



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending
31st MARCH 2025**

**Registered Charity Number
1140436**

**Registered Company Number
07411973**

**175 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8PX**

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ending 31st March 2025

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& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ending 31st March 2025**

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS

Mr P. Newman	Chairman
Mr P. Foster	Treasurer
Ms N. Gwati	
Mrs S. Hale	
Mr D.J.Hewson	

ELDERS / COMPANY MEMBERS

Mr S. Argent	Elder
Mr P. Draper	Elder
Mr. J.Liddiard	Elder (from 23/04/24)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
1, Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Philip Mount
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and Accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019).

Our Purposes and Activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the work of the charity

for the public benefit in and around Ascot and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

Aims

The Church's main aim is to be 'a church that responds to and shares the love of God' following a New Testament pattern whilst engaging with our 21st Century culture, based on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Serving and Mission.

Ascot Life Church (ALC) has the general aim of contributing to the lives of people of all ages from Ascot and the surrounding areas by communicating the Christian faith to them in ways they can relate to, and by involving as many people as possible in Christian worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church and to benefit from being part of this faith community.

Activities

The Church's Sunday meetings have a contemporary feel reflecting the relevance of faith in Jesus Christ to modern living. These meetings include a time of praise and worship followed by Bible-based teaching.

During the week, small groups called 'Life Groups' meet with the aim of encouraging those involved in the life of the church to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, to experience his life-transforming power and to share their faith with others. Online morning prayer meetings using Zoom video conferencing software are also held on weekdays.

Ascot Life Church is a public benefit entity and the Trustees/Directors regard serving the surrounding community as an important aspect of the church's activity. In ensuring that this remains a significant feature of the life of the church they have considered the Charity

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Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our Volunteers

Most of the activities of the church are dependent on volunteers with the church's staff team playing a complementary facilitating and organising role. The church would not function effectively without the contribution of volunteers and a significant proportion of the regular participants in the life of the church play some kind of voluntary role. An assessment of the number of people involved in volunteer roles during 2024-25 identified around 130 such contributors to the life of the church, around 50% of adults or teenagers who regularly participate in church life.

Achievements and Performance

The church meets on Sunday mornings at Ascot Racecourse, which provides a larger venue than the church buildings to accommodate growth in the number of people participating in the life of the church over the last few years.

Throughout the year, several Bible-based teaching series were presented aimed at helping people of all backgrounds to understand the message of the Bible better enabling them to grow in their faith, in their relationship with God and with one another.

In the spring of 2024, after celebrating Easter, the church worked through a teaching series in the first few chapters of the Old Testament book of Judges entitled 'Ruin and Restoration.' This series allowed pastors to confront challenging apologetic topics such as the occurrence of warfare and judgement in the Old Testament, as well as teaching repeatedly into the importance of whole-life worship, and God's grace in restoring us when we fail. The church then spent the summer holidays covering the biblical theme of 'rest' over 4 weeks.

During the autumn of 2024 the church began a series called 'Teach us to Pray', with the purpose of both bringing scriptural teaching on prayer, and giving practical guidance on building a personal life of prayer. This series was accompanied by individual weekly practices – such as praying the Lord's Prayer once a day – and some communal practices, such as 'Week of Prayer' held in the middle of November.

Over the Christmas season, we held 4 services to celebrate the wonder of Jesus becoming human, helping people from both the church and the surrounding community to connect with God by responding to the good news of the gospel wherever they may be in their journey of faith. Copies of short evangelistic books were also distributed at the Carol Concert on 15th December to help newcomers, in particular, to continue their faith journey.

From January 2025 until March, the church re-entered the Book of Judges in a series called 'Weakness and Strength' which followed the life of Gideon and his legacy. This was another challenging and inspiring series which revealed God's grace in working with weak and broken people – people just like us.

