

# ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1191292

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-09-15

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Abbotsham Baptist Church  
Greencliff Road  
Abbotsham  
Bideford  
Devon  
EX39 5AP

**Phone** 07456806890

**Email** [abbotshambaptist@gmail.com](mailto:abbotshambaptist@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.abbotshambaptist.org](http://www.abbotshambaptist.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH ARE:- 3.1.1 THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION. 3.1.2 THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

**Activities:** Abbotsham Baptist Chapel is a Christian community who meet regularly in the Chapel in Abbotsham on a weekly basis preaching the Christian Gospel.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Devon

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£22,901	£23,005	-	-
2023-12-31	£23,075	£18,747	-	-
2022-12-31	£17,288	£17,819	-	-
2021-12-31	£14,578	£19,200	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Geoffrey Peter Williams		2021-01-28
JENNIFER ROSEMARY JONES		2023-01-26
Margaret Rose Turner		2023-11-26

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**ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191292

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# Accounts

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**Abbotsham Baptist Church**  
**Annual Report for the year 2024**  
**Charity Number 1191292**

**Registered Address** – Greencliff Lane, Abbotsham, Bideford, Devon EX39 5AP

**Trustees –**

Mr G Williams, secretary

Mrs J Jones, treasurer

Mrs M Turner

**Membership** – There are currently 18 members. Regular Sunday Service attendance is between 25 and 32.

**Principal purposes of the Church**

- The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.
- The advancement of Christian education and other Christian charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are satisfied that the activities outlined below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public. It is the view of the Trustees that the Church continues to be a going concern, financially, spiritually and in terms of numbers attending regular services.

**Church governance**

The church has a formal constitution which conforms to the recommended constitution for Baptist churches who are in association with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. It is available from the church on request. Trustees, commonly called deacons, are elected by the church meeting which is the meeting of church members. The term of office for a trustee is three years. A trustee must be a church member. Anyone who is a regular attender of the church and confesses Jesus as their personal Saviour, according to traditional Baptist beliefs, is eligible to apply for membership. It is the church meeting which is the final authority in the church under Christ. The trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the church and are accountable to the church meeting. The Trustees are responsible in law for the decisions made by the church.

**Services**

Services take place every Sunday at 10:30 am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Services are led by members of our own fellowship and by a known and trusted small group of visiting speakers including some registered Baptist ministers.

**Worship and teaching**

Sunday morning services are warm, relaxed times where everybody is valued. The services embrace people's personal circumstances, often including humour, are focused on Jesus and our relationship with him as well as thanksgiving and prayer for the needs of the world. There is plenty of time after services to develop relationships and when wanted to receive personal prayer or support. The main themes for the preaching/teaching during 2024 have been:

The major annual Christian festivals;

The covenant relationship between God and his church;

The story of Gideon from the book of Judges;

The story of Jesus' life and ministry from John's gospel;  
God's salvation plan from a selection of extracts from the epistles;  
The early life of the prophet Samuel;  
The first letter of Peter.

Regular Sunday attendance is usually between 25 and 32 people. As a fellowship we also place an emphasis on invitation and hospitality as a first way to include additional people into church life.

### **Midweek events**

The midweek home group that meets on the first and third weeks of the month is a lovely opportunity for relaxed fellowship. It normally includes a time of singing, some video tuition based upon a portion of the bible and prayer. There are also times when the group meet for a shared meal. The home group has steadily grown in size over the year.

### **Partnership with Christian organisations and charities**

The church has through prayer, news updates and financial means continued to support both overseas and local Christian ministry partners. We rejoice to share in these forms of gospel outreach. Mission partners are: Baptist Home Mission, Baptist Missionary Society, Arab World Mission, Barnabas Aid, Christians Against Poverty, Counties and David Symons, the Fawzi family, Laura-Lee Lovering, MAF, Tim Derbyshire, Rehoboth and Wings South West. We financially support many of these partners.

### **Pastoral Care**

We have a small Pastoral Care team as last year. As a small Fellowship we all aim to look out for each other, but the Pastoral Care team are available to take the lead when needed. We continue to support our most elderly member, now 99 and living independently, with home visits and telephone/video call contact, which is greatly appreciated.

To enable attendance at church services and events lifts are given to those who are unable to drive, and we support the use of a taxi when this is more appropriate. Birthday cards continue to be sent to all regular attendees, from the whole Fellowship, which are also appreciated. It has been another good year for the Church.

### **Safeguarding**

The safeguarding statement is in the church entrance. During the year key people have attended updated safeguarding training. The church also has two qualified first aiders.

### **Children and Youth**

The church does not have a regular children's or youth group. However, we are able to provide for children of all ages and will book the village hall in advance if we know of any young people attending our services.

### **Communication**

The principal form of communication with the fellowship outside of meetings has been through electronic methods. A weekly email newsletter is distributed which includes news about our own activities including services, news related to both local and international mission partners and a daily prayer diary the core of which is the Baptist Missionary Society prayer guide. The website is updated weekly with an audio of the last sermon and a copy of the weekly newsletter. Other information is added as appropriate. Special events are posted on the Abbotsham Village and Church Facebook pages.

**Trustees and Church Member meetings**

The Trustees normally meet on a monthly basis to ensure the smooth administration of the church. Church Members’ meetings are held quarterly, one of which is the Annual General Meeting. Church Member Meetings are held in person in the chapel.

**Premises**

The chapel building is in good condition. Through the year minor but important maintenance has been undertaken including pointing to the stone walls, repair of the front door, repositioning spot lights, some painting and a new external storage unit to remove some bulky items from inside the chapel.

**Connections with local churches**

In 2024 we hosted the village carol service. We are intending to develop ways in which we are able to work in partnership with St Helen’s CofE parish church. We are involved with local church groupings to share area services, information, prayer and ministerial support. These are principally: Torridge Christian Network, Torridge Baptist Churches, North Devon Baptist Cluster Meetings, Mid and North Devon Rural Church Partnership.

