

SUTTON IN THE ELMS BAPTIST CHURCH

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report and
Financial Statements for 2024

Statutory Information

Registered Address 2 Sutton Lane
Sutton in the Elms
Broughton Astley
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE9 6QF

Charity Registration Number 1136715

Trustees	Jonathan Morley	Minister
	Heather Harris	Church Secretary
	Anthony Hill	Treasurer
	Peter David Clissold	
	Andrew Davies	
	Robert Foster	
	Deborah Sawyer	
	David Wheway	

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

Bankers Santander, Bootle, Merseyside

Independent Examiner John Denney, Chartered Accountant

Charitable Object

The Charity, Sutton in the Elms Baptist Church, is governed by an Approved Governing Document (the Constitution) which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.

Organisational Structure and Decision-making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution, which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in the Trinity or based on their own public profession of faith.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place at least four times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to ten Trustees, including a Church Secretary and Treasurer. They are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an active part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members for further consideration by the Trustees. The Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities and the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

To achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities, both for its membership and for the local community. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the act of regular public services of Christian worship. We seek to be a friendly and welcoming community, and all are welcome to attend our services, which take place each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and on some Sundays at 6.00 p.m. There are also services at other important times in the church calendar, such as to celebrate Christmas and Easter; these are advertised on the Church's printed notice-sheet, by leaflet, social media and on our website, www.suttonelms.co.uk. There is a programme for children and young people during services, as well as a space available for use by pre-school children and their parents.

The Church runs a series of house groups (known as Small Groups) in the church building and in the homes of some members for the growth of faith, fellowship and discipleship. Further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request or are available at the Sunday services of worship.

The Church is responsible for a Mum and Baby Group which runs on the premises on Tuesday mornings, as well as a longstanding Toddler Group, which meets on Thursday mornings. The purpose of both groups is to provide a safe place to develop friendships for local pre-school children and their parents/carers, demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. The wellbeing café (Renew café) continues to be attended each Wednesday lunchtime by a small group of regulars, who meet to chat, undertake hobbies together and have an optional time of quiet reflection at the end of each weekly session. The group also often take part in the village's annual Christmas Tree festival, organised by the local Anglican church. They also provided a church presence at our annual village Carnival, providing a space for refreshments, a chat and optional engagement in activities and prayer. The monthly Men's Prayer breakfast continues to attract both young and old for a time of food, fellowship and prayer, with both local and invited speakers and they have blessed with an increase in attendance in recent years, both from church regulars and the local community.

The Church usually runs various events for youngsters and families during the year which, in 2024, included an Easter trail, Fun Week (a week-long summer holiday club for primary school aged children), a Light Party (Halloween alternative), Bonfire party and various Christmas events. The purpose of these events is to provide enjoyable, entertaining and affordable activities for the children and their families, to build friendships and community and to introduce them to the Christian faith.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted regarding the Disclosure and Barring Service with an up-to-date Safeguarding Policy in place and regular training provided by the East Midlands Baptist Association.

The church premises are normally well-used by a variety of groups from the community during daytime and evenings, providing a variety of activities for both children and adults and the premises are also available to hire for private party bookings and other one-off events.

We are a Fairtrade Church, meaning that all tea/coffee provided on church premises is Fairtrade; we also request that all user groups also provide Fairtrade products. In June 2024, we were pleased to achieve an EcoChurch Bronze Award, thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers.

Achievements and Performance

The Elms Café continues to operate in the hub area of the premises – this is a not-for-profit community café, run by volunteers, which is open 10 hours each week and serves cake, drinks and light lunches. The aims of the café are to provide a warm, welcoming meeting space for the local community, with good food, a friendly welcome and the opportunity to

build relationships, ultimately to “Taste and see that the Lord is good”. This has proven to be very popular and has built up a good number of regulars over time.

Our Community Veg box continues to be well-used, with people able to drop off excess fresh produce from their allotments or to take what they need. The church also has its own allotment (in a corner of land next to the church car park) and provides fresh, organically grown produce to the Elms café and the Community Veg box. We also provide opportunities to give to a local Foodbank, through a regular donations box and we hold a special collection at our annual Harvest service, usually held in October.

