaders of pastoral ministries meet regularly, under the influence of the Head of Ministry for pastoral care, to ensure we are serving and caring for everyone in the Church. The mainstays of our pastoral care continue to be the pastoral care team, small groups and interpersonal relationships.

(d) Financial Review

In accordance with the Constitution an annual budget is compiled for both income and expenditure and approved by members in November of the preceding year.

The Church raises the bulk of the funds needed for it to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, together with grants obtained for specific projects or activities from time to time. Income is also raised from hiring out rooms on our premises. During 2024 the average weekly offering was just under £800, reflecting a downward trend of recent years. However, when the donations made at our annual Gift Day together with the tax reclaim from HMRC in respect of Gift Aided donations made during 2023 are taken into account, the overall weekly average increases to a very creditable £1100. This continues to exemplify the ongoing generosity and sustained financial commitment demonstrated by members and attenders of USBC which, together with the fact that offerings are predominantly given either by means of standing order or via the weekly offering envelope scheme, contributes significantly to the Church's financial stability and resilience.

Our two main areas of General Fund expenditure during 2024 arose firstly from staffing costs (the stipend and expenses for our minister), and secondly from the running costs of the church site, notably utilities, insurance and cleaning. Having previously recognised that we were no longer in a position to support the stipend for a full-time minister, the Members had taken the difficult and painful decision to reduce the minister's hours – and hence his stipend – by 50% with effect from January 2023. We were grateful for the fact that our minister, Revd Govier, was willing to continue with us on this basis, despite the obvious and inevitable impact on his personal financial circumstances. However, mid-way through 2024 Revd Govier left USBC to take up a position as minister at a church in south Wales, and since we no longer have a paid administrator USBC's staffing costs for the second half of the year were consequently quite minimal.

The largest single item of capital expenditure in 2024 was incurred by the paving of the frontage at the Manse, replacing an area of grass and concrete which was in a poor state and which had become quite unsightly. The cost of this work amounted to just under £8000 and was predominantly met from the proceeds of our annual Gift Day.

The Church makes donations to local, national and international organisations and charities with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. Through these donations the Church expresses its commitment and support for organisations such as BMS and Home Mission as well as locally based charities which have a Christian ethos. Individuals within the Church also support a wide variety of charitable causes with personal financial donations as listed in the notes to the accounts.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of its activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of its objectives. There were no significant 'gifts in kind', although some members cover minor costs personally. No payments were made to Trustees for goods or services, other than for the reimbursement of expenses properly incurred on behalf of the Church.

The Church has a Reserves Policy intended to ensure that there are sufficient funds to meet its anticipated general running costs for six months. Money is also set aside to finance specific projects and future strategic development, as agreed by members, and this is held in the Memorial

Fund. The Church is supported by a steady stream of income from the congregation, much of it by standing order, whilst together with its significant reserves the Church's financial position is such that the Trustees do not view financial funding in the short-to-medium term as a significant risk.

The Trustees have noted the year-end General Fund (Unrestricted) balance of £89,278 representing an increase of more than £15,000 compared with 2023. After assessing this against the level of potential commitments for 2025 and beyond, they have concluded this is not excessive. The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies and insurance in place to mitigate these risks. These policies include internal financial controls with advance approval thresholds set at Treasurer and Trustee levels; items costing in excess of £500 (other than where already included in the budget) require Members' approval.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted, are set out in the accompanying Financial Statement.

Fundraising Standards Information

- The Charity does not employ a professional fundraiser/commercial participator.
- The Charity or any person acting on behalf of the Charity was not subject to an undertaking to be bound by any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising, or voluntary standard for fundraising in respect of activities on behalf of the Charity.
- We did not directly monitor activities carried on by any person on behalf of the Charity for the purpose of fundraising.
- No complaints were received by the Charity or a person acting on its behalf about activities by the Charity or by a person on behalf of the Charity for the purpose of fundraising.
- We do not actively fundraise outside of our Church building, although we do from time to time apply for - and have been successful in obtaining - grants to support specific charitable activities undertaken by the Church.
- It is stressed that offerings at each service are to be on a purely voluntary basis and are primarily directed at members and regular attendees.

(e) Future Plans for 2025

We should be able to pursue our mission and vision purposes in 2025 with faith and enthusiasm, in particular:

- To continue the process of seeking our next pastoral leader/minister
- To invest in life-impacting services of Christian worship
- To continue to engage with the Reimagine leadership cycle using this as a vehicle to develop a more Jesus-shaped culture in USBC.
- To continue to develop Christian spirituality, discipleship, friendship, hospitality and care among our Members.
- To more effectively reach out to our local communities with the good news of Jesus, and consequently welcoming new people into the life of the Church.
- To continue to offer online services and gatherings.
- To creatively maximize the opportunities of our Church building to welcome and serve the local community in sharing the gospel.
- To seek opportunities to serve those in need in the local community.
- To strengthen our supportive relationships with other local Churches in the area.

- To review and develop the Church's ministry to children and young people.
- To influence and strengthen the role of the local cluster of Baptist Churches in Swindon.

(f) Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in order to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- 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 an ongoing basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

(g) Independent Examiner

The examiner, Mr Ian Wakeham, will be proposed for re-appointment when the 2024 accounts are presented to the membership.

(h) Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees.