**Geoffrey Williams**

(Signed)

**Church Secretary on behalf of the Trustees**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

Abbotsham Baptist Church Payments year ending 31.12.24															
Date		Type	Amount	Speakers	Gifts	Teaching	Services	Utilities	Cleaning	taxi	Admin	Training	Building	Equipment	total
	23005.11		£23,005.11	£2,912.00	£11,130.00	£80.98	£152.58	£2,217.77	£1,390.11	£642.50	£2,000.32	£125.20	£1,669.81	£683.84	£23,005.11
02.01.24	Our Daily Bread Ministries	bacs	£10.00		£10.00										
08.01.24	Pennon Water Services	dd	£6.50					£6.50							
10.01.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£15.00						£15.00						
15.01.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£118.09						£118.09						
15.01.24	edf Energy	dd	£82.00					£82.00							
24.01.24	Mrs J R Jones	bacs	£50.00		£50.00										
30.01.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
30.01.24	Garth Reynolds	bacs	£84.50										£84.50		
08.02.24	Pennon Water Services	dd	£6.50					£6.50							
12.02.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£41.27						£41.27						
12.02.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£15.00						£15.00						
14.02.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							
19.02.24	Graham Poland	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
26.02.24	Barnabas Aid	bacs	£500.00		£500.00										
26.02.24	Counties	bacs	£750.00		£750.00										
26.02.24	Mission Aviation Fellowship	bacs	£300.00		£300.00										
26.02.24	BMS World Mission & Laura-Lee	bacs	£1,550.00		£1,550.00										
26.02.24	Rehoboth	bacs	£1,000.00		£1,000.00										
26.02.24	Wings South West	bacs	£1,000.00		£1,000.00										
26.02.24	Al Massira 2	bacs	£1,000.00		£1,000.00										
27.02.24	BU Home Missions	bacs	£1,200.00		£1,200.00										
27.02.24	Holy Trinity Barnstaple for CAP	bacs	£1,000.00		£1,000.00										
04.03.24	Hope from Above	bacs	£1,000.00		£1,000.00										
05.03.24	Tearfund	bacs	£1,000.00		£1,000.00										
06.03.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£15.00						£15.00						
08.03.24	Pennon Water Services	dd	£6.50					£6.50							
11.03.24	Tearfund	bacs	£60.00		£60.00										
11.03.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£77.06						£77.06						
11.03.24	Nick Booth (Fasthosts)	bacs	£105.60								£105.60				
14.03.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							
15.03.24	Chris Jewell Ltd Piano Tuner	bacs	£50.00								£50.00				
18.03.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
18.03.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£40.00							£40.00					
19.03.24	J R Jones (Instantprints)	bacs	£80.88								£80.88				
19.03.24	Action Fundraisers Ltd (Piers Langdon)	bacs	£420.00								£420.00				



Date		Type	Amount	Speakers	Gifts	Teaching	Services	Utilities	Cleaning	taxi	Admin	Training	Building	Equipment	total
	23005.11		£23,005.11	£2,912.00	£11,130.00	£80.98	£152.58	£2,217.77	£1,390.11	£642.50	£2,000.32	£125.20	£1,669.81	£683.84	£23,005.11
24.06.24	Howden UK Brokers Limited	bacs	£627.32								£627.32				
24.06.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
25.06.24	Mrs J R Jones for check on rebuild value	bacs	£126.00								£126.00				
26.06.24	Argos Fire Protection Limited	bacs	£83.40				£83.40								
05.07.24	Mrs J R Jones for Screwfix	bacs	£14.99						£14.99						
05.07.24	Howden UK Brokers Limited	bacs	£44.32								£44.32				
08.07.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£45.00							£45.00					
08.07.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£15.00						£15.00						
09.07.24	C B Jones	bacs	£29.98			£29.98									
15.07.24	Garth Reynolds	bacs	£316.58										£316.58		
15.07.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£113.28						£113.28						
15.07.24	edf Energy	bacs	£178.00					£178.00							
17.07.24	S W Baptist Association	bacs	£80.00									£80.00			
18.07.24	David Milburn	bacs	£45.20									£45.20			
22.07.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£40.00							£40.00					
24.07.24	Tim & Carol Derbyshire	bacs	£50.00	£50.00											
24.07.24	Terry & Renée Dover (Nepal)	bacs	£200.00	£200.00											
30.07.24	Garth Reynolds for CEF	bacs	£97.91										£97.91		
30.07.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
05.08.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
05.08.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£40.00							£40.00					
05.08.24	David Milburn	bacs	£18.00											£18.00	
12.08.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£15.00						£15.00						
12.08.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£103.06						£103.06						
12.08.24	Mrs J R Jones	bacs	£14.99								£14.99				
14.08.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							
19.08.24	Nick Booth	bacs	£313.98										£313.98		
19.08.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£40.00							£40.00					
27.08.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
02.09.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£50.00							£50.00					
02.09.24	Source for Business - water	bacs	£21.49					£21.49							
09.09.24	Dave Hopwood	bacs	£75.00	£75.00											
09.09.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£109.71						£109.71						
09.09.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£18.00						£18.00						
13.09.24	Len Tuttle	bacs	£216.00										£216.00		
16.09.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							

Date		Type	Amount	Speakers	Gifts	Teaching	Services	Utilities	Cleaning	taxi	Admin	Training	Building	Equipment	total
	23005.11		£23,005.11	£2,912.00	£11,130.00	£80.98	£152.58	£2,217.77	£1,390.11	£642.50	£2,000.32	£125.20	£1,669.81	£683.84	£23,005.11
16.09.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£50.00							£50.00					
16.09.24	N B Property Maintenance	bacs	£300.00										£300.00		
30.09.24	Mrs J R Jones - shoe boxes	bacs	£37.00								£37.00				
30.09.24	Dave Hopwood	bacs	£75.00	£75.00											
30.09.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
30.09.24	BMS World Mission Harvest Offering	bacs	£410.00		£410.00										
07.10.24	Dave Hopwood	bacs	£75.00	£75.00											
07.10.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£89.79						£89.79						
07.10.24	BMB World Mission Harvest Offering	bacs	£10.00		£10.00										
07.10.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£62.50							£62.50					
10.10.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£18.00						£18.00						
14.10.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							
23.10.24	Matthew Parsons	bacs	£52.00	£52.00											
23.10.24	Garth Reynolds	bacs	£15.00											£15.00	
28.10.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
06.11.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£90.48						£90.48						
06.11.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£50.00	£50.00											
11.11.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£18.00						£18.00						
11.11.24	Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal	bacs	£80.00		£80.00										
14.11.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							
19.11.24	Pat Fishleigh	bacs	£23.98										£23.98		
19.11.24	Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal	bacs	£10.00		£10.00										
20.11.24	Linda Batten	bacs	£7.50											£7.50	
25.11.24	Terry Peterson	bacs	£50.00							£50.00					
25.11.24	Source for Business - water	bacs	£52.84					£52.84							
25.11.24	ICO	dd	£35.00								£35.00				
02.12.24	Alan Thorpe	bacs	£150.00	£150.00											
02.12.24	Garth Reynolds	bacs	£135.00										£135.00		
09.12.24	Clark Fox	bacs	£18.00						£18.00						
16.12.24	edf Energy	dd	£178.00					£178.00							
23.12.24	Linda Hellyer	bacs	£126.20						£126.20						
23.12.24	N B Property Maintenance	bacs	£181.86										£181.86		
			£23,005.11	£2,912.00	£11,130.00	£80.98	£152.58	£2,217.77	£1,390.11	£642.50	£2,000.32	£125.20	£1,669.81	£683.84	£23,005.11

ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH: 2024 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1/01/24-31/12/24

Receipts

Offerings	4817.85
Gifts	3290.00
Giving through Gift Aid	10740.00
Tax Refund	4053.45
Sub Total	<b>22901.30</b>
Trans in from Dep a/c	0.00
TOTAL	<u>22901.30</u>

Expenses

Speakers	2912.00
Gifts	11130.00
Teaching	80.98
Services	152.58
Utilities	2217.77
Cleaning	1390.11
Taxi	642.50
Admin	2000.32
Training	125.20
Equipment	683.84
Building	1669.81
Total	<u><b>23005.11</b></u>

Receipts Less Expenses **-103.81**

interest from deposit accounts 76.26

Current account

Balance b/fwd	23839.30
add receipts	22901.30
less payments	23005.11
transfer to deposit account	10000.00
Closing Balance	<u><b>13735.49</b></u>

Deposit Account Barclays

Balance b/fwd	20164.64
add interest	303.34
Closing Balance	<u><b>20467.98</b></u>

Deposit Account Kingdom Bank **10000.00**

The Deacons approve the Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities set out above for the year ended 31 December 2024  
Signed (Treasurer)

Dated

Report of the Independent Examiner for the deacons and members of Abbotsham Baptist Church

In accordance with the provisions of Section 42 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the Receipts and Payments Accounts of the Church set out above relating to the year ending December 2024. The examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such Accounts or Statement. I confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the accounting records of the Church. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed (Independent Examiner)

Dated

Missionary Partners

	2023	2024
Barnabas	£500.00	£500.00
Holy Trinity PCC for C.A.P.	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Counties	£500.00	£500.00
M.A.F.	£300.00	£300.00
S.W.B.A.	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
BMS World Mission £1000 + Laura-Lee Lovering £550)	£1,550.00	£1,550.00
Rehoboth	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Debbie Faith Fawzi	£450.00	£0.00
Wings South West	£800.00	£800.00
Hope from Above	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Al Massira Trust for Al Massira 2	£500.00	£500.00
	£8,800.00	£8,350.00

consider adding Terry and Renée Dover - Nepal

Miscellaneous		
Small amounts added to special appeals	£200.00	£200.00
Summer Camp	£155.00	£400.00
Northern Devon Foodbank	£150.00	£150.00
Christmas vouchers	£175.00	£200.00
	£680.00	£950.00



Abbotsham Baptist Church Receipts year ended 31 December 2024

Date	Details	cash/ch/so	Amount	Offerings	Gifts	Gift Aid	Tax Refund	Interest	Trans in Dep	
			<b>£22,901.30</b>	<b>£4,817.85</b>	<b>£3,290.00</b>	<b>£10,740.00</b>	<b>£4,053.45</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£22,901.30</b>
02.01.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00					
02.01.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00				
02.01.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00				
02.01.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00				
02.01.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00					
02.01.24	M Turner	so	£30.00			£30.00				
02.01.24	offering	cash	£40.00	£40.00						
02.01.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
04.01.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00				
08.01.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
08.01.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00				
09.01.24	offering	cash	£75.00	£75.00						
15.01.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
15.01.24	offering	cash	£60.00	£60.00						
18.01.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00				
22.01.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
22.01.24	offering	cash	£85.00	£85.00						
29.01.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00					
29.01.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
29.01.24	offering	cash	£135.00	£135.00						
01.02.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00				
01.02.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00				
01.02.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00				
01.02.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00					
01.02.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00				
01.02.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00					
05.02.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
05.02.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00				
05.02.24	offering	cash	£60.00	£60.00						
06.02.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00				
12.02.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
12.02.24	offering	cash	£40.00	£40.00						
19.02.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00				
19.02.24	offering	cash	£160.00	£160.00						
19.02.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
26.02.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00					
26.02.24	offering	cash	£160.00	£160.00						
27.02.24	GE Mountjoy	ch	£250.00		£250.00					
28.02.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00					
01.03.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00				
01.03.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00				
01.03.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00				

Date	Details	cash/ch/so	Amount	Offerings	Gifts	Gift Aid	Tax Refund	Interest	Trans in Dep
01.03.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.03.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
01.03.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
04.03.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
04.03.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
04.03.24	offering	cash	£342.00	£342.00					
04.03.24	PA+AC Bowser	dir cr	£100.00		£100.00				
06.03.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
11.03.24	Jim Allan	dir cr	£40.00		£40.00				
11.03.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
11.03.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
18.03.24	offering	cash	£25.00	£25.00					
18.03.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
18.03.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
25.03.24	offering	cash	£80.00	£80.00					
25.03.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
28.03.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00				
02.04.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
02.04.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
02.04.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
02.04.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
02.04.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
02.04.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
02.04.24	offering	cash	£60.00	£60.00					
02.04.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
04.04.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
08.04.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
08.04.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
15.04.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
15.04.24	offering	cash	£110.00	£110.00					
18.04.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
22.04.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
22.04.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
29.04.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
29.04.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00				
30.04.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
01.05.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.05.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
01.05.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
01.05.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
01.05.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
01.05.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
07.05.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
07.05.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
07.05.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			

