

Wantage Baptist Church

Annual Trustees' Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2024

The Charity Trustees of Wantage Baptist Church have pleasure in submitting their report and the financial statements of the Church for the year ending 31st December 2024

Objectives and Activities

The principal objective of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith, especially by means of and in accordance with the principles of the Baptist denomination. In particular, the Church seeks to do this through meetings to provide occasions for worship, proclamation of the gospel and instruction in the Christian faith as well as outreach events and evangelism to the local Wantage community. The Church may also carry out other charitable purposes.

Achievements and Performance

In 2024, we have been able to continue to share the love of Christ with the community.

We have continued our regular weekly Sunday services, including Sunday School. We have continued to see growth in regular attendance, not just on Sundays but in our other activities. We have also continued to stream services online, for the benefit of those who are unable to attend for any reason.

We have continued with weekly small group meetings ("life groups") for fellowship, prayer and bible study. There are also special groups for carers and for those who live alone to meet and share.

Events for children have been held. For younger children, this included an alternative "halloween" event which was well attended, including by children not otherwise connected to the church. There is also a regular program of events for older children, including popular social events. A summer outing to the beach provided an opportunity for people of all ages to meet and interact over a longer period.

The weekly Parents and Toddlers sessions continue to attract a large number of people from outside the church.

We have continued to operate the King's Centre shop. This provides an opportunity to reach out to the wider community, or for people to make contact with us in a friendly environment, as well as providing Christian resources for sale. It is common for vulnerable people, and their support workers, to pop in regularly for a chat. A weekly needlecraft group brings together a number of people, including from outside the church. A new mens chat group was started this year and has been appreciated by a number of people.

The shop also acts as a collection point and storage facility for the local Food Bank.

We have continued our support for the local Street Pastors, who use our buildings as an operating base. We also continue to make our buildings available to other local independent churches, in particular for baptisms and marriages.

We also support the local community by making our building available to a local community choir, and for use by the local secondary school for examinations.

The church has made financial gifts to other organisations involved in advancing the Christian faith, as detailed in the accounts. We also hold occasional meetings to keep in touch with the activities of these organisations.

In carrying out its activities in the year under review, the trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and are satisfied that the activities mentioned above have all been for the public benefit.

Financial Review

The Leadership views the underlying financial position of the Church as being satisfactory.

It is the Church's policy to maintain unrestricted cash reserves of £10,000, corresponding to approximately two months normal expenditure. At the end of 2024 the Church held such reserves of £78,339, so there is a surplus of funds available.

The main Church building is a historic asset but no valuation has been included in the accounts because of the cost of such a valuation compared to the benefit it would deliver to advancing the Church's objectives.

Structure, Governance and Management

Wantage Baptist Church is an independent church constituted as an unincorporated association governed by a constitution adopted on 19th September 2013. The church is also subject to the terms of the trust deeds under which its premises are held.

Leadership within the Church is provided by the Pastor, Elders and Deacons who are the Charity Trustees and have control and oversight of the Church. All are elected by the Church Members Meeting. The Pastor, Elders and Deacons during 2024 and at the date of this report were as follows:

Pastor:

Jeremy Fernandez

Elders:

Peter Smillie (to 27 November)

Deacons:

David Hillsdon

Gillian Hutchinson

Matthew Shewring

Barrie Steers (to 27 November)

Martin Torbet

The Elders meet monthly to consider the spiritual direction and pastoral concerns of the Church while the Elders and Deacons together meet monthly to discuss and decide upon practical aspects of the Church's day to day functioning. A Church member's meeting occurs on at least four occasions during the year.

The leadership has overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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 and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used in the charity or for publication is reliable; and
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The internal controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- regular consideration by the Deacons of the financial results;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The major risks as identified by the Leadership have been reviewed and systems set up to mitigate them.

