



Annual Report

2024



Derby Urban Church's Vision and Values

One church with many congregations. The vision for Derby Urban Church is to grow one church with many congregations of different sizes, styles and people but still all connected to the one church.

These are our four values:

More. By sharing what we each have, and not duplicating, we look for more:

- more expressions of God's Kingdom; *and*
- more people hearing the good news of salvation and transformation through Jesus; *and*
- more people using their gifts of grace given by the Holy Spirit; *and*
- more growing and learning together in Christ; *and*
- more fun, laughter and celebration; *and*
- more standing together through good and bad times as a united family; *and*
- more serving and loving God, each other, and our neighbour; *and*
- more time for worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship and mission; *and*
- more growth by multiplying.

Multiplying the smaller to grow the Kingdom (mustard seeds). Rather than trying to build one large church or congregation, the vision is to build lots of smaller slowly growing congregations of equal value. Inspired by Jesus' parable of the mustard seed which grows into a great tree, we seek to grow God's kingdom in this way through mission. We look to care, share faith and disciple people better in smaller congregations, enabled by being part of something larger.

Belonging to God, congregation and church (the vine). Finding a place of belonging in a Derby Urban Church congregation with its distinctive identity is important, but to be one church we also seek to value and care about all of the other congregations. Inspired by Jesus' saying about being connected to the vine, we seek to remain connected to God as well as each other. We expect this to lead to wonderfully unexpected opportunities as the Holy Spirit inspires us, and sometimes lead to new Derby Urban Church ministries and congregations being formed or existing ones join with us.

Urban. Wherever God leads us in the future, Derby Urban Church has been birthed and has its origins in the inner city urban areas of our city. This is an important part of who we are.

Summary of the Year

2024 was again a year of growth as Derby Urban Church moved forward. There are updates on all our congregations and ministries later in this report. For Derby Urban Church Activities, the Pentecost Worship Service and AGM was the biggest service and a highlight of the year. We had three other church meetings – at Pancake Day, in July and our Harvest Supper. Everyone from DUC was welcome to our regular Saturday Church walks which continued as a monthly feature of the programme. The Big Quiz to raise money for Tear Fund was held in the autumn.

In terms of our administration 'the Trellis', there was progress on practical matters. Mary kindly continued to edit Orbit, our monthly church magazine and the distribution increased during the year to people from across the DUC family. We moved our records and email communications onto ChurchSuite to improve our efficiency and for GDPR compliance.

Congregations Updates

- **Ozzy Road** is the original and founding congregation of DUC, with a weekly Sunday morning service, midweek groups and children's work that grew through the year. Ozzy Road started 2024 with the covenant service and a shared meal after the Sunday service. We looked at the book of Philippians in the lead up to Easter. In the middle of the year we had a series on the book of James. During Graham's sabbatical we welcomed a number of different preachers and worship leaders who each brought something new and interesting. The established pattern of midweek pattern of prayer, Bible study and worship continued also with both Lent and Advent courses which were held jointly with Boulton Lane Baptist Church. Baptisms were held twice in the year at Ozzy Road congregation's service. There were a number of new people who joined us during the year and it was great to see this growth.
- **Friends United In Jesus (FUJ)** was set up in 2020 and continued to grow gradually through 2024. The services used parts of The Chosen video to prompt discussion and prayer. This unique congregation comprises many people who have struggled with housing or addiction issues in their lives.
- **City Youth Church (CYC)** joined DUC in 2020. This congregation meets on Friday evenings and is a lively group of young people, with a worship service in Slovakian, Roma and English. Due to the change in the group, they renamed themselves City Your Church as some of the original youth are now married with children.
- **Glory of Christ Jesus Church (GCJC)** started on Saturday mornings this year. This

weekly group is led by Asmerom and is for Eritrean/Habesha families.

