



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Report for the period

From: 1 January 2024 Period start date To: 31.12.2024 Period end date

Charity name: LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH

Charity registration number: 1200361

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The principal 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.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The activities may include but are not restricted to: - regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching; - baptism, as defined in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle; - the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month; - evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; - the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people; - nurture and growth of Christian disciples; - education and training for Christian and community service; - giving and encouraging pastoral care;

		- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad; - encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The Church classifies its giving as gifts or donations rather than grants.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	As stated in the summary of the purposes of the Charity
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	This is essential to the Charity's effectiveness and is carried out by members of the Church, the wider fellowship and supporters from the community.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	The regular weekly activities, include Sunday worship services and Bible Studies. There are two cafés on church premises: Working for Wellbeing (Thursdays) and Beans (Saturday). Both are open to the public. The premises are also used by a local choir, a Women's institute Reading Group and Alcoholics Anonymous. The World Day of Prayer Service was held in the Church in March. Mr. Grev Parmenter spoke in January on his visit to Thailand and Cambodia, and in May on his visit to Moldova on behalf of Medical Missionary News. In March Mr. Geraint Howells gave a talk on the work of The Society for the Distribution of Hebrew Scriptures. Gifts were made to Baptist Union Home and World Mission agencies, Medical Mission News, SDHS, and Education Plus. With regard to the latter a special gift was made to enable the purchase of permanent premises in Costa Rica.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	The Church does not fundraise. All finances received were gifts plus Gift Aid. Also rent on the church manse.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Accounts for the period are attached.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We endeavour to hold a balance of six months expected expenditure
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£11,705 at 31 December 2024.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Static membership

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	All finances received were gifts plus Gift Aid. Also income from the church manse.
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Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The fact that the church building is listed Grade II means that its upkeep is often expensive. Costs for 2024 were covered by income from the Manse and 2025 will be similar.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Church Constitution Document
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Charity Trustees are appointed in accordance with the directions of the Church Members' Meeting and the provisions of the Church Constitution

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Lechlade Baptist Church is a Member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB)

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Lechlade Baptist Church
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1200361
Charity's principal address	Lechlade Baptist Church Sherborne Street Lechlade GL7 3AH

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Robert J. English TRUST COMPANY MANAGER WEST OF ENGLAND BAPTIST TRUST MANAGER		CHURCH PREMISES CHURCH MANSE

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers****Type of adviser****Name****Address**

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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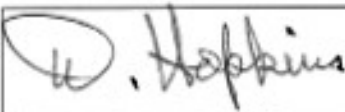
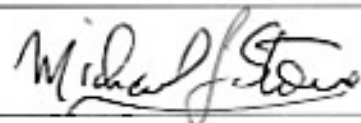
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	David Hopkins	Michael Stone
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	TREASURER

Date 11 JUNE 2025

Lechlade Baptist Church CIO

Registered Charity No. 1200361

Accounts for Year Ended

31 December 2024

LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH CIO

Registered Charity 1200361

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees/Members of Lechlade Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024, and set out on pages 3 and 4 attached.

Respective responsibilities of the Church and the Independent Examiner

As 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").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, having followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)b of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 appointed officers of the Church 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 my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Martyn Cook



26 St Phillip's Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7QH

April 29th

2025

Income & Expenditure Report for Lechlade Baptist Church

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Collections, donations & other gifts		495	-	495	580
Grants Received	1	279	-	279	0
Planned Giving		7,380	-	7,380	7,480
Loose Collections		558	-	558	1,149
Tax Refunds	Gift Aid	2,373	-	2,373	1,519
	GASDS	900	-	900	373
Use of Church		1,115	-	1,115	930
Beans Café		1,499	-	1,499	1,656
Manse Rent		12,500	-	12,500	12,000
Interest		27	-	27	-
Total incoming resources		27,125	-	27,125	25,686
Less Resources Expended					
<i>Gifts & Tithes</i>					
BU - Home Mission		1,800	-	1,800	1,800
BMS - World Mission		1,440	-	1,440	1,440
Educacion Plus	2	6,200	-	6,200	1,300
Other Mission Agencies	3	1,500	-	1,500	5,500
Metropolitan Mission, India		240	-	240	240
Pastoral Support		-	-	0	1,273
Total Gifts & Tithes		11,180	-	11,180	11,553
<i>Church Costs</i>					
Heat, Light & Water		1,430	-	1,430	1,569
Maintenance	4	9,979	-	9,979	11,895
New Fixtures & Fittings		-	-	0	214
Insurance		804	-	804	783
CCLI Licences / IT		900	-	900	770
Cleaning & Flowers & Stationery		1,051	-	1,051	1,292
Total Church Costs		14,166	-	14,166	16,523
<i>Other Expenses</i>					
Visiting preacher / musician expenses		640	-	640	880
Baptist Union Subscription		81	-	81	170
Beans		384	-	384	526
Legal Costs	5	-	-	0	1,280
Other expenses		299	-	299	407
Auditor's honorarium	6	400	-	400	0
Total Other Expenses		1,803	-	1,803	3,262
<i>Manse Costs</i>					
Insurance		376	-	376	331
Refurbishment / Maintenance		1,241	-	1,241	1,485
Ridgeway Fees		1,500	-	1,500	1,440
Total Manse Costs		3,117	-	3,117	3,257
Total - All Expenses		30,266	-	30,266	34,595
Total Income less Expenditure		(3,140)	-	(3,140)	(8,909)
Cash Balance at 1 January				14,845	23,754
Cash Balance at 31 December				11,705	14,845

