

ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report and Financial Statement

Year Ended 31 December 2024



Charity Number 1200212

Alcester Baptist Church

Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2024

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 locally with our local Association of Baptist Churches known as 'The Heart of England Baptist Association.' It is in membership nationally with 'The Baptist Union of Great Britain,' also known as 'Baptists Together.'

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 54 members at the end of 2024, and many more friends who attend either regularly or occasionally. In 2024 we welcomed 2 people into membership. On Easter Sunday we shared the joy of witnessing 4 believers Baptisms. Only one death in our church family this year.

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 done 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 Year

2004 has been a busy one in the life of the church, with many encouragements. Numbers of people attending Sunday worship has continued to increase, creating a healthy Sunday congregation.

In the preaching program in 2024 we have studied:

- A series on The Kingdom of God
- A series on the Parables of Jesus
- Study of 2 Corinthians 8 & 9
- The life of Abraham
- Summer series on Seaside stories
- And a series on the Letters to the Churches in Rev 1 – 3
-

We welcomed Rev Tony Peck to lead out Church Retreat and Rev Keith Osmund -Smith to conduct our Church Anniversary.

In September we launched a new more meditative service on the 3rd Sunday evening of each month, known as “Sacred Space”.

In January 2024 Alcester Baptist Church registered to become part of the Inclusive Church Network. Adopting their mission statement as our own: “We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **age, disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity** or **sexuality**. We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Little Angels Toddler Group meets every Tuesday during term times, and continues to attract young parents, grandparents, carers and their little ones. The team run the program which includes supervised 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. This July we said goodbye to several children who had been with us from the launch, who now move on to begin their school life, but not without a party to send them on their way.

Three house groups continue to 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. This venture is well supported by church people, with a handful of others who attend.

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

community. Our two paid part-time staff continue to serve as our coordinators, bringing with them much energy and wisdom.

Meeting for prayer increased from Friday morning to now include Monday mornings too. This has been a good decision and we have continued to see God answering our prayers. On a Sunday morning the prayer team offer prayer support following the service. This is proving to be invaluable and enabling people to feel supported and loved.

Much energy and prayer have been involved in the appointment process for a new Community Link Worker, yet sadly this post still remains vacant. The search and recruitment team are to be commended for their time, diligence and commitment to this task. We continue to wait on God for the right person to join the team.

On behalf of the Trustees



14 February 2025

Revd Alison Mackay
Minister

Date

Treasurer's Annual Report
For the Year ending 31 December 2024

Recent years have seen considerable pressure on household budgets, with the cost of fuel significantly higher than recent years because of the war in Ukraine, and as a result inflation reached 11% before falling away in 2024.

Against this difficult backdrop, the ministries of the church have been sustained and enhanced by the generosity of God's people. Part of our goal this year was to appoint a second worker but sadly we were unable to do so. However, a healthy sum of money has been given to help us consider whether to take this step again in 2025.

During the year we have introduced Contactless giving and we have been pleased to see how the ease of using a contactless device has enabled our giving to grow. We have introduced a second contactless device in the Community Fridge in December as we seek to encourage 'a suggested donation' of £1 per visit to cover some of the costs of the project.

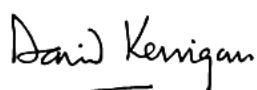
Each week 'Alcester Day Care' use our premises to host their programme and this has increased from two to three sessions per week this year with a significant increase in rental income. Other groups use the premises on a weekly basis and fit easily around the regular activities of the church.

The church has increased its support of BMS World Mission and Home Mission as we share with other Baptist church across the UK the task of mission witness to our own nation and in countries far afield. Our support for Teams4U Shoebox Appeal has also been generously supported as has our annual donation towards the work of the Women's Refuge, Gilgal, in Birmingham.

We note our special thanks to a number of local organisations whose grants have helped our Community Fridge work. These include Alcester Town Council, Warwickshire County Council and the Mid-Counties Co-op Community Fund.

What cannot be costed so easily are the thousands of hours given by church members, in tasks seen and unseen, that enable the ministry of the church to run smoothly. People do not look for credit for they see it as part of their Christian service, as indeed it is. But time and again we see quiet words of encouragement and thanks to those who serve faithfully in quiet ways.

