

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 287821

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1983-09-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Southcourt Baptist Church
40 Penn Road
Aylesbury
HP21 8HW

Phone 01296480080

Email office@southcourt.org

Website <http://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BY (I) MAKING GRANTS OR PAYMENTS TO THE SOUTH COURT BAPTIST CHURCH AYLESBURY; (II) TO ASSIST THE SAID CHURCH IN PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR A PASTOR OR FULL-TIME WORKER OF THE SAID CHURCH; (III) MAKING GRANTS OR PAYMENTS FROM TIME TO TIME TO OTHER CHARITABLE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ASSEMBLIES MISSIONS MISSIONARY SOCIETIES OR INSTITUTIONS WHETHER WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR ELSEWHERE; (IV) TO CARRY OUT SUCH OTHER LEGALLY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH OR THE RELIEF OF POVERTY. (FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE CLAUSE 4 OF TRUST DEED)

Activities: Furtherance of the Christian Gospel.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Buckinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£569,342	£543,687	£329,823	16
2024-03-31	£486,844	£459,750	-	-
2023-03-31	£425,083	£403,001	-	-
2022-03-31	£346,796	£367,967	-	-
2021-03-31	£335,907	£318,719	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ben Foster		2025-05-19
Elizabeth Mary ZEALEY		2025-09-18
Emmanuel Appenteng		2025-05-19
Gareth David Bithell		2025-05-19
Graham Clarke		2025-09-18
James Henson		2025-09-18
Lizzie Manktelow		2025-05-19
Louise Clarke		2025-09-18
Mark Rogers		2014-07-03

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 287821

Accounts

Southcourt Baptist Church Trust

**Report and Financial Statements
Year ended: 31 March 2025**

Registered Charity No: 287821



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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

287821

Principal address

40 Penn Road
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
HP21 8HW

Trustees

Rev D Graham	(Lead Pastor) - stepped down February 2025
M Rogers	(Finance Vision Leader)
M Burrige	(CLT)
L Manktelow	(new CLT recruit from May 19th 2025)
B Foster	(new CLT recruit from May 19th 2025)
G Bithell	(new CLT recruit from May 19th 2025)
E Appenteng	(new CLT recruit from May 19th 2025)

Custodian trustee

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT

Bankers

HSBC, 8 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TW
Lloyds, Old Bank, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TD
Nationwide Building Society, Kings Park Road, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6NW (both accounts closed from June 2025)
Metro Bank, 45 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 2SP

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons, 10 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HJ

Independent Examiner

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
Upper Ground Floor, 18 Farnham Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4XA

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 1 August 1983, and is an unincorporated charity. The custodian trustee, the Baptist Union, delegates total autonomy in the governing and running of the church to the trustees, with voting on important decisions taking place at church partners' meetings.

The Central Leadership Team (CLT) is appointed by a meeting of the church partners and together, in accordance with the church's constitution, are chosen to assist the Lead Pastor in the spiritual and operational leadership of the church. The CLT usually become trustees upon appointment and are in office for three years. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints, we have needed to make our Lead Pastor redundant. This took place on 6th December 2024, with his notice period ending on 5th September 2025. In the meantime, he was able to secure employment at Headington Baptist Church and so his employment ended on May 31st 2025. The church is now being run by the CLT as a team although we do have an Associate Pastor, James Henson, who does the majority of the speaking on a Sunday and leads the CLT when they meet. James' role is changing in September 2025 as he formally starts his Baptist Minister training. At this point, his role will change to Minister-in-training.

Trustees must be existing church partners with specialist leadership skills often demonstrated in roles outside the church e.g. roles within the business sector. When recruiting new trustees, the existing trustees must all agree upon the choice.

The church management comprises the Central Leadership Team and the trustees. Currently, there are no paid trustees due to the Lead Pastor leaving. There are six unpaid trustees, who, along with the rest of the CLT, cover all the different aspects of the operations such as administration, safeguarding, IT, and health and safety.

A separate finance team is responsible for managing and budgeting the church's financial affairs with our Finance Vision Leader, Mark Rogers having overall oversight of the finances. The annual budget and any major changes to finance policy are approved by the CLT/Trustees.

Regular meetings are held with all staff and the CLT/trustees and cover operational as well as longer term planning relating to the vision and forward strategy of the church. James Henson continues to be our Associate Pastor, Liz Zealey is our Operations Manager and Charlotte Baldwin is our Pre-School Leader. Lou and Graham Clarke head up our Bridge the Gap Food Bank, which is fully funded from grant monies, to run our very busy food bank. Hannah Lowe is our Fundraiser to ensure that we can continue this valuable work.

Risk Management

A risk register is operational and is on the agenda at each CLT meeting where appropriate.

Objectives and aims

The charity's object, as stated in its deed of trust, is to further the Christian gospel.

Public benefit

When planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Some of the public benefit services that we offer as a church, open to all, include Sunday worship services, children's work (including pre-school education), youth work,

parent/carer and toddler groups, small social groups, a food bank, debt management, and a community drop-in cafe to serve the food bank guests. The Sunday service is also streamed on Youtube.

Associations

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain to which it pays an annual subscription. The Bridge the Gap food bank works very closely with Aylesbury Food Bank (part of the Trussell Trust) who provide food boxes for our guests. In addition we work with a number of agencies who provide other support to our guests such as financial and family support. The church does not receive any financial support from any organisations that it is associated with.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Discipleship

The church has one main service that takes place every Sunday at 10.30am which is also streamed online. We also meet together in small groups (Lifegroups) on a regular basis. This is a very important part of our community and we currently have 5 groups in operation. This is in addition to a *Men Gathering* group, Tea Break (our monthly group sharing life together through good company, tea/coffee, cakes and board games) and a women's group (Yada). The vision for each Lifegroup is to grow a community of people investing in each other's lives with a common passion to seek God, grow together and reach out to others. In the past year, we have seen 6 baptisms and 1 dedication of a young child. We currently have 63 partners who are asked to recommit every November at our AGM. This approach ensures that our partners are current, active and invested in the life of the church.

Children's Work

Children have been and always will be a fundamental core part of our life at Southcourt Baptist Church. As it stands all of our work with children is completely volunteer-led and we are so incredibly grateful to all of our wonderful volunteers who work incredibly hard to do all that they do. We truly could not do any of this without them. We continue to pray for a breakthrough in this area of church life, for a new volunteer leader to support the teams, and release vision and creativity in this area. We run an **All Age Service** once a month where everyone can get involved from the youngest to the oldest. **The Ark** group for parents and toddlers continues to run thanks to a brilliant volunteer team, as well as Sunday mornings three times a month across our two Sunday morning children's groups. Finally, we gather for **SBC Family Lunch** after the all-age service as a way for the whole church together to gather as one big family. This has been well attended and become a great connection point for many, as well as a great way to do life together as a church family.

The **Treehouse Pre-school** staff have continued to work really hard to ensure the setting is constantly moving forward, striving to provide outstanding care for all the children and their families.

To ensure we deliver the utmost care and support for our children and their families, we are constantly updating our training profiles, and conducting monthly meetings to ensure all staff are aware of any new government guidelines.

We are at our maximum capacity for the summer term with a waiting list should any children decide to withdraw their place at the pre-school. We already have 10+ children confirmed to start with us in September. With the new guidelines coming into place for 2-year olds to receive 30 hours in September 2025 we will be monitoring our intake closely.

To accommodate our 30-hour funded 3-year-olds we started a breakfast club from 8.30am. This has been extremely successful; the number of children has increased even more in the morning with our minimum number of children being 10.

Buckinghamshire Council, and Sharon from the Early year's advice team have really helped the team grow in confidence, with regards to Ofsted readiness (receiving a **GOOD** in Feb 2024).

One of our Deputy Managers attends PIP group meetings where she has received lots of guidance and support which she feeds back to the team regarding new ideas, CPD and updates on the curriculum.

As we continue to have a large intake of children with SEND and speech and language delays, the SEND advice team has been available to help support the team with regards to paperwork and funding. Due to receiving extra funding through the SENIF we have set up a 'SEN Group Time Shed' to support the children on their individual learning journeys. Not only has this provided a quiet space for some of the children, it has also helped the team conduct group times in a smaller area, giving all the children extra learning resources to promote their development.

We continue the arrangement whereby the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) use our setting to do arts and crafts as well as soft sports for young children. We are grateful for this partnership which is in line with the ethos of our setting as well as bringing in valuable income.

With our numbers growing we have had to employ new members of staff, who have fitted into their new roles tremendously. We have lots of hope for the future and we will continue to develop our setting with new ideas, and ways to potentially expand the business to accommodate future childcare changes.

Young People

This year has seen so much exciting growth in the lives of the youth at SBC. We are so thrilled to be able to share how the youth work has changed over the last year and is thriving!

There have been some interesting changes to the structure of the Youth Ministry this year, with a bit of a "re-brand" which we'll take you through in a moment. But all areas of the youth ministry seem to be thriving, with young people regularly attending all groups and engaging more and more, whatever their age or stage of faith journey.

Changes started with the younger youth "Explore" group which had been struggling for some time to grow. The decision was made to pause this group after the summer of 2024 in order to rethink how the group could run in a way that would increase engagement. This process then led to rethinking of how the youth work as a whole comes across to those not involved in the running of it.

For some time, the tagline of SBC Youth has been: "creating spaces where young people can thrive." And this is a goal we are certainly fulfilling year after year. There are 6 spaces that we currently make available to young people. And each of these spaces is purpose built, yet cohesive within the wider youth ministry. And it was felt that this unity should be reflected in the presentation of the spaces.

HUB Network is the name given to describe how the youth ministry all links up.

Youth HUB - outward facing community youth work. For many of our young people this is their first taste of life at SBC. It's simply a fun and safe space to hang out on a Friday night. Through Youth HUB what we've started to see is that a young person might hear about another of our groups or the residential, enabling relationships to deepen and spiritual curiosity to grow.

Sunday HUB (previously Sunday youth) - This group hasn't changed much since last year. Our latest series, however, was incredible fun! Over the last few months we've had a number of guest speakers from the church community join the youth on a Sunday morning to share their life stories. This was followed by Q&A with the youth. It has been so encouraging to remove generational barriers and foster relationships between the young people and the adults in the church.

Holiday HUB (Satellites) - fed by several youth groups, so we take a mix of church and unchurched youth. For many this is the highlight of the year, and always a time where we witness huge growth in individuals in a really short amount of time. We've seen it feed back into other youth groups creating

greater crossover. In August 2024 we went to Satellites and had a tremendous time (see picture below). Over the week we saw the young people really step into their element and open up to each other and to God. We have seen dramatic lasting effects in many of the group since returning. The silent disco and fancy dress were also a bonus!



Bible HUB (previously known as Explore) - This is our in-person younger-youth group. There's food, games, and group discussion about life and faith. We've been experimenting with the structure, trying out limited courses with short time-frames. We're now at a point where we could have the group running full-time during school term dates which is exciting!

Open House - Our in-person youth group for sixth form/college students (or equivalent) and uni students. It has continued to be a place of exciting discussions about God, the Bible, and faith. There has been regular opportunity for the young people to take more of a lead in this by taking on the facilitation of Bible studies and discussions. We were able to put on a training session to enable them to all thrive and lead these discussions with confidence.

Mentor HUB - this is less a space and more a programme. In the start of 2025 we started some intentional mentoring relationships between some of our key youth workers and the young people. It is a less official form of mentoring and enables the older youth to receive vital spiritual input and form stronger relationships with good adult role models.

Online HUB - There are 2 key aspects to this newer area of our youth work. We have a youth Discord server which hasn't grown as much as expected, but this is partly due to a lack of advertising and communication around it. There are plans over the summer to revamp this and potentially use a different media channel. When we have this online space being used frequently by our young people it will allow for discipleship to occur all week-long outside of our in-person groups!

The other side of the youth ministry online is our social media platforms which are seeing increased engagement from those that follow them. We have started posting several times a week on these platforms and putting out a range of content such as: mini faith messages, comedic content (both original and repurposed memes), posts about our youth groups, events coming up, and footage of youth groups

in action to give people a flavour of what they are like. This might be someone's first exposure to any sort of Christian content, which is why it's designed to be as engaging as possible, and something that young people especially would be interested in watching.

Finally, we are looking forward to some exciting prospects in the pipeline for our youth. We have plans to involve young people in content creation as a way of making the youth ministry more student driven and letting our young people take ownership. Additionally, we have a Young Leader programme up and running being supported by regular training days. After a recent training day, we now have plans to further release these young people into leadership opportunities and responsibility.

There is so much to be grateful for at the end of this last year and so much to be excited about for 2025/26 for **SBC Youth**, watch this space!

Neighbourhood

From May 2024, **Bridge the Gap Food Bank** has remained busy due to rising costs & the economic crisis. The food bank now only opens on a Friday but our hours have extended so we are able to support our clients. We launched a weekly Wednesday drop, **BTG Drop-In**, in January 2024, where our clients can access help from our team & partners. It is also a safe place, providing words of encouragement for those who are facing challenges and in particular need. As the year progressed we continued to be busy, numbers for the food bank increased and we are seeing new clients on a weekly basis. We have received generous funding that has been gratefully received. Donations were received from The Rothschild Foundation, Neighbourly, Fairhive, Bucks Council, The Souter Trust, Garfield Weston, Thomas Hickman, Freemasons, Heart of Bucks, Helping Hand, Aylesbury Rotary Club, Shanly Foundation & Clare Foundation. The generosity of our benefactors has enabled us to provide essential food such as freezer items, fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs and washing products in addition to our normal food parcels. At Christmas, we partnered with Chiltern Toybank and distributed toys, books and gifts to our families. Our Community free Cafe / event, **BTG Extra**, now opens at present twice a year on a Saturday offering a free lunch and activities. Between 60 - 80 people are currently attending this event and we are pleased to be able to offer this service. We have also had several fund raising events, a quiz night & Fun Day which were enjoyed by all.

The Community Financial Support Service has continued four mornings a week, including the weekly drop in, throughout the year. The service has helped 66 different clients - 20 men, 40 women, and 3 couples. Many of the clients need ongoing support so, in all, the service has conducted 220 appointments, an average of 5 a week. There has again been a wide range of financial needs supported. The DWP has embarked on a further programme of transferring people who were in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance onto Universal Credit. Helping clients with the formalities is quite time consuming and clients do not find it easy having to get used to a new system and having to be prepared to follow instructions carefully.

Two special highlights for this past year:

One client came into our food bank and literally collapsed on the floor clutching a letter from a local Housing Association, advising it would be repossessing their home in 10 days' time, making a family of four people homeless. After meeting with the client, we managed to speak to a senior contact at the housing association and between us we managed to agree on a way forward, so saving the client's home. We then accompanied the client to the Milton Keynes court to get the repossession order annulled. The joy and relief was very evident bringing hope for their future and is the epitome of what our support service is about.

The second client had debts of around £12,000 being managed by Step Change with our help and support. The client was just about reaching retirement age and had a private pension maturing. The debts were a source of real mental health pressure and the client was self-harming, taking overdoses, and was put on crisis care watch. The pension has now matured and through Step Change, we were

able to get the debts reduced by just over £3,500 in full and final settlement and all the debts have now been repaid. The client describes the outcome as a huge burden being lifted.

We have again been helped by the Thomas Hickman Charity with a grant to cover the expenses of the service and we are so grateful for their continued assistance year by year.

The needs seem as big as ever, so it appears the service will remain busy, supporting and bringing hope to clients in the coming year.

Meeting every Monday morning during school term time, our **English Conversation Group**, has, over the last six years or so provided friendship, refreshment and conversation for well over a hundred of our neighbours of a variety of ethnic and faith backgrounds whilst assisting them to improve their spoken English and their integration into the community. We are grateful to the partners from SBC who, each week, support this important community outreach. We also thank those of Bertha's Café which provided refreshments for a while. One of the most rewarding outcomes continues to be the development of genuinely warm friendships and relationships both between our guests and with our supporters. We continue to hope and pray that our guests will recognise something of the love of God, through us in this ministry and for opportunities to share that love with them whatever their faith background.

Southcourt Boxing Club was set up by Southcourt Baptist Church, Thames Valley Police and a local boxing coach to provide a place for local people to get some exercise, increase confidence and have a safe place to go. Over the last 2 years this has proved highly successful with the number of people attending exceeding expectations. We have also been joined by a number of excellent, dedicated volunteers who run the club on a weekly basis. Over the past year, there has been a big change. Whilst Southcourt Baptist Church is still very much supportive of the club, providing both volunteers, storage space and the venue to hold the club, we no longer have the resources to manage the club so have decided to hand over the running of the club to a committee of volunteers and coaches. This change took place with effect from February 1st 2025 at which point any existing funds were passed over. This is a "win-win" scenario as the church are now receiving room-booking fees whilst knowing that this club is a great support to the local community.

Finances

The 2024/2025 financial year was a challenging year for the finances of the Southcourt Baptist Church Trust.

This was particularly relevant for the **General Fund (GF)** where the hard decision was taken to make our Senior Pastor redundant. This decision was regrettably clear having completed a mid-year analysis of the finances, looking at the ongoing income from a variety of sources including donations and grants. The GF budget set for 2024/25 was for a deficit of around £28,609 but the church trustees approved the budget on the basis that, at the point of the budget being set, there were sufficient reserves to cover the deficit. Total income for the GF was over £27,000 below budget whilst the total expenditure was nearly £40,000 below budget due to necessary cost savings during the year. Overall, the GF experienced a deficit of around £16,000 which was covered by existing reserves such that the year end reserves were still nearly £40,000. The GF has continued to receive generous donations from its partners, regular attendees and income from hiring rooms. The trustees are grateful for all donations received.

