



# SUNDON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Reaching up to GOD | Reaching out to the Community | Reaching in to Each Other



## ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT 2024

**Psalm 143:10** 'Teach me to do your will, for you are my GOD. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing'.

We believe our continued mission from GOD calls us to love, worship and serve Him as beacons of light, hope and healing, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as we love and serve one another, and our community, ministering to local needs. We continue to befriend others, share Jesus and make disciples.

Our vision continues to be that of a Church gathered in unity, fellowshiping and fulfilling Christ's purpose in making disciples and building restorative relationships; inspired by the Holy Spirit, growing in wisdom, revelation and understanding, and transforming the community for Christ. We seek to reach up to GOD, reach out to the community and reach into each other.

## **THE PAST YEAR/FUTURE**

**Ephesians 5:1-2** Therefore be imitators of GOD, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to GOD.

As we ended Year 2024, we were grateful for GOD's providence and sustenance which had seen us through. In 2024, our theme for the year was '**CHRISTLIKENESS**'. Our prayer was that as the Body of Christ at Sundon Park Baptist Church, our lives may be a fragrant offering to GOD and to the community we love and serve. We continued to fellowship with one another and grow together in love.

The Church continued to conduct worship services that are open to all. The church services were held onsite and via Zoom for those who were unable to attend in person. The Church continued to see new people regularly attending services.

The Church building continued being used for worship services, the onsite nursery and the Newns Building continued being available throughout the week for use by the Church, local community groups including hiring from people in the community.

The Church continued to meet together for Prayer Days throughout the year to seek GOD for wisdom with regards meeting the needs of the Community and managing the church premises.

The Church joyfully welcomed families into membership and conducted blessings for newly born babies.

## **BEACON GROUPS**

Three Beacon Groups continued to meet throughout the year with the purpose of praying together and sharing the Word of GOD through Bible Study. The groups continued to build deeper relationships, support one another spiritually and practically. The groups continued to reach out to others in the Church and Community through service or evangelism.

## **2024 EVENTS**

At the beginning of the year 2024, the Church continued to host a range of community events such as the Community Trust, Keep Fit, Omnibus Society, Slimming World and Singing Café. Crafts & Coffee continued to provide a safe space of welcome for people to meet, share hobbies, build relationships and reduce isolation.

The Church continued to host events for the local community to engage with and enjoy, these included an Annual BBQ, Christmas flower arranging, celebrating Mothering Sunday, Father's Day, Harvest Celebrations and Easter. Our Harvest Celebration were focussed on collecting donations to help support local Community organisation including Azalea Luton, Luton Food Bank and Breakfast Battery Boxes. Items donated included toiletries, long-life food items and fresh fruit and dairy products. The Community was welcomed to special Christmas Celebrations which included Carols' By Candlelight and a Christmas Meal with all the trimmings for those who are on their own during the festive season. We delivered Christmas cards to the whole estate inviting people to our Christmas services.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

In February we were delighted to welcome Christ Curtis, from Youthscape sharing with us from the Word of GOD and the amazing work and impact of Youthscape in Luton and much wider reach. We held A History of Sundon Park Event in March 2024 and had a local respected historian sharing with the Community how Sundon Park started and developed over the years.

The Church offered its facilities to the Citizens Advice Luton Team to meet with people in the local community who were not always able to travel to the main town when they needed advice.

The Church continued to participate in ecumenical events which included Pentecost Praise and Churches Together Luton. In October we participated in Indian Cooking Classes at Shri Guru Ravidass Sangat Luton which was another opportunity to come together as a Community to learn new skills, build friendships and enjoy fantastic food. We held a Cultural Sunday to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the different nations represented in the Church and the Community of Luton.

## **LEADERS OF GOD**

We continued to have more children attending our Sunday school provision with the children enjoying giving feedback from the time together. We celebrated a successful Leaders of GOD year filled with joy, learning, and spiritual growth. It's been a blessing to watch our children grow in wisdom and in their love for the Lord. Through Bible lessons, prayer, and fellowship, they have deepened their understanding of GOD's Word and His presence in their lives. We thank our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and most of all, GOD, for a wonderful year of planting seeds of faith that will continue to grow

## **SPBC YOUTH CLUB**

The growing and thriving SPBC Youth Club enjoyed activities which included learning to play the piano, activities in the Community, a Pizza & Conversation Gathering. Our dedicated Youth Leaders had regular outreaches to students at a local school to help build a rapport with young people and signpost them to local activities and support. We thank GOD for a vibrant and impactful year in SPBC Youth Club. It's been a joy to see our young people grow in their faith, deepen their understanding of GOD's Word, and build meaningful friendships. Through engaging discussions, fun activities, worship, and service, they've taken steps toward becoming strong, Christ-centred leaders. We're grateful for the commitment of our leaders, the enthusiasm of our youth, and GOD's faithful guidance throughout the year.

