

Registered Charity no. 1198975

Ebbsfleet Baptist Church

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2024



Wyatt & Co

Chartered Accountants
125 Main Street, Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Ebbfleet Baptist Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

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Ebbsfleet Baptist Church

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Legal and Administrative Information

Reference

The Charity is called Ebbsfleet Baptist Church. The Church is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and was registered as a CIO on the 16th of May 2022.

Registered Charity Number 1198975

Registered Office 3 Embleton Lane,
Castle Hill,
Swanscombe
Kent
DA10 1BX

Website www.ebbsfleetbaptistchurch.org.uk

Trustees	Rev Penny Marsh	Chair
	Hannah Horton	
	Paul Buckley	
	Stephanie Wright	Resigned 17th June 2024
	Kimberley Lightfoot	Appointed 25th June 2024

Primary Bankers Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

Independent Examiner Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Wyatt & Co Chartered Accountants
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

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Trustees Annual Report

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.

During 2024, we have done this through a variety of activities.

Each Sunday, we have held public meetings in the Castle Hill Community Centre. These have included some physical activities (a health walk and running group), a session for children and their parents/ carers, a buffet breakfast, talks, and acts of Christian worship.

The Couch to 5km running group ran from January to April 2024, alongside the existing running group. We had 10 graduates, most of whom are still connecting with one another via a WhatsApp group. The group continues to be known as Ebbsfleet Community Runners, and our bookings are conducted through the England Athletics RunTogether website and apps.

The health walk, which is part of our Sunday Active programme, has continued this year. Although numbers vary, it is appreciated by those who attend, and it is a good way to build friendships. We have a good range of ages and abilities taking part. We also support the midweek health walk in Ebbsfleet, which is led by the Salvation Army team.

We have continued to lead a weekly coffee morning drop-in for those at home during the week. Most of those attending have babies or pre-school children, and it has proved to be a helpful connecting place. Numbers have been rising throughout the year, and we regularly see new people joining us.

During 2024, we ran 6 Coffee Shop Craft days during school holidays in partnership with the Blue Bean Coffee shop. Each event has drawn around 40 – 70 children with their families.

We have been unable to host Meet Up Monday in the coffee shop, due to the lack of available baristas; however, this has continued to meet weekly and has been hosted by the minister in the Studio room at the Manse, or at the Salvation Army Quarters.

The church has continued to support Ebbsfleet Voices, the local community choir, with organisation and by organising the community picnic in May so that the choir could perform for local residents.

During 2024, we also invited the community to celebrate the major Christian festivals with us; this year, we held an Easter Egg trail, with all-age activities. At Christmas, we held 4 pop-up community carol events in different parts of Ebbsfleet, presenting a pre-recorded service using a van with LED screens and PA. Over 400 people attended these Christmas events. The engagement with these activities has increased in previous years and has helped us to contribute to community development, whilst also sharing the Christian faith.

Public Benefit Statement

In considering the activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

We are pleased to say that the number of families with young children regularly attending our weekly Sunday programme has continued to increase, from an average of 18 children per week to over 20 per week attending, and the average number of adults also increased to between 26 and 30 per week, apart from during the major summer holidays, where numbers dipped a little. 24 children took part in recording a nativity play for the pop-up carol events. At the beginning of 2024, we decided to pilot a Sunday afternoon service which would include more singing, teaching and prayer. Although

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Trustees Annual Report

numbers have been smaller, we believe that this has potential and we are seeking to develop it further in 2025 with 2 services a month — attendance numbers for this service range from 8 to 16.

On Christmas Eve, we had an encouraging attendance of around 100 at the family Christingle service.

We estimate that between 400 and 500 adults and children attended the community events that we held during 2024.

The weekly coffee morning continues to see growth despite those who no longer meet with us, as their children have started school. An average of 60 adults and children have attended this activity each week.

