ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1143745

Details

Other names	ABC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2011-09-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	10 Bridge Street Alnwick Northumberland NE66 1QY
Phone	07779793213
Email	carol_jagger@hotmail.com
Website	www.alnwickbaptist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: Regular public worship, prayer, bible study, preaching and teaching;Evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;The teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;Nurture and growth of Christian disciples;Giving and encouraging pastoral care;Supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the UK and abroad.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Northumberland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£163,867	£180,347	-	-
2024-03-31	£174,362	£163,829	-	-
2023-03-31	£195,182	£163,182	-	-
2022-03-31	£156,615	£140,202	-	-
2021-03-31	£135,593	£128,654	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Stephanie Lee		2026-03-11
Dr Carol Jagger		2020-02-24
Dr Margaret Lesley Andrew		2021-05-02
Gillian Elizabeth Curry		2023-12-10
Jonathan Michael Friend		2024-11-06
Rev CHRISTOPHER BRIAN FRIEND		2019-09-01
Rev Caroline Jayne Friend		2011-08-19
Rev Karen Smith		2020-02-24
Richard Stewart Evans		2024-07-10
Susan Patricia Prince		2021-05-02

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ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1143745

Accounts

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

1. Statutory information

Alnwick Baptist Church at Lisburn Street, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UR was entered on the Register of Charities on 9 September 2011 with a new Charity Register Number of 1143745. The financial year runs from April to March.

The governing documents are a property Trust Deed (dated 1 July 1976), for which the current holding or Church Trustees are Mr Alastair Conn, Mr Brian Friend, Mr William McDonald and Mr Ian Simpson, and the Church Constitution (agreed 10 March 2011).

The mission statement of Alnwick Baptist Church is "To encourage people to accept and celebrate Jesus in their lives and to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to following Him."

The Church banks with Lloyds Bank, Alnwick. The independent examiner is Mrs Jane Harvey FCA, of Greaves Grindle, Alnwick.

2. Trustees and governance

The Charity Trustees who served during the year were:

Rev Caroline Friend (Co-Minister)
Rev Chris Friend (Co-Minister)
Mr Russell Lee (Church Secretary)
Dr Margaret Andrew (Church Treasurer)
Mr David Archer *from 10 July 2024*
Mrs Gillian Curry
Mr Richard Evans *from 10 July 2024*
Mr Jonathan Friend *from 6 November 2024*
Mrs Julie Hammond
Dr Carol Jagger
Miss Susan Prince (Safeguarding Lead)
Mr Ian Simpson
Dr Ian Smith *retired 6 November 2024*
Rev Karen Smith

Charity Trustee appointment process:

- Names are brought before the Church through the existing Elders. If a nominee is willing to be appointed, they are asked to confirm they are not disqualified from acting as a Trustee.
- A quorum of 40% of Church Members is required at the Church Meeting, and confirmation is by secret ballot, with at least two-thirds of the Members (present and voting) in favour of the appointment.
- There is an induction process for each new Charity Trustee appointment which makes use of the Charity Commission's published guidance and regulation of charities.
- Elders must be Church Members, hold the doctrinal beliefs as stated for the minister in the Church Constitution, and have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Elders serve for three years and may be re-appointed.
- Deacons must be Church Members, and the majority of the Diaconate been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Deacons serve for three years and may be re-appointed.
- Elders and Deacons are encouraged to read the Baptist Union of Great Britain Guidelines and its other resources relating to their responsibilities and positions.
- Elders and Deacons are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit", and they have regard to this in their administration of the Church.

As Charity Trustees, the Elders and Deacons met jointly in person five times during the year for normal Church business. Separately, the Elders and the Deacons met regularly to deal with all the affairs of the Church: spiritual, pastoral and practical.

3. Charitable objective

Alnwick Baptist Church ("ABC") is governed by a Church Constitution and a property Trust Deed, and as a charity is an unincorporated charitable association.

The Constitution states the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination, to include the advancement of education, community service and other such general charitable purposes, in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine. The objectives of the Elders and Deacons are to ensure Church life, and work within the local area, help to fulfill that mission, both locally and more widely.

4. Organisational structure and decision making process

The members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Church Constitution, which require them to acknowledge the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures; salvation only by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and to have made a personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church Members' Meeting normally occurs three times in each year, and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Church Constitution, Members appoint Charity Trustees, who together with the Minister(s), Church Secretary and Treasurer (each also appointed by the members) and collectively known as the Eldership and Diaconate, 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. Church Members' meetings are open to non-members. They can join in meeting discussions but only Members are entitled to vote.

Relevant matters may be presented to the Church Members' Meeting by the Elders and Deacons for guidance, or they may be raised by Members in the Church Meeting for further consideration by the Elders and Deacons. Though the Trust Deed and the Church Constitution permit decisions to be made at Church Members' Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

In our previous annual report, we disclosed that in October 2023 the Church Members' Meeting approved a request by the Charity Trustees to commission legal advice on two possible changes to our Church governance and structure:

- Appointing the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC) as Property Trustee, in place of the four individuals currently acting as holding or Church Trustees; and
- Making an application to the Charity Commission to reform the Church as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Regarding the first possible change, following the completion of due diligence work, in March 2025 a Special Church Meeting of Members passed two resolutions:

1) To appoint the Baptist Union Corporation Limited to become the Sole Holding (Property) Trustee of Alnwick Baptist Church, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR.
2) Assuming that the appointment under Resolution (1) above is successful, that, pursuant to the Baptist and Congregational Trusts Act 1951, the Church's Holding Trustees be requested to adopt the Baptist Model Trusts for Chapels and Halls known as the Baptist Trusts for Churches 2003 in respect of the Church premises, Alnwick Baptist Church, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR.

Consequently, the Charity Trustees anticipate submitting an application in respect of Resolution (1) to the Baptist Union Corporation in the first half of 2025/26, and we will confirm the result of this application in our next annual report.

Regarding the second possible change to reform the Church as a CIO, our due diligence work remains ongoing and the Charity Trustees will report on its progress and any consequences in our next annual report.

5. Objectives and activities

To achieve the principal objective set out above (see *Charitable Objective*), 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 Him as living Lord.

Services and acts of worship

Central to the work and the witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship, which normally take place each Sunday at 10:30am in our building on Lisburn Street. On the first Sunday of each month, our morning worship also includes communion. On the third Sunday of each month, morning worship normally is an all age service, and there is a reflective communion service at 7pm.

In months with a fifth Sunday, each person in the ABC family is actively encouraged to take our individual act of worship into the local community. Additionally, we provide for our Church building to be open for 'reflective worship', for those in the ABC community who wish to engage with Fifth Sunday in this way and also to provide for visitors.

There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised variously through the weekly diary on our website, invitation leaflets, in the local press and on the Church noticeboard. ABC seeks to be a friendly, open and embracing community and anybody is welcome to attend any of these services.

On the theme of welcome, in October 2024 the Church resolved to amend the welcome published on our website, which is addressed to those looking to explore faith or somewhere to belong, and you can read the words of that welcome here.

Missional communities

The Church also has several missional communities, which function as small relational services, usually held outside the Church building within community settings. One example of this is *The Gathering*, a group meeting monthly on a Sunday teatime, in homes over food, to explore more about following Jesus.

Pioneer ministry

In July 2024, the Church Members' Meeting passed a resolution to appoint Karen Smith, part-time Minister in Training at this time, to the new office of ABC Pioneer Minister. Subsequently, Karen completed her training, was ordained In September 2024, and commenced her office in October 2024, working 1.5 days a week.

The Pioneer work in Widdrington is currently in its early stages, predominantly embodying being a presence and a support wherever possible within the local community. This includes intentional listening within that community for areas which represent possibilities for future Pioneer activities.

Children and families

The Church welcomes children and families, with a broad range of activities co-ordinated by our Children and Families worker, Sarah Hamer. We have a children's programme as part of *Junior Church* in most morning services, and each month:

On the second Sunday, there is *Messy Church* at 3.30pm (an activity supported by all the local churches in Alnwick), usually in St James United Reform Church, Alnwick.

On the third Sunday, as mentioned above (see *Services and acts of worship*), morning worship is an all age service.

Junior Church follows the same programme as the main church, making new opportunities for connections and discussions between parents and their children.

Young people

The Church also provides activities for young people independently and in partnership with other local churches. In her ABC role, Sarah visits several primary schools in our community, engaging with the students through different activities such as school assemblies and prayer groups. Each year we host our well-established *Higher Sports* holiday week for young people in Years 4 to 8 at St Paul's Primary School in Alnwick. The Church is also part of the ecumenical approach to regular youth work, as one of several local churches supporting the **Ignite Youth Project** (Charity No. 1089954). Ignite works in schools and amongst children and young people through clubs and other activities, using a 'youth cell' structure. Church members support Ignite financially, as volunteers assisting in schools work or youth groups, and by acting as trustees.

Church groups

The Church runs a series of midweek groups for the growth of faith and discipleship, hosted in the homes of some Members. In addition to the opportunity for bible study and to develop themes and practical application from the Sunday message, these groups form an important part of the prayer and practical support the Church family give to one another.

A prayer group faithfully meets in our building each Saturday morning from 9 to 10am, praying for the Church, our local community and the wider world.

Other group activities connecting with and supporting our local communities

A major commitment of the Church is running a debt advice centre in Alnwick, as a part of **Christians Against Poverty** (Charity No. 1097217), offering free debt advice and support to anyone in the local community who requests it.

A further substantial commitment is our *Warm and Welcome*, a safe warm space providing hot refreshments and companionship on a Wednesday, for the benefit of any in the local community. In the summer months, from April, this activity continues in a scaled down version known as the *Warm Welcome.* Out of this ministry, and new in the past year, the Church has begun to offer the complimentary activity of a *Community Lunch.*

As we highlighted in our previous annual report, in July 2023, the Church Members' Meeting agreed that we become a supporting church for **Hope into Action UK** (Charity No. 1137686), through a service level agreement with **Gateway into Life** (Charity No. 1184557). Gateway into Life is a franchise of Hope into Action UK, operating under the name of Hope into Action: Northumberland. In the Hope into Action model, a house is purchased in a local area from funds provided by national investors, which is linked with a local church partner providing support for the property and the tenants through a Friendship and Support Group (FSG).

The Church runs further groups and activities to connect with our local communities, including:a Tuesday morning *Explore group*, weekly *Faith Talks* at Weavers Court (local extra care housing), leading Christian services in community residential settings and an occasional *Walking* group.

The Church offers and supports various events for people of all ages to allow opportunities to build relationships, explore different expressions of worship and develop personal faith. We do these both as an individual church and also by partnering with others, such as CTiA (Christians Together in Alnwick).

Further details of all our activities are available from the Charity Trustees on request by emailing info@alnwickbaptist.org.uk.

Providing activities appropriately and safely

The Church maintains and operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are safely recruited into their roles, including DBS checks where necessary. Once each year, in a Church Members' Meeting, a statement on the Church's Safeguarding Policy is read out, to remind Members (and to update them, where required) about their responsibilities under the policy. The Church also formally reviews the Safeguarding Policy at least annually and update it where required. A specific Charity Trustee is responsible for oversight of the Church's safegarding procedures, and the Church appoints and retains separate Designated Persons for the safeguarding of children and for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

6. Activities and achievements

We measure the success of our programmes in the opportunities we provide for fellowship, as well as the encouragement given to Members, the wider congregation and the community which we serve, rather than simply being driven by numbers. Nevertheless the Trustees recognise our responsibility to ensure that funds are utilised appropriately and effectively, and note some of our criteria for success can be difficult to measure.

In 2024/25, our achievements are characterised by being centred on our three pillars of: Mission; Discipleship and Community. We have sought to be a Spirit-led Church family, seeking to engage with our local community in a contextually relevant way, driven by a heart for justice and seeking to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are a united Church, not uniform, seeking to follow Jesus with authenticity and integrity. The Charity Trustees are very proud of the breadth and depth of the activities and achievements of the Church family. We trust this report properly reflects these, and wish to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone involved.

At the beginning of April 2024, we had 95 Members in the Church. In the year to the end of March 2025, this reduced to 88 as we welcomed five new Members, 10 Members resigned, and sadly two of our Members passed away.

We continue to encourage the Church that our 'family' is wider than just the congregation and to find their own 'home' where they feel part of Church community and discipleship. For some, this is the weekly service and for others it is our midweek groups or missional communities. Over the year attendances at weekly services ranged between 90 and 110 people and we operated seven different midweek groups, involving around 65 people in total. The size of our total Church family numbers around 160 people.

As we stated in Section 5, the Church aims to provide a variety of ways for people to connect with the Christian faith. Regarding our missional communities, the monthly *Gathering* has now been going for over seven years, attracting numerous people keen to explore faith issues. This takes place in people's homes with informal discussion about 'Jesus encounters' in the Bible, followed by a meal together. *Thursday@7* continued to meet fortnightly in the Alnwick Starbucks, enabling a small group to 'do shared lives and provide the opportunity to ask the bigger questions' in an informal and relational way, in a familiar community setting. Alongside this, *Messy Church* has continued at its established base at St James United Reform Church, with around 14 families attending.

In 2024 our Pioneer Minister, Karen Smith, has continued to develop the group activities she leads at Weavers Court, actively listening and responding to the residents –

- A *Songs of Praise or Sacred Memories* (scripture coupled with a theme to support people sharing their stories of memories) service has continued once each month, open to all of the Weavers Court community. These services attract between 10 and 20 residents and special services such as Easter, Remembrance and Christmas are especially well-attended.
- The weekly discipleship group, *Faith Talks,* has grown and now regularly fills the first floor lounge, with around 8 to10 residents attending. It continues to be a forum for exploring how stories from the Bible, and Jesus' teaching specifically, can be applied to life especially in the Third Age.
- The *Fish & Chips Night* each month continues to be a popular time and is well received by the residents.

These activities would not be possible without the support Karen receives from the rest of the Weavers Court team: Kerrie Andrew, Chris Friend, Elaine Ingram and Elaine Leighton.

Our recently new ABC Pioneer Minister, Karen Smith, has been very active in and very engaged with her local community of Widdrington Station, including:

- Being involved in the management and delivery of *two Warm Hubs* provided in the village.
- **Christians Together In Widdrington** activities such as the *Big Sing* and the *Elderberries* Christmas lunch.
- Many other varied ecumenical opportunities supporting and working with other local clergy, such as leading a four-week *Lent course* hosted in the community centre which had around 20 people attending, *preaching monthly at Widdrington Methodist Church*, commissioning a *pilot Bible Journalling club* with two other Ministers, and *providing pastoral support*.

One of her main Pioneer activities in the village has been the continuation of Karen's established *Ladies Supper Club*, reaching a total of 13 women. It has provided a platform to support women from the local community in diverse ways, developing to the extent where sometimes others will host the supper club. One great example of how the supper club has helped to build relationships was the opportunity to *facilitate a memorial service* which ten people attended.

The children and families in the ABC family continued to enjoy and benefit from the broad range of activities available to them through the hard work and enthusiasm of our wonderful Children and Families worker, Sarah Hamer, and the volunteers who help her to deliver the programme. The Church continues to be blessed by Sarah by the breadth and scope of the work she and her team of volunteers achieve. One change that has occurred during the year is the winding down of *Muddy Church*, reflecting a discernment that the vision for this activity has not materialised despite everyone's best efforts; but also providing an opportunity to commit those resources into new work as Sarah and the team wait on God.

In July 2024 we held our annual *Higher Sports* holiday week, an event which the Church first ran in 2012. Once again it proved very popular, running at capacity with 40 young people from Years 4 to 8. The event is a substantial commitment, delivered by a fabulous team who fulfil the roles of Games Organisers, Team Leaders and Young Leaders, as well as providing refreshments and performing essential administration. It was a great week of team games, where participants were mindful of the Olympic values: encouragement, friendship, respect, fair play, determination and inspiration. Each day was concluded by a 'Team Talk' from one of the leaders, who spoke about the difference God makes in their life. It continues to be a joy to see Young Leaders in their early teens, refreshments providers in their eighties, and everyone in between fully committed to being Good News people to the children who attend this event.

