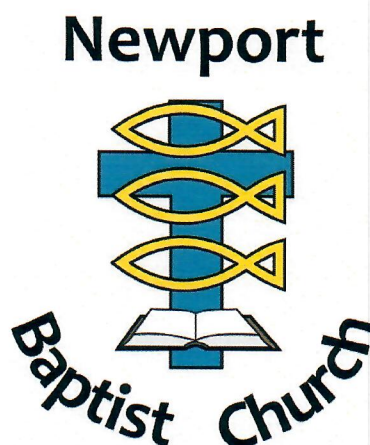


**NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
CHARITY NO: 1176587**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Newport Baptist Church Shropshire was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 9 January 2018. By an agreement executed by the Trustees dated 5 April 2018, all assets, liabilities and activities of the Church were transferred from Newport Baptist Church, an excepted charity (by virtue of its affiliation to the Baptist Union of Great Britain) to this charity.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church's Constitution.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

As a member of the Baptist Union the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of Principle: -

- That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
- That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who 'died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried, and rose again on the third day'.
- That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

During the year the Church has engaged in regular public worship, prayer and Bible study, preaching, teaching and observance of the Communion of the Lord's Supper.

In shaping our objectives for the period and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)'. The Church is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the year, we have continued to wait on the Lord to see where he is leading us. It has been encouraging to see a number of new people attending the church, and in September, we held a service where three of our congregation demonstrated their obedience to the Lord by being baptised. We have continued to be blessed by the ministry of a wide range of visiting preachers, who have led our Sunday morning services and, as we have said in previous reports, there is no reason why that could not continue for the foreseeable future. However, as a church we continue to seek the Lord to see if this is the right way forward or if He wants to take us in a different direction.

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

During the year, our activities have continued.

The weekly prayer meeting meets on Thursday evenings via Zoom. The number of regulars at the meetings has remained constant throughout the year. In addition to this, an in person, meeting for prayer takes place on Saturday mornings and some members still come together for prayer immediately before the Sunday morning service

Our WhatsApp group remains an integral part of our communications within the church family. It is an efficient and effective way to share news, things to celebrate and concerns for prayer. Whilst not everyone is digitally active, we have ensured that we stay in contact with them through text, email, and phone calls so that no one feels excluded.

The weekly Bible study group meets on a Monday morning. This is an opportunity for those who are able to attend to engage in a more in-depth study of the Bible using a structured study guide.

The fortnightly ladies' fellowship group (known as the Esther Group) has met throughout the year on Wednesday mornings, and the men's fellowship group has evolved into a walking group, weather permitting, and now includes some ladies who wish to walk. Both groups aim to provide an opportunity for sharing in an informal non-threatening environment.

A Harvest service was held in October, followed by a lunch in the church hall. We had the opportunity to welcome members of the Harper Adams University Christian Union to the service and to meet and talk with them over lunch. All Harvest gifts were donated to Newport Foodbank. The Church supports Newport Foodbank throughout the year with gifts of food received from members.

Our Gift Day took place in March 2024. A total of £2,800 was raised (including the related Gift Aid) and this amount was shared between one of our missionaries, Judy Cook and Hope Now Ukraine, a charity operating mainly in the Ukraine, but who also work in Moldova and Sri Lanka.

There were a number of new activities that started in 2024.

With the support of a grant from the Shropshire Community Foundation, we started the Tuesday Warm Drop in. The church is open on a Tuesday morning for anyone in the community to drop in for a chat, a cup of coffee and the opportunity to settle in a warm welcoming cosy environment. The Drop in is a success and we have therefore decided to continue it for 2025.

Also during the year a new Wednesday evening meeting has commenced, known as the Encounter Group. The Group meets once a month, and in 2025 it will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The group is open to anyone in Newport and the wider Christian Community who would like to set aside an evening to wait on the Lord and receive from Him.

In September, the Church held a separate coffee morning in support of MacMillan Cancer Support and raised £226 for their cause.

The Church has also been involved with Newport Singing Together, a choir for people with dementia and their carers. During the year they have held a number of events, the aim of which has been to provide a degree of respite for the people involved in caring for the dementia sufferers.

