

# **COWES BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **Registered Address**

Victoria Road  
Cowes  
Isle of Wight.  
PO31 7JJ

**Registered Charity** No 1143075

## **Trustees**

Mrs Judith Compton	Minister
Mrs Elaine Cherry	Treasurer
Mrs Tracey Dancy	Secretary
Mrs Carol Jennings	Deacon
Mr Hamish Wilson	Deacon
Mr Graham Cherry	Deacon
Mrs Jacqui Spalding	Deacon

## **Property Trustees**

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

## **Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
St. James Square, Newport, I.W. PO30 1UP

CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

## **Independent Examiner**

A H Cross & Co

## **COWES BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Annual Report for 2024**

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended December 31 2024.

### **Charitable Object**

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that 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. The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd as holding trustees, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

### **Organisational Structure and Decision making processes**

Baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith is the normal mode of entry into the membership of the church. Persons seeking membership who have not been baptised in the manner described may at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting be accepted for full membership based on their own public profession of faith.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place at least quarterly and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint deacons, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary (if there is one) and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), are the Charity Trustees, and are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity.

Charity Trustees serve so long as they have the support of the Church Members' Meeting and (except for those in ministerial offices) are actively appointed and reappointed at least once every three years.

Training for Trustees is provided by both the Southern Counties Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain, who regularly arrange training days on financial management, safeguarding, legal matters and other aspects of interest to the Trustees. Detailed Guidance notes are also available from the Baptist Union website.

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 meeting 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.

### **Affiliations**

The church is in membership with

- The Baptist Union of Great Britain
- The Southern Counties Baptist Association
- The Evangelical Alliance
- Churches Together in Cowes

## **COWES BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Annual Report for 2024 continued**

#### **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 church's focus is set out as follows:

*"Cowes Baptist Church exists to honour Jesus, bringing people together, sharing facilities and resources, growing, worshipping, praying, serving, seeking to be the best we can, seeking the best for those we serve".*

The Church usually holds public services of Christian worship on Sunday mornings supported by a varied music group. When necessary there are activities for babies, toddlers and children and a thriving parent and toddler group which meets on Tuesday mornings. There are also various small groups which meet on a regular basis.

Details of all church activities are available through the church website at [www.cowesbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.cowesbaptistchurch.org.uk)

The church works alongside other churches in Cowes and is also active in supporting joint initiatives such as IOW Street Pastors and School Pastors and the Isle of Wight Foodbank which serve vulnerable people in the wider community.

The Church has a Safeguarding policy which is fully compliant with the Baptist Union policies and best practice guidelines to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are interviewed and appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Baring Service.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

During the last year, our core activities have been maintained, with regular Sunday morning services, zoom prayer meetings and the establishment of several small groups. The Renew Café continues to operate and is concerned with people's wellbeing. In addition several groups supporting those in need in our community are now using the premises on a regular basis, along with fitness, music and dance classes for children and adults.

During the year membership has increased to 36. However there are also numerous other members of the congregation who are active in the work of the church but have not yet become church members.

# COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

## Annual Report for 2024 continued

### Reserves Policy

**General Fund:** Regular income supports the day to day activities of the church, however it has been determined by the trustees that a policy of maintaining a general cash reserve fund of £10,000 should be adopted. This reserve will be available to cover short term reductions in income or unexpected expenditure.

**Building Fund:** Funds are held for any major works on the church buildings and the manse. No reserve figure has been set as any work needed will be carried out as necessary.

**Church / Community Worker:** No reserves are required for this account. Currently this account is not being used.

### Financial Review

#### General Fund.

Income for 2024 (excluding funds received for outside causes) was £70,999 a slight decrease on 2023. However income in 2023 was inflated due to a change in the method of payment of a grant that we receive from monthly to annually, so that an amount of £5879 relating to 2024 was actually received in 2023. Taking this into account the actual increase in income was approximately 8%, more modest 5%. Income from hire of the premises also increased during the year.

Overall expenditure decreased by 4% on the previous year. This was mainly due utility bills reducing significantly.

Taking the above into consideration, we ended the year with a surplus on the general fund of £15474.14. From this £9,500 has been temporarily transferred to the Building Fund to cover the deficit on that fund. The balance brought forward from the previous year was £65,853.04 so the balance carried forward at the end of 2024 was £69,827.18.

**Building Fund.** During 2024 our original manse continued to be rented out. The rent received covered the rent payable to the Minister and made a contribution towards the building fund.

