



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 **To:** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Charity name:** *Affirm: Baptists Together for LGBT+ Inclusion*

**Charity registration number:** 1183976

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:</p> <p>(a) supporting and affirming people identifying as LGBT+ and those questioning their sexuality or gender identity within churches in Great Britain, particularly those in membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Baptist Union of Wales or the Baptist Union of Scotland or which refer to themselves as Baptist ("the churches") by giving pastoral support</p> <p>(b) working for the acceptance of loving same-sex relationships as one of a number of ways of living faithfully, through engaging in constructive discussions in the churches;</p> <p>(c) promoting knowledge and mutual understanding of human sexuality and gender identity in the churches through discussion, study and the sharing of people's stories;</p> <p>(d) supporting and standing in solidarity with those churches that include and affirm LGBT+ Christians by providing theological resources and networking opportunities</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Attending events as speakers/advisers</p> <p>Continuing to invite members to transfer their subscriptions to the new bank account, and encouraging new memberships and donations.</p> <p>Continuing to expand our reach to support Baptist ministers, and LGBT+ Baptists through challenging conversations in the life of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.</p> <p>Preparing educational and promotional material.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit
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### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Seeking new volunteers and trustees and including them in developing the charity. Management of bank account, overall strategy and direction of the charity.
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>In 2024 the new model of membership and supporters continued to be developed and implemented, which included co-organising an event for Baptist ministers and leaders in Britain to engage with Affirm's work and how to continue progressive Baptist ministry in Great Britain.</p> <p>We have seen growth in both members and supporters thanks to the new model.</p> <p>We continued to engage with the national leadership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, which included opportunities to speak and contribute to Baptist Council's decision-making process regarding the ministerial rules. Revd Andy Fitchet and Luke Dowding spoke to Council about their experiences of being excluded from Baptist ministry due to the ministerial rules prohibiting people in same-sex relationships from becoming or remaining accredited Baptist ministers.</p>

		<p>We continued to engage at the grassroots level with local churches, ministers, and individuals; supporting them in their theological and practical understanding of LGBT+ inclusion in the life of the Baptist church.</p> <p>Affirm continued to be sought out for pastoral responses to LGBT+ Christians, and our expertise in affirming theology and inclusion in churches.</p>
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#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the period the charity held £2,022 of unencumbered funds.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Funds are held in preparation for events and activities. As there are no paid staff at present, there are no ongoing liabilities.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As above
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	As above
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Nil
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Donations and subscription fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document ( <a href="#">trust deed</a> , <a href="#">royal charter</a> )	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g <a href="#">unincorporated association</a> , <a href="#">CIO</a> )	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Founding Trustees and then Election or Co-option

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	<i>Affirm</i> : Baptists Together for LGBT+ Inclusion
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1183976
Charity's principal address	c/o 26 Farthing Drive Letchworth Garden City SG6 2TR

### **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	Revd Dawn Cole-Savidge	Co-Director		
2	Luke Dowding	Chair		
3	Revd Andrew Fitchet	Co-Director		
4	Martin Stears-Handscomb	Treasurer		
5	Esther Ruddle	Trustee		
6				
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14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### 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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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Luke Dowding	Andy Fitchet
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Co-Director
Date	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Affirm: Baptists Together for LGBT+ Inclusion

1183976

## Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period  
from

01/01/2024


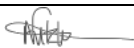
To

31/12/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Brought forward	1,021	-	-	1,021	518
Subscriptions and donations	1,546	-	-	1,546	878
HMRC Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	8
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>2,567</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,567</b>	<b>1,404</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>2,567</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,567</b>	<b>1,404</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Trustees Travel	345	-	-	345	213
Trustees Accommodation	-	-	-	-	100
Website and IT	200	-	-	200	70
Stall Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Publicity Materials	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>383</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>383</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>1,021</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>1,021</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Held at Bank	2,022	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	2,022	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Luke Dowding	16/06/2025	
		Andy Fitchet	16/06/2025	