

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees	H Ayris, Secretary S Tunde, Treasurer Rev. I J Bunce B Schulte J J Giwa-Majekodunmi Rev. V J Bunce K S Yates E O Arowolo F O Lawani D Smith T O Ilesanmi (appointed 9 June 2024) B M Hacker (appointed 9 June 2024) S C Ellis (appointed 9 June 2024) A K Punmiya (appointed 9 June 2024)
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Charity registered number	1172326
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Principal office	Main Road Romford Essex RM1 3BL
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Independent auditors	Venthams Chartered Accountants Millhouse 32 - 38 East Street Rochford Essex SS4 1DB
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ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
Drummond House
PO Box 1727
Edinburgh
EH12 9RH

Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Oxford
OX11 8RT

London Baptist Property Board Ltd
Unit C2
15 Dock Street
London
E1 8JN

CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

The Trustees of Romford Baptist Church have the responsibility of co-operating with the pastors in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in and around Romford, but also in the wider community and throughout the world.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The charity's objectives are:

- The advancement of the Christian Faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.
- Advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

In fulfilling its purpose the church engages in a range of activities whether on its own or with others that vary from time to time with activities being initiated, expanded or closed, as appropriate.

c. Grant-making policies

The church makes donations to support other Baptist causes including donations to BMS World Mission. We also support our local churches together schools ministry, Graceworks. We do not make grants to individuals or other organisations.

d. Volunteers

For nearly all of our activities we need volunteers and this is something that remains a challenge, particularly since Covid. We recognise that this is reflected by many organisations nationwide but we are grateful to all those people who give of their time on either a regular or irregular basis.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

e. Main activities undertaken to further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit

Annual Report

Romford Baptist Church's theme for the year 2024, Beyond Imagination was based on Ephesians 3 vs20-21 which is "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory". This verse was chosen as in 2024 we celebrated RBC's 90th Anniversary, we held several events throughout the year to celebrate this such as quiz night, barn dance, vision day to name a few. On our anniversary weekend, we had a celebration service on the Sunday morning followed by a BBQ for the church. We enjoyed having the president of the Baptist Union preaching at one of our anniversary services.

During 2024 the church was in operation for the full year. We saw significant life in all aspects of the church, with the church buildings and ministries running 7 days a week with 100's of people accessing the church on a day-to-day basis. Our Sunday congregations were strong in number and we continued to see the various activities growing.

We maintained holding the Causeway service once a month for adults with additional needs, this happens on the fourth Sunday afternoon of the month and has seen a good support. Both Sunday morning and evening services continued to thrive.

Services relating to the rites of passage also continued through the year as we recognised the passing of beloved and long-standing members of the church as well as those who have joined in more recent years.

Youth and Children

Our Youth, Children's and Families work has prospered in this last year. One of our Ministers in Training (at Spurgeon's College) is remaining on placement here at Romford Baptist Church and has a focus on Youth and Children.

The Sunday groups, weekly youth club and other activities continued to meet. In October a Youth Weekend was held at Carrotty Wood which was a great success. In December a Youth Sleepover was held.

Pastoral Care

The pastors continued to support a significant number of people with pastoral care. Some more difficult and demanding situations meant that the pastors had to engage with outside agencies and local government, particularly where there were injustices and housing matters, sometimes leaving vulnerable people, including children, on the streets of Romford. Home communions and pastoral visits also took place at times and regular contact was kept with as many people as possible by telephone, messaging, email or written communication.

Additional needs

Our activities for those with additional needs continued to be busy. The Amaze group for those with additional needs meets regularly along with the monthly Causeway service.

The Amaze Parents Support Group which met at RBC moved mid way through the year to be hosted at another church, as our Part-Time Minister who headed this group stepped down from their role.

