

Annual Report for 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report for 2024.

The Charity: Particulars Baptist Chapel in Etnam Street, Leominster and Endowments.

Its working name: Leominster Baptist Church

Registered address: Leominster Baptist Church, Etnam Street, Leominster, HR6 8AJ.

Charity Number: 237434

Main Contact: Christabel Rice (Church Secretary)

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Trustees and Church Officers at 31st December 2024

Name	Trustee	Deacon	Position
Jackie Kosciecha	Yes	No	Treasurer
Chris Rice	Yes	Yes	Secretary
Sheila Wilson	Yes	Yes	
David Margetts	Yes	Yes	
Trevor Dickerson	Yes	Yes	
Jim Scott	Yes	Yes	
Josh Marvel	Yes	Yes	
Andrew Dale	Yes	Yes	
Marie Gittoes	Yes	Yes	Pastoral Care Worker

Pastor and other paid employees

Dean Burgis continues as Pastor and, during his holidays and Sundays off, the services have been led by church members or invited guest speakers from other churches and mission organisations. Marie Gittoes continues as Pastoral Care Worker and Hannah Harris as Children and Families Worker.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Leominster Baptist Church (LEOBC) is governed by a Charity Commission Scheme signed on 31st October 1879, which amalgamated a number of earlier deeds originating from the founding of the Church in 1656. An amended Constitution was introduced in January 2016 and ratified a year later. The most recent amendment was made in 2022. The affairs of the Church are ordered under the Church's Members' Handbook, last amended in April 2024.

Four meetings of Church Members were held in 2024, including the Annual Church Meeting. Church Officers are appointed, minutes taken and records kept of all decisions made at the meetings. Deacons' meetings were held at least once a month to implement Church Meeting decisions, to consider all matters relating to the well-being of the Church and individuals connected with it and to provide leadership and direction for the Church. The trustees are responsible for oversight of the church's work and witness along

with all financial and legal aspects of LBC. They have met twice in the last 12 months. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks of the church.

2. Aims and Objectives

Leominster Baptist Church was founded upon Baptist principles in 1656 to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith as defined in Schedule 1 of the Church Constitution, primarily but not exclusively within the Leominster area and the surrounding neighbourhood.

The Trust maintains the property of the Church and oversees all its activities relating to Christian worship, teaching, service to the community and support for Christian ministry throughout the world. Today the Church is affiliated to the EA. Its motto is 'Following Christ, serving people'.

3. Fulfilment of Objectives and Activities: Property

The Trust is responsible for

- Maintenance of a Protestant Meeting House in Etnam Street, Leominster; Support for the Minister and for the poor of the congregation; Endowment of a Minister for the above Meeting House;
- Provision of a Manse for the Minister;
- Maintenance of a Burial Ground;
- Provision of alms-house accommodation for the poor of the congregation.

All of the above have been regularly inspected; any essential maintenance work has been undertaken. The premises are loaned to other community groups and charities for which a charge is either made or waived at the discretion of the Deacons.

The tenancy of Marlow Cottage (formerly known as the Alms-house) is continuing satisfactorily.

The Trustees consider that they have fulfilled their duty in their care of the premises.

4. Fulfilment of Aims and Objectives: Church Activities

The Church services and other meetings continue to be well-attended by a wide range of people of all ages and the Church functioned well in all departments throughout the year. At the end of 2024 there were 86 people in full membership, having accepted 7 people into membership during the year. The church celebrated 5 believers' baptisms during 2024.

In addition to Sunday Church services, other weekly activities at the Church include house groups, prayer meetings, a parent and toddler group and several youth groups. Monthly activities at the church include a Lunch Club and Coffee Morning with outreach including Market Stall witness and services at residential homes for the elderly. Other events during the year have included an Alpha course, baptisms, fellowship meals, family events to celebrate church festivals, a church away day and youth camps.

The Church continues to engage with the community in many ways, including making its premises and minibus available to other organisations in the community. Many members of the church are actively involved in supporting several local voluntary organisations including the Leominster Food Bank.

The Church is strongly committed to supporting organisations that promote the Christian faith in this country and around the world and to humanitarian relief. Regular financial support is given to a number of such organisations and the Church is informed of their activities by visiting speakers and the supply of information.

Persons attending the Church offered themselves to a number of voluntary projects and short-term mission trips with the active support of the Church.

5. Financial Overview

The Trustees and Church Officers have administered all the funds of the Church and are satisfied that they have been handled responsibly in accordance with the Charity's aims and objectives.

The church accounts show that the balances held remain reasonably steady. Regular income comes from monthly direct debits and the weekly church offering. This has been boosted during 2024 by some legacies

and significant one-off donations along with fundraising events for youth camps. There were no significant unexpected expenses during the year and the authorisation of all payments were in accordance with the Church's financial policy.

Except for gifts for specific purposes, which are held as restricted funds until disbursed, the Church has fulfilled its policy of donating 20% of its income to other evangelical organisations whose aims and objectives are consistent with its own.

The regular income of the Church is sufficient to cover expected expenditure and there are adequate reserves for any foreseeable contingency. Income was £158,968.09 in 2024, well up from last year. Income is expected to remain around this level in future years and reserves should cover nearly 3 years of a major fall-off in income.

