

**Leamington Spa
Baptist Church**



lsbc

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st March 2024

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	April	2023	To	31 March 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Leamington Spa Baptist Church

Other names charity is known by Leam Baptist, LSBC

Registered charity number (if any) 1134467

Charity's principal address Chandos Street,

Leamington Spa

Postcode

CV32 4RN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr Stephen Morris	Treasurer	Until December 31 st 2023	Church Members
2	Rev Neil Bywater	Minister	From 1 st March 2024	Church Members
3	Mr Simon Archer	Secretary		Church Members
4	Mr Christopher Harris-Dewey	Deacon		Church Members
5	Mr Malcolm Hayes	Treasurer	From February 2024	Church Members
6	Miss Ruth Kelly	Deacon		Church Members
7	Mrs Valerie Kennedy	Deacon		Church Members
8	Mr Paul McVicar	Deacon	From 1 st January 2024	Church Members
9	Mr Reg Overton	Deacon		Church Members
10	Mrs Fernanda Rezende	Deacon	From 1 st January 2024	Church members

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Role
Baptist Union Corporation Limited	Property trustees.

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Rosemary Blackburn	Orchard House Hall Lane Harbury Warwickshire CV33 9HG

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution.
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	Charitable unincorporated association.
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	Elected annually by Church Members for a three-year term.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The Church is a member of the **Baptist Union of Great Britain** (Baptist Union) and the **Heart of England Baptist Association**.

The Church will normally promote, encourage, support and advance the work of the Baptist Union, the Association and BMS World Mission through prayer, through financial contributions and, where appropriate, by making personnel available from the membership of the Church. When it is able the Church will also support local Baptist and ecumenical gatherings.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Activities may include but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be 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 Baptists and other Christians.

All Activities of the Church are designed for the public benefit, and Charity Trustees are mindful of this requirement in developing the program for the Church.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This financial year we were able to meet in person on the premises. We have continued to stream and record services for those unable to attend the church building in person. This is much appreciated by friends away from Leamington and those at home due to health or infirmity issues.

Following a search process which began in summer 2022 we mutually agreed in January 2024 with Rev Neil Bywater that the Lord Jesus is calling him to be our new minister.

Public worship has been conducted on Sunday mornings in the building and live online. The service is recorded and available via the church website, Facebook, and YouTube. We have had visitors join us from all over the world including India and Australia.

Communion services have been managed monthly. We were able to continue our Open-Air outreach services in the summer. We continued a meeting for coffee, followed by a short informal service and light lunch on Thursday mornings in the church. At Christmas time we held an all-age visitor's service in the building, which was attended by many of our pre-school families and an outdoor carol service. We also held a visitor's service on Palm Sunday.

Youth outreach takes place every 2 weeks during term time by distributing free drinks and snacks in public and by making a listening ear available. In this we are encouraged by Thrive Youth Ministries. During Sunday worship a creche for pre-schoolers and a class for school aged children have been re-introduced as we have regular attenders in these age groups.

Prayer activity is focussed on small groups, and now a twice monthly prayer workshop in the church on Friday evenings. The Prayer Chain continues to encourage prayer for urgent needs daily, and a private Facebook group also supports prayer and fellowship. Deacons have met weekly in person to pray for the needs of the fellowship.

We support Baptist Home Mission and BMS World Mission activities financially and in prayer. We were supporting a missionary family in a Muslim-majority country during this period, but they have had to return to the UK as the situation in the country became unsafe.

We supported a missionary family in Peru. We support a couple in mission in Kolkata.

Pastoral care is provided by the Leadership Team and through small groups in the Church. Concerns are regularly brought to the services and other meetings for prayer. Members have been regularly telephoning those in need of conversation and encouragement. Limited pastoral visiting has been resumed, which we hope to increase now our new minister is in place.

The Little Stars Christian Pre-School has met on the premises on school days and is supported by the Church. We have continued a new initiative to give out free hot drinks in the town on a fortnightly basis and we have engaged in conversation with teenagers through this work. We have plans to improve facilities and activities for younger children.

Outside lets have been increasing during the year and a number of new community groups such as U3A and New Hope Counselling are now using the building regularly for meetings.

There is a very active Churches Together organisation in Leamington. We have worked with other churches on the Easter and Christmas programs in the town, and this year we supported the Street Pastors initiative and the Food Bank

This year our membership ended the year at 74, a decrease of 3 from last year. There were 2 new members who joined this year, and 1 member died over the same period. There were 4 members who resigned having left the area. We held no baptism services in the financial year. We have attracted several new regular worshippers in the last year.