Adoption Group

The adoption group continued this year. We have formed meaningful relationships with the local authority and others to better support adopted children and young people and their families. The activities run by the adoption team along with the local authority were very well attended and appreciated by the community.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Discipleship

Our small groups continued during the year meeting in a number of homes around the area as well as a group continuing to meet online, a new evening small group was formed at the start of 2024. We studied many different subjects and benefited by the joint learning.

During the year we held 2 Baptismal services with a total of 8 people professing their faith in Jesus through the waters of Baptism.

Older generation

All the work with the older generation was able to continue this year and, at each event, there was always space given for a short talk or thought about the Christian faith and favourite hymns sung. The weekly Treasure Times is preceded by some choosing to lunch together before each session as well as during the holidays when the group don't meet. This is a good way to maintain relationships and combat loneliness felt by many of this age group. So many have no-one else to share a meal table with other than during this regular gathering.

3 Holiday at Home day events were also run on a variety of themes giving a space for older people to meet with their peers, again to overcome their loneliness but also to attend sessions geared to their age group with fun and food at its heart. These were all booked up to capacity.

We also held in person and via zoom Dementia training as part of our aim to become a Dementia friendly church.

Mission

Our Outreach work, the Meeting Place, had continued to thrive during the year with some new staff joining the team. We saw a number of groups partnering with us including the Hospice and Age UK and some of those who have attended have subsequently joined the older generation activities or have begun to come on a Sunday morning to the service. It has been encouraging to see a lot of new people joining with us at the Meeting Place.

We made the decision to close our Community Money Advice Centre, which is a debt support programme, we had been trying to actively train and provide more advisors but we were unable to provide enough advisors to work alongside the waiting list we had for clients who needed support. The centre will officially be closed in 2025 and all existing customers were transferred to other centres.

We continued to support the work of those who reach out into the local schools with the message of the Christian faith through our partnership with Graceworks. This has involved holding Harvest and Christmas services for schools within the borough.

In the Spring of 2024 we hosted in conjunction with London City Mission, The Life Project which is an interactive experience for primary school children to find out about the Christian faith. It was warmly received by the local schools.

We also continue to partner with a street feeding programme which aims to provide food for those in need in the Romford area 5 days a week. We are still working with our link church in Sofia, Bulgaria.

We have strong links with BMS World Mission, supporting Louise and Peter Lynch, working in Bangladesh.

Our Partnership with Winter Gardens Baptist Church continued, whereby we have continued to include prayer points in our weekly newsletter. This was a great focus for our work with Home Mission.

The church received visits from a number of schools during the year for special services including Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We also conducted assemblies in local schools presenting copies of the book "It's Your Move".

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Other groups continued to meet including the prayer groups both online and in person, social groups and craft groups.

We reviewed and updated the churches Safeguarding policy during the year.

Links with the community

We have increased our links within the local community and the Local Authority by holding a Knife Crime Forum in collaboration with Knife Crime Charities and the Local Police, this event enabled the community to come and voice their concerns and meet with charities.

We are also a part of the Faith Forum that meets with the Local Authority on a regular basis.

We host and attend the Local Police Forum which enables the church to engage with the local community particularly looking at priorities for the police going forward. This meets 4 times a year.

Links with the Town Centre Churches

The Town Centre Ministers meet regularly to pray and plan events for the town, last year saw a joint Easter Service in the market place and at Christmas the churches hosted different musical events such as carol singing etc. in the market Square. This partnership also included Romford Bid and was a great step forward in engaging with the local authorities.

Church Vision Day

In April we held a Church Vision day to reflect on how far RBC has come within the last 90 years and what God is calling for us to do in the future. Ideas were put forward for a large development project in the future to see the church pioneer new ways of creating intergenerational communities.

Leadership Away Day

In September the Leadership Team held an Away Day at Stapleford Tawney to look at putting into practice what had been spoken about at the Church Vision Day. We enjoyed having Revd Paul Hills leading the day and doing team building training with us.

Parkside

The work of Romford Baptist Church Housing Association (Parkside) continued and was led by Romford Baptist Church Minister Team Leader and is supported by the Minister who has a focus on the older generation. The full report for activities of this Home can be seen in its own report.

