

# **ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Annual Report and Financial Statement for  
the 16-month period**

**30 August 2022 to 31 December 2023**



**Charity Number 1200212**

## **Alcester Baptist Church**

### **Report for the period 30 August 2022 to 31 December 2023**

#### **Accounting Period**

Although Alcester Baptist Church is now in its 384th year, we registered as a new Charitable Incorporate Organisation (CIO) with effect from 30 August 2022. Therefore these accounts cover the period from 30 August 2022 to 31 December 2023. Future reports will revert to the Annual January to December pattern.

#### **Charitable Object**

The purposes of the Church are '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.'

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

Membership of the Church is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ, who commit themselves to regular worship at the church, a willingness to serve through the ministries of the Church, to support the church financially and prayerfully and to live a life in keeping with being a disciple of Jesus.

Members are interviewed for membership as a way of getting to know their faith story, and a recommendation is brought to the Church Members Meeting for decision. The Church is in membership nationally with 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain', also known as 'Baptists Together' and regionally with our local Association of Baptist Churches known as 'The Heart of England Baptist Association.'

Church members take all the major decisions in the life of the church, including those that relate to the appointment of a Minister, other Church Staff, Church Trustees or Church Property. Four members meetings are held a year so that the whole fellowship is involved in all decision making at the church.

Appointment and removal of Trustees is by the Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Constitution (Section 14) and Charity law. The minister(s) are automatically Trustees, and all Trustees manage the day to day running of the church. Between them they cover all areas of church life, which include worship services, pastoral care and discipleship, children, families and community outreach, administration and premises management.

The church currently has 46 members as at the end of 2023 but many more who attend either regularly or occasionally. Two of our longstanding church members died in this last year and one person was baptised by immersion.

#### **Safeguarding of Children, Young Adults and Adults at Risk.**

The church has a safeguarding policy in place which promotes the protection of children, young adults and adults at risk through clearly defined processes and procedures. This policy gives clear guidance on how to maintain a safe environment for all. The Safeguarding Policy is reinforced to the church as a whole at the Annual General Meeting, where the abridged version is read in its entirety. DBS checks are regularly undertaken for all who work and volunteer at the church and whose role entails contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Our Designated Person for Safeguarding is Elaine Willis and our Safeguarding Trustee Lynne Thompson.

### **Activities during the Period**

This period has been a busy and fruitful period in the life of the church, with many encouragements. Our numbers of young people attending has begun to increase and given us confidence to begin a new teenage group early in 2024.

In Autumn 2022 we took the decision to employ Beth Clarke as our Family Missioner, and although Beth felt the need to step down from her role at the end of August 2023, she made a big impact in the life of the church in her short time with us. Beth facilitated a number of outreach initiatives, including our 'Friday Fun and Food' summer outreach for the community in August 2023. This was the second successful summer outreach programme over the last two years and we anticipate this continuing in future.

A significant time in the last year was the period of sabbatical I was able to take from June to August. Baptist Ministers are afforded this privilege every seven years and I'm grateful to the Church for enabling this to happen. My thanks to Rev David Kerrigan, one of our church members, for taking on full ministerial duties during my sabbatical period.

In the first half of the year we started a monthly Monday evening singing worship gathering which attracted a reasonable number of people from the church and beyond. This was discontinued after the summer.

Little Angels, our Tuesday morning toddler group, continues to attract young parents, grandparents and their little ones. Play, storytelling, singing and dancing create a vibrant atmosphere in a safe space at no cost, other than those who wish to make a small donation.

Three housegroups meet each week, providing time and space for bible study, prayer, pastoral support and the deepening of friendships.

The Wellbeing Café continues to meet on Wednesday mornings, where people drop in for a coffee and a chat with friends and those who come as more occasional visitors. Over the 2022/23 winter this was also advertised as a 'warm hub' to enable people to find a warm space whilst avoiding high utility bills at home.

