

Stockton Baptist Church
Registered Charity No: 1147883

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report and unaudited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Trustees of the Charity

The directors of the charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. Details of the trustees who have served during the year and since the year end can be found on page 8.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Stockton Baptist Church is a church established under a constitution dated 11 April 2012. It is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Northern Baptist Association. It is a charity (number 1147883) registered with the Charity Commission. It is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

The Church leadership is made up of the Senior Pastor, Elders and Deacons. Elders and Deacons are Trustees, the appointments of which are nominated from the church membership and approved by the church members' meeting.

The church makes decisions by the church leadership bringing matters to the church meeting for discussion and as appropriate, acceptance, or by raising matters within a church meeting for further discussion and consideration by the church leadership.

2. Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Trust are:

- a) The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Stockton-on-Tees and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- b) Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting further the work of the Church.

TRUSTEES REPORT

3. Achievements and Performance

Ministry Highlights:

In 2024 both the Senior Pastor, Craig, and the Children's Pastor, Lydia, took long awaited sabbaticals. Both had well planned programmes which enabled them to seek refreshing, renewal and reflection benefiting both them and the church.

During Craig's sabbatical, while he sought God's direction for church vision, the church also gathered together with prayer meetings to seek God's direction for the church.

It was with sadness that the church said goodbye to our Associate Minister, Matty Steel, who left after six years. It was great to welcome back our Youth Pastor, Jess Steel, from maternity leave. We also said goodbye to our youth and children's interns who had all contributed much to both teams and will be missed.

Much of the focus this year was preparing for Festival Teesside, a free, two-day event held in June 2024 at a local park in Middlesbrough and featured live music, sports displays, inflatables, and opportunities to hear the Christian message. The event was a collective effort of 70 local churches and 700+ volunteers, the Good News of Jesus Christ reached more than 30,000 people across the region, culminating in 1,685+ Gospel responses. Stockton Baptist Church supported financially, with volunteers and in prayer. The church building was used in the week running up to the event to provide children's ministry to over 700 school children as part of festival of Teesside. It was great to see so many of the congregation engaging with the volunteering, training provided and using it as an opportunity to invite friends to hear about God.

The Youth Pastor returned from maternity leave at the end of August 2024. This saw the recommencement of some of the groups that had paused during her maternity leave. It was encouraging to take 20 young people to the Kairos youth camp at the end of the summer. In September, the Youth Leadership team reflected on the past nine months and focused on looking forward to the new school year ahead. In the September five new year 7s began attending the Youth Group and we said goodbye to three 6th formers who left for university. A Christmas concert to raise funds for the Youth's missionary partners was planned, produced and performed by the Youth Group raising over £1000.

Post covid we continued to find attendance to the children's groups inconsistent which could be a challenge with planning. It is always wonderful to see the children growing up and exploring who Jesus is, learning to know Him and love Him for themselves. The children enjoy studying the bible and learning to apply what they read as they are encouraged by our Deep Divers, River Riders (Sundays) and Kids Life Group (Tuesdays) teams. Our Starfish (creche) group on a Sunday morning has grown and we often have parents come in and stay so we can get to know them. We started to stream the service through to the creche room and this has helped parents to still feel connected to the service when their little ones are finding it hard to settle.

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During Lydia's sabbatical she was able to experience chaplaincy within hospitals, learn about Messy Church and visited Arkansas, in the USA to gain an insight into different models of children's work.

Schools Ministry continued and, after a break while on Sabbatical, it was encouraging to be asked back into schools again to run Art Club and listen to readers (Mill Lane) and lead Collective Worship (Holy Trinity and Thornaby). Volunteers continued to help in the Mill Lane Community every Friday by picking up food and delivering it to the local school for their food pantry.

Mid-week groups continued including Kids Life Group, Little Fish Toddlers and Rooted Club along with our Brigades with even more committed volunteers. Every year we run our Children's Weekend Away.

RAS is an integral part of our church ministry with two drop-ins a week and ongoing support from the dedicated teams supporting our friends from overseas.

320@5 is a gathering that runs on the second and fourth Sunday evening of the month. It continues to be well supported and provides a family feel where worship can be expressed freely.

A new Farsi service began in 2024 and meets on the first and third Sunday evening of the month. It allows Farsi speakers the space and freedom to worship in their own language.