The Buildings

We continued to maintain our buildings and ensure that they remained in good order.

Some outside bookings made use of the building, including the Blood Donors, some children's dance classes, a fostering group, a phonics group and a women's aid group. We have also built strong links with the U3A and the job centre. We continue to be a member church of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and London Baptists.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Finance

Looking forward

Like many organisations we are anticipating the future with faith but also a sense of what will need to be different. We are listening to God and the community to see what we need to do to show God's love going forward. God is still at work. The church has spent some time starting to look at the next steps for the church.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

At 31 December 2024 the church membership totalled 205. During the year we had 15 new members join the church. During the year we also reviewed our membership list and 18 were taken off the list as they had moved away or no longer attending the church for other reasons. Sunday attendance continued to grow and many computers/devices were tuned in to our livestream services each Sunday.

The activities of the church, through its organisations, have continued with a sense of purpose and encouragement. We have experienced the encouragement of many new people worshipping with us throughout the year.

The church was host to a number of occasions, making the large worship area and extensive buildings available to organisations within the community. We also held some special events including Faith in the Westend Musical evening and John Archer mission event.

New Logo

We decided to change the logo for RBC during 2024, the logo that was being used had been in place for in excess of 20 years and with our 90th Anniversary taking place we felt it was time to reflect RBC in 2024 and beyond. Our new logo reflects the love of God for the community of Romford. It also links with our care home new logo.

RBCCC

As mentioned in 2023, we took over the running of the Collier Row and Romford Foodbanks and created a separate Charity called Romford Baptist Church Community Care, the setting up of this was finalised in 2024. This new charity, whilst part of Romford Baptist Church's ministries, will enable a level of autonomy for the work of the foodbank and the growth of our social action mission activities. Funds of £41,684 were transferred to the charity during the year.

b. Fundraising activities and income generation

The church generates income mainly through the donations from its membership and others throughout the regular congregation. The trustees regularly update the membership as to the current financial situation of the church.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Investment policy and performance

The church does not have an investment portfolio, any reserved are with the Baptist Together high interest account.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

In order to meet the running costs of the church for 12 months beyond the balance sheet date, an amount estimated at £450,000 would be required. This amount is comfortably met by the cash reserves held by the church.

Total income for the year was £527,364 (2023: £540,470) and the total expenditure for the year was £538,921 (2023: £486,701). The (deficit) / surplus for the year was £11,557 (2023: £53,769 surplus).

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

All major insurable risks are subject to normal church and employer's insurance. Contractual risks are reviewed before being entered into to assess that they could not significantly impact upon the church's ability to fulfil its objectives. An annual review of all areas of risk is undertaken by the trustees in conjunction with staff and volunteers responsible for the area of activity.

d. Principal funding

The principal funding source of the charity is the donations received from members of the church throughout the year.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

e. Financial control

Romford Baptist Church – the Charity operates under a scheme of authority delegation. Disbursement of the Charity assets must be properly authorized in accordance with the agreed procedures. All payment must have dual authorization.

Romford Baptist Church has a Finance Committee that meets three times a year to review proposed annual budget, the final financial year statement and the annual audit reports and accounts.

The Finance Committee recommend the annual budget, the annual audited reports and accounts to the Romford Baptist Church Trustees who recommend these at the Church meeting.

The Final Year End Accounts are prepared by the Treasurer, reviewed by the Finance Team, approved by the Trustees before being presented to the Church Members meeting, and signed off by the Trustees and submitted to the Charity Commission.

The Romford Baptist Church Leadership Team – which includes the Trustees – receives regular management reports and ensures that this is representative of the activities within the Charity.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Romford Baptist Church is a registered charity, number 1172326, and is constituted under a Trust deed.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The deacons and church officers are elected by the Church members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or other church Members Meeting as desired.