During the last year we have been encouraged by the participation in service of more of our regular attenders and we have been blessed by the availability of people willing to preach from the Bible. So, to God's glory the regular church programme has been maintained and expanded during the period without a minister.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Church's funds are divided between Unrestricted (which includes funds Designated by the deacons for a particular purpose) and Restricted funds which have been given for a specific purpose. The principal Unrestricted fund, known as the General fund, receives the normal giving to the church and pays the normal running expenditure. It is the Church's policy to endeavour to keep a balance of at least 12 weeks' expenditure in this fund.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

We were without a minister until March 2024. Ministry costs were much reduced to £7,767, a saving of £6,424. We expect giving to increase now that we have a minister in place.

General fund balance at the end of the year was £27,445 representing 12 weeks of normal expenditure.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

M J Hayes

Simon Archer

Full name(s)

Malcolm J Hayes

Simon Archer

Position

Treasurer

Secretary

Date

9/5/24

9th May 2024

Leamington Baptist Church - 1134465
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	From To	01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23	01 Apr 21 31 Mar 22
General (Unrestricted) Fund					
1	Receipts				
	Cash Offerings		2,448	3,427	6,007
	Offerings-Gift Aid		49,382	50,321	46,252
	Offerings - not gift-aid		5,005	6,611	8,668
	Tax refunds		12,918	14,020	11,642
	Donations		6,140	13,770	10,027
	Total Voluntary income		75,892	88,149	82,595
	Other		11,874	8,240	8,987
2	Total receipts		87,765	96,389	91,582
	Payments				
3	Ministry		7,767	14,191	40,289
4	Mission		11,906	11,883	11,791
5	Premises		37,774	33,034	32,928
6	Administration		9,290	10,393	10,530
7	Other		3,709	3,756	3,294
	Total payments		70,446	73,257	98,832
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		17,319	23,133	(7,250)
	Brought forward balance		26,126	14,993	20,243
	Transfers from (to) Asst Ministry Fund		(12,000)	(8,000)	6,000
	Transfers to Youth Work Fund		(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
8	Total carried forward balance		27,445	26,126	14,993

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	<i>From To</i>	<i>01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24</i>	<i>01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23</i>	<i>01 Apr 21 31 Mar 22</i>
Mission (Restricted) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Total receipts		4,491	4,374	4,649
	Payments				
9	Total payments		4,491	4,374	4,649
	Total carried forward balance		0	0	-
Youth Work (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Interest on Deposits		87	47	3
	Payments				
	Thrive Youth Ministries		3,600	3,600	2,100
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(3,513)	(3,553)	(2,097)
	Brought forward balance		2,374	1,927	-
	Transfers in		4,000	4,000	4,024
10	Total carried forward balance		2,861	2,374	1,927
Repairs & Renewals (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Total receipts		227	4,681	12
	Payments				
	Total payments		4,995	1,385	-
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(4,768)	3,296	12
	Brought forward balance		8,398	5,102	5,090
11	Total carried forward balance		3,630	8,398	5,102
Special Purposes (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Total receipts		2,621	3,851	11,496
	Payments				
	Total payments		17,128	1,448	8,838
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(14,507)	2,403	2,658
	Brought forward balance		44,255	41,852	39,194
12	Total carried forward balance		29,748	44,255	41,852
Assistant Minister (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Interest on Deposits		917	396	59
	Transfers to/(from)		12,000	8,000	(6,000)
	Brought forward balance		27,717	19,321	25,262
13	Total carried forward balance		40,634	27,717	19,321
18	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		104,317	108,869	83,195
	<i>Change yr/yr</i>		(4,552)	25,674	83,195

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	From To	01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23	01 Apr 21 31 Mar 22
FIXED ASSET FUNDS					
Manse (Restricted) Fund					
14	Brought forward balance		564,876	477,491	440,079
	Adjustments		26,550	87,385	37,412
	Total carried forward balance		591,426	564,876	477,491
Building- (Restricted) Fund					
15	Brought forward balance		5,322,668	4,700,654	4,402,594
	Adjustments		(99,851)	622,014	298,060
	Total carried forward balance		5,222,817	5,322,668	4,700,654
Furniture & Equipment (Designated) Fund					
16	Brought forward balance		243,683	213,384	198,865
	Adjustments		(5,561)	30299	14,519
	Total carried forward balance		238,122	243,683	213,384
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS			6,052,365	6,131,227	5,391,529
	<i>Change yr/yr</i>		(78,862)	739,698	349,991
TOTAL ALL ASSETS			6,156,682	6,240,096	5,474,724

