

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07605036 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150563

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024
FOR
STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
Statutory Auditors
3 Kensworth Gate
200 - 204 High Street South
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3HS

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and purposes

Stopsley Baptist Church ('SBC') is committed to pursuing its objects of advancing the Christian faith in accordance with its Statement of Beliefs, of relieving sickness and financial hardship, and promoting and preserving good health by the provision of funds, goods or services within Luton, the United Kingdom and across the wider world. These ends are pursued by the provision of regular opportunities for Christian teaching, prayer, and worship in our Sunday services and in a range of other community groups and settings through the week and, because the church believes that the good news of Jesus Christ is not confined to those within the church alone, through sharing the message of hope found in the gospel through a range of community and outreach activities in Luton and in the mission activities of our local and overseas partners.

After a period of stability, 2024 saw some increase in the numbers in attendance both on Sundays and especially across our midweek activities. We continue to stream our Sunday services achieving a reach beyond our local geography and providing accessibility for those not able to physically attend.

Our vision at SBC remains expressed as an aspiration to be 'an extended family, growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ and sharing the good news wherever we go'. Our church is not a Sunday club or a "religious" group as such but a whole life community, looking upward to Jesus Christ and outward to our neighbourhoods and contacts. The mission of the church is to engender a life and a culture that seeks to influence and transform us as individuals and, through that, to transform our communities.

Leadership and staffing

June 2024 saw our Senior Minister move on, after 15 years in leadership at SBC, to take up a new role in a church in Exeter. As part of our process of adjustment to this the trustees took this opportunity to re-evaluate our vision, leadership structure, direction and our strengths and weaknesses, seeking to identify any changes that might be appropriate and to define the type of person we should look for to lead us forward into the future. This process involved extensive discussions amongst the trustees and key leaders along with extensive consultation with the church members, involving written survey, collective seminars and meetings over several months. A search team comprised of a mix of trustees and church members of different ages and cultural backgrounds was formed to evaluate the feedback from all this consultation and produce a profile of the church along with a specification for the person we are looking for to be our senior minister. This profile and specification was completed in October and we began advertising the position in November through our affiliation with the Baptist Union.

In parallel with the search team, a second team comprised of trustees and staff leaders was created to deal with the many practical impacts that result from losing a senior member of staff and this resulted in several of our key staff stepping up their working hours and/or job roles on an interim basis.

There is a shortage of ministry candidates in the UK, even more so of those with the gifting and experience to lead a church as large, diverse and active as SBC so we anticipate the process of identifying, calling and appointing a new Senior Minister could be a protracted one. Such a period is known in churches as an 'interregnum' and can often be a very rich and catalytic time, as it gives many opportunities for individuals to step up and use their gifts and to grow in their own leadership abilities. Such has been our experience at SBC thus far and a sense of positivity and excitement prevails.

In the interregnum, the church continues to be led by our team of 8 Elders who are the directors and trustees.

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In 2024 we had several other staff changes, our Governance and Administration Director left us at the end of the year and our former Operations Manager stepped up into a new role of Operations & Governance Director. Our Finance Officer also retired and was replaced.

SBC continues to practice environmental concern. A legacy gift enabled us to invest in a large solar panel array on the church roof that has reduced our carbon footprint and delivered significant savings in energy costs over the year.

Significant activities

Worship and Prayer

2024 saw us continuing to enjoy a vibrant rhythm of gathered worship and prayer week by week at our main building and we had the joy of baptising 3 people. On the announcement that our Senior Minister was moving on we immediately called the church to a month of prayer and fasting and this is something we have given emphasis to building on through the year.

We remain committed to functioning intergenerationally and inter-culturally and are intentional in utilising a wide range of different people, ages, backgrounds and cultures in the delivery of our services. We endeavour to adapt our teaching themes to be consistent across adults and children and thereby to adopt ways of being together that seek to engage, allow contribution, and learn from all ages. We are also cognizant of different personal learning styles and have used a range of media in teaching to facilitate communication and involvement for all.

We continually seek to improve our family area in the church auditorium which includes a sensory tent with a weighted blanket, noise-cancelling headphones and sensory toys, to help those who might need that space, and we have baskets of colouring pages, bible story books, stickers, crayons, more sensory toys and worksheets relevant to each week.

We continued to develop our monthly 'Feast' service, a shorter service where all generations stay together for the whole time to reinforce the idea of 'whole church'. We explore a bible story together and encourage the generations to interact together in encounters that point to Jesus.