The Couch to 5km running course had 10 people attending this year, and over half of these are still running regularly with the Ebbsfleet Community Runners, meeting on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. Groups of around 10 runners have also participated in organised races and have supported one another in this.

The health walk took place on 45 weeks of the year, and the number of people participating each week ranged from 2 to 7 people.

At Halloween, we organised a drop-in style celebration of light. This included crafts in the coffee shop and outdoor activities in the community square.

In the autumn of 2024, we ran a Bible course online for 8 weeks. 5 people attended this.

During the year we have had 25 people volunteer with us in various capacities. We estimate that this is equivalent to around 1,500 volunteer hours. This volunteering included regular weekly activities such as setting up, leading walk and run groups, children's work, administration and IT support, and leading the coffee morning. It also includes stewarding at our community events.

Financial Review

During the year ending 31st December 2024 the church received an income of £52,582. This has included gifts from:

- Tonbridge Baptist Church - £10,099
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Gravesend - £3,564
- Bessels Green Baptist Church – £2,720
- Grants from Ebbsfleet Garden City Trust, £2,407 for community events
- Giving from individuals throughout the year - £23,653

During the year the church spent £62,173 on its charitable activities. At the end of the year the church held £49,995, of which £11,504 are held as restricted funds.

Reserves Policy

With Guidance from the Baptist Union, Ebbsfleet Baptist Church aim to keep at least 3 month reserve of the Ministers salary.

At the end of the year the church held £38,491 unrestricted funds in reserve. This is higher than the targeted reserve, but will enable the church to carry out its charitable purposes in the future.

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

As established in the Church Constitution, the Board of Trustees is composed of:

- 2 church members who have been elected to be on the church leadership team.
- The Church Treasurer
- The Minister

The Trustees have met 6 times throughout the year to manage the affairs of the Charity, both in their role as trustees as well as leaders of the Church.

At the beginning of 2024, we had 13 church members. Due to 4 resignations, we ended the year with 9 church members.

We held 6 church members' meetings during the year which included an annual general meeting held on Sunday 3rd November 2024, (the AGM was open to anyone connected through any of our activities)

Trustees Responsibilities

Ebbsfleet Baptist Church financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis when receipts and payments take place through the bank account.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. 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.

Reverend Penny E Marsh

Name of Trustee

.....



Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

.....

30/09/2025

Date of Approval

.....

Ebbsfleet Baptist Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Ebbsfleet Baptist Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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.

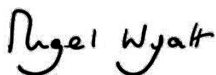
Independent Examiner's Statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.



Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Independent Examiner
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Date: 06/10/2025

Ebbsfleet Baptist Church

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	2	50,175	2,407	52,582	105,457
Total Receipts		50,175	2,407	52,582	105,457
Payments					
Payments on charitable activities	3	59,604	2,569	62,173	45,871
Total Payments		59,604	2,569	62,173	45,871
Net Receipts / (Payments)		(9,429)	(162)	(9,591)	59,586
Net Movement in Funds (Cash)					
Total funds (cash) brought forward		47,920	11,666	59,586	-
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Total Funds (Cash) Carried Forward	8	38,491	11,504	49,995	59,586
Represented by					
General (unrestricted)		38,491	-	38,491	47,920
Restricted funds		-	11,504	11,504	11,666
Total Funds Carried Forward		38,491	11,504	49,995	59,586

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As the accounts are prepared on a cash basis there is no formal Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position. Instead, a statement of assets and liabilities is outlined giving an indication of the charity's assets at the year end.