At the end of December 2024, the leadership team consisted of two full-time pastors, one Outreach Leader, two ministers in training, officers and deacons.

Our Part-Time Minister stepped down from the role as they felt called to become a full foster carer, they have continued to remain a part of our church community.

The church also employs a number of full and part time staff to assist with administration and to run the coffee shop (The Meeting Place).

Plans for future periods

The future is challenging and exciting; we are expecting great things of an amazing God as we reach out into our community in Romford. We are reminded of the need to pray about how we can, individually and corporately, bring glory to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 2024 will see the church celebrating its 90th anniversary and work is being done towards a strategy of developing the church for the next generation.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. 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.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Venthams, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
H Ayris

Trustee

Date: 7-7-2025

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Romford Baptist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 charity'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.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 an Auditors' Report 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our discussions with the charity's management and the Trustees, we identified that the following laws and regulations are significant to the entity:

- Those laws and regulations considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements include UK financial reporting standards and Charity Law.
- Those laws and regulations for which non-compliance may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the charity and therefore may have a material effect on the financial statements include compliance with the charitable objectives, public benefit, fundraising regulations, safeguarding and health and safety legislation.

These matters were discussed amongst the engagement team at the planning stage and the team remained alert to non-compliance throughout the audit.

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: enquiries of management and the Trustees as to whether the entity complies with such laws and regulations; enquiries with the same concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims; inspection of relevant key risk assessments and inspection reports; review of Trustee meeting minutes; testing the appropriateness of journal entries; and the performance of analytical review to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

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 Auditors' Report.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Venthams

Venthams
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Millhouse
32 - 38 East Street
Rochford
Essex
SS4 1DB

Date: 14/07/2025

Venthams are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024


	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	268,314	1,157	269,471	265,860
Charitable activities	4	205,606	-	205,606	235,923
Investments	5	52,287	-	52,287	38,687
Total income		526,207	1,157	527,364	540,470
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	538,108	813	538,921	486,701
Total expenditure		538,108	813	538,921	486,701
Net movement in funds		(11,901)	344	(11,557)	53,769
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		7,615,611	63,125	7,678,736	7,624,967
Net movement in funds		(11,901)	344	(11,557)	53,769
Total funds carried forward		7,603,710	63,469	7,667,179	7,678,736

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	6,806,339	6,810,588
		<u>6,806,339</u>	<u>6,810,588</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	13	791	627
Debtors	14	22,096	20,189
Cash at bank and in hand		853,153	864,938
		<u>876,040</u>	<u>885,754</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(15,200)	(17,606)
Net current assets		<u>860,840</u>	<u>868,148</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>7,667,179</u>	<u>7,678,736</u>
Total net assets		<u>7,667,179</u>	<u>7,678,736</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	16	63,469	63,125
Unrestricted funds	16	7,603,710	7,615,611
Total funds		<u>7,667,179</u>	<u>7,678,736</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



H Ayris
 Trustee
 Date: 7-7-25

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	573	62,415
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(12,358)	(35,753)
Net cash used in investing activities	(12,358)	(35,753)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(11,785)	26,662
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	864,938	838,276
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	853,153	864,938

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

1. General information

The charity was established as a CIO on 29 March 2017 and was registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1172326. The charity commenced trading in 1 June 2018 following the transfer of the assets of Romford Baptist Church an unincorporated charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

2.2 Going concern

There are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue. Therefore the accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure (continued)

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, .