The **Treehouse Pre-School (TH)** had an excellent year financially. The TH budget set for 2024/25 was for a deficit of around £44,000, including an aspirational £30,000 to install solar panels, but the church trustees approved the budget on the basis that, at the point of the budget being set, there were large reserves to cover the deficit. Total income for the TH was nearly £28,000 above budget whilst the total expenditure was nearly £18,000 below budget. Overall, the TH experienced a surplus of nearly £2,000

whilst the year end reserves were over £65,000. In the coming year, the setting is looking to increase the number of staff whilst continuing to remain compliant with the adult/child ratios.

Bridge the Gap, our food bank work (BTG) had a very challenging year financially. The BTG budget set for 2024/25 was a balanced budget. At the financial year end, total income for the BTG was nearly £45,000 above budget whilst the total expenditure was nearly £15,000 below budget. However, during the year, the issue was that a large proportion of the monies in reserves could only be spent on food. We therefore had issues with covering our salary bill. As a result, all four of the staff were given redundancy notices to the end of December 2024 with the food bank needing to close. Miraculously, due to the hard work of our fundraiser, we were able to continue as we received the necessary monies from our funders. Overall, BTG experienced a surplus of over £60,000 whilst the year end reserves were over £74,000 (of monies which could be used for salaries). In the 2025/2026 year, a plan is in place to ensure that we cover both the food and the salary/operational costs. So far, things are going well with non-food reserves of over £54,000 at the end of June 2025. As ever, we are totally indebted to our wonderful funders as listed in the previous section.

The Finance Team and trustees continue to monitor the Charity's financial position through the production of quarterly Income & Expenditure statements, the bank account and fund balances against the Reserve Policy range each week. This acts as an early warning mechanism to identify any tightening of cash flow and prompt remedial action before pressure is experienced on the Charity's liquidity.

The General Fund Reserve Policy has not changed over the last year with the Reserve Range still standing at £19,000 - £28,000 for the 2025/26 financial year. The Treehouse Reserve Range remains at £11,500 - £23,000. The Trustees recognise their responsibility to keep the finances of the Charity in a healthy state and expect that to be the case over the coming year.

Plans for the future

Southcourt Baptist Church is at the heart of the community and over the last few years we have developed various work streams that provide opportunities to help us meet the needs of those in our immediate proximity. Our vision is to assist others in creating a better, safer community. Our work streams include our food bank, a weekly drop-in and youth hub.

In the coming year we aim to continue with these streams but it is becoming increasingly challenging to find grants to fund the work, especially for staff costs. In the coming year, we will be working with our funders and external advisors to find new, more sustainable streams of funding. We will also look to see where we can work in partnership with other organisations and agencies.

The overall budget for the new financial year shows a deficit but this will be monitored regularly by the finance team and trustees. In addition, we will be using monies from the charity's reserves to cover the necessary redundancy payment which will mean that, overall, we are in a good position.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on September 18th 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Southcourt Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southcourt Baptist Church for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

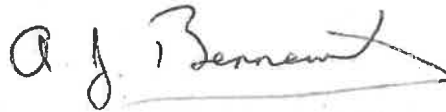
Independent examiner's statement

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
2. the 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
Upper Ground Floor
18 Farnham Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4XA



Date: 25 September 2025

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2025					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.25 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.24 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations		157,895	171,674	329,569	277,891
Income Tax Recoverable		23,221	-	23,221	22,216
Premises Hire		27,012	-	27,012	27,003
Investment		1,743	-	1,743	1,464
Treehouse Pre-school	8&9	179,257	8,540	187,797	158,270
Total		389,128	180,214	569,342	486,844
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities:					
Leadership		71,830	3,699	75,529	73,716
Worship & Discipleship		2,671	-	2,671	943
Neighbourhood		33,108	106,297	139,405	97,461
Site Operations		62,336	15,880	78,216	105,023
Repairs to church		24,197	4,766	28,963	12,963
Generation Next		24,006	-	24,006	23,677
Outreach		5,057	-	5,057	4,210
Treehouse	8&9	181,131	4,709	185,840	137,757
Depreciation		4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total		408,336	135,351	543,687	459,750
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		(19,208)	44,863	25,655	27,094
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(19,208)	44,863	25,655	27,094
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		262,900	41,268	304,168	277,074
Total funds carried forward		243,692	86,131	329,823	
Continuing Operations					
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.					

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.25 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.24 Total funds £
Fixed Assets:					
Tangible Assets	2	127,000	-	127,000	131,000
Current Assets:					
Debtors	4	4,402	-	4,402	4,610
Cash at bank and in hand		114,210	86,131	200,341	170,941
Total Current Assets		118,612	86,131	204,743	175,551
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	1,920	-	1,920	1,920
Net Current Assets		116,692	86,131	202,823	173,631
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		243,692	86,131	329,823	304,631
Provision for liabilities after one year	6	-	-	-	463
Total Net Assets		243,692	86,131	329,823	304,168
Funds					
Restricted funds	8			86,131	41,268
Unrestricted funds	9			243,692	262,900
Total Funds				329,823	304,168
<p>The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18th 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:</p> <p>M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader </p>					

Statement of Cash Flows at 31st March 2025			
	Notes	Year ended 31.03.25 £	Year ended 31.03.24 £
Cash Flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by / (used) in operations	A	4,436	5,392
Tax (paid) / recovered		23,221	22,216
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		27,657	27,608
Cash Flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest & rent from investments		1,743	1,464
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		1,743	1,464
Cash Flows from financing activities			
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		-	-
Change in cash & cash equivalents in the reporting period		29,400	29,072
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		170,941	141,869
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		200,341	170,941
A. Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income / (expenditure) to for the reporting period as per the Statement of Financial Activities		25,655	27,094
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation Charges		4,000	4,000
Interest received		(1,743)	(1,464)
Tax Recovered (Gift Aid)		(23,221)	(22,216)
Movements in pension provision		(463)	(528)
(Increase) / Decrease in Gift Aid Due		343	(1,352)
(Increase) / Decrease in prepayments		(135)	(142)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		4,436	5,392

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		Year ended 31.03.25 £	Year ended 31.03.24 £
Cash in hand		162,239	119,582
Deposit Accounts		38,102	51,359
Total cash and cash equivalents		200,341	170,941

Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements as at 31 March 2025**1. Accounting Policies****a) Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

b) Incoming resources

Donations are recognised as incoming resources when received.

Income tax recoverable on donations under the Gift Aid scheme is accounted for in the period in which the underlying donation is received.

Funds received where the charity is acting as agent for independent causes are matched to outgoings and any difference is carried forward to the next period.

Gifts in kind, where material and capable of being valued, are treated as income.

No value has been placed on the rental equivalent of the use of the church premises and property, which are occupied free of charge by the church.

Grant income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable. Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

c) Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure shown is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories according to the nature of the cost.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All fixed assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Buildings	-2% on cost
Computer & sound equipment	-25% on cost

Freehold land is not depreciated as the trustees consider the useful economic life of the land owned by the charity to be so long as to render any charge for depreciation immaterial to the truth and fairness of the financial statements.

e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. They form part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

f) Pensions

The church makes contributions to two defined contribution schemes. Pension contributions payable to these schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The church also makes contributions to a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. It is not possible for the church to identify the assets and liabilities attributable to the church. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the scheme is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. See note 13 for further details about the pension schemes.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computer and sound equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	203,000	26,530	229,530
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	203,000	26,530	229,530
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	72,000	26,530	98,530
Charge for year	4,000	-	4,000
At 31 March 2025	76,000	26,530	102,530
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	127,000	-	127,000
At 31 March 2024	131,000	-	131,000

The cost of land and buildings is represented by:

	£
Freehold manse at 293 Tring Road, Aylesbury (70% share)	200,000
Land purchased for car park at Penn Road, Aylesbury	3,000
Total	203,000

3. Non-monetary assets held for the church's use

The church is the beneficial occupier (subject to the relevant trust deeds) of the following assets, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Church premises at insured value	4,175,247	3,727,899
Church contents at insured value	466,764	416,749
Total	4,642,011	4,144,648

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on gift aid	1,844	2,187
Prepaid Insurance	2,558	2,423
Total	4,402	4,610

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrued expenses	1,920	1,920
Other creditors	-	-
Total	1,920	1,920

6. Provision for liabilities after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Pension (Scheme 1) (see note 14)	0	463

7. Staff costs

None of the church's employees received emoluments of over £60,000 during the current or previous years. The average number of employees during the year was 16 (2024:14), which included full time and part time workers. On a full-time equivalent basis, the average number of staff members was 12 (2024: 12), employed in the following areas:

Numbers	2025	2024
Pastoral care	2	2
Administration and maintenance	2	2
Children, Youth and community	5	4
Pre-School	7	6
Total	16	14
Costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	307,982	270,022
Other Benefits	9,022	8,316
Employer's National Insurance	16,991	14,520
Current Staff Pension costs	6,416	5,996
Total	340,411	298,854

8. Restricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Something Better	-	316	(316)	-	653	337
Bridge the Gap	156,795	109,922	46,873	-	24,052	70,925
Treehouse Support	8,540	4,709	3,831	-	1,939	5,770
Financial Support	1,500	1,134	366	-	1,233	1,599
Stair Lift	1,800	4,450	(2,650)	-	2,650	-
Boxing Club	-	10,410	(10,410)	-	10,410	-
Community Fair	7,880	711	7,169	-	331	7,500
Home Mission	3,699	3,699	-	-	-	-
Total	180,214	135,351	44,863	-	41,268	86,131

9. Unrestricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Premises Refurbishment	1,743	11,168	(9,425)	-	11,166	1,741
Premises Development	120	1,058	(938)	-	988	50
Treehouse	179,257	181,131	(1,874)	-	61,381	59,507
Women's Ministry	1,144	1,696	(552)	-	1,224	672
Youth	673	-	673	(1,000)	415	88
General	168,477	187,677	(19,200)	1,000	186,868	168,668
Boxing Club	2,667	3,095	(428)	-	428	-
Bridge the Gap	35,047	22,511	12,536	-	430	12,966
Total	389,128	408,336	(19,208)	-	262,900	243,692

10. Restricted Funds

Funds (usually grant monies) are held for the following purposes:

Something Better - to support the work of the support for our older folk in the church and local community.

Bridge the Gap - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

Treehouse support - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education where grants have been received for specific projects such as to cover Special Educational Needs.

Financial Support - to support the ongoing work of the debt management project that the church runs.

Stair Lift - to support a new stair lift being installed to our youth loft room to enable those with accessibility needs to come along to our youth groups.

Boxing Club - to support the Boxing Club which provides support for fitness, discipline and friendship in our local community.

Community Fair - to enable the annual Community Fair to take place in our local community, providing fun, free food and social cohesion for the local people.

Home Mission - to support the Associate Pastor (now becoming Minister-in-Training) in his training journey whilst he co-leads the church.

11. Designated Funds

Funds are held for the following purposes:

Church Premises Refurbishment - can be used for substantial internal and external refurbishment of our existing buildings.

Church Premises Development - for expenses related to substantial building development.

Treehouse - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education.

Women's Ministry - to support the well-being of women in and outside the church.

Youth - to support the children and youth work.

Boxing Club - to support the Boxing Club which provides support for fitness, discipline and friendship in our local community.

Bridge the Gap - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

General - to support the general ongoing operations of the church.

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One member of the Trustee Board Rev D Graham was employed by the Southcourt Church Baptist Trust in the position of Lead Pastor (2024: one member of the board).

Rev D Graham received a remuneration package of £46,205 (£43,383 previous year) and a pension contribution of £1,850 (£1,753 previous year).

Expenses of £743 (2024: £1,201) were also paid relating to his duties as an employed member of staff and included payment for travel, hospitality, meetings and ministry costs.

Payments to trustees were made under the legal authority of the church's governing documents.

13. Net Income/Expenditure

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting) the following:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	1,920	1,920
Government Grants received:		
Food Bank	(31,150)	(29,256)
Treehouse Pre-school	(8,540)	(17,757)
Boxing Club	-	(3,000)
Total	(39,690)	(50,013)

14. Pensions

There are now two schemes in operation.

Until the end of January 2025, there was a third scheme, namely a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme with The Pensions Trust on behalf of one former employee and trustee. This is now no longer in operation as the deficit has been paid.

Scheme 1 - The Pensions Trust - Growth Plan Series 4

This is a defined contribution scheme established with The Pensions Trust and operated as an Auto-enrolment Scheme. Contributions to this scheme are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

Scheme 2 - Liverpool Victoria - Personal Pension Plan

Finally the church makes contributions to a defined contribution Personal Pension Plan on behalf of the Lead Pastor, in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment. Since the Lead Pastor's employment has ceased from May 31st 2025, this plan will no longer be relevant after that date.

15. Comparatives for the SOFA

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2024			
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.24 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations	156,685	121,206	277,891
Income Tax Recoverable	22,216	-	22,216
Premises Hire	27,003	-	27,003
Investment	1,464	-	1,464
Treehouse Preschool	140,513	17,757	158,270
Total	347,881	138,963	486,844
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities:			
Leadership	73,716	-	73,716
Worship & Discipleship	943	-	943
Neighbourhood	5,478	91,983	97,461
Seniors	-	-	-
Site Operations	85,991	19,032	105,023
Repairs to church	12,963	-	12,963

Generation Next	23,677	-	23,677
Outreach	4,210	-	4,210
Treehouse	98,110	39,647	137,757
Depreciation	4,000	-	4,000
Total	309,088	150,662	459,750
Net Income/(Expenditure)	38,793	(11,699)	27,094
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	38,793	(11,699)	27,094
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	224,107	52,967	277,074
Total funds carried forward	262,900	41,268	304,168

16. Related party disclosures

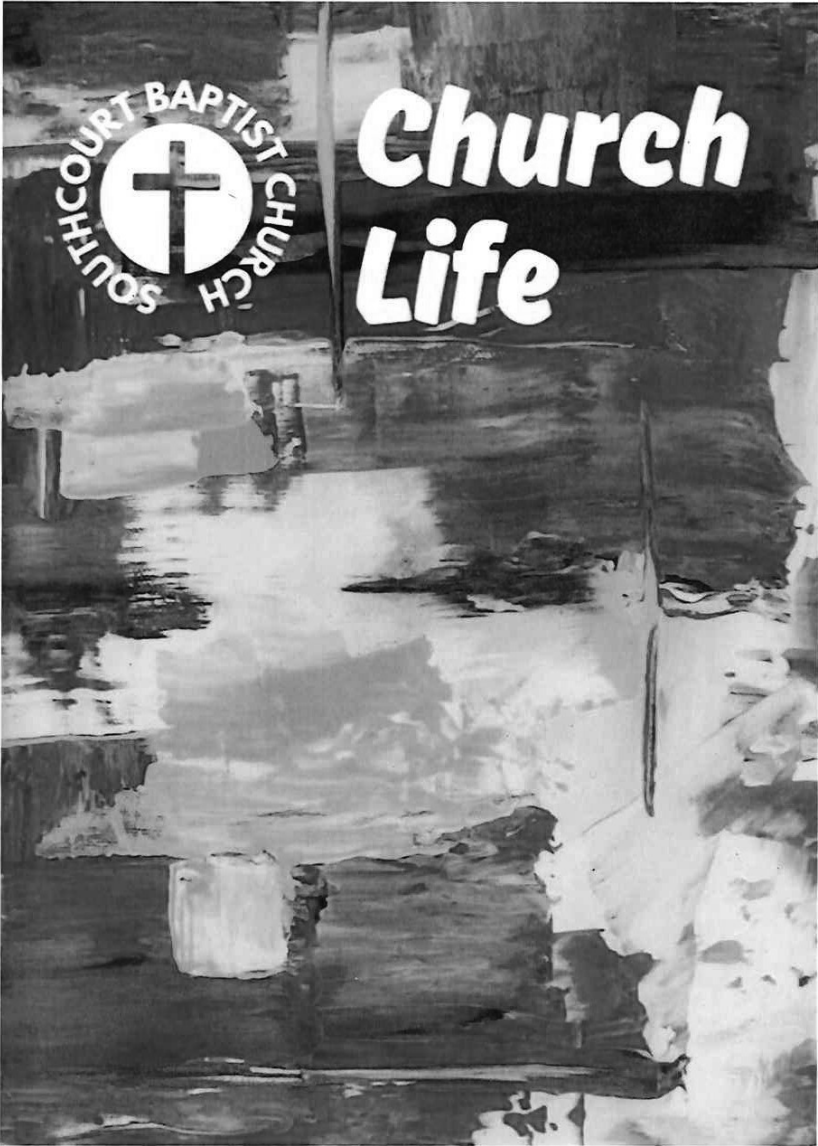
The Trust received trustees' donations of £12,175 for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: £15,700).

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 287821

Accounts

Southcourt Baptist Church Trust
Report and Financial Statements
Year ended: 31 March 2024
Registered Charity No: 287821



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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

287821

Principal address

40 Penn Road
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
HP21 8HW

Trustees

Rev D Graham	(Lead Pastor)
M Rogers	(Finance Vision Leader)
C Blunden	(CLT) - stepped down on November 16th 2023
M Burrige	(CLT)

Custodian trustee

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT

Bankers

HSBC, 8 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TW
Lloyds, Old Bank, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TD
Nationwide Building Society, Kings Park Road, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6NW

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons, 10 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HJ

Independent Examiner

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
Upper Ground Floor, 18 Farnham Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4XA

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 1 August 1983, and is an unincorporated charity. The custodian trustee, the Baptist Union, delegates total autonomy in the governing and running of the church to the trustees, with voting on important decisions taking place at church partners' meetings.