The Alcester Community Fridge continues to thrive, with upwards of 45 volunteers involved in collecting food from supermarkets and those generally managing the project behind the scenes, making it available through our 6-day a week opening hours. Over 30 of those volunteers are from the wider Alcester community rather than from the church community. Two new part-time paid coordinators started in September 2023.

During the Autumn 2023 season we ran our first Alpha Course for some years. This was well attended, mostly by church folks, nevertheless, this enabled us to get reacquainted with the Alpha material and ethos, and to reexamine matters of faith together. This was held on a Saturday morning, including breakfast. We are grateful to the breakfast crew for facilitating this each week. Our hope would be to revisit Alpha later in 2024, maybe through a different approach within house settings.

On a Sunday morning we now have a new prayer team, facilitated by David Hurst. This has added to the overall spirituality of the church, and it is good to see the team in action on a Sunday morning, practicing grace and faith following a morning service.

Over the last year we have been exploring what it means to be an inclusive church, and on Sundays we've looked at understanding better the issues raised by those who live with, for example, mental health concerns, those who are disabled, neuro-diverse, or financially less well off as others, as well as those whose sexuality is other than heterosexual. The mind of the church has long been to ensure that everyone is welcome and able to play a full part in the life of our church, irrespective of their personal circumstances. As a result, at our church meeting on 22 November we agreed to become a member of the Inclusive Church Network (<https://www.inclusive-church.org>) and look forward to working out the fullness of this commitment in the years to come.

On behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Alison Mackay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Alison" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Mackay" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature is positioned to the left of the date.

5 February 2024

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Revd Alison Mackay  
Minister

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Date

## **Treasurer's Annual Report For the Year Ending 31 December 2023**

Although Alcester Baptist Church has existed since 1640, the decision was taken in 2022 to register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission. This was done with effect from 30 August 2022. This first set of accounts for the new CIO covers the 16-month period up to 31 December 2023, as required by the Charity Commission.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus says "...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt 6:21). Having recorded a 13% rise in regular giving in the year to December 2022, and now a further 34% rise for the year to December 2023 it is clear that our growing congregation has their heart in the witness of the church.

Baptist Churches historically are known for their generosity and it is our understanding that how we use our wealth – however much or little we have – is part of our commitment to being followers of Christ. Giving 'generously, proportionately and sacrificially' is our approach to money.

A significant portion of the extra regular giving enabled us to employ Beth Clarke as Missioner, though we are sorry that Beth felt the need to step back from her paid role at the end of August 2023. In 2023 also we were also able to catch up on a backlog of Gift Aid receipts which allowed us to address a number of repairs and make some significant property improvements. Gift Aid will revert to a more normal level of around £10,000 pa in 2024.

Rental income held up well during the period covered by these accounts and looks stronger for the early part of 2024. We are delighted to see our premises used by the wider community, seeing this as part of our wider commitment to the people of Alcester.

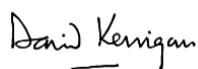
Our Alcester Community Fridge (ACF) project opened in August 2022 and continues to thrive in its second year, with success in attracting grants and personal donations that covered the cost of the project. The work of the ACF rests upon the dedicated service of more than 45 volunteers, most of whom come from the wider community.

Thanks to a generous Grant from the Baptist Insurance Corporation (BIC) in late 2022 we were able to initiate a number of outreach projects in 2023 including a summer outreach to the community that was incredibly well received.

The church remains generous towards others, and our support for BMS World Mission and the Baptist Union's Home Mission Fund remained strong in 2022 and 2023 and will be increased in 2024. The church responded also to appeals connected to the Turkey/Syrian earthquake in February 2023, the Women's Refuge 'Gilgal' in Birmingham, and towards support of those addressing the suffering in Gaza in recent months.

We would like to note our special thanks to a number of local organisations whose grants have helped our community outreach work. These include 'Moor Street Charity and 'Church Street Properties' Alcester, Hubbub, Alcester Academy, Warks County Council, Alcester Food Festival, Rotary Club (Alcester), Alcester Town Council, Co-op and LIDL.

