



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Charity name: Leamington Spa Baptist Church

Charity registration number: 1134467

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	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 in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The Activities may include but are not restricted to: <input type="checkbox"/> regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching. <input type="checkbox"/> baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle. <input type="checkbox"/> the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month. <input type="checkbox"/> evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. <input type="checkbox"/> the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people. <input type="checkbox"/> nurture and growth of Christian disciples. <input type="checkbox"/> education and training for Christian and community service. <input type="checkbox"/> giving and encouraging pastoral care. <input type="checkbox"/> supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad. <input type="checkbox"/> encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	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 information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
	Para 1.38	

Policy on grant making		
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>This year we have been blessed by the full-time ministry of Rev Neil Bywater</p> <p>Public worship has been conducted on Sunday mornings in the building and live online. The service is recorded and available via the church website, and Facebook' Live streaming over YouTube was added during the year. We have had visitors join us from all over the world including India and Australia. We have continued to stream service over Zoom 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We have started regular meetings for those wishing to explore the claims of Christianity.</p>

	<p>Prayer activity is focussed on small groups, and now a twice monthly prayer workshop in the church on the 1st Friday evening and third Thursday of each month. 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.</p> <p>We support Baptist Home Mission and BMS World Mission activities financially and in prayer.</p> <p>We supported a missionary family in Peru. We support a couple in mission in Kolkata.</p> <p>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. 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.</p> <p>Pastoral visiting has increased now that we have minister is in place.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Outside lets have been increasing during the year and several new community groups such as U3A are now using the building regularly for meetings.</p> <p>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</p> <p>This year our membership ended the year at 73 which is the same as last year. There were 4 new members who joined this year, while 3 members transferred to other Baptist churches and 1 member died over the same period. We held no baptism services in the financial year but one is planned for May 2025. We have been blessed</p>
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		<p>with several new regular worshippers in the last year.</p> <p>We have continued the practice started during the period when we were without a minister of church members leading services.</p> <p>The church held its twentieth annual variety concert showcasing the musical talents of the church to which members of the public were invited. Donations given at the concert went to Christian Aid</p> <p>We have held “Stay and play” events during July and August where we invite parents to bring their children to the church and stay for two hours to play with them. The church provides the play activities and refreshments. This activity attracts over 120 children and adults and fulfils a need for this kind of event amongst local parents.</p> <p>We have held a service for all those who are careres</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Receipts for the year were £94,322 Expenditure was £108,643 thus giving a deficit of £14,321. This deficit has been partially met by taking £12,000 from reserve funds. This has been offset by a single donation of £12,000. At the end of the financial year the balance in the general fund was £25,135.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	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.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	See above
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our principal sources of funds are giving by members of the congregation on a regular basis; occasional individual donations and income from letting rooms in the church premises.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Leamington Baptist Church - 1134465
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	From To	1-Apr-24 31-Mar-25	01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23
General (Unrestricted) Fund					
1	Receipts				
	Cash Offerings		2,413	2,448	3,427
	Offerings-Gift Aid		53,990	49,382	50,321
	Offerings - not gift-aid		4,564	5,016	6,611
	Tax refunds		14,373	12,918	14,020
	Donations		7,613	6,140	13,770
	Total Voluntary income		82,952	75,904	88,149
	Other		11,370	11,874	8,240
2	Total receipts		94,322	87,776	96,389
	Payments				
3	Ministry		42,979	7,767	14,191
4	Mission		11,989	11,906	11,883
5	Premises		39,471	37,774	33,034
6	Administration		11,525	9,290	10,393
7	Other		2,679	3,709	3,756
	Total payments		108,643	70,446	73,257
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(14,321)	17,330	23,133
	Brought forward balance		27,456	26,126	14,993
	Transfers from (to) Asst Ministry Fund		12,000	(12,000)	(8,000)
	Transfers to Youth Work Fund		-	(4,000)	(4,000)
8	Total carried forward balance		25,135	27,456	26,126

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	From To	1-Apr-24 31-Mar-25	01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23
Mission (Restricted) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Total receipts		4,326	4,491	4,374
	Payments				
9	Total payments		4,326	4,491	4,374
	Total carried forward balance		-	0	0

Youth Work (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Interest on Deposits		48	87	47
	Payments				
	Thrive Youth Ministries		1,500	3,600	3,600
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(1,452)	(3,513)	(3,553)
	Brought forward balance		2,861	2,374	1,927
	Transfers in		-	4,000	4,000
10	Total carried forward balance		1,409	2,861	2,374

Repairs & Renewals (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Total receipts		98	227	4,681
	Total payments		2,142	4,995	1,385
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(2,044)	(4,768)	3,296
	Brought forward balance		3,630	8,398	5,102
11	Total carried forward balance		1,586	3,630	8,398