Outside of Sunday services and prayer/worship meetings we continued to offer opportunities to engage in worship in different contexts throughout the week serving several distinct congregations, significant among these have been:

Our Seniors provision which happens monthly on Sunday afternoons plus monthly on Tuesdays with volunteers from the church providing transport to and from these activities for the majority of attendees. Our senior's leadership team and volunteers keep in regular contact with our seniors, ensuring their welfare and providing any necessary assistance.

Messy Church has continued to be part of our worship, meeting half termly after school during the week. This offers a different style of opportunity to pursue a life of faith in Christ and drawing in, and serving, a community of people, predominantly comprising young families, not generally seen on Sunday morning. Once again, we ran 'Messy Easter' and 'Messy Christmas' services on Sunday mornings as a whole church initiative, which brought together our Sunday and Messy Church congregations.

Patchwork, on Mondays, provides a cross-generational drop-in session which draws in both the older generation and young parents with their children and has seen significant numbers attending week by week. It has become an important point of contact and relationship building for many. This time always incorporates a clear Christian message and a chance to respond through a prayer activity.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Community Engagement

Our vision to be extended family extends to our local community and, under the leadership of our Evangelism and Community Engagement Pastor, 2024 has again seen us making tangible progress in moving forward in this vision.

During the year, the letting of our facilities for conferences, community and health and welfare activities, increased. We rent some office space to local charities and small businesses, providing additional income as well as an expression of our vision to be an available space for extended family and community.

Our Community Garden, now in its 7th year, continues to be a facility that is used daily and loved by many. It is overseen and maintained by members of the church and others from the wider community. As well as providing a safe space for local people and families to enjoy, it has been the focus of multiple community events, including 'Garden Church' and celebrations of Easter and Christmas, and has hosted activities organised by a range of different community groups.

Our vision to build on the success of the Community Garden and create a "Community Hub" took a major step forward in 2024 as, thanks to a generous legacy from a former church member, the assistance of a local building company and a team of local volunteers, we were able to extensively refurbish, re-decorate and re-equip our former church hall, along with its car park, to create 'The Living Room' - a large indoor space adjacent to, and complementing, the Community Garden. As well as spaces for individuals, groups and family activities, the facility will also incorporate a 'Men's Shed / Workshop' which is to be generously equipped with tools donated by the community. We have secured funds to employ a hub manager and the indoor facility will open to the public early in 2025.

We support a community outreach project called The Tent Project focused on dementia support, led by one of our members and delivered in partnership with St Thomas Church and others. A Singing Café run by the Tent Project sees up to 80 attendees every week.

We continue to run 'Foodworks', a ministry supplying food parcels to referrals received either personally or through a range of agencies and stocked by members of the church and through contributions from the community and local schools. We also work in partnership with Luton Foodbank, acting as their weekly distribution point for our immediate area.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Children's and Family Ministry

Under the leadership of our Families and Youth Leader, Assistant and our Early Years Lead, our ministries for kids and young people continued to thrive and we continue to put thought and research into what we do and to try our new ideas.

Outside of Sunday services we run multiple mid-week sessions: 'Hullabaloo' for early years, 'Babybaloo' for new parents and under ones and 'Childminders', which is specifically for those in that profession and their charges. As well as a place for parents and young children to meet and find mutual support, we introduce bible stories, songs and prayer in all these sessions and seek to open opportunities to share more meaningfully at these times. Demand for these sessions remains high and they are regularly oversubscribed.

Our Junior Section of the Boys Brigade continues weekly and welcomes boys aged 7-11 from the community.

We continued to run 'Kids Socials' for children in primary school, a chance for them to connect with each other. Numbers attending have grown with more children coming from the community alongside our own congregation. We also regularly provide collective worship to local primary schools, sharing bible stories and the messages of Easter and Christmas.

We maintain a weekly email to families, with materials and resources to equip parents and carers to raise God-connected children, and our Families and Youth Leader meets with individuals and families who need extra support.

Youth Ministry

Under the leadership of our Families and Youth Leader we have consistently provided our young people with quality times for engagement with all aspects of the Christian faith:

Our regular events included:

Our Sunday morning teaching group for 11-14's 'Pulse' has grown in numbers.

A monthly Sunday morning session for '14+' with a focus on hearing from key leaders in the church about leadership in their contexts.

"Just Girls" - a discipleship group that meets termly for girls aged 11-18, led by a committed team of ladies working through how to stay connected to Jesus.

Our Boys Brigade's Company Section which meets weekly for 11-18 boys and has encouraged and enabled many of them to work towards and achieve Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Two youth groups run weekly: 'Impact' for 9-13's and 'Ignite' for ages 13-18, plus a monthly social session which draws both these age groups together and creates a community and connection and fun!

