



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name			No (if any)		CC16a
Rye Baptist Church			1188057		
Receipts and payments accounts					
For the period from		Period start date	To	Period end date	
		1/1/24		12/31/24	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	50,593	-	-	50,593	50,389
Gift Aid Refund from HMRC	9,397	-	-	9,397	10,577
Sales coffees/teas	6,285	-	-	6,285	4,767
Miscellaneous	8,183	-	-	8,183	445
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	1,164	1,077	-	2,241	867
Fellowship Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Foodbank grants	-	20,845	-	20,845	19,823
Donations to foodbank	-	43,346	-	43,346	39,244
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	75,622	65,268	- 0	140,890	126,112
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
Total receipts	75,622	65,268	- 0	140,890	126,112
A3 Payments					
Ministry	39,119	-	-	39,119	37,084
Mission	626	-	-	626	1,424
Manse	4,952	-	-	4,952	13,056
Upkeep of Church	23,489	-	-	23,489	25,687
Administration	660	-	-	660	1,478
Miscellaneous	3,322	-	-	3,322	15,874
Fellowship Fund	150	-	-	150	22
Away Giving (Tithe)	7,165	-	-	7,165	8,119
Foodbank purchases	-	63,593	-	63,593	61,345
Sub total	79,483	63,593	- 0	143,076	164,089
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
Total payments	79,483	63,593	- 0	143,076	164,089
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,861	1,675	- 0	- 2,186	- 37,977
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	103,265	80,151	-	183,416	221,393
Cash funds this year end	99,404	81,826	- 0	181,230	183,416

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 £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC (RBC Current Account)	63,064	-	-
	Kingdom Bank (RBC Savings Account)	36,340	-	-
	Barclays Bank (Foodbank Current Account)	-	1,058	-
	Barclays Bank (Foodbank Savings Account)	-	80,768	-
	Total cash funds	99,404	81,826	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

RYE BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1188057

Set out on pages

(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

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:

J. Anstead

Date:

12/05/24

Name:

JEREMY ANSTEAD

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

Address:

46B, CULVERDEN DOWN,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TN4 9SG

Section B

Disclosure

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.

NO CONCERNS

Report to the trustees
members of

On accounts for the year
ended

Set out on pages

Responsibilities and
basis of report

Independent
examiner's statement

Signed:

Name:

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

Address:

Rye Baptist Church (CIO)

Trustees' Annual Report on 2024

Aims & Purposes

The Trustees of Rye Baptist Church work together to advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination; to promote the whole mission of the church, through worship and pastoral care; evangelism; social care and ecumenical involvement; to advance education and carry out charitable purposes both in the UK and in other parts of the world; and as the overseeing charity for Rye Foodbank, to promote the alleviation of poverty and relief of need in the local area.

The Trustees are also responsible for the maintenance of the Rye Baptist Church building; the manse at 86 Udimore Rd, Rye, East Sussex; and the Old Burial Ground at Watchbell Corner in the Rye Citadel, which is being developed as a Community Peace Garden.

Objectives & Activities

The Trustees are committed to enable as many people as possible to be part of the RBC worshipping community, and also to provide service and support to the wider community of Rye and District, through our various groups and activities.

When planning our various activities, the Trustees have considered the Commission's advice on public benefit and in particular, the specific advice for charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we endeavour to enable people to live out their faith through:-

- Worship & Prayer, Bible Study and Teaching
- Baptism and Holy Communion
- Offering and Encouraging Pastoral Care
- Nurture of Christian disciples
- Missionary Outreach and Evangelism, locally, nationally, and internationally
- Welcome, inclusion and Christian nurture of young people
- Supporting and encouraging Christian Social Action in the UK and beyond
- Education & Training for Christian Community Service

To facilitate this work, it is essential that we maintain the fabric of the RBC church building and the manse at 86 Udimore Road.