The Church continued to *support the regular work of* the **Ignite Youth Project**. Up to September 2024, there were four youth cells operating under the overall title of **Rooted**, which Chris Friend and Sarah Hamer both helped to lead, engaging with around 25 young people aged between eight and eighteen. In September 2024, the Rooted groups began a sabbatical because of Ignite personnel changes meaning these groups could not be resourced. This has prompted Ignite to take stock of its work and activities, and as a result, a fresh cohort of volunteers has come forward and we expect the Rooted groups to recommence in May 2025.

Throughout the year, we have maintained our commitment to a *debt advice centre in Alnwick* as a part of **Christians Against Poverty** (Charity No. 1097217). The Church continued to employ Neill Parker in the part-time role of CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre Manager, supported by a cohort of *volunteer Befrienders* and a very able and committed Working Group. All clients exhibit significant signs of distress, and many suffer from mental health issues which hamper their ability to function regarding even basic household administration tasks. Much patience is needed with clients and the building of trust is also vital in a process which is necessarily intrusive regarding their personal finances. In the 12 months to the end of March 2025:

- Three clients became debt free.
- Contact was made with six new clients.
- Two clients still continue on their journey to debt freeedom.

Over the past year, overall, the Alnwick CAP Centre has operated at 33% of its capacity, although the latest picture appears to be more promising. Within this context, in early 2024, the Charity Trustees established clear criteria which were necessary for the project to continue. In spite of great efforts from the Working Group and the Manager, these criteria could not be consistently achieved. As a result, the Charity Trustees will be calling a meeting of the Church family in June 2025 to consider the question "Is continuing to run a CAP centre an effective and responsible stewardship of Gods resources?" We will report on the outcome of this in our next annual report.

Our *Warm and Welcome* ministry has continued into a third year, regularly receiving 10 guests hosted by a team of around a dozen volunteers who rotate as helpers each Wednesday, and supported by additional volunteers who make soup or cake provided to the guests. This ministry, led by David and Judy Riddington, continues to have an impact beyond just hospitality, such as guests attending Church events or the Tuesday Explore group, requesting prayer for themselves or their families, and asking questions about our faith.

As referenced in Section 5 of our annual report, this year we have begun to offer a new ministry of the *Community Lunch* – the provision of lunches for those within our community who would benefit from a meal in the company of others. We are very grateful to the **Alnwick Food Bank** (Charity No. 1173294) for their donation of £500 for this purpose. A team of Church volunteers has cooked and served a two-course lunch monthly since June 2024, initially at Alnwick Cricket Club but now at the Costello Centre. On average 25 guests attend and whilst many are regulars at the Warm and Welcome, a significant minority are new, including some people from Abbeyfield House residential care home.

In the past year, we can report some further progress on our relatively new ministry of being a supporting church for **Hope into Action** (Charity No. 1137686). The *Friendship & Support Group* (F&SG), co-ordinated by Rob Andrew, is fully resourced and trained, ready to deliver its purpose of both providing practical support and relational support to tenants. During the year, the main obstacle to implementing this community-focused ministry has been the sourcing and commissioning of a suitable property in Alnwick, something outside of the Church's control and influence. However, the year has ended on a positve note: a house in Alnwick has been sourced, and the F&SG wait on confirmation of the prospective tenants for the property.

In 2024, for the first time, we took our annual *Harvest Ceilidh* to the Lindisfarne Centre, owing to the unavailability of the Northumberland Hall, the venue in previous years. Nonetheless, this event was a great success, with over 100 people enjoying food, fellowship and dancing.

It was a similar story for our *Carol Service* hosted at the Lindisfarne Centre, when we considered the theme Unchanging Message of Christmas. For many within our local community, this is 'their' carol service, perhaps due to the neutral status of the venue, and it was lovely to see people linger and socialise over refreshments after the service.

We continued to seek to be a positive impact in the local community through other established activities, some as ABC and others by the Church or its family providing support to other charities and organisations, including:

- *Leading Christian services* at the **Abbeyfield House** residential care home and **St Pauls Court** sheltered housing, providing support and friendship to residents.
- *Operating as volunteer Chaplains* in the **Duchess High School**, working closely with the school's pastoral team.
- *Taking assemblies*, *running Prayer Spaces*, and *telling bible stories* through Open the Book programme in **local schools**.
- *Supporting the local community centre* **Community@NE66** (Charity No. 1171202), both in a 'hands on' capacity and serving as trustees of the charity, and the **Alnwick District Food Bank** (Charity No. 1173294), a charity with trustees both of faith (with at least four different churches in Alnwick represented) and not.
- Actively supporting **Christians Together in Alnwick** (CTiA) and participating in shared activities such as the *Lenten Lunches* and the *Good Friday Act of Witness* service in the Alnwick market square (CTiA is an association of churches and other organisations in Alnwick and Shilbottle who express their Christian faith in fellowship and shared action).
- The involvement of some of our Church family in work at **HMP Northumberland**, including services for prisoners by **Good News For Everyone** (formerly Gideons UK - Charity No. 221605), the **Sycamore Tree Project** (part of **Prison Fellowship** - Charity No. 1102254) for restorative justice, and the **Welcome Centre** for families visiting prisoners.

Finally, our firm commitment to pastoral care and support for the Church family was maintained through the exceptional work of the *Pastoral Team* coordinated by Pauline Davidson and the *Prayer Line* facilitated by Chris Friend and Thelma Pallas. Prayer has continued to be a crucial and fundamental endeavour by the Church, through the Saturday morning prayer meeting with seven people as regular attendees. This provides a vital underpinning of Church and community life. ABC continues to pray regularly for our BMS partners and for the various missional and community activities that ABC is involved in, as well as praying for broader world issues. This year it has been a privilege to also include the work at Widdrington Station. In a monthly gathering we also *pray for Christians experiencing persecution* in different parts of the world, informed by information produced primarily by **Open Doors** (Charity No. 1125684).

7. Financial review and policies

The Church continues to raise the majority of funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its membership and congregation. This year our budget included two items of expenditure where we planned to seek additional funding from external sources. These were the appointment of Rev Karen Smith as a part-time Pioneer Minister, supporting her through her years as a Newly Accredited Minister, and replacement of the lift that enables wheelchair access to the building. The Church applied to the Northern Baptist Association (NBA) and The William Leech Charity for grants to support the work of our Pioneer Minister. We were delighted to receive £5,000 from the NBA and £3,000 from The William Leech Charity. A sum of £6,000 towards the costs for the replacement of the lift was also received from a donor. Other grant applications are still pending.

The most significant recurring expenses are related to the ongoing employment of:

- Rev Chris Friend and Rev Caroline Friend as Co-Ministers of the Church, who lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services, provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.
- Mr Neill Parker as CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre Manager, on a part-time basis.

- Mrs Sarah Hamer as Children and Families Worker, on a part-time basis.
- Rev Karen Smith who was appointed to the office of ABC Pioneer Minister (1.5 days per week) with effect from 10th October 2024 following completion of her three-year part time work placement (1.5 days per week) as part of her ministerial training.

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

The financial statements set out on pages [11] to [17] cover the Church's financial year ended 31 March 2025.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £163,867 (preceding year £174,362) and total payments were £180,347 (preceding year £163,829), producing a loss in the year of £16,480 (preceding year a surplus of £10,533).

Regular monthly giving to the Church, mostly through Gift Aid, continued at a similar level to the previous financial year for most of the year and the Charity Trustees are grateful for the consistency of this financial support. However, 10 members left the Church between November 2024 and March 2025 and the full impact on financial giving will be seen in the next year 2025/26.

The Church benefited from the higher rates of interest paid for balances on deposit, due to the healthy level of reserves sustained throughout most of the year.

Donations of £5,000 for Pioneer Minister, £2,335 for the CAP Alnwick Debt Centre and £500 for Community Lunches were received from a variety of donors, in addition to the grants of £8,000 for Pioneer Minister and the donation of £6,000 for the lift replacement. The Charity Trustees wish to acknowledge the generosity of these donations, which enables the Church to support our work within our local community.

Total financial reserves as at 31 March 2025 amounted to £142,494 (31 March 2024 £158,974), of which £28,792 are held in restricted funds (31 March 2024 £19,831).

The Church continued to allocate a significant amount of its income to supporting a range of external organisations engaged in Christian outreach and teaching, promotion of justice and care for the poor and needy, and the development of personal faith.

The Charity Trustees would like to express their appreciation to Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Chartered Accountants, Alnwick for once again carrying out the independent examination of the Church's financial statements.

Reserves policy

The Charity Trustees' policy is that the minimum amount of unrestricted funds to be retained should cover normal operating costs for six months, as well as holding a reserve for the cost of replacing equipment (photocopier, PA system etc) - say £90,000 in total. Actual reserves shown in the financial statements as at 31 March 2025 still exceed this figure.

The Church budget for the year ending 31 March 2026 anticipates a loss of £68,629, due to significantly reduced income, continued high cost of living increases, and support for our Pioneer Minister. The Church continues to seek grants to cover the costs of lift replacement and support for our Pioneer Minister. Some of the deficit could be covered by the surplus currently held in reserves, leaving £60,000 in general reserves in the event that no grants are obtained. This is below the minimum amount of £90,000 recommended by our reserves policy. Therefore, the Charity Trustees have recommended that the budget for year ending 31 March 2026 is reviewed after six months (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025), with any recommendations for change brought to the Church Members' Meeting scheduled in November 2025. The Charity Trustees believe this considered approach will facilitate careful measured decision-making in relation to our financial commitments and resources.

Investment policy

The Charity Trustees seek to invest the Church's funds in such a way as to produce investment income whilst minimising the risk of capital loss. Interest-bearing deposits are currently held with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and the Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund.

8. Signature and declaration

I declare that in my capacity of Charity Trustee, that

- The Charity Trustees have approved the report above; and
- They have authorised me to sign it on their behalf

Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Russell Lee (Deacon & Secretary)

Date: 25.07.2025.

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Year ended 31 March 2025			Year ended 31 March 2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Offerings and donations - Gift Aid	**93,380**	**-**	**93,380**	95,704
Offerings and donations – other	**13,795**	**40**	**13,835**	15,721
Tax reclaimed via Gift Aid	**25,753**	**-**	**25,753**	24,972
Interest receivable	**7,746**	**-**	**7,746**	7,647
Donations for ministry training costs	**-**	**-**	**-**	2,227
Donations/grants for Pioneer Minister	**-**	**13,000**	**13,000**	-
Donations for CAP	**-**	**2,335**	**2,335**	1,838
Donation for lift replacement	**-**	**6,000**	**6,000**	-
Donations for other organisations	**-**	**897**	**897**	2,130
Receipts for church events (Note 6)	**-**	**421**	**421**	5,329
Legacy received	**-**	**-**	**-**	18,294
Donation for Hardship Fund	**-**	**-**	**-**	500
Donation for Community Lunches	**-**	**500**	**500**	-
	140,674	**23,193**	**163,867**	174,362
Payments				
Staff employment costs (Note 2)	**110,647**	**1,707**	**112,354**	102,624
Upkeep of church premises (Note 3)	**8,481**	**-**	**8,481**	8,490
General expenses (Note 4)	**8,135**	**40**	**8,175**	9,973
Equipment and furniture (Note 5)	**14,042**	**6,000**	**20,042**	150
Church events (Note 6)	**1,969**	**421**	**2,390**	7,232
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre (Note 7)	**1,265**	**2,335**	**3,600**	4,528
Donations (Note 8)	**21,576**	**897**	**22,473**	28,175
Warm and Welcome Hub (Note 9)	**-**	**2,045**	**2,045**	1,662
Weavers Court (Note 10)	**-**	**787**	**787**	995
	166,115	**14,232**	**180,347**	163,829
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	**(25,441)**	**8,961**	**(16,480)**	10,533
Bank/deposit balances at start of year	**139,143**	**19,831**	**158,974**	148,441
Bank/deposit balances at end of year (Note 11)	**113,702**	**28,792**	**142,494**	158,974

The notes on pages [13] to [17] form part of these financial statements.

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2025

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Bank/cash balances		
Lloyds Bank	**7,264**	7,781
Charities Deposit Fund	**95,230**	111,193
Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund	**40,000**	40,000
	142,494	158,974
Other monetary assets		
Debtor - tax reclaimable via Gift Aid (re: Tax year 2024/25)	**25,402**	25,753

Fixed assets retained for church use

Alnwick Baptist Church premises, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR
Furniture, fittings and contents of church premises

The notes on pages [13] to [17] form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Charity Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Chris Friend	Rev Caroline Friend	Mr Russell Lee
(Minister & Elder)	(Minister & Elder)	(Deacon & Secretary)

Date: 25.07.2025.

Notes to the financial statements

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

General funds are for the furtherance of the normal purposes of Alnwick Baptist Church and are not subject to any restriction of use.

2 Staff employment costs

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Salaries	**83,194**	76,014
Manse rent (leaseback on Ministers' residence)	**10,656**	9,988
Council tax and water rates	**2,454**	2,287
Housing allowance (Pioneer Minister)	**1,285**	-
Employer's NI contributions (net of Employment Allowance)	**578**	-
Employer's pension contributions	**9,514**	8,600
Telephone and broadband	**1,033**	1,154
Travel expenses	**2,544**	4,261
Courses and conferences	**1,096**	320
	112,354	102,624

Rev Chris Friend (full-time) and Rev Caroline Friend (part-time) were employed by the Church throughout the year as Co-Ministers. The Co-Ministers, who were also Charity Trustees, lived in a house rented from them by the Church.

Mr Neill Parker was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre, which is run by the Church in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

Mrs Sarah Hamer was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Children and Families Worker.

Mrs Karen Smith continued a part-time work placement (1.5 days per week)) as part of her ministerial training, for which she was paid pro-rata (0.3 full time equivalent) of the Baptist Union recommended ministerial stipend until October 9th 2024. From 10th October 2024, Karen was employed as a Pioneer Minister (part-time – 0.3 full time equivalent) and began receiving a housing allowance from this date. Karen was also a Charity Trustee.

All of the employees are members of personal defined contribution pension plans into which the Church makes an employer contribution equivalent to 10% of salary.

No sums were reimbursed to the Charity Trustees for their work as Charity Trustees (2023-24 none).

Rev Caroline Friend was paid fees to provide safeguarding training for the Church in her professional capacity as a qualified Safeguarding Trainer in the financial year 2024/25 and also the previous year 2023/24. This was sanctioned by the Trustees as the most cost-effective and efficient method of providing the required training at a local venue.

3 Upkeep of church premises

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Gas, electricity and water (see Note 8)	**2,634**	1,990
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	**4,313**	4,991
Insurance	**1,534**	1,509
	8,481	8,490

4 General expenses

As referenced in Section 4 of our annual report (Organisational structure and decision making), the Church has commissioned legal advice on two possible changes to governance and structure. This due diligence work is ongoing and payments made up to 31 March 2025 for legal advice are included in the analysis of general expenses below:

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Teaching materials	**71**	625
Children and Families resources	**583**	937
Photocopying, postage and stationery	**2,183**	2,481
Website, audio system and IT	**1,245**	1,168
Safeguarding	**342**	773
Subscriptions	**749**	925
Fees/expenses to visiting speakers	**105**	572
CCLI copyright licence	**907**	866
Legal Fees (Anthony Collins for advice relating to CIO)	**1,220**	864
Other	**770**	762
	8,175	9,973

5 Equipment and furniture

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Shelving	**-**	120
Twin port plug	**-**	30
Pedal bin	**6**	-
Cafetiere	**8**	-
Lift replacement	**20,028**	-
	20,042	150

6 Church events

Table 1 below provides an analysis of the gross expenditure on Church events. For certain activities, there is an associated income stream and Table 2 accounts for this by reporting the net expenditure on each activity. Where income exceeded gross expenditure, the net income shows as a number in brackets – *for example, in the year ended 31 March 2024, the Craft event raised £143.*

With reference to the Bassenfell holiday: in the year ended 31 March 2024, this event took place in October 2023 from Monday to Friday. In the year ended 31 March 2025, the event was due to be held as a weekend in October 2024, but cancelled due to lack of numbers for which a cancellation fee of £595 was paid. A deposit of £200 for a further booking in October 2025 was also paid, but this event has also been cancelled for lack of numbers.