We look to the future with confidence in the God who is known as the one who provides for his people's needs. Often, of course, that works by enabling the people of the church to make that provision themselves – and to do so joyfully. In the spirit, we look forward to 2025 with confidence in our heavenly Father.



David Kerrigan
Treasurer

ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH							
ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2024							
		A	B	C	D	E	G
		Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total to 31 Dec 2024		FULL YEAR ACTUAL 2023
RECEIPTS 2024	Note						
1 Weekly Offerings	1	49,832	6,600		56,432		51,950
2 Gift Aid	2	12,465			12,465		24,031
3 Communion		169			169		194
4 Fellowship Fund		0			0		0
5 Designated Income (eg WBC)			173		173		160
6 Other - ABC		365			365		1,894
7 Other - ACF	3a			2,144	2,144		950
8 Total Offerings		62,830	6,773	2,144	71,748		79,179
9							
10 Hire and Lettings	4	15,555			15,555		8,612
11 External Grants & Gifts - ABC	5			0	0		5,000
12 External Grants & Gifts - ACF	3b			2,500	2,500		8,990
13 Interest Received to Current AC		201			201		232
14 Interest on Savings accounts		689			689		
15 Raised for Baptist causes							
16 - BMS World Mission				780	780		810
17 - BU Home Mission		35			35		137
18 - Other Baptist Causes		93			93		129
19 Raised for Non-Baptist Causes							
20 - Teams4U Shoebox Appeal				575	575		1,511
21 Total Income		79,403	6,773	5,999	92,175		104,600
22							
23 EXPENDITURE 2024							
24 Local Ministry	6	34,502			34,502		40,569
25 Manse	7	9,931			9,931		8,902
26 Local Mission							
27 - Outreach Resources		2,630			2,630		5,000
28 - ACF	8			8,785	8,785		10,678
29 - Fellowship Fund		398			398		1,412
30 - Exp against Desig Income (eg WBC)			161		161		
31 Wider Mission							
32 - BMS World Mission		2,290		780	3,070		2,810
33 - BU Home Mission		2,220			2,220		2,100
34 - Other Baptist Causes		0			0		129
35 - e.g. Shoebox, Disaster, Gilgal etc				575	575		1,511
36 Administration	9	3,530			3,530		3,145
37 Property Related Costs	10	12,602		0	12,602		23,042
38 Sundry		1,107			1,107		0
39 Total Expenditure		68,103	161	10,140	79,511		99,299
40							
41 Surplus/(Deficit)		11,300	6,612	(4,141)	12,664		5,301
42							
43 Movement of Accounts		Barclays Current A/C	Lloyds Current A/C	Lloyds 90-Day Savings AC	Barclays Savings A/C	BU Trust Fund TA007	Total Funds
44							
45 Opening Balance 1 Jan 2024		28,402	0	0	15,589	7,737	51,728
46 Prior year adjustment							0
47 Total Income for 2024		30,932	60,544	689	58	(48)	92,175
48 Total Expenditure for 2024		(17,158)	(62,353)				(79,511)
49 Transfer in/(out)		(41,771)	41,771				0
50 Transfer in/(out)			15,647		(15,647)		0
51 Transfer in/(out)			(25,000)	25,000			0
52 Transfer in/(out)			1,180			(1,180)	0
53 Closing Balance 31 Dec 2024		405	31,789	25,689	0	6,509	64,392
54							
56 Nett Movement in Funds							12,664
57							
58 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS		O/Bal Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Adjustments		C/Bal 31 Dec 24
59 RESTRICTED FUNDS							
60 ACF		9,693	4,644	(8,785)			5,552
61 BMS Harvest 24		0	780	(780)			0
62 Teams4U Shoebox 24		0	575	(575)			0
63 Total Restricted Funds		9,693	5,999	(10,140)			5,552
64							
67 DESIGNATED FUNDS							
68 Second Staff Worker		2,200	6,600	0			8,800
69 Wellbeing cafe		160	173	(161)			172
70 Total Designated Funds		2,360	6,773	(161)			8,972
71							
72 GENERAL FUNDS							
73 - Current Accounts		16,349	53,655	(52,325)			17,680
74 Savings Accounts		15,589	25,748	(15,647)			25,689
75 BUC Trust Fund TA007		7,737		(1,228)			6,509
76 Total General Funds		39,675	79,403	(69,200)			49,878
77							
78 Total Funds		51,728	92,175	(79,511)			64,392