John Simmonds (Trustee)


 26 05 25

Mr Trevor Morkham (Treasurer)


 28/5/25

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF UPPER STRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the period ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees (and also its trustees for the purposes of charity law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Trustees given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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



Ian Wakeham, FCMA CGMA
Independent Examiner

17 Nuthatch Road
Calne SN11 9SH

UPPER STRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2	56,174	6,003	4,772	66,949	69,298
Income from charitable activities		3,000	10,454	-	13,454	10,475
Investment income	3	1,643	-	-	1,643	1,919
Total Receipts		60,817	16,457	4,772	82,046	81,583
Payments						
Charitable Activities	5	43,082	14,389	3,172	60,643	80,326
Governance		100	-	-	100	600
Total Payments		43,182	14,389	3,172	60,743	80,926
Net receipts/(payments) for the year		17,635	2,068	1,600	20,303	757
Transfers (to) / from funds		(2,550)	2,550	-	-	-
Cash balance at 1 January		74,193	15,164	15,179	104,535	103,778
Cash balance at 31 December		89,278	19,782	16,779	125,838	104,535

UPPER STRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Assets			
Total Cash Balances		125,838	104,535
Assets Held for Church's own use		3,159,697	2,626,514
Total Assets		3,285,535	2,731,049

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 11-16 relating to the year ending 31 December 2024 are as approved by the trustees.

Signed:


.....
Trevor Morkham
Treasurer

20th May 2025
.....
Date

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. Donations and other income

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Donations	56,174	6,003	4,772	66,949	63,380
Legacies	-	-	-	-	3,009
Total Receipts	56,174	6,003	4,772	66,949	66,389

In 2023, £4,191 was designated income, £7,393 was Restricted income and the balance was unrestricted income

3. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Rent	-	10,454	-	10,454	10,475
Lettings	3,000	-	-	3,000	2,900
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	3,000	10,454	-	13,454	13,375

In 2023, £2,675 was designated income, £2,900 was Restricted income and the balance was unrestricted income

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Bank interest	1,643	-	-	1,643	1,919
Total Investment Income	1,643	-	-	1,643	1,919

In 2023, all £1919 was unrestricted income

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Cont)

Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Ministry	19,348	1,200	-	20,548	45,333
Mission	9,906	2,498	3,172	15,576	18,833
Premises	11,440	11,691	-	23,131	12,587
Support Costs (note 6)	2,388	-	-	2,388	3,573
Total Charitable Activities	43,082	15,389	3,182	61,643	80,326

In 2023, £10,187 was designated expenditure, £17,617 was Restricted expenditure and the balance was unrestricted expenditure

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - expanded

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Ministry	20,483	1,200	-	21,683	47,457
Mission	10,487	2,498	3,172	16,157	19,614
Premises	12,112	11,691	-	23,803	13,255
Total Mission	43,082	15,389	3,172	61,643	80,326

In 2023, £2,675 was designated expenditure, £2,900 was Restricted expenditure and the balance was unrestricted expenditure

6. Support Costs

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Church Administrator	-	-	-	-	-
IT	249	-	-	249	342
Postage, Printing, Stationery	1,154	-	-	1,154	1,595
Phone	756	-	-	756	746
Other Office Costs	204	-	-	204	735
Other Costs	25	-	-	25	156
Total Support Costs	2,388	-	-	2,388	3,574

Support Costs have been allocated to the Charitable Activities in the General Fund of the church with their expenses included in Note 6, as follows

	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Ministry	1,135	2,124
Mission	581	781
Premises	672	668
Total Mission	2,388	3,573

7. Grants made to other charities

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Baptist Union of Great Britain	2,724			2,724	2,676
Bethany Project, Zimbabwe					282
BMS World Mission	2,724			2,724	2,726
Christian Aid			202	202	150
Compassion UK			616	616	30
Harbour Project					268
Links International	275			275	
Operation Agri	275		247	522	213
Prospect Hospice			226	226	
Royal British Legion			153	153	269
Safer Families					270
Swindon Youth for Christ	1,368			1,368	1,338
Willows Counselling	540		377	917	534
Total Passed to Other Causes	7,906	-	1,821	9,727	8,756

In 2023, £980 was paid from Restricted Funds, and the balance was unrestricted grants.

8. Staff Costs

	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Salary Costs	7,865	14,575
Social Security Costs	-	-
Pension Costs	987	1,826
Other Costs	1,606	4,027
Total Staff Costs	10,458	20,428

The average number of staff in the year was 1 (2023:1)

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2023: None)

9. Restricted Fund Analysis

	Balance 1 Jan £	Income 2024 £	Payments 2024 £	Transfers 2024	Balance 31 Dec £
Make Lunch	2,739	1,345	1,729	-	2,355
Memorial Fund	12439	1,985	-	-	14,424
Funds raised for Other Outside Causes	-	1,442	1,442	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	15,178	4,772	3,171	-	12,779

In 2023, £10,203 was restricted income, £17,717 was expended, with no inter-fund transfers

10. Designated Fund Analysis

	Balance 1 Jan £	Income 2024 £	Payments 2024 £	Transfers 2024	Balance 31 Dec £
Ann Davis Legacy Fund	8,997	8,300	1,498	-	15,799
Property Fund: Church	3,467	-	430	-	3,037
Property Fund: Manse	1,217	7,507	11,261	2,550	13
Pastoral Care Fund	807	650	830	-	627
Bursary Fund	676	-	370	-	306
Total Designated Funds	15,164	16,457	14,389	2,550	19,782

In 2023, £11,991 was designated income, £10,187 was expended, with no inter-fund transfers

11. 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 Green Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon valued in the accounts at £2,390,287 based on insured value
- Church manse at Farrfield, Swindon, valued in the accounts at £466,389 and contents £25,000, based on insured value
- A rental property at 127 Argyle Street, Swindon, valued in the accounts at £250,000 based on insured value
- The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £28,021