The notes overleaf form part of these accounts.

Financial Statements year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	31-Dec-24 £	31-Dec-23 £
Bank Accounts			
Barclays Bank		11,705	14,845
		<u>11,705</u>	<u>14,845</u>
Debtors			
Working4Wellbeing		0	60
Baptist Insurance	7	1,813	0
HMRC re Gift Aid		1,657	2,571
		<u>3,470</u>	<u>2,631</u>
Liabilities			
Chaplaincy to Swindon Crown Court		250	400

Other Assets include:

Freehold Church premises at Sherborne Street, Lechlade
 Freehold Manse, at 3 The Close, Hambidge Lane, Lechlade
 Church Organ, Piano, Computer and Photocopier
 Church Fixtures and Fittings
 Manse Fixtures and Fittings

Notes

- 1 This was received from the Baptist Union in respect of 50% of the cost of carrying out the church building quinquennial inspection in 2023.
- 2 Education Plus operates in the shanty towns of Costa Rica for the relief of poverty and advancement of education particularly amongst children and young persons in Costa Rica. Opportunity arose for it to buy at a favourable price the premises it had been using for many years. A very generous offer to provide most of the funding came from a Canada-based charity. LBC agreed to make an additional, special donation of £5,000.
- 3 Includes *Medical Missionary News* and *Society for Distributing Hebrew Scriptures*
- 4 Brickwork repair and repointing with lime mortar. Further work is required on the north wall. The building is over 200 years old and Grade 2 Listed.
- 5 2023 relates to the formation of the new CIO.
- 6 2023 includes payment in respect of 2023 and 2022 accounts.
- 7 Following an arson incident at the church premises a shed and its contents were destroyed. The claim was settled in January and advice received regarding security will be implemented.

Approved by Trustees of Lechlade Baptist Church CIO and signed on their behalf:

Signature:



Name:

MICHAEL STONE

Date:

29 April 2025

Lechlade Baptist Church

ACM Review of the Year

January - December 2024

Review of the Year

During the twelve months from January to December 2024 60% of services were taken by visiting speakers, 40% by members of LBC. Two services were not held due to strong gale storms.

The following specific services were held: Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Day, our Covenant Service and three Bring and Share services.

Visiting speakers were as follows: Mr. Alan Bailey, Mr. John Cairns, Mr. Bill Eteson, Rev. Roger Hitchings, Mr. Tony Jones, Rev. Dr. Andrew Kirk, Mr. Grev Parmenter, Mr. Alan Pilbeam, Rev. Geoff and Mrs. Hope Price, Rev Simon King.

Members of LBC who took services were Mr. David Chandler, Mrs. Lisa Cherrett, Mrs. Ann Hopkins, Mr. David Hopkins. We joined with St. Lawrence for the Remembrance Day Service.

Thanks must go also to our four accompanists: Mrs. Anne Crowe, Mrs. Lisa Cherrett, Mrs. Ann Hopkins and Mr. Bill Eteson.

January 2024: Our Covenant Service was held at the beginning of the month.

A gift of £1,000 was sent to Medical Missionary News.

February: News was received that LBC's Christmas Child boxes were successfully received in Belarus. Rev. Keith Holder returned from his extended visit to Costa Rica.

March: The World Day of Prayer Service was held in Lechlade Baptist Church. A Quinquennial Report Grant of £279.00 was received. Copies of the Safeguarding Policy were made available to members and friends. £5,000 was sent to Educacion Plus (EP) in Costa Rica as a contribution to the purchase of a house in San Jorge that can be used not only as the EP Office but also for classrooms and workshops. A donation of £1,000 was also sent to the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) World Mission working in Ukraine The monthly rent for the Manse was increased by £50.00.

April: Three stonemason companies were contacted to give estimates on repairs to the church south- west walls.

