

Faringdon Baptist Church

Trustees Annual Report (TAR) for 2024/25

The Trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2024/25.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document 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 Trust which are entirely compatible with the above object.

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 Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the members), and collectively known as the Leadership Team, 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 appropriate 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 in Church meetings for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

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

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30 am both in person and online. There are also prayer meetings held both weekly and at other times which are advertised on the Church notices and the website at www.faringdon-baptist.org. There is a children's programme for those in primary and secondary education during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of growth groups for the maturation of faith and discipleship in the homes

of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services. From time to time the Church runs courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2024/25 was a positive year in the life of the church. It is cognisant of the changes taking place in the local community and is exploring new avenues to pursue its mission purposes in the future with equal enthusiasm.

As always, membership and attendance has fluctuated during the year, sadly, we have had to bid farewell to some members who have moved on however attendance on a Sunday morning has grown slightly. On 1st March 2025 the membership stood at 54. Some members meet regularly for prayer on a weekly basis and the 'Care and Share' group which meets during term time on Wednesday mornings is growing. We have also celebrated three baptisms this year.

The church works with other organisations within the town of Faringdon. The Faringdon Day Centre continue to meet here providing a lunch and support for older members of the community. 'Messy Dads' happens on the first Saturday of each month giving space for carers and their children to meet together with food, play and friendship and is universally popular. In addition, FAAAZE centre for teenagers with learning disabilities use the building regularly during the week.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The most significant cost is the employment of a Pastor, together with the cost of providing a Manse for the Pastor. The Pastor works to lead and co-ordinate the church's activities including the Sunday Services, to provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and to equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.

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

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 Trustees have assessed the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Faringdon Baptist Church
Other name the charity uses	NA
Registered charity number	1138446
Charity's principal address	20 Bromsgrove Faringdon SN7 7JQ

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)
Rev. Mark Greenwood	Minister		Church membership
Gemma Ashton	Secretary		Church membership
Michael Smedley	Treasurer		Church membership
Richard Bolter	Elder		Church membership
Andy Gathercole	Elder		Church membership
Sharon Gerry	Elder		Church membership
June Parrott	Trustee	May 2021 – May 2024	Church membership
Dominic Bullock	Trustee	May 2016 – May 2024	Church membership

Declarations

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

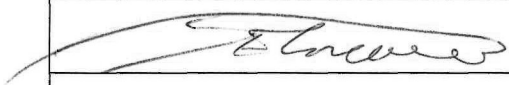

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

	
MARK EDWARD GREENWOOD	GEMMA ASHTON
MINISTER / CHAIR	SECRETARY
23.11.2025	23.11.25

FARINGDON BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	General	Restricted/ Designated	2025	2024
Receipts					
Regular Giving		54,589	-	54,589	44,402
Weekly offerings		2,341	-	2,341	1,505
Donations and other income	2	6,182	25,000	31,182	20,474
Income tax recovered on gifts		13,726	6,250	19,976	11,666
Investment income	3	659	3,778	4,437	5,622
Rents and contributions for use of premises (incl Manse)		3,825	-	3,825	9,383
Raised for other causes	4	225	-	225	258
Total Receipts		81,547	35,028	116,575	93,310
Payments					
Ministry	5	44,686	-	44,686	25,293
Mission	6	17,087	-	17,087	14,183
Upkeep of church premises (excluding extra-ordinary repairs)	7	14,120	-	14,120	15,145
Administration	8	2,641	-	2,641	2,791
Total Payments		78,534	-	78,534	57,412
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		3,013	35,028	38,041	35,898
Extra-ordinary repairs		20,514	-	20,514	55,740
Increase in value of manse		7,500	-	7,500	-
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year		(10,001)	35,028	25,027	(19,842)
Cash balance at previous year end		66,145	165,793	231,938	249,545
Add net cash receipts/(payments) for the year		(10,001)	35,028	25,027	(19,842)
Change in current assets/liabilities		(13,190)	-	(13,190)	2,235
Cash balance at current year end		42,954	200,821	243,775	231,938

