

# **ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statement**

**Year Ended 31 December 2025**



**Charity Number 1200212**

## **Alcester Baptist Church**

### **Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2025**

#### **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 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 can engage in 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. The trustees together 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, mission, children, families and community outreach, administration and premises management.

The church had 53 members at the end of 2025, and many more friends who attend either regularly or occasionally. In 2025 we welcomed two people into membership and on Easter Sunday we shared the joy of witnessing two believer's baptisms. This year we marked the passing of life with the families of Betty Hasson and David Stansbridge.

### **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 Church 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**

2025 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 2025 we have studied:

- A series on Relationships based on the bible's use of the phrase "One another"
- A study on the life of Peter
- Lent Study in the Wilderness
- A study through Ephesians
- Summer series on Children in the Bible
- And a series on the "I AM's of Jesus"

In May we welcomed Rev Jane Day to lead a ladies Day on Project Violet and lead our Church 385th Anniversary celebration.

In June we enjoyed the visit of Dr Rula Mansour from Nazareth who is Founder and Director of the Nazareth Peace Centre. Subsequently, the church agreed to partner with Rula and the work of the Peace Centre initially for a period of three years.

In July we successfully hosted the 3-day Baptist Historical Society Conference.

In September we were delighted when Jonna Fredrich joined the Alcester Baptist Church team, coming to us for 12 months from Berlin through the charity "Time For God". Jonna very quickly got involved with the young people, launching a Youth Hub on Tuesday evening. Jonna also joined the Junior Church and Little Angels team, as well as working with Alcester Day Care, The Crafty Lunch Club, and Alcester Academy helping GCSE student with conversational German.

We prayerfully continued our journey in what it means to be an inclusive church, and explored how we might go forward with Equal Marriage at ABC. No decisions were taken but this continues to be a subject we prayerfully consider together.

Junior Church continues to meet bi-weekly. The numbers can fluctuate from week to week and the Junior Church team do an excellent job of keeping two age groups going as much as possible. A fun 3-day Summer Program was held in August on consecutive Fridays.

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, craft, storytelling, singing and dancing creating 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 two children who now move on to begin their school life. This year this was marked with a graduation party.

Three house groups continue to meet each week, providing time and space for bible study, prayer, pastoral support and the deepening of friendships. In the Autumn we ran an Alpha Group, which allowed several people new to the church to explore Christianity.

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 many able volunteers involved in collecting food from supermarkets, and 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. 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.

This year we been blessed with a new worship group under the leadership of Peter Brookes, with Jonna, Gareth, Ruth and Gary leading our worship on alternative Sundays.

The new PA system has enabled us to have more clarity of vision and audio, and we are grateful for all the financial gifts that made this a reality.

Lastly, the church continues to be a most generous group of people. As is usual with most Baptist Churches, all our costs are met locally by the congregation. So as well as supporting local ministry (minister, buildings, utilities etc), the church has also supported mission work nationally (through the Baptist Union's Home Mission Fund) and internationally through the work of BMS World Mission.

In addition, gifts of various sizes have been raised for other charities as outlined in the accounts, including Alcester Day Care, Musalaha UK, Gilgal Women's Refuge in Birmingham, and Teams4U Shoebox appeal.

We look forward to 2026 with anticipation as we look to God to lead us and guide us in all things.

On behalf of the Trustees



11 February 2026

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Revd Alison Mackay  
Minister

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Date

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

We entered 2025 having passed a budget that required a small % increase in giving to meet our ongoing costs but which also agreed to draw a sum of £6000 from our reserves towards new audio-visual equipment for the church, if approved in the New Year. The church did indeed approve the purchase of new AV equipment at a cost of £37800 and duly raised £31,800. The new equipment will serve the church well for many years to come and brings a significant improvement to worship week-by-week. If congregational giving is an indicator of congregational health, then we appear to be in good shape!

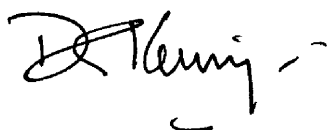
Having previously raised £8800 towards a second worker, we were delighted when our 'Time for God' intern joined us in September 2025 for a year, her costs being drawn from that Designated fund.

For three days each week 'Alcester Day Care' use our premises to host their programme caring for those with dementia. It is a wonderful ministry and we are privileged to host the work. However, plans are now afoot for Day Care to move from ABC in 2027 or 2028, as soon as they can raise funds to renovate and extend premises that have been gifted to them to use. This will lead us to lose over £11000 a year in income but we know this is the right move for the project.