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Looking ahead into 2025

We said last year that we came into 2023 with no minister, and without a major change in our financial position, there is still no real prospect of being able to appoint a new minister in the foreseeable future. At present this continues to be our position. To be able to appoint a full time minister, our average weekly offering would have to rise by about £800, each and every week.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Church's work is entirely dependent on the Lord's leading and the resources He provides.

Our finances are on an even keel and if the current levels of income and expenditure continue, we should be able to operate as we are indefinitely. However, it is a delicate balance and one large unexpected bill could change that.

We started the year with cash reserves in the bank of £25,636. During the year income received was £25,208 and our expenditure totalled £19,698. We received £5,510 more than we spent. This has increased our year end cash reserves to £31,146.

The Church received gifts and donations of £5,128 which were for specific causes. Most of these funds were paid out in accordance with the donors' wishes, although at the year-end £406 was still held pending payment.

Reserves policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency expenditure.

The Trustees feel that it is prudent for the Church to aim to maintain a level of cash reserves equivalent to the cost of running the church for a period of six months, plus a contingency fund of £10,000 for one off expenses. We know that during 2025, we are going to have to have the outside of the church decorated, there is also some work required on the interior of the building. . The running costs of the church for six months will be in the region of £8,375. Reserves at the year-end amounted to £31,146

Reserves at the year-end exceeded the policy level by £12,771. This is the extent of our buffer against unforeseen expenditure and part of our savings so that we may, at some point in the future, be able to employ a minister. Being realistic, the cost of employing a new minister full time would be in the region of £42,000 per annum. Therefore, savings alone will never be enough. Our weekly offerings would need to rise by £800 per week each and every week.

Risk policy

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the risk to which the Church is exposed and taken steps to eliminate, reduce or manage those risks. They have also taken steps to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud or error.

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It is governed by its constitution document which was unanimously adopted at a Church Members' meeting held on 30 October 2017, prior to it being submitted to the Charities Commission for England & Wales as part of the registration process. The document is based on the model constitution produced by the Baptist Union Corporation Limited in consultation with the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Church Members' meeting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit appoint Trustees to be responsible for the governance of the Church. Deacons are appointed for an initial three year term with the opportunity to be nominated for reappointment at the end of each three year term, or as agreed from time to time by the Church Members' Meeting. The Church Secretary and Church Treasurer are appointed annually and there is no restriction on the number of years that they can serve. New Trustees are trained and guided on the job by the more experienced Trustees.

Organisational structure

Church Members meet together in a Church Members' Meeting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and under the Lordship of Christ to discern the mind of God in the affairs of the Church. Members shall, so far as is possible, seek consensus on all matters considered at a Church Meeting. However, for matters requiring a decision, a vote shall be taken and the outcome of the vote recorded as a resolution of the Members. There are two types of formal Church Members' Meetings, Ordinary Church Members' Meetings (normally held quarterly) and Special Church Members' Meetings. In order to be carried, a resolution at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting requires a simple majority of Members attending and voting. At a Special Church Members' Meeting a resolution requires a two thirds majority of Members attending and voting in order to be carried.

Wider network

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Heart of England Baptist Association. The Church will normally promote, encourage, support and advance the work of the Baptist Union, The Association and BMS World Mission through prayer, through financial contributions and, where appropriate, by making personnel available from membership of the Church. The Church will also support local Baptist and ecumenical gatherings when it is able to do so. The Baptist Union has no controlling interest in the conduct and operation of the Church.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name: Newport Baptist Church Shropshire

Registered Charity Number: 1176587

Principal address

Water Lane
Newport
Shropshire
TF10 7LD

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees

Deacons:

Chris Cartwright	reappointed 12 March 2024
Mrs Alison Davies	
Mrs Helen Wilson	
Mrs Pauline Creevey	

Other officers:

Mrs Ruth Summers (secretary)	reappointed 12 March 2024
Ian Walsh (treasurer)	reappointed 12 March 2024

Property trustee:

Legal title to the Church's freehold property is held by HEBA (Trust) Association (formerly The West Midland Baptist (Trust) Association) for the benefit of the members of Newport Baptist Church Shropshire.