We are grateful to God for his many blessings upon our church in this season of growth and look forward with confidence to the year ahead.



David Kerrigan  
Treasurer

ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH						
ACCOUNTS 30 AUGUST 2022 to 31 DECEMBER 2023						
		A	B	C		D
INCOME	Note	Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		Total 16 months to 31 Dec 2023
Weekly Offerings	1	64,727	1,200			65,927
Gift Aid	2	28,682				28,682
Communion		204				204
Designated Income (eg WBC)			160			160
Other - ABC		2,238				2,238
Other - ACF	5			1,642		1,642
<b>Total Offerings</b>		<b>95,851</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,642</b>		<b>98,853</b>
						0
Hire and Lettings	3	13,263				13,263
External Grants & Gifts - ABC	4			11,010		11,010
External Grants & Gifts - ACF	5			15,982		15,982
Interest & Other		265				265
Raised for other Baptist causes						0
- BMS World Mission		810	1,244			2,054
- BU Home Mission		137	564			701
- Other Baptist Causes			129			129
Raised for Non-Baptist Causes						0
- Earthquake Relief (Turkey/Syria)		230		1,511		1,741
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>110,557</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>30,145</b>		<b>143,998</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Local Ministry	6	51,521				51,521
Manse	7	10,867				10,867
Local Mission						
- Outreach		684		5,000		5,684
- ACF		0		16,920		16,920
- Fellowship Fund		1,412				1,412
Wider Mission						
- BMS World Mission		2,810	1,342			4,152
- BU Home Mission		2,100	700			2,800
- Other Baptist Causes - EBF			129			129
- NBC Earthquake/Gilgal etc		230		1,511		1,741
Administration	8	5,200				5,200
Property Upkeep	9	21,806		5,000		26,806
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>96,630</b>	<b>2,171</b>	<b>28,431</b>		<b>127,232</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>13,927</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,766</b>
<b>MOVEMENT ON ABC ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>Current A/C</b>	<b>Savings A/C</b>	<b>BU Trust Fund TA007</b>		<b>Total Funds</b>
Opening Bal 1 Sep 2022		11,526	15,442	7,658		34,626
Total Income for 16 mths to Dec 2023		143,998	147	345		144,490
Total Expenditure for 16 mths to Dec 2023		(127,232)		(265)		(127,497)
Closing Bal 31 DECEMBER 2023		28,292	15,589	7,737		51,618
<b>MOVEMENT IN ABC FUNDS Aug 22 to Dec 23</b>						<b>16,992</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>O/Bal 30 Aug 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>C/Bal 31 Dec 23</b>
ACF		9,680	17,624	(16,920)		10384
Summer & Monday Outreach (BIC)		0	5,000	(5,000)		0
Church St Prop & Moor Field		0	5,000	(5,000)		0
Relief Appeals		0	1,511	(1,511)		0
Other			1,702			1702
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>9,680</b>	<b>30,145</b>	<b>(28,431)</b>		<b>11394</b>
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>(2,171)</b>		<b>1125</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS (GF)</b>						
- GF in Current Account		1,846	110,556	(96,630)		15772
- GF in Savings Account		15,442	147	0		15589
- GF in Trust Fund BU TA007		7,658	345	(265)		7738
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS</b>		<b>24,946</b>	<b>111,048</b>	<b>(96,895)</b>		<b>39099</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS INC SAVINGS ACs</b>		<b>34,626</b>	<b>144,490</b>	<b>(127,497)</b>		<b>51618</b>