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- property not depreciated, roof works straight line 10 years
Long-term leasehold property	- not depreciated
Fixtures and fittings	- straight line 3 to 5 years

2.7 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.11 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.12 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	268,314	1,157	269,471	265,860
<i>Total 2023</i>	264,960	900	265,860	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from charitable activities - Church	205,606	205,606	235,923
<i>Total 2023</i>	235,923	235,923	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income - local investment properties	18,643	18,643	19,778
Investment income - local cash	33,644	33,644	18,909
	52,287	52,287	38,687
<i>Total 2023</i>	38,687	38,687	

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

6. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Institutions 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grants, Church	57,884	57,884	7,500
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>7,500</i>	<i>7,500</i>	

The Charity has made the following material grants to institutions during the year:

	2024 £	2023 £
Name of institutions		
Graceworks	2,100	2,000
Baptist Union Home Mission	2,000	(7,500)
BMS World Mission	11,000	11,000
Winter Gardens Baptist Church	-	2,000
The Big Sing	500	-
London City Mission	600	-
RBC Community Care	41,684	-
	57,884	7,500

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Church	538,108	813	538,921	486,701
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>485,857</i>	<i>844</i>	<i>486,701</i>	

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Church	319,236	57,884	161,801	538,921	486,701
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>304,761</i>	<i>7,500</i>	<i>174,440</i>	<i>486,701</i>	

Analysis of direct costs

	Church 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	213,984	213,984	209,853
Church housing expenses	25,161	25,161	19,886
Travel	521	521	1,031
Other ministerial costs	4,478	4,478	6,649
Mission and outreach	75,092	75,092	67,342
	319,236	319,236	304,761
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>304,761</i>	<i>304,761</i>	

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Church 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	48,437	48,437	39,228
Depreciation	16,607	16,607	15,157
Church premises	48,688	48,688	69,793
Church office expenses	34,990	34,990	40,628
Auditors' remuneration	7,839	7,839	7,632
Legal fees	5,240	5,240	2,002
	<u>161,801</u>	<u>161,801</u>	<u>174,440</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>174,440</u>	<u>174,440</u>	

9. Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £7,824 (2023 - £7,524), and accountancy of £ - (2023 - £ -).

10. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	230,745	217,573
Social security costs	12,164	10,914
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	19,512	20,594
	<u>262,421</u>	<u>249,081</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Employees	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

11. Trustees' stipend and expenses

During the year, salaries have been paid to Rev I Bunce £46,117 (2023: £43,559), Rev V Bunce £34,300 (2023: £31,800) and Rev J Loveard £11,659 (2023: £22,470), for ministerial services. Employers pension contributions totalling £13,221 (2023: £14,822) were paid on their behalf.

Included in the above salaries are expenses totalling £7,280 (2023: £7,895) which were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2024	6,588,270	188,000	149,820	6,926,090
Additions	-	-	12,358	12,358
Disposals	-	-	(3,195)	(3,195)
At 31 December 2024	6,588,270	188,000	158,983	6,935,253
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	1,096	-	114,406	115,502
Charge for the year	1,096	-	15,511	16,607
On disposals	-	-	(3,195)	(3,195)
At 31 December 2024	2,192	-	126,722	128,914
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	6,586,078	188,000	32,261	6,806,339
At 31 December 2023	6,587,174	188,000	35,414	6,810,588

13. Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Raw materials and consumables	791	627

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

14. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	5,396	3,759
Other debtors	11,130	10,873
Prepayments and accrued income	5,570	5,557
	<u>22,096</u>	<u>20,189</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	4,589	5,867
Other taxation and social security	2,787	4,215
Accruals and deferred income	7,824	7,524
	<u>15,200</u>	<u>17,606</u>

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

16. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Fixed asset fund	6,810,588	-	-	(4,249)	6,806,339
Contingency fund	68,090	-	-	-	68,090
Junction Road	45,170	-	-	-	45,170
Parent and Toddler Group	2,837	4,255	(3,710)	-	3,382
	<u>6,926,685</u>	<u>4,255</u>	<u>(3,710)</u>	<u>(4,249)</u>	<u>6,922,981</u>
General funds					
General fund	622,412	497,106	(459,963)	3,208	662,763
Auxiliaries fund	7,789	-	-	-	7,789
Church group activity funds	58,725	24,846	(74,435)	1,041	10,177
	<u>688,926</u>	<u>521,952</u>	<u>(534,398)</u>	<u>4,249</u>	<u>680,729</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>7,615,611</u>	<u>526,207</u>	<u>(538,108)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,603,710</u>
Restricted funds					
Benevolent Fund	252	-	-	-	252
Future project fund	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Jack Petchey Fund	2,873	1,157	(813)	-	3,217
	<u>63,125</u>	<u>1,157</u>	<u>(813)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,469</u>
Total of funds	<u>7,678,736</u>	<u>527,364</u>	<u>(538,921)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,667,179</u>

