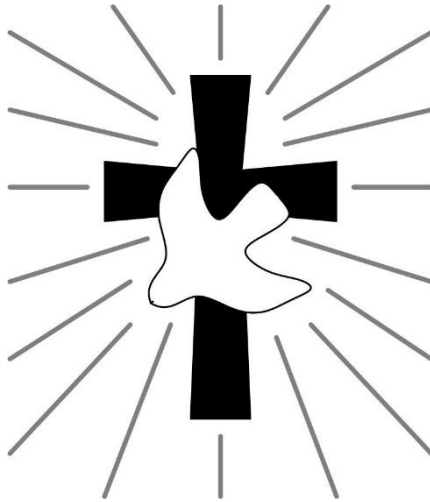


Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church



*Together in Christ
for the World*

Annual Report 2024

Registered charity number: 1134122

Introduction

The Annual Report has been prepared by the Trustees to give an account of the Church's activities during 2024 to the Membership. It also fulfils the Church's legal requirement to submit an Annual Report to the Charity Commission. The report is divided into two parts:

Part 1 describes how the Church is organised and financed and gives details of the activities that are normally undertaken by the Church in fulfilling its charitable objective. This part is quite formal as much of the information is legally required to be included in the report.

Part 2 describes the activities and events that have taken place during 2024 and is much less formal. It aims to give a picture of the life of the Church and contributions have been included from a number of people.

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church

Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, London N21 3PA

www.winchmorehillbaptistchurch.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1134122

PART 1

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is an unincorporated association governed by an Approved Governing Document (known as the “Constitution”) which was adopted on 6th December 2009 and amended on 25th March 2023. The rules for the election of Charity Trustees and appointment of Members are given in the Constitution.

The Charity Trustees (‘Trustees’) are the Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, and a number of Deacons. All of these are appointed by the Church Members’ Meeting. The Minister is a permanent employee of the Church. The remaining Trustees are elected from amongst the Membership and receive no remuneration.

The Trustees meet monthly and are responsible for the day to day running of the Church’s work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Members’ Meeting for guidance or may be raised by Members for further consideration by the Trustees.

The Church Members’ Meeting has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. There were 7 Ordinary Church Members’ Meetings in 2024 (including the Annual Church Members Meeting, sometimes referred to as the AGM).

All Members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. New Members are enrolled by agreement of the Church Members’ Meeting, normally after baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith, though Members may be accepted based on their own public profession of faith.

The job of managing the Church's finances is carried out by the Treasurer and assisted by the Finance Committee, whose responsibilities include paying the Church's bills and salaries, keeping financial records, claiming Gift Aid on donations from individuals where possible and preparing the accounts. A team of cashiers counts and records the money received from weekly offerings and pays it into the bank.

Appointment of Trustees

At the Annual Church Members' Meeting on 23rd March 2024 Sandra Burt was elected as Deacon for a three-year period, Richard Greenaway was re-elected as Deacon for a further one-year term and John BurrIDGE was re-elected as Treasurer for a further three-year period.

The church has been without a Church Secretary since March 2023. Secretarial duties are therefore carried out by the other Trustees.

Objectives and Activities

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.

In fulfilling this purpose, the Church aims to engage in activities including:

- Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching.

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

- Baptism, as defined in the Baptist Union's declaration of principle.
- The Communion of the Lord's Supper
- Evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally
- The teaching, inclusion, welcome and encouragement 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 Baptists and other Christians.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am and occasionally at other times. All services are open to the public and the times are advertised on the Church's notice board and on the internet. Members of the congregation are encouraged to invite their friends and relatives. Additional publicity is distributed for special services at Christmas and Easter. There is no charge to attend any worship service.

During 2024 the monthly in-person Prayer Meeting and the mid-week zoom-based Prayer and Bible Study Group have continued.

The Church has a close relationship with the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association and provides free use of the premises for their activities as well as hosting a number of joint events.

