

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Number 1191696

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The church is registered with the Charity Commission Reference Number 1191696 and is governed by a Constitution dated 12 July 2020 .

Church Address

Milton Baptist Church
Baytree Road
Milton
Weston-super-Mare
BS22 8HJ

Trustees

Miss Rebecca Allison (Resigned 31 December 2024)
Mrs Elspeth Hamilton (Appointed 1 January 2025)
Mr Nabil Jarad (Resigned 26 October 2024)
Mrs Alison Parsons
Mr Paul Salmons
Mr Ian Shillcock (Resigned 2 September 2024)
Mr Mark Spence
Mr Jon Voyle
Mrs Sarah Voyle (Appointed 1 January 2025)
Mrs Catherine Williams (Resigned 12 September 2024)
Mr Steve Wotton

Property Trustees

West of England Baptist Trust Company Ltd
Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway, Little Stoke, Bristol, BS34 6JW
Registered Charity Number 1092446
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 188973

Bankers

HSBC 30, High Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1JE

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Needham

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the Receipts and Payment Account for the year to 31st December 2024, and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by a Constitution (dated July 2020).

Members of the church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to profess repentance towards God and faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and have lives that bear evidence of their Christian profession. Members are usually received after baptism by immersion.

The Members Meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to twelve Trustees usually for a period of three years, who together with the Minister, (who is also appointed by the Members), are collectively known as the Diaconate, and are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. The election of Trustees normally takes place at the AGM, the Constitution requires advanced notice to be given over two weeks then nomination close fourteen days before the election, with each person preparing a profile which is displayed two weeks prior to the election. At the election nominees must receive at least 51% of the cast votes to be elected. Trustees are encouraged to attend both regional and national activities to gain a wider understanding of the role.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Members Meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members Meetings by appropriate majorities, the church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks. The charity has a continual process of reviewing risk exposure, over recent years a formal Child Protection Policy has been prepared which is regularly reviewed and updated by the church. Policies relating to other vulnerable people are being considered.

The Trustees have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

The principal object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service, and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the church shall determine.

The church vision is to: **LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER, LOVE WESTON**

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The church occupies premises which are held by West of England Baptist Trust Company Ltd, on trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object. In addition the church owns a residential property at 7 Powis Close, Weston-super-Mare BS22 9AG (also held in trust by the West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd). As this property is not presently required for operational purposes it is let on an assured shorthold tenancy.

The church is in the process of selling the current manse (7 Powis Close) and looking to purchase a more suitable property for the new minister.

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday, normally at 10.30 a.m. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised in the weekly bulletin, MBC News, and on the website www.Milton-baptist.org.uk. There is a full children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The church runs a series of house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The church is responsible for a Toddler Group which meets in the church premises on Wednesdays, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.

From time to time the church runs Alpha courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity. The church runs various events for young people and for those in later years.

The church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Criminal Records Bureau.

The church has taken a lease on a building in Worle to provide a Safe space for the community to experience "peace" in the form of a "Renew Centre".

Achievements and Performance

The church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, encouragement and influence in people's lives. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2024 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2025 with continued enthusiasm. The church is active in the local community where activities include Toddler, and Free Film Nights.

In 2024 net membership decreased from 116 to 108 members. Mainly from members who moved away or passed away during the year.

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial Review

The church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The church is fully responsible for the stipend and housing costs of the Pastor, Revd Dr Louise Luft (part of the year) along with Miss Rebecca Allison, Child and Family Minister and a Part Time Administrator. These are all paid for by the church.

The church continues to maintain its membership with the wider Baptist family through the West of England Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. In the 12 months to 31 December 2024 it supported Baptist missionary work through donations amounting to £4,932 for Partnership in Mission (2023 £4,330) and £4,938 for BMS World Mission (2023 £4,330). In addition the church supports those from within the fellowship who are involved in a variety of mission fields throughout the world through agencies like BMS World Mission Action Teams, Youth With a Mission. The support during 12 months to December 2024 was £15,449 (2023 £16,186).

The church is very fortunate in having people who are willing to give their time and talents to support its life and work. Whether it be leading study groups, setting up and packing away for services and meetings, providing refreshments, making music, welcoming people into the premises or any of the many other tasks, quietly - day by day. This is truly appreciated and the church wishes to record its thanks to all our members and friends for their support.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which requires 3 months of expenditure to be held in reserve. This will allow the Charity to continue operating for a minimal period of time should giving reduce. The value of reserves will be monitored on a regular basis in the light on current giving levels items of expenditure and annually as part of the budget process. The Trustees believe that the reserves should be at least at a level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. At the Balance Sheet date General Fund amounted to £207,869 (December 2023 £19,222) which is above the reserves policy requirement of £38,063 based on 2025 budget. A significant amount of this fund will be used to help purchase a larger manse in 2025. The Trustees are monitoring the opportunities for "Love God, Love Each Other and Love Weston" with a view to utilising the additional funds as suitable opportunities arise. It is felt that the Coronavirus may have adversely affected some people mental health and so the church continues to operate the Renew Café in the community.