Other Administrative Details

- *Registered Name* Wantage Baptist Church
- *Alternative name* Wantage Baptist
- *Registered Charity No* 1163191
- *Church address* 6 Mill Street, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9AQ
- *Property Trustees* The Fellowship Property Trust Ltd.
- *Bankers* Barclays Bank plc
- *Independent Examiner* David Cooke and Co., Chartered Accountants
5 Briar Close, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 9DS.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees:



GILLIAN AMANDA STEEDS HUTCHINSON (DEACON/TREASURER)

Date: 27th September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Wantage Baptist Church on the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2024

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ending 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 44(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



David Cooke MA(Oxon), FCA, FCIE
David Cooke and Co. Chartered Accountants
5 Briar Close
Banbury, Oxfordshire
OX16 9DS

Date: 14 October 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
A Income	1					
A1 Incoming Resources from Generated Funds						
A1a - Voluntary Income (Gift Aided)		65762	0	0	65762	57003
- Gift Aid Recovered		13859	0	430	14289	13463
- Voluntary Income (Not Gift Aided)		18681	0	0	18681	16927
A1b - Dividends		0	0	0	0	0
A1c - Interest		2631	0	0	2631	2225
A1d - Investments		0	0	0	0	0
A1e - Rent of Premises		19548	0	0	19548	15438
A1f - Sales		0	16319	0	16319	23023
A2 Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities		0	0	0	0	0
A3 Other Incoming Resources		577	0	0	577	421
<i>Total Incoming Resources</i>		121058	16319	430	137807	128499
B Expenditure	2					
B1 Costs of Generating Funds						
B1a - Costs of Generating Voluntary Income		0	0	0	0	0
B1b - Cost of Goods Sold		0	10266	0	10266	12129
B1c - Investment Management Costs		0	0	0	0	0
B2 Charitable Activities						
B2a - Ministry	3	44619	0	0	44619	44397
B2b - Mission	4	8997	0	0	8997	10730
B2c - Community Support	5	0	0	0	0	0
B2d - Fellowship & Outreach	6	6363	0	0	6363	3337
B2e - Buildings & Utilities	7	25103	5371	0	30474	38644
B2f - Equipment	8	379	0	0	379	1534
B2g - Administration	9	1725	3313	0	5038	5904
B2h - Depreciation	10	1346	0	9783	11129	11030
B3 Governance Costs	11	5036	47	0	5083	7174
B4 Other Resources Expended		0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Resources Expended</i>		93569	18997	9783	122349	134877
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers		27489	-2678	-9353	15458	-6378
C Transfers						
Gross Transfers Between Funds		0	0	0	0	0
Net Incoming Resources Before Other Recognised Gains and Losses		27489	-2678	-9353	15458	-6378
D Other Recognised Gains and Losses						
D1 Gains/Losses on Revaluation of Fixed Assets		0	0	0	0	0
D2 Gains/Losses on Investment Assets		0	0	931	931	931
D3 Actuarial Gains/Losses on Defined Benefits Pension Schemes		0	0	0	0	0
<i>Net Movement in Funds</i>		27489	-2678	-8422	16389	-5447
E Reconciliation of Funds						
E1 Funds Brought Forward		61167	21612	431565	514343	510988
E2 Net Movement in Funds		27489	-2678	-8422	16389	-5447
<i>Total Funds Carried Forward</i>		88656	18933	423143	530732	505540

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024						
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Fixed Assets						
Investments	10	0	0	10248	10248	10248
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	10	8518	0	0	8518	4989
Buildings	10	0	0	410865	410865	410865
Total Fixed Assets		8518	0	421113	429631	426102
Current Assets						
Petty Cash	13	0	20	0	20	20
Accounts Receivable	14	0	0			
Prepayments	14	2334	481	0	2816	3278
Stock	13	0	7676	0	7676	8101
Till Float	13	0	100	0	100	100
Cash at the Bank/In Hand	15	78339	11539	2030	91907	69151
Total Current Assets		80673	19817	2030	102519	80650
Current Liabilities	16	535	884	0	1419	1211
Net Current Assets		80138	18933	2030	101100	79438
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		88656	18933	423143	530732	505541
Long Term Liabilities		0	0	0	0	0
Net Assets		88656	18933	423143	530732	505541
Funds	17	88656	18933	423143	530732	505541
Approved on behalf of the Elders and Deacons						



GILLIAN AMANDA STEEDS HUTCHINSON (DEACON/TREASURER)

Date: 27th September 2025

Notes to the accounts for the year 31 December, 2024 (continued)

1	Income	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Voluntary Income (Gift Aided)		65762	0	0	65762	57003
	Gift Aid Recovered		13859	0	430	14289	13463
	Voluntary Income (Not Gift)		18681	0	0	18681	16927
	Sales		0	16319	0	16319	23023
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Dividends		0	0	0	0	0
	Interest		2631	0	0	2631	2225
	Rent of Premises		19548	0	0	19548	15438
	Other Income		577	0	0	577	421
	Total		121058	16319	430	137807	128499