We also organised the following special events:

A youth weekend away in March called 'Connected' which focused on staying connected to Jesus through prayer, bonding together as a group and sharing life together.

We took 5 of our young people on a Youth Mission Trip to Albania at Easter in collaboration with YWAM Harpenden, through their Mission Adventures programme. This was a time of spiritual growth and stepping out of comfort zones to share the love of Jesus. Subsequently, the youth have set up a specific Youth Mission Team group which meets regularly to pray for the nations, encourage others in evangelism and organise future trips.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

In August, we took 20 of our older youth to the "Satellites" festival run by Youthscape, which was a time for them to grow in their experience of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Finally, in October, we ran an event called 'Choose to Lose', which was a fundraising initiative to help those in the persecuted church. The challenge involved losing your bed for a night and sleeping on the floor, along with being deprived of other material things such as shoes, Wi-Fi, food, water, phones and lights. This was reinforced by being taught what it is like to be a young person living in a country where it is illegal to be a Christian.

GreenHouse Mentoring

GHM is a self-funded project of SBC with its own Manager, staff and governance board. It exists to meet, mentor and help referred young people in Luton. It continues to strengthen and add to its existing courses and review the best way to deliver material to the current generation. During 2024, 10 new volunteers were trained, many of whom are now part of the team.

During the year it provided the following services:

- Group Mentoring Courses: Building Self-Esteem, Dealing with Anger, Exploring Identity through Creative Process, Six Words, Hanging out Safely and Six Weeks of Summer, for ages 8-12
- A Wednesday Evening for ages 11-16
- A Saturday Drop-In.

Group Mentoring courses operate in a way that encourages conversation around a table and invites young people into a new story, where they create something with an art/craft theme and allows them space to open up and share their thoughts. We have also encouraged the building of positive friendships by giving social time within a safe space.

Our Saturday Drop-In provides a relaxed space where we can encourage young people to make friends and develop their social skills. The numbers of young people attending this have increased to an average of 25 and we have found that the friendships within this group include every age attending, which is a real joy to see. It has also helped the younger ones, who join us on Saturdays before their course begins in September, to feel settled and to make friends.

During the summer holidays we ran 'Holiday Drop In', which was open to all of our referred young people and included games and activities within a safe environment. Many do not go on holiday and so this gave some time away from home to enjoy. We also provided lunchtime meals, as we are very aware of those not getting free school meals during the holidays.

We successfully took our "Hanging Out Safely" course into our local High School and, on the back of this success, are looking to add another course to the programme. We attended events for mental health and wellbeing at another local High School, where we had many positive conversations with the young people. We receive many referrals from both these schools and it is a privilege to be partnering in this way within the local community.

We are also partnering with various organisations across Luton to support one another in tackling some of the issues young people are facing. Our part in this is to bring awareness to young people in a way which helps to prevent them becoming involved in harmful situations.

Global and Cross-Cultural Mission

The church continues to support work overseas in the Balkans, Cambodia, Pakistan, and the Middle East through prayer, pastoral care, personal and group connection, fundraising, pastoral visits/care and short-term trips. We have members who serve overseas full time or travel frequently as part of their ministry.

We support a project based in Luton which offers friendship, English language learning and basic skills support to different ethnic groups found in the town, notably amongst Pakistani Muslims. This involves a number of our church who regularly volunteer, serving in different ways and reaching out to the community.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Organised trips in 2024 included a Youth mission trip to Albania, a small group who ministered and taught about autism awareness in Kosovo, a pastoral trip to Albania and a led retreat in Macedonia.

The SBC family raised over £50,000 in 2024 for our overseas mission partners to help fund individuals who are involved in education, serving the poor and equipping and developing leaders.

Pastoral Care

The church continues to work hard to offer care to those who attend the church and to the wider community at all levels, including connecting people into extended families where much first line pastoral care and support occurs. We have a Pastoral Steering Group covering the breadth of our community and responding in cases of more significant need.

All this, along with the many other activities that SBC leads and facilitates, amply fulfils the criteria for public benefit laid down by the Charities Commission, as well as glorifying the God whom we follow in Jesus Christ.

