

Abergavenny Baptist Church

Accounts

31 December 2024

## **Abergavenny Baptist Church**

### **Independent Examiners Report to The Trustees and Members of Abergavenny Baptist Church**

We report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2024 which which are set out on pages 2 to 8

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners**

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the church accounts. the church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act;

to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiners' report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as 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 Examiners' statement**

In connection with our examination no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

I Morris

C Lines

**Abergavenny Baptist Church**  
**Trustees Report**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2024**

The Trustees present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024

**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Charity Number**                      **1194889**

**Address**                              Frogmore Street  
Abergavenny  
Monmouthshire  
NP7 7AL

**Trustees**

Rev M Orsmond	Minister
B Watkins	Children's Worker
A O'Gorman	Youth and Family Worker
M Anderson	Treasurer
L W Anderson	
M Morgan	
A I Wilde	Secretary
I Gilbertson	
K Kippax	
A Lewis	resigned 17 September 2024

**Trustees for a Charity**                      Baptist Union Corporation

**Structure, Governance and Management**

Abergavenny Baptist Church is an unincorporated charitable association. It is governed by constitution. Charity Trustees are appointed by church members. Any person qualified to be a member of the church is eligible for election as a Charity Trustee (unless disqualified by statute), provided that they have been a member for at least 6 months and provided that, at all times at least 66% of the elected Charity Trustees shall be persons who have been baptised in accordance with the beliefs of the Baptist Union.

**Objectives and Activities**

The principal purpose of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

The Activities may include but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month;
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Our weekly Sunday morning service has been well attended with many people of all age groups. Most people attend in-person but some attend via Zoom. As a result, our membership has grown by six. The church also continues to hold a monthly prayer meeting on a Wednesday evening and a weekly women's fellowship meeting on Wednesday afternoon. The church has five Life Groups (small groups) that meet fortnightly in members' homes, either in person or a hybrid of both online and in-person, for Bible study and prayer. During the year, we had three funerals, four baptismal services (where nine people in total were baptised) and three dedication services (where six children were dedicated).

This year the youth group has successfully maintained contact with an average of 16 young people attending in person, and two via zoom. We had a handful of year 6 pupils joining us after Easter. We also moved our meeting time from Friday evening to Sunday which has proved to be very successful. The sessions are now livelier with more energy. This year we have completed the Fruitfulness on the Frontline course, the 24/7 Origins Prayer course, The Way UK study on Colossians, and the Christians in Sport study of James. We are currently studying, The Gospel of Mark using Tom Wright study guide and scripture union Grid notes on Genesis. The youth assisted the foodbank on 3 occasions, sorting, weighing, and dating stock. In May, a group from the church attended The Big Church festival, five people were from the youth group. It was a huge success so this is something we will encourage every year. We held our annual youth camp weekend in mid-July and included a Kayaking activity for the first time which was a huge success. We continue to promote the Urban Saints House Camp, Bethany House Party and supported 5 young people from the church to attend this week away. We held a fundraising event in October to help assist families financially to attend camp. At Christmas the youth helped to decorate the church, lead the worship in the nativity service and joined in the choir at the Carol service.

ABC Toddlers continues to run as a Faith based Toddler group and has grown continually throughout the year. We now average 30 people, mums and toddlers each week. We have seen numbers around 34 – 36 on occasions towards the summer of 2024. Half of the people who attend are not connected to any church. Relationships are growing within the group we have been able to pray into situations or with mums many times. We continue to receive many positive comments about the group, from past and present members with regular attendees inviting friends.

In November of 2024 we ran a Parenting for Faith course for parents of Toddlers. 5 parents from the church attended and all gave positive feedback on the helpful nature of the course. We continue to make contact with and support families individually on a weekly basis.

2024 has been another good year for Abergavenny Baptist Church with regards to its children's ministry. We have 35 children in total coming along either to our Sunday mornings or after school club, Dodgeball and Donuts. Throughout the year we also hold Easter events, holiday clubs, light parties and multiple Christmas activities with well over that number coming along.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers, who help with all these events and without whom, many of these activities just would not happen. It is an exciting time to be involved in church with 2025 looking even more promising than the last.