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

16. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Fixed asset fund	6,789,992	-	-	20,596	6,810,588
Contingency fund	68,090	-	-	-	68,090
Junction Road	45,170	-	-	-	45,170
Parent and Toddler Group	3,069	4,546	(4,778)	-	2,837
	<u>6,906,321</u>	<u>4,546</u>	<u>(4,778)</u>	<u>20,596</u>	<u>6,926,685</u>
General funds					
General fund	632,552	465,689	(455,235)	(20,596)	622,410
Auxillaries fund	7,789	-	-	-	7,789
Church group activity funds	15,236	69,335	(25,844)	-	58,727
	<u>655,577</u>	<u>535,024</u>	<u>(481,079)</u>	<u>(20,596)</u>	<u>688,926</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>7,561,898</u>	<u>539,570</u>	<u>(485,857)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,615,611</u>
Restricted funds					
Benevolent Fund	252	-	-	-	252
Future project fund	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Jack Petchey Fund	2,817	900	(844)	-	2,873
	<u>63,069</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>(844)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,125</u>
Total of funds	<u>7,624,967</u>	<u>540,470</u>	<u>(486,701)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,678,736</u>

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

17. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Designated funds	6,926,685	4,255	(3,710)	(4,249)	6,922,981
General funds	688,926	521,952	(534,398)	4,249	680,729
Restricted funds	63,125	1,157	(813)	-	63,469
	<u>7,678,736</u>	<u>527,364</u>	<u>(538,921)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,667,179</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Designated funds	6,906,321	4,546	(4,778)	20,596	6,926,685
General funds	655,577	535,024	(481,079)	(20,596)	688,926
Restricted funds	63,069	900	(844)	-	63,125
	<u>7,624,967</u>	<u>540,470</u>	<u>(486,701)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,678,736</u>

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,806,339	-	6,806,339
Current assets	812,571	63,469	876,040
Creditors due within one year	(15,200)	-	(15,200)
Total	<u>7,603,710</u>	<u>63,469</u>	<u>7,667,179</u>

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	6,810,588	-	6,810,588
Current assets	822,629	63,125	885,754
Creditors due within one year	(17,606)	-	(17,606)
Total	7,615,611	63,125	7,678,736

19. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(11,557)	53,769
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	16,607	15,157
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(164)	65
Increase in debtors	(1,907)	(576)
Decrease in creditors	(2,406)	(6,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities	573	62,415

20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	853,153	864,938
Total cash and cash equivalents	853,153	864,938

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	864,938	(11,785)	853,153
	<u>864,938</u>	<u>(11,785)</u>	<u>853,153</u>

22. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £19,512 (2023: £20,594).

23. Related party transactions

During the year, income of £73,900 (2023: £68,500) was received from Romford Baptist Church Housing Association Limited, a charity under common control, in respect of pastoral services. During the year payments of £16,300 (2023: £23,200) were made to Romford Baptist Church Housing Association Limited in respect of book-keeping and premises management. At the balance sheet date £218 (2023: £116) was receivable from RBCHA and is included within trade debtors and £3,796 (2023: £4,169) was payable to RBCHA and is included within trade creditors.

During the year grants of £41,684 (2023: £Nil) were made to RBC Community Care, a charity under common control.

24. Post balance sheet events

The Harold Hill manse currently being held by Romford Baptist Church with a net book value of £512,000 will be transferred to the EBA and the BUGB during 2025.