Membership

At the end of 2024, the church had 216 affirmed members plus a similar number of regular non-member attendees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year under review, the objective was to maintain the reserves in the general fund in line with the agreed policy. There was a deficit for the year of £22,470 (2023 deficit £4,906) in the general fund. The designated fund reduced by £113,733 leaving a balance of £2,033. There was an increase in restricted funds of £22,660 (2023 decrease of £6,594). Total income for the year was £616,125 (2023 £569,405) and total expenditure £729,668 (2023 £642,739). More detailed information regarding income and expenditure can be found in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Investment policy and objectives

The trustees consider that the present policy of investing funds in higher rate bank accounts offers the least risk in the current economic climate. Any funds not required for current use are invested in the Baptists Together 3 Month Notice Account.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the requirements for reserves based on the main risks to the funding. The restricted activities are mainly supported from contracts or fundraising and all of these activities could be reduced without significant risk. Reserves are therefore only required to cover unrestricted activities, namely general fund. Approximately 90% of general fund income comes from the regular weekly or monthly commitment from Members and the gift aid recovered on it. Consequently, it is considered that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should ultimately be no less than 1.5 months of expenditure. As of 31 December 2024, the general fund reserves calculated on the above basis were £103,381 representing 3.1 months of future expenditure. Based on the budgeted expenditure for 2025, the reserve target will be £50,909.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

FUTURE PLANS

In 2025 we will be continuing our search for a new Senior Pastor. We will not be merely waiting but continuing to live and reach out in this period of change. We will continue to maintain, develop, adjust and evolve all areas of our existing activities, looking to members of the church to step forward where volunteer support is needed and offering a one-year internship programme for young adults.

We will continue to operate out of our objects and our vision statement that envisages our church as 'an extended family, growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ and sharing the good news wherever we go'. 2025 will have a particular focus on themes of hospitality, discipleship, and community engagement, the latter focused on the launch of the newly completed 'Living Room' provision at the GreenHouse Community Hub.

Early in the year we will be appointing of a part-time Community Hub Manager and start a 'Men's Shed/Workshop', creating an associated community specifically aimed at men. A similar community targeted at women will focus around knitting and needlework. Other initiatives are expected to take shape and follow, all aimed at combating loneliness and isolation, and developing relationship in, amongst and with the local community

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Stopsley Baptist Church was registered as a company limited by guarantee and having no share capital on 14 April 2011, company number 07605036, and registration as an independent charity was granted on 22 January 2013, charity number 1150563.

Until 20 September 2013, SBC operated as an unincorporated business and had excepted charity status via the Baptist Union of Great Britain, who is the custodian trustee for the church properties. With effect from 1 October 2013 all income and expenditure for SBC has been reflected through the company limited by guarantee.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Elders are appointed by a formal ballot at a Church Members' Meeting and, once appointed, automatically become trustees. The minimum number of elders is three and there is no maximum number. An elder serves for an initial term of three years but may be reappointed for further terms. No restrictions apply to the Senior Pastor who is automatically an elder and trustee.

Organisational structure

The trustees are accountable for the overall management of SBC. This report contains a list of those who served in this capacity. The day-to-day provision of services is overseen by a staff team currently led by an interim pastor. This team is responsible for the operational management of the charity, the recruitment and supervision of volunteers and the development of skills and procedures in line with good practice. There are also approved policies for Volunteers, Investment, Risk Management, Conflict of Interest, Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults, Complaints Handling and Paying Staff.

SBC is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Central Baptist Association.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees are expected to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates. They are also required to read the Charity Commission publication "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know".

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Affiliations and relationships

SBC is a member of Churches Together in Luton and has been involved in town-wide initiatives through the umbrella of the Transforming Luton organisation. We continue to enjoy good relationships with other churches across the town and in the immediate area. Several members of the church have also provided support to these other churches through preaching.

We continue to support, through individuals, and in some cases as a church, the work of a number of local charities and parachurch organisations. Formally, SBC has four Local Partners with whom we maintain a closer relationship of support and mutual benefit - these are Azalea, Youthscape (Luton), Noah and the Luton Community Chaplaincy.

Internationally, SBC is a Member of Radstock Ministries, which seeks to connect churches globally for collaboration in mission opportunities and church planting. Several of our staff and members attend conferences organised by Radstock and one of our members sits on the Radstock Board for Northern Europe.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

In the short term, the risks of a shortfall in funding are minimised by the reserves held and the commitment of the members through donations and monthly standing orders. Internally, procedures are in place for the authorisation of expenditure and the receipt of monies. Computer records and bank statements are reconciled monthly. A register of potential financial risks is maintained.