There was a balance of £ 5,557.96 as of 31 December 2023. During 2024 the work on the windows and the damp proofing was completed, and the kitchen completely refurbished. The total cost of the work was in the region of £27,300 with some minor works still to be carried out. Donations from members and friends of the church plus other income has not completely covered the costs, however it is anticipated that income in 2025 will cover the deficit. A sum of £9,500 has been temporarily transferred from the General fund to cover the deficit until the fund is back in credit. The balance as at 31 December 2024 stands at £344.32.

**Funds for the Church/Community Worker** were restricted funds for the employment of a Church/Community Worker. The post is now vacant, and there was no income or expenditure during 2024. The balance at the end of 2024 remains at was £15,942.40

There were no unforeseen expenses in 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

...Elaine Cherry.....

On (date).....

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

### COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

I report on the accounts of Cowes Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on the following 6 pages.

#### Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") does not apply. I report in respect of my examination of the Church accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Trustees 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 1) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2) the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 3) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
I S Henderson  
Chartered Accountant  
A H Cross & Co Limited  
16 Quay Street  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 5BG

11 April 2025

# COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

	General Fund	Building Fund	Toddlers	Church Community Worker	Total 2024	Total 2023
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations	62,513.62	7,830.50			70,344.12	69,378
Investment Income	3,321.51				3,321.51	2,283
Other Sources of Income	5,687.75	19,277.70	1,448.46		26,413.91	24,439
	<u>71,522.88</u>	<u>27,108.20</u>	<u>1,448.46</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100,079.54</u>	<u>96,100</u>
<b>Payments</b>						
Church Activities	46,099.51		1,182.71		47,282.22	48,613
Given to other causes	6,113.34				6,113.34	7,205
Management & Administration	3,835.89				3,835.89	3,536
Rent/maintenance		41,821.84			41,821.84	17,906
	<u>56,048.74</u>	<u>41,821.84</u>	<u>1,182.71</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>99,053.29</u>	<u>77,260</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	15,474.14	-14,713.64	265.75	0.00	1,026.25	18,840
<b>Balance b/f 1/1/24</b>	63,853.04	5,557.96	1,233.42	15,942.40	86,586.82	67,747
Transfer from General fund to Building fund	-9,500.00	9,500.00				
<b>Balance c/f 31/12/24</b>	<u>69,827.18</u>	<u>344.32</u>	<u>1,499.17</u>	<u>15,942.40</u>	<u>87,613.07</u>	<u>86,587</u>

# COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	<i>Note</i>	2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>			
Offerings		44,104.17	41,041
Donations and other income	2	8,969.19	15,687
Income tax recovered on gifts		8,916.34	8,246
Bank Interest		3,321.51	2,284
Contributions for use of premises		<u>5,687.75</u>	<u>4,019</u>
Sub Total		70,998.96	71,277
 Raised for other causes	3	<u>523.92</u>	<u>2,143</u>
		<u>71,522.88</u>	<u>73,420</u>
 <b>Payments</b>			
Ministry	4	37,234.82	33,955
Upkeep of church premises	5	8,521.56	12,315
Given to other causes	6	6,113.34	7,205
Administration	7	3,835.89	3,536
Outreach	8	<u>343.13</u>	<u>1,206</u>
		<u>56,048.74</u>	<u>58,217</u>
 <b>Surplus/ Deficit for the year</b>		<b>15,474.14</b>	<b>15,203</b>
<b>Transfer to Building Fund</b>		<b>-9,500.00</b>	
<b>Balance brought forward 1/1/24</b>		<b><u>63,853.04</u></b>	<b><u>48,650</u></b>
<b>Balance carried forward 31/12/24</b>		<b><u>69,827.18</u></b>	<b><u>63,853</u></b>



## COWES BAPTIST CHURCH: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

**1. Basis of accounts:** These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and accord with S.42(3) charities act 1993 ( Amended by section 28 of the Charities Act 2006)

	2024	2023
<b>2.Donations and other income</b>		
Donations	176.05	423
HIWCF 2024/2025	7410.84	13,718
Funeral Donations	343.00	200
SCBA Heating Grant		500
Church Meal	377.50	306
Christmas Tree ( 2 years)	650.00	450
Other	11.80	90
	<u>8,969.19</u>	<u>15,687</u>
<b>3. Raised for other causes</b>		
Baptist Missionary Society	11.33	5
Op Agri (BMS Harvest )	376.75	780
Curins ( Latin Link)		200
Toilet Twinning	20.00	98
R West		35
Compassion First(Andrew & Dira)		10
Christmas Hampers	115.84	205
Youth Club ( in memory of A Leigh)		290
Street Pastors		200
Frontline		320
	<u>523.92</u>	<u>2,143</u>
<b>4. Ministry</b>		
Ministers Stipend	28,599.96	26,500
Pension	3,631.24	3,375
Travel	459.50	135
Visiting Speakers	300.00	300
Manse Upkeep - Council Tax	2,842.24	2,712
Insurance	592.88	531
Water	809.00	402
	<u>37,234.82</u>	<u>33,955</u>