The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provision of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

25 Feb. 2025

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Milton Baptist Church

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Milton Baptist Church for the period ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

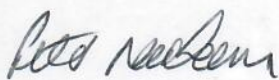
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter Needham

Date: 26/2/2025

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH CIO
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	12 Months to 31 December			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations	121,985	4,240	126,225	107,468
Legacies	-	-	-	0
Gift Aid Received	19,030	1,045	20,075	18,014
Charitable activities				
Room hire & Fees	7,079	-	7,079	6,491
Investments				
Letting income	11,700	-	11,700	11,700
Interest received	8,658	-	8,658	8,870
TOTAL RECEIPTS	168,452	5,285	173,737	152,543
PAYMENTS				
Charitable activities				
Grants made				
BUGB Home Mission	4,932	-	4,932	4,330
BMS World Mission	4,938	-	4,938	4,330
Mission and other donations	15,449	4,885	20,334	16,186
	25,319	4,885	30,204	24,846
Direct Costs				
Salaries	51,656	-	51,656	42,507
Pension Deficit Payments	10	-	10	12
Staff travel costs	1,773	-	1,773	1,020
staff housing costs	13,480	-	13,480	23,732
Youthwork	7,217	-	7,217	5,538
Evangelism	663	-	663	1,960
Children's work	1,639	-	1,639	1,968
Other ministry costs	2,153	-	2,153	2,396
Support costs				
Renew Building Costs	13,558	-	13,558	15,609
Heat and Light	15,471	-	15,471	16,914
Maintenance, repairs and cleaning	7,209	-	7,209	5,850
Equipment	11,926	-	11,926	13,063
Insurance	3,990	-	3,990	3,879
Training and Development	2,495	-	2,495	2,007
Office Costs	5,541	-	5,541	5,016
Bank charges	165	-	165	0
Governance costs	1,116	-	1,116	1,032
TOTAL PAYMENTS	165,381	4,885	170,266	167,349
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	3,071	400	3,471	(14,806)
Cash funds 1 January 2024	228,952	832	229,784	244,590
Cash funds 31 December 2024	232,023	1,232	233,255	229,784

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH CIO
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds					
Bank and cash balances	207,869	24,154	1,232	233,255	229,784
Other Monetary assets					
Gift Aid not yet claimed	3,278	-	-	3,278	3,269
	3,278	-	-	3,278	3,269
Assets retained for the church's own use					
Church Building (at cost)	-	1,250,000	-	1,250,000	1,250,000
7 Powis Close (at cost)	-	200,000	-	200,000	200,000
Church fixtures and fittings	-	0	-	0	18,278
	-	1,450,000	-	1,450,000	1,468,278
Liabilities					
Independent examiner's fee	-	-	-	-	1,116
	-	-	-	-	1,116

Fixtures and Fittings are reported as lower of cost and net realisable value. As these assets only really have value to the Church they are now shown at £0.

FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Balance 1 January 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2024
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Church Projects	117,970	-	-	(117,970)	-
Legacy Fund	81,357	-	-	(81,357)	-
Renew spend	-	3,000	(10,558)	7,558	-
External giving	1,000	-	-	1,676	2,676
Powis Fund	2,899	-	-	1,075	3,974
Fabric Fund	6,504	-	-	0	6,504
Solar Fund		11,000			11,000
	209,730	14,000	(10,558)	(189,018)	24,154
General Fund	19,222	154,452	(154,823)	189,018	207,869
Total Unrestricted funds	228,952	168,452	(165,381)	-	232,023
Restricted funds					
Barnabas Fund	832	5,285	(4,885)	-	1,232
	832	5,285	(4,885)	-	1,232
Total	229,784	173,737	(170,266)	-	233,255

The External Giving Fund to be transferred to Partnership in Mission and BMS during 2025

The Powis Fund is held by the Fabric Team for remedial works at Powis Close (Church manse) as and when required.

The Fabric Fund is held by the Fabric Team for remedial works at the Church as and when required

The Solar Fund was designated from two unrestricted gifts, and will be used to fund the installation of solar panels at Church.

The Church Projects Fund and the Legacy Fund were transferred into the General Fund during the year and closed.

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 25th Feb 2025



Trustee