Through the year we again worked closely with **Boulton Lane Baptist Church**, entering into another year of a Joint Pastorate, on April 5th 2024. Solicitors were instructed to carry out the amalgamation between DUC and Boulton Lane and this process was not completed by the end of 2023, so continued through 2024. We continued to hold family services at both Girls Brigade and Scouts at least once per term at Boulton Lane.

DUC worked with our associate congregations through the year: with Zoe Church we ran a Roma Families Warm Hub weekly through the winter 23/24 and with GLAM, we supported the Heart for India ministry mentioned below.

Ministries

- **Social Enterprise** - Transform Car Valeting continued with one Academy run with Green Pastures.
- The **eBay shop** continued and moved to Fridays.
- **USED** (Upcycling Social Enterprise Derby) continued through the year.
- **Hooked** - This ministry continued with several fishing trips to support people who have been affected by homelessness and addiction or mental health issues.
- **School of the Holy Spirit (SoHS)**, a Bible college for younger UK Roma potential leaders. Year 2 students finished the course in the summer and were presented with their certificates, and there was a new intake of students in September.
- **Schools ministry** leading weekly assemblies at St James' Juniors and Infants continued. Both schools celebrated Easter, Harvest and Christmas at Ozzy Road.
- **Homeless ministry**, our longstanding work in this area continued with the a mixture of groups who either hire our building or we work in partnership with. These groups were running through the year: Two Narcotics Anonymous Groups (Monday and Thursday), Café 3:16, Manna (a food and friendship project) and Storehouse. We continued our relationship with Green Pastures, a Christian homeless hostel on Hartington Street through Bible Studies, an alpha course and it was great to see some of the residents coming along to FUJ and Ozzy Road.
- **Recover** is a new ministry which was started in 2024. Initially using the Recovery Course which is a Christ focussed 12 step programme and then an alpha course, this new group meets on Tuesday afternoons.

- **Slovakia Mission Project** – Graham accompanied our friends from Zoe church on a visit to Slovakia where he attended a conference to launch a new translation of the Bible into Roma.
- **Heart for India** – Pastor Raj has now set up an NGO in Ghana with Pastor Isaac. Graham and he visited this amazing organisation during his sabbatical.

DUC ended the year with 4 congregations and 10 ministries, and also continued to work closely with Boulton Lane Baptist Church as described, ahead of becoming formally amalgamated. Additionally, we are supporting two School of the Holy Spirit Congregations - one in Stoke and one in Ostrava in Czechia.

Staff

Rev Graham Watkins continued as our Minister through the year as well as the Minister for Boulton Lane. He was on sabbatical for 3 months in the autumn of the year. Steve Clark continued part-time as our Social Enterprise Project Leader. Kathryn Barradell's is on a full time permanent contract as our Church Worker. Jozef Lukac continued to work part-time through the year to lead CYC and SoHS as our Roma Worker. We ended the year with 4 staff.

Trustees

The Trustees of Derby Urban Church at the end of the year were:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Graham Watkins (Minister) | Marilyn Smith (Elder) |
| Roger Morbey (Church treasurer) | Chandra Morbey (Secretary) |
| Ben Jones (Deacon) | |

Organisational Structure

Derby Urban Church has Trustees who have been elected by the membership, which currently comprises a minister, two elders and 3 deacons. These include our secretary and our treasurer. As part of our Charitable Incorporated Organisation's constitution, which sets out how we operate, we have church meetings quarterly, one of which is our AGM. All church meetings in 2024 were held in person. These meetings are open to attenders as well, although only members can vote. We continued our pattern of linking church meetings to events in the life of the church, including Shrove Tuesday pancake day, Pentecost Sunday and a Harvest Supper. We continued our pattern to remain effective in serving God as a team, and having Trustees meeting every 2 months, alternating a business meeting on Zoom and a longer Saturday morning with prayer and Bible Study in person. We have 2 main sub-groups; Pastoral and Practical. Both groups now meet less often in person but instead have almost daily contact using Whatapp. Our small Finance and

Fundraising team ('Fin&Fun') meets every 2-3 months led by our Treasurer. Minutes from each group are circulated around the Trustees so everyone is aware of what is happening. All these meetings are led by a Trustee but involve many other people, encouraging everyone to use their individual gifts. We are also in regular contact with the other groups who use our building and were in close liaison through the year. We continued to produce a termly Programme jointly with Boulton Lane, identifying many opportunities to help each other and do things jointly.