Independent examiner

Tim Herriott Enterprises
15 Briarsleigh
Stafford
ST17 4QP

The Trustees approved the Trustees' Annual Report on 4 February 2025.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Mrs R Summers (Secretary)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

I report on the accounts of Newport Baptist Church Shropshire (Charity No: 1176587) for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 7 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



T Herriott
Tim Herriott Enterprises
15 Briarsleigh
STAFFORD
ST17 4QP

Date: 10/3/25

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024			2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Receipts						
Offerings - general	15,113	-	15,113	16,169	-	16,169
Offerings - appeals	-	2,334	2,334	-	2,720	2,720
Home Mission Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid recovered	3,015	466	3,481	3,168	580	3,748
Donations	1,000	2,258	3,258	200	1,035	1,235
Rents received	793	-	793	1,227	-	1,227
Other income	-	70	70	30	171	201
Bank interest received	159	-	159	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,080	5,128	25,208	20,794	4,506	25,300
Payments						
Visiting speakers' expenses	1,550	-	1,550	1,850	-	1,850
Donations	4,344	4,227	8,571	2,320	3,963	6,283
Insurance	1,293	-	1,293	1,282	-	1,282
Heat, light, telephone and water	2,458	-	2,458	2,170	-	2,170
Cleaning	2,912	-	2,912	2,912	-	2,912
Subscriptions	605	-	605	561	-	561
Repairs and maintenance	726	-	726	818	-	818
Miscellaneous expenses	378	905	1,283	595	514	1,109
Independent Reviewer's fee	300	-	300	300	-	300
	14,566	5,132	19,698	12,808	4,477	17,285
Asset purchases						
Purchase of furniture and equipment	-	-	-	515	-	515
Total payments	14,566	5,132	19,698	13,323	4,477	17,800
Net cash outflow for the period	5,514	(4)	5,510	7,471	29	7,500
Cash funds at 1 January 2024	25,226	410	25,636	17,755	381	18,136
Cash funds at 31 December 2024	30,740	406	31,146	25,226	410	25,636

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Cash funds	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank	30,740	406	31,146	25,226	410	25,636
Other assets	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aid recoverable on gifts	867	-	867	814	-	814
Utilities paid in advance	-	-	-	146	-	146
	867	-	867	960	-	960

	2024		2023	
	Cost	Estimated current value	Cost	Estimated current value
Assets retained for own use	£	£	£	£
Freehold property	327,266	330,000	327,266	330,000

	2024	2023
	£	£
Liabilities		
Estimated amount owing for utilities prior to period end	355	-
Expenditure committed before period end	-	-
	355	-

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Ian R Walsh (Treasurer)

4 February 2025

NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Establishment of the Charity

Newport Baptist Church Shropshire was registered, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 9 January 2018, although it did not commence activities until 5 April 2018.

2 Accounts format

The Trustees have taken the decision to prepare these accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

3 Payments to Trustees

No Trustee, other than the cleaner, was remunerated. However some trustees were reimbursed for expenses they incurred on behalf of the Church.

The cleaner, who is a trustee, is engaged for four hours per week.

4 Donor specific donations

	B/fwd	Received	Paid	C/fwd
Gift Day	-	2,800	(2,800)	-
Esther Group donations	-	231	(231)	-
Home Mission in lieu	-	100	(100)	-
Grace Ministries	-	500	(500)	-
Esther Group funds	100	20	0	120
Tuesday Warm Drop In	-	581	(579)	2
Newport Foodbank	-	40	(40)	-
Pauline Chambers	-	330	(330)	-
MacMillan Coffee	-	226	(226)	-
Newport Singing Together	310	300	(326)	284
	<u>410</u>	<u>5,128</u>	<u>(5,132)</u>	<u>406</u>
2023	<u>381</u>	<u>4,506</u>	<u>(4,477)</u>	<u>410</u>

5 Related parties

Some Trustees have bought items for the Church and have been subsequently reimbursed.

Reimbursements where paid as follows: -

	2024	2023
Mr C Cartwright	-	32
Mrs P Creevey	104	35
Mrs A Davies	66	21
Mrs R Summers (and husband)	193	-
Mr I Walsh (treasurer)	-	89
Other church member	-	-
	<u>363</u>	<u>177</u>