Rental income from Marlow Cottage will be used to maintain the building with any excess being applied charitably in accordance with the Trust Deed. Specifically, money from this restricted fund has been used during 2024 to help fund places at youth camps for youngsters from families who could not otherwise afford to send them.

6. Conclusion

The Trustees consider that they and the Church Officers have carried out their responsibilities in a satisfactory manner and that the Church is in a position to continue to actively pursue its aims and objectives in the future.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Christabel Rice (secretary)

Date 30/04/25 -

Receipts and Payments Summary: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
<u>Receipts</u>					
Gifts, Offerings (Including Gift Aid)	£119,503.26			£119,503.26	£118,873.18
Special Missionary Collections		£5,394.69		£5,394.69	£7,805.81
Rent received			£2,640.00	£2,640.00	£2,540.00
Rent of rooms	£1,450.00			£1,450.00	£1,270.00
Miscellaneous receipts or sundries	£2,767.75			£2,767.75	£3,391.75
Legacies	£19,000.00			£19,000.00	£0.00
Sundry youth income		£6,730.29		£6,730.29	£7,446.30
Job Club				£0.00	£0.00
Dunfield House		£1,482.10		£1,482.10	£0.00
Total Receipts	£142,721.01	£13,607.88	£2,640.00	£158,968.09	£142,084.04
<u>Payments</u>					
Wages, National Insurance and Pension	£68,510.52			£68,510.52	£66,111.43
Ministry	£4,458.10			£4,458.10	£9,942.84
Gifts to Missionary & Aid Organisations	£23,439.22			£23,439.22	£24,694.12
Special Missionary Giving		£5,983.59		£5,983.59	£6,670.10
Minibus running costs	£2,990.62			£2,990.62	£1,744.14
Telephone	£297.13			£297.13	£217.15
Printing, postage & Stationery	£622.56			£622.56	£693.98
Equipment	£6,034.26			£6,034.26	£1,765.99
Sundries	£2,086.40			£2,086.40	£1,818.75
Maintenance of Church & Manse	£8,856.89			£8,856.89	£2,398.25
Maintenance - Marlow Cottage	£0.00			£0.00	£250.00
Heat and Light	£2,684.02			£2,684.02	£2,591.88
Council Tax & Water	£3,917.57			£3,917.57	£3,796.24
Insurance	£3,348.97			£3,348.97	£3,083.60
Fees	£2350.48			£2350.48	£1,333.10
Youthwork Costs		£11,252.08	£1,331.65	£12,583.73	£7,113.93
Job Club	£294.98			£294.98	£595.88
Dunfield House		£1,674.00		£1,674.00	£939.20
Total Payments	£129,891.52	£18,909.67	£1,331.65	£150,132.84	£135,760.58

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Net incoming resources	£12,829.49	-£5,302.59	£1,308.35	£8835.25	£6,323.46
Fund balances 1 January 2024	£40,530.79	£962.67	£14,740.66	£56,234.12	£49,910.66
Balances carried forward 31 Dec 2024	£53,360.28	-£4,339.92	£16,049.01	£65,069.37	£56,234.12

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Fund Balances</u>	Total 31/12/2024	Total 31/12/2023	Total 31/12/2022	
Santander UK plc				
Church Account	£27,274.48	£18,919.97	£13,037.10	
Church Reserve Account	£36,418.47	£36,070.72	£35,976.24	
Church Youth Account	£1,336.20	£1,203.79	£871.42	
Total	£65,029.15	£56,194.48	£49,884.76	
Cash in Hand	£40.22	£39.64	£25.90	
Total	£65,069.37	£56,234.12	£49,910.66	
<u>Accumulated Fund</u>				
Unrestricted funds	£44,113.68	£41,213.62	£35,860.00	
Restricted funds				
Missionary Monies	£6,157.53	£1,135.71	£340.00	
Job Club	£1,677.53	£1,972.51	£2,488.38	
Deposit held re tenancy	£238.33	£238.33	£238.33	
Marlow Cottage	£12,882.30	£11,673.95	£10,983.95	
Total Restricted funds	£20,955.69	£15,020.50	£14,050.66	
Total	£65,069.37	£56,234.12	£49,910.66	
<u>Fixed and other Assets</u>	Value			Note
Chapel and Associated Buildings	£3,601,508.00			Insurance value
Manse	£798,546.00			Insurance value
Cottage	£368,560.00			Insurance value
Associated Garden and Graveyard				
Graveyard in Newlands Drive Leominster	£2,500.00			
Antique Clock	£16,611.00			Insurance valuation 2009
Organ	£12,080.00			Purchase price 2006
Computer and electronic equipment	£5,000.00			Insurance value
Machinery plant and all other contents	£61,889.00			Insurance value
Ford Transit 115 Minibus - 15-seater registered in 2010	£9,500.00			Purchase price 2017

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Leominster Baptist Chapel and Trust
Property in Etnam Street, Leominster, Herefordshire.**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

*examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

*follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

*state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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 you as trustees 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 provide 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 respects the requirements:
 - *to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - *to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

Alison D HARRINGTON (MRS)

3 ASH GROVE VIEW

BODEN HAM

HEREFORDSHIRE

HR1 3LU

30 March 2025