As a continued investment in the life and growth of the church, a staff member was taken on as a Media and Communications Officer in August 2024, after having served as an intern for the previous year. This staff member took on various responsibilities, two primary ones being the

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co-ordination the church's communications, and resourcing of children's groups on Sundays. In addition to this, a new Youth Worker was also employed on a part-time basis in December 2024. This appointment was made to release another staff member into a full-time role as Operations Manager to facilitate the growing numbers and activity of the church.

One major responsibility of the new Operations Manager was the oversight of renovations to the church premises. This was named the 'Hub for Mission' project, as the aim was to develop the current premises at 175 New Road to serve as a centre for training the church in gospel outreach, as well as a place to serve the local community through multiple ongoing and future projects, such as Community Café (launched in October 2023) and Sunbeams parent and toddler group (launched in September 2024). The restricted funds for this project were raised at two 'Gift Days' on Sundays October 13th and 20th 2024.

Towards the close of the previous financial year, a new elder proposed in December 2023 was affirmed by members. This elder was then appointed at the beginning of the new financial year, on Sunday 23rd April.

In September 2023 the ALC Elders officially took on transitional leadership for three years of The Brook Church Bagshot, following their pastor's retirement. ALC Elders were appointed Spiritual Leaders of this separate charitable legal entity with its own financial records and Trustees, with the aim of reinvigorating and renewing the church after numerical decline going back some years. This second year of transitional leadership has consisted of steadily developing a strategy for relaunching the church under new leadership, namely the current Ministry Trainee on the staff of Ascot Life Church.

During 2024-25, the number of those regularly involved in church life was around 200 adults and teenagers with an additional 120 or so aged 18 and under. Attendance at the main Sunday morning meetings typically ranges between 190-240 people of all ages.

The church remains committed to supporting Christian organisations and ministries both in the UK and overseas and provides grants to Commission Apostolic Trust, TEAR Fund, Wycliffe Bible Translators and Operation Mobilisation. Benevolent donations are also made by the church to support the welfare of people experiencing financial hardship.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31st March 2025 the church received a total of unrestricted income from donations, Gift Aid and bank interest amounting to £253,580. Income tax recovered on unrestricted Gift Aid donations was £45,876

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £269,884.

Total restricted income was £73,418 including income tax recovered on restricted Gift Aid donations amounting to £11,628. £28,564 was expended from restricted funds.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustees/Directors aim to employ available funds towards the charitable aims of the church and towards enhancing the viability of the church's work for the future. In view of this policy and the relatively short time between the receipt of funds and their expenditure, all funds are held in cash. Funds not immediately required are held on deposit.

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Funds

Funds are allocated to the activities of the church from donations and from Gift Aid tax refunds. 64% of unrestricted income was allocated to staff costs to enable the activities of the church to be implemented effectively, with a further 16.4% used to cover the running costs of the church buildings and rental of premises for Sunday morning meetings. 11.1% of unrestricted income was allocated to grants for the support of organisations and individuals within the UK and overseas that are directly involved in Christian work and whose objectives the Elders and Trustees consider to be compatible with the charitable aims of the church. The remaining unrestricted funds were allocated to the general operating costs of the church.

Restricted funds in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have specified the purpose for which the funds should be used are allocated accordingly.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The level of activity of the church is dependent upon voluntary donations from church members and attenders together with tax reclaimed on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. To adequately cover the month-by-month operating costs of the church, the Trustees/Directors consider that the amount of unrestricted funds that should be immediately available at all times as a reserve should equate to at least two months of Core Monthly Operating Costs (CMOC), which are defined as essential expenses such as those for salaries, utilities, essential property maintenance, office costs, essential travel and necessary professional services. This level of reserves is calculated each year after approval of the annual budget and is stress-tested against the maximum liabilities of the church including such items as statutory staff redundancy payments and contractual obligations such as venue hire.

This level of reserves is considered adequate by the Trustees/Directors as it would be possible, although not desirable, to reduce the level of activity of the church and its corresponding outgoings in various ways should reserves fall to such a level. Should available funds fall below two months CMOC, fund-raising appeals and cost-reduction plans affecting non-core costs would be prepared and implemented if necessary to maintain reserves above the set threshold.