Janet Bare and Julie Barnett once again organised Coats for Kids, providing local children from the town centre area with a new coat ready for the winter.

Ladies socials continued in 2024 bringing together a wide range of women from all ages and backgrounds to enjoy time together and building relationships. It is always well attended with people using it as an outreach to invite friends and family to church.

Luncheon club and Ladies link continue to be a lifeline to people attending, offering friendship and the gospel message at each event.

As part of the Sunday morning series, studies covered the books of Acts, Philippians, Lamentations and 1 Peter.

We also welcomed back the Northern Women's Convention which took place from the church building with a number of the congregation involved in stewarding the event as well as attending.

The membership at the end of 2024 stood at 281.

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It is important to acknowledge that the work of the church is underpinned and could not operate without the selfless support and dedication of a large number of volunteers who work both seen and unseen undertaking numerous role and responsibilities throughout the life of Stockton Baptist Church. We are grateful to God for providing them and to the volunteers for answering the call to serve.

4. Financial Review

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

Income in 2024 increased to £443,709 from £435,581 in the previous year of which £10,155 was restricted.

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

Expenditure of £451,658 (2023: £476,445) was incurred of which £16,006 was for restricted purposes. At 31 December 2024, the charity had unrestricted funds of £2,475,229.

The trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the organisation at 31 December 2024 and are confident that the strategies in place will lead to the organisation being able to fulfil its growth objectives. The Trustees expect to continue the activities of the charity in accordance with their current objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

Reserves Policy

It is currently the policy of Stockton Baptist Church is to hold three months' worth of all budgeted expenditure to allow the church to adapt to any changes in circumstance of the church. Based on the planned contractual and other essential expenditure within this year's budget this amount is £91,672. It is proposed that we will hold sufficient free cash reserves at the year end to satisfy this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually.

5. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable Charity Law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Comply with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name: Stockton Baptist Church
Charity No: 1147883

Principal Address: The Square
Stockton-On-Tees
TS18 1TE

TRUSTEES

Trustee	Craig Downes	Senior Minister/Chair
Trustee	Peter Dawson	Church Secretary Resigned February 2024
Trustee	Mark Askew	Operations Manager
Elders		
Trustee	Dave Blackman	Resigned June 2024
Trustee	Cath Ingram	Resigned June 2024
Trustee	John Mark Ryder	
Trustee	Seyedemad Nejati	
Trustee	Steven Douglas	Appointed June 2024
Trustee	Rev. Timothy Hyde	Appointed June 2024
Trustee	Florence Waniwa	Appointed June 2024
Deacons		
Trustee	Adrian Korynek	
Trustee	Andrew Barnett	Resigned June 2024
Trustee	Peter Gurney	Resigned October 2024
Trustee	Richard Hasthorpe	Appointed September 2023
Holding Trustees		
	Stuart Cornwell	
	Ernie Hepplestone	
	Martin Greenwood	
	Baptist Union Corporation	

Bankers: Nat West Bank plc
123 High Street
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1AY

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Independent Examiner: Alan Brown
Sedgefield Accountants
First Floor Suite 6 High Street,
Sedgefield,
Stockton-On-Tees.
TS21 3AR

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 27 October 2025

and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M. Ryder', written over a horizontal line.

Full Name: John Mark Ryder

Position: Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Report to the Trustees of Stockton Baptist Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 4-6.

Respective responsibilities of the Charity and the Independent Examiner

As members of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions 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 these 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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan Brown
Sedgefield Accountants

Date: 24th October 2025

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations and Legacies	2	281,372	10,115	2,501	293,988	346,110
Charitable Activities	2	148,697	-	-	148,697	86,967
Other Trading Activities	2	1,024	-	-	1,024	1,859
Investments	2	-	-	-	-	645
Total Income		431,093	10,115	2,501	443,709	435,581
Expenditure						
Charitable Activities	2	411,861	16,006	22,459	450,326	476,445
Other Expenditures		1,332	-	-	1,332	-
Total expenditure		413,193	16,006	22,459	451,658	476,445
Net movement in funds		17,900	-5,891	-19,958.00	-7,949	-40,864
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds b/f		2,457,329	20,557	69,630	2,547,516	2,588,380
Total funds c/f		2,475,229	14,666	49,672	2,539,567	2,547,516