All volunteers working with children and young people are required to complete Level 1 online safeguarding training, accessed through Bedfordshire Children's Services, to provide a current DBS disclosure certificate and to attend our annual training evening 'Equip'. Our Safeguarding Board, under the chair of a Safeguarding Trustee, continues to meet quarterly and additionally whenever need arises.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07605036 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1150563

Registered office

Stopsley Baptist Church

St Thomas' Road

Luton

Bedfordshire

LU2 7XP

Trustees

N Mattocks (Chair)

S Moody (resigned 31/5/2024)

J Hylton

L Mudd

I Pirks

C Roberts

A Davie

J White

L Yule

Auditors

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

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Bedfordshire

LU6 3HS

Solicitors

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

134 Edmund Street

Birmingham B3 2ES

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc

28 George Street

Luton LU1 2AE

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Stopsley Baptist Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

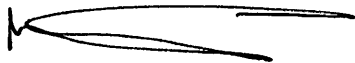
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2nd September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
N Mattocks (Chair) - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Stopsley Baptist Church (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

Audit response to risks identified

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policy;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Company documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team, including tax regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in relation to revenue deferrals. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, UK Corporate Governance Code and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with Financial Conduct Authority regulation for the UK operating segment and compliance with local legislation.


A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Donald M Brown FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
Statutory Auditors
3 Kensworth Gate
200 - 204 High Street South
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3HS


Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

Date: 21/9/2025

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	347,679	-	6,350	354,029	371,632
Charitable activities	4					
Mission Support		-	-	44,944	44,944	50,472
GreenHouse Mentoring Organisations		-	-	103,001	103,001	70,554
Oasis Drop-in Centre		-	-	1,250	1,250	1,123
GreenHouse Community Hub		-	-	13,572	13,572	12,477
		-	-	40,518	40,518	-
Investment income	3	58,811	-	-	58,811	63,147
Total		<u>406,490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>209,635</u>	<u>616,125</u>	<u>569,405</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	5,376	-	-	5,376	4,791
Charitable activities	6					
Mission Support		-	-	53,992	53,992	71,152
GreenHouse Mentoring Organisations		-	-	92,134	92,134	78,485
General		423,584	113,733	1,122	1,122	1,232
Oasis Drop-in Centre		-	-	-	537,317	472,892
GreenHouse Community Hub		-	-	15,706	15,706	14,187
		-	-	24,021	24,021	-
Total		<u>428,960</u>	<u>113,733</u>	<u>186,975</u>	<u>729,668</u>	<u>642,739</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(22,470)	(113,733)	22,660	(113,543)	(73,334)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		1,903,519	115,766	50,978	2,070,263	2,143,597
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>1,881,049</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>73,638</u>	<u>1,956,720</u>	<u>2,070,263</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

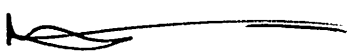
STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11	1,777,668	-	-	1,777,668	1,777,668
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	12	17,446	-	6,106	23,552	16,310
Cash at bank		<u>114,356</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>98,639</u>	<u>215,028</u>	<u>343,733</u>
		131,802	2,033	104,745	238,580	360,043
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(28,421)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(31,107)</u>	<u>(59,528)</u>	<u>(67,448)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>103,381</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>73,638</u>	<u>179,052</u>	<u>292,595</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,881,049</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>73,638</u>	<u>1,956,720</u>	<u>2,070,263</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,881,049</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>73,638</u>	<u>1,956,720</u>	<u>2,070,263</u>
FUNDS	14					
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund					1,881,049	1,903,519
Designated fund					<u>2,033</u>	<u>115,766</u>
					<u>1,883,082</u>	<u>2,019,285</u>
Restricted funds					<u>73,638</u>	<u>50,978</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>1,956,720</u>	<u>2,070,263</u>

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2nd September 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
N Mattocks (Chair) - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(135,021)</u>	<u>(72,359)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(135,021)</u>	<u>(72,359)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		<u>6,316</u>	<u>12,841</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>6,316</u>	<u>12,841</u>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(128,705)	(59,518)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>343,733</u>	<u>403,251</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>215,028</u>	<u>343,733</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(113,543)	(73,334)
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(6,316)	(12,841)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(7,242)	6,454
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>(7,920)</u>	<u>7,362</u>
Net cash used in operations	<u>(135,021)</u>	<u>(72,359)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>343,733</u>	<u>(128,705)</u>	<u>215,028</u>
	<u>343,733</u>	<u>(128,705)</u>	<u>215,028</u>
Total	<u>343,733</u>	<u>(128,705)</u>	<u>215,028</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to strategic management.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. time spent or estimated usage as set out in Notes 5 to 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The custodian trustee for the church land and buildings is the Baptist Union of Great Britain Trust. The Trust holds the deeds for the following:

Church premises	1,304,000
Old Chapel refurbishment (GreenHouse)	373,774
Land (next to GreenHouse)	99,894
	<hr/>
	£1,777,668
	<hr/>

The current church premises were built in 1994. The property is shown at historic cost within the financial statements. The Old Chapel Building was built in 1869 and was converted for use as a youth centre in 2002. There is no cost included for the original chapel but the refurbishment is included at cost. The land next to it was purchased in 2002 and is included at cost.