Achievements & Performance

Worship & Prayer

During 2024, Sunday worship services have taken place each week, with church attendance gradually increasing and with a number of new people becoming regular attenders. Numbers on a Sunday averaged from 35-50. The summer season always brings in a number of visitors to our services. Our seating layout of semi-circles of chairs around coffee tables, giving a relaxed and informal feel to the worship service, has continued to be appreciated by regulars and visitors alike, although on some services, where we have expected much larger attendances e.g. funerals and the CTRD united morning services, we have occasionally reverted to the more traditional rows of chairs.

Preaching series during 2024 included an Old Testament series on the life of Jacob; a series on the shortest letters of the New Testament; a series on notable prayers in the Bible; some studies on

heroes of encouragement in the Bible; a series on Paul's Letter to the Philippians; and an Advent series on OT Messianic prophecies. During the minister's half- sabbatical (September to mid October) we also were blessed by a number of guest preachers bringing sermons on a variety of themes.

A special worship highlight during August was an open-air Songs of Praise evening service held in our Community Peace Garden.

Other worship highlights during 2024 included a Covenant New Year service; a Reflective Service for Good Friday; a Celebration of Easter which included 2 baptisms; a Church Anniversary celebration; an Olympic- themed service; a Harvest celebration; a Remembrance Service; and a Carols by Candlelight service. We also hosted and led the Churches Together United Service for Pentecost.

In addition to our regular Sunday worship, throughout 2024 we also continued holding our "Encountering God" evenings - a monthly midweek informal praise and prayer gathering.

Prayer is recognized as a very important element in the life of the church, and hence prayer takes place at almost all of the church's services, events and activities. The church's four well-populated house-groups all focus on prayer, as well as worship, Bible study and fellowship. Our main church prayer meeting is the monthly "Saturday Prayers" which takes place via Zoom. R4P (Request for Prayer)— our text/email prayer service has been used and appreciated extensively during 2024. Some 20 people are on the prayer team, responding to texts and messages about prayer needs, and have been greatly encouraged by the results. During Advent we held a Day of Prayer, on the themes of Advent, using a number of Prayer Stations and concluding with Holy Communion. In January 2024 members of the Church also participated in the local Churches Together "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity", which was held via Zoom.

- ***BU & SEBA membership***

Rye Baptist Church is part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and is a member church of the South Eastern Baptist Association.

- ***Church Buildings & Land***

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure the church buildings are well maintained.

- Thanks to a church member's legacy, we were delighted to be able to complete the building of a new extended servery in our downstairs hall kitchen, which is much more attractive and makes the serving of refreshments much easier. We also put in new lighting in the downstairs hall which complements the servery.
- The thirty year old flat roofs at the front of the building were leaking and had to be replaced. The repairs to the damage to interior decoration will be carried out during 2025.
- Thanks to a grant, and some of the money raised at the Gift Day, we were also able to re-surface the car park, which has made a big difference especially in the winter.
- Work to redecorate the toilet corridor and replace the flooring there commenced at the end of 2024 and will be completed in 2025.

- The Manse has not needed any major work this year, but plans are in hand to re-paint the building during 2025.
- The Community Peace Garden (formerly the old burial ground of the original Baptist Church building) is still in the process of being developed. During 2024, after much negotiation, Rother District Council finally completed the repairs that should have been undertaken prior to the expiry of their lease of the ground. An arrangement has been made with Rye Town Council for the general maintenance of the garden in return for a contribution from the church towards the costs. Plans are underway for signage giving both information about the history of the space, and to include scriptures and texts which might aid visitors to the site in quiet prayer and reflection. In the meantime, our Butterflies Carer and Toddler group used the Garden for a Teddy Bears' Picnic in July 2024, and an evening 'Songs of Praise' outdoor worship service took place there in August.

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral Care of the church fellowship is overseen by the Minister, assisted by the team of Trustees, and the house-group leaders. In addition to this, the church family are encouraged to look out for, and care for one another, and this has worked very well.
- During 2024 four house-groups met regularly, maintaining a strong level of mutual pastoral care. Due to the size of the groups, three of them met in the church lounge, and one in the leaders' home which has plenty of space.