The church's general fund balance has been maintained at a good level such that the Trustees/Directors considered that it was important to invest more of the Church's funds in employing and developing staff to enable the work of the church to be enhanced. The budget for 2024-25 was therefore intentionally structured to enhance the staff team and to provide staff training with the expectation that expenditure would exceed income thereby reducing the general fund balance. At the end of the financial year 2024-25, the expected reduction in the general fund balance remained within Reserves Policy tolerances. The Trustees/Directors have no immediate concerns regarding the financial viability of the church as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Restricted funds are allocated for amounts raised in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have designated their contributions for specific purposes. Most the church's restricted funds active during 2024-25, were used for the 'Hub for Mission' project to develop the current premises at 175 New Road. Further funds were used in support of Christian mission work, to help those in need and to support an annual youth camp event.

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Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, constituting a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, as defined in the Companies Act 2011.

Appointment of New Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, providing that they also become a director of the Charitable Company and that they subscribe to the church's Statement of Beliefs.

Trustee Induction and Training

New Trustees are provided with terms of reference defining their role and are briefed by the existing Trustees on the nature of their responsibilities. They are also encouraged to review the information on the role of Trustees available on the Charity Commission website and are encouraged to attend relevant external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

At the outset of the period covered by this report there were five Trustees, all church members including D.J.Hewson who joined within the 2024-25 period. The Trustees also serve as Directors of ALC as a Charitable Company. The Trustees/Directors take prime responsibility for ensuring that Ascot Life Church fulfils its charitable objects and legal responsibilities and meet at least three times a year.

For the period covered by this report, the church had three Elders who are also the Company Members. The Elders meet bi-weekly and have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church and oversee the day-to-day running of the church. Under the oversight of the Elders, the responsibilities for running various church activities and ministries are further delegated to staff members and to volunteer activity and group leaders.

The church had six employed members of staff at the start of the period covered by this report: one Elder/Minister, one staff member covering a combined Youth Work and Operations role, a part-time Children's Worker, one Ministry Trainee, a Church and Community Worker (a previous intern), and a new intern. In July 2024 the part-time Children's Worker went on maternity leave and their role was covered by a Maternity Cover appointment.

At the end of this period there were eight employed members of staff: one Elder/Minister, one Operations Manager, one Ministry Trainee, one Church and Community Worker, two part-time Children's Workers (one a maternity cover), one Media and Communications Officer, and one part-time Youth Worker.

Financial matters are dealt with by a treasury team co-ordinated by the Treasurer who provides reports to the Trustees/Directors and to the Elders.

Salaries and other staff benefits are agreed by the Trustees/Directors who conduct an annual review of staff remuneration taking account of price and wage inflation and the responsibilities

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of each role. They also periodically review available information on remuneration and benefits for comparable roles.

Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship or similar connection between the charity and a trustee of the charity, its management personnel or a related party must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees. In the current year no such related party contracts or transactions were reported.

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Reference and Administrative Details

The charity is registered under the name 'Ascot Life Church'.

Registered Charity Number: 1140436

Registered Company Number: 07411973 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Ascot Life Church, 175 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX

Trustees/Directors:

Mr P. Foster

Ms N. Gwati

Mrs S. Hale

Mr P. Newman

Mr D.J.Hewson

Property Trustee: Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Company Members and Key Management Personnel:

Mr S. Argent

Mr P. Draper

Mr J.Liddiard

Trustees'/Directors' Responsibilities in Relation to Financial Statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the Directors of Ascot Life Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SoRP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial

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information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to Disclosure to Our Independent Examiner

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees'/Directors' Annual Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the Independent Examiner in connection with preparing his report, of which the charitable company's Independent Examiner is unaware, and
- the Trustees/Directors, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the church's Independent Examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr Philip Mount, will continue his appointment as per his letter of engagement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

By order of the board of Trustees/Directors

Signature: 

Trustee/Director Name: 

Date: 

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the Directors / Trustees of Ascot Life Church. I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out from Page 14.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. Although the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 by a small margin, the level of assets held was well below the £3.26M threshold that requires an audit.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

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Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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.