The church has increased its support for BMS World Mission and Home Mission again this year 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 local organisations whose grants have helped our Community Fridge work. These include Warwickshire County Council (Kind Communities Grant) and SLR Consulting, a global organisation committed to Sustainability who gave us a grant based on the fact that one of our Fridge volunteers works for them and applied on our behalf.

At the end of the year our general reserves – the amount we have in the bank - stand at 9.5 months of general expenditure, higher than the 6-8 months that is our target as approved by our Deaconate. But we are aware that in 2027 we are likely to be selling our current manse and buying a new one and we will probably need to find a significant extra sum towards that purchase. Extra reserves now will mean less to raise next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Kerrigan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Kerrigan  
Treasurer

ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH								
ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2025								
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Note	Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total to 31 DEC 2025			FULL YEAR ACTUAL 2024
1 <b>INCOME 2025</b>								
2 Weekly Offerings	1	57,360			57,360			56,601
4 Gift Aid	2	13,341			13,341			12,465
5 Fellowship Fund					0			0
6 AV Project Income			31,830		31,830			0
7 Designated Income (eg WBC)			357		357			173
8 Other - ABC		925			925			365
9 Other - ACF	3			4,864	4,864			2,144
10 <b>Total Offerings</b>		<b>71,626</b>	<b>32,187</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>108,678</b>			<b>71,748</b>
11 Hire and Lettings	4	13,516			13,516			15,555
12 External Grants & Gifts - ABC				0	0			0
13 External Grants & Gifts - ACF	3			1,300	1,300			2,500
14 Interest Received (BUC)					0			201
15 Interest on Savings accounts		654			654			689
16 <b>Wider Mission Causes</b>								
17 - BMS World Mission			624		624			780
18 - BU Home Mission					0			35
19 - Musalaha, Shoebox, Jamaica Appeal				777	777			575
20 <b>Total Income</b>		<b>85,796</b>	<b>32,811</b>	<b>6,941</b>	<b>125,548</b>			<b>92,083</b>
21 <b>EXPENDITURE 2025</b>								
22 Local Ministry	5	37,144			37,144			34,502
23 Time for God Intern			2,175		2,175			0
24 Manse	6	7,120			7,120			9,931
25 AV Project	3		37,819		37,819			0
26 Outreach Resources		2,684			2,684			2,630
27 ACF	7			7,108	7,108			8,785
28 Fellowship Fund		100			100			398
29 Exp against Desig Income (eg WBC)			85		85			161
30 <b>Wider Mission Causes</b>								
31 - BMS World Mission		2,400	615		3,015			3,070
32 - BU Home Mission		2,400			2,400			2,220
33 - e.g. Shoebox, Musalaha, Gilgal etc				777	777			575
34 Administration	8	4,183			4,183			3,530
35 Property - Repairs & Cleaning	9	6,050			6,050			4,919
36 Property - Utilities & Insurance	9	7,233			7,233			7,683
37 Sundry	10	2,775			2,775			1,107
38 <b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>72,090</b>	<b>40,695</b>	<b>7,885</b>	<b>120,669</b>			<b>79,511</b>
39 Surplus/(Deficit)		13,706	(7,884)	(944)	4,879			12,572
40 <b>MOVEMENT OF ACCOUNTS</b>		Barclays Current A/C	Lloyds Current A/C	Lloyds 90-day Notice AC	Lloyds 30-day Notice AC	BU Trust Fund TA007	Cambs & County Bank	Total Funds
41 Opening Balance 1 Jan 2025		404.81	31,789.45	25,689.27	0.00	6,508.80		64,392.33
44 Total Incoming funds for 2025		3,720	121,343	274	209	2		125,548
45 Total Outgoing funds for 2025		(22)	(120,647)					(120,669)
46 Transfer in/(out) & Adj		(3,800)	4,829			(1,029)		(0)
47 Transfer in/(out) & Adj			25,963	(25,963)				0
48 Transfer in/(out) & Adj			(55,000)		40,000		15,000	0
49 Transfer in/(out) & Adj			5,482			(5,482)		0
50 Transfer in/(out) & Adj			209		(40,209)		40,000	0
51 Interest			(99)				99	0
52 Closing Balance 31 Dec 2025		303	13,870	0	0	0	55,099	69,271
53 <b>Nett Movement in Funds</b>								<b>4,879</b>
54 <b>ANALYSIS OF FUNDS</b>		O/Bal Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Adjustments			C/Bal 31 Dec 2025
55 <b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>								
56 ACF		5,552	6,164	(7,108)				4,608
57 BMS Harvest 24		0	624	(615)				9
58 Other Mission Giving		0	777	(777)				(0)
59 <b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		<b>5,552</b>	<b>7,564</b>	<b>(8,500)</b>				<b>4,616</b>
60 <b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>								
61 Time for God		8,800	0	(2,175)				6,625
62 Wellbeing cafe		172	357	(85)				444
63 AV Project		0	31,830	(37,819)				(5,989)
64 <b>Total Designated Funds</b>		<b>8,972</b>	<b>32,187</b>	<b>(40,080)</b>				<b>1,080</b>
65 <b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>								
66 - Current Accounts		17,670	(9,787)	593				8,476
67 - Lloyds Savings Accounts		25,689	40,482	(66,172)				0
68 - Trust Fund BU TA007		6,509	2	(6,511)				0
69 - Cambridge & Counties Bank		0	55,099	0				55,099
70 <b>Total General Funds</b>		<b>49,868</b>	<b>85,796</b>	<b>(72,090)</b>				<b>63,575</b>
71 <b>Total Movement of Funds</b>		<b>64,392</b>	<b>125,548</b>	<b>(120,669)</b>				<b>69,271</b>

