

New Life Baptist Church

2024

Annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024

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New Life Baptist Church

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Statutory Information

Registered Charity Number

Registered as a charity in England & Wales with number 1164973

Registered Address

37 Abbey Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5NG

Trustees

Mr H Williams

Mr D Mellen

Mrs A Williams

Revd P Muir

Mrs C Jackson (retired 12 February 2025)

Mrs R Handy (appointed 22 September 2024)

Mrs S Wall (appointed 22 September 2024)

Property Trustees

East Midland Baptist Trust Company Limited

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Baptist House

129 Broadway

Didcot

Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

Delf House,

Southway,

Skelmersdale,

Lancashire WN8 6NY

Independent Examiner

Debbie Caine

New Life Baptist Church

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Annual Report for 2024

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2024.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by a constitution approved by the members in December 2015 and updated most recently in May 2022. The constitution states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the church are accepted in accordance with the constitution which required them to publicly profess their faith in God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

The members meeting takes place several times a year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the constitution, the members appoint the Minister, Treasurer and Church Secretary and other Leaders who are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. The Leaders, Minister, Treasurer and Church Secretary are the Charity Trustees. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the church meeting by the trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in church meeting for further consideration by the trustees. Though the constitution permits decisions to be made at church meetings by appropriate majorities, the church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

The church meets as a whole on Sunday mornings for worship and throughout 2024 the church continued to livestream services for those unable to attend in person. Recordings of most services were then made available through the website. We run a closed facebook group which provides thoughts for the day and a weekly midweek reflection and a chance for members to connect. Much of this content is also posted on the churches public facebook page. The church holds monthly breakfast services, to which members are encouraged to invite family and friends.

The church holds prayer meetings twice a month and there are a variety of small groups that meet weekly for bible study, prayer, fellowship and discipleship.

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The church's wellbeing café Renew 37 has continued to provide a safe space for those in the community who are lonely or suffering with mental health problems. Numbers using the space have increased and resources for the café are stretched. We received a £500 grant from the Asda Foundation through their green token scheme.

The milkshake bar for teenagers on a Wednesday at Renew 37 continues to be very popular with well over 100 young people attending each week.

The church has continued to run a friendship group meeting at Morrisons and a study group at Burton Manderfield, a sheltered housing complex in the Meadows. The church also runs a monthly service at Burton Manderfield.

The church has held social activities monthly, including coach trips and these are open to users of Renew 37 and others connected with the church. They have provided a valued sense of community.

The church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure Barring Service. All Renew 37 hosts and small group leaders have attended Level 2 training in safeguarding.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, community involvement and encouragement.

In 2024 we were delighted to baptise 1 person and welcomed them into membership. Two members were removed from the list, so membership has overall decreased from 68 to 67.

The churches wellbeing café renew 37 continues be busy and is well regarded by professional agencies who frequently signpost people to the café.

A number of our members are involved in other community activities such as Safe Families. The church also actively supports The Friary in West Bridgford, which provides much needed assistance for deprived members of our community.

Financial Review

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

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are grateful to Nottinghamshire County Council for a number of grants received during the year to support the milkshake bar (2 lots of £200) and the writing group project at Renew 37 (a further £200 to cover the printing cost).

The most significant expenses relate to the renting of premises and the employment of team members.

We rent a space to meet on a Sunday morning and rent our wellbeing cafe at 37 Abbey Road.

Our paid team members throughout the year were:

Mr P Muir, Minister.

Mrs V Bragg who is the Centre Host at our Wellbeing Café

Mrs A Williams our church administrator.

The church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

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

The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

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Annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Approval and declaration

I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

- the trustees have approved the above report and attached accounts; and
- have authorised me to sign them on their behalf

Alison Williams
217 Musters Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7DT

10 September 2025

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 3 to 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently 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

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

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

Debbie Caine

Independent Examiner

2 Peveril Drive, West Bridgford,

Nottingham, NG2 7AU

FCCA CTA ACA

12 September 2025

New Life Baptist Church

2024

Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Receipts and Payments account

		Year to 31 Dec 2024	Year to 31 Dec 2023
Receipts:	Note	£	£
General Offering		101,362	73,698
Church events income	3	4,804	1,275
Tax Recovered	4	13,834	14,787
Rental income		5,168	9,600
Grant income	5	2,100	500
Investment income		1,976	2,122
Fundraising		274	
Special Offerings	7	5,364	5,258
Total Receipts		134,882	107,240
Payments:			
Employment costs	8	68,608	68,608
Church events costs	3	5,714	680
Other church activities	9	6,338	5,210
Office & admin costs		3,325	3,110
Rent, property & insurance costs	10	23,122	27,146
Subtotal		107,107	104,754
Giving away	11	11,727	13,170
Total payments		118,834	117,924
(Deficit) / Surplus		16,048	(10,684)
Opening Funds:		80,967	91,651
Funds at the end of the period:		97,015	80,967
General Funds:		97,015	80,967

The notes on pages 5 to 8 form part of this Statement

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of assets and liabilities

Assets:

The balance reported as total funds is made up of the following assets:

	Note	At 31-Dec-2024	At 31-Dec-2023
Cash on deposit with the BU		61,362	52,387
Cash at Co-Operative Bank		35,580	28,507
Cash in hand		73	73
		97,015	80,967

In addition to the assets above, the following items should be taken into consideration to understand the financial status of the church:

Equipment (at insured value)	43,484	42,382
Gift aid tax recoverable	15,891	12,200
Rental deposit (on 37 Abbey Road)	3,900	3,900
	63,275	58,482
Total Cash bank and other assets	160,291	139,449

Liabilities:

		At 31-Dec-2024	At 31-Dec-2023
Special offerings to pay on	11	30	410
Sunday morning rental		1,053	0
Total Liabilities		1,083	410

Prepared by Huw Williams
Assisted by Mhel Handy
Rob Moss
Independent Examiner Debbie Caine

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 10 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by Huw Williams (treasurer)

The notes on pages 5 to 8 form part of this Statement

New Life Baptist Church

2024

Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

2 Church Funds

Apart from special offerings which are paid on within a few weeks or used for specific church projects, and the grant income received for Renew 37 (see note 5), all church funds are unrestricted and may be used for any of the church's ordinary purposes.