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Restated

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets				
Land and Buildings	3		2,405,392	2,405,392
Current Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand		138,630		135,507
Held in BU Trust		7,600		7,600
Petty cash				178
		146,230		143,285
Current Liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts falling due withing one year	4	12,055		- 1,161
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year				
		12,055		- 1,161
Net Current Assets			134,175	142,124
Net Assets			2,539,567	2,547,516
FUNDS				
Unrestricted General Funds			2,475,229	2,457,329
Restricted Funds			14,666	20,557
Designated funds			49,672	69,630
Charity funds			2,539,567	2,547,516

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

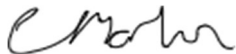
For the year ending 31 December 2024, the Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Oversight on 27 October 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



Full Name: Carol Martin
Position: Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

Stockton Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Fund Accounting

Restricted Funds comprise revenue donations or grants for a specific activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted Funds are income funds which are to be spent on the general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the will move any surplus to other general funds.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources.
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
-

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Resources Expended

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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2. FUNDS

Restricted funds	BalanceB/F	Income	Expenditure	Balance C/F
	£	£	£	£
Andrew & Helen Symmonds	1	-	1	-
BMS	3,068	-	3,068	-
CAP	2,025	500	-	2,525
Fellowship fund	2,648	689	2,483	854
Funeral collections	102	-	102	-
Garden Fund	156	-	156	-
Gifts	913	-	913	-
Overseas Mission	3,095	20	250	2,865
RAS	8,134	8,550	8,414	8,270
Spurgeon's Childcare	414	131	394	151
Youth Missions	-	225	225	-
Total Restricted funds	20,556	10,115	16,006	14,665

Designated funds	Balance B/F	Income	Expenditure	Balance C/F
	£	£	£	£
Children's work	2,600	100	82	2,618
Community garden	1,647	1,611	1,650	1,608
Event income	1,138	-	155	983
Ministry & Mission Work	60,411	40	17,667	42,784
Tab Toddlers	1,379	300		1,679
Youth work	2,455	450	2,905	-
Total Designated Funds	69,630	2,501	22,459	49,672

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS 2024

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Designated Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from Donation & Grants				
Gifts and Donations	271,613	3,105	850	275,568
Other Donations/Grants	9,759	7,010	1,651	18,420
	281,372	10,115	2,501	293,988
Income from Charitable Activities				
Use of Building	21,689	-	-	21,689
Tax Refunds	50,153	-	-	50,153
Surplus on sale of properties	76,855	-	-	76,855
	148,697			148,697
Investment Income				
Other income	1,024	-	-	1,024
	1,024	-	-	1,024
Total Income Resources	431,093	10,115	2,501	443,709
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable Activities				
Administration	11,777	556	-	12,333
Office costs	6,506	24	-	6,530
Building costs	122,739	362	-	123,101
Ministries	26,635	1,198	3,142	30,975
Ministry Team	8,250	-	-	8,250
Mission	16,211	13,866	19,317	49,394
Salaries	221,075	-	-	221,075
Total expenditures	413,193	16,006	22,459	451,658

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FUND RAISING

Support cost type	Charitable Activity £	Other £	Total £
Administration	11,777	-	11,777
Office costs	6,506	-	6,506
Building costs	122,739	-	122,739
Ministries	26,635	-	26,635
Ministry Team	8,250	-	8,250
Mission	16,211	-	16,211
Total	192,118	-	192,118

3. FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Land and Buildings £	Total £
At 1 January 2024	2,405,392	2,405,392
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2024	2,405,392	2,405,392
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	-	-
Charge for the period	-	-
At 31 December 2024	-	-
Net book Value		
At 31 December 2024	2,405,392	2,405,392

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4. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Trade creditors	161		161
HMRC	11,894	-	11,894
	12,055	-	12,055

5. SALARIES AND WAGES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Gross salaries and NI	221,075	0	221,075
	221,075	0	221,075

2024

Number of employees 11

6. BANK AND CASH IN HAND

	2024
	£
Natwest Reserve	97,105
Natwest Current	41,525
Baptist Together	7,600
Petty cash	-
Total	146,230 £