

Saffron Walden Baptist Church

Registered Charity Number: 1199611



Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2024

Saffron Walden Baptist Church, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3HD
01799 523031
www.sw-bc.org

Administrative Details

Charity Name	Saffron Walden Baptist Church
Charity Registration Number	1199611
Registered Address	Audley Road, Saffron Walden, Essex, CBII 3HD
Property Trustees	The Baptist Union Corporation Limited Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
Trustees	Revd John Goddard (Minister) Mrs Glenys Goodwin (11/07/2022 – 05/06/2024) Mrs Rosemary Timms (11/07/2022 – 05/06/2025) Mrs Tracy Todman (Treasurer) (11/07/2022 – 05/06/2025) Mrs Angela Sabey (28/11/2022 – 05/06/2026) Mr Robert Wiseman (28/11/2022 – 05/06/2026) Mr Peter Matthewson (24/06/2024 – 23/06/2027) Mr Michael Smith (02/03/2025 – 01/03/2028)
Financial Administrator	Mrs Rosemary Timms (voluntary)
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ The Co-operative Bank plc P O Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP
Independent Examiner	Mr Geoff Mann Dee House, Highworth Avenue, Cambridge, CB4 2BQ

Charitable Objective

Saffron Walden Baptist Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is governed by its Constitution adopted on 16th May 2022 and registered with the Charity Commission on 11th July 2022, which states that, "the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education and other charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world" as the Church shall determine.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the Church are accepted, in accordance with the Constitution, which requires them to be baptised upon personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or by transfer from other Christian churches, or by profession of faith in Christ after visitation by two church members approved by the Church Members' Meeting. Acceptance into membership shall be the decision of a Church Members' Meeting.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees who, together with the Minister and the Church Secretary and Treasurer, who are also Trustees appointed by the Members, are collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity.

Church Members' Meetings are held regularly and normally take place at least six times every year and are an opportunity to consider and review matters associated with the life of the Church including:

- issues related to church membership;
- the appointment and dismissal of the Charity Trustees;
- the approval of the budget and financial reporting;
- issues relating to the overall policy of the church; and
- considering proposals from the Charity Trustees or Church Members for the development of the Church and the advancement of its purpose through its activities.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the 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 Church meeting for further consideration. 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

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.

The Church engages in a range of activities either on its own or with others and these vary from time to time with activities being initiated, expanded or closed as appropriate.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. Services take place on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am. There are also occasional activities at other times which are advertised in the Church Notices. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services. The Church also runs a series of small groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members and a fellowship group at the church on Wednesday mornings.

Other Church activities may include:

- prayer meetings and opportunities for Bible Study, preaching and teaching;
- courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity, e.g. 'Alpha';
- courses designed to nurture faith and discipleship;
- evangelism and mission locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the UK and abroad;
- sharing Communion, normally once a month as part of morning worship; and
- opportunities to discover more about adult baptism and church membership.

Church organisations, groups, committees and individuals appointed to operate within the life of the church shall be accountable to the Diaconate and also through any specific direction of the Church Members' Meeting.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are appropriately trained (in line with Baptist Union guidance) and vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

The Church's activities on Sundays and throughout the week are intended to cater for people of all ages, providing structured and unstructured learning opportunities and encouraging worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, prayer and praise.

Achievements and Performance

Review of the Year

Attendance at Sunday morning worship is usually 30-50 people meeting in the chapel and with a few also joining on-line. Sermons are recorded and made available on-line. As at 31st December 2024, the number in Church Membership was 57. The Small Groups meet during the week and a Fellowship Group, led by the Minister, meets on Wednesday mornings in the church.

In 2024 we celebrated our 250th Anniversary and arranged a number of events throughout the year to mark this occasion. We invited as many people with connections to our church as we could to these events and it was a blessing and a joy to see so many old friends. We also accepted the challenge collectively to promote 250 random acts of kindness behind the scenes. We were encouraged to record these on heart-shaped cards and we did meet this challenge and display all 250 of them in the chapel by the end of the year.

We began the year hosting the Churches Together United Service in January. At Easter we invited adults and children from our uniformed organisations to create Easter Gardens. In May we invited the public to our Heritage Week and organised displays in the church and in Saffron Walden Museum. In June the General Secretary of the Baptist Union, Rev'd Lynn Green, preached at our Anniversary Service and afterwards we shared a hog roast lunch at Pinkneys Farm in Wimbish. In September we held a Harvest Supper and Quiz Night and raised funds for Operation Agri.

Finally we marked Advent by inviting the public to a Crib festival for people to see and ensure that Jesus remains at the centre of our Christmas preparations and celebrations.