Date	Details	cash/ch/so	Amount	Offerings	Gifts	Gift Aid	Tax Refund	Interest	Trans in Dep
07.05.24	offering	cash	£55.00	£55.00					
13.05.24	offering	cash	£59.85	£59.85					
13.05.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
20.05.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
20.05.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
28.05.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00				
28.05.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
03.06.24	offering	cash	£150.00	£150.00					
03.06.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
03.06.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
03.06.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
03.06.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
03.06.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
03.06.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
03.06.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
04.06.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
06.06.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
10.06.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
10.06.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
17.06.24	offering	cash	£130.00	£130.00					
17.06.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
18.06..24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
21.06.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
24.06.24	offering	cash	£35.00	£35.00					
28.06.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.07.24	offering	cash	£77.00	£77.00					
01.07.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.07.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
01.07.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
01.07.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
01.07.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
01.07.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
01.07.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
03.07.24	HMRC Gift Aid	bacs	£2,818.49				£2,818.49		
04.07.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
05.07.24	HMRC Gift Aid SDS	bacs	£1,234.96				£1,234.96		
08.07.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
09.07.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
09.07.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
15.07.24	offering	cash	£65.00	£65.00					
18.07.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
22.07.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
22.07.24	offering	cash	£65.00	£65.00					
26.07.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
29.07.24	offering	cash	£55.00	£55.00					

Date	Details	cash/ch/so	Amount	Offerings	Gifts	Gift Aid	Tax Refund	Interest	Trans in Dep
29.07.24	D Millburn	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.08.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.08.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
01.08.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
01.08.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
01.08.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
01.08.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
05.08.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
05.08.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
05.08.24	offering	cash	£65.00	£65.00					
06.08.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
12.08.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
12.08.24	offering	cash	£40.00	£40.00					
19.08.24	offering	cash	£77.00	£77.00					
19.08.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
19.08.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
27.08.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
28.08.24	D Milburn	so	£50.00		£50.00				
02.09.24	offering	cash	£35.00	£35.00					
02.09.24	offering	cash	£10.00	£10.00					
02.09.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
02.09.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
02.09.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
02.09.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
02.09.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
02.09.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
02.09.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00		£20.00				
04.09.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
06.09.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
09.09.24	J Hudson	dir cr	£100.00			£100.00			
09.09.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
09.09.24	offering	cash	£50.00	£50.00					
16.09.24	offering	cash	£88.00	£88.00					
16.09.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
18.09.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
23.09.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
23.09.24	offering	cash	£50.00	£50.00					
30.09.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
30.09.24	D Milburn	so	£50.00	£50.00					
30.09.24	offering	cash	£97.00	£97.00					
01.10.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.10.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
01.10.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
01.10.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
01.10.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
01.10.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
04.10.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
04.10.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					

Date	Details	cash/ch/so	Amount	Offerings	Gifts	Gift Aid	Tax Refund	Interest	Trans in Dep
07.10.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
07.10.24	offering	cash	£45.00	£45.00					
10.10.24	L Booth	dir cr	£540.00	£540.00					
14.10.24	J Hudson	so	£100.00			£100.00			
14.10.20	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
14.10.24	offering	cash	£60.00	£60.00					
18.10.24	CBJones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
21.10.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
21.10.24	offering	cash	£75.00	£75.00					
28.10.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
28.10.24	D Milburn	so	£50.00			£50.00			
28.10.24	offering	cash	£50.00	£50.00					
01.11.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
01.11.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
01.11.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
01.11.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
01.11.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
01.11.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
04.11.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
04.11.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
04.11.24	offering	cash	£195.00	£195.00					
04.11.24	for Samaritan's Purse	cash	£60.00	£60.00					
06.11.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
11.11.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
11.11.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
11.11.24	for Samaritan's Purse	cash	£20.00	£20.00					
14.11.24	J Hudson	so	£100.00			£100.00			
18.11.24	CBJones	so	£150.00			£150.00			
18.11.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
18.11.24	offering	cash	£40.00	£40.00					
18.11.24	for Samaritan's Purse	cash	£10.00	£10.00					
25.11.24	offering	cash	£60.00	£60.00					
25.11.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
28.11.24	D Milburn	so	£50.00			£50.00			
02.12.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					
02.12.24	GE Mountjoy	so	£50.00		£50.00				
02.12.24	M Turner	so	£40.00			£40.00			
02.12.24	J Hetherington	so	£100.00		£100.00				
02.12.24	E & A Lovering	so	£200.00			£200.00			
02.12.24	G Williams	so	£150.00			£150.00			
02.12.24	J Jones	so	£200.00			£200.00			
02.12.24	offering	cash	£70.00	£70.00					
04.12.24	P Fishleigh	so	£50.00			£50.00			
06.12.24	H Reynolds	so	£60.00			£60.00			
09.12.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00					

Date	Details	cash/ch/so	Amount	Offerings	Gifts	Gift Aid	Tax Refund	Interest	Trans in Dep	
16.12.24	J Hudson	so	£100.00			£100.00				
16.12.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00						
16.12.24	offering	cash	£60.00	£60.00						
18.12.24	CB Jones	so	£150.00			£150.00				
23.12.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00						
23.12.24	offering	cash	£32.00	£32.00						
30.12.24	D Milburn	so	£50.00			£50.00				
30.12.24	offering	cash	£55.00	£55.00						
30.12.24	F Croxford	dir cr	£20.00	£20.00						
			<b>£22,901.30</b>	<b>£4,817.85</b>	<b>£3,290.00</b>	<b>£10,740.00</b>	<b>£4,053.45</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	£22,901.30

Bank reconciliation  
ABC Church accounts year ended 31.12.23

Bank balance as at 31.12.23	23839.30
add o/s bankings	<u>0.00</u>
	23839.30
less o/s payments	<u>0.00</u>
closing balance as at 31.12.22	<u><u>23839.30</u></u>

ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1/01/23 - 31/12/23

Receipts

Offerings	4817.85
Gifts	3290.00
Giving through Gift Aid	10740.00
Tax Refund	4053.45
BU Support	0.00
HSBC compensation	0.00
Sub Total	<b>22901.30</b>
Trans in from Dep a/c	
TOTAL	<u>22901.30</u>