Financial Review - Treasurer's Report

During 2024, Derby Urban Church's income was just under £200,000 and its expenditure was just over £195,000, with a net surplus of £3,880. Thus, we began and ended the year with unrestricted reserves being close to our policy of having two months running costs held for emergencies. Our turnover has increased considerably compared to previous years, mainly due to securing a VCSE Energy Efficiency Grant (the Green Grant) of £147,922 to improve the sustainability of our building. The Green grant money is to be spent between November 2024 and mid February 2025, with money received when invoices are due. The Green grant includes fitting insulation to the whole flat roof which also had the added benefit of repairing leaks in our flat roof which previously we could not afford to do. Importantly, this funding improves insulation, air to air heat pumps to replace our gas heating and energy efficient lighting, meaning we are no longer reliant on gas, and utility bills will be lower than if this work had not been carried out. During the middle of the year, although we kept to budget for expenditure, income was lower than budgeted and we had to dip into our reserves. However, during the Autumn, generous gifts from some individual members replenished our reserves. In response to the drop in income we launched a new 'Angels' campaign to raise funds and strengthen links with supporters outside of our immediate neighbourhood (which is a ward with high levels of deprivation). We were delighted to welcome and work with Ruddington Baptist Church as a partner. Also, we renewed our efforts to secure grants. I would also like to thank Community Action for funding the Roma Families Warm Hub which ran over winter 23/24, the National Grid for funding our Car Valeting Academy, the Baptist Union Home Mission whose long standing grant ended in December 2024 and the Baptist Insurance Company who funded our Roma worker in the first half of the year. In addition to the Green Grant we won several grants in 2024 to support our work in 2025, including £2,500 from Foundation Derbyshire to support our social enterprises, £5,000 from Erewash CVS to replace

the lino in our community hall ready for use by a new toddler group and £5,000 from Deo Gloria to support our evangelism work to the Roma Community.

- **Start and end of year balances**

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|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Start of year: | Current Account £17,632.35 | Savings Account £10,377.43 |
| End of year: | Current Account £30,315 | Savings Account £1,575 |

This included an amount of approximately £10,650 in designated funds.

- **Independent examiner's report**

The 2024 accounts were independently examined by Tim Benson on 23rd May 2025.

Derby Urban Church - Independent Examiner's Report.


The following accounts for 2024 were independently examined.

Income and Expenditure

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|---|--------------------|
| Individual donations (including legacies) | £68,028.65 |
| BUGM Home Mission Grant | £14,300.04 |
| Other grants | £98,419.34 |
| Investment income | £139.94 |
| Room rentals | £12,363.25 |
| Trading income | £6,044.26 |
| Other income | £61.00 |
| Total Income | £199,356.48 |

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|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Trading costs | £1,675.99 |
| Salaries | £74,002.70 |
| Pension contribution | £5,979.12 |
| Staff expenses | £2,816.99 |
| Manse expenses | £3,487.74 |
| Heating and Lighting | £13,839.06 |
| Building repairs and renewals | £74,137.80 |
| Office costs | £1,194.98 |
| Ministry costs | £9,325.68 |
| Giving to others | £6,298.40 |
| Governance costs | £2,717.40 |
| Total Expenditure | £195,475.86 |

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| Overall position | £3,880.62 |
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Signed by: 
Date: 23/5/25

Print name: T.C. BENSON



Tapestry activity led by Kathryn to show how we are all woven together as one family.

Pentecost service 2024