2024 was another busy year at the Foodbank in Abergavenny but the data shows a 5.2% decrease in the number of referrals made when compared to last year. 1056 parcels were given out to our clients, helping to feed 1562 adults and 743 children. The number of total people fed shows a decrease of 11% in total (6.7 % for adults and a 19.4% decrease for children, indicating fewer families coming into the foodbank during 2024.)

Despite this decrease, the current cost of living is high and many people still find themselves struggling with debt, benefit delays /sanctions, long term health issues affecting employability, insecure housing, rising costs and having no savings or support to fall back on. The number of people needing help often outstrips donations, and we continue to purchase a great deal more than previously at a higher price. In 2023, we purchased 50% of our total stock, whereas in 2024 that percentage increased to 60%. Thankfully we continue to cope with this increase at the present time because of a healthy bank balance and the financial support of the local community, but we remain mindful of the need to monitor the situation carefully, given a highly challenging and rapidly changing environment where inflation rates remain higher than anticipated and social security payments fall short of the cost of the essentials we all rely on. Where possible, we take advantage of sites that offer essential items at low cost. An example of this is 'In Kind Direct,' a charity that connects companies with charitable organisations to provide access to life's essentials.

In March 2024, Abergavenny Foodbank was awarded a further two years grant of Financial Inclusion funding from Trussell. Therefore, we continue to retain on site an excellent advisor from Citizens Advice who advises clients on a whole range of issues such as benefits, charitable support, debt, employment, housing, tax and utilities. This vital service continues to help clients access the support they need by unlocking grants and money they may be eligible for, thus enabling them to resolve the crisis that brought them to the foodbank in the first place.

With a donation of £650 from Waitrose, we were able to support each family who came into the foodbank over the summer holidays with a £20 food gift voucher in addition to their normal food parcel.

As a result of the generosity of the local community, we continue to offer our clients a range of fresh food, including fruit and vegetables, cheese and eggs. During December, we were able to give out Christmas treat bags as well as food gift vouchers all through December. In addition to the treat bags, one donor raised money to buy books to support parents in giving their children a Christmas gift.

In 2025 the church will endeavour to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to operate the Foodbank going forward.

Whatever the future holds, with the help of the local community, we will do our best to support individuals and families who turn to us for assistance.

### **Policy on reserves**

The Church endeavours to keep reserves sufficient to meeting 12 months running costs and also complete any repairs recommended in the quinquennial architects report.

The Foodbank endeavours to keep a minimum of 6m running costs plus a contingency for other potential costs that may arise.

M Orsmond

**Abergavenny Baptist Church**  
**Income and Expenditure account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	2024 General fund £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 £
Offering: Gift Aid	58,738		58,738	57,004
General Envelopes	6,305		6,305	5,159
Cash	5,303		5,303	4,400
Stewardship	7,201	360	7,561	3,430
	<b>77,547</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>77,907</b>	<b>69,993</b>
<b>Other income</b>				
Gift Aid tax refund	15,501	1,198	16,699	17,369
Interest: bank accounts	7,566		7,566	5,910
trust funds	725		725	1,043
Rent	50		50	50
Easyfundraising	15		15	16
Donations for Hm/BMS		1,798	1,798	1,560
Donations	650		650	495
Foodbank donations		50,361	50,361	54,746
Hire of Church hall	95		95	175
Grants		24,996	24,996	25,318
Donation Spurgeons etc	-	1,126	1,126	1,016
Womens fellowship	498		498	392
	<b>102,647</b>	<b>79,839</b>	<b>182,486</b>	<b>178,083</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Gross Stipend	28,600		28,600	26,500
Children and Youth workers wages	25,317	360	25,677	24,747
Employer's NI	25		25	27
Pension	3,621		3,621	3,363
Pension shortfall	10		10	12
Pension childrens worker	2,568		2,568	2,475
Ministers expenses	410		410	413
Childrens ministry	1,595	925	2,520	2,458
Manse costs including ins	4,500		4,500	5,341
Visiting ministers & speakers	400		400	400
Insurance	3,433		3,433	3,411
Light, heat and telephone	3,824		3,824	3,364
Cleaning	2,039		2,039	1,545
Major repairs (project costs)	-		-	9,560
Minor repairs	3,331		3,331	1,416
IT equipment	71		71	1,271
Deoreciation	355		355	-
Donations to HM/BMS	2,040	1,828	3,868	3,675
Donations spurgeons etc		191	191	866
Donations miscellaneous	2,868		2,868	2,330
General administrative expenses	2,887		2,887	2,599
Advertising, books and cards	-		-	-
Courses	139		139	325
Office equipment	-		-	-
Other expenses	2,576		2,576	2,000
Womens Fellowship Expenses	164		164	668
Foodbank Costs		87,807	87,807	78,531
	<b>90,773</b>	<b>91,111</b>	<b>181,884</b>	<b>177,297</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>11,874</b>	<b>(11,272)</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>786</b>
Trust fund income	-		-	3,811
Transfers between funds	4,800	(4,800)	-	-
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>16,674</b>	<b>(16,072)</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>4,597</b>
Balance brought forward	183,605	158,537	342,142	337,545
Balance carried forward	<b>200,279</b>	<b>142,465</b>	<b>342,744</b>	<b>342,142</b>

