

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

Report and Accounts - 31 March 2025

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ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

General Information

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1174871

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE: The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 8RT

TRUSTEES: Mr C Bennett
Rev S Downing
Mrs B Nanson
Mr D Robinson
Mr J Smith
Mrs J Smith

ADDRESS: 43 Gossamer Lane
Aldwick
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 3DD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
12 Hillbourne Road
Poole
BH17 7JB

BANKERS: Santander Bank plc
Bridal Road
Bootle
Merseyside
G1R 0AA

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The church trustees present their report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (elders and deacons) are required to prepare accounts for each financial year. As the income is below £250,000, the trustees have prepared receipts and payments accounts as permitted by the Regulations.

The trustees are responsible for:

- the financial position of the charity; and
- safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

The Church is governed by its own church constitution (last revised and approved at the church members' meeting in July 2017) in order to become a CIO in September 2017 (Charity Number 1174871).

OBJECTS

The Church exists to proclaim the Christian faith and to serve the local community through its work and witness. Its purpose is to turn people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. The church's mandate is to LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER and LOVE LOST PEOPLE.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

During 2024/25 the church has continued with its regular worship services and Love Aldwick outreach events which have seen a number of new and established community attendees in attendance during each month at Toddler Time, Craft Group, Community Café, Table Tennis club, Luncheon Club, and Peace Together Puzzlers. The Sunday church services also attract a good number of church members as well as regular attenders, some of whom have first, encouragingly, attended the outreach events. Sadly, Messy Church was discontinued during the year.

The Bognor Christians Against Poverty (CAP) initiative, is still financially supported by ABC for Debt clients, but the life Skills courses sadly had to be discontinued. The other sadness for the church was a loss of six of its members who went home to be with The Lord.

On a brighter note however, eight new members joined the church and there were 8 baptisms. This means the church now has 83 members with an increased number of Sunday attendees taking the congregational list to 149, somewhat higher than 2023/2024.

The Rev Simon Downing continues to preach, teach, lead worship and offer first line pastoral care, to those immediately facing life crises, backed up by twenty pastoral groups to ensure no one is left without support within the church. In addition, there are six home groups which meet bi-weekly for Bible study and prayer based largely on the Sunday teaching.

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

The church leadership has a strong emphasis on following the Word and Spirit of God and are finding that there is increasing interest in the Christian Faith. With a reduced Leadership Team since 2023/24 and it is becoming still more important that during 2025/26 the team is strengthened with additional trustees and a greater engagement by church members in the regular activities to ensure that this interest is not lost. ABC are also commencing a new Alpha course in September 2025

The Leadership Team members each continue to take responsibility for specific ministries in the church and now compose:

- Rev Simon Downing (Part time Pastor – on temporary basis)
- Derek Robinson (Elder/Treasurer)
- Clive Bennett (Church Secretary) due for re-election in 2025
- Brenda Nanson (Deacon)
- John Smith (Deacon)
- Joy Smith (Deacon) due for re-election in 2025

The children and youth work continue to be a challenge, within an area of older citizens, but a number of church volunteers are nurturing the existing group members and seeking ways to grow the group effectiveness.

There are a number of new houses being built within the Aldwick and Pagham areas, and ABC have made contact with the developers to provide new owners with an introduction and invitation to the church activities and services available. ABC has continued with a Family Service on the first Sunday of each month preceded by a Breakfast to encourage and improve accessibility for new attendees and greater fellowship between members. This has so far been very helpful.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Over this financial year, we have continued to receive cash collections through a locked box at the back of the church which has generated a comparatively small amount of money as most of our giving is now done through direct debit and by cheque. Our offertory giving continues to decrease to £56,302 (compared to £60,617 last year). This is again due to a number of our regular givers going to glory. We received £12,801 in gift aid which was slightly up on the previous claim of £11,829 and £6,000 in grants towards the costs of creating a new fire escape route and the regeneration of the rear waste area. We also received an anonymous donation of £10,000 and several smaller donations from internal groups as a contribution to the running costs of the church. In addition, we have received £3,080 in rental income which is up from £1,870 last year as well as £2,501 interest from our Baptist Together deposit account. Consequently, our overall income totalled £91,406 which was an increase of 20.7% on last year's figure of £75,690.

During the course of the year, in addition to the normal maintenance costs the church incurs, the fire escape route and rear waste areas were regenerated with the help of grants (£6,000) and reserves (£26,000) to bring the external areas of the church to a consistently high standard. There is now a rear garden which can be used by the Church for additional community and church activities with a safer environment.

During the year we continued our regular support for BMS, Home Mission, Barnabas Fund, MAF, Bible Society, SAT 7, African Adventures and OneLife. We also made other gifts of approximately £4,000 which includes our monthly contributions to CAP. In total our missionary/charity was £11,818 which represented 12.9% of our income.

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Although our net assets fell to £87,330 (compared to £101,833) due to the regeneration project, the financial health of the church has been maintained with sufficient funds available to complete the activities of the church.

Approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clive Bennett', with a horizontal line underneath.

Clive Bennett
Church Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Aldwick Baptist Church ("the charity") for the year ending 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, 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 charity'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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE

independent-examiner.net

12 Hillbourne Road, Poole, BH17 7JB

Date:

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £
RECEIPTS			
Gifts received		88,905	75,690
Legacies received		-	-
Other income		4,500	2,476
Bank interest		2,501	
Total receipts		£95,906	£78,166
PAYMENTS			
Pastor's stipend, NI and expenses		27,948	26,743
Pension costs		6,743	6,336
Pension deficit payment		7	11
Gas, electricity and water		7,154	6,156
Insurance		3,989	3,422
Repairs, furniture and equipment		37,492	2,910
Manse repairs and renewals		473	358
Manse council tax		3,175	3,024
Cleaning		2,498	1,471
Visiting speakers		252	169
Office expenditure and supplies		2,467	2,984
Independent examiner's fee		705	690
Subscriptions and licences		2,171	2,109
Catering		-	28
Outreach and Children's work		584	302
Coffee time		1,352	1,391
Grants/donations paid	2	11,818	12,939
Other costs		1,581	3,902
Total payments		£110,409	£74,945
Surplus/(deficit) of receipts over payments		(14,503)	3,221
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2024		101,833	98,612
Bank balance at 31 March 2025		£87,330	£101,833

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2025

Assets

The church building and the church manse are owned by the Baptist Union Corporation Limited who are the custodian trustee and are effectively assets held in an endowment fund as the sale proceeds can only be used for the purchase of other church buildings and have an insured value of £2,170,731. The church holds various assets such as PA equipment and furniture. An estimated value of this is £5,000.

The charity has the following bank and cash balances:

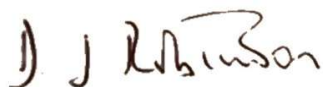
	2025	2024
	£	£
Baptist Union deposit	52,501	50,000
Current account	34,739	51,823
Petty cash	90	10
	<u>£87,330</u>	<u>£101,833</u>

Liabilities

Agency collections of £2,329 (2024 – £1,534).

The Baptist Union Employer Hub has provided an estimate of the charity's share of the overall pension deficit at £120,000. Full details of the pension liability are available on request.

Approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by



Derek Robinson
Treasurer

ALDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Grants/donations paid

	2025	2024
	£	£
BMS	2,200	2,400
Baptist Home Mission	2,600	2,400
African Adventures	500	500
MAF	500	500
Bible Society	500	500
Barnabas	500	500
SAT-7	500	500
One Life	500	500
Mission work donations	500	300
Other projects	3,518	4,839
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£11,818	£12,939
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