The Central Leadership Team (CLT) is appointed by a meeting of the church partners and together, in accordance with the church's constitution, are chosen to assist the Lead Pastor in the spiritual and operational leadership of the church. The CLT usually become trustees upon appointment and are in office for three years.

Trustees must be existing church partners with specialist leadership skills often demonstrated in roles outside the church e.g. roles within the business sector. When recruiting new trustees, the existing trustees must all agree upon the choice.

The church management comprises the Central Leadership Team and the trustees. Currently, only one of the trustees is in a paid role, the Lead Pastor. There are also a number of unpaid volunteers, some of whom are trustees, who cover all the different aspects of the operations such as administration, safeguarding, health and safety and IT.

A separate finance team is responsible for managing and budgeting the church's financial affairs with our Finance Vision Leader, Mark Rogers having overall oversight of the finances. The annual budget and any major changes to finance policy are approved by the CLT/Trustees.

Regular meetings are held with all staff and the CLT/trustees and cover operational as well as longer term planning relating to the vision and forward strategy of the church. David Graham continues to be the Lead Pastor of the church, James Henson our Associate Pastor, Graham Clarke our Community Pastor, Liz Zealey is our Operations Manager and Charlotte Baldwin is our Pre-School Leader. Lou Clarke is still the Bridge the Gap Leader, which is fully funded from grant monies to run our very busy food bank.

Risk Management

A risk register is operational and is on the agenda at each CLT meeting where appropriate.

Objectives and aims

The charity's object, as stated in its deed of trust, is to further the Christian gospel.

Public benefit

When planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Some of the public benefit services that we offer as a church, open to all, include Sunday worship services, children's work (including pre-school education), youth work, parent/carer and toddler groups, small social groups; a food bank, debt management and a community drop-in cafe to serve the food bank guests. The Sunday service is also streamed onto Youtube.

Associations

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain to which it pays an annual subscription. The Church also contributes to BMS World Mission. The church does not receive any financial support from any organisations that it is associated with.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Discipleship

The church has one main service that takes place every Sunday at 10.30am which is also streamed online. We also meet together in small groups (Lifegroups) on a regular basis. This is a very important part of our community and we currently have 5 groups in operation. This is in addition to a *Men Gathering* group, a women's group (Yada) and a Women@SBC group. The vision for each Lifegroup is to grow a community of people investing in each other's lives with a common passion to seek God, grow together and reach out to others. In the past year, we have seen 6 baptisms and 1 dedication of a young child. We currently have 60 partners who are asked to recommit every November at our AGM. This approach ensures that our partners are current, active and invested in the life of the church.

Seniors

Our seniors are an integral part of the church and are free to attend any one of our numerous events that take place here. In addition, we have one particular group that specifically aims at our older folk.

Tea Break is a monthly afternoon event for people within the church, local community and beyond. We particularly welcome those who are lonely or isolated for whatever reason. Tea Break gives an opportunity for people to meet together with tea or coffee and home-made cakes aplenty. The guests can play board games, catch up with each other or relax with a magazine. For jigsaw enthusiasts there is always a puzzle waiting to be completed. Tea Break is an informal, social occasion which is enjoyed by all. We are so thankful to have such a pleasant venue and a very helpful team. Thank you to those who help set up and clear the room, to those who help in the kitchen and to all who help serve and chat to our guests. Not forgetting a big thank you to those who provide the cakes!

Children's Work

Our children's work at SBC is continuing to move forward in the difficult time that we find ourselves in. We are still continuing to search for a new Children's work leader to help with vision and leadership for this critical area of our life as a church. Our volunteers are incredible and the hard work and dedication that they bring to the groups doesn't go unnoticed. This last year saw a few of our long serving volunteers call time up on their serving in the children's work for a well deserved break. Here's a few things that have been going on this last year: As it stands at the moment our weekly Sunday groups are operating every other week, we are hopeful that these will continue to be a place for children to grow and develop in their character, and love for God. Our monthly Messy Church has grown and developed over the last year and it has become a great opportunity for us to worship together creatively as a whole intergenerational family. Each week our parents and toddler club, **The Ark**, is continuing to thrive and is very well received by those who come along. Back in the summer we held a new event for children called the '**SBC Kids Day of Fun**'. This included a 'Nerf War' followed by a movie night. We want to try and include more big events in the calendar for the Children to be able to enjoy and bring friends along to in the coming year.

The Treehouse Pre-school has not been without its trials and tribulations over the past year since Charlotte Baldwin took over the leadership role in April 2023. They have all worked really hard to ensure the setting is moved forward including creating lots of new ways to work in partnership with parents, examples including our reading journals, stay and plays and parents evenings. As a result of this the setting is now at full capacity, with a waiting list for April and confirmed spaces for September 2024. To accommodate our 30 hour funded children we started breakfast clubs from 8.30am. This has been extremely successful; the number of children has increased even more in the morning with our minimum number of children being 10. Buckinghamshire Council, and Sharon from the Early year's advice team

have really helped the team grow in confidence, with regards to Ofsted readiness (receiving a **GOOD** in Feb 2024), PIP group meetings and tips and guidance to help support some of our ideas and cultures around our curriculum. As we continue to have a number of children with SEND and speech and language delays, the SEND advice team have been available to help support the team with regards to paperwork and funding. Due to receiving extra funding we have set up a SEN Sensory Shed to support the children on their personal journeys, and ensure they have a place to help with their targeted interventions and sensory exploration. During the Easter holidays of 2023, we started a new arrangement whereby the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) use our setting to do arts and crafts as well as soft sports for young children. We are grateful for this partnership which is in line with the ethos of our setting as well as bringing in valuable income. With our numbers growing we have had to employ new members of staff, who have fitted into their new roles tremendously. We have lots of hope for the future and we will keep moving forward with new ideas, and ways to potentially expand the business to accommodate future childcare changes.

Young People

This year has seen so much exciting growth in the lives of the youth at SBC. We are so thrilled to be able to share how the youth work has changed over the last year and is thriving!

This year we have seen our new Youth Worker finish his first year in the position, and it is safe to say that he has made the role his own and honed the different areas of the youth ministry to enable it to continue to flourish. We've been able to provide regular groups in all areas and sustain a comprehensive youth programme for all ages and levels of faith.

We were able to take the youth group to another summer camp this year! In August 2023 we went to Satellites and had a blast (see picture below). These camps are sure to once again become an annual event and highlight of the year for the young people. Over the week we saw the young people really step into their element and thrive in their relationships with one another and with God. We even saw three of our group make a public commitment/or re-commitment of their faith! The Spikeball competitions and skateboarding were also a bonus! ;)



Youth Hub continues to be a huge success! It is a space that carries on growing and attracting many young people who otherwise wouldn't set foot in a church building. It has been beautiful to witness relationships gradually build and see the young people be released to be themselves and feel safe and relaxed in this space. We've even started to see some young people finding out about and engaging with our other (more faith focused) youth groups through Youth Hub!

Explore has seen a few changes this year. We've restructured it to include young people in school years 7-11, which allowed both Explore and Open House more time to cohere. We also ran a Youth Alpha at Explore in Autumn which was exciting and saw a few members of Youth Hub feed into the group. We've had some really engaging discussions about some really tough topics of life and faith, and we are eager to see how the group develops over time.

Open House has continued to be a place of exciting discussions about God, the Bible, and faith. There has been regular opportunity for the young people to take more of a lead in this by taking on the facilitation of Bible studies and discussions. We were able to put on a training session to enable them to all thrive and lead these discussions with confidence.

Sunday Youth has particularly thrived this year in terms of the group size. Whatever this is down to, the young people thoroughly enjoy these groups! With some adjustments to the room and content of Sunday Youth, there is now plenty of time for the youth to socialise and get a second breakfast! Yet there is still loads of space to go deep into a topic through a short talk and group discussion time.

This year also saw the first of our ReCreate services! This is a new Sunday evening service that runs several times a year, and we have now done three of them which were all well attended and engaging evenings. The young people have really stepped up in the planning processes and even put themselves forward for some of the major leading roles - one of our year 11s did an outstanding talk at the most recent ReCreate!

Additionally, we have initiated a Young Leader programme which has given some of the young people the opportunity to deepen their faith and step into active roles where they are able to most positively impact the youth work. However, there is certainly room to make this a more developed programme that releases the young people to flourish even more!

Finally, we are looking forward to some exciting prospects in the pipeline for our youth. We are hoping to start up some intentional mentoring relationships between some of our key youth workers and the young people. This less official form of mentoring will enable the older youth to receive vital spiritual input and form stronger relationships with good adult role models.

There is so much to be grateful for at the end of this last year and so much to be excited about for 2024/25 for **SBC Youth**, watch this space!

Neighbourhood

From May 2023, **Bridge the Gap Food Bank** has remained busy due to rising costs & the economic crisis. The food bank now only opens on a Friday but our hours have extended so we are able to support our clients. We launched a weekly Wednesday drop (**BTG Drop-In**) in January 2024, where our clients can access help from our team & partners. It is also a safe place, providing words of encouragement for those who are facing challenges and in particular need. As the year progressed we continued to be busy, numbers for the food bank increased and we are seeing new clients on a weekly basis. We have received generous funding that has been gratefully received. Donations were received from The Rothschild Foundation, Bucks Council, Thomas Hickman, Heart of Bucks, William Harding, Aylesbury Rotary Club, Travis Perkins & Neighbourly. The generosity of our benefactors has enabled us to provide essential food such as freezer items, fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs and washing products in addition to our normal food parcels. At Christmas, we partnered with Chiltern Toybank and distributed toys, books and gifts to our families. Our Community free Cafe / event (**BTG Extra**) now opens 4 times a year on a Saturday offering a free lunch and activities. Between 60 - 80 people are currently attending this event and we are pleased to be able to offer this service.

The **Money Management Centre** has continued to operate four mornings a week and over 200 people have been helped over the course of the year. In addition to booked appointments we now open on a Wednesday lunch time a Drop In as part of our Bridge the Gap initiative and attend regularly to see anyone who wants support. A highlight of the year was our Centre Manager, Michael Hulcoop, receiving an award from Buckinghamshire Council's 'Proud of Bucks Awards', being highly commended as a Local Community Champion. He commented that 'it was humbling to be honoured in this way'. The work continues to be very varied and many people are finding the cost of living difficult to negotiate. Much of the time is taken in supporting clients in their applications to the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments scheme to help with housing costs, as well as Helping Hands to help cover client's utility bills. Educating clients to maintain and live by proper budgets continues to be a challenge. These aspects of our work, along with benefits and tribunal work, have now become a more significant part of the service we offer. The church leadership have recognised that complying with the various requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to be authorised specifically in "Debt Counselling" is becoming more onerous for us as a small charity. We have therefore started to refer clients in debt to Step Change (a not for profit, free to client service), assisting them as appropriate to engage with this service. We will now begin the formalities of ending our FCA registration. We are also changing the name from **Money Management Centre** to **Southcourt Baptist Church Community Financial Support Service**. This will more accurately describe the service. The Thomas Hickman Charity again generously funded the work which this year allowed us to use a professional local firm to shred our records of more than four years old. They also continued to grant money for white goods and carpets for needy clients. We continue to be very grateful to the Trustees for their support. One highlight of the year was being able to stave off a Bailiff seeking to remove goods from a client in desperate circumstances. In less than 24 hours, following an urgent application to Helping Hands, the utility debt was repaid in full.

Bertha's café, which ran for a few years providing a safe community space and excellent coffee and cakes, unfortunately needed to close in the past year but we look forward to what may happen in the coming years.

Meeting every Monday morning during school term time, our **English Conversation Group**, has, over the last six years or so provided friendship, refreshment and conversation for well over a hundred of our neighbours of a variety of ethnic and faith backgrounds whilst assisting them to improve their spoken English and their integration into the community. We are grateful to the partners from SBC who, each week, support this important community outreach. We also thank those of Bertha's Café which provided refreshments for a while. One of the most rewarding outcomes continues to be the development of genuinely warm friendships and relationships both between our guests and with our supporters. We continue to hope and pray that our guests will recognise something of the love of God, through us in this ministry and for opportunities to share that love with them whatever their faith background.

In early 2023, **Southcourt Boxing Club** was launched in partnership with our local PCSOs, professional boxing coaches and other friends in the neighbourhood. Within the first year we grew to over 100 students that have registered who are looking to improve their fitness and help with their mental health. The aim is to provide a boxing club for the local community, combining exercise, nutritional advice and discipline. It is a place where people can come to get fitter, increase self-confidence and discipline whilst becoming part of a non-judgemental community where people are encouraged and supported. We are very grateful to all our sponsors and volunteers who have enabled us to start up and continue this initiative, including the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation, Thames Valley Police, Aylesbury Town Council, Murphy's Construction, Lords Group Foundation, Cherwell Technology, also Minotaur Sports equipment providing us with our sports wear. With our non-sparring Boxing Club there is so much skill and technique to learn including respect and discipline. Providing a local Boxing Club in Southcourt, we hope to engage with the community to help with the problems that are maybe arising in the area connected with crime. Funding is always welcome to continue to improve our equipment and provide training for our coaching team.

Finances

The end of the year finances remained in a relatively good position with the level of reserves well above the agreed range. The General Fund budget set for 2023/24 was for a deficit of around £22,150 but the church trustees approved the budget on the basis that, at the point of the budget being set, there were sufficient reserves to cover the deficit.

Total income for the general fund was almost £45,400 above budget due to a legacy gift, a gift day and overheads transferred from various areas of church life such as Bridge the Gap, Boxing and Treehouse Pre-School. Donations from individuals within the church continue to provide the majority of the income although the percentage received from other sources continues to increase. Expenditure was above budget due to increased maintenance costs and an increase in staff costs. Overall, the General Fund experienced a surplus of around £10,500.

The church has continued to receive generous donations from its members, regular attendees, income from hiring rooms and through grants for specific community work. The trustees are grateful for all donations received.

The Treehouse Pre-School budget was set for the year to the end of March 2024 with a deficit of just over £1,000. However, due to a significant rise in children numbers, additional income from the council for SEN children and new income from hiring out the building, the year ended with a surplus of just over £21,000. This included both the unrestricted and restricted funds for the setting. Setting a budget for the pre-school will always be difficult due to a variety of unpredictable variables but finances at the end of the year were in a very healthy position.

The Finance Team and trustees continue to monitor the Charity's financial position through the production of quarterly Income & Expenditure statements and the bank account and fund balances against the Reserve Policy range each week. This acts as an early warning mechanism to identify any tightening of cash flow and prompt remedial action before pressure is experienced on the Charity's liquidity.

The General Fund Reserve Policy has not changed over the last year with the Reserve Range still standing at £19,000 - £28,000 for the 2024/25 financial year. The Treehouse Reserve Range remains at £11,500 - £23,000. The Trustees recognise their responsibility to keep the finances of the Charity in a healthy state and expect that to be the case over the coming year.

Plans for the future

Southcourt Baptist Church is at the heart of the community and over the last few years we have developed various work streams that provide opportunities to help us meet the needs of those in our immediate proximity. Our vision is to play our part to create a better, safer community. Our work streams include our, sadly too busy, food bank, the boxing club which has just celebrated its first anniversary, and other initiatives such as the knife bank. This continues to be our aim for the year to come but it is becoming increasingly challenging to find grants to fund the work therefore, our focus for the coming year will be to find new, more sustainable streams of funding. These new streams may be from grants or funding identified from new sources but could also be working in partnership with other organisations and agencies.

The budget for the new financial year shows a deficit but this will be monitored regularly by the finance team and trustees.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

14/11/2024


.....

M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Southcourt Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southcourt Baptist Church for the year ended 31 March 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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
2. the 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
Upper Ground Floor
18 Farnham Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4XA



Date: 26 November 2024

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2024					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.24 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.23 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations		156,685	121,206	277,891	222,563
Income Tax Recoverable		22,216	-	22,216	21,283
Premises Hire		27,003	-	27,003	29,722
Investment		1,464	-	1,464	619
Treehouse Pre-school	8&9	140,513	17,757	158,270	150,896
Total		347,881	138,963	486,844	425,083
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities:					
Leadership		73,716	-	73,716	55,697
Worship & Discipleship		943	-	943	709
Neighbourhood		5,478	91,983	97,461	79,837
Seniors		-	-	-	209
Site Operations		85,991	19,032	105,023	90,350
Repairs to church		12,963	-	12,963	11,282
Generation Next		23,677	-	23,677	21,949
Outreach		4,210	-	4,210	14,062
Treehouse	8&9	98,110	39,647	137,757	124,906
Depreciation		4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total		309,088	150,662	459,750	403,001
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		38,793	(11,699)	27,094	22,082
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		38,793	(11,699)	27,094	22,082
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		224,107	52,967	277,074	254,992
Total funds carried forward		262,900	41,268	304,168	
Continuing Operations					
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.					

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.24 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.23 Total funds £
Fixed Assets:					
Tangible Assets	2	131,000	-	131,000	135,000
Current Assets:					
Debtors	4	4,610	-	4,610	3,116
Cash at bank and in hand		129,673	41,268	170,941	141,869
Total Current Assets		134,283	41,268	175,551	144,985
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	1,920	-	1,920	1,920
Net Current Assets		132,363	41,268	173,631	143,065
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		263,363	41,268	304,631	278,065
Provision for liabilities after one year	6	463	-	463	991
Total Net Assets		262,900	41,268	304,168	277,074
Funds					
Restricted funds	8			41,268	52,967
Unrestricted funds	9			262,900	224,107
Total Funds				304,168	277,074
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on..... <u>04/11/24</u> and were signed on its behalf by: <i>M Rogers</i> M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader					

Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements as at 31 March 2024**1. Accounting Policies****a) Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

b) Incoming resources

Donations are recognised as incoming resources when received.