In June 2024 we had something new happening at church to mark Pride Month, when we hosted our first Pride Service in Saffron Walden. The service was well supported and well received by those who attended.

We are indebted to all the people who have faithfully taken responsibility for running the Church's activities during the year. Special thanks are due to our lettings manager: our premises are very busy and income from community use forms a significant part of the church's funds. We especially give thanks to our minister who has guided, resourced and facilitated all aspects of Church life.

Our cleaner has been with us for over two years now and we are very grateful to him for his service.

Main Church Activities

- **Church activities** include Sunday morning services, Small Groups, Lunch Club, Fellowship Group, Boys Brigade, Breakfast Club (in partnership with MIND), Welcome Coffee Morning (alongside a Touchpoint Foodshare scheme) and joint activities with Churches Together, with other local Churches and with the local Baptist Cluster Churches.
- **Uniformed Organisations**, including our Boys Brigade, the Scouts, the Guides and the Brownies would all usually meet regularly on our premises.
- **Youth Activities** have included running Messy Church activities with our friends at Abbey Lane URC and hosting a number of school visits from both primary and secondary school children and Stort Valley Schools Trust Projects.
- **Social Outreach Events** - Lunch Club is normally held once a month providing home cooked food and companionship, primarily to older members of the church and community. The team have also provided some light refreshment events to smaller groups. There are also regular ladies' breakfasts and mens' breakfasts which meet in the town providing valuable informal opportunities for people to get together and invite others along.
- **Outreach Events** include joining with Churches Together in Saffron Walden at the Good Friday March of Witness and Lent Groups. We also partner with local churches in providing Community Pastors in Saffron Walden. We were again able to enjoy a Carol Service featuring the Saffron Walden Town Band and to host an East Anglia's Children's Hospices Carol Service.
- **Community use of our Premises** is diverse and extensive and normally includes our Uniformed Organisations and Lunch Club as well as activities organised by U3A, Tiny Tempos, Hyperfusion, MIND in West Essex and karate and pilates classes. A home schooling group also regularly uses the premises. We continued to host a weekly Community Food Share event run by the charity TouchPoint in conjunction with our Warm Welcome Group. This is exceptionally well attended by the community each week. Our Minister is available to conduct funerals at the local crematorium or at the church.

Financial Review 2024

The accounts cover the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. The total income of the Church in 2024 was £115,407 and expenditure was £109,339 giving a surplus for the year of £6,068.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme gives grants covering the VAT on certain eligible repairs to listed buildings used primarily as a place of worship (including those chapels within the curtilage of listed buildings). Some of the work on the chapel was eligible and we have received £903 from the scheme this year.

Funds raised from offerings from within the membership and congregation and the gift aid tax recovered thereon continue to be our primary source of income. We have been blessed once again this year with:

- 1) a significant level of lettings income £30,963 and
- 2) a significant level of interest from a BUC Trust Fund £20,267.

We are very grateful to everyone who has continued to support us financially in 2024 even during a period that has been called a 'cost of living crisis'. As a Baptist Church we receive no government funding and are totally dependent on offerings from our congregation as our primary source of income.

Our lettings manager has worked hard to stay in touch with those who regularly hire our premises, managing our lettings and invoicing the hirers. We are grateful to him and our minister who have continued to work with the hirers to ensure that we maintain good relationships with them. Revenue from lettings forms a significant part of the church's income and enabled us to go ahead during the year with much of the premises repairs that were needed.

We have also given £4,500 to BMS and £4,500 to Home Mission from our general fund budget and we have continued to support a number of different Mission appeals during the year including:

- £790 sent to Operation Agri from our Harvest Appeal
- £979 sent to Christian Aid which was donated by members of our Lunch Club
- £722 raised for our Christmas Appeal Charities – with more expected in early 2024

We are very grateful that our BMS Birthday Scheme secretary continues to send birthday cards to those in the Scheme and in 2024 this raised £405.

Funds from the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC)

During the year we received £20,267 in interest from the permanent Endowment of the Robert Cozens charity set up in 1729. A further amount of interest £3,899 accrued before the year end but was received in January 2025 and is shown as a monetary asset in the accounts. The capital sum remains with, and is managed by, the BUC. As the only known beneficiary the church will continue to receive the entirety of the income from the endowment, for the benefit of the church, for the foreseeable future. The amount receivable will fluctuate each year in line with changes in interest rates.

In 2020 we received capital from the BUC from a Trust Fund that was closed down. It is shown as a designated fund in our accounts and is not a restricted fund. At the time we agreed that we would not use to the fund to subsidise routine operating costs but use it for specific projects. We have not used any of the fund this year but we will continue to discuss what we might use the balance of these funds for but, at the moment, we have made no decisions or plans.

