

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	April	2023		31 st	March	2024

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Abbey Baptist Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1176927

Charity's principal address

Abbey Baptist Church

Checker Walk

Abingdon

Postcode

OX14 3JB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Graeme Stonell	Chair of trustees (from-Oct 2023)		
2	Chris Hawthorne			
3	John Lipp	Chair of trustees (Apr-Oct 2023)		
4	Elizabeth Rolfe			
5	Peter Akrill			
6	Stephen Mayo			
7	Daniel Bryant		Until 11 th Oct 2023	
8				
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser Name

Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

In addition to our constitution, we make use of our church handbook to guide our practice in the everyday running of our affairs.

Elders direct the day-to-day operations of the church. All work conducted by the church is done under their leadership. The elders are also trustees of the charity and are joined by additional trustees. All elders and trustees are selected by the members in accordance with our church handbook.

We are affiliated to two external organisations (The Association of Grace Baptist Churches (Southeast) and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC)). The nature of these affiliations is mutually supporting and both bodies are non-governing of our church's affairs.

As a long standing, stable church there are few operational risks. By offering services to vulnerable people there are risks associated to appointing volunteers/workers. These are managed through our Safeguarding Policy.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Church are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily, but not exclusively, within Abingdon and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life

provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We seek to set up and respond to opportunities which allow us to fulfil our stated purposes: ○ Our main weekly meetings including Sunday worship, midweek small groups and prayer opportunities have continued, with in-person and on-line attendance options at most meetings. ○ Our work amongst older people/seniors continues through regular events (TOFS and coffee mornings), and support to local care homes, one of which regularly brings a group of residents to Sunday services. ○ Work amongst young people, with specific weekly activities for primary aged children and older secondary children. One-off events have made some limited provision for those who do not fall into these age categories. ○ English language classes for non-native English speakers prove to be a useful service to attendees, but also an avenue which enables some attendees to explore the Christian faith for themselves. ○ The work of an outreach team to advance the Christian faith through events aimed at providing benefit to those who are outside of the church. The trustees are satisfied that these activities are conducted in line with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.
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Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We are not involved in awarding grants or in investing (except for holding reserves in an interest paying bank account). All of our work is supported and enabled by volunteers from within our membership. The Trustees thank the members of the church who conduct all of these activities on a voluntary basis.
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During this year, we have continued to respond to opportunities which allow us to fulfil our stated purposes, as set out in the previous Section C. The continuance of these ministries is regarded as a worthy outcome for which we are glad and thankful each year. In particular, we note the following highlights from the year under report.

The continual healthy level of interest in our in-person meetings and activities by a mixture of members, families of members and non-members is regarded as an essential achievement. The ongoing regular ministry and Bible teaching from the new Minister (Mr Chris Hawthorne) has helped many in the understanding of the Christian faith.

We have supported and sent one family to begin Christian ministry in a Church beyond Abingdon for the advancement of the Christian faith. This was our Trainee minister Dan Bryant, who was a trustee here with the church until taking up the role of pastor at a church in Suffolk in September 23.

We have supported one person from the congregation to attend a theological training course with a view to eventual entry into Church ministry for the advancement of the Christian faith.

The outreach team has organised events aimed at providing benefit to those who are outside of the church, including quiz nights and harvest evening with thought provoking epilogues. A series of Sunday evenings aimed at answering topical issues from a Christian perspective was held in November 23, all with the aim of advancing understanding of the Christian faith.

The online provision of our main worship activities has continued to benefit our local supporters/beneficiaries, especially those for whom it was not possible or not wise to gather with the church. Although not fully measurable, we are also aware of a more geographically dispersed group of beneficiaries who have been able to continue to receive benefit through remote ministry.

The additional needs team established the previous year has continued to be a worthy venture to ensure we are doing everything reasonable to welcome people regardless of what additional needs they may have. This team has focussed on including those with additional needs within our existing programme of activities, and has influenced the way we present materials on screen so as to be readily accessible to people joining in.

Section E	Financial review
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Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

We seek to maintain reserves of around 3-6 months of operating costs. These are held in order to cushion the effect of any unplanned short-term reduction in income or increase in expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funding are donations and income from the renting of property. The former have been generously gifted by members and supporters without any explicit fundraising initiatives. No funding was received from grants during this reporting year.

Our largest item of expenditure has been for the ministry of the church. This has funded the various activities and provided a salary for the staff who support and prepare every volunteer for their work.

A summary of our examined accounts is provided in Section F.

Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2024

Income and Expenditure	Notes	2022/23	2023/24
Income			
Donations to the church		104,745	94,809
Income from properties		9,330	6,000
Bank interest and other income		13,345	3,251
Donations for specific purposes		3,771	11,601
Total income		131,191	115,661
Designated giving paid out	2	3,771	11,601
Income for Church use		127,420	104,060
Expenditure			
Ministry of the Church	3	50,342	68,342
Gifts made by the Church	2	17,656	18,996
Church maintenance		11,841	26,388
Properties maintenance		8,349	4,031
Total Expenditure		88,188	117,757
Net income (expenditure)		39,232	-13,697

Balance Sheet	Notes	2022/23	2023/24
Fixed Assets			
Church buildings and properties	4	860,000	860,000
Current Assets			
Debtors		6,400	5,673
Cash at bank and in hand		89,630	76,119
Total current assets		96,030	82,011
Creditors		1,522	983
Total Assets less liabilities		954,508	940,809
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds		94,508	80,809
Restricted funds			
Capital funds		860,000	860,000
Funds at end of year		954,508	940,809

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and audit of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a historical cost and accruals basis and in accordance with the Charities Commission SORP. The church is a small entity and therefore no cash flow statement is included and a full audit report is not required

Church properties

Church properties are held for the use of the church or for let to church members where possible. The properties are held in the accounts at market value and are independently revalued every five years.

2. Church Giving

The church made gifts for the support of missionary work and other Christian work during the course of the year as detailed below. These figures include gifts from members for specific missionary work. Special offerings were taken during the year to assist in ministry of compassion in the UK and other parts of the world.

Church gifts	£
Grace Baptist Mission	9,480
Pilgrim Homes	2,760
AGBC(SE) Home Mission	480
Mission work in Poland	1,740
Mission work in Italy	1,525
Open Doors	1,000
Other Missions	500
Gifts to members	1,511
Total Giving	18,996

Designated giving	£
Grace Baptist Mission	600
Gift to leaving and current pastor	10,001
Other compassion ministry	1,000
Total	11,601

3. The Ministry of the Church

Expenditure on ministry	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Elders and visiting speakers	42,075	52,654
Outreach and Church Activities	2,293	3,746
Other	5,974	11,942
Total	50,342	68,342

4. Church Buildings and Properties

	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Brought forward	860,000	860,000
Revaluation in the year	0	0
Balance carried forward	860,000	860,000

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	 Recoverable Signature X  Graeme Paul Stonell Signed by: 5ba1c8ad-9275-48fa-8bf3-10ee7b9cc9c3	 Recoverable Signature X  John David Lipp Signed by: trust_
	Full name(s)	Graeme Paul Stonell
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee
Date	05-Oct-2024	



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Abbey Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1176927

Set out on pages

6-7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) 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.

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

Signed:

Date:

27/01/25

Name:

ANDREW STEPHEN WOODS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

N/A

Address:

23 BLENHEIM GARDENS
GROVE, WANTAGE
OX12 0NP

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

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