Equipment was purchased for Higher Sports this year.

Table 1: Church events gross expenditure	**Year ended 31 March 2025**	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Bassenfell holiday	**795**	4,993
Carol service	**538**	601
Rob Halligan concert	**-**	525
General catering	**256**	291
Harvest ceilidh	**269**	259
140th birthday blessings	**-**	230
Higher Sports	**374**	212
Thursdays@7	**105**	121
Craft event	**-**	-
Housegroup (3 weeks at Lindisfarne Centre – lift out of action	**36**	-
Prayer breakfast	**17**	-
	2,390	7,232

Table 2: Church events net expenditure / (income)	**Year ended 31 March 2025**	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Bassenfell holiday	**795**	409
Carol service*	**538**	601
Rob Halligan concert	**-**	375
General catering	**256**	291
Harvest ceilidh*	**269**	259
140th birthday blessings*	**-**	230
Higher Sports	**54**	(138)
Thursdays@7	**4**	19
Craft event	**-**	(143)
Housegroup (3 weeks at Lindisfarne Centre – lift out of action	**36**	-
Prayer breakfast	**17**	-
	1,969	1,903

* Offerings and donations at the Carol service and Harvest ceilidh are *not* part of the *Receipts for Church* events totalling £421 disclosed in the *Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2025* on page [11].

7 CAP Alnwick Debt Centre

The Church runs the Alnwick Debt Centre in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), a national charity. We are grateful for the donations received from Armstrong Hall Christian Fellowship (£1,150) and St. Michael & All Angels Church in Felton (£1,000), in support of the Debt Centre. Employment costs for the Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre are included in the staff employment costs in Note 2. Other amounts paid during the year were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Donation to Christians Against Poverty central costs	**3,600**	4,528
	3,600	4,528

8 Donations

The Church supports Christian work in a variety of situations through prayer and financial giving, the latter by making donations to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Baptist Union Home Mission	**5,600**	5,500
BMS World Mission (previous year includes the visit of the Clarks in 2023)	**5,600**	5,980
Harvest offering – *Tearfund (Salt and Light)* (previous year *BMS Days of Plenty*)	**532**	838
Christmas offering – *BMS Special Deliveries Chad* (previous year *Embrace the Middle East)*	**590**	639
Ignite- general (formerly Contagious)	**3,417**	3,334
Tearfund	**500**	500
Release International	**500**	500
Good News For Everyone (formerly Gideons UK)	**500**	500
Lifepath Brinkburn	**500**	500
The Farming Community Network	**500**	500
Open Doors (current year includes donation for speaker in June 2024)	**650**	500
Newcastle West End Refugee Service	**500**	500
Community@NE66 (Alnwick Community Centre)	**917**	834
Rural Ministries	**500**	500
Hope into Action	**500**	500
Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Support Group	**917**	834
Support for Young Person with Mission (Jasmine Friend)	**250**	-
Ignite - Messy Church, Open the Book (Bill Dunsire Thanksgiving Offering)	-	554
MND (Ken Muter Thanksgiving Offering)	-	395
Contribution to ministry training costs (Karen Smith)	-	4,627
Northern Baptist Association (donation for speaker)	-	140
	22,473	28,175

9 Warm and Welcome Hub

In August 2022, the Church received donations to run a Warm and Welcome Hub for local people providing a warm environment and soup, rolls, hot drinks, and cake. Warm and Welcome has continued to run this winter, and in the summer months as Warm Welcome, providing a place for coffee, cake and chat. Costs of the Hub are shown below. Soup and cake were mostly donated free of charge by members of the Church and no volunteers received payment for their time spent helping at the Hub.

In May 2024, the Church received a donation of £500 from Alnwick Food Bank to provide lunches for those within our community who would benefit from a meal in the company of others. These 'Community Lunches' have been held monthly from June 2024 to March 2025, provided by a team of volunteers who cook and serve the two-course meal. Money from the Warm and Welcome Hub donations was used to cover additional costs in excess of £500.

Warm and Welcome Hub	**Year ended 31 March 2025**	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
General expenses	**352**	580
Gas and electricity	**1,107**	1,082
	1,459	1,662

Community Lunches	**Year ended 31 March 2025**	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
General expenses	**586**	-
	586	-

10 Weavers Court

In 2022 a grant was received from the Lady Hewley Trust to provide Fellowship meals to residents, and a separate donation given to support Faith talks and other activities at Weavers Court. Money was still available to support these activities this year.

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Fellowship meals	**680**	816
Faith talks etc.	**107**	179
	787	995

11 Reserves in Restricted Funds

	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
	£	£
Reserves Warm and Welcome Hub/Community Lunches	**17,039**	18,584
Reserves Weavers Court	**460**	1,247
Reserves Pioneer Minister	**11,293**	-
	28,792	19,831

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
to the Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church ("the Charity")

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages [11] to [17].

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under Section 145 of the 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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records.

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 financial statements to be reached.

J. Harvey

Jane Harvey FCA

Date: 16/1/2026

Greaves Grindle
Victoria House
Bondgate Within
Alnwick
NE66 1TA

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1143745

Accounts

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

1. Statutory information

Alnwick Baptist Church at Lisburn Street, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UR was entered on the Register of Charities on 9 September 2011 with a new Charity Register Number of 1143745. The financial year runs from April to March.

The governing documents are a property Trust Deed (dated 1 July 1976), for which the current holding or Church Trustees are Mr Alastair Conn, Mr Brian Friend, Mr William McDonald and Mr Ian Simpson, and the Church Constitution (agreed 10 March 2011).

The mission statement of Alnwick Baptist Church is "To encourage people to accept and celebrate Jesus in their lives and to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to following Him."

The Church banks with Lloyds Bank, Alnwick. The independent examiner is Mrs Jane Harvey FCA, of Greaves Grindle, Alnwick.

2. Trustees and governance

The Charity Trustees who served during the year were:

Rev Caroline Friend (Co-Minister)
Rev Chris Friend (Co-Minister)
Mr Russell Lee (Church Secretary)
Dr Margaret Andrew (Church Treasurer)
Mrs Gillian Curry *from 10 December 2023*
Mrs Julie Hammond
Dr Carol Jagger
Mr Andrew Kohler *resigned 11 February 2024*
Miss Susan Prince (Safeguarding Lead)
Mr Ian Simpson
Dr Ian Smith
Mrs Karen Smith
Mrs Dorothy Walls *retired 11 October 2023*

Charity Trustee appointment process:

- Names are brought before the Church through the existing Elders. If a nominee is willing to be appointed, they are asked to confirm they are not disqualified from acting as a Trustee.
- A quorum of 40% of Church Members is required at the Church Meeting, and confirmation is by secret ballot, with at least two-thirds of the Members (present and voting) in favour of the appointment.
- There is an induction process for each new Charity Trustee appointment which makes use of the Charity Commission's published guidance and regulation of charities.
- Elders must be Church Members, hold the doctrinal beliefs as stated for the minister in the Church Constitution, and have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Elders serve for three years and may be re-appointed.
- Deacons must be Church Members, and the majority of the Diaconate been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Deacons serve for three years and may be re-appointed.
- Elders and Deacons are encouraged to read the Baptist Union of Great Britain Guidelines and its other resources relating to their responsibilities and positions.
- Elders and Deacons are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit", and they have regard to this in their administration of the Church.

As Charity Trustees, the Elders and Deacons met jointly in person five times during the year. Separately, the Elders and the Deacons met regularly to deal with all the affairs of the Church: spiritual, pastoral and practical.

3. Charitable objective

Alnwick Baptist Church ("ABC") is governed by a Church Constitution and a property Trust Deed, and as a charity is an unincorporated charitable association.

The Constitution states the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination, to include the advancement of education, community service and other such general charitable purposes, in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine. The objectives of the Elders and Deacons are to ensure Church life, and work within the local area, help to fulfill that mission, both locally and more widely.

4. Organisational structure and decision making process

The members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Church Constitution, which require them to acknowledge the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures; salvation only by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and to have made a personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church Members' Meeting normally occurs three times in each year, and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Church Constitution, Members appoint Charity Trustees, who together with the Minister(s), Church Secretary and Treasurer (each also appointed by the members) and collectively known as the Eldership and Diaconate, 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. Church Members' meetings are open to non-members. They can join in meeting discussions but only Members are entitled to vote.

Relevant matters may be presented to the Church Members' Meeting by the Elders and Deacons for guidance, or they may be raised by Members in the Church Meeting for further consideration by the Elders and Deacons. Though the Trust Deed and the Church Constitution permit decisions to be made at Church Members' Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

In October 2023, the Church Members' Meeting passed a resolution approving the Trustees to commission legal advice on two possible changes to Church governance and structure:

- Appointing the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC) as Property Trustee, in place of the four individuals currently acting as holding or Church Trustees; and
- Making an application to the Charity Commission to reform the Church as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The purpose of this legal advice is to obtain the necessary and sufficient level of assurance (or otherwise) for the Trustees to recommend to Members that we proceed with these changes. This due diligence work is ongoing and the Trustees will report the outcome in our next annual report.

5. Objectives and activities

To achieve the principal objective set out above (see *Charitable Objective*), 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 Him as living Lord.

Services and acts of worship

Central to the work and the witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship, which normally take place each Sunday at 10:30am in our building on Lisburn Street. On the first Sunday of each month, our morning worship also includes communion. On the third Sunday of each month, morning worship normally is an all age service, and there is a reflective communion service at 7pm. In months with a fifth Sunday, we do not meet together at Lisburn Street. Instead, we each take our individual act of worship into our local community.There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised variously through the weekly diary on our website, invitation leaflets, in the local press and on the church noticeboard. ABC seeks to be a friendly, open and embracing community and anybody is welcome to attend any of these services.

Missional communities

The Church also has several missional communities, which function as small relational services, usually held outside the church building within community settings. One example of this is *The Gathering*, a group meeting monthly on a Sunday teatime, in homes over food, to explore more about following Jesus.

Children and families

The Church welcomes children and families, with a broad range of activities co-ordinated by our Children and Families worker, Sarah Hamer. We have a children's programme as part of *Junior Church* in most morning services, and each month:

On the first Sunday, there is *Muddy Church* at 2.30pm, normally in Hulne Park.

On the second Sunday, there is *Messy Church* at 3.30pm (an activity supported by all the local churches in Alnwick), usually in St James United Reform Church, Alnwick.

On the third Sunday, as mentioned above (see *Services and acts of worship*), morning worship is an all age service.

Junior Church follows the same programme as the main church, making new opportunities for connections and discussions between parents and their children.

Young people

The Church also provides activities for young people independently and in partnership with other local churches. In her ABC role, Sarah visits several primary schools in our community, engaging with the students through different activities such as school assemblies and prayer groups. Each year we host our well-established *Higher Sports* holiday week for young people in Years 4 to 8 at St Paul's Primary School in Alnwick. The Church is also part of the ecumenical approach to regular youth work, as one of several local churches supporting the **Ignite Youth Project** (Charity No. 1089954). Ignite works in schools and amongst children and young people through clubs and other activities, using a 'youth cell' structure. Church members support Ignite financially, as volunteers assisting in schools work or youth groups, and by acting as trustees.

Church groups

The Church runs a series of midweek groups for the growth of faith and discipleship, hosted in the homes of some Members. In addition to the opportunity for bible study and to develop themes and practical application from the Sunday message, these groups form an important part of the prayer and practical support the Church family give to one another.

A prayer group faithfully meets in our building each Saturday morning from 9 to 10am, praying for the Church, our local community and the wider world.

Other group activities connecting with and supporting our local communities

A major commitment of the Church is running a debt advice centre in Alnwick, as a part of **Christians Against Poverty** (Charity No. 1097217), offering free debt advice and support to anyone in the local community who requests it.

A further substantial commitment is our *Warm and Welcome*, a safe warm space providing hot refreshments and companionship on a Wednesday, for the benefit of any in the local community. In the summer months, from April, this activity continues in a scaled down version known as the *Warm Welcome.*

The Church runs further groups and activities to connect with our local communities, including:a Tuesday morning *Explore group*, weekly *Faith Talks* at Weavers Court (local extra care housing), leading Christian services in community residential settings and a *Walking* group.

The Church offers and supports various events for people of all ages to allow opportunities to build relationships, explore different expressions of worship and develop personal faith. We do these both as an individual church and also by partnering with others, such as CTiA (Christians Together in Alnwick).

Further details of all our activities are available from the Charity Trustees on request by emailing info@alnwickbaptist.org.uk.

Providing activities appropriately and safely

The Church maintains and operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are safely recruited into their roles, including DBS checks where necessary. Once each year, in a Church Members' Meeting, a statement on the Church's Safeguarding Policy is

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read out, to remind Members (and to update them, where required) about their responsibilities under the policy. The Church also formally reviews the Safeguarding Policy at least annually and update it where required. A specific Charity Trustee is responsible for oversight of the Church's safegarding procedures, and the Church appoints and retains separate Designated Persons for the safeguarding of children and for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

6. Activities and achievements

We measure the success of our programmes in the opportunities we provide for fellowship, as well as the encouragement given to Members, the wider congregation and the community which we serve, rather than simply being driven by numbers. Nevertheless the Trustees recognise our responsibility to ensure that funds are utilised appropriately and effectively, and note some of our criteria for success can be difficult to measure.

In 2023/24, our achievements can be characterised by celebration through blessings, growth, continuing to innovate in order to offer new ways to be part of our Church community and engage with our local community for public benefit, alongside sustaining well established activities which also have a substantial public benefit. The Trustees are very proud of the breadth and depth of the activities and achievements of the Church family. We trust this report properly reflects these and wish to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone involved.

The last year was very significant in the history of the Church as we celebrated our 140th birthday in October 2023. As we reflected on how to commemorate this milestone, the Church archives provided many examples throughout our history to demonstrate the love and desire of the Church to serve the community. We felt it very appropriate and important to continue this thread, and for the celebration to be a birthday blessing to our community. Every day throughout September 2023, the Church sent out postcards holding personalised blessings for different organisations, charities and community groups embracing schools, community centres and emergency services - over 100 different blessings cards were passed to over 1,650 individuals. Each day, these cards were complemented by a digital recording read out by a different Church family member with a personal connection to the given community. We also gave out more than 100 small treat gifts consisting of chocolate, tea and lavender bags, and left decorated pebbles around the town. Our 140th birthday celebrations culminated in an afternoon tea at the church building, attended by a multitude of people from the local community and the Church family.

At the beginning of April 2023, we had 86 members in the Church. In the year to the end of March 2024, this increased to 95 as we welcomed 14 new members, two members resigned, and sadly three of our members passed away.

We continue to encourage the Church that our 'family' is wider than just the congregation and to find their own 'home' where they feel part of church community and discipleship. For some, this is the weekly service and for others it is our midweek groups or missional communities. Over the year attendances at weekly services ranged between 90 and 110 people and we operated seven different midweek groups, involving around 70 people in total. The size of our total Church family continues to number around 170 people.

As we stated in Section 5, the Church aims to provide a variety of ways for people to connect with the Christian faith. Regarding our missional communities, the monthly *Gathering* has now been going for over six years, attracting numerous people keen to explore faith issues. This takes place in people's homes with informal discussion about 'Jesus encounters' in the Bible, followed by a meal together. In the past year, we were privileged to welcome a small number of Ukrainian families at the Gathering. *Thursday@7* has met fortnightly in the Alnwick Starbucks, enabling a small group to 'do shared lives and provide the opportunity to ask the bigger questions' in an informal and relational way within a familiar community setting. Alongside this, *Messy Church* has continued at its established base at St James United Reform Church, with around 14 families attending. Finally, over the last year, we have sustained a strong emphasis on missional listening teams to look to join in with what God is already doing in our community.