Expenses

Speakers	2912.00
Gifts	11130.00
Teaching	80.98
Services	152.58
Utilities	2217.77
Cleaning	1390.11
taxi	642.50
Admin	2000.32
Training	430.00
Equipment	683.84
Building	1669.81
Total	<b>23309.91</b>

Receipts Less Expenses **-408.61**

interest from deposit accounts 155.02

Current account

Balance b/fwd	29511.95
add receipts	22901.30
less payments	23005.11
transfer to deposit accou	10000.00
Closing Balance	<b><u>19408.14</u></b>

Deposit Account

Balance b/fwd	10009.62
add interest	155.02
transferred from current	10000.00
Closing Balance	<b><u>20164.64</u></b>

The Deacons approve the Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities set out above for the year ended 31 December 2023

Signed (Treasurer)

Dated

Report of the Independent Examiner for the deacons and members of Abbotsham Baptist Church

In accordance with the provisions of Section 42 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the Receipts and Payments Accounts of the Church set out above relating to the year ending December 2023. The examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such Accounts or Statement. I confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the accounting records of the Church. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed (Independent Examiner)

**ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191292

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# Accounts

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**Abbotsham Baptist Church**  
**Annual Report for the year 2023**  
**Charity Number 1191292**

**Registered Address** – Greencliff Lane, Abbotsham, Bideford, Devon EX39 5AP

**Trustees –**

Mr G Williams, secretary

Mrs J Jones, treasurer

Mrs M Turner

**Membership** – There are currently 16 members. Regular Sunday Service attendance is between 25 and 32.

**Principal purposes of the Church**

- The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.
- The advancement of Christian education and other Christian charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are satisfied that the activities outlined below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public. It is the view of the Trustees that the Church continues to be a going concern, financially, spiritually and in terms of numbers attending regular services. There are some administrative vulnerabilities concerning back up for key functions especially in the areas of governance, administration, information technology and communication.

**Church governance**

The church has a formal constitution which conforms to the recommended constitution for Baptist churches who are in association with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. It is available from the church on request. Trustees, commonly called deacons, are elected by the church meeting which is the meeting of church members. The term of office for a trustee is three years. A trustee must be a church member. Anyone who is a regular attender of the church and confesses Jesus as their personal Saviour, according to traditional Baptist beliefs, is eligible to apply for membership. It is the church meeting which is the final authority in the church under Christ. The trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the church and are accountable to the church meeting. The Trustees are responsible in law for the decisions made by the church.

**Services**

Services take place every Sunday at 10:30 am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Services are led by members of our own fellowship and by a known and trusted small group of visiting speakers including some registered Baptist ministers.

**The purpose of the annual report**

The purpose of the annual report is to demonstrate how the church has been able to fulfil its aims and objectives as defined in the constitution over the course of the year.

The principal purpose of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith. This is achieved through regular worship, Bible teaching and learning, prayer, pastoral care of the congregation and providing opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith.

### **Worship and teaching**

Sunday morning services are warm, relaxed times where everybody is valued. The services embrace people's personal circumstances, often include humour, are focused on Jesus and our relationship with him as well as thanksgiving and prayer for the needs of the world. There is plenty of time after services to develop relationships and when wanted to receive personal prayer or support. The main themes for the preaching/teaching during 2023 have been:

- o How scripture informs, enables and supports our relationship with God through prayer;
- o The kingdom of God as expressed in the Sermon on the Mount in Mathew's gospel;
- o The character and work of the Holy Spirit;
- o The teaching of Paul's letter to the Colossians;
- o The opening five chapters of John's gospel and the signs of the Messiah.

Regular Sunday attendance is usually between 25 and 32 people. As a fellowship we also place an emphasis on invitation and hospitality as a first way to include additional people into church life.

### **Midweek events**

There is a monthly prayer meeting for the ministry of the church, the local community and wider needs in the world.

At the end of May 2023 a Home Group was started in Abbotsham village. The aim of the group is to provide a relaxed environment where those attending enjoy fellowship whilst learning more about the Christian faith, reflecting Acts 2 v 46 and 47. Meetings are held twice a month. The formal part is limited to 90 minutes and features singing hymns, sharing stories, delving into the scriptures and prayer. We have had 2 fellowship meals including sharing bread and wine. The number of people potentially attending has reached 12 and includes 4 who have never experienced a Christian Home Group before.

### **Partnership with Christian organisations and charities**

Meanwhile, the church has through prayer, news updates and financial means continued to support both overseas and local Christian ministry partners. We rejoice to share in these forms of gospel outreach. Mission partners are: Baptist Home Mission, Baptist Missionary Society, Arab World Mission, Barnabas Aid, Christians Against Poverty, Counties and David Symons, the Fawzi family, Laura-Lee Lovering, MAF, Tim Derbyshire, Rehoboth and Wings South West. We financially support many of these partners. During the year we have had presentations from Rehoboth, a children's home in the Philippines; Laura-Lee Lovering a Baptist Missionary Society missionary based in Peru; Tim Derbyshire from Hope from Above who work with remote tribes; David Symons, an evangelist with Counties and Wings a local charity which principally educationally supports youth and adults in challenging circumstances.

### **Pastoral Care**

We have the same Pastoral Care team as last year, consisting of 3 members. As a small Fellowship we all aim to look out for each other, but the Pastoral Care team are available to take the lead when needed. We continue to support our most elderly member, now 98 and living alone, with home visits and telephone/videocall contact, which is greatly appreciated.

Lifts are given to those who are unable to drive, and we support the use of a taxi when this is more appropriate. Birthday cards continue to be sent to all regular attendees, from the whole Fellowship, which are also appreciated. It has been another good year for the Church.

### **Safeguarding**

This year we updated our Safeguarding policy to conform to the Baptist Union of Great Britain policy. The policy has been endorsed by the church meeting, each relevant person has received a copy of the policy along with the guidance document, Gateway to Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding. Up-dated training for Safeguarding has been booked for early 2024.

First Aid has been reviewed. Two first aiders have undergone training. Two other members have attended resuscitation training.