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

A Gift Aid claim will be made in 2025 and the amount received will be allocated to each fund as appropriate.

General Fund

This is an unrestricted fund. The Church's reserve policy remains as approved in 2018 and dictates we retain a minimum of six months expenditure plus a further £10,000 to allow for emergency building repairs. Based on budgeted levels of expenditure going into 2025, this equates to around £52,000.

The church has no separate reserves fund but holds surplus funds within the General Fund. At the start of 2024 the General Fund balance was just less than £72,000 and by the end of the year it had risen to just over £92,000, with £63,112.80 being held on deposit and earning interest with the London Baptist Property Board.

Having approved a budget deficit of £16,014, the accounts for 2024 show a final surplus of £20,080 mainly due to significant increases in Receipts from both Lettings and Special Donations, a smaller increase in combined Loose and Regular Offering and other factors, including slightly lower Payments.

Loose and Regular Offerings both remain lower than 2019 levels. However, year-on-year, whilst there was another decline in Regular Offerings, the reduction was small and Loose Offerings continued to grow, such that the combined figure now marginally exceeds that for 2023.

Although less than budgeted, total Payments have continued to rise, largely due to inflation in Ministry and Premises costs. Payments for Mission, which is mostly donations, has not been increased for several years and in 2024 were slightly lower, due

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

to the closure of Winchmore Hill Community Care, to which the Church previously donated.

The percentage split of all Payments made from the General Fund is as follows: -

• Ministry costs, incl. Minister's Stipend	51%
• Mission, mostly donations	18%
• Premises insurance, upkeep, fuel & cleaning	28%
• Organisation	3%
	100%

Legacies

This is an unrestricted fund. The balance reflects the amount remaining from gift from the estate of the late Arthur Shriever who passed away in 2017. There are no restrictions and the funds remain available for the Church to use at its discretion.

The balance was not used in 2024.

Buildings Fund

This is a designated fund. The fund is set up to account for the cost of annual servicing & inspections and general maintenance, of both the Church buildings and the Church Manse at 29 Orpington Road, London N21, where the pastor and his family live.

As budgeted, £6,000 was transferred to this fund, from the General Fund, to cover annual servicing & inspections and general maintenance costs.

A further transfer of £1,595 was made to cover the unbudgeted cost of re-finishing the Clifford Wood Room floor, which

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

amounts donated to this fund and the movements in 2024 relate to receipts recovered through the Gift Aid scheme and to payments made to Operation Agri and to Open Doors with Brother Andrews on a 50/50 basis, as agreed by Church Members at the Church Members' Meeting on 28May23.

Harvest 24

This is a restricted fund. It was set up to administer donations made at, or in response to, the Harvest Service on 22Sep24. Members at the Church Members' Meeting on 02Jun24 agreed that the whole of the Harvest Offering be paid to Operation Agri.

The zero balance reflects the fact that the full amount received was paid to Operation Agri the same year.

Main Concerns

1. Our chief concern is to continue to love God by obedience to His commands: committing ourselves more fully to bible study, to prayer and to sharing the love He has shown us, with those around us.
2. To trust God in all things, recognise His faithfulness and express our thankfulness to Him.
3. As part of our being obedient to His commands, to continue to be a Church that supports world mission in line with our World Mission statement.
4. To grow as a Church: to encouraging greater engagement in Church activities and see more of the Church involved in our own, local outreach.
5. To continue to benefit from letting out our premises for purposes that do not compromise our objectives.
6. To address the immediate and future needs of the church buildings and manse and use funds made available wisely.

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

Finally, I am grateful Philip Stainer, who this year carried out an Independent Examination of the 2024 Accounts, on a voluntary basis.

John Burridge

think these are memorable times that we should give thanks to God for.

