



Clarence Park

BAPTIST CHURCH

WORSHIP GOD · GROW TOGETHER · SERVE OTHERS

**Clarence Park Baptist Church
Walliscote Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1ED**

Charity Number 1200257

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Clarence Park Baptist Church, Weston-super-Mare – Charity No. 1200257
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CHARITY INFORMATION

LEGAL STATUS

Clarence Park Baptist Church was formed in June 1900 and established at the present site in Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare by a Deed of Trust dated 25 July 1904. The Church is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under reference number 1200257.

CHURCH ADDRESS

Clarence Park Baptist Church
Walliscote Road
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1ED

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The governance of the Church is in accordance with the Church Constitution dated 03 July 2022 which is based on the Approved Governing Document agreed between the Charity Commission and the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The Church is administered by the Minister and Deacons who are the Charity Trustees. During 2024 these were:

Minister and Chair of Trustees	Revd Steve Christian (until 31 August 2024)
Secretary	Elisabeth Speakman (until 14 April 2024) Julie Dawkins (from 14 April 2024)
Treasurer	Ruth Fuller
Deacons	Jonathan Brownett Kaye Cooke John Dawkins Keith Newport David Sewell Frances Wedlake (until 14 April 2024) Susannah Weeks Avril Wilson (until 14 April 2024) Tori Harper (from 14 April 2024) Jacky Arnold (from 14 April 2024)

The Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually with no limit to the number of terms they may serve. Deacons are elected for a term of three years and may offer themselves for re-election at the end of the term with no limitation on the number of terms they may serve. No Deacon receives payment other than the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

PROPERTY TRUSTEES

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Limited, Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway, Bristol BS34 6JW are the holding Trustees of the following properties -

1. Church and Hall at Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1ED
2. Manse at 137 Totterdown Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4LW

No professional valuation of these properties has been made in recent years and the values shown in the Accounts are the current insured values.

BANKERS

CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Clive Bennett, 14 High Street, Banwell, Somerset BS29 6AE.

CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Church is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the West of England Baptist Association (Webnet) both of which are registered charities. The Church receives no grant funding from either of these bodies.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service, and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

The Church vision is: 'We seek to bring people to Jesus and together grow in our relationship with God and each other as we serve the community.' We do this under the strap line **WORSHIP God, GROW Together, SERVE Others**.

A significant event during the year was the departure, in August, of Steve Christian as Minister after almost twenty-one years of service with the Church. The Trustees immediately put in place procedures to enable the work of the Church to continue, including the holding of regular Sunday services and the provision of pastoral care. In consultation with the Regional Ministers the process was commenced to discern the way forward for the Church and to consider the appointment of a new Minister.

To achieve its objective the Church provides a variety of activities both to its members and to the community generally aiming 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.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship each Sunday, normally at 10.30am. The services are live-streamed on YouTube for those who are unable to attend in person or wish to watch on demand later in the week. There are occasional services at other times which are advertised at the services, in the weekly bulletins, on Facebook groups and on the Church website www.cpbpc.co.uk. There is a Sunday club programme, usually on the first and third Sunday of the month, for children; the services on the other weeks of the month are aimed for an all age congregation. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of **House Groups** for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members. Details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The Church is responsible for a **Toddler Group** which meets on the Church premises on Thursdays, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. Also, on a Thursday, the Church holds a **Community Coffee Morning** open for anyone to attend where free tea and coffee is served, and people are welcome to come and chat and find help if needed.

There are also groups open for the community to attend which are both social but also Christian in nature. **Time Out** and **The Ladies Friendship Group** for women; a **Men's Group**; a **Craft Group**; a **Nomads Group**; a **Community Choir (Caprione)**; and a **Hand Chimes Group (the Clangers)**. A **Meet and Mix Group** arrange various activities for all but with a particular focus for those having special needs.

Our building is used regularly by a **Narcotics Support Group** and **The Mount Church**, an Indian speaking congregation who are part of a church in Bristol. The latter group shares with us in our Christmas community event, **Carols around the Tree**, and have used our baptistry for services of believers' baptism.

The Church has joined with the other Baptist Churches in our town to offer **Alpha Courses** for people interested in discovering more about Christianity. The Deacons have continued to meet with the Church leaderships from Milton Baptist, Worle Baptist, and Bristol Road Baptist Churches to explore how we can better work together for mission within our town and build on the projects that are already being held. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been set up to enable this. One combined activity has been taking a lease on a building in Worle, to provide a safe space for the community to experience 'peace' in the form of a **Renew Centre**.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, encouragement and influence in people's lives. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2024 was a positive year in the life of the Church and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2025.