Signed: 

Mr Philip Mount TD AFA MIPA
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

Dated: 25/11/25

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STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ending 31st March 2025
(including summary income and expenditure account)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Mar-25 £	Restricted funds Mar-25 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-25 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-24 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3a	252,033	73,418	325,451	255,046
Investments	3b	1,547	-	1,547	310
Total Income		253,580	73,418	326,998	255,356
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4a&b	269,884	28,564	298,448	251,142
Total Expenditure		269,884	28,564	298,448	251,142
Net income/(expenditure)		(16,304)	44,854	28,550	4,214
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(16,304)	44,854	28,550	4,214
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		64,962	5,198	70,160	65,946
Total funds carried forward		48,658	50,052	98,710	70,160

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BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2025

	Notes	Total funds Mar-25 £	Total funds Mar-24 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	24,271	9,385
Cash at bank and in hand		76,037	61,666
Total Current Assets		100,308	71,051
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,598)	(891)
Net current assets or liabilities		98,710	70,160
Total assets less current liabilities		98,710	70,160
Total net assets or liabilities	8	98,710	70,160
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		50,052	5,198
Unrestricted funds		48,658	64,962
Total Charity Funds		98,710	70,160

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For the period ending 31/03/2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors'/Trustees' responsibilities:

- the Members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act;
- the Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees/Directors on:

23rd NOVEMBER 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director's Name: PAUL MINTON Director's Name: PAUL FOSTER

Signed: [Signature] Signed: P. Foster

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used in the preparation of the financial statements:

a. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or accrued.

b. Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

In view of the continued health of the church's general fund balance for 2024-25 the Trustees/Directors have no concerns at present regarding the financial viability of the charity and are satisfied that the reserves held by the charity are more than sufficient to ensure its financial health for the foreseeable future.

c. Income

Donations under Gift Aid and all other donations and income are recognised as income when they are received. The income tax recovery associated with Gift Aid donations is accrued to the same month in which the donations are received.

d. Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e. Receipt of Donated Services and Facilities

The church benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its many volunteers and the Trustees' Annual Report provides information about their contribution. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of people involved with the church is not assessed in economic terms and is therefore not recognised in the accounts.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees/Directors have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for specific purposes.

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Restricted funds are donations that the donor has specified to be solely used for specific purposes as part of the church's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the church.

g. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is on charitable activities including the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

h. Grants

The church makes donations to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its own and to people involved in Christian work. These donations are accounted for when paid over.

In accordance with the purposes of the charity to advance the Christian faith and to fulfil other charitable purposes connected with the work of the charity (see 'Our purposes and activities' in the report of the Trustees/Directors), the church made donations from its unrestricted funds as shown in the table below during the reporting year:-

Commission Apostolic Trust	£12,600
Wycliffe Bible Translators	£2,652
Operation Mobilisation	£2,652
Tearfund Donations	£1,896
Trinity Church Canada Support	£7,700
Baptist Union	£445
Other small donations	£200

Total £28,145

i. Operating Leases

The charity classifies the lease of printing and photocopying equipment as an operating lease. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every few years whenever technology advancements make such replacement economically advantageous. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the expected settlement amounts due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

k. Creditors and Provisions

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Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their expected settlement amount.

l. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

m. Pensions

Following the introduction of pension auto enrolment, the church set up an account with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), the workplace pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment. New employees are automatically enrolled into the NEST pension scheme at a basic level but have the flexibility to make contributions at a level that suits their circumstances, or to opt out if they wish to do so. The church makes corresponding employer contributions in accordance with terms agreed in the relevant contracts of employment.