Our superb Minister in Training, Karen Smith, has continued to develop the group activities she leads at **Weavers Court**, actively listening and responding to the residents –

- A *Songs of Praise* or *Sacred Memories* (scripture coupled with a theme to support people sharing their stories of memories) service once each month, open all of the Weavers Court community. These services attract between 10 and 20 residents and special services such as Easter, Remembrance and Christmas are especially well-attended.

- Karen has introduced the theme of *Community*, and how God can work in community. One example of this is that the weekly discipleship group, *Faith Talks*, now also features a *Fish & Chips Night* each month. The time passed eating together has provided an opportunty to include others, both from Weavers Court and the Church family, and between six and eight residents regularly attend.
- The well established *Faith Talks* group, which has now been running for over six years, has continued to bear fruit.

All of this would not have been possible without the support Karen receives from the rest of the Weavers Court team: Kerrie Andrew, Chris Friend, Elaine Ingram and Elaine Leighton.

Away from Weavers Court, in January 2024 Karen founded a pilot Bible journalling group, *Writing in the Margins*, a novel form of discipleship for women. The three lead facilitators - Karen, Gill Curry and Elaine Leighton – each host a monthly group of three to four women or around 12 in total. Now in her final year as a Minister in Training at ABC, Karen and all those who support her have been seeking to discern 'what next?'. As part of her own searching for what God may be calling her to, Karen has initiated several activities in her local village of Widdrington Station – the *Widdy Vision*. She hosts a monthly *Spud Night* when between five and seven women usually attend, reaching a group of 13 women in total. Karen also serves at the weekly Warm & Welcome meals and Wednesday coffee mornings in the village, in addition to her monthly meetings with the local clergy and individual pastoral support.

Karen has accomplished all this from just the 1½ days a week she works for the Church, and her heart for these ministries is wonderful to witness.

The children and families in the ABC community continued to enjoy and benefit from the wide-ranging activities available to them through the energy and endeavour of our wonderful Children and Families worker, Sarah Hamer, and the volunteers supporting her to deliver the programme. Sarah has also continued to develop her outreach work in schools. She holds regular assemblies at Swansfield Park primary school (every half-term) and St Michael's C of E primary school (every term). Sarah also holds prayer spaces fortnightly in St Paul's Catholic primary school, each time helping a group of between six to eight children to explore three or four different prayer stations. The Church is so blessed by Sarah, and we continue to be amazed by the breadth and scope of the work she and her team of volunteers achieve.

In July 2023 we held our annual Higher Sports holiday week, an event which the Church first ran in 2012. Once again it proved very popular, running at capacity with 40 young people from Years 4 to 8. The event is a substantial commitment, delivered by a fabulous team who fulfil the roles of Games Organisers, Team Leaders and Young Leaders, as well as providing refreshments and performing essential administration. It was a great week of team games, where participants were mindful of the Olympic values: encouragement, friendship, respect, fair play, determination and inspiration. Each day was concluded by a 'Team Talk' from one of the leaders, who spoke about the difference God makes in their life.

The Church has continued to support the regular work of the Ignite Youth Project. Over the past year, there have been four youth cells, which Chris Friend and Sarah Hamer have both helped to lead, engaging with around 25 young people aged between eight and eighteen.

We have maintained our commitment to a debt advice centre in Alnwick, as a part of **Christians Against Poverty** (Charity No. 1097217). The Church employs Neill Parker in the part-time role of CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre Manager. A common theme among clients is poor physical and mental health; which is often a barrier to them seeking help. Our *Befrienders team* has continued to be invaluable in this aspect of the work, encouraging and supporting clients to use the service. Despite their best efforts, some clients do drop out of the system through a combination of chaotic lifestyle and health problems, although in a few cases they are willing to seek to return. In the 12 months to the end of March 2024:

- Five clients became debt free.
- Contact was made with eight new clients.
- Four clients still continue on their journey to debt freedom.

In January 2024, the Trustees agreed to the formation of a new working group, to provide further support to Neill in publicising the CAP message and driving referrals. We hope this initiative will bear fruit and assure a continuation of the Church's support for the CAP Alnwick Debt Centre when the Trustees review its position in early 2025.

Our *Warm and Welcome* ministry has carried on into a second year, receiving between 5 and 13 guests every week, of which five men and three women are regular attendees. This community activity was sustained by a team of around 12 people whose members rotate as volunteers to help each Wednesday, complemented by additional helpers who make the soup or cake provided to the guests. This ministry, led by David and Judy Riddington, has been a wonderful way for us to demonstrate God's heart of compassion for the community and we have been encouraged as some guests request prayer or ask questions about our faith.

In the past year, we have also made a new commitment to a further ministry with a community focus. In July 2023, the Church Members Meeting agreed that we become a supporting church for **Hope into Action UK** (Charity No. 1137686), through a service level agreement with **Gateway into Life** (Charity No. 1184557). Gateway into Life is a franchise of Hope into Action UK, operating under the name of **Hope into Action: Northumberland**. In the Hope into Action model, a house is purchased in a local area from funds provided by national investors, which is linked with a local church partner providing support for the property and the tenants through a Friendship and Support Group (FSG). Thus far, we have established the FSG, consisting of 10 Church family volunteers in allocated roles such as property maintenance and tenant befriending, led by the FSG Co-ordinator Rob Andrew. Recently, our partner Hope into Action Norhumberland confirmed they now have an investor in place to purchase a house in Alnwick for the Church to support, and we are actively searching for a property suitable for a refugee family or refugees.

We had expected our activities in the Northumberland Hall to cease this year because of a plan for the building to permanently host a local project. However, that plan remains on hold and the Church was able to host our *Harvest Ceilidh* in the Hall. This event was a great success, with 80 people enjoying food, fellowship and dancing. It was a similar story our *Carol Service* in the Hall, when we considered the theme 'Do not be afraid'. For many in our local community, this is 'their' carol service, perhaps due to the neutral status of the venue. It was wonderful to see the Hall full to capacity.

We continued to seek to be a positive impact in the local community through other established activities, some as ABC and some by the Church or its family providing support to other charities andorganisations, including:

- Leading Christian services at the **Abbeyfield House** residential care home and **St Pauls Court** sheltered housing, providing support and friendship to residents.
- Operating as volunteer Chaplains in the **Duchess High School**, working closely with the school's pastoral team.
- Supporting the local community centre **Community@NE66** (Charity No. 1171202), both in a 'hands on' capacity and serving as trustees of the charity, and the **Alnwick District Food Bank** (Charity No. 1173294), a charity with trustees both of faith (with at least four different churches in Alnwick represented) and not.
- Actively supporting **Christians Together in Alnwick** (CTiA) and participating in shared activities such as the *Lenten Lunches* and the *Good Friday Act of Witness* service in the Alnwick market square (CTiA is an association of churches and other organisations in Alnwick and Shilbottle who express their Christian faith in fellowship and shared action).
- The involvement of some of our Church family in work at **HMP Northumberland**, including services for prisoners by **Good News For Everyone** (formerly Gideons UK - Charity No. 221605), the **Sycamore Tree Project** (part of **Prison Fellowship** - Charity No. 1102254) for restorative justice, and the **Welcome Centre** for families visiting prisoners.

Finally, our firm commitment to pastoral care and support for the Church family was maintained through the exceptional work of the Pastoral Team coordinated by Pauline Davidson and the Prayer Line facilitated by Chris Friend and Thelma Pallas. More generally, prayer has continued to be a crucial and fundamental endeavour by the Church, through the Saturday morning prayer meeting, where between seven and nine people regularly attend, as an integral part of the seven midweek groups, and in a monthly gathering to pray for Christians experiencing persecution in different parts of the world, informed by information produced primarily by **Open Doors** (Charity No. 1125684).

7. Financial review and policies

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 recurring expenses are related to the ongoing employment of:

- Rev Chris Friend and Rev Caroline Friend as Co-Ministers of the Church, who lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services, provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.
- Mr Neill Parker as CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre Manager, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Sarah Hamer as Children and Families Worker, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Karen Smith who commenced a three-year part time work placement (1.5 days per week) on 10th October 2021 as part of her ministerial training.

The Church expresses 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.

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

The financial statements set out on pages [11] to [17] cover the Church's financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £174,362 (preceding year £195,182) and total payments were £163,829 (preceding year £163,182), producing a surplus in the year of £10,533 (preceding year surplus of £32,000).

Regular monthly giving to the Church, mostly through Gift Aid, continued at a similar level to the previous financial year, and the Charity Trustees are grateful for the consistency of this financial support.

The Church also benefited from the higher rates of interest paid for balances on deposit, due to the healthy level of reserves sustained through the year.

In May 2023 a substantial legacy of £18,294 was received by the Church from the Estate of Beth Chappell, who sadly passed away in 2022. Beth was a member of our church for over 40 years and served as Treasurer for several years. Her embroidery skills can be seen in many of the lovely banners that hang in the church.

Donations of £1,838 for the CAP Alnwick Debt Centre, £2,227 for ministry training costs, and £500 for hardship gifts were received from a variety of donors. £1,364 was given for our 140th Birthday Blessings celebration. The Charity Trustees wish to acknowledge the generosity of these donations which enables the Church to support work within our local community.

Total financial reserves as at 31 March 2024 amounted to £158,974 (31 March 2023 £148,441), of which £19,831 are held in restricted funds (31 March 2023 £27,063).

The Church continued to allocate a significant amount of its income to supporting a range of external organisations engaged in Christian outreach and teaching, promotion of justice and care for the poor and needy, and the development of personal faith.

The Charity Trustees would like to express their appreciation to Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Chartered Accountants, Alnwick for once again carrying out the independent examination of the Church's financial statements.

Reserves policy

The Charity Trustees' policy is that the minimum amount of unrestricted funds to be retained should cover normal operating costs for six months, as well as holding a reserve for the cost of replacing equipment (photocopier, PA system etc) - say £85,000 in total. Actual reserves shown in the financial statements as at 31 March 2024 substantially exceed this figure. This is because of the donations received in 2022 to support the CAP Alnwick Debt Centre, Weavers Court and Children and Families activities which would normally have been paid for out of general funds.

The Church budget for the year 2024-2025 anticipates a loss of £58,000, due to the continued high cost of living increases in the coming year and funds for a new disabled access or purchase of a replacement lift. There is also the possibility of supporting our current Minister in Training as a Newly Accredited Minister on a part-time basis. The Church hopes that grants may be available

RJL

to fund some of these projects. Most of the deficit could be covered by the surplus currently held in reserves, still leaving £86,000 in general reserves in the event that no grants are obtained. The Trustees assess this to be an acceptable position but are aware that reserves cannot be allowed to drop below this level in future years.

Investment policy

The Charity Trustees seek to invest the Church's funds in such a way as to produce investment income whilst minimising the risk of capital loss. Interest-bearing deposits are currently held with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and the Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund.

8. Signature and declaration

I declare that in my capacity of Charity Trustee, that

- The Charity Trustees have approved the report above; and
- They have authorised me to sign it on their behalf

Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Russell Lee (Deacon & Secretary)

Date: 21.07.2024

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ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Year ended 31 March 2024			Year ended 31 March 2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Offerings and donations - Gift Aid	**95,704**	**-**	**95,704**	91,230
Offerings and donations – other	**15,641**	**80**	**15,721**	15,145
Tax reclaimed via Gift Aid	**24,972**	**-**	**24,972**	28,072
Interest receivable	**7,647**	**-**	**7,647**	2,542
Donations for ministry training costs	**-**	**2,227**	**2,227**	3,026
Donations for Warm Hub/Boiler	**-**	**-**	**-**	25,900
Donations for CAP	**-**	**1,838**	**1,838**	17,724
Donation to Hosts of Ukrainian Familes	**-**	**-**	**-**	4,000
Donations for other organisations	**-**	**2,130**	**2,130**	1,498
Receipts for church events (Note 6)	**5,329**	**-**	**5,329**	3,465
Legacy received	**18,294**	**-**	**18,294**	-
Donation for Hardship Fund	**500**	**-**	**500**	500
Lady Hewley Trust Grant	**-**	**-**	**-**	2,080
	168,087	**6,275**	**174,362**	195,182
Payments				
Staff employment costs (Note 2)	**102,624**	**-**	**102,624**	96,936
Upkeep of church premises (Note 3)	**8,490**	**-**	**8,490**	6,301
General expenses (Note 4)	**9,893**	**80**	**9,973**	8,163
Equipment and furniture (Note 5)	**150**	**-**	**150**	5,189
Church events (Note 6)	**7,232**	**-**	**7,232**	4,687
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre (Note 7)	**515**	**4,013**	**4,528**	5,306
Donations (Note 8)	**21,418**	**6,757**	**28,175**	30,358
Warm and Welcome Hub (Note 9)	**-**	**1,662**	**1,662**	5,654
Weavers Court (Note 10)	**-**	**995**	**995**	588
	150,322	**13,507**	**163,829**	163,182
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	**17,765**	**(7,232)**	**10,533**	32,000
Bank/deposit balances at start of year	**121,378**	**27,063**	**148,441**	116,441
Bank/deposit balances at end of year (Note 11)	**139,143**	**19,831**	**158,974**	148,441

The notes on pages [13] to [17] form part of these financial statements.

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2024

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Bank/cash balances		
Lloyds Bank	**7,781**	6,385
Charities Deposit Fund	**111,193**	102,056
Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund	**40,000**	40,000
	158,974	148,441
Other monetary assets		
Debtor - tax reclaimable via Gift Aid (re: Tax year 2023/24)	**25,753**	24,972

Fixed assets retained for church use

Alnwick Baptist Church premises, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR
Furniture, fittings and contents of church premises

The notes on pages [13] to [17] form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Charity Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Chris Friend
(Minister & Elder)

Caroline Friend

Rev Caroline Friend
(Minister & Elder)

Mr Russell Lee
(Deacon & Secretary)

Date: 21.07.2024

Notes to the financial statements

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

General funds are for the furtherance of the normal purposes of Alnwick Baptist Church and are not subject to any restriction of use.

2 Staff employment costs

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Salaries	**76,014**	72,150
Manse rent (leaseback on Ministers' residence)	**9,988**	9,072
Council tax and water rates	**2,287**	2,181
Employer's NI contributions (net of Employment Allowance)	**-**	-
Employer's pension contributions	**8,600**	7,907
Telephone and broadband	**1,154**	1,450
Travel expenses	**4,261**	3,741
Courses and conferences	**320**	435
	102,624	96,936

Rev Chris Friend (full-time) and Rev Caroline Friend (part-time) were employed by the Church throughout the year as Co-Ministers. The Co-Ministers, who were also Charity Trustees, lived in a house rented from them by the Church.

Mr Neill Parker was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre, which is run by the Church in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

Mrs Sarah Hamer was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Children and Families Worker.

Mrs Karen Smith continued a part-time work placement (1.5 days per week)) as part of her ministerial training, for which she was paid pro-rata (0.3 full time equivalent) of the Baptist Union recommended ministerial stipend. Karen was also a Charity Trustee.

All of the employees are members of personal defined contribution pension plans into which the Church makes an employer contribution equivalent to 10% of salary.

No sums were reimbursed to the Charity Trustees for their work as Charity Trustees (2022-23 none).

3 Upkeep of church premises

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Gas, electricity and water (see Note 8)	**1,990**	2,925
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	**4,991**	1,947
Insurance	**1,509**	1,429
	8,490	6,301

4 General expenses

As referenced in Section 4 of our annual report (*Organisational structure and decision making*), the Church has commissioned legal advice on two possible changes to governance and structure. This due diligence work is ongoing and payments made up to 31 March 2024 for legal advice are included in the analysis of general expenses below:

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Teaching materials	**625**	356
Children and Families resources	**937**	766
Photocopying, postage and stationery	**2,481**	1,991
Website, audio system and IT	**1,168**	969
Safeguarding	**773**	-
Subscriptions	**925**	908
Fees/expenses to visiting speakers	**572**	360
CCLI copyright licence	**866**	772
Legal Fees (Anthony Collins for advice relating to CIO)	**864**	-
Other	**762**	2,041
	9,973	8,163

5 Equipment and furniture

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Laptop computer	**-**	1,349
Microphones (for portable sound system)	**-**	950
Portable sound system	**-**	2,112
Water heater	**-**	653
Key	**-**	5
Ladders	**-**	120
Shelving	**120**	-
Twin port plug	**30**	-
	150	5,189

6 Church events

Table 1 below provides an analysis of the gross expenditure on Church events. For certain activities, there is an associated income stream and Table 2 accounts for this by reporting the net expenditure on each activity. Where income exceeded gross expenditure, the net income shows as a number in brackets – for example, in the year ended 31 March 2024, the Craft event raised £143.