The Church is very fortunate in having people who are willing to give their time and talents to support its life and work. Whether it be leading study groups, setting up and packing away for services and meetings, staffing the office, providing refreshments, making music, supplying flowers, welcoming people into the premises, cleaning or many of the other tasks done quietly day by day. This is truly appreciated, and the Church wishes to record its thanks to all our members and friends for their support.

MEMBERSHIP

Members at 01 January 2024			100
Additions			1
			101
Deletions	Death	3	
	Transfer	2	5
Members at 31 December 2024			96

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Church continues to raise the funds needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal for funds was made during the year.

Until 31 August 2024 the most significant expense of the Church had been our responsibility for the stipend and housing costs of our Minister, Revd Steve Christian. Following his resignation the manse was not needed for a Minister and he and his family have been renting the premises whilst they look for suitable alternative accommodation and have assumed responsibility for all other expenses relating to the manse.

Financially the Church offerings have been below our expected income but the balance in our reserves has enabled us to continue to operate all our activities. The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves, together with ongoing anticipated income, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

In terms of building maintenance, the necessary repairs and maintenance have been undertaken to keep the buildings in good condition.

The Church has continued to maintain its membership with the wider Baptist family through the Baptist Union, the West of England Baptist Association (Webnet); representatives of the Church have attended their meetings. In the year to 31 December 2024 the Church supported Baptist mission work through donations amounting to £3,010 each to Baptist Union Home Mission and BMS World Mission. In addition, the Church has supported work in the local community such as Foodbank, Christians Against Poverty and elsewhere by responding to requests from national mission partners to help with disaster and poverty relief.

The Church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public. All meetings are open to the community at large.

DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

UNRESTRICTED FUND

General Fund Working fund to meet general running expenses.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Agape Fund Confidential fund for meeting needs within the fellowship and the community.

Legacy Fund Holding fund for legacies pending final disbursement.

Fabric Fund General maintenance and repair to the Church premises.

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Manse Fund	General maintenance and repair to the manse.
Equipment Fund	Upkeep, upgrade and replacement of audio, visual and office equipment.
Youth Fund	For youth work.
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Training Fund	Income from the invested capital may only be used for training purposes.
Agency Funds	The Church receives and distributes money for other registered charities, including Baptist Union Home Mission, BMS World Mission, Baptist World Aid, Operation Agri and Spurgeons Childcare. Individual funds are maintained for each charity to ensure that these amounts are separated from normal Church funds. By this means the Church can claim and pass on to those charities any tax rebates received under Gift Aid.

CHURCH GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

The various groups and organisations associated with the Church are listed with details of money they have received and paid. All money received and paid out by the groups and organisations has been included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SAFEGUARDING

The Deacons, as Charity Trustees, are engaged in an on-going programme of risk assessment, including health and safety issues, relating to the Church buildings and the Church activities.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service and receive Baptist Union of Great Britain Excellence in Safeguarding training relevant to their role.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practices.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income, resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2023 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. 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.

AUTHORISATION

The Annual Report and the accompanying Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 were approved by the Deacons on 04/09/2025 and we are authorised to sign the Report on their behalf.



Julie Dawkins
Church Secretary/Trustee
04/09/2025



Ruth Fuller
Church Treasurer/Trustee
04/09/2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Clarence Park Baptist Church report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Clarence Park Baptist Church for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts 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.

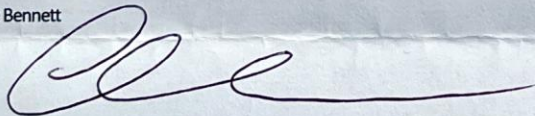
Independent examiner's statement

I 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 the
2. accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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 drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Clive Bennett



24th February 2025

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS for Year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds £	Designated Funds (13) £	Restricted Funds (14) £	Agency Restricted Funds (15) £	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Income							
Donations & Legacies	2	72,521	62,420	3,000	6,239	144,180	78,520
Investment	3	3,235	5,566	-	-	8,801	3,620
Charitable activities	4	4,251	-	-	-	4,251	2,730
Total Income		80,007	67,986	3,000	6,239	157,232	84,870
Expenditure							
Ministry	5	34,854	-	-	-	34,854	44,180
Mission	6	7,138	787	-	3,020	10,945	10,707
Community	7	2,682	-	-	-	2,682	952
Church Premises	8	15,417	3,904	-	-	19,321	15,599
Manse	9	3,057	70	-	-	3,127	5,545
Fellowship	10	5,440	-	-	-	5,440	4,651
Worship	11	3,848	-	-	-	3,848	3,445
Leadership	12	202	-	-	-	202	610
Total Expenditure		72,638	4,761	-	3,020	80,419	85,689
Net income / (Expenditure)		7,369	63,225	3,000	3,219	76,813	(819)
Funds Transfer		(7,351)	7,351			0	0
Total Funds Brought Forward		21,880	95,870	4,953	1,631	124,334	125,153
Total Funds Carried Forward		21,898	166,446	7,953	4,850	201,147	124,334