Bible Studies

At WHBC, we believe that the Word of God is alive and accurate and communicates all things of God. This truth has stirred a longing and love for the word of God, and therefore, we have devoted ourselves to the study of His Word, precisely "Discipleship". We meet weekly to build relationships and help each other explore what it means to live out the Christian life of discipleship daily. Typical meetings include Bible-based discussions, laughter, questions, contributions and prayers. It's simple, it's real, and it's challenging.

We are now on the last bit of the fourth book of the "*MasterLife*" study materials, which comprises four books. The call to discipleship is a challenging journey, but it is worth responding to. The study of "*MasterLife*" has opened our eyes to God's mission and how we should respond to the call. The book has been both challenging and helpful in our spiritual growth.

Prayer Meetings

Every Tuesday evening, we pray on various topics and for one another. It's a time when we provide support and foster meaningful connections. It's a time of encouragement and growth in faith.

We planned the year to include three prayer and fasting periods: January, July, and December. In each period, we set aside one week for prayer and fasting. We have continued with intercession prayers during Sunday Church Services and our weekly online Prayer Meetings. We have an in-person monthly prayer meeting, which is up and running. We hold 30-minute prayer sessions at

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

A new fence was installed at the manse, as the previous one was in a very bad state.

There are more items to be carried out at the manse, along with some bigger jobs which are being looked into, so we can upkeep the property.

We carried out a workday at the church in November, where we were able to do many essentials jobs around the buildings, such as changing high level bulbs in the sanctuary, repair to the front window in CWR, cleaning around the building. Thank you to everyone who spared time to come down & make this happen. We also had a great time in fellowship whilst having our lunch break.

We have been carrying out some improvement works to the CWR over the last few months, which have included the replacement of the entrance door mat, sanding & resealing the hall floor & a partial redecoration of the hall. We have also changed the front door lock to the CWR entrance, which is much better for safety reasons, as there is now a turn knob on the inside, if the door was locked you can now get out without a key.

Thank-you to those who have made special donations to the Building fund over the last year. As a church we have agreed to spend money on our electrical systems. We have identified parts of works which need to be carried out, we also need to continue to raise funds for these works. If you can help us financially, please speak to the Treasurer, if giving a specific donation please state which project you would like to support or just state building fund and know that we are grateful for the funds that enable us to keep our buildings in good shape.

As usual, it is not possible to name everyone who has contributed to the maintenance and upkeep work – there are far too many –

Ebenezer and Sonia from Kids Club support Pathway at Highfield Primary School with their lunch club, where children learn about Jesus.

The Church continues to celebrate Christmas with Highfield's school choir who sing at the annual Toy Service.

The school also joined us in January when we supported their learning of different Christian practices. 90 children together with their teachers visited the church to find out about baptisms. Pastor Ebenezer and members of our team explained the meaning of baptism and the different types. The children viewed the baptismal pool, and the full emersion was 'performed' to give the children a true experience of adult baptismal services.

Sandra Burt & Sonia Gumbs

Worship Team (WOWH)

The mission of the Worship Team - Worshippers of Winchmore Hill - is to lead our congregation in worship, to glorify God through music and encourage spiritual growth.

The team has led worship for about 50% of our Sunday services this year. We've introduced a number of new worship songs and hymns to enhance the congregation's worship experience and have led special services at Easter, Christmas, Baptisms and the New Year Cross-Over service.

Individuals' personal availability has meant we have relied less on live music and more on lyric videos than we would like to, this year. However, we have been pleased to welcome Gloria Firmino this year and would very much like to welcome other gifted, skilled, and spirit-filled individuals to the team, to allow us to lead more services and perform more live music.

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church Annual Report for 2024

We recognise the benefit in having a more structured rehearsals and prayer times and in having opportunities to enhance our musical & worship-leading skills together and we will be making this a goal for next year. We will also be looking out for opportunities to expand our outreach and lead worship at community events or to collaborate with other local churches.

We are grateful to God for all He has enabled us to do as a team, and for experiencing His presence through our worship times. With God's grace and the support of the Church, we look forward to a fruitful year.

Benedicta Boakye