Income tax recoverable on donations under the Gift Aid scheme is accounted for in the period in which the underlying donation is received.

Funds received where the charity is acting as agent for independent causes are matched to outgoings and any difference is carried forward to the next period.

Gifts in kind, where material and capable of being valued, are treated as income.

No value has been placed on the rental equivalent of the use of the church premises and property, which are occupied free of charge by the church.

Grant income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable. Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

c) Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure shown is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories according to the nature of the cost.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All fixed assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Buildings	-2% on cost
Computer & sound equipment	-25% on cost

Freehold land is not depreciated as the trustees consider the useful economic life of the land owned by the charity to be so long as to render any charge for depreciation immaterial to the truth and fairness of the financial statements.

e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. They form part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

f) Pensions

The church makes contributions to two defined contribution schemes. Pension contributions payable to these schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The church also makes contributions to a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. It is not possible for the church to identify the assets and liabilities attributable to the church. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the scheme is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. See note 13 for further details about the pension schemes.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computer and sound equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	203,000	26,530	229,530
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	203,000	26,530	229,530
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	68,000	26,530	94,530
Charge for year	4,000	-	4,000
At 31 March 2024	72,000	26,530	98,530
Net book values			
At 31 March 2024	131,000	-	131,000
At 31 March 2023	135,000	-	135,000

The cost of land and buildings is represented by:

Freehold manse at 293 Tring Road, Aylesbury (70% share)	£ 200,000
Land purchased for car park at Penn Road, Aylesbury	3,000
Total	203,000

3. Non-monetary assets held for the church's use

The church is the beneficial occupier (subject to the relevant trust deeds) of the following assets, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church premises at insured value	3,727,899	3,328,481
Church contents at insured value	416,749	372,092
Total	4,144,648	3,700,573

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on gift aid	2,187	835
Prepaid Insurance	2,423	2,281
Total	4,610	3,116

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued expenses	1,920	1,920
Other creditors	-	-
Total	1,920	1,920

6. Provision for liabilities after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pension (Scheme 1) (see note 14)	463	991

7. Staff costs

None of the church's employees received emoluments of over £60,000 during the current or previous years. The average number of employees during the year was 14 (2023:15), which included full time and part time workers. On a full-time equivalent basis, the average number of staff members was 12 (2023: 11), employed in the following areas:

Numbers	2024	2023
Pastoral care	2	2
Administration and maintenance	2	3
Children, Youth and community	4	3
Pre-School	6	8
Total	14	16

Costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	270,022	236,200
Other Benefits	8,316	8,478
Employer's National Insurance	14,520	10,714
Current Staff Pension costs	5,996	5,009
Total	298,854	260,401

8. Restricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Something Better	-	-	-	-	653	653
Bridge the Gap	98,956	93,268	5,688	-	18,364	24,052
Treehouse Support	17,757	39,647	(21,890)	-	23,829	1,939
Money Management Support	1,600	1,273	327	-	906	1,233
Stair Lift	2,650	-	2,650	-	-	2,650
Boxing Club	17,500	14,305	3,195	-	7,215	10,410
Community Fair	500	2,169	(1,669)	-	2,000	331
Total	138,963	150,662	(11,699)	-	52,967	41,268

9. Unrestricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Premises Refurbishment	1,464	-	1,464	-	9,702	11,166
Premises Development	120	-	120	-	868	988
Treehouse	140,513	98,110	42,403	-	18,978	61,381
Women's Ministry	944	160	784	-	440	1,224
Youth	960	-	960	(6,500)	5,955	415
General	196,186	192,153	4,033	6,500	176,335	186,868
Boxing Club	2,593	2,165	428	-	-	428
Bridge the Gap	5,101	16,500	(11,399)	-	11,829	430
Total	347,881	309,088	38,793	-	224,107	262,900

10. Restricted Funds

Funds (usually grant monies) are held for the following purposes:

Something Better - to support the work of the support for our older folk in the church and local community.

Bridge the Gap fund - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

Treehouse support - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education where grants have been received for specific projects such as to cover Special Educational Needs.

Money Management Support - to support the ongoing work of the debt management project that the church runs.

Stair Lift - to support a new stair lift being installed to our youth loft room to enable those with accessibility needs to come along to our youth groups.

Boxing Club - to support the Boxing Club which provides support for fitness, discipline and friendship in our local community.

Community Fair - to enable the annual Community Fair to take place in our local community, providing fun, free food and social cohesion for the local people.

11. Designated Funds

Funds are held for the following purposes:

Church Premises Refurbishment Fund - can be used for substantial internal and external refurbishment of our existing buildings.

Church Premises Development Fund - for expenses related to substantial building development.

Treehouse Fund - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education.

Women's Ministry - to support the well-being of women in and outside the church.

Youth Fund - to support the children and youth work.

Boxing Club - to support the Boxing Club which provides support for fitness, discipline and friendship in our local community.

Bridge the Gap Fund - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One member of the Trustee Board Rev D Graham was employed by the Southcourt Church Baptist Trust in the position of Lead Pastor (2023: two members of the board).

Rev D Graham received a remuneration package of £43,383 (£41,343 previous year) and a pension contribution of £1,753 (£1,642 previous year).

Expenses of £1,201 (2023: £1,037) were also paid relating to his duties as an employed member of staff and included payment for travel, hospitality, meetings and ministry costs.

Payments to trustees were made under the legal authority of the church's governing documents.

13. Net Income/Expenditure

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting) the following:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	1,920	1,920
Government Grants received:		
Food Bank	(29,256)	(10,080)
Treehouse Pre-school	(17,757)	(27,753)
Boxing Club	(3,000)	-
Total	(50,013)	(37,833)

14. Pensions

There are three schemes in operation, the first being a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme with The Pensions Trust on behalf of one former employee and trustee.

Scheme 1 - TPT Retirement Solutions – The Growth Plan

The church participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the church to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the church is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out as at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the church has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the church recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Present value of provision:	31 March 2024	£463
	31 March 2023	£991
	31 March 2022	£1,555

Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:

	Period Ending 31 March 2024 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£)
Provision at start of period	991	1,555
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	38	28

Deficit contribution paid	(566)	(566)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	-	(26)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	-
Provision at end of period	463	991

Income and Expenditure Impact:

	Period Ending 31 March 2024 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£)
Interest expense	38	28
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	-	(26)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	-
Contributions paid in respect of future service	-	-
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	-	-

Assumptions:

	31 March 2024% per annum	31 March 2023% per annum	31 March 2022 % per annum
Rate of discount	5.31	5.52	2.35

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

It is these contributions that have been used to derive the company's balance sheet liability.

Scheme 2 - The Pensions Trust - Growth Plan Series 4

There is also a defined contribution scheme established with The Pensions Trust and operated as an Auto-enrolment Scheme. Contributions to this scheme are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

Scheme 3 - Liverpool Victoria - Personal Pension Plan

Finally the church makes contributions to a defined contribution Personal Pension Plan on behalf of the Lead Pastor, in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment.

15. Comparatives for the SOFA

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2023			
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.23 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations	145,875	76,688	222,563
Income Tax Recoverable	21,283	-	21,283
Premises Hire	29,722	-	29,722
Investment	619	-	619
Treehouse Preschool	123,143	27,753	150,896
Total	320,642	104,441	425,083
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities:			
Leadership	55,697	-	55,697
Worship & Discipleship	709	-	709
Neighbourhood	1,901	77,936	79,837
Seniors	-	209	209
Site Operations	90,350	-	90,350
Repairs to church	11,282	-	11,282
Generation Next	21,795	154	21,949
Outreach	14,062	-	14,062
Treehouse	118,532	6,374	124,906
Depreciation	4,000	-	4,000
Total	318,328	84,673	403,001

Net Income/(Expenditure)	2,314	19,768	22,082
Transfer between funds	6,665	(6,665)	-
Net movement in funds	8,979	13,103	22,082
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	215,128	39,864	254,992
Total funds carried forward	224,107	52,967	277,074

16. Related party disclosures

The Trust received trustees' donations of £15,700 for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: £15,840).

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 287821

Accounts

Southcourt Baptist Church Trust

Report and Financial Statements Year ended: 31 March 2023

Registered Charity No: 287821



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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

287821

Principal address

40 Penn Road
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
HP21 8HW

Trustees

Rev D Graham	(Lead Pastor)
J Rogers	(Central Leadership Team) - stepped down on December 31st 2022
M Rogers	(Finance Vision Leader)
C Blunden	(CLT)
M Burridge	(CLT) - new from November 9th 2022

Custodian trustee

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT

Bankers

HSBC, 8 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TW
Lloyds, Old Bank, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TD
Nationwide Building Society, Kings Park Road, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6NW

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons, 10 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HJ

Independent Examiner

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
3 Wey Court, Mary Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4QU

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 1 August 1983, and is an unincorporated charity. The custodian trustee, the Baptist Union, delegates total autonomy in the governing and running of the church to the trustees, with voting on important decisions taking place at church partners' meetings.

The Central Leadership Team (CLT) is appointed by a meeting of the church partners and together, in accordance with the church's constitution, are chosen to assist the Lead Pastor in the spiritual and operational leadership of the church. The CLT usually become trustees upon appointment and are in office for three years.

Trustees must be existing church partners with specialist leadership skills often demonstrated in roles outside the church e.g. roles within the business sector. When recruiting new trustees, the existing trustees must all agree upon the choice.

The church management comprises the Central Leadership Team and the trustees. Currently, only one of the trustees is in a paid role, the Lead Pastor. There are also a number of unpaid volunteers, some of whom are trustees, who cover all the different aspects of the operations such as administration, safeguarding, health and safety and IT.

A separate finance team is responsible for managing and budgeting the church's financial affairs with our Finance Vision Leader, Mark Rogers having overall oversight of the finances. The annual budget and any major changes to finance policy are approved by the CLT/Trustees.

Regular meetings are held with all staff and the CLT/trustees and cover operational as well as longer term planning relating to the vision and forward strategy of the church. David Graham continues to be the Lead Pastor of the church, Liz Zealey is our Operations Manager and Rachel Neal was our Pre-School Leader until March 2023 when she stepped down to be replaced in the interim by Charlotte Baldwin. Lou Clarke is still the Bridge the Gap Leader, which is fully funded from grant monies to run our very busy food bank. James Henson, our previous Youth Pastor has now been appointed as Associate Pastor from September 2022. Graham Clarke, previously our Facilities Manager, has now been appointed as Community Pastor from September 2022. His role is also fully funded from grant monies as he supports his wife with the food bank community.

Risk Management

A risk register is operational and is on the agenda at each CLT meeting where appropriate.

Objectives and aims

The charity's object, as stated in its deed of trust, is to further the Christian gospel.

Public benefit

When planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Some of the public benefit services that we offer as a church, open to all, include Sunday worship services, children's work (including pre-school education), youth work, parent/carer and toddler groups, small social groups, a food bank, debt management, seniors work, and Community cafe. The Sunday service is also streamed onto Youtube.

Associations

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Evangelical Alliance to which it pays an annual subscription. The Church also contributes to BMS World Mission. The church does not receive any financial support from any organisations that it is associated with.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Discipleship

The church has one main service that takes place every Sunday at 10.30am which is also streamed online. We also meet together in small groups (Lifegroups) on a regular basis. This is a very important part of our community and we currently have 10 groups in operation. This is in addition to a *Men Gathering* group, a women's group (Yada) and a Women@SBC group. The vision for each Lifegroup is to grow a community of people investing in each other's lives with a common passion to seek God, grow together and reach out to others. In the past year, we have seen no baptisms and 2 dedications of young children. In early 2022, we changed our membership process so that each year our members (now known as partners) are asked to commit for the coming year at the AGM in November. At the AGM in November 2022 and in subsequent days, 61 partners have re-committed for the coming year.

Seniors

Over the past year a new group started called **Affinity**. A number of events took place including a traditional Christmas gathering as well as other events such as *Afternoon Tea with the Weatherman*, *A strawberries and cream quiz* plus activities with the older folk spending time with the children at our pre-school. This group is now being reviewed with the intention of considering what will work best for our seniors going forward.

Tea Break is a monthly afternoon event for people within the church, local community and beyond. We particularly welcome those who are lonely or isolated for whatever reason. Tea Break gives an opportunity for people to meet together with tea or coffee and home-made cakes aplenty. The guests can play board games, catch up with each other or relax with a magazine. For jigsaw enthusiasts there is always a puzzle waiting to be completed. Tea Break is an informal, social occasion which is enjoyed by all. We are so thankful to have such a pleasant venue and a very helpful team. Thank you to those who help set up and clear the room, to those who help in the kitchen and to all who help serve and chat to our guests. Not forgetting a big thank you to those who provide the cakes!

Children's Work

This last year has been a bit of a transition year for the children's work here at SBC. With our Children's Pastor Iain leaving in May 2022, it left a gap in our staffing and leadership of the ministry. We are so grateful to all of our amazing volunteers who have stepped up to fill the gap and continue to keep this important ministry going. As part of this change we have made a conscious effort to include children into the life of Sunday morning services more and have chosen one service a month dedicated as a SBC Kids Sunday. Our midweek **The Ark Parent and Toddler Group** continues to grow and the leadership of this has been taken over by a group of parents from within the group. We are really excited to see this group continue to grow and we hear lots of reports from parents on how valuable the group is for them.



Our Pre-School, **The Treehouse**, has seen a lot of change over the last 12 months. The number of children has increased, and the new breakfast club has been successful enabling us to offer 30 hours for those who want to take up this offering. We are very grateful to Buckinghamshire Council, who have provided a lot of support to us over the last year including professional support to help with Ofsted-readiness, approval of a Sustainability Grant Application, and extra SEN monies. We continue to have a number of children in our cohort with additional needs and requirements with the isolation of children as a result of the pandemic adding to this need. The staff at the pre-school have risen to the extra challenges and we are very grateful for their contribution. During the Easter holidays of 2023, we started a new arrangement whereby the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) used our setting to do arts and crafts as well as soft sports for young children. We are grateful for this partnership which is in line with the ethos of our setting as well as bringing in valuable income. In March 2023, we said goodbye to our existing Leader, Rachel Neal, who has now gone on to pastures new. Charlotte Baldwin has stepped up to take the lead in the interim as we look forward to what the future holds.

Young People

There have been some huge changes this year to our youth work which is really thrilling. With revamped groups and new team members there is plenty of exciting news to share. Over this year we have witnessed the process of James Henson's transition from being the Youth Pastor to becoming the Associate Pastor. It is safe to say that he has hit the ground running after his sabbatical! Cheering him on as he changes gears has been poignant - especially after almost 10 years of serving our wonderful young people!

This does, however, lead us on to other exciting news of our new Youth Worker who started his role in February! Josh Lane, who was once a part of youth at SBC, has come back to Aylesbury to take up the mantle after his years as a church intern and studying theology at university. He has thrown himself straight into all aspects of the youth work and is now, at the end of the year, fully overseeing and organising the youth ministry. With this change, the youth group has been able to start running every Sunday again, releasing the young people to go deeper into the narratives and themes of scripture.



In addition to these role changes, we were able to take the youth group to a camp in August 2022 for the first time in several years. **Limitless 2022** was without doubt a time we won't soon forget! Over the week we saw the young people really step into their element and thrive in their relationships with one another and with God. The water fights and inflatables were also a bonus! ;)

Youth Hub, which was launched last year, has continued to be a huge success! It is a space that carries on growing and attracting many young people who otherwise wouldn't set foot in a church building. It has been beautiful to witness relationships gradually build and see the young people be released to be themselves and feel safe and relaxed in this space.

After a short break, we have also been able to relaunch **Explore** for young people in school years 7-10! We are looking to expand this after the summer to enable more young people to start coming. We have, though, seen a number of young people come along and engage in discussions about some really tough topics of life and faith, and we are eager to see how it develops over time.

With regards to young adults, and in particular **Open House**, the past 12 months has seen the core group shift from those 18-19yr olds who are now at university to those currently doing their GCSEs. Open House has therefore focussed on introducing the idea of a Lifegroup to this younger group, and has led to lots of great discussions about God, the Bible, and faith.

As we have a large number of young adults currently at university we have been looking for ways at keeping in touch with them both when they are away and when they are back in Aylesbury. In April we ran the first **Young Adults evening** event where we simply opened up some space for those in the age group to simply catch-up with each other, and we hope this will develop into a semi-regular group to keep these connections open. We have also started putting plans together for an evening service organised by young adults, while a monthly online book club is also in the works – keep a look out for more information about these.

Finally, we are looking forward to some exciting prospects in the pipeline for our youth. We are eager to implement a Young leader and mentoring programme in order to give every young person the

opportunity to deepen their faith and to step into active roles where they can positively impact the youth work.

There is so much to be grateful for at the end of this last year and so much to be excited about for 2023/24 for **SBC Youth**, watch this space!