### **Children and Youth**

In 2022 the church did not have any young children in regular attendance. Currently two young people regularly attend church. One of these attended a Scripture Union Summer Camp with church support. We keep some contingency materials available for children. However, if we are told in advance about the attendance of any children to services specific provision will be made.

### **Communication**

The principal form of communication with the fellowship outside of meetings has been through electronic methods. A weekly email newsletter is distributed which includes news about our own activities including services, news related to both local and international mission partners and a daily prayer diary the core of which is the Baptist Missionary Society prayer guide. The website is updated weekly with an audio of the last sermon and a copy of the weekly newsletter. Other information is added as appropriate. Special events are posted on the Abbotsham Village and Church Facebook pages.

### **Church premises**

The chapel building is an 1852 listed building in a good state of repair. Our recent quinquennial survey showed the condition of the premises is good. Regular fire and electrical safety checks are made. Improved external lighting has made access in the winter months safer.

### **Trustees and Church Member meetings**

The Trustees normally meet on a monthly basis to ensure the smooth administration of the church. Church Members' meetings are held quarterly, one of which is the Annual General Meeting. Church Member Meetings are held in person in the chapel.

### **Connections with local churches**

We are involved with local church groupings to share area services, information, prayer and ministerial support. These are principally: Torridge Christian Network, Torridge Baptist Churches, North Devon Baptist Cluster Meetings, Mid and North Devon Rural Church Partnership.

### **Training**

Pastoral Care - Two members of the Pastoral Care Team and a trustee attended a two day course on pastoral care through the South West Baptist Association, 'Prepare, Feed, and Sustain' Lay Leaders modular course.

First Aid – See Safeguarding

Finance – The Church Treasurer attended 'Keeping Simple Church Accounts' a course run by ACAT (Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers).

Church leadership – The Church Secretary attended: 'Prepare Feed and Sustain' training on Preaching Skills, Pastoral Care, Engaging with Contemporary Culture, Reading and Using the Bible: New Testament, Radical Discipleship in a changing world. The Church Secretary also attended the SWBA ministerial retreat.

**Plans for 2024**

In addition to continuing current practice, we plan to:

- o Further enhance midweek provision for prayer and Bible study including working with a small group of youth.
- o Complete safeguarding training for all those with responsibility to the relevant level and update all Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- o Review and update policies and procedures for Health and Safety, Pastoral Care and Data Protection.
- o Investigate potential collaboration with St Helen’s parish church.
- o Improve our digital communication.
- o Increase the team who can lead services.

**Geoffrey Williams**

(Signed)

**Church Secretary on behalf of the Trustees**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

**ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191292

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# Accounts

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**Abbotsham Baptist Church**  
**Annual Report for the year 2022**  
**Charity Number 1191292**

**Registered Address** – Greycliff Lane, Abbotsham, Bideford, Devon EX39 5AP

**Trustees –**

Mr N Booth, Chair Person

Mrs P Fishleigh, Treasurer

Mr G Williams, secretary

**Membership** – The current membership number is 16. Regular Sunday Service attendance is between 20 and 30.

**Principal purposes of the Church**

- The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.
- The advancement of Christian education and other Christian charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are satisfied that the activities outlined below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public. It is the view of the Trustees that the Church continues to be a going concern, financially, spiritually and in terms of numbers attending regular services.

**Church governance**

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Sunday services take place every Sunday at 10:30 am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Services are led by members of our own fellowship and by a known and trusted small group of visiting speakers including some registered Baptist ministers.

**The purpose of the annual report**

The purpose of the annual report is to report on how the church has been able to fulfil its aims and objectives as defined in the constitution over the course of the year.

The church's principal purpose is the advancement of the Christian faith. This is achieved through regular worship, bible teaching and learning, prayer, pastoral care of the congregation and providing opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith for themselves.

At the beginning of the year fairly strict processes were followed to reduce the likelihood of the transmission of Covid. These included spaced seating in family groups, use of an antiviral air purifier, refreshments taken outside and a pathway through the church. Over the year these restrictions have been lifted although seating remains comfortably spaced and we still use the air purifier. We have also reintroduced social events such as a summer high tea, Tearfund Quiz Night and a church meal.

A monthly prayer gathering has been reintroduced and small group bible study is planned for the beginning of 2023.

We have been pleased that attendance has returned to near pre-covid levels with usual attendance being between 20 and 30.

### **Worship and teaching**

Sunday morning services are warm, relaxed times where everybody is valued. There is plenty of time after services to develop relationships and when wanted to receive personal prayer or support. The main aim for the preaching/teaching during 2022 has been to emphasise the Christian spiritual growth of church as the people of God. To achieve this there has been a balance of teaching from the Old Testament about what it meant to be the people of God in Ancient times through the study of Judges. Matthew's gospel has been the means by which Jesus' teaching has been explored and Ephesians was chosen as a New Testament epistle on the theme of church life.

As a fellowship we have also placed an emphasis on invitation and hospitality as a first way to include additional people into church life.

Meanwhile, the church has through prayer, news updates and financial means continued to support both overseas and local Christian ministry partners. We rejoice to share in these forms of gospel outreach. Mission partners are: Baptist Home Mission, Baptist Missionary Society, Arab World Mission, Barnabas fund, Christians Against Poverty, Counties and David Symons, the Fawzi family, Laura-Lee Lovering, MAFF, Tim Derbyshire, Rehoboth and Wings.

### **Pastoral Care**

Our Pastoral Care team consists of three women who know all our fellowship personally. Our fellowship is small and so folk tend to notice when anyone has been absent for a few weeks and give them a ring. We have an older lady who can never get to chapel now, but we ensure she is visited regularly. We sadly had a bereavement late in 2022, but the fellowship were able to visit the gentleman who died in his final illness. The funeral was taken by a local minister who used to be minister at Abbotsham Baptist. The thanksgiving service was a lovely tribute to his life and Christian faith. We have also a very frail lady who comes along with her carer, but as the carer doesn't usually come in, we have a support network in place for her within the chapel. One of our fellowship has recently moved into a Residential Home, and has been visited by fellowship folk when needed. The church keeps a fund to pay for a taxi for anyone who wishes to come to church but cannot organise transport for themselves through either incapacity or lack of funds.