Restricted Funds

The 1st SW Boys' Brigade: 2024 saw the leaders and boys meeting together on Tuesday evenings and enjoying activities in the church and local area. A number of leaders and members enjoyed a weekend away in the Peak District in the summer. We are grateful to all those involved in the organising and running of events and activities. Their funds are shown in our accounts as follows:

1 st January 2024 Balance B/F	5,499
Receipts	5,499
Payments	(6,795)
31 st December 2024 Balance C/F	4,203

Pension Deficit:

The Pension and BUGB Trustees signed a buy-out deal in June 2022 and the closed defined benefit scheme is no longer in deficit. They have written and confirmed that our church will have no further obligation to the Scheme's defined benefit plan.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have a reserves policy to ensure the Church functions effectively and meets its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or in the event of some major costs. Having reviewed and considered the relevant risks of changes in income and expenditure it was agreed the appropriate level of reserves was in the range £15,000 to £25,000. As at 31 December 2024 the church held total reserves of £93,387 of which £48,699 was within the General Fund. There is a delegated spending authority policy to ensure there are appropriate controls and procedures in place.

The Future

We are encouraged by a number of new people who have started to worship with us regularly and the church is in a stable financial position to further the advancement of the Christian faith whilst serving the community and other charitable purposes.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Saffron Walden Baptist Church



Tracy Todman (Trustee and Treasurer)

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Regular offerings		44,749	43,635
Donations & other income	2	6,142	3,802
Income tax recovered on gifts	3	9,359	9,150
Rents and contributions for use of premises		30,963	29,773
Raised for other causes	4	3,927	2,965
Interest from BUC	5	20,267	25,273
		£ 115,407	£ 114,598
Payments			
Ministry	6	45,073	41,433
Mission	7	17,491	16,691
Upkeep of church premises	8	42,512	86,777
Administration	9	4,263	4,523
		£ 109,339	£ 149,424
(Loss)/Surplus for the year		6,068	(34,826)
Balance brought forward		87,319	122,145
Balance carried forward		£ 93,387	£ 87,319

	Total	General fund	Capital from BUC	Building fund
UNRESTRICTED - FUNDS				
Balance at 1 January 2024	87,319	42,631	31,997	12,691
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Receipts	115,407	115,407	-	-
Payments	(109,339)	(109,339)	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2024	93,387	£ 48,699	£ 31,997	£ 12,691

RESTRICTED FUNDS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Balance 1 Jan 24	Receipts 2024	Payments 2024	Balance 31 Dec 24
Boys Brigade	5,499	5,499	6,795	4,203
	£ 5,499	£ 5,499	£ 6,795	£ 4,203
	Balance 1 Jan 23	Receipts 2023	Payments 2023	Balance 31 Dec 23
Boys Brigade	5,979	9,200	9,680	5,499
	£ 5,979	£ 9,200	£ 9,680	£ 5,499

SAFFRON WALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH (Reg charity No 1199611)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

REPRESENTING BALANCES ON THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS

	2024	2023
Unrestricted funds	93,387	87,319
Restricted funds	4,203	5,499
	<u>£ 97,591</u>	<u>£ 92,818</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
ASSETS			
Bank balances		97,591	92,730
Other cash balances		-	88
		<u>£ 97,591</u>	<u>£ 92,818</u>
Other monetary assets (general fund)	10	<u>£ 10,536</u>	<u>£ 12,416</u>
Non monetary assets	11	<u>£ 5,724,777</u>	<u>£ 5,499,604</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities	12	<u>£ 1,478</u>	<u>£ 2,824</u>
Pension Scheme Liability	13	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>

The Financial Statements set out on pages 7 to 11 relating to the year ending 31 December 2024 were produced by Rosemary Timms.

They were approved by the Deacons/Trustees of Saffron Walden Baptist Church

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Tracy Todman (Trustee and Treasurer) 

Date 19/5/25

Rosemary Timms (Trustee) 

Date 19/5/25

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

(Except for Note 1 and stated elsewhere, these notes refer solely to the General Fund)

1 Basis of accounts:

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and accord with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2 Donations and other income

	2024	2023
Lunch Club income (excluding charity donations)	360	352
Donations	2,178	2,048
Bank interest	3,604	1,402
Legacies	-	-
	£ 6,142	£ 3,802

3 Gift Aid Income

	2024	2023
Gift Aid General Fund	9,359	9,150
Gift Aid - included in Raised for Others	360	157
Gift Aid included in Restricted BB	268	262
Total Claim	£ 9,987	£ 9,569