With reference to the Bassenfell holiday: in the year ended 31 March 2024 this event took place from a Monday to a Friday; but in the year ended 31 March 2023, in contrast it was run over a weekend.

Table 1: Church events gross expenditure	**Year ended 31 March 2024**	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Bassenfell holiday	**4,993**	3,098
Carol service	**601**	552
Rob Halligan concert	**525**	-
General catering	**291**	99
Harvest ceilidh	**259**	256
140th birthday blessings	**230**	-
Higher Sports	**212**	283
Thursdays@7	**121**	383
Lenten Lunches	**-**	16
Craft event	**-**	-
	7,232	4,687

Table 2: Church events net expenditure / (income)	**Year ended 31 March 2024**	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Bassenfell holiday	**409**	514
Carol service*	**601**	552
Rob Halligan concert	**375**	-
General catering	**291**	99
Harvest ceilidh*	**259**	256
140th birthday blessings*	**230**	-
Higher Sports	**(138)**	(122)
Thursdays@7	**19**	65
Lenten Lunches	**-**	16
Craft event	**(143)**	(158)
	1,903	1,222

* Offerings for the 140th birthday blessings and donations at the Harvest ceilidh and Carol service are not part of the *Receipts for Church events* totalling £5,329.

7 CAP Alnwick Debt Centre

The Church runs the Alnwick Debt Centre, in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), a national charity. Employment costs for the Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre are included in the staff employment costs in Note 2. Other amounts paid during the year were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Donation to Christians Against Poverty central costs	**4,528**	4,992
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre running costs	**-**	314
	4,528	5,306

8 Donations

The Church supports Christian work in a variety of situations through prayer and financial giving.

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Baptist Union Home Mission	**5,500**	5,400
BMS World Mission (includes visit of Clarks)	**5,980**	5,400
Harvest offering – BMS Days of Plenty (previous year BMS Good Land Appeal)	**838**	1,000
Christmas offering – Embrace the Middle East (previous year Community@NE66 and Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Support Group)	**639**	812
Cord Global	**-**	120
Ignite- general (formerly Contagious)	**3,334**	3,000
Tearfund	**500**	500
Release International	**500**	500
Good News For Everyone (formerly Gideons UK)	**500**	500
Lifepath Brinkburn	**500**	500
The Farming Community Network	**500**	500
Open Doors	**500**	500
Newcastle West End Refugee Service	**500**	500
Community@NE66 (Alnwick Community Centre)	**834**	1,500
Rural Ministries	**500**	500
Hope into Action	**500**	-
Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Support Group	**834**	500
Ignite - Messy Church, Open the Book (Bill Dunsire Thanksgiving Offering)	**554**	-
MND (Ken Muter Thanksgiving Offering)	**395**	-
Contribution to ministry training costs (Karen Smith)	**4,627**	4,626
Hosts of Ukrainian Families	**-**	4,000
Northern Baptist Association (Donation for speaker)	**140**	-
	28,175	30,358

9 Warm and Welcome Hub

Last year the Church received donations to run a Warm and Welcome Hub for local people providing a warm environment and soup, rolls, hot drinks, and cake. Warm and Welcome continued to run this winter, and in the summer months as Warm Welcome, providing a place for coffee, cake and chat. Costs of the Hub are shown below. Soup and cake were mostly donated free of charge by members of the church, and no volunteers received payment for their time spent helping at the Hub.

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Fridge	**-**	145
Boiler	**-**	3,300
General expenses	**580**	963
Gas and electricity	**1,082**	1,246
	1,662	5,654

10 Weavers Court

In 2022 a grant was received from the Lady Hewley Trust to provide Fellowship meals to residents, and a separate donation was given to support Faith talks and other activities at Weavers Court. Money was still available to support these activities this year.

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Fellowship meals	**816**	448
Faith talks etc.	**179**	140
	995	588

11 Reserves in Restricted Funds

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£
Reserves CAP	**-**	2,175
Reserves Warm Hub/Boiler	**18,584**	20,246
Reserves Weavers Court	**1,247**	2,242
Reserves ministry training costs	**-**	2,400
	19,831	27,063

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
to the Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church ("the Charity")

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages [11] to [17].

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under Section 145 of the 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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records.

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 financial statements to be reached.

J. Harvey

Jane Harvey FCA

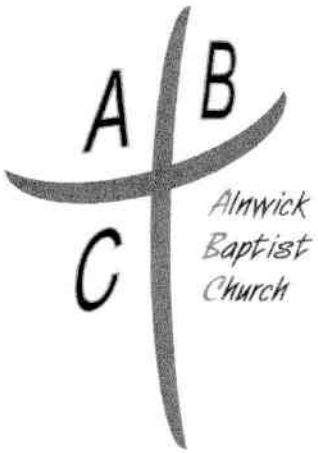
Date: 20/12/2024

Greaves Grindle
Victoria House
Bondgate Within
Alnwick
NE66 1TA

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1143745

Accounts



ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

1. Statutory Information

Alnwick Baptist Church at Lisburn Street, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UR) was entered on the Register of Charities on 9 September 2011 with a new Charity Register Number of 1143745. The financial year runs from April to March.

The governing documents are a property Trust Deed (dated 1 July 1976), for which the current holding or Church Trustees are Mr Alastair Conn, Mr Brian Friend, Mr William McDonald and Mr Ian Simpson, and the Church Constitution (agreed 10 March 2011).

The mission statement of Alnwick Baptist Church is "To encourage people to accept and celebrate Jesus in their lives and to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to following Him."

The Church banks with Lloyds Bank, Alnwick. The independent examiner is Mrs Jane Harvey FCA, of Greaves Grindle, Alnwick.

2. Trustees and Governance

The Charity Trustees who served during the year were:

Rev Caroline Friend (Co-Minister)	
Rev Chris Friend (Co-Minister)	
Dr Margaret Andrew (Church Treasurer)	
Mrs Julie Hammond	
Mr Chris Hinds (Church Secretary)	retired 31 August 2022
Mr Russell Lee (Church Secretary)	from 6 July 2022
Dr Carol Jagger	
Mr Andrew Kohler	
Miss Susan Prince (Safeguarding Lead)	
Mr Ian Simpson	
Dr Ian Smith	
Mrs Karen Smith	
Mrs Dorothy Walls	

Charity Trustee selection method:

- Names are brought before the Church through the existing Elders.
- A quorum of 40% of Church Members is required at the Church Meeting, and confirmation is by secret ballot, with at least two-thirds of the Members (present and voting) in favour of the appointment.
- Elders must be Church Members, hold the doctrinal beliefs as stated for the minister in the Church Constitution, and have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Elders serve for 3 years and may be re-appointed.
- Deacons must be Church Members, and the majority of the Diaconate been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Deacons serve for 3 years and may be re-appointed.
- Elders and Deacons are encouraged to read the Baptist Union of Great Britain Guidelines and its other resources relating to their responsibilities and positions.
- Elders and Deacons are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit", and they have regard to this in their administration of the Church.

As Charity Trustees, the Elders and Deacons met jointly in person six times during the year. Separately, the Elders and the Deacons met regularly to deal with all the affairs of the Church: spiritual, pastoral and practical.

3. Charitable Objective

Alnwick Baptist Church ("ABC") is governed by a property Trust Deed and Church Constitution, and as a charity is constituted as an unincorporated association.

The Constitution states the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination, to include the advancement of education, community service and other such general charitable purposes, in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine. The objectives of the Elders and Deacons are to ensure Church life, and work within the local area, help to fulfill that mission, both locally and more widely.

4. Organisational Structure and Decision Making Process

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Church Constitution, which require them to acknowledge the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures; salvation only by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and to have made a personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church Members' Meeting normally occurs three times in each year, and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Church Constitution, Members appoint Charity Trustees, who together with the Minister(s), Church Secretary and Treasurer (each also appointed by the members) and collectively known as the Eldership and Diaconate, 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. Church Members' meetings are open to non-members. They can join in meeting discussions but only Church Members are entitled to vote.

Relevant matters may be presented to the Church Members' Meeting by the Elders and Deacons for guidance, or they may be raised by Members in the Church Meeting for further consideration by the Elders and Deacons. Though the Trust Deed and the Church Constitution permit decisions to be made at Church Members' Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

5. Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective set out above (see Charitable Objective), 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 Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and the witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship, which normally take place each Sunday at 10:30am in our building on Lisburn Street. On the first Sunday of each month, the morning worship includes a communion service, which also occurs on the third Sunday of each month at 7pm. In months with a fifth Sunday, we do not meet together at Lisburn Street and instead each take our own individual act of worship into our local community.There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised variously through the weekly noticesheets, invitation leaflets, in the local press and on the church noticeboard. There is a children's programme during most morning services. Alnwick Baptist Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.The Church also has a number of missional communities which function as small relational services, usually held outside the church building within community settings.

The Church runs a series of mid-week groups for the growth of faith and discipleship, hosted in the homes of some Members. These groups are an important part of the prayer and practical support the church family give to one another, and an opportunity to develop the themes and application of the Sunday sermon.

We also run other groups to connect with our local communities, such as a discipleship book group for ladies called Sensible Shoes, a Tuesday morning Explore group and weekly Faith Talks at Weavers Court (local extra care housing). The monthly Mondays@7 mens gathering meets in a local pub and the Walking Group has continued to walk and talk.

The Church offers and supports various events for people of all ages to allow opportunities to build relationships, explore different expressions of worship and develop personal faith.

Further details of these activities can be obtained from the Charity Trustees on request.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are safely recruited into their roles, including DBS checks where necessary. A statement of the Church's Safeguarding Policy is reviewed at a Church Members' Meeting once every year. The policy is also formally reviewed at least annually and updated where required.

A Charity Trustee is responsible for oversight of the Church's safegarding procedures, and the Church appoints and retains Designated Persons for the safeguarding of children and for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

6. Activities and Achievements

We measure the success of our programmes in the opportunities we provide for fellowship, as well as the encouragement given to Members, the wider congregation and the Community which we serve, rather than simply being driven by numbers. Nevertheless the Trustees recognise our responsibility to ensure that funds are utilised appropriately and effectively, and note some of our criteria for success can be difficult to measure. In 2022/23, our achievements continued to be characterised by an ability to innovate, in order to sustain fellowship with each other, through pastoral care and prayer life by the Church for the Church and wider community, and a continued desire to be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus in what we say and do.

Our Pastoral Team, coordinated by Pauline Davidson (who acts in a Triage capacity), has been exceptional, as too the Prayer Line facilitated by Andrew and Lesley Kohler. In addition, Karen Smith, our Minister in Training, continues to be superb at looking after Weavers Court with both Songs of Praise and our missional community there called Faith Talks. Our Children and Families Worker, Sarah Hamer, now has a range of family friendly services and activities including Family Church and Muddy Church. Sarah recently completed a Growing Leaders course, which she has found hugely helpful to her role.

We have actively encouraged the Church to consider that the 'family' is wider than just the congregation, and to find a home where they are part of church community and discipleship. For some this is weekly services, for others midweek groups or missional communities. In total, the church family number around 170.

From a congregational perspective, we have seen steady growth across a spectrum of ages, from young families to those newly retired, and this has brought a freshness and additional gifting to our Church family. Between 80 and 100 people attend Alnwick Baptist Church's congregation on a regular basis, and as of January 2023 we have a formal membership of 86.

Once again it was fantastic to meet in the Northumberland Hall for our Harvest Ceilidh and annual community Carol Service. The latter saw us at capacity, with almost 200 people from the local community singing carols and enjoying refreshments.

Our Prayer Meetings are in person on a weekly basis where we pray for our church, community and the wider world. Prayer is also an integral part of our midweek groups. There continues to be a monthly prayer gathering to pray for Christians experiencing persecution in different parts of the world using material produced primarily by Open Doors.

We aim to provide a variety of ways for people to connect with the Christian faith. As well as the Sunday Services and other groups described above, Thursday@7 continues to run on a weekly basis, enabling people to *'do shared lives and provide the opportunity to ask the bigger questions',* in an informal and relational way based in Starbucks. The monthly 'Gathering' has now been going for over five years, attracting a number of people keen to explore faith issues. This takes place in people's homes with an informal discussion about 'Jesus encounters' in the Bible, followed by a meal together. Alongside this, Messy Church takes place at its established base at St James United Reform Church, with many families attending. There continues to be a strong emphasis on missional listening teams to look to join in with what God is already doing in our community.

We continued to lead Christian services at both Abbeyfield Residential Care Home and St Paul's Court sheltered housing, providing support and friendship to residents. In addition, a team visits Abbeyfield once a month to listen, chat and offer a thought for the day.

Beyond lockdown, we remain hopeful that our building will still be used by Rangers, another way in which we seek to serve our local community.

Several congregation members remain involved in work at HMP Northumberland, including services for prisoners by **Good News For Everyone** (formerly GideonsUK - Charity No. 221605),

the **Sycamore Tree Project** (part of Prison Fellowship Charity No. 1102254) for restorative justice, and the welcome centre for families visiting prisoners.

Community links

We seek to be a positive impact within our local community in many ways. Some of these activities are as Alnwick Baptist Church, and some by the Church and/or its Members providing support to other charities or organisations.

Christians Against Poverty (Charity No. 1097217)

A major commitment of the Church is running a debt advice centre in Alnwick, a part of CAP (Christians Against Poverty), offering free debt advice and support to anyone in the local community who requests it.

Many clients exhibit and often admit to mental and physical health problems. This makes our work both more challenging and yet more rewarding.

A number of clients have proven frustratingly elusive after initial contact with CAP. They are recorded as "not yet ready to work with CAP" or simply "lost contact".

- Eight clients have gone DEBT FREE in the last 12-month period
- Contact has been made with six new clients, with three still current
- In addition there are six pre-existing clients requiring on-going support

New contacts have been made with referring organisations including community centres, Northumberland County Council Housing Department and NHS social prescribers.

Warm and Welcome

In the summer of 2022, anticipating the forecast 'Cost of Living Crisis', the Church sensed that it should provide a 'warm space' over the coming winter months. This was realised by our 'Warm and Welcome', a safe warm space providing hot refreshments and companionship, for the benefit of any in the local community. The Warm and Welcome began in November 2022, opening each Wednesday from 11am to 3pm. After a 'soft start', it gained traction and has regularly hosted up to 15 guests each week. This Church volunteer-led activity has been a wonderful way for us to demonstrate God's heart of compassion for the community. Such was its success in terms of friendship and meeting together, it has continued beyond the end of April 2023 into the summer months, in a scaled down version known as the 'Warm Welcome'. We are most grateful for an anonymous donation given specifically to support this work.

Other community links

Chris and Caroline Friend and David Archer continue to work in the **Duchess High School** as volunteer Chaplains. They work closely with the Pastoral Team and between them see up to 15 young people each week on a one-to-one basis.

The Church and some of its members continue to provide support to the local community center **Community@NE66 (Charity No. 1171202)**, both in a 'hands on' capacity and also serving as trustees, and the **Alnwick District Food Bank (Charity No. 1173294)**, a charity with trustees of both faith (at least four churches in Alnwick represented) and not.

Christians Together in Alnwick (CTiA) exists to bring the churches of Alnwick together. We are active supporters and have taken part in combined activities, such as the Good Friday service in the town's market square.

Ukraine Response: some of our Church family have been actively involved in the local response to homing Ukrainian refugees. This has ranged from administrative support as part of the Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Group to offering homes for refugees.

Ignite Youth Project (Charity No. 1089954) works in schools and among children and young people through youth clubs and other activities. The Mighty Oaks Alnwick project, providing coffee and tea from a van in Alnwick, is part of its work. Church members support Ignite financially and also as volunteers, assisting schools work, youth groups and by acting as trustees.