The employer contributions made by the charity to the above schemes in 2024-25 and treated as an expense amounted to £10,602. The aggregated amount paid to key management personnel in 2024-25 amounted to £2,956.

Pension premiums for the charitable company's employees are paid from unrestricted funds and are accounted for in the same month as the employees' related remuneration.

Legal Status of the Charity

The church is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member of the charity.

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Income

a. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-25 £	Total Funds Mar-24 £
Unrestricted funds:-				
Donations under Gift Aid	176,153	-	176,153	168,826
Gift Aid tax recovered	45,876	-	45,876	44,157
Donations – General	30,004	-	30,004	36,819
	252,033	-	252,033	249,802
Restricted funds:-				
Building Works Fund	-	59,442	59,442	-
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	4,490	4,490	2,900
Benevolent Fund	-	1,875	1,875	1,875
Connect Festival Event Fund	-	875	875	375
Dave Betts Support	-	6,688	6,688	-
Other Restricted Funds (Mar-25)	-	48	48	94
	252,033	73,418	325,451	255,046
b. Investment Income				
Bank interest	1,547	-	1,547	310
	1,547	-	1,547	310
Total Income	253,580	73,418	326,998	255,356

All the church's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

Gift Aid tax recovered on restricted donations amounted to £11,628 and is included in the restricted fund totals in the above table.

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

No income from legacies was received in 2024-25.

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Expenditure

a. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - Unrestricted Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-25 £	Total Funds Mar-24 £
Staff salaries and wages	138,669	-	138,669	108,331
Employer's NI	6,107	-	6,107	3,311
Employer pension contributions	10,602	-	10,602	8,139
Church house costs	3,563	-	3,563	21,698
Grants	28,145	-	28,145	29,339
Costs of premises	41,464	-	41,464	40,744
Church equipment and resources	20,751	-	20,751	8,625
Administration and IT costs	5,516	-	5,516	5,748
Staff resources and travel	3,600	-	3,600	3,164
Training and Conferences	3,622	-	3,622	3,214
Students, Youth and Children's work	3,969	-	3,969	4,420
Outreach and Community work	3,057	-	3,057	6,260
Guest speakers	535	-	535	645
Professional fees	284	-	284	263
	269,884	-	269,884	243,901

'Church house costs' relate to the house beneficially owned by the church as a manse for a minister's living accommodation and include costs such as property insurance, council tax and maintenance.

'Costs of premises' relate to the running costs of the church buildings and to the rental of premises at Ascot Racecourse used for Sunday morning services.

Notable variances: 'Staff salaries and wages' increase in staff employed from six to eight and inflation including National Living Wage increases. 'Church house costs' returned to March 2023 expenditure levels following refurbishment during the 2023 – 2024 period. 'Church equipment and resources' one-off costs including new commercial cooker and tents.

b. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - Restricted Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-25 £	Total Funds Mar-24 £
Building Works Fund	-	19,600	19,600	-
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	3,111	3,111	2,810
Benevolent Fund	-	4,505	4,505	1,810
Connect Festival Event Fund	-	1,000	1,000	466
Other restricted funds exp <£500 (Mar-25)	-	348	348	2,155
	-	28,564	28,564	7,241

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Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

Fixed Assets

The company has the beneficial use of a church property and manse by virtue of a trust established in 1921. The title deeds to these freehold properties are held by the Baptist Union Corporation.

The church buildings are located at 175, New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX and had a buildings insurance valuation of £1,466,528 declared by Baptist Insurance effective in April 2024.

The manse is located at 3, Whitelands Drive, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LS. The buildings insured sum was £420,000 (AXA Insurance Limited) as of April 2024.

These valuations have been used for the purposes of this Annual Report.