The trustees had the above professionally valued in July 2017, and the open market value of land and buildings exceeds their historic cost for the "current use" of the assets. No depreciation has been charged for buildings due to this valuation.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Equipment costing below £5,000 is not capitalised. Items costing over £5,000 purchased since 1 January 2009 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected life. Office equipment depreciation is 20% per year.

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operated a defined contribution pension scheme. The obligations ceased when the minister left the scheme. Any contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The charitable company also makes payment into The Peoples Pension. Contributions payable to these are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gifts and donations	22,530	29,079
Offerings	272,423	285,159
Gift aid	<u>59,076</u>	<u>57,394</u>
	<u>354,029</u>	<u>371,632</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rents received	52,495	50,306
Deposit account interest	<u>6,316</u>	<u>12,841</u>
	<u>58,811</u>	<u>63,147</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Source	Activity - restricted	2024	2023
		£	£
Mission Support	Mission works	44,944	50,472
GreenHouse Mentoring	Mentoring	103,001	70,554
Oasis Drop-in Centre	Luton Social Action	13,572	12,477
Boys Brigade and Badminton	Organisation events/activities	1,250	1,123
GreenHouse Community Hub	Luton Social Action	<u>40,518</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>203,285</u>	<u>135,472</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Postage and stationery	-	105
Sundries	753	553
Support costs	<u>4,623</u>	<u>4,133</u>
	<u>5,376</u>	<u>4,791</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£
Mission Support	53,992	-	53,992
GreenHouse Mentoring	92,134	-	92,134
Organisations	1,122	-	1,122
General	447,506	89,811	537,317
Oasis Drop-in Centre	15,706	-	15,706
GreenHouse Community Hub	<u>24,021</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,021</u>
	<u>634,481</u>	<u>89,811</u>	<u>724,292</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance £	Reprographics & Stationery £	Site maintenance & utilities £	Auditors Remuneration £	Totals £
Raising donations and legacies	2,558	2,065	-	-	4,623
General	<u>14,074</u>	<u>8,770</u>	<u>64,567</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>89,811</u>
	<u>16,632</u>	<u>10,835</u>	<u>64,567</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>94,434</u>

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditors' remuneration	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,700</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' remuneration, other benefits or expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024, nor for the year to 31 December 2023.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	354,168	323,052
Social security costs	19,505	21,777
Other pension costs	<u>9,608</u>	<u>9,700</u>
	<u>383,281</u>	<u>354,529</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Management and administration	3	3
Premises	3	2
Direct charitable activities	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £
COST	
At 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024	<u>1,777,668</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2024	<u>1,777,668</u>
At 31st December 2023	<u>1,777,668</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	<u>23,552</u>	<u>16,310</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Social security and other taxes	8,139	5,236
Other creditors	<u>51,389</u>	<u>62,212</u>
	<u>59,528</u>	<u>67,448</u>