7. Financial Review and Policies

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.

However, significant sums of money have been donated to the Church this year to support the CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre and to establish a Warm and Welcome Hub for the local community.

The most significant recurring expenses are related to the ongoing employment of:

- Rev Chris Friend and Rev Caroline Friend as Co-Ministers of the Church, who lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services, provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.
- Mr Neill Parker as CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre Manager, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Sarah Hamer as Children and Families Worker, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Karen Smith who commenced a 3 year part time work placement (1.5 days per week) on 10th October 2021 as part of her ministerial training.

The Church expresses 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.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities, many of which are 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 statements set out on pages [8] to [13] cover the Church's financial year ended 31 March 2023.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £195,182 (preceding year £156,615) and total payments were £163,182 (preceding year £140,202), producing a surplus for the year of £32,000 (preceding year surplus of £16,413).

Regular monthly giving to ABC, mostly through Gift Aid, continued at a similar level to the previous financial year, and the Charity Trustees are grateful for the consistency of this financial support.

This year significant donations of £17,724 for the CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre, £25,900 for the Warm and Welcome Hub/Boiler, £4,000 for Hosts of Ukrainian Families and £3,026 for ministry training costs were received from a variety of donors. There was a grant of £2,080 from the Lady Hewley Trust for fellowship meals at Weavers Court, donations of £500 for faith talks at Weavers Court, £500 for Children and Families work and a Baptist Union Grant of £500 for hardship gifts. The Charity Trustees wish to acknowledge the incredible generosity of these donations which enables the Church to support work within our local community.

Total financial reserves as at 31 March 2023 amounted to £148,441 (31 March 2022 £116,441), of which £27,063 are held in restricted funds (31 March 2022 £4,250).

The Church continued to allocate a significant amount of its income to supporting a range of external organisations engaged in Christian outreach and teaching, promotion of justice and care for the poor and needy, and the development of personal faith. This year all the funding for the CAP Alnwick Debt Advice centre came from donations given for this pupose.

The Charity Trustees would like to express their appreciation to Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Chartered Accountants, Alnwick for once again carrying out the independent examination of the Church's financial statements.

<u>Reserves policy</u>

The Charity Trustees' policy is that the minimum amount of unrestricted funds to be retained should cover normal operating costs for six months, as well as holding a reserve for the cost of replacing equipment (photocopier, PA system etc) - say £85,000 in total. The actual reserves shown in the financial statements as at 31 March 2023 are significantly in excess of this figure. This is because of the donations received this year to support the CAP Alnwick Debt Advice Centre, Weavers Court and Children and Families activities which would normally all be paid for from general funds.

The budget for the year 2023-2024 anticipates a loss of £27,000, due to the commitment to support a minister-in-training for 3 years and the high cost of living increases in the coming year. This deficit will be covered by the surplus currently held in the reserves. The Trustees consider this is an acceptable position that provides for stability in a time of significant financial uncertainty.

CF QA RJL

Investment policy

The Charity Trustees seek to invest the Church's funds in such a way as to produce investment income whilst minimising the risk of capital loss. Interest-bearing deposits are currently held with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and the Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund.

8. Signature and Declaration

I declare that in my capacity of Charity Trustee, that

- The Charity Trustees have approved the report above; and
- They have authorised me to sign it on their behalf

Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Russell Lee (Deacon & Secretary)

Date: 5 July 2023

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Year ended 31 March 2023			Year ended 31 March 2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Offerings and donations - Gift Aid	**91,230**	**-**	**91,230**	93,044
Offerings and donations – other	**14,145**	**1,000**	**15,145**	16,612
Tax reclaimed via Gift Aid	**28,072**	**-**	**28,072**	22,491
Interest receivable	**2,542**	**-**	**2,542**	117
Donations for ministry training costs	**-**	**3,026**	**3,026**	8,321
Donations for Warm Hub/Boiler	**-**	**25,900**	**25,900**	-
Donations for CAP	**-**	**17,724**	**17,724**	1,410
Donation to Hosts of Ukrainian Familes	**-**	**4,000**	**4,000**	-
Donations for other organisations	**-**	**1,498**	**1,498**	3,927
Receipts for church events	**3,465**	**-**	**3,465**	5,443
Legacy Received	**-**	**-**	**-**	5,000
Baptist Union Church Grant	**-**	**500**	**500**	250
Lady Hewley Trust Grant	**-**	**2,080**	**2,080**	-
	139,454	**55,728**	**195,182**	156,615
Payments				
Staff employment costs (Note 2)	**86,693**	**10,243**	**96,936**	87,698
Upkeep of church premises (Note 3)	**6,301**	**-**	**6,301**	5,167
General expenses (Note 4)	**7,163**	**1,000**	**8,163**	6,131
Equipment and furniture (Note 5)	**5,189**	**-**	**5,189**	837
Church events	**4,687**	**-**	**4,687**	6,816
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre (Note 6)	**-**	**5,306**	**5,306**	5,178
Donations (Note 7)	**20,234**	**10,124**	**30,358**	28,375
Warm and Welcome Hub (Note 8)	**-**	**5,654**	**5,654**	-
Weavers Court (Note 9)	**-**	**588**	**588**	-
	130,267	**32,915**	**163,182**	140,202
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	**9,187**	**22,813**	**32,000**	16,413
Bank/deposit balances at start of year	**112,191**	**4,250**	**116,441**	100,028
Bank/deposit balances at end of year (Note 10)	**121,378**	**27,063**	**148,441**	116,441

The notes on pages [10] to [13] form part of these financial statements.

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2023

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Bank/cash balances		
Lloyds Bank	**6,385**	10,311
Charities Deposit Fund	**102,056**	66,130
Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund	**40,000**	40,000
	148,441	116,441
Other monetary assets		
Debtor - tax reclaimable via Gift Aid (re tax year 2022/23)	**24,972**	28,072

Fixed assets retained for church use

Alnwick Baptist Church premises, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR
Furniture, fittings and contents of church premises

The notes on pages [10] to [13] form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Charity Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Russell Lee (Deacon & Secretary)

Date: 5 July 2023

Notes to the financial statements

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

General funds are for the furtherance of the normal purposes of Alnwick Baptist Church and are not subject to any restriction of use.

2 Staff employment costs

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Salaries	**72,150**	65,015
Manse rent (leaseback on Ministers' residence)	**9,072**	8,784
Council tax and water rates	**2,181**	2,061
Employer's NI contributions (net of Employment Allowance)	**-**	-
Employer's pension contributions	**7,907**	7,324
Telephone and broadband	**1,450**	1,385
Travel expenses	**3,741**	2,417
Courses and conferences	**435**	712
	96,936	87,698

Rev Chris Friend (full-time) and Rev Caroline Friend (part-time) were employed by the Church throughout the year as Co-Ministers. The Co-Ministers, who were also Charity Trustees, lived in a house rented from them by the Church.

Mr Neill Parker was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre, which is run by the Church in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP). In 2022/2023 employment costs for Manager of the Alnwick Debt Advice Centre were paid from the restricted funds donated to support CAP.

Mrs Sarah Hamer was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Children and Families Worker.

Mrs Karen Smith continued a part-time work placement (1.5 days per week)) as part of her ministerial training, for which she was paid pro-rata (0.3 full time equivalent) of the Baptist Union recommended ministerial stipend. Karen was also a Charity Trustee.

All of the employees are members of personal defined contribution pension plans into which the Church makes an employer contribution equivalent to 10% of salary.

No sums were reimbursed to the Charity Trustees for their work as Charity Trustees (2021-22 none).

CF RJL

3 Upkeep of church premises

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Gas, electricity and water (see Note 8)	**2,925**	1,586
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	**1,947**	2,314
Insurance	**1,429**	1,267
	6,301	5,167

4 General expenses

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Teaching materials	**356**	364
Children and Families resources	**766**	-
Photocopying, postage and stationery	**1,991**	1,449
Website, audio system and IT	**969**	932
Safeguarding	**-**	129
Subscriptions	**908**	762
Fees/expenses to visiting speakers	**360**	400
CCLI copyright licence	**772**	724
Other	**2,041**	1,371
	8,163	6,131

5 Equipment and furniture

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Vacuum cleaners	**-**	145
Laptop computer	**1,349**	598
Microphones (for portable sound system)	**950**	94
Portable sound system	**2,112**	-
Water heater	**653**	-
Key	**5**	-
Ladders	**120**	-
	5,189	837

6 CAP Alnwick Debt Centre

The Church runs the Alnwick Debt Advice Centre, in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), a national charity. This year all of the costs, including employment costs, were covered by the donations to support CAP. Employment costs for the Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre are included in the staff employment costs in Note 2. Other amounts paid during the year were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Donation to Christians Against Poverty central costs	**4,992**	4,992
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre running costs	**314**	186
	5,306	5,178

CF RJL

7 Donations

The Church supports Christian work in a variety of situations through prayer and financial giving.

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Baptist Union Home Mission	**5,400**	5,300
BMS World Mission	**5,400**	5,300
Harvest offering – BMS Good Land Appeal (previous year BMS I Will Stand)	**1,000**	484
Christmas offering – Community@NE66 and Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Support Group (previous year Global Care)	**812**	270
Cord Global	**120**	500
Ignite (formerly Contagious)	**3,000**	3,000
Mighty Oaks	**-**	200
Operation Agri	**-**	500
Tearfund	**500**	500
Release International	**500**	500
Good News For Everyone (formerly Gideons UK)	**500**	500
Lifepath Brinkburn	**500**	500
The Farming Community Network	**500**	500
Open Doors	**500**	500
Newcastle West End Refugee Service	**500**	500
Community@NE66 (Alnwick Community Centre)	**1,500**	500
Rural Ministries	**500**	500
BMS Ukraine Appeal	**-**	4,000
Contribution to ministry training costs (Karen Smith)	**4,626**	4,321
Hosts of Ukrainian Families	**4,000**	-
Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Support Group	**500**	-
	30,358	28,375

8 Warm and Welcome Hub

This year the Church received donations to run a Warm and Welcome Hub for local people between November and March, providing a warm environment and soup, rolls, hot drinks and cake. The costs of the Hub are shown below. Soup and cake were mostly donated free of charge by members of the church, and no volunteers received payment for their time spent helping at the Hub.

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Fridge	**145**	-
Boiler	**3,300**	-
General expenses	**963**	-
Gas and electricity	**1,246**	-
	5,654	-

9 Weavers Court

A grant was received from the Lady Hewley Trust to provide Fellowship meals for the residents. A separate donation was given to support Faith talks and other activities at Weavers Court.

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Fellowship meals	448	-
Faith talks etc.	140	-
	588	-

10 Reserves in Restricted Funds

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Reserves CAP	2,175	-
Reserves Warm Hub/Boiler	20,246	-
Reserves Weavers Court	2,242	250
Reserves ministry training costs	2,400	4,000
	27,063	4,250

CF RJL

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
to the Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church ("the Charity")

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages [8] to [13].

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under Section 145 of the 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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records.

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 financial statements to be reached.

J. Harvey

Jane Harvey FCA

Date: 1/12/2023

Greaves Grindle
Victoria House
Bondgate Within
Alnwick
NE66 1TA

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1143745

Accounts

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Statutory Information

Alnwick Baptist Church (Lisburn Street, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UR) was entered on the Register of Charities on 9 September 2011 with a new Charity Register Number of 1143745. The financial year runs from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The governing documents are a Trust Deed (dated 1 July 1976), in respect of which the current Church Trustees are Mr Alastair Conn, Mr Brian Friend, Mr William McDonald and Mr Ian Simpson, and the Church Constitution (agreed 10 March 2011). The mission statement of Alnwick Baptist Church is "To encourage people to accept and celebrate Jesus in their lives and to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to following Him." The Church banks with Lloyds Bank, Alnwick. The independent examiner is Mrs Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Alnwick.

2. Trustees and Governance

The Charity Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Rev Caroline Friend (Co-Minister)	
Rev Chris Friend (Co-Minister)	
Mr Alastair Conn (Church Treasurer)	retired 2 September 2021
Dr Margaret Andrew (Church Treasurer)	from 2 May 2021
Mrs Julie Hammond	
Mr Chris Hinds (Church Secretary)	
Prof Carol Jagger	
Mr Andrew Kohler	
Mr Ian Simpson	
Dr Ian Smith	
Mrs Karen Smith	
Mrs Dorothy Walls	
Miss Susan Prince	

Charity Trustee selection method:

- names will be brought to the Church through the existing Elders.
- a quorum of 40% of Church Members is required at the Church Meeting.
- confirmation is by ballot, with at least two-thirds of the members (present & voting) in favour of the appointment.
- Elders must be Church Members, hold the doctrinal beliefs as stated for the minister in the Church Constitution and have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Elders serve for 3 years and may be re-appointed.
- Deacons must be Church Members and the majority of the Diaconate must have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Deacons serve for 3 years and may be re-appointed.
- Elders and Deacons are encouraged to read the Baptist Union Corporation Limited Guidelines relating to their responsibilities and positions.
- the Elders and Deacons are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Church.

The Elders and Deacons as Charity Trustees met jointly 4 times during the year, 2 of which were virtual by Zoom due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The Elders and the Deacons met regularly to deal with all the affairs of the Church: spiritual, pastoral and practical.

3. Charitable Objective

Alnwick Baptist Church (ABC) is currently governed by a Trust Deed and the Church Constitution which state that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and other such general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine. The Elders and Deacons' objectives are to ensure that Church life and work within the local area help to fulfill that mission, both locally and more widely.

4. Organisational Structure and Decision Making Process

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Trust Deed and Church Constitution which require them to acknowledge the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures; salvation only by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and to have made a personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place 3 times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Church Constitution, the Members appoint Charity Trustees, who together with the Minister(s), Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members) and collectively known as the Eldership and Diaconate, 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. Members' meetings are open to non-members who are also able to join in the discussions but only Members are entitled to vote.

Relevant matters may be submitted for the Church Meeting by the Elders and Deacons for guidance, or may be raised by Members in the Church Meeting for further consideration by the Elders and Deacons. Though the Trust Deeds and Church Constitution permit decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

5. 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 Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These normally take place each Sunday at 10:30am and a communion service on the third Sunday of each month at 7:00pm. A service on the last Sunday of most months which provides the opportunity for people to receive prayer for healing and wholeness has not yet been reinstated since the outbreak of the pandemic. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised variously through the weekly noticesheets, invitation leaflets, in the local press and on the church noticeboard. There is a children's programme during most morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, our services remained a hybrid of meeting in person and recorded through until September 2021.

The Church runs a series of mid-week groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some Members. These groups are an important part of the prayer and practical support the church family give to one another and an opportunity to develop the themes and application of the Sunday sermon.

2021/22 saw the first half of the year still restricted in terms of meeting together with a hybrid of meeting in person with restricted numbers, facemasks and sanitisation. From September 2021, we were able to return to something similar to pre pandemic but it was obvious that opportunities had been found during the pandemic that enabled church family to connect in a way they hadn't previously. So one Midweek Group continued online as that was the express wish of the group and this enabled essential contact albeit in a virtual sense which was still life-giving to those who linked in. The re-set that we'd postponed for a year took place in January 2022 with the number of groups increased to 7. In addition the Tuesday morning Explore group started meeting in person and Missional Communities such as the weekly Faith Talks at Weavers Court and the monthly Gathering around hospitality in homes also recommenced. The monthly Mondays@7 mens gathering restarted in a local pub and both the Walking Group and Book Club are active again.

Further details of these activities can be obtained from the Charity Trustees on request.

The Church runs and supports various events for people of all ages to allow opportunities to build relationships, explore different expressions of worship and develop personal faith.
The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are safely recruited into their roles including DBS checks where necessary. A statement of the Church's Safeguarding Policy is reviewed at a Church Meeting once per year. The church appoints Designated Persons for Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and one of the Charity Trustees is designated to oversee the safeguarding procedures (currently Susan Prince who took over from Andrew Kohler during the year).