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	From To	1-Apr-24 31-Mar-25	01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23
Special Purposes (Designated) Fund					
	Total receipts		1,521	2,621	3,851
	Total payments		1,855	17,128	1,448
	Excess of Income over Expenditure		(334)	(14,507)	2,403
	Brought forward balance		29,748	44,255	41,852
12	Total carried forward balance		29,414	29,748	44,255
Assistant Minister (Designated) Fund					
	Receipts				
	Interest on Deposits		1,038	916	396
	Donations		12,000		
	Transfers to/(from)		(12,000)	12,000	8,000
	Brought forward balance		40,633	27,717	19,321
13	Total carried forward balance		41,671	40,633	27,717
18	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		99,215	104,328	108,869
	<i>Change yr/yr</i>		(5,113)	(4,541)	25,674

<i>Note</i>	<i>Totals adjusted for rounding</i>	From To	1-Apr-24 31-Mar-25	01 Apr 23 31 Mar 24	01 Apr 22 31 Mar 23
FIXED ASSET FUNDS					
Manse (Restricted) Fund					
14	Brought forward balance		591,426	564,876	477,491
	Adjustments		167,078	26,550	87,385
	Total carried forward balance		758,504	591,426	564,876
Building- (Restricted) Fund					
15	Brought forward balance		5,222,817	5,322,668	4,700,654
	Adjustments		455,811	(99,851)	622,014
	Total carried forward balance		5,678,628	5,222,817	5,322,668
Furniture & Equipment (Designated) Fund					
16	Brought forward balance		238,122	243,683	213,384
	Adjustments		6,192	(5,561)	30299
	Total carried forward balance		244,314	238,122	243,683
	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		6,681,446	6,052,365	6,131,227
	<i>Change yr/yr</i>		629,081	(78,862)	739,698
	TOTAL ALL ASSETS		6,780,661	6,156,693	6,240,096

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

This was the first full year with a new minister.

An increase in regular congregations resulted in an increase in Voluntary Income of £7,048.

Other income was comparable to the previous year.

Total income increased by £6,546.

3 Ministry

Ministry costs reflected a full year of the new minister, an increase of £35,212 from the previous year.

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 increase as we had to pay new rates after fixed term contracts expired.

Some extra costs were incurred in updating the alarm systems.

6 Administration

Administration costs increased as more money was spent on printing and publicity.

7 Other Costs

Other costs were reduced by savings in catering and miscellaneous items.

8 BALANCES GENERAL FUND

Expenditure increased by £38,197 compared with the previous year, reflecting the increased Ministry costs.

We had to transfer £12,000 from reserves to offset the deficit of £14,321.

The balance on the General Fund has reduced to £25,135 which represents about 3 month's expenditure.

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.
We supported a Youth Worker till the end of August 2024.
After this we believed that we no longer needed this support.
The balance on the fund at yearend was £1,409
and will be used for future youth initiatives.

11 Repairs and Renewals Fund

This fund is used for major items of expenditure on the premises.
Some minor repairs to the manse and the church were paid from this fund.
The balance on the fund at yearend was £1,586

12 Special Purposes Fund

This fund contains legacies and other special donations.
One donation was received in the year.
Some items of equipment were bought from this fund.
The balance on the fund at yearend was £29,414

13 Ministry Assistance Fund

This fund has been used to save towards supporting future ministry.
During the year £12,000 was transferred to the General Fund towards the cost of paying the new minister.
But a donation of £12,000 was received so the fund balance could be maintained at £41,671 at yearend.

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 £5,113. The reserves in the assistant ministry fund are adequate to support the general fund for up to 3 more years at the current deficit level. The Pension Fund Deficit reported in previous years has been settled.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Charitable unincorporated association.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Elected annually by Church Members for a three-year term.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	N/A
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Leamington Spa Baptist Church
Other name the charity uses	Leam Baptist, LSBC
Registered charity number	1134467
Charity's principal address	Chandos Street, Leamington Spa, 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	Rev Neil Bywater	Minister		Church members
2	Mr Simon Archer	Secretary		Church members
3	Mr Malcolm Hayes	Treasurer		Church members
4	Miss Ruth Kelly	Deacon		Church members
5	Mrs Valerie Kennedy	Deacon		Church members
6	Mr Paul McVicar	Deacon		Church members
7	Mr Reg Overton	Deacon		Church members
8	Mrs Fernanda Rezende	Deacon		Church members

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Baptist Union Corporation Limited		Property Trustees

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	NA
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	NA
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	NA

Additional information (optional)

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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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

NA

Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Malcolm J Hayes	Simon Archer
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Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer	Secretary
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Date

5 th June 2026

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees & members of Leamington Spa Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. Charity Registration Number: 1134467.

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: 7th May 2025.

Name: Rosemary Blackburn

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: ICMGrad MBA

Address: Orchard House
Hall Lane
Harbury
Warwickshire
CV33 9HG