Notes to the ABC 2024 Accounts			
		2024	2023
Note 1	Weekly Offerings		
	Gift-Aided Bank Giving	43,781	41,677
	Gift-Aided Loose Giving	3,581	4,484
	Gift-Aided Contactless Giving	4,290	0
	Non Gift-Aid Giving	4,780	6,459
		56,422	52,415
Note 2	Gift Aid		
	ABC Gift Aid - relating to Current Year (2024)	12,464	
	ABC Gift Aid - relating to Current Year (2023)		11,407
	ABC Gift Aid - relating to Previous year (2022)		12624
			24031
Note 3a	Alcester Community Fridge (ACF) Income		
	Donations	2144	950
Note 3b	Alcester Community Fridge (ACF) Grants		
	Rotary Alcester		500
	Alcester Town Council	1000	1500
	LIDL		500
	Co-op	500	1490
	Hubbub		1000
	Warks County Council	1000	0
	Alcester Food Festival		4000
		4,644	9,940
Note 4	Hire and Letting of Premises		
	Alcester Musical Theatre	1924	1530
	Alcester Day Care (inc £888.00 Jan 2025 paid in advance)	11248	5370
	Yoga Classes	2293	1712
	Other	90	0
		15,555	8,612
Note 5	External Grants & Gifts ABC		
	Moor Field Charity (soundproofing)		1000
	Church St Properties (front Paving)		4000
		0	5,000
Note 6	Local Ministry		
	Minister, (Missioner 2023) - Stipends, NI and Pension	31,941	37,737
	Travel, Courses	2,063	2,292
	Mobile, Broadband, landline	130	100
	Visiting Preachers	369	440
		34,502	40,569
Note 7	Manse Costs		
	Council Tax	2,836	2,703
	Heating, Lighting & Water	2,363	2,630
	Landline, Broadband & Mobile	668	740
	Repairs and Maintenance	3,383	2,221
	Insurance	680	608
		9,931	8,902
Note 8	Alcester Community Fridge (ACF) Expenditure		
	Coordinator Salaries	6296	5607
	Electricity	1641	1539
	Repairs & supplies	848	3532
		8785	10678
Note 9	Administration		
	Post, Stat, Tel, Broadband at ABC	556	499
	Printing	1,223	1,226
	Fees, Licenses	1,739	1,420
		3,518	3,145
Note 10	Property Upkeep		
	Church Repairs and Maintenance * see below	4,919	17,638
	Heating and Lighting	5,556	3,318
	Water	208	181
	Insurance	1,919	1,905
		12,602	23,042
	Church Repair and Maintenance *		
	Cleaning	1,254	
	Tree Surgery	350	
	Upper room brickwork	270	
	Front of Church Paving		4,448
	Upper Room Refurbishment		1,224
	Upper room Stairs - replastering & painting	285	1,530
	Hall - Soundproofing		3,839
	Hall - strip & repolish		1,530
	Hall - new heater		1,426
	Hall - new TV		300
	Baptistry (part-payment)	500	537
	Other	2,260	2,804
	Total	4,919	17,638



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Alcester Baptist Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1200212

Set out on pages

1-7

And (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

E. J. Rye

Date:

23 January 2025

Name:

Edward John Rye

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FMAAT

Address:

62 Westhill Road,

Kings Norton, Birmingham

B38 8TN

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 year to 31 December 2024, and through to the signing of the Annual Report and Accounts, the following people served as Trustees in their various roles:

Revd Alison Mackay (Minister)
Mrs Lynne Thompson (Secretary)
Rev David Kerrigan (Treasurer)
Mrs Mary Elizabeth Bowld
Mr Christopher Denis Gough (until 28 February 2024)
Mrs Mildred Ann Gough (until 28 February 2024)
Mr Jeff Steers (from 28 February 2024)
Mrs Catherine Barbara Tomlinson
Mr Brian John Williams
Mrs Elaine Willis

Property Trustees

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

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

Independent Examiner

Mr Eddy Rye FMAAT

Website

www.alcesterbaptist.org.uk