6. Activities and Achievements

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial returns, but also in less tangible areas like opportunities for fellowship and the encouragement given to Members and the wider congregation. The Charity Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, and in spite of the great restrictions that have been in place for the last two years, the achievement of the church in 2021/22 has been marked by its ability to innovate in order to maintain fellowship with each other, a resilience which is admirable in the face of isolation and the pastoral care and prayer life by the church for the church and the wider community and a desire to still be the hands and feet of Jesus in what we say and do. There has been a real sense of 'team' with people using their gifts as part of every member in ministry and this has been wonderful to see. The multi-platform voice of our recorded services has been incredibly refreshing.

Our Pastoral Team coordinated by Rowena King has been exceptional as too the Prayer Line facilitated by Andrew and Lesley Kohler. In addition, it was fantastic that we were able to appoint Karen Smith as our Minister in Training looking after Weavers Court. Our Children/Families Worker Sarah Hamer now has a range of family friendly services/activities including: Family Church and Muddy Church. She has commenced a Growing Leaders course

In September 2021, we started to meet in person as a congregation in a free-er world. Whilst there are some similarities to pre-covid, we have actively encouraged the church to consider that the 'family' is wider than the congregation and to find a home where they are part of church community and discipleship. For some this is weekly services, for others midweek groups or missional communities. In total, the church family will be around 130 in number.
From a congregational perspective, not everyone who we saw pre covid has returned. Some because of the virus, others a change in circumstances. As at April 2022 we were seeing 100 people, young and old, attend ABC congregation on a regular basis.

As of January 2022 we have a formal membership of 88. Whilst we lost Easter and Harvest to the pandemic, it was fantastic to once again meet in the Northumberland Hall for our annual community Carol Service. This saw approximately 100 people from the community singing carols once more and having refreshments.

Our Prayer Meetings have continued online and continued to pray for our church, community and the wider world. This is done as part of our mid-week groups and at specific meetings for prayer, either on Saturday mornings or at other times. A small group meet each month to pray for Christians experiencing persecution in different parts of the world using material produced primarily by Open Doors.

We aim to provide a variety of ways for people to connect with the Christian faith. As well as the Sunday Services and other groups described above, Thursday@7 continues to operate on a weekly basis online during restrictions but hopefully in person before too long, enabling people to *'do shared lives and provide the opportunity to ask the bigger questions'*, in an informal and relational way based in the new Starbucks. The monthly 'Gathering' has now been going for over four years attracting a number of people keen to explore faith issues. This takes place in people's homes with an informal discussion about 'Jesus encounters' in the Bible followed by a meal together. Alongside that, Messy Church has returned to its established base at St James URC with many families still attending. In addition, the Weavers Court Retirement Complex whilst having to shelve the monthly Songs of Praise during the pandemic, has now restarted in person once again with a team headed up by Karen Smith our Minister in Training. There is still a strong emphasis on missional listening teams to look to join in with what God is already doing in our community.

We lead Christian services at Abbeyfield Residential Care Home and at St Paul's Court sheltered housing, providing support and friendship to residents, and a team visits Abbeyfield once a month to listen, chat and offer a thought for the day. Even in lockdown, we've been able to provide recorded services for Abbeyfield. Our hope as restrictions ease is to support in person again.

Beyond lockdown, we hope that our building will still be used by Rangers, another way in which we seek to serve our local community.

Several congregation members are also involved in work at HMP Northumberland, including services for prisoners by **Good News For Everyone** (formerly GideonsUK - Charity No. 221605), the **Sycamore Tree Project** (part of Prison Fellowship Charity No. 1102254) for restorative justice and the welcome centre for families visiting prisoners. This year however no visits were made to the prison due to pandemic restrictions.

Community links

We seek to be a positive impact within our local community in many ways. Some of these activities are as ABC, some are by the Church and/or its Members providing support to other charities or organisations.

Christians Against Poverty (Charity No. 1097217)
A major commitment of the Church is running a debt advice centre in Alnwick, part of CAP, offering free debt advice and support to anyone in the local community who requests it.

- We are now back to meeting clients in their homes unless a remote service is requested.
- We have made contact with 18 new clients in the last year, with 9 still current. This reflects a number of clients who have proven frustratingly elusive after initially contact with CAP.
- In addition there are at least 4 pre-existing clients requiring on-going support.
- With the current economic climate, we expect numbers to rise by the autumn when fuel bills will inevitably rise.

Many clients exhibit and often admit to mental and physical health problems. This makes our work both more challenging and yet more rewarding.

Ignite Youth Project (Charity No. 1089954)
Ignite (formerly Contagious) works in schools and among children and young people through youth clubs and other activities. The Mighty Oaks Alnwick project, providing coffee and tea from a van in Alnwick, is part of Contagious. Church members support Contagious financially and as volunteers, assisting schools work, youth groups and acting as trustees. Due to Covid-19, Mighty Oaks has not been operating at all this year.

Chris and Caroline Friend and David Archer continue to work in the Duchess High School as volunteer Chaplains. They work closely with the Pastoral Team and between them see up to 15 young people each week on a one to one basis.

The Church and some of its members continue to provide support to the local community centre, **Community@NE66 (Charity No. 1171202)** both in a 'hands on' capacity and also serving as trustees, and the **Alnwick District Food Bank (Charity No. 1173294)**, which is now a charity in its own right, comprising trustees of both faith (at least four churches in Alnwick represented) and not.

Christians Together in Alnwick (CTiA) exists to bring the churches of Alnwick together. We are active supporters and take part in combined activities such as the Good Friday service in the town's market square.

Ukraine Response: Some of the church family have been actively involved in the local response to homing Ukrainian refugees. This ranges from administrative support as part of the Alnwick Homes for Ukraine Group to offering homes. At a parade in support of Ukraine in March 2022, Chris Friend was able to lead a short service at the War Memorial on behalf of CTiA.

7. Financial Review and Policies

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 recurring expenses are related to the ongoing employment of:-

- Rev Chris Friend and Rev Caroline Friend as Co-Ministers of the Church, who lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services, provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.
- Mr Neill Parker as CAP debt advice centre manager, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Sarah Hamer as Children and Families Worker, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Karen Smith who commenced a 3 year part time work placement (1.5 days per week) on 10th October 2021 as part of her ministerial training.

The Church expresses 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.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities, many of which are 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 statements set out on pages [8] to [12] cover the Church's financial year ended 31 March 2022.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £156,615 (preceding year £135,593) and total payments were £140,202 (preceding year £128,654), producing a surplus for the year of £16,413 (preceding year surplus of £6,939). Regular monthly giving to ABC, mostly through

Gift Aid, continued at a similar level to the previous financial year, and the Charity Trustees are grateful for the consistency of this financial support, especially during a period of pandemic when Church activities have necessarily been restricted. A legacy of £5000 was also received and donations of £8,321 were given towards ministry training costs.Total financial reserves at 31 March 2022, of which £4,250 are held as restricted funds, amounted to £116,441 (31 March 2021 £100,028).

The Church continued to allocate a significant amount of its income to supporting a range of external organisations engaged in Christian outreach and teaching, promotion of justice and care for the poor and needy and the development of personal faith, as well as funding the CAP Alnwick debt counselling centre.

The Charity Trustees would like to express their appreciation to Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Chartered Accountants, Alnwick for once again carrying out the independent examination of the Church's financial statements.

Reserves policy

The Charity Trustees' policy is that the minimum amount of unrestricted funds to be retained should cover normal operating costs for six months, as well as holding a reserve for the cost of replacing equipment (photocopier, PA system etc) - say £70,000 in total. The actual reserves shown in the financial statements as at 31 March 2022, are slightly in excess of this figure. The Trustees consider this is an acceptable position in view of the commitment to support a minister-in-training for 3 years and the uncertainity of cost of living increases in the coming year.

Investment policy

The Charity Trustees seek to invest the Church's funds in such a way as to produce investment income whilst minimising the risk of capital loss. Interest-bearing deposits are currently held with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and the Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund.

The Charity Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

8. Signature and Declaration

I declare that in my capacity of Charity Trustee, that

- the Charity Trustees have approved the report above; and
- have authorised me to sign it on their behalf

.....	.....	.....
Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Chris Hinds (Deacon)

Date: 25-JUL-2022

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Year ended 31 March 2022			Year ended 31 March 2021
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Receipts				
Offerings and donations - Gift Aid	**93,044**	–	**93,044**	88,849
Offerings and donations – other	**16,612**	**1,410**	**18,022**	20,881
Tax reclaimed via Gift Aid	**22,491**	–	**22,491**	24,846
Interest receivable	**117**	–	**117**	227
Donations for ministry training costs	–	**8,321**	**8,321**	–
Donations for other organisations	–	**3,927**	**3,927**	790
Receipts for church events	**5,443**	–	**5,443**	–
Legacy Received	**5,000**	–	**5,000**	–
Baptist Union Church Grant	–	**250**	**250**	–
	142,707	**13,908**	**156,615**	135,593
Payments				
Staff employment costs (Note 2)	**87,698**	–	**87,698**	77,937
Upkeep of church premises (Note 3)	**5,167**	–	**5,167**	3,888
General expenses (Note 4)	**6,131**	–	**6,131**	20,396
Equipment and furniture (Note 5)	**837**	–	**837**	839
Church events	**6,816**	–	**6,816**	28
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre (Note 6)	**3,768**	**1,410**	**5,178**	5,176
Donations (Note 7)	**20,127**	**8,248**	**28,375**	20,390
	130,544	**9,658**	**140,202**	128,654
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	**12,163**	**4,250**	**16,413**	6,939
Bank/deposit balances at start of year	**100,028**	–	**100,028**	93,089
Bank/deposit balances at end of year	**112,191**	**4,250**	**116,441**	100,028

The notes on pages [10] to [12] form part of these financial statements.

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Bank/cash balances		
Lloyds Bank	**10,311**	1,933
Charities Deposit Fund	**66,130**	58,095
Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund	**40,000**	40,000
	116,441	100,028
Other monetary assets		
Debtor - tax reclaimable via Gift Aid (re tax year 2021/22)	**28,072**	22,491

Fixed assets retained for church use

Alnwick Baptist Church premises, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR
Furniture, fittings and contents of church premises

The notes on pages [10] to [12] form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Charity Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church and signed on their behalf by:

.....	....Caroline Friend.....	.....
Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Chris Hinds (Deacon)

Date: 25-JUL-2022

Notes to the financial statements

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

General funds are for the furtherance of the normal purposes of Alnwick Baptist Church and are not subject to any restriction of use.

2 Staff employment costs

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Salaries	**65,015**	58,138
Manse rent (leaseback on Ministers' residence)	**8,784**	8,604
Council tax and water rates	**2,061**	2,003
Employer's NI contributions (net of Employment Alllowance)	**–**	–
Employer's pension contributions	**7,324**	6,481
Telephone and broadband	**1,385**	1,642
Travel expenses	**2,417**	583
Courses and conferences	**712**	486
	87,698	77,937

Rev Chris Friend (full-time) and Rev Caroline Friend (part-time) were employed by the Church throughout the year as Co-Ministers. The Co-Ministers, who were also Charity Trustees, lived in a house rented from them by the Church.

Mr Neill Parker was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre, which is run by the Church in partnership with Christians Against Poverty.

Mrs Sarah Hamer was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Children and Families Worker.

With effect from 10th October 2021, Mrs Karen Smith commenced a part-time work placement (1.5 days per week)) as part of her ministerial training for which she was paid pro-rata (0.3 full time equivalent) of the Baptist Union recommended ministerial stipend. Karen was also a Charity Trustee.

All of the employees are members of personal defined contribution pension plans into which the Church makes an employer contribution equivalent to 10% of salary.

No sums were reimbursed to the Charity Trustees for their work as Charity Trustees (2020-21 none).

3 Upkeep of church premises

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Gas, electricity and water	**1,586**	1,248
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	**2,314**	1,506
Insurance	**1,267**	1,134
	5,167	3,888

4 General expenses

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Teaching materials	**364**	1,044
Photocopying, postage and stationery	**1,449**	1,602
Website, audio system and IT	**932**	1,034
Safeguarding	**129**	559
Subscriptions	**762**	754
Fees/expenses to visiting speakers	**400**	225
CCLI copyright licence	**724**	727
Future premises project	**–**	11,950
Other	**1,371**	2,501
	6,131	20,396

5 Equipment and furniture

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Laptop computer, camera and tripod	**–**	728
Hand towel dispensers	**–**	111
Vacuum Cleaners	**145**	–
Laptop computer	**598**	–
Microphones	**94**	–
	837	839

6 CAP Alnwick Debt Centre

The Church runs the CAP Alnwick debt counselling centre, in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty, a national charity. The employment costs of the CAP Centre Manager are included in the staff employment costs shown in Note 2. The other amounts paid by the Church during the year were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Donation to Christians Against Poverty central costs	**4,992**	4,992
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre running costs	**186**	184
	5,178	5,176

7 Donations

The Church supports Christian work in a variety of situations through prayer and financial giving.

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Baptist Union Home Mission	**5,300**	5,300
BMS World Mission	**5,300**	5,300
Harvest offering – BMS I Will Stand	**484**	–
Christmas offering – Global Care (previous year Community@NE66)	**270**	790
Cord Global	**500**	500
Ignite (formerly Contagious)	**3,000**	3,000
Mighty Oaks	**200**	500
Operation Agri	**500**	500
Tearfund	**500**	500
Release International	**500**	500
Good News For Everyone (formerly Gideons UK)	**500**	500
Lifepath Brinkburn	**500**	500
The Farming Community Network	**500**	500
Open Doors	**500**	500
Newcastle West End Refugee Service	**500**	500
Community@NE66 (Alnwick Community Centre)	**500**	500
Rural Ministries	**500**	500
BMS Ukraine Appeal	**4,000**	–
Contribution to ministry training costs (Karen Smith)	**4,321**	–
	28,375	20,390

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
to the Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church ("the Charity")

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages [8] to [12].

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under Section 145 of the 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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records.

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 financial statements to be reached.

J. Harvey

Jane Harvey FCA

Date: 23 November 2022

Greaves Grindle
Victoria House
Bondgate Within
Alnwick
NE66 1TA

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1143745

Accounts

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Statutory Information

Alnwick Baptist Church (Lisburn Street, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1UR) was entered on the Register of Charities on 9 September 2011 with a new Charity Register Number of 1143745. The financial year runs from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The governing documents are a Trust Deed (dated 1 July 1976), in respect of which the current Church Trustees are Mr Alastair Conn, Mr Brian Friend, Mr William McDonald and Mr Ian Simpson, and the Church Constitution (agreed 10 March 2011). The mission statement of Alnwick Baptist Church is "To encourage people to accept and celebrate Jesus in their lives and to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to following Him." The Church banks with Lloyds Bank, Alnwick. The independent examiner is Mrs Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Alnwick.

2. Trustees and Governance

The Charity Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Rev Caroline Friend (Co-Minister)
Rev Chris Friend (Co-Minister)
Mr Alastair Conn (Church Treasurer)
Mrs Julie Hammond
Mr Chris Hinds (Church Secretary)
Prof Carol Jagger
Mrs Rowena King *retired 1 April 2020*
Mr Andrew Kohler
Mr Ian Simpson
Dr Ian Smith
Mrs Karen Smith
Mrs Dorothy Walls

Dr Margaret Andrew and Miss Susan Prince were appointed as trustees on 2 May 2021.

Charity Trustee selection method:

- names will be brought to the Church through the existing Elders.
- a quorum of 40% of Church Members is required at the Church Meeting.
- confirmation is by ballot, with at least two-thirds of the members (present & voting) in favour of the appointment.
- Elders must be Church Members, hold the doctrinal beliefs as stated for the minister in the Church Constitution and have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Elders serve for 3 years and may be re-appointed.
- Deacons must be Church Members and the majority of the Diaconate must have been baptised as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Deacons serve for 3 years and may be re-appointed.
- Elders and Deacons are encouraged to read the Baptist Union Corporation Limited Guidelines relating to their responsibilities and positions.
- the Elders and Deacons are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Church.

The Elders and Deacons as Charity Trustees met jointly 6 times during the year, 5 of which were virtual by Zoom due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The Elders and the Deacons met regularly, also mainly by Zoom, to deal with all the affairs of the Church: spiritual, pastoral and practical.