The fixed asset value stated below is based on the church's insurance cover during the year.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and petty cash	49,995	59,586
	<u>49,995</u>	<u>59,586</u>

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Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis when receipts and payments take place through the bank account or petty cash.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the term of specific appeal, often known as a 'special offering' in the church.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources and the money has been paid.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on a cash basis when payments have been made through the bank account or by petty cash.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Ebbsfleet Baptist Church

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Notes to the Financial Statements

2 Analysis of Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies				
Donations and offerings	49,572	-	49,572	43,535
Gift aid	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	2,407	2,407	1,331
	<u>49,572</u>	<u>2,407</u>	<u>51,979</u>	<u>44,866</u>
Transfer of charitable activities				
Transfer of funds from SEBA	-	-	-	60,216
Other Income				
Other income	100	-	100	121
Investments				
Interest	503	-	503	254
	<u>503</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Receipts	<u>50,175</u>	<u>2,407</u>	<u>52,582</u>	<u>105,457</u>

In February and April 2023 The South Eastern Baptist Association transferred a total of £48,811 to Ebbsfleet Baptist Church, to start their charitable activity.

3 Payments on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities				
Administration	3,324	-	3,324	729
Building costs	19,314	-	19,314	13,148
Church Life	323	-	323	2,174
Communications	83	-	83	158
Events	3,669	2,569	6,238	3,778
Staff costs	13	-	13	328
Staff Salaries	32,341	-	32,341	25,076
Training	413	-	413	480
Youth	124	-	124	-
	<u>59,604</u>	<u>2,569</u>	<u>62,173</u>	<u>45,871</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Volunteers

The church benefits greatly from the voluntary contributions of time and money from its regular attendees. Please refer to the trustee's report for further details about volunteer contributions to the organisation.

5 Independent Examination Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for	2024	2023
	£	
Independent examination and preparation of the financial statements	749	720

6 Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	28,720	25,076
Employer contributions to pension plans	3,621	-
	<u>32,341</u>	<u>25,076</u>

7 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

During the year, Rev Penny Marsh received remuneration of gross pay £28,270 (2023: £25,076), and provision of manse accommodation to the value of £8,750 (2023: £7,292). This was received for Rev Marsh's role as a Minister and was not for her role as Trustee.

During the year, 3 trustees incurred out-of-pocket expenses totalling £4,553 (2023: £4,901). All expenditure were incurred for the day-to-day running of the church.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	1st Jan 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31st Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General	47,920	50,175	(59,604)	-	38,491
Total Unrestricted	47,920	50,175	(59,604)	-	38,491
Restricted Funds					
Christmas Grants	106	-	(106)	-	-
Community Outreach	11,405	-	(931)	-	10,474
Event Grants	-	2,407	(1,532)	-	875
Youth	155	-	-	-	155
Total Restricted	11,666	2,407	(2,569)	-	11,504
Total	59,586	52,582	(62,173)	-	49,995

	1st Jan 2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31st Dec 2023 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General	-	92,721	(44,801)	-	47,920
Total Unrestricted	-	92,721	(44,801)	-	47,920
Restricted Funds					
Christmas Grants	-	996	(890)	-	106
Coronation Grants	-	180	(180)	-	-
Community Outreach	-	11,405	-	-	11,405
Youth	-	155	-	-	155
Total Restricted	-	12,736	(1,070)	-	11,666
Total	-	105,457	(45,871)	-	59,586

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Fund Descriptions

Restricted Funds

Christmas Grants	Grants donated for Christmas 2023 events.
Coronation Grants	Funds donated to cover the cost of renting a portaloo for a community picnic.
Community Outreach	Funds held by South Eastern Baptist Association (SEBA) and passed on to Ebbsfleet Baptist Church for the purpose of community outreach.
Event Grants	Grants that have been awarded to Ebbsfleet Baptist Church to help them run community events.
Youth	Funds raised by South Eastern Baptist Association (SEBA) and passed on to Ebbsfleet Baptist Church for the purpose of young people's work in the local area.

9 Related Party Transactions

During the year, Ebbsfleet Baptist Church received three grants from Ebbsfleet Garden City Trust totalling £2,407 (2023: two grants totalling £676). Rev Penny Marsh is a trustee in common with Ebbsfleet Garden City Trust (charity number 1201387).