



## **2024 Annual Report for the Charities Commission**

### **Introduction**

The past year has been exciting for Melbourn Baptist Church (MBC) as we were once again involved in a variety of different activities both in the church and the wider community.

At Easter we held a community event which the whole community was welcome to, we took part in the Village Fete in June, we held our annual Light Party in October and hosted a Craft Fair in November and again hosted the school for their Carol Service in December. We continue to regularly serve our community weekly through our Toddlers Plus, Coffee Break and Craft groups.

The past year was also one of a new era as we welcomed our new ministers to Melbourn Baptist Church in May. We acknowledge our thanks to our moderator for all of his work until Rob and Jenny's arrival as our new ministers.

### **Worship & Prayer**

Over the year we had a variety of different themes running through the services. In the first half we worked our way through themes relating to the book 'Surprised By Hope', whilst in the second half our services were themed around the book of Nehemiah, Ephesians and at Christmas 'God With Us', which included for the first time a 'Blue Christmas' service especially for those struggling in our communities. We have begun holding all-age services on a more regular basis and all our services over the summer were Café Style services.

MBC is served weekly in worship by a growing worship group. We have a rota for five regular vocalists, together with cover for keyboard, drums, bass & guitar, a total of eleven members, plus two for A/V. In addition to our regular services, the Group have served within Cluster Groups, Churches Together & other special occasions.

We continue to meet online weekly, and once a month together at the church, for the purpose of prayer, both local and international.

### **Sunday School**

During 2024, Sunday School continued to meet most Sunday mornings, with the children and young people joining the first part of the service, before moving into their groups. There were two age groups covering roughly ages 3-9 and ages 10-14. Our older young people are welcome to remain part of the main service, and are also invited to our Grid group on a Sunday evening for those in Year 7 upwards. Some weeks we have an all-age service where the children stay for the whole service; since September 2024 this has taken place regularly on the first Sunday of each month.

Our children and young people also prepared a Nativity service, which took place in December.

During the year, the Sunday School groups started to use material from the online resource "Energize", covering various themes including aspects of the life of Jesus, Paul's letters, and key features of Christian life. The sessions include games, videos clips and crafts to support Bible teaching. At the end of 2024, there were 20 children regularly attending Sunday School across the two groups. We have a team of volunteers from within the church who lead these sessions.

The Grid is our youth group, formed of young people aged between 11 and 18. We meet on Sunday evenings at the church and attendance ranges from between 8 and 12 youth each meeting. The evenings involve a mixture of relaxing and connecting with friends and playing games, moving on to a more structured time of learning and reflection based around a theme. We cover topics based around Christian values and lifestyle, unpacking life's big issues such as wellbeing, contentment, money and making good decisions. We source most content from the online platform Energize and we have been very grateful to receive a new smart screen that enables us to share slides, films and facilitate brainstorming more easily. We will often share refreshments which are always received well. The evenings will regularly involve looking up bible passages and use of worship videos for a time of prayer and reflection. Most of the youth attend church, some at Melbourn and others elsewhere, and for some of our young people this is their main connection with church.

We are connected with the local charity WCCYM (West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries), offering a range of activities including youth services, discipleship groups, social events and trips away. We encourage the young people to attend these well organised events, to widen their social and spiritual network. A number of the youth have become quite involved in these. A highlight being the summer camp, Satellites, held at Shepton Mallett, where they spend quality time with their friends to explore faith issues, enjoy large scale worship and have a lot of freedom in a safe space away from home. There is an option to volunteer at this for the over 16s, serving in a wide variety of locations. One of our youth worked on the milkshake bar completing 4-hour shifts each day, and spending the remainder of their time with their friends.

## **Pastoral Team**

Our 'new' Pastoral team has been available for around 18 months, now. There are 5 people on the team, with additional input from our two Ministers.

Pastoral support is encouraged, wherever possible, through our House Group system.

However, it was recognised that not everybody belongs to one of those, or for various reasons, cannot choose to make a regular commitment of that sort.

Therefore, it was thought that access to such help directly would be beneficial to some, at times. We largely provide support through prayer, either in person if required/preferred, but we do operate through a confidential group via which we can share prayer concerns as people wish, and with the consent of those in need.

Where possible, we have been involved in practical support such as extra help around meal rotas following hospital stays, for example, or home visits, in line with Safeguarding guidelines.

We do occasionally meet as a group 'in person' to encourage and pray for each other as well as for our Church family and for specific needs brought to our attention, again, confidentially. Although most of the team is involved in specific ways within our Sunday services, we do try to be available and identifiable, not least for any 'new' folk joining us for Worship, who may not have - yet- 'put down roots' etc. or formed any friendships.

As a fellowship, we would hope to provide prayer or other help or advice to anyone who may require it.

### **Home Groups**

Home groups continue to be an important part of the life of Melbourn Baptist Church. Their purpose is to provide an opportunity to link with others in friendship and fellowship more closely than in the main Sunday meeting. Typically, a group would have a social time, a time to study the bible and a time to pray for one another.

