

## **Annual Report for Ebenezer Baptist Church Abertillery 2023-2024**

### **Registered Address**

#### **Ebenezer Baptist Church CIO**

Park Place Abertillery NP13 1ED

*the church was registered as Charity No 1198946*

#### **Trustees: -**

Rev Jason Wilkins (Minister)

Mrs Eryl Dykes (Secretary)

Mr Richard Angwin

Mrs Joanne Beynon

Mr Keith Chaplin

Mrs Sandra Smith

#### **Property Trustees**

The Baptist Union Corporation, Llwyfan, College Road, Carmarthen

SA31 3EQ

**Bankers** Barclays Bank 10, Bethcar St Ebbw Vale NP23 6HQ

**Independent Examiner** **The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for year ending 31st March 2024**

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches. Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly 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 four times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to a maximum of 12 Trustees. The Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities. The Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible. 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 charity. 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 Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised

by members in a Church meeting for further consideration. Future meetings may be held by electronic or hybrid means.

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith in 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. 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 at 11am. The service is preceded by refreshments which gives an opportunity for fellowship. There are occasional services at other times which are advertised on the church notice board and the website at [ebchurch.co.uk](http://ebchurch.co.uk). There is a children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community. Weekly groups such as the Bible Studies and prayer evenings focus on the growth of faith and discipleship. Further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services. The Church is responsible for a Toddler Group which meets in the Church on Friday mornings. In January 2024 we began a Dad's and Tots group on Saturday mornings. We continue to offer a warm hub enabling us to reach many people in the community affected by the cost-of-living crisis. We have been grateful for the those who have volunteered their services each week. We remain indebted to volunteers from HSBC as well as those we have been able to attract through GAVO Volunteer events. We have been supported by a number grant funders such as the Welsh Churches fund, funds administered by GAVO and Blaenau Gwent Council which are designed to help alleviate the cost of living crisis as well as a fund operated by National Grid.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service. We use the services of the North Wales Interdenominational Panel. In January February the trustees received safeguarding training. 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.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2023-24 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2024 with renewed enthusiasm. Three people professed faith in Jesus Christ for the first time during the year and were baptised and received into church membership. As at the March 2024 the membership stood at 46 compared to 45 a year earlier. Average attendance at worship services has increased during the year, as we have welcomed brothers and sisters from



Nigeria who have come to study locally. We have also welcomed a number of children into the Sunday School. We continue to engage with the needs of the community each week with a food cupboard that operates together with a pre-loved school uniform service. During the last year the church provided a series of outreach events in the locality, whilst a member of the church has also served as a school governor.

### **Financial Review**

The Church raises the funds it needs to carry out its activities within its own membership and congregation and through hiring out rooms. We have been grateful for the regular giving of members and our wider fellowship. Grants have been received from the following funders, Welsh Churches Fund, National Grid, Community Fund For Wales GAVO and Blaenau Gwent Council and Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making donations to BMS. During the year the church we continued to support our link missionaries Whittaya and Helen Boondeekhun.

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 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 the accompanying financial statements. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the balance for year-end for the current account was £30,573.87 whilst the Food Cupboard was £16,465.79 and the Warm Hub Account was £3,204.02. During the last year we have become a charity and we will soon take the final steps to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

### **Reserves**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the church held £2,757.79 in a savings account. There are no other reserves

## **Income Statement**

**2024**

### **Income From:**

Donations and Gifts	57,501
Grants	7,560
Charitable Rental Income	5,785
Other Income	12,405

### **Total Income**

**83,251**

### **Expenditure On:**

Staff Costs	21,748
Insurance	5,407
Utilities	12,217
Rates	1,968
Repairs & Maintenance	2,650
Direct Costs	2,010
Food Purchases	20,978
Misc	20,065
Professional Fees	2,525

### **Total Expenditure**

**89,569**

Net Income for the year/  
Net movement in funds

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**-6,318**

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Fund Balances as at 31 March 2023 51,929

Fund Balances as at 31 March 2024 45,611

## **Balance Sheet**

### **Current Assets**

Cash at bank and in hand

Creditors: Amounts Falling Due v

### **Net Current Assets**

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**2024**

53,001

-7390

45,611



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Ebenezer Baptist Church Abertillery

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/03/2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1198946

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 2024**.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

Signed:

*Grace Bayton*

Date:

09/10/2024

Name:

Grace Bayton ACMA CGMA

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

CIMA

(if any):

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**Address:**

4 Beechwood Close

Newbridge

NP11 4NX

## Section B

## Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

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