Church Membership etc. –RBC has a membership roll of people who have been baptised by immersion and who, after an interview process, have covenanted to support and serve the church here. During 2024, we were delighted to have two baptisms and to welcome in three new members. This brought our total number of active members at the end of the year to 47. The congregation also includes a number of 'fringe' folk and committed non-members who are very much part of the church family.

Mission & Evangelism

- **Coffee Plus** – our Coffee Plus outreach activity opened from Easter to December 2024. Selling low priced refreshments and cakes in a comfortable welcoming environment, the friendly volunteers also offer opportunities for prayer and pastoral conversation if this is desired. Many positive contacts in the community have been made through this outreach.
- **Butterflies** -Throughout 2024, Butterflies - our Carer and Toddler group, opened from 9.30 to 11am on Fridays during school term-times and welcomed up to 20 carers and toddlers each week. Our welcoming and caring helpers, and the comfortable and safe environment we provide, has created positive connections and outreach opportunities with a good number of families in the community.
- **Rye Food Bank** operating from our building is also run with a Christian ethos, by a Christian manager, and with a team of volunteers including members of RBC and other local churches. Prayer is offered, and a listening ear, and signposting to agencies that can help with clients' problems with benefits, heating, housing and so on. Our CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Advisor has continued to work in Rye one day a week alongside Foodbank (this appointment being funded by contributions from the churches of Churches Together in Rye & District and from Rye Foodbank). Through her work with a number of

clients who were struggling with debt, several of these have been able to become debt-free during 2024.

- **Messy Church** – begun in July 2024, and held on the first Saturday of each school holiday, this new initiative for RBC has been very successful so far in attracting a number of young families. With songs, stories, and craft activities planned around a biblical theme, and finishing up with snacks and light refreshments, up to 27 children plus their parents and carers have enjoyed the sessions and given really positive feedback.
- **Evangelistic Men's and Women's Breakfasts** – In May 2024, our outreach ideas group put on an evangelistic ladies' breakfast with a guest speaker. A similar event for men was held in November. Both were well attended and positively received, and further similar events are planned for 2025 for both men and ladies.
- **Personal Witness** - It has always been our practice to encourage our congregation to witness personally to their faith to friends and neighbours.
- **Connect and Engage** – Our monthly fellowship gatherings in a local pub (Connect for Ladies and Engage for men) provide an enjoyable evening out for church folk, and also serve as an opportunity for gentle evangelistic outreach to invited guests.
- **Oasis Bereavement Support group** – this group started up again during 2024 and ran once every month or so throughout the year, following a video course on dealing with loss, and offering support and companionship to Christians and non-Christians who have suffered bereavement.
- **R4P (Request for Prayer)** – this text/email prayer service has been greatly utilised by church folk and others outside the church who would like our prayer team to pray for particular needs or concerns. Many have been helped by this, and again it is a means of witness to the power of prayer and the God who cares for all.
- **Council Prayers** – During 2024, our minister Fiona was invited to lead prayers at several of the Rye Town Council Meetings – a great opportunity for witness and building connections with the Town Council.
- **School Assemblies** – During 2024 our minister Fiona led several assemblies both at Rye Primary School and at a school in Bexhill. She also helps lead the local Churches Together "Open the Book" team – a Bible Society initiative whereby a group of people from the various Rye churches go into school to enact and explain Bible stories to the children.
- **Rye Bonfire** – This is a big event in the community life of Rye, and RBC joined in again this year by opening our building, selling hot drinks, and allowing use of our toilet facilities, which was much appreciated by the public.
- **Rye Street Pastors** -a number of our members also serve as Street Pastors in Rye and District, reaching out to the night-time economy to listen, help and care. We are pleased to provide our church hall as the town centre base for their operations and prayer.
- **Website and Online Sermons:** -For some years RBC has maintained a website giving useful information about the church. The website also includes a page with recordings of sermons from our Sunday services. This enables us to present a clear Gospel message in an online presence, and provides an opportunity for people to be able to make a Christian commitment of faith.
- **Publicity in Rye Fixtures Magazine** – The church continues to have a monthly advertisement in the local Rye Fixtures magazine, highlighting both our upcoming and regular events. This has raised our profile in the community, and elicited positive comment and interest by various readers of the magazine.