We have groups meeting in different locations across the area and most meet in the evening, with one meeting during the day; most meet each week. A majority of those who come to the church are linked to a home group, but we also have some coming along who are not otherwise linked to the church. People who are part of the church are encouraged to be part of a home group.

### **Toddlers**

Our toddler group meets on Tuesday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 and is open to any accompanied 0-4 year olds. In addition to offering a wide variety of toys and larger plan equipment for free play, we all join together half way through the morning for the children to have a snack and drink, and listen to a Bible story and join in the with action songs. Tea and coffee is available throughout the morning for adults. Since September we have been in contact with over 50 children with an average of 20 children plus their carers attending each week.

### **Coffee Break**

Here at MBC, we have been opening our doors on Wednesday mornings, mainly in Term times, for some years now, to anyone wishing to drop by for Coffee-or tea!- biscuits and of course, a chat. People are welcomed from 10.30 am, until around Noon. It is very relaxed - most come along for the whole time, but 'popping by' for shorter visits is allowed! We do ask for a minimum donation of £1, all of which goes to support the Ministry of 'Christ's Hope', a Children's charity known and supported by our church.

Our visitors are mostly from the community along with a small number from within the church here; our ministers frequently come along too, which is much appreciated by all.

Numbers vary, but around a dozen faces are usually present most weeks. When opportunity arises, the Lord is brought into the conversation as appropriate.

## **Craft Group**

The craft group meets in the church hall each Wednesday morning during term time from 9:30 – 12 noon. We share skills and learn new ones which have included silk painting, iris folding, die cutting, clay work, mosaic, needle felting, card making and much more. Our primary focus continues to be friendship and mutual support. We have a mix of church and non-church people who join us with about 12 people attending most weeks. We are a sociable and supportive group. The materials are funded through a £1 a week donation. Whenever possible we supply cards to the charity card stand in the coffee lounge with the funds going to Christ's Hope International.

## **'External' Mission**

Our support for mission beyond our church continues with prayer and giving for our BMS partners and Baptist Home Mission. In August we were visited by one of our missionary families, who we have been linked with for many years. We once again sent a large number of 'shoe boxes' as part of operation Christmas Child and in March 2025 were visited by a representative from Christ's Hope International who shared of their work with some of the world's most vulnerable people. We also have links with an organisation supporting work in Turkey.

## **Fabric**

The church has been working hard on the maintenance of the building throughout the year. This has included work on the main church building, and preparing the manse for the arrival of our new ministers.

## **Statistics – Membership, Fellowship and Trustees**

At the end of 2024, there were 53 church members. We had an average Sunday service attendance of 76 people. Across the week we were in regular contact with 97 adults (through Sunday services, House Groups, Coffee Break, Craft Group, and Toddler group), 15 young people aged 11-17 (through Sunday School and Grid) and 41 children aged 0-11 (through Sunday School and Toddler group).

At the end of 2024, there were 10 charity trustees (including our ministers).

## **Closing Comments**

We would like to pass on a big thank you to everyone who contributes to our church in anyway, whether listed here or not, whether the work obviously visible or not. Our church is a body which can only function when we all play our part. We thank you all.





Charity Name <b>Zion Baptist Church Melbourn</b>		No (if any) <b>1164945</b>	<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	Period start date <b>01/01/2024</b>	To	Period end date <b>31/12/2024</b>

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
General fund	60,611	-	-	60,611	52,190
Fabric fund	-	34,058	-	34,058	17,582
Sponsorship fund	-	-	-	-	-
Soul Survivor	-	-	-	-	-
Church weekend	-	-	-	-	-
Christ's Hope International	-	783	-	783	607
Activities	184	8	-	192	105
HMRC Gift Aid	12,090	6,957	-	19,047	15,132
Other income	11,590	279	-	11,869	7,270
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>84,475</b>	<b>42,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>126,560</b>	<b>92,886</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>84,475</b>	<b>42,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>126,560</b>	<b>92,886</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Ministry Expenses	34,306	-	-	34,306	2,205
Manse Expenses	14,548	-	-	14,548	28,677
Church Expenses	18,435	3,116	-	21,551	24,647
Charitable Donations	7,042	911	-	7,953	7,141
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>74,331</b>	<b>4,027</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>78,358</b>	<b>62,670</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>74,331</b>	<b>4,027</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>78,358</b>	<b>62,670</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>10,144</b>	<b>38,058</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,202</b>	<b>30,216</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>79,389</b>	<b>223,035</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>302,424</b>	<b>272,208</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>89,533</b>	<b>261,093</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>350,626</b>	<b>302,424</b>



## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	General Fund	89,533	-	-
	Fabric fund	-	260,603	-
	Other restricted funds	-	490	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>89,533</b>	<b>261,093</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

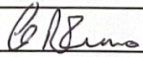

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	C R SIMS	21/03/25
	L HORDEN	9/04/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH MELBOURN

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1164945

Set out on pages

1 AND 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

12.03.2025

Name:

C TAYLOR - TAYLOR & CO.

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

(if any):

**Address:**

## Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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