



42 Bell Street, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0AD

Charity Number 1200447

Trustees Annual Report for the year Jan 1st to December 31st 2024

Pastor Rev Vanessa Rye (Retired 31st August 2024)

Administrator Nicola Hirst

Treasurer Paul Gabbott

Other Trustees: Sheila Gabbott, Luci Lishman, Cheryl Brownlie. From 26th May 2024:
Adrian Whittred, George Leinweber

Structure

We are a small church fellowship of about 40 members. We belong to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and follow Baptist traditions as an independent Baptist Church. Guided by the Pastor and trustees of the church, decisions concerning the running of the church are made by the church members meeting which normally meets every other month. So together we seek to determine God's will for the fellowship. Trustees are nominated from the membership and elected by the church members meeting. Members are admitted into membership on profession of faith, so are professing Christians.

Purposes and Objectives

Our mission statement reads as follows:

'We are here to worship Jesus Christ and obey his teaching, to care for one another, and to share our good news with everyone.'

In line with this the main meeting of our week is our Sunday morning worship service which is open to all, and we love to see and welcome visitors. Our Pastor led most of our Sunday services until her retirement in August 2024. Following this services were led by a variety of invited speakers both from within and outside the church, so we continue to operate and worship as a church fellowship whilst we seek a new Pastor. This process can take some time, but a good start was made to prepare a church profile to advertise the vacancy within the Baptist family.

Other meetings take place on a regular basis for bible study and prayer together with monthly lunchtime meeting specifically aimed at providing company for people wanting to eat and chat. We hold a weekly baby group for new parents offering support and advice and a space to chat over coffee and biscuits.

At harvest thanksgiving we arranged an afternoon tea with a service of seasonal hymns and songs to follow. This proved very popular and a lot of people from outside the fellowship attended so we repeated it again at Christmas with a service of carols. We advertised this with posters and leaflets posted through neighbours' doors and again this proved very popular.

At Christmas we held a family Nativity afternoon with crafts and refreshments and a chance to dress up to retell the Christmas story. This was well attended and also provided links with a local school who brought along their choir. During the year we were visited by a local cub pack who were learning about different faiths. We organised a carousel of activities for them to explore the Church and learn a little about the Baptist faith.

We continue to operate a pastoral care group so that we can continue to care for and look after one another.

We continue to rent out our halls for use by our local community and we believe that this helps advertise our existence and give opportunities for people to get to know us. The income we receive is very helpful, so this is a win-win scenario, and we have a large car park which helps visitors enormously. In view of this we take care to look after our premises and make sure facilities are kept in good order. The upkeep of our premises, grounds and church Manse are overseen by a Premises team who meet every two months and are accountable to both the Trustees and Church Membership for reporting purposes and expenditure approvals. We spent a significant sum refurbishing the kitchen, details given below, which helps both us and those renting the premises. We also take great care of our graveyard and grounds which provide a very peaceful sanctuary in the middle of town and benefits those seeking their ancestry or those just looking for a peaceful seat for lunch. New signage on our buildings and a new logo for the church help to give a more up to date image.

We are involved with churches together in Risborough, (CTR) offering our premises as needed for meetings and services. Prior to retirement our pastor led services at a local school to help share our good news with children who attended, and we also support Lighthouse, a children's summer holiday programme run under the auspices of CTR, which helps to share the Christian good news with children.

We take Safeguarding seriously and follow safeguarding procedures recommended by the Baptist Union.

We confirm that in all our decisions we have taken the commission's public benefit guidance into account.

Financial Review

Two main factors influenced our finances during the past year, the first was that we spent a significant sum refurbishing our top hall kitchen bringing it to a proper standard for use by the church and other organisations, and the other was that our pastor retired at the end of August so from that point on we were not paying a monthly stipend. Overall we ended the year with a deficit of £7,481 which was met from our reserves. The deficit would have been offset by a gift aid reclaim of £8,643 which we expected to receive before the year end but was actually paid in January, so does not show in our past year's figures.

Income

Our income comes from two main sources; donations from church members, mainly gift aided, received regularly and at gift days totalling £42,644, together with rental income of £22,702 mainly from people and organisations hiring our halls. We received £12,183 in donations and grants, of which £7,600 was given for Macedonia Vision Africa a charity we support. This was passed on complete with gift aid where requested. We recovered £8,609 in gift aid during the year. Our total income was £89,288.

Expenditure

Our main expense normally is ministry. This year it was less than normal at £31,631 because our pastor retired. Administration which includes the cost of broadband, subscriptions and licenses, and the photocopier came to £5,703. We gave £20,749 in charitable donations including donations passed on to MVA. We spent £38,683 on upkeep of church premises. The main costs under this heading are energy £4,489, grounds maintenance £4,113, insurance £3,844, repairs and renewals £7,854, and the cost of the kitchen refurbishment £18,213. To help fund the kitchen £15,141 was paid for from our building fund. Our total expenditure was £96,769.

Financial Position

Overall, we finished the year with our finances in a secure position. Cash reserves at year end totalled £50,029. Our agreed reserve policy means we keep £30,000 (currently £31,595) with the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC) in high interest accounts. This is to cater for unforeseen difficulties. Other accounts were as follows: Current account £9,840, Building Fund account £3,616, BUC 7 day account £4,983.

As always, we are grateful to God for faithful and generous giving from the fellowship which allows the church to continue to meet and fulfil its purposes.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Princes Risborough Baptist Church

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2024

To

31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Building Fund Income	-	1,233	1,233	1,606
Donations and Grants	3,550	8,633	12,183	40,544
Income Tax Recovered	6,426	2,184	8,610	11,545
Interest	1,550	-	1,550	1,020
Raised For Other Causes	-	366	366	467
Rent	22,702	-	22,702	25,917
Sunday Offering	40,589	2,055	42,644	47,313
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	74,817	14,471	89,288	128,412
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
Sub total				
Total receipts	74,817	14,471	89,288	128,412
A3 Payments				
Bank Charges	291	-	291	262
Church Office Phone and Broadband	904	-	904	725
Conferences	192	-	192	120
Office Supplies	145	-	145	204
Photocopier	1,046	-	1,046	1,213
Professional Fees	988	-	988	1,956
Subscriptions and Licences	849	-	849	828
Sundries	-	-	-	62
Website	876	-	876	243
Worship Material	413	-	413	199
Conference Costs	260	-	260	1,019
Manse Expenses	5,287	-	5,287	10,032
Mileage	310	-	310	516
Pastors Salary	24,620	-	24,620	34,247
Retirement gift and catering costs	1,064	-	1,064	-
Pulpit Supplies	90	-	90	135
Giving to Other Causes	10,683	10,066	20,749	15,390
Church Premises Costs	23,544	15,141	38,685	52,669
Sub total	71,562	25,207	96,769	119,820
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
Sub total				
Total payments	71,562	25,207	96,769	119,820
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,255	- 10,736	- 7,481	8,592
A5 Transfers between funds				
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,017	15,493	57,510	48,918
Cash funds this year end	45,272	4,757	50,029	57,510

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank and Cash	45,272	4,757
	Total cash funds	45,272	4,757
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Church Premises	Unrestricted	-
	Church Manse	Unrestricted	-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Treasurer		Paul Gabbott	24/03/2025



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
Princes Risborough Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1200447

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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").

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

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:

Date:

24/03/2025

Name:

Paul K West FCA

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

ICAEW

Address:

2nd Floor, 1 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. LU7 1AE