# **COWES BAPTIST CHURCH: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

	2024	2023
<b>5. Upkeep of Church Premises</b>		
Lighting & Heating	3,584.31	7,897
Cleaning	829.91	130
Insurance	2,222.93	2,173
Water	538.34	456
Repair & Maintenance	1,346.07	1,611
Equipment		48
	<u>8,521.56</u>	<u>12,315</u>
<b>6. Given To Other Causes</b>		
Home Mission	1,776.00	1,680
Baptist Missionary Society	1,926.00	1,680
Op Agri ( BMS 2023) Harvest	376.75	780
Toilet Twinning		124
Latin Link ( R Gardner)	640.00	800
Compassion First ( Andrew & Dira)	614.59	609
Youth For Christ	180.00	180
Frontline		400
OMF	600.00	600
Street Pastors Quiz		200
Benevolent		152
	<u>6,113.34</u>	<u>7,205</u>
<b>7. Administration</b>		
Printing & Stationery, Books etc.	732.28	834
Telephone	156.00	144
Subscriptions & Conference Fees	986.38	876
Payroll Fees	210.00	192
Independent Examiner	150.00	150
Zoom Fees/Website	278.01	183
CCLI	384.72	366
Mobile Phone	243.18	253
Catering	198.79	217
Church Meal	377.00	306
Other	119.53	15
	<u>3835.89</u>	<u>3,536</u>
<b>8. Outreach</b>		
Christmas Booklets/Gifts	82.29	45
Hampers	115.84	203
Christmas Tree /Lights	145.00	623
Westar Worship		335
	<u>343.13</u>	<u>1,206</u>

# **BUILDING FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	7,830.50	2,260
Manse Rent ( Baring Rd)	19,200.00	19,200
Other	77.70	
	<u>27,108.20</u>	<u>21,460</u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Architects Fees ( Church)		204
Rent ( Crossfield Ave)	12,000.00	12,000
Rental Expenses/Repairs	2,525.79	1,842
Church Windows	6,565.00	2,814
Damp proofing	4,680.00	
Kitchen plastering/decorating	1,430.00	
Kitchen Floor	2,116.10	
Plumbing/Boiler	3,216.00	
Kitchen units/appliances	8,520.45	
Electrics	421.36	
Lounge Kitchen / Roof(2023)	49.88	1,000
Other	297.26	46
	<u>41,821.84</u>	<u>17,906</u>
	-14,713.64	3,554
Balance brought forward 1/1/24	5,557.96	2,004
Transfer from General Fund	9,500.00	
Balance carried forward 31/12/24	<u>344.32</u>	<u>5,558</u>

## **CHURCH / COMMUNITY WORKER RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

Balance b'fwd 1/1/2024	15,942.40	15,942
Balance c/fwd 31/12/2024	<u>15,942.40</u>	<u>15,942</u>

## **TODDLERS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	2024	2023
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	1,448.46	1,219
	<u>1,448.46</u>	<u>1,219</u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Running Expenses	1,182.71	1,137
	265.75	82
Balance brought forward 1/1/24	1,233.42	1,151
Balance carried forward 31/12/24	<u>1,499.17</u>	<u>1,233</u>

## COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
Barclays Current account	6,465.01	4,456
Barclays Deposit Account	18,171.99	22,091
COIF Deposit Account	62,808.08	59,747
Petty cash	27.97	37
Toddlers petty cash	140.02	255
	<u>87,613.07</u>	<u>86,586</u>
Representing balances on the following accounts		
General Fund	69,827.18	63,853
Building Fund	344.32	5,558
Church / Community Worker	15,942.40	15,942
Toddlers	1,499.17	1,233
	<u>87,613.07</u>	<u>86,586</u>

#### Non-Monetary Assets

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 [the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd].

Church Premises [Insured value]	2,208,123
Church Manse [Insured value]	379,249
The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of	132,930
	<u>2,720,302</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 to 6 relating to the year ending 31 December 2024 are approved by the trustees.

Judith Compton [Minister]

Elaine Cherry [Treasurer]