Debtors

	Mar-25	Mar-24
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable due	21,617	8,188
Prepayments	2,654	1,197
Other debtors and payments	-	-
	24,271	9,385

Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Mar-25	Mar-24
	£	£
Income tax and NI due	1,598	891
Other creditors	-	-
	1,598	891

Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Mar-25	Total Funds Mar-24
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	50,256	50,052	100,308	71,051
Current liabilities	(1,598)	-	(1,598)	(891)
Fund Balances	48,658	50,052	98,710	70,160

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Net Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance 31/03/24 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/25 £
Unrestricted general funds	64,962	253,580	269,884	-	48,658
Restricted funds:-					
Building Works Fund	-	59,442	19,600	-	39,842
Newday Youth Camp Fund	380	4,490	3,111	-	1,759
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	4,010	1,875	4,505	-	1,380
Mens Breakfast	-	48	-	-	48
Connect Festival Event Fund	125	875	1,000	-	-
Community Work Fund	16	-	-	-	16
Dave Betts Support	391	6,688	348	-	6,731
YWAM T & D Breen Support	1	-	-	-	1
	70,160	326,998	298,448		98,710

Net movement in funds - previous year

	Opening Balance 31/03/23 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/24 £
Unrestricted general funds	58,751	250,112	243,901	-	64,962
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	290	2,900	2,810	-	380
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	3,945	1,875	1,810	-	4,010
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	61	-	-
Commission Festival Fund	216	375	466	-	125
Community Work Fund	38	-	22	-	16
Trinity Church, Canada Support	931	-	540	-	391
T&D Breen Support	1,189	94	1,282	-	1
PR Retirement Gifts	250	-	250	-	-
	65,946	255,356	251,142	-	70,160

The Youth Events fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for Christian youth events that take place throughout the year.

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The Newday Youth Camp fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the ALC youth group to attend the 'Newday' annual Christian youth festival

The Benevolent Fund is used for donations designated for the support of those in need. Where such needs arise and the amount available within the restricted fund is insufficient, these needs are covered from the church's general funds.

The Bible Reading Notes Fund is used to provide people with explanatory notes about the Bible to promote greater understanding of the Christian faith and of the Bible's relevance to everyday living. This fund has now been closed as the notes are now available free of charge.

The Commission Festival fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the Commission Festival at which Ascot Life Church joins with other churches from across the UK for Christian worship, teaching and fellowship. Additional event expenses were covered from general funds to meet the full costs of this event.

The Community Work fund was derived primarily from donations received from a monthly community lunch run by ALC until the pandemic lockdown in the spring of 2020. These donations often exceeded the costs of the food for the lunches so the excess funds are used towards the costs of other community activities provided by the church.

The Trinity Church, Canada support fund (formerly Dave Betts Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated to support Trinity Church in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, led by Dave Betts as he works to rejuvenate what was a struggling church.

The T&D Breen fund (formerly the Tazmin Foster Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated for Tazmin and Daniel Breen's support as they work with 'Youth With A Mission' based in Perth, Australia.

Trustees, Staff and Related Parties Remuneration and Benefits

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charitable company or a related entity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

The number of church employees was six at the start of the reporting year and eight at the end of the year. Further details are given in the section about Organisation on pages 8-9. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

The total remuneration received by the salaried church minister who deals with the day-to-day management of the church's activities amounted to £42,741. The remunerated church minister has beneficial use of the house owned by the church as a manse for living accommodation, the rental value for which is included in the above figure.

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

The aggregated total donations received from trustees and related parties (as defined in the Charities SoRP (FRS 102) Appendix 1) during 2024-25 amounted to £36,889.

Related Charities

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The custodian trustee of the church buildings, including the church manse, is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Charity number 249635), which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.

The church is affiliated to Commission Apostolic Trust (Charity number 1150017) and is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Charity number 1125912) and the Southern Counties Baptist Association (Charity number 1091066). The church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance (Charity number 212325).

Financial Commitments

The Charitable Company leases an office photocopier/printer for which a total of £1,690 (including VAT) was charged in the financial year 2024-25.

Independent Examination

The fee for independent examination of the church's accounts is expected to amount to £250.