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,903,519	(22,470)	1,881,049
Designated fund	<u>115,766</u>	<u>(113,733)</u>	<u>2,033</u>
	2,019,285	(136,203)	1,883,082
Restricted funds			
GreenHouse Mentoring	19,784	10,867	30,651
Global Sunday	20,118	(2,698)	17,420
15th Luton Boys Brigade	186	98	284
Badminton Club	38	30	68
Oasis Drop-In Centre	10,852	(2,134)	8,718
GreenHouse Community Hub	<u>-</u>	<u>16,497</u>	<u>16,497</u>
	<u>50,978</u>	<u>22,660</u>	<u>73,638</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,070,263</u>	<u>(113,543)</u>	<u>1,956,720</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	406,490	(428,960)	(22,470)
Designated fund	<u>-</u>	<u>(113,733)</u>	<u>(113,733)</u>
	406,490	(542,693)	(136,203)
Restricted funds			
Mission Support	6,350	(6,350)	-
GreenHouse Mentoring	103,001	(92,134)	10,867
Global Sunday	44,944	(47,642)	(2,698)
15th Luton Boys Brigade	555	(457)	98
Badminton Club	695	(665)	30
Oasis Drop-In Centre	13,572	(15,706)	(2,134)
GreenHouse Community Hub	<u>40,518</u>	<u>(24,021)</u>	<u>16,497</u>
	<u>209,635</u>	<u>(186,975)</u>	<u>22,660</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>616,125</u>	<u>(729,668)</u>	<u>(113,543)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,908,425	(4,906)	1,903,519
Designated fund	<u>177,600</u>	<u>(61,834)</u>	<u>115,766</u>
	2,086,025	(66,740)	2,019,285
Restricted funds			
GreenHouse Mentoring	27,715	(7,931)	19,784
Global Sunday	16,962	3,156	20,118
15th Luton Boys Brigade	284	(98)	186
Badminton Club	49	(11)	38
Oasis Drop-In Centre	<u>12,562</u>	<u>(1,710)</u>	<u>10,852</u>
	<u>57,572</u>	<u>(6,594)</u>	<u>50,978</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,143,597</u>	<u>(73,334)</u>	<u>2,070,263</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	410,943	(415,849)	(4,906)
Designated fund	-	(61,834)	(61,834)
	410,943	(477,683)	(66,740)
Restricted funds			
Mission Support	23,836	(23,836)	-
GreenHouse Mentoring	70,554	(78,485)	(7,931)
Global Sunday	50,472	(47,316)	3,156
15th Luton Boys Brigade	600	(698)	(98)
Badminton Club	523	(534)	(11)
Oasis Drop-In Centre	12,477	(14,187)	(1,710)
	158,462	(165,056)	(6,594)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>569,405</u>	<u>(642,739)</u>	<u>(73,334)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,908,425	(27,376)	1,881,049
Designated fund	177,600	(175,567)	2,033
	2,086,025	(202,943)	1,883,082
Restricted funds			
GreenHouse Mentoring	27,715	2,936	30,651
Global Sunday	16,962	458	17,420
15th Luton Boys Brigade	284	-	284
Badminton Club	49	19	68
Oasis Drop-In Centre	12,562	(3,844)	8,718
GreenHouse Community Hub	-	16,497	16,497
	57,572	16,066	73,638
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,143,597</u>	<u>(186,877)</u>	<u>1,956,720</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	817,433	(844,809)	(27,376)
Designated fund	<u>-</u>	<u>(175,567)</u>	<u>(175,567)</u>
	817,433	(1,020,376)	(202,943)
Restricted funds			
Mission Support	30,186	(30,186)	-
GreenHouse Mentoring	173,555	(170,619)	2,936
Global Sunday	95,416	(94,958)	458
15th Luton Boys Brigade	1,155	(1,155)	-
Badminton Club	1,218	(1,199)	19
Oasis Drop-In Centre	26,049	(29,893)	(3,844)
GreenHouse Community Hub	<u>40,518</u>	<u>(24,021)</u>	<u>16,497</u>
	<u>368,097</u>	<u>(352,031)</u>	<u>16,066</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,185,530</u>	<u>(1,372,407)</u>	<u>(186,877)</u>

15. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

During part of the year, the Church was a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund, started in 1925. At the beginning of the financial year, the scheme comprised of a defined benefits scheme which was closed to future accrual on 31 December 2011 and a defined contribution plan which was opened in January 2012. The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For the current financial year, the pension provision for members of the Scheme is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited. Furthermore, members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

In October 2024, the insurance company Just Group completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022 also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just Group from that date. Any liability with the pension scheme ceased when the minister left the church and scheme.

Movement in Balance Sheet liability

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

15. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. There is no current liability to be disclosed, and no further liability is expected..

The profit and loss charge for the period represents the employer contributions payable. The total pension cost for the Church paid to the Baptist Pension Scheme is £3,219 (2023 £4,531).

Contributions were also made to The Peoples Pension of £6,389 (2023 £5,168).

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no related party transactions.

17. PURPOSE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

GreenHouse Mentoring:

This is a project which helps young people in Luton achieve their potential by matching them with screened and trained volunteer mentors. Funding is received mainly from other grants and individual donations.

Oasis Drop-in Centre

The Centre, located in the LU3 area of Luton, provides a place of safety, friendship and learning for those in Luton with English as a second language and/or second culture, along with their friends and family.

Global Sunday:

Annual event where the focus is on raising funds specifically to provide support grants to SBC mission families located world-wide.

Mission Support:

Monies received specifically for the funding of short-term mission trips and the direct support of mission families and outreach both in the UK and overseas.