2	Costs of Generating Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Advertising & Promotions		0	0	0	0	0
	Jonathan Veira Concert - Civic Hall Hire		0	-	0	0	0
	Jonathan Veira Concert - Ticket Printing		0	-	0	0	0
	Operating Expenses		0	3360	0	3360	3953
	Cost of Goods Sold		0	10266	0	10266	12129
	Total		0	13626	0	13626	16082

3	Charitable Activities: Ministry	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Ministerial Expenses						
	Pastor Net Salary		21353	0	0	21353	21020
	Pastor Income Tax		3475	0	0	3475	2795
	Pastor Employee's NIC		1957	0	0	1957	2897
	Pastor Employer's NIC		0	0	0	0	0
	Pastor Pension		3718	0	0	3718	3718
	Pastor Expenses (Mileage)		351	0	0	351	132
	Pastor Expenses (Telephone)		1000	0	0	1000	990
	Pastor Expenses (Other)		683	0	0	683	1091
	Pastor Expenses (Mortgage and CT)		11513	0	0	11513	11104
	Visiting Speakers' Gifts		570	0	0	570	650
	Total		44619	0	0	44619	44397

4	Charitable Activities: Mission	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Africa Inland Mission		1200	-	0	1200	1220
	Be Space		0	-	0	0	460
	Bible Society		1200			1200	800
	Jim Harries		0			0	250
	London City Mission		97	-	0	97	0
	Misc		500			500	300
	Open Doors		1200			1200	1100
	Pilgrim Homes		1200	-	0	1200	940
	ROPE		0	-	0	0	0
	Spurgeons		0	-	0	0	0
	Street Pastors		0	-	0	0	0
	Tearfund - General Support		0	-	0	0	260
	Ukraine Christian Ministries - General Support		3600	-	0	3600	5400
						0	0
	Total		8997	0	0	8997	10730

5	Charitable Activities: Community Support	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Fellowship Gifts		0	-	0	0	0
	Total		0	0	0	0	0

6	Charitable Activities: Fellowship & Outreach	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Books		0	-	0	0	0
	Catering		789	-	0	789	1218
	CAP		0	-	0	0	0
	Church Weekend		2355	-	0	2355	0
	Crèche/Toddlers		0	-	0	0	0
	Dickensian Evening		0	-	0	0	51
	Engage/Youth		104	-	0	104	0
	Evangelism		0			0	223
	Fellowship Gifts		50	-	0	50	0
	Happy Acorns		0	-	0	0	0
	Holiday Club		0	-	0	0	109
	Hot Topics		0	-	0	0	0
	Ladies' Group		0	-	0	0	139
	Light Party		204	-	0	204	62
	Men's Group		20	-	0	20	-23
	Miscellaneous Expenses		891	-	0	891	146
	Pastoral Care		0	-	0	0	12
	Sandbanks Visit		1192	-	0	1192	880
	Schools' Evangelism		0	-	0	0	0
	Social Events		0	-	0	0	26
	Sunday School		757	-	0	757	494
	Training		0	-	0	0	0
						0	0
	Total		6363	0	0	6363	3337

7	Charitable Activities: Buildings & Utilities	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Church						
	Buildings		0	-	0	0	0
	Electricity		4712	-	0	4712	6545
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		0	-	0	0	0
	Gas		2633	-	0	2633	1829
	Insurance		3930	-	0	3930	3484
	Maintenance		11232	-	0	11232	15226
	Miscellaneous Items		0	-	0	0	0
	Telephone		0	-	0	0	0
	Water		681	-	0	681	592
	Church Total		23188	0	0	23188	27677
	Manse						
	Buildings		0	-	0	0	0
	Council Tax		0	-	0	0	891
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		0	-	0	0	0
	Insurance		481	-	0	481	363
	Maintenance		1434	-	0	1434	1997
	Manse Total		1915	0	0	1915	3251
	Cemetery						
	Maintenance		0	-	0	0	894
	Cemetery Total		0	0	0	0	894
	The King's Centre						
	Buildings		0	-	0	0	137
	Electricity		-	2214	0	2214	3842
	Gas		-	-	0	0	0
	Insurance		-	871	0	871	795
	Maintenance		-	80	0	80	0
	Rent (Service charge)		-	1246	0	1246	1244
	Telephone		-	512	0	512	454
	Water		-	448	0	448	348
	King's Centre Total		0	5371	0	5371	6821
	Total		25103	5371	0	30474	38644