Notes to the ABC 2025 Accounts			
		2025	2024
<b>Note 1</b>	<b>Weekly Offerings</b>		
	Gift-Aided Bank Giving	43768	43,781
	Gift-Aided Loose Giving	2482	3,581
	Gift-Aided Contactless Giving	9259	4,290
	Non Gift-Aid Giving	1850	4,780
		57360	56,422
<b>Note 2</b>	<b>Gift Aid</b>		
	Gift Aid on Identified Donors	11341	10,464
	Gift Aid on Loose Cash	2000	2000
		13341	10,464
<b>Note 3</b>	<b>Alcester Community Fridge (ACF) Income</b>		
	Donations - Cash	3366	1,987
	Donations - Contactless	1498	157
	Alcester Town Council (Grant)	0	1000
	Co-op (Grant)	0	500
	Warks County Council (Grant)	1000	1000
	SLR Consulting (Grant)	300	
		6164	4,644
<b>Note 4</b>	<b>Hire and Letting of Premises</b>		
	Alcester Musical Theatre	1964	1924
	Alcester Day Care (£888.00 Jan 2025 was paid Dec 2024)	9741	11248
	Yoga Classes	1773	2293
	Other	39	90
		13516	15,555
<b>Note 5</b>	<b>Local Ministry</b>		
	Minister, (Missioner 2023) - Stipends, NI and Pension	35095	31,941
	Travel, Courses	1564	1,943
	Visiting Preachers	415	369
	Mobile	70	120
		37144	34,373
<b>Note 6</b>	<b>Manse Costs</b>		
	Council Tax	2976	2,836
	Heating, Lighting & Water	2300	2,363
	Landline, Broadband & Mobile	538	668
	Repairs and Maintenance	1015	3,383
	Insurance	607	680
		7436	9,931
<b>Note 7</b>	<b>Alcester Community Fridge (ACF) Expenditure</b>		
	Coordinator Salaries	5172	6296
	Electricity	1537	1641
	Repairs & supplies	71	848
	Grundon Waste Disposal	328	
		7108	8785
<b>Note 8</b>	<b>Administration</b>		
	Post, Stat, Tel, Broadband at ABC	475	556
	Printing, Stationary & Office Supplies	1472	1,223
	Fees, Licenses	2066	1,739
	Bank Charges	170	0
		4183	3,518
<b>Note 9</b>	<b>Property Upkeep</b>		
	Church Repairs and Maintenance * see below	6050	4,919
	Heating and Lighting	4944	5,556
	Water	231	208
	Insurance	2058	1,919
		13283	12,602
	<b>Church Repair and Maintenance *</b>		
	Cleaning	1642	1,254
	New Heater	1796	0
	Tree Surgery	0	350
	Upper room brickwork	0	270
	Upper room Stairs - replastering & painting	0	285
	Baptistry (part-payment)	0	500
	Other	2612	2,260
		6050	4,919
<b>Note 10</b>	<b>Sundry Other Costs</b>		
	Defibrillator	1170	
	Laptop	400	
	Other	1205	1107
		2775	1107



## **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 2025, 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 Elaine Willis (Church Secretary)  
Rev David Kerrigan (Treasurer)  
Mrs Mary Elizabeth Bowld  
Mrs Alison Dance (from February 2025)  
Mr Jeff Steers  
Mrs Lynne Thompson  
Ms Angela Whitford (from February 2025)  
Mr Brian John Williams

### **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](http://www.alcesterbaptist.org.uk)



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 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1200212

Set out on pages

1-7

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:

4 February 2025

Name:

Edward John Rye

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

FMAAT

Address:

62 Westhill Road,

Kings Norton, Birmingham

B38 8TN