### **Children and Youth**

In 2022 the church did not have any young children in regular attendance. The church is delighted that a teenage member of one church family is a regular attendee whose preference is to stay in services. We love children coming to church. As a church we are very conscious of the need to be prepared to make high quality provision for children should they come to church and be supportive of families. It has been agreed to prepare contingency materials. The regular booking of the village hall has been stopped but it can be booked with a week's notice so withdrawal groups can happen.

We encourage anyone who wishes to bring children to church if even for a one-off service, to let us know in advance if possible so we can prepare suitable activities for them.

### **Communication**

The principal forms of communication with the fellowship outside of meetings has been through electronic methods. A weekly email newsletter is distributed which includes news about our own activities including services, news related to both local and international mission partners and a daily prayer diary the core of which is the Baptist Missionary Society prayer guide. The website has been updated during the year. It always has an up-to-date copy of the newsletter and an audio file of the weekly sermons.

### **Church premises**

The chapel building is an 1852 listed building in a good state of repair. A quinquennial survey was conducted this year and is now the basis for a maintenance plan. Good progress has been made this year. The chapel building is in good order. Regular fire and electrical safety checks are made.

### **Trustees and Church meetings**

The Trustees normally meet on a monthly basis to ensure the smooth administration of the church. Church members' meetings are held quarterly, one of which is the annual general meeting. Church Meetings are held in person in the chapel. A monthly prayer meeting has been reintroduced following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

### **Future Plans**

During 2022 the church held a consultation on the way ahead for midweek activities. These have started to be implemented through increased social opportunities, prayer meetings and opportunities to eat together. In 2023 it is planned to continue with these and also introduce midweek bible study opportunities in homes. There is also the opportunity to hold sessions for those wishing to enquire into the Christian faith or baptism. We will be reviewing the number of mission partners we wish to continue supporting to ensure they have meaningful contact with us during the year and that the financial support reflects the balance of need. The preaching/teaching programme will continue to be planned in advance to ensure preachers have good time to thoroughly prepare.

**Nick Booth**



(Signed)

**Chair of Trustees on behalf of the Trustees**

**26.01.2023**

ABBOTSHAM CHURCH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1/01/22 - 31/12/22

Receipts

Offerings	3911.00
Gifts	2225.00
Giving through Gift Aid	9230.00
Tax Refund	1629.60
BU Support	292.50
HSBC compensation	0.02
Sub Total	<u>17288.12</u>
Trans in from Dep A/C	0.00
TOTAL	<u>17288.12</u>

Expenses

Speakers	1990.00
Gifts	9090.00
Teaching	265.59
Services	803.67
Utilities	1089.60
Cleaning	1227.40
taxi	40.00
Admin	1030.46
Equipment	230.99
Building	2051.61
Legal Fees	0.00
Total	<u>17819.32</u>
Trans to Deposit a/c	0.00
	<u>17819.32</u>

Receipts Less Expenses -531.20

interest from deposit accounts 9.62

Chapel account


Balance b/fwd	29515.53
add receipts	17288.12
less payments	<u>17819.32</u>
Closing Balance	<u>28984.33</u>

Deposit Account

Bal b/fwd	10000.00
add interest	<u>9.62</u>
closing balance	<u>10009.62</u>

The Deacons approve the Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities the year ending 31 December 2022

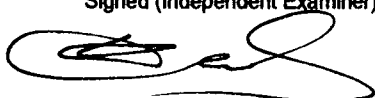
Signed (Treasurer)  
Dated

 26/1/23

Report of the Independent Examiner for the deacons and members of Abbotsham Baptist Chapel

In accordance with the provisions of Section 42 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the Receipts and Payments Accounts of the Church set out above relating to the year ending December 2022. The examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such Accounts or Statement. I confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the accounting records of the Chapel. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed (Independent Examiner)



**ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191292

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# Accounts

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**Abbotsham Baptist Church**  
**Annual Report for the year 2021**  
**Charity Number 1191292**

**Registered Address** – Green Cliff Lane, Abbotsham, Bideford, Devon EX39 5AP

**Trustees –**

Mrs H Reynolds, Secretary  
Mrs P Fishleigh, Treasurer  
Mr N Booth, Chair Person  
Mr G Williams

**Membership** – The current membership number is 14. Regular Sunday Service attendance is between 20 and 30.

**Principle purposes of the Church**

- The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.
- The advancement of Christian education and other Christian charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

**Services**

Sunday services take place every Sunday at 10:30 am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Services are led by members of our own fellowship and by a known and trusted small group of visiting speakers including some registered Baptist ministers.

**The purpose of the annual report**

The purpose of the annual report is to report on how the church has been able to fulfil its aims and objectives as defined in the constitution over the course of the year.

The year continued to be impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, changing the church's pattern of worship, preaching and pastoral care. However, we are thankful to God that ministry has continued and the church was able to reunite in physical worship in the chapel during the Autumn and this has continued uninterrupted. It is undoubtedly true that the impact of the social constrictions has affected people's well-being, placing differing demands on the church's capacity for pastoral care. We have seen some of the congregation's health and confidence deteriorate during the year. The pattern of our communication has changed, the use of electronic communication and "Zoom" meetings have been a regular feature. Meanwhile, the church has through prayer, news updates and financial means continued to support both overseas and local Christian ministry partners. We rejoice to share in these forms of gospel outreach. Mission partners are: Baptist Home Mission, Baptist Missionary Society, Arab World Mission, Barnabas fund, Christians Against Poverty, Counties and David Symons, the Fawzi family, Laura-Lee Lovering, MAFF, Tim Derbyshire, Rehoboth and Wings.

**Worship and teaching**

For the year up to Autumn the church did not hold physical services. However, the Sunday planned teaching programme continued in a recorded form and was published on the church website. We thank God for the faithful support of our visiting preachers in preparing these sermons at home,

especially as several of them had to learn new IT skills to do so. The feedback we received was very positive and it was of great significance in maintaining the unity of the church.

The trustees were very concerned that high quality spiritual support and encouragement should be provided for everybody possible during a time of great spiritual challenge. In response to this need midweek daily bible study notes were provided covering a range of New and Old Testament books and were emailed to all those on the church's contact list. Additionally, each week an email newsletter was sent out along with a prayer diary. The newsletter contained fellowship news while the prayer diary provided a structured approach to pray for the fellowship, our mission partners, our own outreach courses, local and national issues. The base content of the prayer diary is the BMS prayer diary and in this way the fellowship is kept up to date with the projects of our own denominational missionary society.