Neighbourhood

From May 2022, things were getting back to normal post-Covid but continuing to be very busy for **Bridge the Gap Food Bank**. The food bank continues to open on a Monday and Friday morning, serving the community and offering a safe place, providing words of encouragement for those who are facing challenges and in particular need. As the year progressed we continued to be busy, numbers for the food bank increased and peaked in September and December 2022 due to the economic crisis. We have received generous funding that has been gratefully received. Donations were received from Aylesbury Crown Court, The Rothschild Foundation, Bucks Council, Thomas Hickman, Heart of Bucks, Arnold Clarke, Aylesbury Town Council, Clare Foundation, Asda, Aylesbury Rotary Club, J Murphy and One Stop Community Partnership. The generosity of our benefactors has enabled us to provide essential food such as freezer items, fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs and washing products in addition to our normal food parcels. At Christmas, we partnered with Chiltern Toybank and distributed toys, books and gifts to our families. Our Community free Cafe / event (**BTG Extra**) continues to open once a month on a Saturday offering a free lunch and activities. Between 60 - 80 people are currently attending this event and we are pleased to be able to offer this service.

The **Money Management** Centre currently offers appointments to clients on 4 mornings per week. Meetings take place at Bertha's Café (an SBC Community Café), More+ Cafe (operated by Broughton Community Church), as well as Cafés in the town centre, occasionally we visit client's in their homes. Sandi Latimer from the Vineyard Church continues to assist on one morning per week. Over the year there were 198 face-to-face appointments with clients, 28 new clients were helped, in addition to existing clients. We continue to assist clients to claim for Universal Credit, as well as other state benefits and through the Helping Hands Scheme (provided by Buckinghamshire Council), assisted a number of clients to avoid some life changing consequences of their debts, including eviction. Educating clients to manage their finances and having some structure to their spending remains an increasing aspect of our work.

The Thomas Hickman Charity have been so helpful this year, not only helping clients at our request with white goods, bedding and carpets but also with their continuing financial support for our service, without which it would be difficult to continue our work with the disadvantaged of Aylesbury.

A quote from a client in a recent note of thanks, perhaps sums up the value of our work more than our words ever could: "I owe you so much. Not just with my finances, but you held my hand (metaphorically) in times I nearly lost my head and therefore, so often my life too."

Bertha's café continues to be a blessing to many people. We still have Money Management using the café to meet people and the English Conversation Group meet in a corner. Both are grateful to have use of the space. We have also hosted a games evening in the school holidays which was quieter than some, but still enjoyed by those that came. It is just lovely to have a space that can be used for many purposes to create relationships. This term we have just started a partnership with Pebble Brook School, where they send a Teaching Assistant and some students to each session for work experience. This gives us more helpers and provides the students with life skills. So far it is going really well! Another benefit of this will be that we hope to begin other groups within the café. For example, a "needles & pins"

craft group, building closer links with Treehouse Pre-School, maybe some games mornings or other craft groups – any ideas are very welcome! Bertha's is still covering its costs and with the new partnership are also having a bit of a rebrand, so look out for smart new aprons & branded t-shirts!

Meeting every Monday Morning during school term time, our **English Conversation Group**, has, over the last four years or so provided friendship, refreshment and conversation for about one hundred of our neighbours of a variety of ethnic and faith backgrounds whilst assisting them to improve their spoken English and their integration into the community. We are grateful to the partners from SBC who, each week, support this important community outreach and also to those who staff Bertha's Café which provides the essential refreshments. One of the most rewarding outcomes has been to witness the development of genuinely warm friendships and relationships both between our guests and with our supporters. We continue to hope and pray that our guests will see something of the love of God, through us, in this ministry and for opportunities to share that love with them whatever their faith background.

In early 2023, our brand-new non-sparring **Southcourt Boxing Club** was launched in partnership with our local PCSOs, professional boxing coaches and other friends in the neighbourhood. The aim is to provide a boxing club for the local community, combining exercise, nutritional advice and discipline. It will be a place where people can come to get fitter, increase self-confidence and discipline whilst becoming part of a non-judgemental community where people are encouraged and supported. We are very grateful to all our sponsors and volunteers who have enabled us to start up and continue this initiative, including the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation, Thames Valley Police and Aylesbury Town Council.

Finances

The end of the year finances remained in a relatively good position although the level of reserves fluctuated throughout the year, at times falling to the lower end of the range. However, by the end of the year reserves were above the agreed range. The General Fund budget set for 2022/23 was for a deficit of around £22,350 but the church trustees approved the budget on the basis that, at the point of the budget being set, there were sufficient reserves to cover the deficit.

Total income for the general fund was almost £17,500 above budget due to a gift day held in November 2022 and increased income from hiring out the premises. Donations from individuals within the church continue to provide the majority of the income although the percentage received from other sources has increased. Expenditure was generally in line with expectations although there was a slight underspend in children's work and IT costs. Overall, the General Fund experienced a deficit of around £4,600.

The church has continued to receive generous donations from its members, regular attendees, income from hiring rooms and through grants for specific community work. The trustees are grateful for all donations received.

The Treehouse Pre-School budget was set for the year to March 31st 2023 with a deficit of just under £18,700. However, due to a sustainability grant from the council and significantly increased child numbers, the year ended with a £28,500 surplus. Setting a budget for the pre-school continues to be difficult due to a variety of unpredictable variables.

The Finance Team and trustees continue to monitor the Charity's financial position through the production of quarterly Income & Expenditure statements and the bank account and fund balances against the Reserve Policy range each week. This acts as an early warning mechanism to identify any

tightening of cash flow and prompt remedial action before pressure is experienced on the Charity's liquidity.

The General Fund Reserve Policy has not changed over the last year with the Reserve Range still standing at £19,000 - £28,000 for the 2023/24 financial year. The Treehouse Reserve Range remains at £11,500 - £23,000. The Trustees recognise their responsibility to keep the finances of the Charity in a healthy state and expect that to be the case over the coming year.

Plans for the future

In the coming year, we will continue to develop our work within the community, expanding what we are currently involved with and investigating where else we may be able to make a difference to those in the Southcourt community around us. We have started, and will continue, to develop the non-sparring boxing club to see lives changed through discipline, exercise and nutritional advice. We will continue to look into new and exciting ways in which we can partner with other organisations and agencies to provide new services and opportunities to support those around us. Sadly, it does not look like the food bank is going to get any quieter and we will continue to support those who are in need during the cost-of-living crisis.

We will also continue to look into whether we can replace the hut at the back of the church for something that better meets our needs to support the Southcourt community, however, this is proving to be a slow process. The budget for the new financial year shows a deficit but this will be monitored regularly by the finance team and trustees.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on October 19th 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....*M. Rogers*.....

M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Southcourt Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southcourt Baptist Church for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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
2. the 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
3 Wey Court
Mary Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4QU



Date: 19 October 2023

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2023					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.23 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.22 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations		145,875	76,688	222,563	202,908
Income Tax Recoverable		21,283	-	21,283	23,519
Premises Hire		29,722	-	29,722	22,661
Investment		619	-	619	94
Treehouse Pre-school	8&9	123,143	27,753	150,896	97,614
Total		320,642	104,441	425,083	346,796
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities:					
Leadership		55,697	-	55,697	38,071
Worship & Discipleship		709	-	709	4,346
Neighbourhood		1,901	77,936	79,837	43,657
Seniors		-	209	209	40
Site Operations		90,350	-	90,350	74,194
Repairs to church		11,282	-	11,282	26,880
Generation Next		21,795	154	21,949	44,092
Outreach		14,062	-	14,062	12,720
Treehouse	8&9	118,532	6,374	124,906	119,967
Depreciation		4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total		318,328	84,673	403,001	367,967
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		2,314	19,768	22,082	(21,171)
Transfer between funds		6,665	(6,665)	-	0
Net movement in funds		8,979	13,103	22,082	(21,171)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		215,128	39,864	254,992	276,163
Total funds carried forward		224,107	52,967	277,074	254,992
Continuing Operations					
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.					

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.23 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.22 Total funds £
Fixed Assets:					
Tangible Assets	2	135,000	-	135,000	139,000
Current Assets:					
Debtors	4	3,116	-	3,116	3,945
Cash at bank and in hand		88,902	52,967	141,869	115,522
Total Current Assets		92,018	52,967	144,985	119,467
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	1,920	-	1,920	1,920
Net Current Assets		90,098	52,967	143,065	117,547
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		225,098	52,967	278,065	256,547
Provision for liabilities after one year	6	991	-	991	1,555
Total Net Assets		224,107	52,967	277,074	254,992
Funds					
Restricted funds	8			52,967	39,864
Unrestricted funds	9			224,107	215,128
Total Funds				277,074	254,992
<p>The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on <u>19/10/23</u> and were signed on its behalf by: M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>M Rogers</i></p>					

Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements as at 31 March 2023**1. Accounting Policies****a) Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

b) Incoming resources

Donations are recognised as incoming resources when received.

Income tax recoverable on donations under the Gift Aid scheme is accounted for in the period in which the underlying donation is received.

Funds received where the charity is acting as agent for independent causes are matched to outgoings and any difference is carried forward to the next period.

Gifts in kind, where material and capable of being valued, are treated as income.

No value has been placed on the rental equivalent of the use of the church premises and property, which are occupied free of charge by the church.

Grant income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable. Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

c) Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure shown is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories according to the nature of the cost.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All fixed assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Buildings	-2% on cost
Computer & sound equipment	-25% on cost

Freehold land is not depreciated as the trustees consider the useful economic life of the land owned by the charity to be so long as to render any charge for depreciation immaterial to the truth and fairness of the financial statements.

e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. They form part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

f) Pensions

The church makes contributions to two defined contribution schemes. Pension contributions payable to these schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The church also makes contributions to a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. It is not possible for the church to identify the assets and liabilities attributable to the church. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the scheme is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. See note 13 for further details about the pension schemes.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computer and sound equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	203,000	26,530	229,530
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	203,000	26,530	229,530
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	64,000	26,530	90,530
Charge for year	4,000	-	4,000
At 31 March 2023	68,000	26,530	94,530
Net book values			
At 31 March 2023	135,000	-	135,000
At 31 March 2022	139,000	-	139,000

The cost of land and buildings is represented by:	£
Freehold manse at 293 Tring Road, Aylesbury (70% share)	200,000
Land purchased for car park at Penn Road, Aylesbury	3,000
Total	203,000

3. Non-monetary assets held for the church's use

The church is the beneficial occupier (subject to the relevant trust deeds) of the following assets, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Church premises at insured value	3,328,481	3,081,926
Church contents at insured value	372,092	351,026
Total	3,700,573	3,432,952

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on gift aid	835	2,144
Prepaid Insurance	2,281	1,801
Total	3,116	3,945

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued expenses	1,920	1,920
Other creditors	-	-
Total	1,920	1,920

6. Provision for liabilities after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Pension (Scheme 1) (see note 14)	991	1,555

7. Staff costs

None of the church's employees received emoluments of over £60,000 during the current or previous years. The average number of employees during the year was 15 (2022:16), which included full time and part time workers. On a full-time equivalent basis, the average number of staff members was 11 (2022: 11), employed in the following areas:

Numbers	2023	2022
Pastoral care	2	2
Administration and maintenance	3	2
Children, Youth and community	3	4
Pre-School	8	9
Total	16	17

One member of staff has two roles - in Pastoral Care and Children, Youth and Community - hence the difference between the average number in the text and in the table.

Costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	236,200	215,866
Other Benefits	8,478	7,192
Employer's National Insurance	10,714	8,840
Current Staff Pension costs	5,009	4,447
Total	260,401	236,345

8. Restricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Something Better	-	209	(209)	-	862	653
Bridge the Gap	59,305	69,977	(10,672)	(6,465)	35,501	18,364
Treehouse Support	27,753	6,374	21,379	-	2,450	23,829
Money Management Support	1,250	1,241	9	-	897	906
Youth Cafe	-	154	(154)	-	154	-
Boxing Club	12,474	5,059	7,415	(200)	-	7,215
Community Fair	3,659	1,659	2,000	-	-	2,000
Total	104,441	84,673	19,768	(6,665)	39,864	52,967

9. Unrestricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Premises Refurbishment	9,119	-	9,119	-	583	9,702
Premises Development	120	-	120	-	748	868
Treehouse	123,143	118,532	4,611	-	14,367	18,978
Women's Ministry	-	50	(50)	-	490	440
Youth	955	-	955	(5,000)	10,000	5,955
General	183,396	199,687	(16,291)	11,665	180,961	176,335
Bridge the Gap	3,909	59	3,850	-	7,979	11,829
Total	320,642	318,328	2,314	6,665	215,128	224,107

10. Restricted Funds

Funds (usually grant monies) are held for the following purposes:

Something Better - to support the work of the support for our older folk in the church and local community.

Bridge the Gap fund - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

Treehouse support - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education where grants have been received for specific projects such as to cover Special Educational Needs.

Money Management Support - to support the ongoing work of the debt management project that the church runs.

Youth Cafe - to support the youth work, specifically the running of a youth club open to all in the local community.

Boxing Club - to support the Boxing Club started in 2023, to provide support for fitness, discipline and friendship in our local community.

Community Fair - to enable the annual Community Fair to take place in our local community, providing fun, free food and social cohesion for the local people.

11. Designated Funds

Funds are held for the following purposes:

Church Premises Refurbishment Fund - can be used for substantial internal and external refurbishment of our existing buildings.

Church Premises Development Fund - for expenses related to substantial building development.

Treehouse Fund - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education.

Women's Ministry - to support the well-being of women in and outside the church.

Youth Fund - to support the children and youth work.

Bridge the Gap fund - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Two members of the Trustee Board Rev D Graham and Mr I Nash were employed by the Southcourt Church Baptist Trust in the positions of Lead Pastor and Children's Pastor respectively (2022: two members of the board).

Rev D Graham received a remuneration package of £41,343 (£39,732 previous year) and a pension contribution of £1,642 (£1,626 previous year). Mr I Nash received a remuneration package of £3,455 (£19,297 previous year) and a pension contribution of £72 (£392 previous year). These figures are much reduced due to Mr Nash leaving employment at Southcourt Baptist Church in May 2022.

Expenses of £1,037 (2022: £1,311) were also paid relating to their duties as employed members of staff and included payment for travel, hospitality, meetings and ministry costs.

Payments to trustees were made under the legal authority of the church's governing documents.

13. Net Income/Expenditure

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting) the following:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	1,920	1,920
Government Grants received:		
Food Bank	(10,080)	(17,072)
Covid 19 support	-	(5,417)
Treehouse Pre-school	(27,753)	(2,000)
Total	37,833	(24,489)

14. Pensions

There are three schemes in operation, the first being a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme with The Pensions Trust on behalf of one former employee and trustee.

Scheme 1 - TPT Retirement Solutions – The Growth Plan

The church participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the church to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the church is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out as at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the church has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the church recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Present value of provision:	31 March 2023	£991
	31 March 2022	£1,555
	31 March 2021	£7,970

Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:

	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2022 (£)
Provision at start of period	1,555	7,970
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	28	46
Deficit contribution paid	(566)	(2,017)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	(26)	(36)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	(4,408)
Provision at end of period	991	1,555

Income and Expenditure Impact:

	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2022 (£)
Interest expense	28	46
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	(26)	(36)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	(4,408)
Contributions paid in respect of future service	-	-
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	-	-

Assumptions:

	31 March 2023% per annum	31 March 2022% per annum	31 March 2021 % per annum
Rate of discount	5.52	2.35	0.66

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

It is these contributions that have been used to derive the company's balance sheet liability.

Scheme 2 - The Pensions Trust - Growth Plan Series 4

There is also a defined contribution scheme established with The Pensions Trust and operated as an Auto-enrolment Scheme. Contributions to this scheme are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

Scheme 3 - Liverpool Victoria - Personal Pension Plan

Finally the church makes contributions to a defined contribution Personal Pension Plan on behalf of the Lead Pastor, in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment.

15. Comparatives for the SOFA

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2022			
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.22 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations	139,470	63,438	202,908
Income Tax Recoverable	23,519	-	23,519
Premises Hire	22,661	-	22,661
Investment	94	-	94
Treehouse Preschool	93,914	3,700	97,614
Total	279,658	67,138	346,796
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities:			
Leadership	38,071	-	38,071
Worship & Discipleship	4,346	-	4,346
Neighbourhood	1,104	42,553	43,657
Seniors	40	-	40
Site Operations	74,194	-	74,194
Repairs to church	21,380	5,500	26,880
Generation Next	43,864	228	44,092
Outreach	12,720	-	12,720
Treehouse	113,883	6,084	119,967
Depreciation	4,000	-	4,000
Total	313,602	54,365	367,967
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(33,944)	12,773	(21,171)

Transfer between funds	5,742	(5,742)	0
Net movement in funds	(28,202)	7,031	(21,171)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	243,330	32,833	276,163
Total funds carried forward	215,128	39,864	254,992

16. Related party disclosures

The Trust received trustees' donations of £15,840 for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: £16,080).

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 287821

Accounts

Southcourt Baptist Church Trust

Report and Financial Statements Year ended: 31 March 2022

Registered Charity No: 287821



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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

287821

Principal address

40 Penn Road
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
HP21 8HW

Trustees

Rev D Graham	(Lead Pastor)
J Rogers	(CLT)
M Rogers	(Finance Vision Leader)
I Nash	(Children's Pastor) - stepped down on May 20th 2022
C Blunden	(CLT)

Custodian trustee

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT

Bankers

HSBC, 8 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TW
Lloyds, Old Bank, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TD
Nationwide Building Society, Kings Park Road, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6NW

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons, 10 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HJ

Independent Examiner

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
3 Wey Court, Mary Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4QU

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 1 August 1983, and is an unincorporated charity. The custodian trustee, the Baptist Union, delegates total autonomy in the governing and running of the church to the trustees, with voting on important decisions taking place at church partners' meetings.

In the last year, the church has changed from having 'members' to 'partners' although from a church governance point of view it does not change the way in which the church operates.