3 Other church activities

For a number of years the church has put on social events where contributions are received towards the costs and only the net cost has been shown under church activities (in note 9 below).

The Harvest Supper in 2023 was a much bigger event than we have organised before and it has been decided to show the income and costs for events separately for this event and going forward.

It should also be noted that accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis so that income and costs already incurred for events in 2025 are included in the 2024 figures (and amounts incurred in 2023 for 2024 events are included in the 2023 figures)

4 Tax Recovered

Tax recovered under the gift aid scheme covers the period April to December 2023 (9 months). The amount recovered in the 2024 accounts was for 12 months to March 2023. The amount receivable for donations made in 2024 is shown under 'assets'.

5 Grant income

A number of grants were received (and spent) during the year. The largest was £1,500 to help with ongoing education for the minister, 2 grants of £200 from Nottinghamshire County Council towards the costs of our milkshake bar and a further £200 from the County Council towards the cost of publishing the work of our writing group at Renew 37.

In 2024 a grant was received during the year to help with the costs of Renew 37 – as those costs are far in excess of the grants (the premises costs alone exceed £15,000) we have not shown restricted funds separately.

6 Fundraising

Although we do not often seek to raise money from outside the church, we have included some fundraising during the course of some of our events during 2024.

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2024

Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the accounts

	Year to 31 Dec 2024	Year to 31 Dec 2023
7 Special offerings		
Paid away or to be paid away (see note 11)		
Breakfast services	1,916	2,945
Other special offerings	470	1,457
Subtotal	<u>2,386</u>	<u>4,402</u>
Utilised during year		
Gifts for Renew 37 costs	2,584	856
Other offerings	234	
Sale of surplus assets and other income (recharging training costs)	160	-
	<u>5,364</u>	<u>5,258</u>

8 Trustee remuneration

During the year we had two trustees who were paid by the church.

Alison Williams was appointed as a leader (and therefore a trustee) in December 2018 and took on the paid role of administrator in May 2019. In July 2021 we appointed Paul Muir as our minister.

The church constitution says that a minister will usually be paid and that trustees can be paid with the approval of the church members in general meeting. The church considered whether to appoint an existing trustee to a paid position before employing Alison Williams. In particular the trustees considered the disadvantage of some trustees being unable to participate in decisions when they had a financial interest in those decisions because they were being paid by the church; the trustees could not identify any situations in which this might prove to be a problem.

The figures shown below are for remuneration, pensions, and other costs paid whilst the employees were also trustees.

	Year to 31 Dec 2024	Year to 31 Dec 2023
Remuneration (total gross)	£28,600	£29,901
Pensions (total employer payments)	£3,531	£3,027
Manse costs	£13,834	£12,767
Expenses	£3,517	£1,741

Expenses

Expenses are paid primarily to the minister and shown under “employee costs”

Training and related expenses are also paid for or on behalf of church members involved in particular areas of church service whether they are trustees or not. The relevant costs are shown under the appropriate headings in the expense analyses. No separate record is made of how much of these costs is incurred for or on behalf of trustees.

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the accounts

	Year to 31 Dec 2024	Year to 31 Dec 2023
9 Analysis of Church Activities		
General		
Catering - general	1,282	1,290
Church social events (*)	-	200
Equipment & repairs	807	786
Evangelism - General	231	211
Craft materials for 37 and trips from 37	241	577
Publicity	438	318
Things used in services	191	421
Training / conferences (**)	1,780	(321)
Visiting Speakers	283	390
Other general payments	451	494
Children and youth		
Milkshake bar	634	844
	£6,338	£5,210

(*) - this relates to events before the 2023 Harvest Supper, see note 3 above

(**) - This was a negative number last year because income exceeded costs – read on.

Training costs have regularly included a leaders conference in January – the church books places in the previous year and contributions towards the total cost are received after the conference. It was decided not to book for the 2024 conference so there was no major cost incurred in 2023, but we still received contributions towards the 2023 conference at the beginning of the year.

	Year to 31 Dec 2024	Year to 31 Dec 2023
10 Rent, property & insurance costs		
37 Abbey Road	16,949	17,170
Other property and insurance costs	6,173	9,976
	£23,122	£27,146

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	Year to 31 Dec 2024	Year to 31 Dec 2023
11 Analysis of Giving away		
BMS World Mission	2,280	2,340
Friary Drop in Centre	2,760	2,820
Home Mission Fund (EMBA)	1,800	1,860
Tear Fund	720	834
Open Doors	720	780
Other giving (amounts under £500 each)	680	540
Giving from General Fund	8,960	9,174
Special offerings paid away (see note 7 and below)	2,767	3,996
Total Giving away	£11,727	£13,170

£30 of the special offerings were paid away in 2025 (previous year £410 paid away in 2024)

Included in special offerings paid away were additional gifts to Friary Drop in Centre of £449 (2023 £23), Tearfund £546 (2023 £1,178) and Red Cross £536 (2023 £287) for various crisis appeals over the two years.

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