## **MEDIA AND TECH**

Our Media Team which comprises of youth was instrumental in creative outreach banners, continued social media presence, media posts, sermon recording and other youth initiatives.

## **WARM HUBS-WELCOME SPACES**

With the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and in work poverty impacting the most vulnerable communities including the cost of warming up homes, the Church in partnership with Luton Council continued with the Warm Hub. The warm hub continued to be available to people experiencing financial challenges, social isolation and other concerns. The safe warm space was made available for people to access support, build good friendships and enjoy light refreshments. The warm hub space will continue as the needs are evident in the community and nationally.

## **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT/CHANGES IN 2024**

A Refurbishment Working Party continued to explore building development pathway to address an aging building in much need to repair and refurbishment due to concrete rot, roof replacement/repair and heating concerns.

## **BREAKFAST BATTERY BOXES**

The Breakfast Battery Boxes which began in December 2020 as a joint community initiative continued in 2024, helping to alleviate holiday hunger in Luton North for individuals and families experiencing in-work poverty and struggling with cost of living, including people experiencing in-work poverty. Over 250 boxes were distributed to families and individuals in 2024.

## **FINAL REMARKS**

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for GOD's faithfulness, the dedication of our Trustees, Members and Volunteers, and the continued unity of our church family. Through every ministry, event, and challenge, GOD has been at work—shaping lives, deepening faith, and calling us forward. We give thanks for all He has done and look ahead with hopeful expectation, trusting that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion. May we continue to walk in love, serve with joy, and shine His light in our community and beyond. Sundon Park Baptist Church will continue to be a people who reach up to GOD, reach out to the Community and reach in to each other.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Receipts and Payments Analysis		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Notes						
<b>GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS &amp; PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>						
<b>Receipts</b>						
Voluntary Giving						
Weekly Offerings		44,836			44,836	47,101
Donations and other voluntary income		0			0	0
Gift Day		0	0		0	0
Income tax recovered on gifts		0			0	2,378
Raised for other causes				1,129	1,129	573
Receipts from Church & Community Events		0			0	0
Generated funds						
Investment receipts/bank interest		463			463	597
Other Receipts		417			417	1,414
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>45,716</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>46,845</b>	<b>52,063</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Charitable Activities						
Public Worship		250			250	250
Cost of Pastorate		30,955			30,955	31,913
Upkeep of Manse						
Maintenance		85			85	150
Council Tax		1,650			1,650	1,572
Buildings Insurance		411			411	403
Pastoral Care		0			0	0
Church & Community Events		387			387	1,012
Upkeep of Church premises						
Utilities		3,130			3,130	2,103
Maintenance & cleaning		2,274			2,274	2,421
Insurance		1,625			1,625	1,577
Youth & Children's Work		60			60	606
Conferences & Training		458			458	438
Cost of generating funds		0			0	0
Administration						
Telephone		0			0	0
Stationery		100			100	389
Licences & Subscriptions		396			396	607
Website		313			313	253
Other Payments		1,884			1,884	16,080
Grants to Other Causes			4,948	0	4,948	6,100
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>43,977</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48,925</b>	<b>65,874</b>
Net Receipts/(Payments)		1,740	(4,948)	1,129	(2,080)	(13,811)
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0	0
Cash funds brought forward at 31 December 2023		43,033	0	0	43,033	56,844
Cash funds carried forward at 31 December 2024/2023		44,773	(4,948)	1,129	40,954	43,033
<b>THE BEACON PROJECT RECEIPTS &amp; PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>						
<b>Receipts</b>						
Grants & Donations Received		53,029	0	0	53,029	75,327
<b>Payments</b>						
Net Receipts/(Payments)		2,379	0	0	2,379	1,325
Transfers between Funds			0	0	0	0
Cash funds brought forward at 31 December 2023		16,241	0	0	16,241	14,916
Cash funds carried forward at 31 December 2024/2023		18,620	0	0	18,620	16,241

**SUNDON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH (Registered Charity No. 1144181)**  
**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees And Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(a) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis Of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature



Date 26/05/2025

Mark Mayungu  
92 Bluebell Close

Beds  
MK45 1NR