May: Two new taps were fitted in the church kitchen and a new water meter installed. Sadly, it was decided to terminate the services in St. Birinus Complex taken by members and friends of LBC due to ill health and lack of manpower.

June: Mrs. Maureen Duffey accepted the role of DBS validator (checker) along with Mr. David Hopkins. A gift of £500.00 was sent to the Society for the Distribution of the Hebrew Scriptures.

July: Norse Brickwork began the cleaning and repairing of the south and west walls of the church and upgrading the guttering on the west wall. The coffer tomb of William Fox, the church founder, was also re-pointed. The membership decided that each month one Bible Study on a Wednesday morning should be replaced by a prayer meeting.

August: The church gallery was reorganized and a number of out-of-date items removed. It was decided to continue the Ladies' and Men's Bible studies this month. New plants were planted in the church garden. Two of the main lights in the church were replaced, bringing the full complement to eight. We said farewell to Mrs Ann Crowe, one of our church accompanists, as she moved to Cumbria.

September: Mrs. Maureen Duffey, Mrs. Ann Hopkins and Mr. David Hopkins completed their Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) updated training and certification. The wi-fi system in the church was upgraded. Preparations began for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal.

October: A Harvest Supper was held, including a video on the work of Operation Agri. The church fire extinguishers were inspected (one of which was replaced). An arson attack was carried out on the church garden destroying a number of plants, hanging baskets, water butt and a shed with its contents (chairs,

Christmas decorations, a large Nativity Set, a wheelchair, an A1 flipchart and easel, and a broom). Police Forensics visited the site and gave advice.

November: Norsebrick completed the repairs on the church gallery wall. Baptist Insurance offered full compensation for all items damaged in the arson attack. DNA marking was carried out on all church property. The Crime Prevention Report was made available to members and friends. A new gas hob was fitted in the church kitchen.

December: Advice was sought from sister churches as to the usefulness of CCTV cameras being installed as against motion-sensor lighting. The Christmas Carol service was held on the 15th of the month.

During the year, we continued live streaming of our morning services on You Tube. Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies were held weekly. Leadership meetings were held every month and Members' Meetings every two months.

Our Hobbies and Handicraft group met the first Monday of every month. Later in the Year this became the Hobbies, Handicraft and Horticulture Group. "Beans" café was open every Saturday morning throughout the year, and the Working for Wellbeing weekly "Talking Café" on Thursday mornings. The Church Newsletter was produced during the year, keeping everyone up to date and providing a means of informing visitors about LBC's past, present and future activities. During the year, LBC premises were used by Lechlade Voices Choir, a WI Reading Group and occasionally groups from St. Lawrence Church.

David Hopkins

Beans Café

“Beans” has continued to be very popular over the past year and has a wide range of faithful “customers” as well as numerous visitors appearing at the door. A word of thanks must be given to those who run the kitchen, serve at the tables and provide the delicious homemade cakes, bara brith, cheese and fruit scones and so much more. This year has seen a very welcome increase in the number of those who have given their time and energy to “Beans”, especially Pam and Geoff. From the setting up of the tables, the coffee machine, washing up, vacuuming, to the rearranging of the furniture ready for the Sunday service, your help and support has been very much appreciated.

David Hopkins

Ladies’ Bible Study Group

The Ladies Bible Study group continues to meet in church on Wednesdays at 10:30 am, starting with tea or coffee and a catch up, before settling down to study the Word.

Our current study guide is based on the second coming of our Lord Jesus and entitled “End Times.” There are 13 studies, and we are almost at the end, having spent two sessions on each of the lessons. Some have been challenging, to say the least, and have instigated lively discussions.

Engaging with God’s word is crucial for spiritual growth and together we can support and encourage each other in our daily walk.

We are a small group of approximately nine, but we love to have visitors and always welcome new members .

Maureen Duffey

Men's Bible Study

During the past year we have been studying and discussing “Evangelism” and “Hebrews” in the Lifebuilder Bible Study Series. Many a time discussion has inevitably taken us deeper into the Word of God. It has been a pleasure to have Dr. Colin Slater join us in our studies and discussions. Wednesday mornings at 10.30 am are times of real blessing as we study and pray together. We are a small group but there is always room for more men to join us!

David Hopkins

Hobbies, Handicrafts and Horticulture

This group meets on the first Monday of the month from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. It is an opportunity for members and friends of our fellowship to come along and bring any handicraft project they are working on or their gardening expertise. There is always some work to be done in the garden and the next project is restoring the area where the shed was burnt down.



We would appreciate some enthusiasm and ideas for what could be done.

Our handicraft project is the creation of a new flag for LBC. Maureen and I have now almost completed the flag and are deciding where we can place it.

Some friends regularly bring along their individual craft projects and work on them. We chat while we work and have a cup of tea/coffee too.