The Central Leadership Team (CLT) is appointed by a meeting of the church partners and together, in accordance with the church's constitution, are chosen to assist the Lead Pastor in the spiritual and operational leadership of the church. The CLT usually become trustees upon appointment and are in office for three years.

Trustees must be existing church partners with specialist leadership skills often demonstrated in roles outside the church e.g. roles within the business sector. When recruiting new trustees, the existing trustees must all agree upon the choice.

The church management comprises the Central Leadership Team and the trustees. Currently, only one of the trustees is in a paid role, the Lead Pastor, with the Children's Pastor having moved on to a new role in another church (May 2022). There are also a number of unpaid volunteers, some of whom are trustees, who cover all the different aspects of the operations such as administration, safeguarding, health and safety and IT.

A separate finance team is responsible for managing and budgeting the church's financial affairs with our Finance Vision Leader, Mark Rogers having overall oversight of the finances. The annual budget and any major changes to finance policy are approved by the CLT/Trustees.

Regular meetings are held with all staff and the CLT/trustees and cover operational as well as longer term planning relating to the vision and forward strategy of the church. David Graham continues to be the Lead Pastor of the church, James Henson is our Youth Pastor, Liz Zealey is our Operations Manager, Graham Clarke is our Facilities Manager and Rachel Neal is our Pre-School Leader. Lou Clarke is still the Bridge the Gap Leader, which is fully funded from grant monies to run our very busy food bank, but has stepped down from her role as Pastoral Care Coordinator. As previously stated, Iain Nash, who was previously our Children's Pastor, has moved on to another position (May 2022) and the CLT/trustees are considering what this role will look like in the future.

Risk Management

A risk register is operational and is on the agenda at each CLT meeting where appropriate.

Objectives and aims

The charity's object, as stated in its deed of trust, is to further the Christian gospel.

Public benefit

When planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Some of the public benefit services that we offer as a church, open to all,

include Sunday worship services, children's work (including pre-school education), youth work, parent/carer and toddler groups, small social groups, a food bank, debt management, seniors work, and Community cafe. The Sunday service is also now streamed onto Youtube.

Associations

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Evangelical Alliance to which it pays an annual subscription. The Church also contributes to BMS World Mission and acts as an agent in collecting and passing on donations to the BMS World Mission. The church does not receive any financial support from any organisations that it is associated with.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Discipleship

The church has one main service that takes place every Sunday at 10.30am. Over the last year we have seen a gradual change from socially-distanced services to more 'normal' services as the COVID-19 restrictions ease. However, services have continued to be streamed online. We also meet together in small groups (Lifegroups) on a regular basis. This is a very important part of our community and we currently have 10 groups in operation. This is in addition to a *Men Gathering* group, a women's group (Yada) and a Ladies@SBC group. The vision for each Lifegroup is to grow a community of people investing in each other's lives with a common passion to seek God, grow together and reach out to others. In the past year, we have seen 3 new church members/partners, 4 baptisms and 2 dedications of young children.

Seniors

Back in April 2021 the valuable work of **Something Better** under the leadership of Tim and Jean Howlett, came to an end. Since then the leadership have been pondering the way forward, and, as a result, a new group has started called **Affinity**. This is a brand-new venture which we are hoping will quickly become a genuine place for picking up old friendships. It's also designed to be an open and welcoming group where newcomers will feel at home. A series of monthly diverse get-togethers were launched starting in February 2022 which will include traditional Easter and Christmas gatherings as well as other events such as *Afternoon Tea with the Weather Man*, *A strawberries and cream quiz* plus activities with the older folk spending time with the children at our Pre-School. All are welcome to attend these events although, by design, they are targeted at the over 60s.

Tea Break is a monthly afternoon event for people within the church, local community and beyond. We particularly welcome those who are lonely or isolated for whatever reason. Tea Break gives an opportunity for people to meet together with tea or coffee and home-made cakes aplenty. The guests can play board games, catch up with each other or relax with a magazine. For jigsaw enthusiasts there is always a puzzle waiting to be completed. Tea Break is an informal, social occasion which is enjoyed by all. We are so pleased to be able to meet again since last September and thankful to have such a pleasant venue and a very helpful team. Thank you to those who help set up and clear the room, to those who help in the kitchen and to all who help serve and chat to our guests. Not forgetting a big thank you to those who provide the cakes!

Children's Work

We are grateful that, during the pandemic, we have encountered growth in certain groups. We are so thankful to God that children and their families took the opportunity to throw themselves back into action as our groups kicked off again, taking advantage of the lockdowns lifting and the government guidance subsiding. We still took it upon ourselves to act sensibly under the circumstances, reminding people of the need to stay away if unwell, ventilating the rooms and providing hand sanitiser but this has not stopped people coming along.

Our biggest growth came through **The Ark Parent and Toddler Group**. There were periods in the past where we really wondered if the group would continue. However, changing rooms and being in the main church auditorium, investing in promotion and resources and being there to catch the crest of a wave when parents started to look for groups to take their children to, meant that we have steadily grown our numbers to over 50 families on our list, with over half of those being regular attenders and from the local area. We also saw the different areas of church come together through this group, with parents being recommended to The Ark through Bridge The Gap food bank, English Conversation and The Treehouse Pre-School.

We have also seen a lot of new families come to our Lifekidz groups on a Sunday morning through connections with other areas of church ministry. We have seen as many as 10 in our Little Lifekidz and 15 in our Lifekidz groups – all from varying backgrounds and nationalities. Yet, each family in conversation has said just how warm, welcoming and friendly we are and how much their children value the groups we run.

A group we started from scratch was **Men Behaving Dadly**; a Saturday morning group for Dads and kids to come together with bacon rolls, tea, coffee, breakfast bar and a plethora of games and activities for the kids to get involved with. At the time of writing, we have had two sessions and these have become a vital space for Dads who are perhaps trying to find a way into church to get to know others.

Our Pre-School, **The Treehouse**, has seen a lot of staff changes over the last 12 months. We now have both a new pre-school leader and deputy in post as well as new staff joining replacing staff who have moved on to new opportunities. Again, somewhat miraculously, the pre-school survived well from the ongoing disruption of the pandemic and this was down to the fantastic work of all staff. The number of children has increased, and we have started a new breakfast club which will help children to be able to now claim their full allowance of government-funded hours which means more income for the pre-school. We have also intentionally gone after pots of grant monies available to us as well as increasing the parent fees - all of which helps us to balance the books in challenging times for all pre-schools up and down the country.

We have a number of children in our cohort with additional needs and requirements and it is testament to the professionalism of our staff that we have a fantastic reputation for the care we give to those children.

One area of the children's work that we decided to stop was **Messy Church**. While Messy Church was an incredibly successful "event" that attracted large numbers each time, the enforced hiatus caused by the pandemic afforded us time to stop, reflect and think about its future. On reflection, we simply could not have maintained Messy Church to the size we had been doing.

Our Children's Pastor, Iain Nash left the church in May 2022 to move onto pastures new in Bristol. The next phase of children's work will be reviewing and deciding what the next few years has to offer with regards to both recruitment and content.

Young People



What a joy it has been to finish the year off by all of our groups returning to face to face work, without Covid restrictions and limitations. We even managed to launch a brand new group, Youth Hub!

Since September 2021 we have been really grateful to have had all of our regular groups and events relaunch with minimal/no Covid restrictions. This was on the back of a really successful summer event here at the church as our usual summer youth camp was sadly cancelled. We ran a great weekend of fun activities, worship gatherings and social action projects as part of the *SBC Youth Big Weekend*.

Until this point our groups had been slowly starting to gather back together in person, albeit with restrictions and safety precautions in place for Covid. We were really glad to be able to move away from doing our groups online as we really struggled with the same engagement from the young people. Thankfully once we started in person more young people began to engage again and more regularly.

This set us up really well to have a core group of young people attending each week to build on when September started. From that point we have been able to grow and move on from just maintaining the groups during Covid, to starting new things, full of hope that we were moving away from Covid restrictions.

Some of the great things that we have done since September have been Unite monthly gatherings again, in partnership with Youth for Christ and guest speakers each month. These have been a great point each month to gather together with other young people from other youth groups in Aylesbury.

We also managed to launch a brand new group called Youth Hub, to take the place of our previous group, Youth Cafe, which was sadly brought to an end by the pandemic. This has been a great success so far, only launching in March 2022.

Finally we have our eyes set on continuing to help young people grow deeper in their faith, or to come and explore faith for the first time at our new Explore group.

There is so much to be grateful for about the end to this last year and so much to be excited about for 2022/23 for SBC Youth, watch this space!

Neighbourhood

During March 2021 the Covid pandemic was still taking its toll and **Bridge The Gap** was still operating as a much-needed food bank, a safe place for those who were facing challenges and in particular need in the community. Our cafe was still closed to adhere to social distancing rules but we were still very active with food parcels, money management and words of encouragement for those in need, signposting them to other agencies where required. As the year progressed generous funding had been gratefully received. Donations were received from Aylesbury Crown Court, The Rothschild Foundation, Bucks Council, Thomas Hickman, Heart of Bucks, Arnold Clarke, Aylesbury Town Council and One Stop Community Partnership. It enabled us to obtain an awning to cover our container and we were able to provide freezer items, fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs and washing products in addition to our normal food parcels. At Christmas, we partnered with Chiltern Toybank and distributed toys, books and gifts to our families. For Easter 2022, we distributed around 300 Easter Eggs to children in our area. Our Community free Cafe / event has reopened once a month on a Saturday offering a free lunch and activities. Between 60 - 80 people are currently attending this event and we are pleased to be able to offer this service again.

This has been another transitional year for the **Money Management** Centre work as COVID 19 restrictions gradually lifted. The lockdown rules in the first nine weeks of the year meant we continued to operate remotely either by zoom or telephone. Once lockdown did ease and our Bertha's Cafe reopened on Monday and Friday mornings, we were able to recommence meeting clients in that safe environment.

Sandi Latimer from the Vineyard continues to help on a Thursday and on those days we generally meet either at More+ Cafe which is operated by the Broughton Church or at the Church of the Holy Spirit's cafe. More recently, for the convenience of clients, several have been seen at Rococo cafe. This revised way of operating has proved effective and less time consuming and meant that even though we are only open in the mornings we have not turned anyone away.

Our records show that, over the year there have been 187 appointments held, including assisting 27 new clients, as well as dealing with ongoing cases. A number of clients have been helped to claim for their entitlement to Universal Credit. Educating clients to manage their finances and having a structure to their spending is also an increasing aspect of our work. The cost of living crisis is already being felt. The Government has made available a sum of money to The Buckinghamshire Council and through an initiative known as Helping Hands, grants are available.

Through this scheme we have helped one client who had Bailiffs on her doorstep and another who had arrears of utility bills of over £1,000. The Thomas Hickman's Charity have also helped several clients with Grants for White Goods, Bedding and Carpets. Both these wonderful organisations make such a difference and it is so good to be able to help clients access these funds and see the relief they feel.

With the growth of the work of Bridge the Gap and the real concern people have right now of the inflationary pressures we think the need for our service will not diminish and we remain committed to it. We are grateful for the continuing financial support of the Thomas Hickman Trust for our work, without which it would be difficult to continue to provide this much needed service to the disadvantaged of Aylesbury.

Bertha's café seems to be a blessing to many people. We know this because people are always telling us! Our new signage has helped passers by to come in, look around and have a coffee - from NHS workers and construction people passing by, to pre-school mums dropping off their children and others living in the area. We still have Money Management using the café to meet people and the English

Conversation Group meet in a corner - both are grateful to have use of our space. We have also hosted a number of games evenings in the school holidays which have been well received. It is just lovely to have a space that can be used for many purposes to create relationships.

This year we managed to start our *pay it forward* initiative. We have a board up in the café so people can see we have coffee that can be given away and we have all sorts of donations from £100 to £1 which are so gratefully received. It means that we have been able to give drinks away to people who come and collect food from Bridge the Gap food bank. Giving them the option of having a good coffee but often also having time to chat with one of us or each other or one of the BTG volunteers has created the possibility of creating more real relationships which is just so lovely to be part of. Just to be clear we are still covering our costs so no worries there! 😊 We are now looking forward to whatever God has in mind for the next financial year for us!

The **English Conversation Group** aims to provide friendship, refreshment and conversation, to assist in improving our guests' spoken English and their integration into the community. Since its inception back in 2019, more than 70 ladies from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds have attended.

Following a forced break from meeting due to Covid19 restrictions, we were able to restart 'virtually' at the beginning of February 2021, by means of Zoom. After a break over the Summer holidays, we were delighted to be able to again begin face to face meetings, using Bertha's Café as our venue. This has proved to be popular with our guests and helps to provide a relaxed and informal atmosphere for our conversations.

Whilst attendance has varied, we are seeing numbers of guests beginning to increase after the Covid19 hiatus, with currently around 9 visitors attending on a fairly regular basis, from a wide range of countries. We are grateful to the 6 partners from SBC who join us each week and support this important community outreach. Perhaps the most pleasing outcome has been the developing of genuinely warm friendships and relationships both between our guests and with our supporters.

Finances

With the continued COVID-19 restrictions, and the associated uncertainty, it again made budgeting a challenge. The end of the year finances remain in a good position although the level of reserves have decreased over the year as we have used some of this to continue the process of improving our buildings.

The General Fund budget set for 2021/22 was for a deficit of around £23,400 but the church trustees approved the budget on the basis that we had sufficient reserves to cover the deficit.

Total income for the general fund was just over £6,000 above budget mainly due to money received from the government for furlough payments but more significantly, as restrictions eased, an increase in the money received from hiring out our building. Donations from individuals within the church continue to provide much of our income and this was in line with the budget. Most of our expenditure was in line with expectations but there was an overspend in the maintenance budget of around £9,000 as we continued to improve the quality of our buildings with some larger spends - including the replacement and extension of the main church toilets, a new fence for the car park, a new boiler in the lounge and a new drum booth in our main church hall. Overall, the General Fund experienced a deficit of just over £17,900.

The church has continued to receive generous donations from its members, regular attendees, income from hiring rooms and through grants for specific community work, especially Bridge the Gap. The trustees are grateful for all donations received.

The Treehouse Pre-School budget was set for the year to March 31st 2022 to achieve a deficit of just over £22,000 which, by the end of the year, was fairly accurate.

The Finance Team and trustees continue to monitor the Charity's financial position through the production of quarterly Income & Expenditure statements and the bank account and fund balances against the Reserve Policy range each week. This acts as an early warning mechanism to identify any tightening of cash flow and prompt remedial action before pressure is experienced on the Charity's liquidity.

The General Fund Reserve Policy has not changed over the last year with the Reserve Range still standing at £19,000 - £28,000 for the 2022/23 financial year. The Treehouse Reserve Range remains at £11,500 - £23,000. The Trustees recognise their responsibility to keep the finances of the Charity in a healthy state and expect that to be the case over the coming year.

Plans for the future

Now Covid-19 restrictions have eased, church activities have returned to normal, well a new-normal anyway. We are now looking at what the future holds and how we can better serve the community around us. In June 2022 we will be running a community fair and we are looking into other ways in which we can partner with other organisations and agencies to provide new services and opportunities. We have also started investigations about whether we can get funding to replace the hut at the back of the church for something that better meets our needs and those of the community. The budget for the new financial year shows a deficit but this will be monitored regularly by the finance team and trustees. However, we still have some reserves which can be used if required.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on *7th September 2022* and signed on its behalf by:

..... *M. Rogers*

M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Southcourt Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southcourt Baptist Church for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

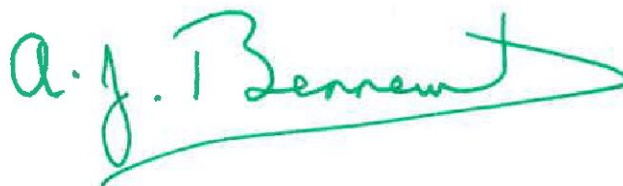
Independent examiner's statement

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
2. the 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
3 Wey Court
Mary Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4QU



Date: 13 September 2022

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.22 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.21 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations		139,470	63,438	202,908	179,439
Income Tax Recoverable		23,519	-	23,519	26,046
Premises Hire		22,661	-	22,661	11,770
Investment		94	-	94	95
Treehouse Pre-school	8&9	93,914	3,700	97,614	118,557
Total		279,658	67,138	346,796	335,907
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities:					
Leadership		38,071	-	38,071	36,911
Worship & Discipleship		4,346	-	4,346	4,319
Neighbourhood		1,104	42,553	43,657	31,904
Seniors		40	-	40	903
Site Operations		74,194	-	74,194	67,912
Repairs to church		21,380	5,500	26,880	8,492
Generation Next		43,864	228	44,092	42,700
Outreach		12,720	-	12,720	11,946
Treehouse	8&9	113,883	6,084	119,967	109,632
Depreciation		4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total		313,602	54,365	367,967	318,719
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		(33,944)	12,773	(21,171)	17,188
Transfer between funds		5,742	(5,742)	0	-
Net movement in funds		(28,202)	7,031	(21,171)	17,188
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		243,330	32,833	276,163	258,975
Total funds carried forward		215,128	39,864	254,992	276,163
Continuing Operations					
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.					

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.22 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.21 Total funds £
Fixed Assets:					
Tangible Assets	2	139,000	-	139,000	143,000
Current Assets:					
Debtors	4	3,945	-	3,945	3,706
Cash at bank and in hand		75,658	39,864	115,522	139,822
Total Current Assets		79,603	39,864	119,467	143,528
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	1,920	-	1,920	2,395
Net Current Assets		77,683	39,864	117,547	141,133
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		216,683	39,864	256,547	284,133
Provision for liabilities after one year	6	1,555	-	1,555	7,970
Total Net Assets		215,128	39,864	254,992	276,163
Funds					
Restricted funds	8			39,864	32,833
Unrestricted funds	9			215,128	243,330
Total Funds				254,992	276,163
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on <i>7th September 2022</i> and were signed on its behalf by: M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader <i>M Rogers</i>					

Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements as at 31 March 2022**1. Accounting Policies****a) Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

b) Incoming resources

Donations are recognised as incoming resources when received.