Clarence Park Baptist Church, Weston Super Mare
Annual Report and Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 December 2024
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for Year ended 31 December 2024

1 Basis of Accounts - General Fund

These Accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and accord with Section 132 of the Charities Act 2011

2 Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Designated Funds (13) £	Restricted Funds (14) £	Agency Restricted Funds (15) £	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Offerings	56,593	2,051			58,644	59,701
Gift Aid Tax reclaimed	15,177	1,307			16,484	12,500
Donations - General	251			6,239	6,490	3,219
Donation Fabric fund					-	-
Donation Stone repairs		7,062			7,062	
Other Receipts (Legacy)	500	52,000	3,000		55,500	3,100
	72,521	62,420	3,000	6,239	144,180	78,520

During 2023 all income was Unrestricted except £4,508 Designated

3 Investment Income

Interest Received	35	5,566			5,601	3,658
Dividend Distribution					-	-
Capital Revaluation					0	38
Manse Rent	3,200				3,200	
	3,235	5,566	0	-	8,801	3,620

During 2023 all investment income was Unrestricted except £3,584 Designated and £36 Restricted

4 Charitable Activities

Lettings / Fees - Wedding etc	4,251				4,251	2,730
	4,251	-	-	-	4,251	2,730

During 2023 all income from Charitable Activities was Unrestricted

5 Ministry Costs

Stipend	28,360				28,360	34,450
Employers National Insurance	-				-	875
Employers Pension	2,996				2,996	3,943
Staff Travel Expenses	870				870	699
Other expenses	496				496	30
Baptist Together - MIT	2,000				2,000	4,000
Payroll charges	132				132	183
	34,854	-	-	-	34,854	44,180

During 2023 all Ministry Costs were Unrestricted

6 Mission

BMS	3,010				3,010	2,724
Home Mission	3,010				3,010	2,724
Baptist Unions Subscription	638				638	599
Churches Together					-	-
Other	480				480	460
Confidential Gifts		787			787	1,567
Agency Gifts				3,020	3,020	2,633
	7,138	787	-	3,020	10,945	10,707

During 2023 all Mission Costs were Unrestricted except £1,567 Designated Funds and £2,633 Agency Restricted

Clarence Park Baptist Church, Weston Super Mare
Annual Report and Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Designated Funds (13) £	Restricted Funds (14) £	Agency Restricted Funds (15) £	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
7 Community						
Sunday Club	-				-	-
Messy Church	-				-	-
Boys Brigade					-	-
Girls Brigade					-	-
New Initiatives	2,682				2,682	952
	2,682	-	-	-	2,682	952
During 2023 all Community Costs were Unrestricted						
8 Church Premises						
Insurance	6,908				6,908	6,530
Heating & Lighting	6,715				6,715	4,502
Appliance Maintenance	924				924	972
Water and Sewage	225				225	151
Equipment Fund		13			13	104
Fabric Fund		711			711	2,562
Church Telephone	645				645	488
Charitable Inc Org Fees		-			-	290
Stone work repairs		3,180			3,180	
	15,417	3,904	-	-	19,321	15,599
During 2023 all Church Premises Costs were Unrestricted except Designated Funds (Equipment £104, CIO set up fees £290 and Fabric £2,562)						
9 Manse						
Council Tax	1,127				1,127	2,075
Insurance	481				481	430
Heating and Lighting	550				550	825
Manse Repair Fund		70			70	1,123
Manse Repair (non-Fund)	120				120	54
Water and Sewage	384				384	351
Manse Telephone	395				395	565
Other Expenses	-				-	122
	3,057	70	-	-	3,127	5,545
During 2023 all Manse Costs were Unrestricted except £1,123 Designated Funds (Manse Repair)						
10 Fellowship / Admin						
Advertising and Publicity	-				-	28
Photocopier	2,150				2,150	2,150
Postage and Stationery	563				563	201
Website	465				465	-
Catering	563				563	387
House Keeping	1,555				1,555	1,584
Bank Charges	121				121	110
Sundry Expenses	23				23	191
	5,440	-	-	-	5,440	4,651
During 2023 all Fellowship / Admin Costs were Unrestricted						
11 Worship						
Preaching Fees	2,095				2,095	570
Books and Preaching Material	132				132	319
Organ and Pianos	504				504	492
Music	144				144	268
Copyright Licences	973				973	923
Sabbatical Preaching Fees	-				-	873
	3,848	-	-	-	3,848	3,445
During 2023 all Worship Costs were Unrestricted						
12 Leadership						
Baptist Assembly					-	-
Ministers Conference					-	240
Training	105				105	370
Deacons training	97				97	-
	202	-	-	-	202	610
During 2023 all Leadership Costs were Unrestricted						
Total Charitable Activities	72,638	4,761	-	3,020	80,419	85,689