Ann Hopkins

Tools with a Mission (TWAM)

In common with all charities, TWAM has had its share of challenges and changes. Personnel have come and gone, notably Mike Griffin (chief executive), has been replaced by John Noble, and various other long serving members have retired and/or departed. Other pressures have come with the many and varied legal and financial hoops which the organization has had to jump through.

The amount of equipment which has been donated continues to both impress and delight, the details of which can be seen on the noticeboard underneath the world map in the church. I receive a monthly update and anyone wishing to see this can ask me and I will gladly forward it on.

On a more personal level, though, for health reasons, I no longer actively collect but my garage is still being used as a storage facility. I have been promised a large quantity of tools by the group "Men in sheds". Mrs. Mary Bainbridge, from St Lawrence Church, has taken over collecting and has amassed a sizable collection of sewing machines. The work continues.

Thank you for your support and prayers over the year.

Dave Chandler

Educación Plus

There have been no Educación Plus meetings as such at Lechlade Baptist Church this year, although we are very grateful for the church's continued interest in, prayers and support for our ministry in Central America.

This included a 'rapid response' (and an extremely generous one!) to our appeal for help with the cost of purchasing the building that we'd been renting as our office in Costa Rica. The landlady was in her 80s and didn't wish to continue renting after thirty years of the Holder family living there and then, after their return to England, EdPlus using it as an office. Lechlade Baptist's immediate response was the first of a number of important gifts

for that purpose but was particularly significant because it confirmed to us that it was God's will to continue with the process.

After completing all the complicated legal requirements, (large amounts of foreign money coming into Costa Rica immediately arouse suspicions of drug running and money laundering) the purchase of the property was finally settled in December. It actually consists of two houses on one plot and, during my time back in Costa Rica in January and February, the EdPlus team were busy clearing out the back house after the tenants had left it in a pretty disgusting and run-down condition. Juan Carlos now has some exciting plans for the two buildings together; including a conference area and classrooms for the teenagers from the shanty towns who benefit from the various courses we offer, mainly at weekends.

Juan Carlos has plans to visit the UK in May/June this year to help celebrate 30 years of Educación Plus UK and stimulate continued interest and giving for the ministry. We hope that Lechlade Baptist Church will be able to host a meeting during his time here, when he will be able to update us, not only with news of the office development but also of the important ministry of EdPlus.

Life in the shanty towns of Costa Rica continues to be difficult and often very dangerous. During my two months back there, there were a number of deadly shootings in one of the places where we work, including five such murders in less than 24 hours in an area smaller than Lechlade. Two of the victims were ex-members of the Educación Plus Bible club and youth group there. Ninety-nine percent of these murders result from the trade in illegal narcotics and the powerful and feared gangs that operate it. Please continue to pray for safety and wisdom for the EdPlus staff as they seek to shine God's love into such challenging and dangerous circumstances. Thank you.

Keith Holder

Working for Wellbeing

We would like to start by expressing our heartfelt thanks to Lechlade Baptist Church for their continued support in allowing Working for Wellbeing to use their space.

As a charity focused on signposting and providing support, one of our main goals is also to reduce isolation and loneliness in the community. We have made significant progress toward this through our Talking Café, which runs every Thursday from 10:30 AM to midday. We are also pleased to announce that, thanks to a generous grant, we have been extending our Talking Café hours once a month with an option to stay for food. W4W has also been offering a community meal in the evening at the Lechlade Memorial Hall once a month. These have not been as well attended as we would have liked.

These meals create a warm, welcoming space for everyone to come together and enjoy a meal- a recent survey I took demonstrated that the majority of attenders live on their own and the W4W events give them a routine and for some are the highlight of their week. To further expand our outreach, Working for Wellbeing is introducing a Craft and Chat session once a month at Lechlade Baptist Church, in partnership with No Labels. These crafting sessions are free and take place on the first Thursday of every month from 7 PM to 9 PM. We hope this new initiative will provide another avenue for connection and support.

W4W have been able to offer theatre and Shopping trips to the locals at very low cost as well as a trip to Westonbirt Abatorium in the Autumm.

In addition to our in-person activities, we also offer digital support, available during the Talking Café or by appointment. We are excited to announce that we are partnering with the Lechlade Health Centre to offer a pop-up service for anyone needing assistance with their devices or help navigating the NHS app. As

we look to grow and reach more people, we are reviewing our marketing efforts to better connect with the local community.

We have always felt that Lechlade, being slightly more rural, could benefit from greater awareness of our services, and we are committed to improving this.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far- a massive shout out of thanks goes to our team of Volunteers who always show up with a welcoming smile and go above and beyond, and we look forward to continuing to serve the community.

Working for Wellbeing Team