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 29 FEBRUARY 2025

	Note	General	Restricted/ Designated	2025	2024
Assets					
Bank and other cash balances					
Santander Bank Account		13,371	31,250	44,621	37,221
BUC deposit account		29,583	169,571	199,154	194,717
Other monetary assets:					
Debtors		738	-	738	4,064
Gift aid claimed but not received		13,443	-	13,443	5,884
Assets Held for Church's own use	9	382,500	-	382,500	375,000
Total Assets		439,635	200,821	640,456	616,886
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities	10	1,921	-	1,921	3,378
Pension Scheme liability	11	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities		1,921	-	1,921	3,378
Net Assets		437,714	200,821	638,535	613,508
Reserves at 1 March		447,715	165,793	613,508	633,350
Net surplus for the year from receipts and payments account		(10,001)	35,028	25,027	(19,842)
Reserves at 28 February (29 February 2025)		437,714	200,821	638,535	613,508

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages relating to the year ending 28 February 2025 are as approved by the trustees and have been independently certified.

Signed.....

Michael Smedley
Treasurer authorised to sign on behalf of all trustees)

Date.....18/5/25

Signed.....JK Fletcher

Independent Examiner

Date.....18/5/25.

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

	2025	2024
Donations / Gifts	30,680	5,828
Legacies	502	14,646
Total Donations and Other Income	31,182	20,474

3. Investment income

	2025	2024
Bank interest (BU Deposit account)	4,437	5,622
Total Investment Income	4,437	5,622

4. Raised for Other causes

	2025	2024
Total Raised for Other causes	225	258

5. Ministry

	2025	2024
Minister's stipend	22,195	7,336
Pension contribution	6,559	1,603
National insurance/ PAYE	5,272	1,225
Minister's expenses	2,706	1,196
Manse running costs	7,766	12,599
Other ministry costs [incl. Moderator]	188	1,334
Total Ministry	44,686	25,293

The Minister acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of their services as Minister, including the provision of manse accommodation, owned by the church.

6.Mission

	2025	2024
Hospitality	289	-
Events and Outreach	5,833	2,915
Home Mission	3,900	3,900
BMS World Mission	2,700	2,700
Wycliffe	2,400	2,400
SYFC	240	240
Arshad/Pakistan	(960)	1200
Just Love	2,400	-
Other gifts	285	828
Total Mission	17,087	14,183

7. Upkeep of church premises

	2025	2024
Repairs and maintenance	8,190	5,421
Utilities	4,253	8,003
Insurance	1,677	1,721
Total Upkeep of church premises	14,120	15,145

8.Administration

	2025	2024
Equipment, telephone and postage	481	667
Books and Training	50	324
Subscriptions, website & Licence fees	2,078	1,392
Misc./Other administration	32	408
Total Administration	2,641	2,791

9.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.

- Church premises at Bromsgrove, Faringdon. It has been the tradition of the church to value this asset at £0.
- Church manse at 13 Berners Way, Faringdon valued at 382,500 based on 2% uplift in value.
- The church also owns an original chained John Bunyan bible and other historic documents that are held on trust by Regents College, Oxford. The value of these has not been included in the accounts.

10. Current Liabilities

	2025	2024
Electricity billed but not yet paid	450	500
Cheques written but not cashed	-	240
PAYE payable	1,140	854
Council tax payable	331	824
Other current liabilities - restricted gifts payable to charities	-	960
Total Current Liabilities	1,921	3,378

11. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund, started in 1925. At the beginning of the financial year, the scheme comprised of a defined benefits scheme which was closed to future accrual on 31 December 2011 and a defined contribution plan which was opened in January 2012. The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For the current financial year, the pension provision for members of the Scheme is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited. Furthermore, members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

In October 2024, the insurance company Just Group completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to the defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022 also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just Group from that date.

The Minister is eligible to join the Scheme.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The present value of the agreed deficit contributions were immaterial at the beginning of the financial year and were fully extinguished once the buy out was completed by Just Group in October 2024.

12. Funds forming part of the restricted & designated funds

The Future Fund: £84,671. The Future Fund is being held for possible use for major development of the Bromsgrove premises or the acquisition of other premises unless or until a Special Church Meeting otherwise resolves. This sum includes interest that is attributable to the sum held.

The John Colligan Legacy Fund: £84,900. The Special Church Meeting of 28th November 2019 resolved that the money from this legacy, both capital and income, could be used for the general purposes of the Church. Consideration is being given as to whether it is more appropriate for a particular purpose to be recorded. This sum includes interest that is attributable to the sum held.

Fund for Children's /Youth Worker. £31,250. This is a sum held from Gifts where the request was that the sum should specifically support work with Children and Young people.

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