	2024	2024	2023	2023
4 Other causes	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
BMS Birthday Scheme	405	405	485	485
Harvest Appeal	740	790	230	230
Christian Aid - CTSW Offering	831	831	174	174
Christian Aid - Lunch Club	979	979	748	748
Christmas Appeal 2024	722	-	-	-
Christmas 2023 (Touchpoint Stansted)	125	340	215	-
Christmas 2023 (Medecin Sans Frontie	125	341	216	-
Tommy's Charity	-	-	87	87
Liz & Sergio Vilela	-	-	225	225
DEC Turkey	-	-	295	295
Christmas Appeal 2022	-	-	210	210
Christmas Appeal 2022 - Lunch Club	-	-	80	80
	£ 3,927	£ 3,686	£ 2,965	£ 2,534

5 Funds from the BUC

We received £ 20,267 accrued interest associated with the permanent Endowment of the Robert Cozens charity set up in 1729 (£2023: £25,273). A further interest amount of £3,899 accrued before the year end which we received in 2025 and is shown as a monetary asset (note 10) (2023: £5,271).

The capital sum remains with and is managed by the BUC. As the only known beneficiary we will continue to receive the entirety of the income, for the benefit of the church, for the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

6 Ministry

	2024	2023
Minister's stipend	33,062	30,636
Pension contributions (current)	4,157	3,857
Pension contributions (deficit)	10	12
Manse costs	3,685	3,710
Travel and other expenses	2,080	2,104
Visiting preachers	1,106	479
Conferences & training	526	130
Resources	101	-
Miscellaneous	145	-
Sunday Club and Youth Groups	201	505
	£ 45,073	£ 41,433

The Minister acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Minister, including the provision of manse accommodation owned by the church

7 Mission

Given to other causes (Note 4)	3,686	2,534
Eastern Baptist Association	4,500	4,500
Baptist Missionary Society	4,500	4,500
Lunch Club costs	360	314
Church Events (Anniversary)	2,891	-
Boys brigade - subs paid to HQ	1,554	1,343
DEC Turkey	-	3,000
BMS - Liz & Sergio Vilela	-	500
	£ 17,491	£ 16,691

8 Upkeep of church premises

Power & water & oil	10,911	8,867
Cleaning salary and materials	7,309	6,570
Church repairs and maintenance	19,423	15,794
Church upkeep projects from buildings fund	-	6,160
Church upkeep projects from trust fund	-	38,076
Insurance	3,280	2,540
Linton Close repairs and maintenance	1,286	5,689
Equipment	-	2,826
Grounds Maintenance	303	255
	£ 42,512	£ 86,777

9 Administration

Printing/Copying	408	514
Hospitality	730	274
Stationery & postage	139	95
Telephone & internet	646	636
Licences, subscriptions, website	1,437	1,432
Miscellaneous	903	970
Anthony Collins Solicitors	-	602
	£ 4,263	£ 4,523

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

10 Other monetary assets (general fund)

	2024	2023
Lettings debtors	3,954	4,939
BUC Trust Fund Interest	3,899	5,271
Gift aid receivable	2,306	2,206
Shelford Oil credit account	377	-
	£ 10,536	£ 12,416

11 Non-monetary assets - held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

	2024	2023
Insured Value of the following :		
Saffron Walden Baptist Church, Audley Road, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3HD	5,020,271	4,859,935
The Manse, 31 Linton Close, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3BU	562,932	502,617
The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of:	141,574	137,052
	£ 5,724,777	£ 5,499,604

12 Current Liabilities

	2024	2023
Shelford Oil balance (see note 10 above)	-	1,594
Website & Zoom invoices	140	57
Gas & Electricity December invoice	616	532
Maintenance Invoices	-	210
Christmas Appeal collection	722	431
	£ 1,478	£ 2,824

13 Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is an employer participating in the Baptist Pension Scheme which is administered by the Baptist Pension Trust Limited. The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the participating employers.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme which started in 1925 but was closed on 31 December 2011.

The buy-out signed in June 2022 has nearly been completed and it is estimated that the DB Plan is in surplus. The Trustees have ceased the collection of £1 per month from each employer and we have been advised that our church will have no further obligation to the Scheme's DB Plan.

In accordance with the change in circumstances, no debt has been entered in relation to the Pension Fund.

Saffron Walden Baptist Church

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of Saffron Walden Baptist Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

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

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

Independent Examiner's Report

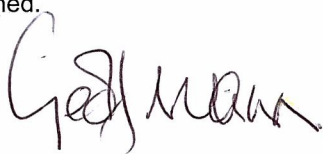
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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 brought in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Geoff Mann
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