Income tax recoverable on donations under the Gift Aid scheme is accounted for in the period in which the underlying donation is received.

Funds received where the charity is acting as agent for independent causes are matched to outgoings and any difference is carried forward to the next period.

Gifts in kind, where material and capable of being valued, are treated as income.

No value has been placed on the rental equivalent of the use of the church premises and property, which are occupied free of charge by the church.

Grant income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable. Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

c) Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure shown is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories according to the nature of the cost.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All fixed assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Buildings	-2% on cost
Computer & sound equipment	-25% on cost

Freehold land is not depreciated as the trustees consider the useful economic life of the land owned by the charity to be so long as to render any charge for depreciation immaterial to the truth and fairness of the financial statements.

e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. They form part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

f) Pensions

The church makes contributions to two defined contribution schemes. Pension contributions payable to these schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The church also makes contributions to a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. It is not possible for the church to identify the assets and liabilities attributable to the church. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the scheme is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. See note 13 for further details about the pension schemes.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computer and sound equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	203,000	26,530	229,530
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	203,000	26,530	229,530
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	60,000	26,530	86,530
Charge for year	4,000	-	4,000
At 31 March 2022	64,000	26,530	90,530
Net book values			
At 31 March 2022	139,000	-	139,000
At 31 March 2021	143,000	-	143,000

The cost of land and buildings is represented by:	£
Freehold manse at 293 Tring Road, Aylesbury (70% share)	200,000
Land purchased for car park at Penn Road, Aylesbury	3,000
Total	203,000

3. Non-monetary assets held for the church's use

The church is the beneficial occupier (subject to the relevant trust deeds) of the following assets, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Church premises at insured value	3,081,926	2,907,477
Church contents at insured value	351,026	334,305
Total	3,432,952	3,241,782

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on gift aid	2,144	2,004
Prepaid Insurance	1,801	1,702
Total	3,945	3,706

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accrued expenses	1,920	1,920
Other creditors	-	475
Total	1,920	2,395

6. Provision for liabilities after one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Pension (Scheme 1) (see note 14)	1,555	7,970

7. Staff costs

None of the church's employees received emoluments of over £60,000 during the current or previous years. The average number of employees during the year was 16 (2021:16), which included full time and part time workers. On a full-time equivalent basis, the average number of staff members was 11 (2021: 11), employed in the following areas:

Numbers	2022	2021
Pastoral care	2	2
Administration and maintenance	2	2
Children, Youth and community	4	3
Pre-School	9	10
Total	17	17

One member of staff has two roles - in Pastoral Care and Children, Youth and Community - hence the difference between the average number in the text and in the table.

Costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	215,866	208,427
Other Benefits	7,192	7,249
Employer's National Insurance	8,840	7,764
Current Staff Pension costs	4,447	4,048
Total	236,345	227,488

8. Restricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Something Better	-	-	-	-	862	862
Bridge the Gap	59,938	40,992	18,946	(5,742)	22,297	35,501
Treehouse Support	3,700	6,084	(2,384)	-	4,834	2,450
Money Management Support	1,000	1,561	(561)	-	1,458	897
Youth Cafe	-	228	(228)	-	382	154
Refurbishment	2,500	5,500	(3,000)	-	3,000	-
Total	67,138	54,365	12,773	(5,742)	32,833	39,864

9. Unrestricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Premises Refurbishment	394	5,404	(5,010)	2,000	3,593	583
Premises Development	120	-	120	-	628	748
Treehouse	93,914	113,883	(19,969)	-	34,336	14,367
Women's Ministry	-	-	-	-	490	490
Youth	10,968	-	10,968	(968)	-	10,000
General	171,441	194,077	(22,636)	4,706	198,891	180,961
Bridge the Gap	2,821	18	2,803	4	5,172	7,979
Bertha's Cafe	-	220	(220)	-	220	-
Total	279,658	313,602	(33,944)	5,742	243,330	215,128

10. Restricted Funds

Funds (usually grant monies) are held for the following purposes:

Something Better - to support the work of the support for our older folk in the church and local community.

Bridge the Gap fund - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

Treehouse support - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education where grants have been received for specific projects such as to cover Special Educational Needs.

Money Management Support - to support the ongoing work of the debt management project that the church runs.

Youth Cafe - to support the youth work, specifically the running of a youth club open to all in the local community.

Refurbishment - to support any projects to refurbish the church buildings.

11. Designated Funds

Funds are held for the following purposes:

Church Premises Refurbishment Fund - can be used for substantial internal and external refurbishment of our existing buildings.

Church Premises Development Fund - for expenses related to substantial building development.

Treehouse Fund - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education.

Women's Ministry - to support the well-being of women in and outside the church.

Youth Fund - to support the children and youth work.

Bridge the Gap fund - to support the work of our food bank and community lunch projects.

Bertha's Cafe fund - to fund the ongoing running of our community cafe within the church.

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Two members of the Trustee Board Rev D Graham and Mr I Nash were employed by the Southcourt Church Baptist Trust in the positions of Lead Pastor and Children's Pastor respectively (2021: two members of the board).

Rev D Graham received a remuneration package of £39,732 (£39,628 previous year) and a pension contribution of £1,626 (£1,619 previous year). Mr I Nash received a remuneration package of £19,297 (£19,012 previous year) and a pension contribution of £392 (£383 previous year).

Expenses of £1,311 (2021: £760) were also paid relating to their duties as employed members of staff and included payment for travel, hospitality, meetings and ministry costs.

Payments to trustees were made under the legal authority of the church's governing documents.

13. Net Income/Expenditure

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting) the following:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	1,920	1,920
Government Grants received:		
Food Bank	(17,072)	(2,000)
Covid 19 support	(5,417)	(7,336)
Treehouse Pre-school	(2,000)	-
Total	(24,489)	(9,336)

14. Pensions

There are three schemes in operation, the first being a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme with The Pensions Trust on behalf of one former employee and trustee.

Scheme 1 - TPT Retirement Solutions – The Growth Plan

The church participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the church to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the church is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out as at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the church has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the church recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the

deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Present value of provision:	31 March 2022	£1,555
	31 March 2021	£7,970
	31 March 2020	£9,443

Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:

	Period Ending 31 March 2022 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2021 (£)
Provision at start of period	7,970	9,443
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	46	212
Deficit contribution paid	(2,017)	(1,958)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	(36)	273
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	(4,408)	-
Provision at end of period	1,555	7,970

Income and Expenditure Impact:

	Period Ending 31 March 2022 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2021 (£)
Interest expense	46	212
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	(36)	273
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	(4,408)	-
Contributions paid in respect of future service	-	-
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	-	-

Assumptions:

	31 March 2022% per annum	31 March 2021% per annum	31 March 2020 % per annum
Rate of discount	2.35	0.66	2.53

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

It is these contributions that have been used to derive the company's balance sheet liability.

Scheme 2 - The Pensions Trust - Growth Plan Series 4

There is also a defined contribution scheme established with The Pensions Trust and operated as an Auto-enrolment Scheme. Contributions to this scheme are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

Scheme 3 - Liverpool Victoria - Personal Pension Plan

Finally the church makes contributions to a defined contribution Personal Pension Plan on behalf of the Lead Pastor, in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment.

15. Comparatives for the SOFA

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2021			
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.21 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations	125,091	54,348	179,439
Income Tax Recoverable	26,046	-	26,046
Premises Hire	11,770	-	11,770
Investment	95	-	95
Treehouse Preschool	111,057	7,500	118,557
Total	274,059	61,848	335,907
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities:			
Leadership	36,911	-	36,911
Worship & Discipleship	4,319	-	4,319
Neighbourhood	628	31,276	31,904
Seniors	541	362	903
Site Operations	65,412	2,500	67,912
Repairs to church	8,492	-	8,492
Generation Next	40,184	2,516	42,700
Outreach	11,946	-	11,946
Treehouse	106,966	2,666	109,632
Depreciation	4,000	-	4,000
Total	279,399	39,320	318,719
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(5,340)	22,528	17,188

Transfer between funds	5,742	(5,742)	-
Net movement in funds	402	16,786	17,188
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	242,928	16,047	258,975
Total funds carried forward	243,330	32,833	276,163

16. Related party disclosures

The Trust received trustees' donations of £16,080 for the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021: £17,000).

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 287821

Accounts

Southcourt Baptist Church Trust

Report and Financial Statements Year ended: 31 March 2021

Registered Charity No: 287821



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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

287821

Principal address

40 Penn Road
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
HP21 8HW

Trustees

Rev D Graham	(Lead Pastor)
J Rogers	(CLT)
M Rogers	(Finance Vision Leader)
I Nash	(Children's Pastor)
C Blunden	(CLT)

Custodian trustee

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
PO Box 44
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT

Bankers

HSBC, 8 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TW
Lloyds, Old Bank, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TD
Nationwide Building Society, Kings Park Road, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6NW

Solicitors

Carter Lemon Camerons, 10 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HJ

Independent Examiner

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
3 Wey Court, Mary Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4QU

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 1 August 1983, and is an unincorporated charity. The custodian trustee, the Baptist Union, delegates total autonomy in the governing and running of the church to the trustees, with church meeting voting taking place for important decisions.

The Central Leadership Team (CLT) are appointed by the church meeting of members of the church and together, in accordance with the church's constitution, are chosen to assist the Lead Pastor in the spiritual and operational leadership of the church. The CLT usually become trustees upon appointment and are in office for three years.

Trustees must be existing church members with specialist leadership skills often demonstrated in roles outside the church e.g. roles within the business sector. When recruiting new trustees the existing trustees must all agree upon the choice.

The church management comprises the Central Leadership Team and the trustees, which, of the latter, two members are in paid roles - the Lead Pastor and the Children's Pastor. There are also a number of unpaid volunteers some of whom are trustees who cover all the different aspects of the operations such as administration, safeguarding, health and safety and IT.

A separate finance team is responsible for managing and budgeting the church's financial affairs with our Finance Vision Leader, Mark Rogers having overall oversight of the finances. The annual budget and any major changes to finance policy are approved at the CLT meetings and at a church meeting of members of the church in line with Baptist tradition.

Regular meetings are held with all staff and the CLT/trustees and cover operational as well as longer term planning relating to the vision and forward strategy of the church. David Graham continues to be the Lead Pastor of the church, Iain Nash is our Children's Pastor, James Henson is our Youth Pastor, Liz Zealey is our Operations Manager, Graham Clarke is our Facilities Manager and Rachel Neal is our newly-appointed Pre-School Manager (in December 2020). Lou Clarke is our Pastoral Care Coordinator and Bridge the Gap Coordinator, the latter role being fully funded from grant monies to run our very busy food bank.

Risk Management

A risk register is operational and is on the agenda at each CLT meeting where appropriate.

Objectives and aims

The charity's object, as stated in its deed of trust, is to further the Christian gospel.

Public benefit

When planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Some of the public benefit services that we offer as a church, open to all, include Sunday worship services, children's work (including pre-school education), youth work, mother and toddler groups, seniors' groups, a food bank, debt management, Youth cafe and Community cafe. During the COVID-19 crisis, the church continued to run as best as it could with the use of videos, conferencing and other means of ensuring that the community was covered.

Associations

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Evangelical Alliance to which it pays an annual subscription. The Church also contributes to BMS World Mission and acts as an agent in collecting and passing on donations to the BMS World Mission and Leprosy Mission. The church does not receive any financial support from any organisations that it is associated with.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Discipleship

The church has one main service that takes place every Sunday at 10.30am. During the pandemic, this service either took place on-line only or in person and on-line depending on the relevant restrictions. We also meet together in small groups (Lifegroups) on a regular basis. This is a very important part of our community and we currently have 10 groups in operation. This is in addition to a *Men Gathering*, another men's group, a women's group (Yada), a Ladies@SBC group and a prayer group. The vision for each Lifegroup is to grow a community of people investing in each other's lives with a common passion to seek God, grow together and reach out to others. In the past year, we have seen no new church members, baptisms or dedications of young children, mainly due to the lockdown making these in-person meetings unattainable. During the COVID-19 crisis, "services" were conducted using videos compiled by the Lead Pastor and others whilst other groups met using Facebook Live, Zoom and other conferencing facilities. The overall aim was to ensure that a sense of community and worship continued throughout the period of social distancing.

Seniors

Something Better, a group for Seniors, met monthly at the Church up to March 2020. From April 2020 face-to-face meetings ended owing to the Coronavirus epidemic. It was necessary to adapt to a new way of working with the Seniors. Paper copies of the service were sent out and these included hymns, prayers, Bible readings and a talk as well as friendship news. Friends were encouraged to spend some time during the first Tuesday of each month to read the service sheet in the comfort of their home.

In between the services each month encouraging items were sent out to our friends. These included encouraging Bible verses cards, summer postcards and a notelet for them to write a message to encourage a friend.

In August we were able to establish a telephone conferencing call facility which gave the opportunity to lead services over the telephone. This enabled many to take part in a service because they were not able to do so via the internet. For those who were not able to take part in the telephone conference facility paper copies of the service were still made available. Those who took part in the telephone service received the words of hymns, readings and prayers to enable them to take part as fully as possible. It was amazing the number of celebrity speakers, for example Canon J. John, who gave us permission to use their internet items for the talk.

A Christmas gift bag full of a variety of items was made available by a grant from the William Harding's Trust. These were given to everyone over the age of 60 within the Church and Something Better group.

During the year, we used the telephone conferencing facility to bring friends together to study for the Lent and Advent Seasons. The Link-up system set up in February 2019 proved an invaluable lifeline to

keep friends in contact with each other. Friends were also contacted by the leaders regularly. Therefore, the community spirit of the group was maintained as far as possible.

It was in January 2021 that the leaders, Tim and Jean Howlett after 12 years of working with this group, informed the Lead Pastor and Church Leadership and the group that they would be finishing on 6th April 2021, which was the group's Easter Service. The church is now pondering what the future might look like in terms of taking the work forward.

Tea Break is a monthly afternoon event for people within the church, local community and beyond. We particularly welcome those who are lonely or isolated for whatever reason. Tea Break gives an opportunity for people to meet together with tea or coffee and home-made cakes aplenty. The guests can play board games, catch up with each other or relax with a magazine. For jigsaw enthusiasts there is always a puzzle waiting to be completed. We have had a few special events but generally Tea Break is an informal, social occasion which is enjoyed by all. Although we have not met over the past year due to the pandemic, we look forward to being able to meet together again when it is safe to do so.

Children's Work

This year has been like no other. Never in our wildest dreams did we think we would end up having to operate under a pandemic. Quite quickly, our children's groups had to either stop altogether or, where possible, move online. As a result, we had to quickly learn to become filmmakers and video editors as we looked to provide sessions each week for the children to watch. Some of those early videos are a bit cringe-worthy now but week on week they got better and by the end we were extremely proud of what we did.

The following groups and events stopped meeting: **The Ark** Parent and Toddler Group, **Messy Church**, We Wish You a Messy Christmas, schools' work and our weekend trip to SPREE Central in Northamptonshire.

Lifekidz went online with a weekly 30-minute video via our Facebook, What's App and YouTube channel and **Little Lifekidz** did a short 10-minute video. However, from January 2021, Lifekidz started meeting online via Zoom as we realised, as good as the videos were, the children really wanted to see each other's faces and ours. We did have one spell where we were "back in the room" between September and November 2020, albeit socially distant and following government guidelines and parameters and are now meeting this way and looking forward to when we can have a bit more freedom to socialise without worrying about staying distant.



Our pre-school, **The Treehouse**, fared well throughout the pandemic. We were able to stay open as a setting for children of key workers and we did not have to furlough any staff. We did have one period where we had to close for 10 days due to a staff member testing positive for COVID-19, but we followed advice and guidance from Public Health England and the local authority to manage the situation. We also had a number of changes among the staff, with two staff members moving on to new ventures. Our pre-school manager, Claire, also moved on to a new setting after 20 plus years of dedicated service. We were pleased to welcome three new members of staff to join the team and we also successfully recruited a new pre-school leader, Rachel, who is already proving to be a fantastic acquisition in leading the pre-school into an exciting new chapter. Cohort numbers are up, we have enquiries and waiting lists, and financially, we are looking in the best shape we have been in for years thanks to local authority (Bucks Council) grants and monies that have come in. We have also had an open day in the summer term of 2021.

We ran our first ever **Parenting for Faith** course just before the pandemic hit. We had 8 people for our first course, with a mixture of mum's, dad's, children's workers and grandparents attending, with other couples completing the course at home. The course was 8 weeks every Monday evening, and the attendance remained steady throughout. The feedback we had was that the course was an enormous blessing to those who attended and gave practical tools to those looking for ways to share and demonstrate faith to their children/grandchildren.

So... where do things go from here? What does the future look like? In some ways, we have no idea whether things will ever be the same again but actually, what we have been through has perhaps, in some ways provided an opportunity to take stock, re-think and in some cases, start again with groups. We are hopeful that we will be able to gradually re-introduce those groups and events that have had to stop but maybe in a slightly different way.