Whilst the success of the Church’s programmes can (to some extent) be indicated numerically (including financially), other less tangible measures of success, such as strength of fellowship, quality of pastoral support and spiritual growth are equally important. The church continues to encourage all its members to support one another practically, pastorally and in prayer.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through infant dedication we thank God for the gift of life, through baptism we celebrate faith in Jesus, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God’s blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God’s keeping. We were delighted to host both a baptism and a very well-attended dedication of a local child in October 2024.

In 2024, sadly two of our longstanding church members went to be with the Lord. At 31st December 2024, the total membership stood at 79.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation.

In 2024, weekly offerings were above budget, we finished the year with an overall surplus, largely due to general income being above budget. Funds continued to be raised from within the church membership, fundraising events, premises hire and from external grant-making bodies to finance our Redevelopment project.

The church financially supports a Sponsor Child in Colombia through Compassion UK, Tearfund’s Children at Risk Programme, and has made donations to the work of Spurgeons’ Child Care and other local health-related charities. The church also financially and prayerfully supports a previous minister and his family in their ministry in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making donations to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church’s own charitable purpose, and to some non-Christian charities, chosen by church members as of particular significance to them.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives.

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

The Reserves Policy is set at four months of budgeted expenditure; such an amount would provide working capital to cover fluctuations in income and expenditure and to meet emergency calls on cash, for example for emergency repairs.

The Trustees are satisfied that there are sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with anticipated continuing income, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
SUTTON IN THE ELMS BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1136715

Set out on pages

1 to 4

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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

J. W. Denney

Date: **29 January 2025**

Name:

John Warner Denney

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

Fellow, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

35 Laurel Road

Blaby

Leicester LE8 4DL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

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

<p>Report to the trustees: members of</p>		<p>On accounts for the year ended</p>
<p>Set out on pages</p>		<p>1 to 4</p>
<p>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</p>		<p>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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act; • to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(g) of the 1993 Act, and • to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. <p>My examination was carried out in accordance with a general Direction 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.</p> <p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act <p>have not been met; or</p> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>
<p>Independent examiner's statement</p>		<p>Basis of independent examiner's statement</p>
<p>Signature:</p>		<p>John Warner Denny</p>
<p>Name:</p>		<p>John Warner Denny</p>
<p>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</p>		<p>Fellow, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales</p>
<p>Address:</p>		<p>33 Laurel Road Blaithwy Lancaster LA1 4JL</p>



Sutton in the Elms Baptist Church		1136715		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	01-Jan-2024	To	31-Dec-2024	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Incoming resources from generated funds	19,275	2,276	-	21,551	20,340
Voluntary income	84,941	11,707	-	96,648	100,403
Activities for generating funds	35,140	-	-	35,140	26,777
Investment income	1,328	84	-	1,412	510
Incoming resources from charitable activities	6,732	89	-	6,821	5,450
Other incoming resources	104	6,107	-	6,210	4,818
Total Income	147,520	20,263	-	167,782	158,299
A2 Payments					
Charitable activities	76,485	-	-	76,485	66,872
Governance costs	29,873	-	-	29,873	33,094
Other resources used	3,898	10,733	-	14,631	15,426
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	110,256	10,733	-	120,989	115,393
Gains / losses on investment assets	223,355	-	-	223,355	105,804
Net Income / (Expenditure)	260,619	9,529	-	270,148	148,710
Gross transfers between funds - in	27,733	8,135	-	35,869	8,867
Gross transfers between funds - out	- 27,733	- 8,135	-	- 35,869	- 8,867
Net Movement in Funds	260,619	9,529	-	270,148	148,710
Total Funds Brought Forward	2,808,032	- 242,374	-	2,565,659	2,416,948
Total Funds Carried Forward	3,068,651	- 232,844	-	2,835,807	2,565,659

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Santander Current	4,894	389	-
	Nationwide Savings	-	-	-
	Cash in Hand	98	-	-
	Community Reserve	75,792	16,767	-
	Ministry Monies	1,247	-	-
	Hinckley & Rugby	-	-	-
	Kingdom Bank	30,557	-	-
	Elms Café Cash	55	-	-
	Total cash funds	112,642	17,156	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Church Buildings	ASSET	-	2,495,169
	Church Manse	ASSET	-	385,840
	Car Park Land	ASSET	-	12,500
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Loan	Redevelopment	187,500	2022-2032
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Anthony R Hill

Heather Aaron

Print Name

ANTHONY R HILL

HEATHER AARON

Date of approval

29/1/2025

04/02/25