- **Overseas Mission Support** - Through our tithes and various special collections during the year, we have sent financial help to those in need following natural disasters, conflicts etc. and supported a number of overseas mission agencies and ministries, e.g. Hope Home in Thailand; the BMS Harvest Appeal; Tearfund; and Bible Society.

Ecumenical relationships

Rye Baptist Church plays an active role in Churches Together in Rye & District. Our minister and two of our trustees represent RBC on the Executive Committee. During 2024, the churches in Rye have engaged in various worship and outreach activities together. Representatives from all the congregations participated in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Three congregations joined together for a United Morning Service in January and September at the Anglican church and in May at RBC. In July we celebrated Sea Sunday with an open-air service at Rye Harbour. We also joined together in a series of Zoom Prayer and Discussion Meetings during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. The committee and church leaders met several times during the year to plan our ecumenical worship and outreach activities.

Rye Food Bank

During 2024 Rye Food Bank has continued to operate as an independent Food Bank under the charitable oversight of Rye Baptist Church CIO, on behalf of Churches Together in Rye & District. Rye Baptist Church therefore owns all Food Bank assets, and the Church Trustees are responsible for the governance and oversight of the financial affairs and operations of the Rye Food Bank. Rye Food Bank operations are carried out from the Rye Baptist Church building by a team of volunteers, headed up by the Food Bank manager, Robert Harper, who supplied the following report:-

Summary Report on Rye Food Bank Operations 2024 to end November

- The operation of the Food Bank has not essentially changed during the year.
- It remains under the charitable oversight of Rye Baptist Church CIO, who also provide the premises and undertake the accounts (as opposed to treasury functions), all at zero cost to the Food Bank. We are indebted to the CIO for their willing support and generosity.
- The Food Bank remains open to clients on Wednesdays as before, though the open hours changed from 12 noon to 3pm to 12 noon to 2pm. This was because there were hardly any clients coming in during the 2pm to 3pm period.
- Expenditure was twice as much as income for the first three months of 2024. Even though it is usual for us to fall back onto reserves in the first quarter because of increased demand because of extra costs at Christmas and limited grant funding input, the scale of shortfall this year was unusual. Accordingly, we stopped making up food parcels in advance and started making them up on client arrival, including only those items that clients ask for. Costs dropped, and by April revenue was increasing and we ended the year in a sound financial state.
- We also increased the frequency and scope of periodic triage so that we are more aware of situations where clients are not really in need of food assistance, or would benefit from referral to our partner benefits and debt advisors (That's HARC, who attend the Food Bank every session, or CAP, who work to relieve debt and help people to avoid falling into debt again). This has kept client numbers in control and has released several into independence from Food Bank assistance.
- We continue to deliver food parcels to homes where that is strictly necessary, though it is

typically running at only between 3 and 9 deliveries per week. The van continues to perform well.

- The Food Bank remains 100% volunteer run, with two teams operating alternate weeks, which works extremely well. The willingness of volunteers to devote time and effort, working extremely hard and physically moving dozens of tons of food in a year is wonderful.
- Financial donations from Jan 1st to Oct 31st are split between private donors (31.3%), donation from local businesses and foundations (36.2%) and grant funding and gift aid (32.5%). We continue to be amazed and so encouraged by the generosity of the local community. Grant funding has held up quite well but there is increasing demand from more charities and the amount of money available looks set to drop.
- Food donations continue and constitute almost 20% of all food allocated to clients. There are four especially significant donors, these being Jempsons of Rye, Jempsons of Peasmarch, Pett WI and Rye & Winchelsea Rotary. However there are a large number of other donors who give faithfully and regularly and all these donations are hugely appreciated and important.
- Jempsons has continued to support our operations with great generosity. They supply and deliver weekly in accordance with our orders and at their cost price. They collect donations of several thousand pounds a year through the Jempsons' Foundation. We are very grateful.