Notes to the Aug 2022 - Dec 2023 Accounts					
		£			
<b>Note 1</b>	Weekly Offerings		<b>Note 6</b>	Local Ministry	
	Gift-Aided Bank Giving	54811		Minister and Missioner - Stipends, NI and Pension	47,472
	Gift-Aided Loose Giving	4694		Travel, Courses	2,802
	Non Gift-Aid Giving	6422		Mobile, Broadband, landline	369
		65,927		Visiting Preachers	878
					51,521
<b>Note 2</b>	Gift Aid				
	Gift Aid - relating to Current Year (2023)	24032	<b>Note 7</b>	Manse Costs	
	Gift Aid - relating to Previous year (2022)	4650		Council Tax	3,579
		28,682		Heating, Lighting & Water	3,531
				Landline, Broadband & Mobile	740
<b>Note 3</b>	Hire and Letting of Premises			Repairs and Maintenance	2,409
	Alcester Musical Theatre	1,990		Insurance	608
	Alcester Day Care	8,990			10,867
	Yoga Classes	2,283			
	Other		<b>Note 8</b>	Administration	
		13,263		Post, Stat, Tel, Broadband at ABC	751
				Printing	1,876
<b>Note 4</b>	External Grants & Gifts ABC			Fees, Licenses	2,573
	Moor Field Charity (for soundproofing)	1,000			5,200
	Church St Properties (2023 for front Paving)	4,000			
	Baptist Insurance	5,000	<b>Note 9</b>	Property Upkeep	
	Alcester Town Council (ex Western Power)	0		Church Repairs and Maintenance *	20,402
	Alcester Male Voice Choir	1,010		Heating and Lighting	4,318
		11,010		Water	181
				Insurance	1,905
<b>Note 5</b>	External Grants & Personal Donations - ACF				26,806
	Rotary Alcester	500			
	Alcester Town Council	1500		* Church Repair and Maintenance	
	LIDL	500		Front of Church Paving	4,448
	Co-op Charity of the Year	1490		Upper Room Refurbishment	1,224
	Hubbub	1000		Upper room Stairs - replastering	1,530
	Cornerstone	0		Hall - Soundproofing	3,839
	Alcester Academy	0		Hall - strip & repolish	1,530
	Warks County Council	3810		Hall - new heater	2,820
	Alcester Food Festival	7182		Hall - new TV	300
	Small Donations	1642		Baptistry (part-payment)	537
		17,624		Other	4,174
				Total	20,402



**Report of the Independent Examiners  
to the Trustees of Alcester Baptist Church  
on the accounts for the 16 months from 30 August 2022 to 31 December 2023**

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiners**

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) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is our 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 our attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's statement**

Our 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.

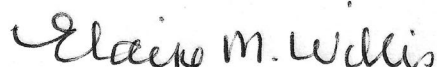
**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us 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)

We 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 the Examiners



Elaine Willis  
Alcester



Tom Catterall  
Alcester

6-2-24.

Date

6/2/2024

Date

## **Legal Information**

### **Charitable Status**

Alcester Baptist Church ('The Church') is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission on 30 August 2022, though the Church traces its roots in Alcester back to 1640.

The Church Registration Number is 1200212

### **Church Address**

Alcester Baptist Church  
Church St  
Alcester B49 5AJ

### **Trustees**

During the 16 months from 30 August 2022 to 31 December 2023, the following people served as Trustees in their various roles:

Revd Alison Mackay (Minister)  
Mrs Lynne Thompson (Secretary)  
Mr William Reg Rose (Treasurer – until 1 March 2023)  
Rev David Kerrigan (Treasurer – from 1 March 2023)  
Mrs Mary Elizabeth Bowld  
Mrs Catherine Barbara Tomlinson  
Mrs Mildred Ann Gough  
Mr Christopher Denis Gough  
Mr Brian John Williams  
Mrs Elaine Willis (from 1 March 2023)  
Mrs Beth Clarke (from 1 January until 31 August 2023)

### **Property Trustees**

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited  
Baptist House  
129 Broadway  
Didcot OX11 8RT

### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
Leicester L87 2BB

### **Independent Examiners**

Mrs Elaine Willis  
Mr Tom Catterall

### **Website**

[www.alcesterbaptist.org.uk](http://www.alcesterbaptist.org.uk)