Boys Brigade & Badminton:

The Boys Brigade and Badminton Club organisations operate their own finances and are included in the church audit. Copies of their accounts can be obtained from the respective treasurers.

GreenHouse Community Hub

The GreenHouse Community Hub was set up to create a space for the Church to reach out to the community of Stopsley and the surrounding area.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

18. DESIGNATED FUND

Designated funds are unrestricted funds available for the general purposes of the organisation, but which have currently been earmarked for a particular purpose by the trustees.

During the 2022 year an unrestricted legacy of £192,303 was received and it was agreed that £14,703 should be retained in the General Fund and £177,600 be designated for the following:

	As at 01 January 2023	Year to 2023	As at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Local Mission Partners	19,200	(14,900)	4,300
GreenHouse Special Projects	96,000	(20,338)	75,662
Building Improvements	14,400	(14,400)	0
Environmental Special Projects	<u>48,000</u>	<u>(12,196)</u>	<u>35,804</u>
	<u>177,600</u>	<u>(61,834)</u>	<u>115,766</u>

	As at 01 January 2024	Year to 2024	As at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£
Local Mission Partners	4,300	(2,267)	2,033
GreenHouse Special Projects	75,662	(75,662)	0
Building Improvements	0	0	0
Environmental Special Projects	<u>35,804</u>	<u>(35,804)</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>115,766</u>	<u>(113,733)</u>	<u>-2,033</u>

19. GENERAL FUND

The general fund of £1,881,049 includes the property shown at £1,777,668, resulting in a net reserve of £103,381.

Stopsley Baptist Church

Appendix to the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2024

Additional Information relating to the GreenHouse Mentoring Project and Oasis Drop-in Centre

Stopsley Baptist Church

Appendix to the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2024

Additional Information relating to the GreenHouse Mentoring Project

		2024	2023
		Restricted	Restricted
		Funds	Funds
		£	£
INCOME			
Gifts and Donations:	Givenet/Stewardship	5,032	5,623
	Somerles Rotary Club	1,000	0
	Sponsored Events	1,647	1,260
	Easy Fundraising	87	81
	Amazon Smile	0	119
	Others	2,098	880
Tax Refunds		1,054	925
Grants:	Co-op Collecting Boxes	155	621
	Children In Need	25,482	27,245
	Henry Smith Charity	24,600	23,800
	Beds & Luton Community Foundation (Luton Rising-Youth Fund)	26,346	10,000
	Wixamtree	7,000	0
	Gardfield Weston	8,500	0
Total Incoming Resources		103,001	70,554
EXPENDITURE			
	Payroll Costs	78,446	69,465
	Employee Insurance	334	0
	DBS Costs	157	295
	Staff & Mentor Training	595	14
	Sponsorship Expenses	563	0
	Communications	866	897
	Stationery & Postage	24	152
	Small Equipment	0	362
	Resource Materials	2,907	1,335
	Catering	5,665	4,806
	Holiday Club Catering and Resources	1,187	
	Subscriptions	211	133
	Software	1,179	1,026
Total Expenditure		92,134	78,485
Net Movement In Funds		10,867	(7,931)
Funds brought forward		19,784	27,715
Funds carried forward		30,651	19,784

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements. However, we confirm that this shows a fair reflection of the transactions that relate to the GreenHouse Mentoring Project and confirm that this income and expenditure is contained in the audited statutory financial statements.

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
02/09/2025

Stopsley Baptist Church

Appendix to the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2024

Additional Information relating to the Oasis Drop-in Centre

		2024 Restricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £
INCOME			
Gifts and Donations:			
	Churches	5,125	5,150
	Church Urban Near Neighbours	2,782	0
	Standing Orders	1,455	680
	Individuals	666	4,415
	Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising	0	17
Fees & Subscriptions		1,576	1,890
Tax Refunds		331	325
Other Income		1,637	0
Total Incoming Resources		13,572	12,477
EXPENDITURE			
	Postage and Stationery	385	56
	Resource Materials	660	38
	Catering	669	308
	Office Equipment	43	84
	Special Events	993	705
	Communications	733	566
	DBS Costs	36	24
	Site Equipment & Repairs	15	0
	Insurance	45	50
	Rent of Premises	12,000	12,000
	Sundries	127	356
Total Expenditure		15,706	14,187
Net Movement in Funds		(2,134)	(1,710)
Funds brought forward		10,852	12,562
Funds carried forward		8,718	10,852

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements. However, we confirm that this shows a fair reflection of the transactions that relate to the Oasis Drop-in Centre and confirm that this income and expenditure is contained in the audited statutory financial statements.

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

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02/09/2025