The midweek Zoom meeting in 2020 using the Bible Society's Bible Course was so successful that we decided to keep the pattern going. During 2021 we followed Christianity Explored, some of the Alpha course video material and Discipleship Explored. We were joined by some people who are not currently attendees at ABC. These included some who have in the past been part of the church, some who had contacts with our members by other means including people who one might term investigators of the Christian faith. These midweek Zoom meetings probably increased the amount of faith based dialogue from that which was common pre-pandemic because they were such focused meetings and the content of the videos was of a high quality. They also enabled prayer over issues raised in the sessions.

Once we were able to resume Sunday services in the chapel it was a time of rejoicing. We were conscious that several of our congregation have to be very careful about potential infection and so Covid protocols including the wearing of masks during services has continued into 2022. We have invested in an air purifier to further improve preventative measures. Other members of the congregation have not been able to return to Sunday services due to deterioration in health or the need to isolate.

#### **CIO**

The January AGM saw the start of our new charitable status as a CIO. However, the process of merging the old and new charities has continued through the year and is still not completed. The major obstacle has been opening new bank accounts in the name of the CIO as banks were not opening new charitable accounts for the first half of the year. This has now been overcome but there remains work to be completed with HMRC and a completion of the legal process. We have to thank Pat for the huge amount of work she has done in this field facing considerable frustrations along the way.

#### **Pastoral Care**

Last year we reported that as a Fellowship we should aim to all support each other, and this has worked out in practice. The Pastoral Care Team co-ordinate and where possible give extra support as needed. The team is smaller now, as Rita moved to a different church midway through 2021. We are grateful for her kindness, hard work and dedication to the church over many years. The current team is Sara and Marge and Liz has said she hopes to join the team when she is able.

All birthdays within the Fellowship are celebrated with a card. Pastoral visiting is less frequent because of the Covid risk but still occurs along with supportive phone calls.

#### **Children and Youth**

In 2021 the church did not have any young children in regular attendance. The church is delighted that a teenage member of one church family is an active participant in the church and once the church re-opened for Sunday services has been in regular attendance. His preference is to stay in for the full service rather than have separate provision. He was also a regular and positive participant in the midweek Zoom courses held throughout the year.

As a church we are very conscious of the need to be prepared to make high quality provision for children should they come to church and be supportive of families. It has been agreed to prepare contingency materials. The regular booking of the village hall has been stopped but it can be booked with a week's notice so withdrawal groups can happen.

#### **Fabric**

The church has started the process of obtaining a 5 yearly building survey. A grant has become available to offset part of the cost. The Baptist Union strongly recommend this approach although it is not yet a legal requirement for Baptist Churches. (It is a legal requirement for CofE churches.) The grant has been agreed and the survey will take place in 2022.

As the Chapel building continues to be open during 'Covid' we have made changes in line with the restrictions and Baptist Union recommendations. These include an adapted lectern screen, a vestry hand sanitising station and the latest air purifier. The changes have helped the fellowship feel safe. We have a one way system with separate entrance and exit doors .

A small scale 'spring clean' included an attic tidy up and subsequent storage of unused items which had been temporarily placed within the main worship area. Our paid cleaner continues to visit for basic weekly cleaning.

Externally shrubs as well as undergrowth adjoining our land have recently been tidied. Weeds in the paved area have been treated. We continue to have regular visits from our usual professional window cleaner. The front railing has recently been re-painted and a tidy up of all other exterior paintwork is planned for this spring. High level cleaning and whatever decorating requirements are deemed necessary is also being arranged for later in the year.

We are planning to increase the front door security measures which will mean that the more modern and secure 'rear door' becomes our first point of entry and last point of exit when locking up. Members will be advised when the work is complete. Our regular electrical inspection has been carried out by one of our own members - Garth Reynolds

Many thanks to those who have assisted with the ongoing maintenance and buildings paperwork.

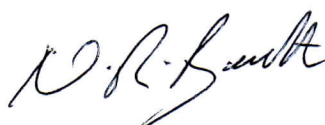
#### **Trustees and Church meetings**

The trustees met monthly, initially via Zoom and then physically once the lifting of restrictions allowed. There are filed minutes for all meetings. The trustees' role is the oversight of all the functions of the church. The church has continued with quarterly members' meetings following the same pattern of initially meeting on Zoom and then in the chapel.

**Nick Booth**

**Chair of Trustees on behalf of the Trustees**

**20.01.2022**

  
20th Jan 2022

ABBOTSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE PERIOD 15.9.20 TO 31.12.21

Receipts

Offerings	1649.00
Gifts	4743.30
Giving through Gift Aid	6739.99
Tax Refund	1406.25
HSBC compensation	40.00
Sub Total	<u>14578.54</u>
Trans in from Dep A/C	9594.05
TOTAL	24172.59

Expenses

Speakers	1360.00
Gifts	10175.00
Teaching	560.52
Services	741.62
Utilities	1160.22
Cleaning	350.33
taxi	0.00
Admin	1036.13
Equipment	2014.59
Building	0.00
Legal Fees	1801.80
Total	<u>19200.21</u>
Trans to Deposit a/c	10000.00
	29200.21

Receipts Less Expenses -5027.62

interest from deposit accounts 1.27

Bank Accounts


Current Account opening balance 15.9.20	34543.15
add receipts	<u>24172.59</u>
	58715.74
less expenses	<u>29200.21</u>
Closing balance 31.12.21	<u>29515.53</u>

Deposit account closing balance 31.12.21 10000.00

The Deacons approve the Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
set out above for the period 15.9.21 to 31.12.21

Signed (Treasurer)

Dated

20/1/22 

Report of the Independent Examiner for the deacons and members of  
Abbotsham Baptist Chapel

In accordance with the provisions of Section 42 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the  
Receipts and Payments Accounts of the Church set out above relating to the period 15.9.20 to 31.12.21

The examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such Accounts or Statement. I  
confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the accounting records of the Chapel. I am not  
aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding  
of the Accounts.

Signed (Independent Examiner)

