

CARTERS LANE BAPTIST CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The members Meeting normally takes place 5 times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

FOR 2024, WE WERE ABLE TO ORGANISE CHURCH MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to 10 deacons/Trustees, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the members), are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the church/charity. By December 2024 we had 9 serving deacons plus the minister, treasurer and church secretary. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the church's objectives.

In 2024 the deacons continued to meet monthly and minutes are kept in the church safe.

In 2024 we were able to hold Annual General Meeting and the trustees were able to present reports and accounts.

Church members each receive minutes of the formal church meetings. These are sent out with agendas at least one week prior to the meeting.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Deacons/Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Deacons/Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

The principle purpose of the church/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 other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Our particular aims and objectives are:-

- To be a demonstrable place of Christian fellowship and worship furthering God's kingdom on earth

- To be a friendly, open and welcoming church, not just on Sunday services but throughout all activities
- To encourage the growth of the membership of the Church attracting new young people and families to the congregation, whilst continuing to support and nurture the current congregation.
- To mobilise the church membership to increase the number and range engaged in the running of the wider activities of the church.

The Church has a Minister, working at 70%, an active diaconate and around 65 active church members. We have number of other people who attend but are not formal members.

In the normal run of things we have around 120 young people involved weekly in Sunday Club, Friday Youth Club, the Brigade and the Toddler Group. There are a range of activities which normally take place during the week for adults and seniors including 65 Lunch Club for senior citizens which caters for around 40 people, 2 exercise groups catering for around 25 participants, and a Thursday Friends Group with an average of 35 people per session. In the Spring and Summer months we have a Tuesday Group (held fortnightly) which attracts about 25 adults per session. We are still offering weekly free Coffee Mornings as part of the Places of Welcome Scheme – these have proved to be very popular with over 40 people per week attending. In addition to weekly groups, the Church usually hold an annual Holiday Club for primary aged children, social evenings such as quizzes and concerts, garden parties and Autumn Fair. During 2024 these activities regularly took place at the church.

There are strong links with the worshipping community in the locality. We are very active members of Churches Together in Halesowen.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately verified with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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

Activities 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 and encouragement. The Deacons/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 renewed enthusiasm.

At December 2024 the membership stood at 71.

For the first half of 2024 regular services and Bible Study sessions were held in church and on-line. These were well supported.

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 most significant expense related to the continued appointment of the Revd Siôr Coleman as Minister of the Church, on a 70% basis, to lead and co-ordinate the church's activities including the Sunday services, to provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and to equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose and other charitable causes.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

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

The church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. The church has no plan to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.

Carters Lane Baptist Church Accounts for 1/1/2024-31/12/2024

The Deacons (acting as managing trustees of the Church) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts under S.42(3) Charities Act 1993. The income of the Church is below the threshold of £250,000 and these accounts have therefore been prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis with review by an independent examiner.

The funds for the Church are distributed across 4 bank accounts. There are no restrictions placed on the funds held by the Church.

1. Business Banking Extra Current Account Lloyds Bank (termed hereafter as Treasurers Current Account/TA)
2. 30 Day Account Lloyds Bank (termed hereafter as 30 day account / 30D)
3. NS&I Bonds
4. HEBA

The accounts for the Treasurers Current Account and 30 Day Account were prepared throughout the year by Mrs Gail Rothnie, Mr Simon Southall, Lesley Jones, Gellert Tamas and Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA). They were independently examined by Sheila Williams. A trail was established from invoice, to payment, to bank statement and HEBA Finance Summaries and in reverse by Ms Williams. The funds within the Lloyds Bank accounts, NS&I and HEBA were confirmed based on statements.

A summary of the accounts is given here:

	Opening Balance 1/1/2024	Closing Balance 31/12/2024
Treasurers Current Account (TA)	£ 6,889.99	£2,565.71
30 Day Account (30D)	£28,017.42	£22,386.07
NS&I Bonds	£120,000.00	£120,000.00
HEBA	£288,000.61	£296,845.08
Total	£442,908.02	£441,796.86

Total Receipts	£ 75,592.46
Total Payments	£ 76,703.62
Deficit	(£ 1,111.16)

Note: Comparative figures for 2023 were:

Total Receipts	£ 71,044.99
Total Payments	£ 77,113.20
Deficit	(£6,068.21)

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2024

General Receipts and Payments

Receipts and payments are summarised here. Additional detail is given in the accompanying notes later in the document.

RECEIPTS	
Weekly collections (plate)	£8733.94
Collections (standing order)	£27,885.38
Donations	£4,617.65
Gift Aid	£8,491.39
Investment Income/Interest	£4437.46
Hall Rental	£3,815.00
Legacy	£0
Weddings / funerals	£150.00
Raised for other causes	£2,289.87
Printing and stationery	£1083.30
Bank interest from HEBA	£14,088.47
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£75,592.46

PAYMENTS	
Ministry	£40,043.66
Administration	£6,236.15
Upkeep Church Premises	£28,051.88
Amounts passed onto other causes	£2,371.93
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£76,703.62

Overall income and expenditure

Receipts	Payments
£75,592.46	£76,703.62

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31/12/2024

Assets	Opening 1/1/2024	Movement	Closing 31/12/2024	
Freehold Land and Buildings	£0.00		£0.00	Note 3
Cash Assets	£442,908.02	(£1,111.16)	£441,796.86	
Total Assets	£442,908.02	(£1,111.16)	£441,796.86	
Liabilities	£0.00		£0.00	Note 4
Overall Position	£442,908.02	(£1,111.16)	£441,796.86	

Notes to the Accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

1. Additional Details of Receipts

RAISED FOR OTHER CAUSES	
BMS	£738.82
BMS Birthday Scheme	£235.00
Home Mission	£314.00
Project	£1002.05
Total	£2289.87

2. Additional Details of Payments

MINISTRY		UPKEEP		ADMIN		AMOUNTS PASSED ON	
SALARY	£14,434.62	Cleaning	£5,001.26	Bank	£278.99	BMS Birthday Scheme	£250.00
HMRC	£4,473.81	Gas	£3,665.39	Bookkeeping & Payroll	£610.00	BMS	£1000.00
Expenses	£5,508.85	Electric	£2,987.72	Subscriptions	£1,395.12	Home Mission	£320.00
Manse	£7,711.74	Manse (rented)	£0.00	WIFI	£694.26	Donations	£156.85
Pension	£7,764.64	Repairs	£13,606.85	Printing & Stationery	£1,588.74	Project	£645.08
Visiting Preachers	£150	Water	£252.84	Sundry	£1,669.04		
		Insurance	£2,537.82	Equipment	£0.00		
	£40,043.66		£28,051.88		£6236.15		£2,371.93

3. Freehold land and buildings

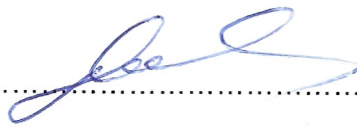
Freehold land and buildings are shown at no value as it is considered that they have no commercial value due to the restricted covenant placed by the vendor when the land was originally acquired. This is a conservative position since, if time and resources are invested in pursuing this, a more positive outcome **may** be forthcoming but cannot be assumed unless tested legally. If the Church were to be in financial difficulties this would be pursued more fully.

4. Liabilities - Pension Fund

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.


Simon Southall, Treasurer

Gellert Tamas



Ms. Sheila Williams, Independent Examiner



Template for Independent Examiners report (where independent examiner does not wish to highlight any issues)

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- 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 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.

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner

Date 19/2/2025



Name SHEILA WILLIAMS