8	Charitable Activities: Equipment	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Computers		260	0	0	260	888
	Fire Extinguisher Purchase		0	0	0	0	0
	Kitchen Equipment		0	0	0	0	265
	Public Address (PA) Equipment		119	0	0	119	381
	Miscellaneous		0	0	0	0	0
	Projector, Display Screen		0	0	0	0	0
	Total		379	0	0	379	1534

9	Charitable Activities: Administration	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Bank Charges		50	209	0	258	382
	Fees		1048	3000	0	4048	4436
	Office Expenses		30	104	0	134	456
	Postage & Packing		16	0	0	16	0
	Printing		417	0	0	417	599
	Stationery		164	0	0	164	31
	Total		1725	3313	0	5038	5904

10	Fixed Assets	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Assets Brought Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		10768	2155	66048	78971	78971
	Buildings		0	0	489127	489127	489127
	Total Assets Brought Forward		10768	2155	555175	568098	568098
	Depreciation Brought Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		4036	2155	66048	72239	72735
	Buildings		0	0	68479	68479	68479
	Total Depreciation Brought Forward		4036	2155	134527	140718	141214
	Total Net Fixed Assets Brought Forward		6732	0	420648	427380	426884
	In-Year Costs						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		3133	0	0	3133	0
	Buildings		0	0	0	0	0
	Total Costs in Year		3133	0	0	3133	0
	In-Year Depreciation						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		1346	0	0	1346	1247
	Buildings		0	0	9783	9783	9783
	Total Depreciation In Year		1346	0	9783	11129	11030
	Net In-Year Movement in Funds		1786	0	-9783	-7996	-11030
	Depreciation Carried Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		5382	2155	66048	73585	73982
	Buildings		0	0	78262	78262	78262
	Total Depreciation Carried Forward		5382	2155	144310	151847	152244
	Net Assets Carried Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		8518	0	0	8518	4989
	Buildings		0	0	410865	410865	410865
	Total Net Fixed Assets Carried Forward		8518	0	410865	419383	415854
	Total Net Fixed Assets Carried Forward		8518	0	410865	419383	415854

10b	Fixed Assets Investments	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Assets Brought Forward						
	Investments		0	0	10248	10248	9317
	In-Year Movement						
	Investments		0	0	281	281	931
	Net Assets Carried Forward						
	Investments		0	0	10529	10529	10248
	Total Net Fixed Assets Carried Forward		0	0	10529	10529	10248

11	Governance Costs	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Business Licenses & Permits		-	47	0	47	44
	CCPAS Fees		419	-	0	419	170
	Copyright Licences		866	0	0	866	825
	FIEC		3216	-	0	3216	5600
	FIEC Ltd		0	-	0	0	0
	Independent Financial Examiner's Fees		535	0	0	535	535
	Land Registry Fees		0	-	0	0	0
	Legal Fees		0	-	0	0	0
	Surveyor's Fees		0	-	0	0	0
	Total		5036	47	0	5083	7174

12	Gross Transfers Between Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Gross Transfers Between Funds		0	0	0	0	0
	Liabilities Discharged		0	-	0	0	0
	Total		0	0	0	0	0

13	The King's Centre	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Petty Cash		-	20	-	20	20
	Prepayments		-	481	-	481	483
	Stock		-	7676	-	7676	8101
	Till Float		-	100	-	-	-
	Total		-	8278	-	8278	8704

14	Debtors & Prepayments	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	HMRC Gift Aid Due		2334	-	0	2334	2795
	Accounts Receivable		-	0	0	0	0
	Accrued Interest		-	-	0	0	0
	Total		2334	0	0	2334	2795

15	Cash in the Bank/In Hand	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	Barclays Current Account		18339	-	2030	20368	10801
	CCLA Deposit Account		60000				
	TKC Barclays Account and Cash In Hand		-	11539	0	11539	13350
	Total		78339	11539	2030	91907	69151

16	Current Liabilities	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
	TKC Accounts Payable		-	884	0	884	443
	Accruals		535		0	535	768
	Total		535	884	0	1419	1211

17	Movements in Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds	Total Funds (£)
	Funds at 1st January 2024		61167	21612	422762	505541
	Income		121058	16319	1361	138738
	Expenditure		93569	18997	9783	122348
	Liabilities Discharged			0	0	0
	Funds at 31st December 2024		88656	18933	423143	530732