**Abergavenny Baptist Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Equipment	1	710	-
<b>Current assets</b>			
Baptist Union 1yr Fixed	136,725	130,197	
Baptist Union 7 day notice	31,392	30,693	
Current a/c	4,343	4,130	
Deposit a/c	28,000	20,044	
Foodbank Current account and cash	139,134	154,107	
Foodbank Vouchers	1,785	2,625	
Womens Fellowship bank & cash	414	80	
Childrens and youth petty cash	64	74	
Cash in hand	177	192	
	<u>342,034</u>	<u>342,142</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>		342,034	342,142
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>342,744</u>	<u>342,142</u>
<b>Representing Balances on the following:</b>			
<b>General Fund</b>			
Balance at start of period	183,605	178,321	
Net surplus/(deficit)	11,874	(2,127)	
Transfers	4,800	7,411	
	<u>200,279</u>	<u>183,605</u>	
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>			
Youth Fund	1,049	1,131	
Spurgeons/Christian aid	257	141	
Foodbank	140,919	157,014	
HM/BMS	240	251	
	<u>142,465</u>	<u>158,537</u>	
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>342,744</u>	<u>342,142</u>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>			
<b>HELD BY Baptist Union</b>			
Bethany Chapel Trust Fund	30,058.26	30,107.33	
	<u>30,058.26</u>	<u>30,107.33</u>	
<b>Non Monetary Assets Held for Own Use</b>			
Church at Insurance value	3,876,156	3,771,990	
Pipe Organ at Insurance value	<u>233,847</u>	4,110,003	233,847
Manse at Insurance Value		528,841	412,352

**Abergavenny Baptist Church**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**1 Plant, machinery and motor vehicles**

	<b>Equipment</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
Additions	1,065
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,065</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
Charge for the year	355
At 31 December 2024	<u>355</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 December 2024	<u>710</u>



**Abergavenny Baptist Church**  
**Abergavenny Foodbank**  
**Profit And Loss Account**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**  
**Included in Restricted Funds**

		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	Donations	45,613	49,295
	Donations Gift aided	5,030	5,441
	Gift Aid Tax Refunds	1,154	1,396
	Grants	24,996	25,318
	Reimbursed expenses	-	0
		76,793	81,450
Cost of sales	Purchases	41,732	36,835
	Vouchers	10,095	9,060
		51,827	45,895
<b>Gross surplus</b>		<b>24,966</b>	<b>35,555</b>
Expenses	Bank charges	110	113
	Financial Inclusion Officer	21,876	11008
	Grant repaid	-	7688
	Legal and professional	35	35
	Pensions	-	650
	Postage	-	0
	Contribution to church overheads	4,800	3,600
	Staff training & welfare	300	77
	Stationery and printing	102	0
	Sundry expenses	59	
	Telephone and fax	144	144
	Travel and subsistence		
	Wages and salaries	13,354	12,921
		40,780	36,236
<b>Net (deficit) / surplus</b>		<b>(15,814)</b>	<b>(681)</b>
Balance b/fwd		156,732	157,413
Balance c/fwd		<b>140,918</b>	<b>156,732</b>