

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	April	2024		31 st	March	2025

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		
2	Chris Hawthorne			
3	John Lipp			
4	Elizabeth Rolfe			
5	Peter Akrill			
6	Stephen Mayo			
7				
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)

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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 is 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, examples being as follows: ○ 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 (Time Out For Seniors (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 our Minister has helped many in the understanding of the Christian faith.

We have supported one person from the membership to attend a theological training course with a view to eventual entry into Church ministry for the advancement of the Christian faith. During the year, preaching opportunities have been extended to the individual to develop these strengths.

We have also been running a preachers' workshop to help develop the gifts and skills of members in the Church to take meetings and bring Bible teaching both to our Church and other Churches.

The outreach team has continued to organise events aimed at providing benefit to those who are outside of the church, including quiz nights and meal evenings with thought-provoking epilogues, all with the aim of advancing understanding of the Christian faith.

During February, we hosted a Bible Weekend to which we invited some local churches, where we spent time in depth looking at the Bible teaching on the resurrection and the end times and the difference this makes to our daily lives.

The online provision of our main worship activities has continued to benefit our local supporters/beneficiaries, especially those for whom it is 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. We believe that this also enables people to sample the ministry of the Church from a distance with a view to coming to attend in person in due course.

The 'additional needs' team has continued to ensure we are doing everything reasonable to welcome people regardless of any 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

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, supported in previous years by some modest income from the renting of property owned by the Church. Donations have continued to be generously gifted by members and supporters without any explicit fundraising initiatives. A £2000 grant was received from an external charity towards training for an individual in the Church (see table in Section F).

During the course of the year, it was necessary to sell the rentable property owned by the Church in order to raise money towards purchase of the manse used by the Church, but which is owned by a separate Charitable Trust. The property was marketed in May 2024, and the sale proceeded to completion in January 2025. This is reflected in the accounts. Steps are in hand to purchase the manse in the FY 2025/26.

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 2025

Income and Expenditure	Notes	2024/25	2023/24
Income			
Donations to the church		108408	94809
Income from properties		3000	6000
Bank interest and other income		2960	3251
Donations for specific purposes		2680	11601
Grants for support of trainee		2000	
Total income		119048	115661
Designated giving paid out	2	2680	11601
Surplus on sale of Fixed Asset		12168	
Income for Church use		128536	104060
Expenditure			
Ministry of the Church	3	63017	68342
Gifts made by the Church	2	18036	18996
Church maintenance		21249	26388
Properties maintenance		4686	4031
Total Expenditure		106988	117757
Net income (expenditure)		21548	-13697

Balance Sheet	Notes	2024/25	2023/24
Fixed Assets			
Church buildings and properties	4	400000	860000
Current Assets			
Debtors		8663	5673
Cash at bank and in hand		553865	76119
Total current assets		562528	81792
Creditors		170	983
Total Assets less liabilities		962358	940809
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds		562358	80809
Restricted funds			
Capital funds		400000	860000
Funds at end of year		962358	940809

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 and for other compassionate purposes.

	2024/25
Grace Baptist Mission	10060
Pilgrim Homes	2800
AGBC(SE) Home Mission	480
Mission work in Poland	1740
Mission work in Italy	1525
Open Doors	1000
Gifts to members	431
Total Giving	18036

Designated Giving

Grace Baptist Mission	620
Abingdon Food Bank	288
Special Appeal for Church in Rome	1500
Other compassion ministry	272
Total	2680

3. The Ministry of the Church

	2024/25	2023/24
Elders and visiting speakers	53114	52654
Outreach and Church Activities	2416	3746
Other	7487	11942
	63017	68342

4. Church Buildings and Properties

During the year the church disposed of the property at 18 Radley Road, Abingdon. The proceeds are currently invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund pending purchase of another property for occupation by our Minister.

	2024/25	2023/24
Brought forward	860000	860000
Revaluation in the year	-460000	0
Balance carried forward	400000	860000

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  Graeme Stonell Chair of Trustees Signed by: 2c567fc3-44c2-4b60-a4eb-d73782f78dec	 Recoverable Signature  John Lipp Trustee Signed by: 9B2DA16C838A4E3B91CB7AC0A91BBAE3
	Full name(s) Graeme Paul Stonell	John David Lipp
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Chair	Trustee	
Date 22-Sep-2025		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Abbey Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1176927

Set out on pages

1 - 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's 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 Trust'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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

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

Signed:

Date:

29/25

Name:

Andrew Woods

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

None

Address:

23 Blenheim Gardens

Grove
OX12 0NP

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

None