3. Charitable Objective

Alnwick Baptist Church (ABC) is currently governed by a Trust Deed and the Church Constitution which state that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and other such general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine. The Elders and Deacons' objectives are to ensure that Church life and work within the local area help to fulfill that mission, both locally and more widely.

4. Organisational Structure and Decision Making Process

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Trust Deed and Church Constitution which require them to acknowledge the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures; salvation only by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and to have made a personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place 3 times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Church Constitution, the Members appoint Charity Trustees, who together with the Minister(s), Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members) and collectively known as the Eldership and Diaconate, 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. Members' meetings are open to non-members who are also able to join in the discussions but only Members are entitled to vote.

Relevant matters may be submitted for the Church Meeting by the Elders and Deacons for guidance, or may be raised by Members in the Church Meeting for further consideration by the Elders and Deacons. Though the Trust Deeds and Church Constitution permit decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

5. 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 Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These normally take place each Sunday at 10:30am, a communion service on the third Sunday of each month at 7:00pm and a service on the last Sunday of most months at 7.00pm which provides the opportunity for people to receive prayer for healing and wholeness, or other issues in their lives, in the context of worship in a quiet, contemplative, unhurried environment. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised variously through the weekly noticesheets, invitation leaflets, in the local press and on the church noticeboard. There is a children's programme during most morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

However during the COVID-19 pandemic regular public services of worship have been via virtual means for example using electronic media such as YouTube, Facebook and Zoom.

The Church runs a series of mid-week groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some Members. These groups are an important part of the prayer and practical support the church family give to one another and an opportunity to develop the themes and application of the Sunday sermon.

2020/2021 has been hugely impacted by the pandemic and all face to face contact ceased for most of the year. Midweek Groups continued online and this enabled essential contact albeit in a virtual sense which was still life-giving to those who linked in. The Prayer Course by Pete Greig provided great online material to discuss and Prayer Course II was equally well received and poignant for what we've been going through in lockdown. Around 50 people are involved in these groups. Given the exceptional nature of this last year, we abandoned plans to reset the Groups and will look to this again at the end of 2021. Naturally, all of the other face to face activities whether it be our Missional Communities, drop-in, Book Club, Guys Group and others have all had to cease until such time as easing of restrictions allows for this.

Further details of these activities can be obtained from the Charity Trustees on request.

The Church runs and supports various events for people of all ages to allow opportunities to build relationships, explore different expressions of worship and develop personal faith. The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are safely recruited into their roles including DBS checks where necessary. A statement of the Church's Safeguarding Policy is reviewed at a Church Meeting once per year. The church appoints Designated Persons for Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and one of the Charity Trustees is designated to oversee the safeguarding procedures (currently Andrew Kohler).

6. Activities and Achievements

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Our Pastoral Team coordinated by Rowena King has been exceptional as too the Prayer Line facilitated by Andrew and Lesley Kohler. In addition, we were able to appoint Sarah Hamer during lockdown as Children and Families Worker. She has started Family Church on a monthly basis and has had the flexibility to move from in person to online and back again to reach out to a number of new families.

As of end March 2021, services have once again been allowed to resume and we've adopted a hybrid model with a live service one Sunday and a recorded the next. Whilst singing has not been permitted, for those who've attended, the fact that we are meeting in person, albeit socially distanced, has been a joy for those attending.

In normal circumstances 120 people, young and old, attend ABC on a regular basis with usually 100 people at the main Sunday morning Service. As of January 2021 we have a formal membership of 84. We've still been able to welcome people as members through postal voting and also seen new folk among us as they've moved into the area. We've also shared in sadness following the deaths of three of our Members and attendees.

Usually Harvest, Christmas and Easter are key times in the calendar when we can celebrate with community. The pandemic put pay to meeting together in all these settings and we reverted to a live stream carol service from Lisburn Street and were able to meet socially distanced on Christmas morning.

We have considered as a church whether or not to move to another building. This involved a Building Working Group concentrating on a particular site and then feeding back a proposal to the church family. After feedback and further time to pray and reflect, we felt this was not the right time to proceed and to continue to wait on God.

Our Prayer Meetings have continued online and continued to pray for our church, community and the wider world. This is done as part of our mid-week groups and at specific meetings for prayer, either on Saturday mornings or at other times. A small group meets each month to pray for Christians experiencing persecution in different parts of the world using material produced primarily by Open Doors.

We aim to provide a variety of ways for people to connect with the Christian faith. As well as the Sunday Services and other groups described above, Thursday@7 continues to operate on a weekly basis online during restrictions but hopefully in person before too long, enabling people to *'do shared lives and provide the opportunity to ask the bigger questions',* in an informal and relational way based in the new Starbucks. The monthly 'Gathering' has now been going for over four years attracting a number of people keen to explore faith issues. Again, this has taken place online but ordinarily would be in people's homes with an informal discussion about 'Jesus encounters' in the Bible followed by a meal together. Hopefully that format too can return later in 2021. Alongside that, Messy Church has run online and reached over 30 families with craft packs and online videos which families have engaged in. In addition, the Weavers Court Retirement Complex, whilst having to shelve the monthly Songs of Praise during the pandemic, has still been able to have Faith Talks with virtual packs created by Karen Smith and Caroline Friend. There is still a strong emphasis on missional listening Teams to look to join in with what God is already doing in our community.

We lead Christian services at Abbeyfield Residential Care Home and at St Paul's Court sheltered housing, providing support and friendship to residents, and a team visits Abbeyfield once a month to listen, chat and offer a thought for the day. Even in lockdown, we've been able to provide recorded services for Abbeyfield. Our hope as restrictions ease is to support in person again.

Beyond lockdown, we hope that our building will still be used by Rangers, another way in which we seek to serve our local community.

Several congregation members are also involved in work at HMP Northumberland, including services for prisoners by **Good News For Everyone** (formerly GideonsUK, Charity No. 221605), the **Sycamore Tree Project** (part of Prison Fellowship, Charity No. 1102254) for restorative justice and the welcome centre for families visiting prisoners. This year however no visits were made to the prison due to pandemic restrictions.

<u>Community links</u>

We seek to be a positive impact within our local community in many ways. Some of these activities are as ABC, some are by the Church and/or its Members providing support to other charities or organisations.

Christians Against Poverty (Charity No. 1097217)
A major commitment of the Church is running a debt advice centre in Alnwick, part of CAP, offering free debt advice and support to anyone in the local community who requests it.

During this year of Covid restrictions, our CAP debt centre has remained open, but we have not been able to meet clients in their homes. It has been possible to offer the service with a mixture of phone calls and online measures, and the majority of clients who contacted us are now debt-free or on a route out of debt.

One good outcome of this is that we have been able, probably temporarily, to enlarge our referral area to include part of Berwick, and also help with referrals from busier centres when we have had quieter periods.

We expect an influx of referrals as lockdown eases, and the moratorium on evictions comes to an end.

Contagious Youth Project (Charity No. 1089954)
Contagious works in schools and among children and young people through youth clubs and other activities. The Mighty Oaks Alnwick project, providing coffee and tea from a van in Alnwick, is part of Contagious. Church members support Contagious financially and as volunteers, assisting schools work, youth groups and acting as trustees. Due to Covid-19, Mighty Oaks has not been operating at all this year.

Chris and Caroline Friend and David Archer continue to work in the Duchess High School as volunteer Chaplains. They work closely with the Pastoral Team and between them see up to 15 young people each week on a one to one basis. This year, their work has been constricted with mandatory school closures.

The Church and some of its members continue to provide support to the local community centre, **Community@NE66** (Charity No. 1171202) both in a 'hands on' capacity and also serving as trustees, and the **Alnwick District Food Bank** (Charity No. 1173294), which is now a charity in its own right, comprising trustees of both faith (at least four churches in Alnwick represented) and not.

Christians Together in Alnwick (CTiA) exists to bring the churches of Alnwick together. We are active supporters and take part in combined activities such as the Good Friday service in the town's market square. As with many activities, this was not able to take place in 2021.

7. Financial Review and Policies

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 recurring expenses are related to the ongoing employment of:-

- Rev Chris Friend and Rev Caroline Friend as Co-Ministers of the Church, who lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services, provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.
- Mr Neill Parker as CAP debt advice centre manager, on a part-time basis.
- Mrs Sarah Hamer as Children and Families Worker, on a part-time basis (appointed July 2020).

The Church expresses 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.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities, many of which are 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 statements set out on pages 8 to 12 cover the Church's financial year ended 31 March 2021.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £135,593 (preceding year £147,179) and total payments were £128,654 (preceding year £188,764), producing a surplus for the year of £6,939 (preceding year deficit £41,585). The deficit for the preceding year included non-recurring payments totalling £50,600 relating to the final settlement of the Church's employer liability to the Baptist Union Scheme.

Regular monthly giving to ABC, mostly through Gift Aid, continued at a similar level to the previous financial year, and the Charity Trustees are grateful for the consistency of this financial support, especially during a period of pandemic when Church activities have necessarily been restricted. Total financial reserves at 31 March 2021, all of which are unrestricted as to their future use, amounted to £100,028 (31 March 2020 £93,089).

The Church continued to allocate a significant amount of its income to supporting a range of external organisations engaged in Christian outreach and teaching, promotion of justice and care for the poor and needy and the development of personal faith, as well as funding the CAP Alnwick debt counselling centre.

The Charity Trustees would like to express their appreciation to Jane Harvey of Greaves Grindle, Chartered Accountants, Alnwick for once again carrying out the independent examination of the Church's financial statements.

Reserves policy

The Charity Trustees' policy is that the minimum amount of unrestricted funds to be retained should cover normal operating costs for six months, as well as holding a reserve for the cost of replacing equipment (photocopier, PA system etc) - say £70,000 in total. The actual reserves shown in the financial statements as at 31 March 2021 are slightly in excess of this figure. The Trustees consider this is an acceptable position in view of the continuing uncertainties associated with the pandemic.

Investment policy

The Charity Trustees seek to invest the Church's funds in such a way as to produce investment income whilst minimising the risk of capital loss. Interest-bearing deposits are currently held with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and the Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund.

The Charity Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

8. Signature and Declaration

I declare that in my capacity of Charity Trustee, that the Charity Trustees

- have approved the report above; and
- have authorised me to sign it on their behalf

.....	.....	.....
Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Chris Hinds (Deacon)

Date 17 July 2021

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Year ended 31 March 2021			Year ended 31 March 2020
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Offerings and donations - Gift Aid	**88,849**	–	**88,849**	86,072
Offerings and donations – other	**18,881**	**2,000**	**20,881**	23,346
Tax reclaimed via Gift Aid	**24,846**	–	**24,846**	24,839
Interest receivable	**227**	–	**227**	1,085
Donations for ministry training costs	–	–	–	5,264
Donations for other organisations	–	**790**	**790**	939
Receipts for church events	–	–	–	5,634
	132,803	**2,790**	**135,593**	147,179
Payments				
Staff employment costs (Note 2)	**77,937**	–	**77,937**	82,720
Deficit payment to Baptist Pension Scheme	–	–	–	40,600
Upkeep of church premises (Note 3)	**3,888**	–	**3,888**	5,706
General expenses (Note 4)	**20,396**	–	**20,396**	9,105
Equipment and furniture (Note 5)	**839**	–	**839**	302
Church events	**28**	–	**28**	8,994
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre (Note 6)	**3,176**	**2,000**	**5,176**	5,234
Donations (Note 7)	**19,600**	**790**	**20,390**	36,103
	125,864	**2,790**	**128,654**	188,764
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	**6,939**	–	**6,939**	(41,585)
Bank/deposit balances at start of year	**93,089**	–	**93,089**	134,674
Bank/deposit balances at end of year	**100,028**	–	**100,028**	93,089

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

ALNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2021

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Bank/cash balances		
Lloyds Bank	**1,933**	2,054
Charities Deposit Fund	**58,095**	51,035
Baptist Union Corporation Loan Fund	**40,000**	40,000
	100,028	93,089
Other monetary assets		
Debtor - tax reclaimable via Gift Aid (re tax year 2020/21)	**22,491**	24,846

Fixed assets retained for church use

Alnwick Baptist Church premises, Lisburn Street, Alnwick NE66 1UR
Furniture, fittings and contents of church premises

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Charity Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church and signed on their behalf by:

.....	.....	.....
Rev Chris Friend (Minister & Elder)	Rev Caroline Friend (Minister & Elder)	Mr Chris Hinds (Deacon)

Date 17 July 2021

Notes to the financial statements

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

General funds are for the furtherance of the normal purposes of Alnwick Baptist Church and are not subject to any restriction of use.

2 Staff employment costs

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Salaries	**58,138**	56,214
Manse rent (leaseback on Ministers' residences)	**8,604**	9,701
Council tax and water rates	**2,003**	2,103
Employer's NI contributions (net of Employment Alllowance)	**–**	328
Employer's pension contributions	**6,481**	8,128
Telephone and broadband	**1,642**	1,256
Travel expenses	**583**	4,031
Courses and conferences	**486**	959
	77,937	82,720

Rev Chris Friend (full-time) and Rev Caroline Friend (part-time) were employed by the Church throughout the year as Co-Ministers. The Co-Ministers, who were also Charity Trustees, lived in a house rented from them by the Church.

Mr Neill Parker was employed part-time by the Church throughout the year as Manager of the Alnwick Debt Centre, which is run by the Church in partnership with Christians Against Poverty.

Mrs Sarah Hamer was employed part-time by the Church with effect from 13 July 2020 as Children and Families Worker.

All of the employees are members of personal defined contribution pension plans into which the Church makes an employer contribution equivalent to 10% of salary.

No sums were reimbursed to the Charity Trustees for their work as Charity Trustees (2019-20 none).

3 Upkeep of church premises

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Gas, electricity and water	**1,248**	2,512
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	**1,506**	2,094
Insurance	**1,134**	1,100
	3,888	5,706

4 General expenses

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Teaching materials	**1,044**	1,000
Photocopying, postage and stationery	**1,602**	2,280
Website, audio system and IT	**1,034**	1,472
Safeguarding	**559**	–
Subscriptions	**754**	864
Fees/expenses to visiting speakers	**225**	560
CCLI copyright licence	**727**	606
Future premises project	**11,950**	1,389
Other	**2,501**	934
	20,396	9,105

5 Equipment and furniture

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Laptop computer, camera and tripod	**728**	–
Hand towel dispensers	**111**	–
Lectern	**–**	255
Flower stand	**–**	47
	839	302

6 CAP Alnwick Debt Centre

The Church runs the CAP Alnwick debt counselling centre, in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty, a national charity. The employment costs of the CAP Centre Manager are included in the staff employment costs shown in Note 2. The other amounts paid by the Church during the year were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Donation to Christians Against Poverty central costs	**4,992**	4,992
CAP Alnwick Debt Centre running costs	**184**	242
	5,176	5,234

7 Donations

The Church supports Christian work in a variety of situations through prayer and financial giving.

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Baptist Union Home Mission	**5,300**	5,200
BMS World Mission	**5,300**	5,200
Baptist Pension Scheme Family Solution	**–**	10,000
Harvest offering – Operation Agri	**–**	459
Christmas offering – Community@NE66 (previous year Prison Fellowship)	**790**	480
Cord Global	**500**	500
Contagious	**3,000**	3,000
Mighty Oaks	**500**	500
Operation Agri	**500**	500
Tearfund	**500**	500
Release International	**500**	500
Good News For Everyone (formerly GideonsUK)	**500**	500
Lifepath Brinkburn	**500**	500
The Farming Community Network	**500**	500
Open Doors	**500**	500
Newcastle West End Refugee Service	**500**	500
Community@NE66 (Alnwick Community Centre)	**500**	1,500
Rural Ministries	**500**	–
Contribution to ministry training costs	**–**	5,264
	20,390	36,103

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
to the Trustees of Alnwick Baptist Church ("the Charity")

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under Section 145 of the 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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records.

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 financial statements to be reached.

Jane Harvey FCA

12th January 2022

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