Metrics

Rye Food Bank maintains rigorous accounting and collects data on a range of performance measures, summarised below:

Operational Metrics

Total number of households that have received help since 2018: 405

Average number of households receiving support in 2024: 43/week

Number of individuals provided for between Jan 1st and Dec 31st 2024:

Total: 5157, of which

Adults: 3404 (66%)

Children: 1753 (34%)

Children 0-4 yrs: 536 (10.4%)

Children 5-9 yrs 701 (13.6%)

Children 10-15 yrs 516 (10%)

Note - the breakdown of children's ages is an estimate.

Weight of Food supplied between Jan and Dec 2024: 42,227kg

Summary Financial Metrics - note these are for January to December 2024:

Total Income: £65,268

Total Expenditure: £63,593

Income split:

Private donors 31.3%

Local Organisations/Businesses 36.2%

Grants and Gift Aid 32.5%

RBC Financial Review

During 2024, total receipts on RBC unrestricted funds were £75,562 (including £1164 interest). We further received restricted funds of £65,268 (including £1077 interest) for the Food Bank activities. Planned giving by way of bank transfers, standing orders and

cheques to the unrestricted funds were up by 2% during this period, and the total income of this fund increased by 18% year over year.

From the unrestricted funds Rye Baptist Church spent £79,483 in providing Christian ministry, and the upkeep of the church building and the manse. This figure is including contributions to the Baptist Union and the Baptist Missionary Society. We currently have a savings account holding £36,340. The final result at year end was that our unrestricted fund had a net of receipts over payments of -£3861. Adding this minus figure to the balance brought forward at the beginning of the year of £103,265 gives us a balance of £99,404 carried forward on the 31st December 2024 across both current and savings accounts.

The restricted fund for the Food Bank is split between a current account and a savings account. This allows the savings account to be used as a buffer for any monthly shortfalls. The receipts including interest were £65,268, the payments were £63,593. The net of receipts over payments was £1,675. Adding these to the balance brought forward at the beginning of the year of £80,151 gives us a balance of £81,826 carried forward on the 31st December 2024 across both current and savings accounts.

The total balance of unrestricted and restricted funds carried forward at year end was £181,230

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of Rye Baptist Church is to hold three months of all necessary expenditure plus a further three months staff costs to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the church. The trustees currently believe this amount to be £23,087. There is currently sufficient funding in our general account to meet the policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all of the volunteers from our congregation who work so hard to make RBC the loving, lively and vibrant congregation it is. Fiona, our Minister, would like to also thank our Trustees and house-group leaders for all their hard work. Particular mention should go to Geoff Austin, our Church Secretary; Penny Kingham our Treasurer; Paul Kingham, our Financial Lead; Gillian Jarrett and Sally Moore of the Finance team; Geoff Haynes for oversight of the website and recordings; and Marguerite Kenward, Ellis Harper and Keith Haward for their help in so many areas of church life.

Structure, Governance & Management

The Board of Trustees is currently made up of the Minister, the Church Secretary and the Treasurer, plus three other Trustees, all elected by the membership in accordance with the procedures detailed in our Constitution. The Trustees are authorised by the church meeting to make decisions on smaller matters relating to the running of RBC, whilst larger matters, and larger items of expenditure are brought to the Church Meeting for approval.

During 2024, Church Members' Meetings were held in January, April, July and October, to update members on general church business, and to discuss and agree plans for the immediate future. At the AGM in April, Marguerite Kenward and Penny Kingham were re-elected to serve a further

term as Trustees, and Ellis Harper was elected as a new Trustee. Throughout 2024, The Trustees met monthly for church business and pastoral prayer.

Administrative Information

Rye Baptist Church is situated in Cinque Ports Street, Rye, East Sussex. It is part of the South Eastern Baptist Association within the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charities' Commission of England and Wales with the Charity Number 1188057.

The Trustees, serving at least until the date this report is approved, are as follows:-

Chair - Revd. Fiona Gill, Minister

Secretary – Geoffrey Austin

Treasurer – Penny Kingham

Trustee – Geoffrey Haynes

Trustee - Marguerite Kenward

Trustee – Keith Haward

Trustee – Ellis Harper

Approved by the RBC Annual Church Meeting on 28th April 2025

Signed by:-