Leamington Baptist Church - 1134467

Balance Sheet detailed

Note		As at 31/03/2024	As at 31/03/2023	As at 31/03/2022
Fixed assets				
14	Manse	591,426	564,876	477,491
15	Land	320,000	320,000	320,000
15	Buildings	4,902,817	5,002,668	4,380,654
16	Furniture	100,000	101,491	88,872
16	Equipment	138,122	142,192	124,512
		6,052,365	6,131,227	5,391,529
Current assets				
	Debtors	0	0	0
	Coventry Bldg. Soc.	14,019	15,180	7,213
	CAF Gold Account	29,367	21,782	14,658
	Baptist Union Corp.	18,870	31,125	24,448
	BU 3-month deposit A/C	32,711	31,319	30,537
	NatWest Bank Current A/c	8,346	8,298	6,216
	Cash in Hand	72	175	123
	CAF Cash	932	990	0
		104,317	108,869	83,195
Liabilities				
17	Creditors	0	0	0
	Total Liabilities	0	0	0
18	Current Assets less Liabilities	104,317	108,869	83,195
	Net Assets	6,156,682	6,240,096	5,474,724

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 7 to 10 and the notes on pages 11-13 relating to the year ending 31 March 2024 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed:

MOH

Malcolm Hayes, Treasurer

Date: 9/5/24

Signed:

Shh

Simon Archer, Secretary

Date: 9th May 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of the accounts

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

2 INCOME

We were without a minister for most of the year. A number of people have moved away and their giving has not been replaced yet by new people joining the church.

Members also struggled with the cost of living crisis during the year.

Voluntary income decreased by £12,257 compared with the year before, across all areas of giving.

Other income was increased as a number of new organisations started to use the building resulting in an increase in lettings income.

Total income decreased by £8,624.

3 Ministry

We were without a minister until our new minister arrived in March 2024.

Ministry costs were much reduced to £7,767, a saving of £6,424.

4 Mission

Mission giving to outside organisations has been maintained.

Local Mission increased as a result of new outreach initiatives.

5 Premises

Costs increased compared to the previous year as a result of inflation.

Utilities costs were comparable to the previous year as we had long term contracts.

Some extra costs were incurred in updating the alarm systems.

6 Administration

Administration costs were reduced by changing to a more economical phones system.

7 Other Costs

Other costs were comparable to last year.

8 BALANCES GENERAL FUND

Expenditure reduced by £2,811 compared with the previous year, reflecting the reduced Ministry costs after the previous minister left.

We transferred £12,000 to Ministry Assistance Fund to cover future costs.

We were also able to transfer £4,000 to the Youth Work Fund.

The balance on the General Fund has increased to £27,445 which represents about 3 month's expenditure including the minister's stipend

9 Mission Fund

This fund is used for members to donate through the church to mission organisations such as BMS World Mission.
Funds given in the year are all sent on to the various organisations.

10 Youth Work Fund

The Youth Work Fund replaced an earlier restricted fund to support youth work.
A transfer of £4,000 from the General Fund surplus was made during the year.
We started giving £300 per month to Thrive Youth Ministries from September 2021.
This donation has been used to support a youth worker who is helping with our youth ministry.

11 Repairs and Renewals Fund

This fund is used for major items of expenditure on the premises.
This fund was used to pay for redecoration of the minister's office at the church and some other renewals on the premises.
The balance on the fund at yearend was £3,630

12 Special Purposes Fund

This fund contains legacies and other special donations.
Some donations were made towards the cost of improving the manse for the new minister, which was where approx £16,000 was spent from this fund.
The balance on the fund at yearend was £29,748

13 Ministry Assistance Fund

This fund has been used to save towards supporting future ministry.
During the year £12,000 was transferred from the General Fund towards the cost of paying the new minister.

14 Manse Fund

This represents the value of the manse for insurance purposes, which was updated by the Baptist Insurance Company.

15 Building Fund

This fund holds the value of the church premises, excluding fittings.
The value is based on the insurance valuation updated by the Baptist Insurance Company.
It also holds the land valuation of £320,000 from when the church purchased the land.

16 Furniture and Equipment Fund

This fund holds the fixed assets of furniture and equipment.
The value is based on the insurance valuation updated by the Baptist Insurance Company.

17 Creditors

The church has 1 liability arising from leasehold agreements:
BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions for the church photocopier
Running for 5 years and 3 months from 29/11/2022, at £150 per quarter.

18 Current Assets less Liabilities

The balance of net current assets has reduced by £4,552.
This is largely due to the expenditure on the manse in preparation for the arrival of the new minister.
The Pension Fund Deficit reported in previous years has now been settled.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees & members of Leamington Spa Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. Charity Registration Number: 1134467.

Set out on pages 1-13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity'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

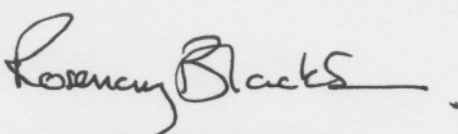
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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 matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- 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: 

Date: 8th May 2024.

Name: Rosemary Blackburn

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: ICMGrad MBA

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Harbury
Warwickshire
CV33 9HG