Clarence Park Baptist Church, Weston Super Mare
Annual Report and Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfer	closing Balance	Last Year
13 Designated Funds						
Agape Fund	1,755	2,203	(787)		3,171	
Legacy	73,622	57,566			131,188	
Fabric	9,048		(711)	3,150	11,487	
Manse	4,792		(70)	2,102	6,824	
Equipment	4,705		(13)	2,099	6,791	
CIO	1,109		0		1,109	
Youth	839				839	
Stone work		8,217	(3,180)		5,037	
Total	95,870	67,986	(4,761)	7,351	166,446	
14 Restricted Funds						
Training Fund Capital	3,654				3,654	
Training Fund Interest	1,299				1,299	
Youth		3,000			3,000	
Total	4,953	3,000	0	0	7,953	
15 Agency Funds						
BMS World Mission	0	7	(7)		0	
BMS Birthday	0	468	(342)		126	
Home Mission	0	0	0		0	
Baptist World Aid					0	
Build social Club	377	140	(422)		95	
Clangers Group	253	239	(241)		251	
Mens Group	297	401	(320)		378	
Christians Against Poverty	0				0	
Flower Fund	307				307	
Operation Agri	0	760	(758)		2	
Weston Food Bank	0	50	(50)		0	
Pickleball	100	44			144	
Ladies Fellowship	297	663	(380)		580	
Boys Brigade		1,611	(500)		1,111	
Girls Brigade		856			856	
Steve C Leaving gifts		1,000			1,000	
Total	1,631	6,239	(3,020)	0	4,850	
16 BMS Donations						
Birthday Scheme			468			361
Envelopes, Boxes Etc			7			351
Christmas Post Box						
BMS Relief Fund						
Total Gifts			<u>475</u>			<u>712</u>
Budget Giving			<u>3,010</u>			<u>2,724</u>
Total Giving to BMS			<u>3,485</u>			<u>3,436</u>
17 Home Mission						
Envelopes, Boxes Etc						
Christmas Post Box						0
Other Receipts			<u>0</u>			<u>161</u>
Total Gifts			<u>0</u>			<u>161</u>
Budget Giving			<u>3,010</u>			<u>2,724</u>
Total Giving to BMS			<u>3,010</u>			<u>2,885</u>
18 Church Organisations						
Boys Brigade	908				908	
Boys Brigade Camp Fund	742				742	
Build Social Club	376				376	
Clangers	335	193	(254)		274	
Community Coffee Morning	53	218	(240)		31	
CPBC Men's Group (Donation Record)	296	336	(290)		342	
Flower Fund	328	115	(120)		323	
Girls Brigade	856				856	
Ladies Friendship Group	298	780	(507)		571	
Ladies "Time Out" Group	268	947	(856)		359	
So Crafty Group	75	885	(864)		96	
Tots and Toddlers	337	655	(597)		395	
Caprione Choir	(2)	3,516	(3,510)		4	
Total	4,872	4,129	(3,728)	0	5,273	

Clarence Park Baptist Church, Weston Super Mare
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Monetary Assets		
CAF Bank Cheque Account	54,938	8,812
CAF Income Bond	0	0
Baptist Union - 1 Year Deposit A/C	0	75,263
Baptist Union - 3 Months Deposit A/C	103,481	22,951
Baptist Union - 7 Day Deposit Account	12,899	12,611
CAF new CIO Account	29,799	4,697
Petty Cash	30	
Total	<u>201,147</u>	<u>124,334</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted General Funds	21,898	21,880
Designed Funds	166,446	95,870
Restricted Funds	7,953	4,953
Agency Restricted Funds	4,850	1,631
Total	<u>201,147</u>	<u>124,334</u>
Other Items		
Gift Aid Tax Rebates Due	1,954	6,166
Funds held by Church Organisations (18)	5,273	4,872
TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS	<u>208,374</u>	<u>135,372</u>
Fixed Assets (Insured Values)		
Church Building & Organ	9,049,340	7,214,077
Furniture & Fittings, Instruments Etc	201,675	201,675
Manse	403,716	321,839
Total Fixed Assets	<u>9,654,731</u>	<u>7,737,591</u>