The overarching theme for the children's work for the year was "Deep Roots and Growth". We think that, regardless of all that has happened, the children have found ways to draw closer to God and start putting down strong roots in him and see their faith grow when they have needed him the most. It is also testament to just how strong our groups are that they have survived throughout this past year whether they have run or not. There is still demand for these groups to continue, mostly because children and families have missed and are craving community. In other words, they just need as much opportunity as possible to "be together" again!

Young People



What a strange and challenging year this has been for us all hasn't it? Up and down the country churches and youth ministries have worked so hard to continue to get alongside young people in many new ways, whether it's zoom hangouts, YouTube talks, livestreams and even some youth events being able to be in person!

Back in March 2020, when the first lockdown was announced, we moved as much of our youth ministry as possible online. With the help of our amazing teams we were able to still provide content for young people to stay connected, supported and keep their faith fresh. Sadly, however, there have been some key parts of our youth ministry that haven't been able to run due to the virus.

Alongside losing the ability to meet in person each week we lost out on going away in the summer as a whole youth group. August 2020 was supposed to be the first summer we went to *Limitless Festival* together but sadly that was postponed along with many other summer events.

But it's not all been doom and gloom, we have still seen a core group of our young people gather together each week online to meet together, play games and explore faith with each other.

One of our really exciting new ventures was being part of a new event with other church youth groups around Aylesbury. Central Cell online is the online gathering for young people from various church youth groups across Aylesbury to hang out and look in the Bible together.

We are very excited for what September '21 will hold as we hope for no restrictions on our groups and can get back to working on building community.

Neighbourhood

At the end of March 2020 the Covid pandemic took its toll and **Bridge The Gap** went from a twice-monthly event to a twice-weekly, much-needed food bank, a safe place for those who are facing challenges and are in particular need in the community. Our cafe was closed to adhere to social distancing rules but we are still very active with food parcels, money management and words of encouragement for those in need, signposting them to other agencies where required. As the year progressed generous funding has been gratefully received. Donors include Aylesbury Crown Court, Neighbourly, The Rothschild Foundation, Aylesbury Garden Town and Heart of Bucks. It enabled us to obtain a container and freezer so that we are able to provide fruit, veg, eggs and freezer food. At Christmas, we partnered with Chiltern Toybank & distributed toys, books and gifts to our families. For Easter, we created "love in a bag" packed full of toiletries for our adults and distributed Easter Eggs for the children. We are now in the process of introducing our *Redeeming Our Communities Aylesbury* mentoring scheme and hope to reach out, empower and encourage families in our local community. We are looking at how we can restructure our Saturday events in the future.

The advent of Covid 19 has necessitated a complete change of approach to the work of our **Money Management Centre's** service. It has no longer been possible to meet clients face to face, so all communication has been by Zoom, WhatsApp, telephone, email or letter. Whilst this has been a slower format it has generally worked well, other than where there have been new clients that it has not been possible to meet face to face. This is not ideal.

It is estimated the service has helped around 80 people in the past year with one or two quite difficult and complex cases which take considerable time. The service has dovetailed well with Bridge the Gap and a number of new clients have come as a result, mostly with debt and Universal Credit issues. There have been 26 either new clients or people whose cases had previously been completed but have returned to seek additional help. 11 Clients do not need further help at present. The service continues to

get a number of very positive comments. One client recently wrote as follows: "I want to thank you so much for all your help with my financial issues and doing everything you can to help my life in these most difficult of times. I most certainly would have fallen apart without your support, care and time."

David Finn, Sandi Latimer and Michael Hulcoop continue to meet monthly by Zoom to reflect on the work and look forward. We plan to continue the service as it is for the time being at least. We remain grateful for the continuing financial support of the Thomas Hickman Trust for our work, without which it would be difficult to continue to provide this much needed service to the disadvantaged of Aylesbury.

Bertha's Cafe was launched in September 2019 with opening times of Mondays and Fridays, term time only, from 9.30am -12.30pm.



We have had many great compliments about the cake, coffee, tea choices, prices, atmosphere and the building itself. The whole thing feels like a really God-blessed place and we are looking forward to seeing what happens next. Well all of that was true and then Covid happened....Of course we needed to close, as all cafe's did. However we did get a chance to open again in September-October and a few weeks in December all between lockdowns. Those months were great, we were busier than before, people seemed to be very happy to come back despite it not being quite like normal.

It seems we can be self-sufficient which is great and are in no need to take away from the church finances despite being so much cheaper than town-centre coffee shops. Of course we have had to be closed again since before Christmas but we are very much looking forward to being able to open again on the 17th of May. We have had several people asking when we can open again. So it seems we will have people happy to come back again and hopefully we can get a full year of no lockdowns for people to enjoy and to see what can happen in the area because of it.

The **English Conversation Group** was formed in February 2019 with the aim of providing support to those from our community for whom English is not their first language. Meeting once a week, we aimed to provide free friendship, refreshment and conversation, to assist in improving their spoken English and integration into the community. Over 40 ladies from a wide variety of original homelands have attended since inception.

By April 2020, we were all in the grip of the Covid pandemic and so our meetings were of necessity suspended. Between the first and second waves, we did meet informally for a time, within the national guidelines, at Bertha's Café but again had to close in early 2021. We have however been able to restart 'virtually' on the first of February 2021, by means of Zoom. It is difficult with this method to cater for many participants and so at present we have only four or five regular visitors and about five helpers/leaders.

Once meeting restrictions are relaxed, we plan to reopen fully and will contact the remainder of our previous visitors and also publicise the Group more widely.

We have been contacted by the Deputy Chief Executive Directorate of Buckinghamshire Council complimenting us on our efforts to promote community cohesion and expressing a wish to work with us on promoting this activity.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant that the General Fund budget agreed by church trustees and members bore little resemblance to what actually happened in the 2020/21 financial year. However, although there was some concern about what the impact of the pandemic may have been on the church's finances, the year ended with the finances in a good position.

The General Fund budget set for 2020/21 was for a deficit of about £26,400 but the church trustees approved the budget on the basis that we had sufficient reserves to cover the deficit.

Total income for the general fund was below budget mainly due to the loss of building rental income as the church building had to close for the majority of activities during the pandemic. What was great news though, was that even though we went through such a difficult year, donations from individuals were almost £2,000 above budget. However, this was more than offset by the £18,000 reduction in building rental against what was budgeted. The positive side of closing the building, although we would rather not have done so, was that our expenditure was very much reduced, especially around cleaning, heating and lighting. So, at the end of the year, we ended up with our expenditure being over £27,000 below budget. Overall, the General Fund experienced a deficit of £6,400 which was amazing considering the year we have been through and the loss of building rental income.

Even throughout the pandemic, the church has continued to receive generous donations from its members, regular attendees, income from hiring rooms and through grants for specific community work, especially Bridge the Gap. The trustees are grateful for all donations received.

There have been no major refurbishment projects this year although some cosmetic work has been carried out and new toilets are planned for the coming year. The pastor's manse received a new boiler which was the major maintenance expense of the year.

The Treehouse Pre-School budget was set for the year to March 31st 2021 to achieve a deficit of just over £5,000. In reality, the year-end position showed a surplus of around £9,000. This was achieved through receiving higher than expected fees from Buckinghamshire Council and a couple of Covid-19 recovery grants.

The Finance Team and trustees continue to monitor the Charity's financial position through the production of quarterly Income & Expenditure statements and the bank account and fund balances against the Reserve Policy range each week. This acts as an early warning mechanism to identify any tightening of cash flow and prompt remedial action before pressure is experienced on the Charity's liquidity.

The General Fund Reserve Policy has been reviewed in the last year with a new methodology for working out the most appropriate reserve level by looking at the greatest risk to the church finances including a loss of major donors and large maintenance costs. The policy shows trigger points which, if met, will lead to action considerations by the trustees. This new methodology has led to a slight lowering of the Reserve Range which will stand at £19,000 - £28,000 for the 2021/22 financial year. The Treehouse Reserve Range was similarly reviewed using the same methodology and changed to £11,500 - £23,000. The Trustees recognise their responsibility to keep the finances of the Charity in a healthy state and expect that to be the case over the coming year.

Plans for the future

As the Covid-19 pandemic situation shows signs of gradually easing, church activities are slowly returning to some sort of normality, but it is a slow process. However, we have seen Potters House

Church (who replaced Faith Alive Church) and Slimming World return to the building to provide the church with rental income. This will hopefully increase as more organisations get back to face-to-face meetings but that will very much depend on how the pandemic develops. The budget for the new financial year has shown a conservative income figure, due to the uncertainties of the pandemic, so expenditure will need to be regularly monitored by the finance team and trustees. However, the reserves are continuing to look healthy as this is published.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....

M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Southcourt Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southcourt Baptist Church for the year ended 31 March 2021.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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
2. the 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A J Bennewith FCA, FCPA, FFA, FFTA, FIPA, DChA, FRSA
3 Wey Court
Mary Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4QU

Date:

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2021					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.21 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.20 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations		125,091	54,348	179,439	174,579
Income Tax Recoverable		26,046	-	26,046	24,458
Premises Hire		11,770	-	11,770	31,273
Investment		95	-	95	467
Treehouse Pre-school	8&9	111,057	7,500	118,557	123,475
Total		274,059	61,848	335,907	354,252
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities:					
Leadership		36,911	-	36,911	37,174
Worship & Discipleship		4,319	-	4,319	5,317
Neighbourhood		628	31,276	31,904	14,829
Seniors		541	362	903	4,855
Site Operations		65,412	2,500	67,912	84,588
Repairs to church		8,492	-	8,492	13,206
Generation Next		40,184	2,516	42,700	48,447
Outreach		11,946	-	11,946	15,611
Treehouse	8&9	106,966	2,666	109,632	114,067
Depreciation		4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Total		279,399	39,320	318,719	342,094
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		(5,340)	22,528	17,188	12,158
Transfer between funds		5,742	(5,742)	-	-
Net movement in funds		402	16,786	17,188	12,158
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		242,928	16,047	258,975	246,817
Total funds carried forward		243,330	32,833	276,163	258,975
Continuing Operations					
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.					

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021					
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.21 Total funds £	Year ended 31.03.20 Total funds £
Fixed Assets:					
Tangible Assets	2	143,000	-	143,000	147,000
Current Assets:					
Debtors	4	3,706	-	3,706	5,471
Cash at bank and in hand		106,989	32,833	139,822	117,867
Total Current Assets		110,695	32,833	143,528	123,338
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	2,395	-	2,395	1,920
Net Current Assets		108,300	32,833	141,133	121,418
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		251,300	32,833	284,133	268,418
Provision for liabilities after one year	6	7,970	-	7,970	9,443
Total Net Assets		243,330	32,833	276,163	258,975
Funds					
Restricted funds	8			32,833	16,047
Unrestricted funds	9			243,330	242,928
Total Funds				276,163	258,975
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on..... and were signed on its behalf by: M Rogers - Finance Vision Leader					

Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements as at 31 March 2021**1. Accounting Policies****a) Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

b) Incoming resources

Donations are recognised as incoming resources when received.

Income tax recoverable on donations under the Gift Aid scheme is accounted for in the period in which the underlying donation is received.

Funds received where the charity is acting as agent for independent causes are matched to outgoings and any difference is carried forward to the next period.

Gifts in kind, where material and capable of being valued, are treated as income.

No value has been placed on the rental equivalent of the use of the church premises and property, which are occupied free of charge by the church.

Grant income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable. Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

c) Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure shown is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories according to the nature of the cost.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. All fixed assets costing more than £5,000 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Buildings	-2% on cost
Computer & sound equipment	-25% on cost

Freehold land is not depreciated as the trustees consider the useful economic life of the land owned by the charity to be so long as to render any charge for depreciation immaterial to the truth and fairness of the financial statements.

e) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. They form part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

f) Pensions

The church makes contributions to two defined contribution schemes. Pension contributions payable to these schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The church also makes contributions to a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. It is not possible for the church to identify the assets and liabilities attributable to the church. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the scheme is therefore accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. See note 13 for further details about the pension schemes.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Computer and sound equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	203,000	26,530	229,530
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	203,000	26,530	229,530
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	56,000	26,530	82,530
Charge for year	4,000	-	4,000
At 31 March 2021	60,000	26,530	86,530
Net book values			
At 31 March 2021	143,000	-	143,000
At 31 March 2020	147,000	-	147,000

The cost of land and buildings is represented by:	£
Freehold manse at 293 Tring Road, Aylesbury (70% share)	200,000
Land purchased for car park at Penn Road, Aylesbury	3,000
Total	203,000

3. Non-monetary assets held for the church's use

The church is the beneficial occupier (subject to the relevant trust deeds) of the following assets, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Church premises at insured value	2,907,477	2,742,902
Church contents at insured value	334,305	318,381
Total	3,241,782	3,061,283

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on gift aid	2,004	2,279
Prepaid Insurance	1,702	1,698
Dishwasher debtor	-	1,494
Total	3,706	5,471

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accrued expenses	1,920	1,920
Other creditors	475	-
Total	2,395	1,920

6. Provision for liabilities after one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Pension (Scheme 1) (see note 13)	7,970	9,443

7. Staff costs

None of the church's employees received emoluments of over £60,000 during the current or previous years. The average number of employees during the year was 16 (2020:16), which included full time and part time workers. On a full-time equivalent basis, the average number of staff members was 11 (2020: 11), employed in the following areas:

Numbers	2021	2020
Pastoral care	2	2
Administration and maintenance	2	2
Children, Youth and community	3	3
Pre-School	10	9
Total	17	16

One member of staff has two roles - in Pastoral Care and Children, Youth and Community - hence the difference between the average number in the text and in the table.

Costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	208,427	201,840
Other Benefits	7,249	7,066
Employer's National Insurance	7,764	7,844
Current Staff Pension costs	4,048	3,846
Total	227,488	220,596

8. Restricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Something Better	-	362	(362)	-	1,224	862
Bridge the Gap	46,347	30,026	16,321	(5,742)	11,718	22,297
Treehouse Support	7,500	2,666	4,834	-	-	4,834
Money Management Support	-	1,249	(1,249)	-	2,707	1,458
Youth Cafe	-	16	(16)	-	398	382
Refurbishment	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Covid Recovery	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-
Total	61,847	39,319	22,528	(5,742)	16,047	32,833

9. Unrestricted funds

	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources £	Transfer between funds £	Funds brought forward £	Funds carried forward £
Premises Refurbishment	95	727	(632)	-	4,225	3,593
Premises Development	120	-	120	-	508	628
Treehouse	111,057	106,966	4,091	-	30,245	34,336
Something Better	-	110	(110)	-	110	-
Women's Ministry	-	-	-	-	490	490
Youth	1,376	-	1,376	(1,376)	-	-
General	157,537	171,107	(13,570)	7,118	205,343	198,891
Bridge the Gap	3,841	83	3,758	-	1,414	5,172
Bertha's Cafe	34	407	(373)	-	593	220
Total	274,060	279,400	(5,340)	5,742	242,928	243,330

10. Designated Funds

Funds are held for the following purposes:

Church Premises Refurbishment Fund - can be used for substantial internal and external refurbishment of our existing buildings.

Church Premises Development Fund - for expenses related to substantial building development.

Treehouse Fund - to fund the ongoing provision of pre-school education.

Something Better - to fund the meetings and excursions of senior people.

Women's Ministry - to support the well-being of women in and outside the church.

Youth Fund - to support the children and youth work.

Bridge the Gap fund - to support the work of our twice-monthly food bank and community lunch project.

Bertha's Cafe fund - to fund the setting up of a new cafe within the church including the refurbishment of the kitchen in the main church auditorium.

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Two members of the Trustee Board Rev D Graham and Mr I Nash were employed by the Southcourt Church Baptist Trust in the positions of Lead Pastor and Children's Pastor respectively (2020: five members of the board).

Rev D Graham received a remuneration package of £39,628 (£38,489 previous year) and a pension contribution of £1,619 (£1,617 previous year). Mr I Nash received a remuneration package of £19,012 (£19,012 previous year) and a pension contribution of £383 (£386 previous year).

Expenses of £760 (2020: £1,508) were also paid relating to their duties as employed members of staff and included payment for travel, hospitality, meetings and ministry costs.

Payments to trustees were made under the legal authority of the church's governing documents.

12. Net Income/Expenditure

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting) the following:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	1,920	1,920
Government Grants received:		
Food Bank	(2,000)	(6,000)
Covid 19 support	(7,336)	-
Total	(9,336)	(6,000)

13. Pensions

There are three schemes in operation, the first being a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme with The Pensions Trust on behalf of one former employee and trustee.

Scheme 1 - TPT Retirement Solutions – The Growth Plan

The church participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the church to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the church is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2019 to 31 January 2025: £11,243,000 per annum (payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the church has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the church recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Present value of provision:	31 March 2021	£7,970
	31 March 2020	£9,443
	31 March 2019	£11,456

Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:

	Period Ending 31 March 2021 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2020 (£)
Provision at start of period	9,443	11,456
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	212	144
Deficit contribution paid	(1,958)	(1,901)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	273	(256)
Provision at end of period	7,970	9,443

Income and Expenditure Impact:

	Period Ending 31 March 2021 (£)	Period Ending 31 March 2020 (£)
Interest expense	212	144
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	273	(256)
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	485	(112)

Assumptions:

	31 March 2021% per annum	31 March 2020 % per annum	31 March 2019 % per annum
Rate of discount	0.66	2.53	1.39

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

Scheme 2 - The Pensions Trust - Growth Plan Series 4

There is also a defined contribution scheme established with The Pensions Trust and operated as an Auto-enrolment Scheme. Contributions to this scheme are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

Scheme 3 - Liverpool Victoria - Personal Pension Plan

Finally the church makes contributions to a defined contribution Personal Pension Plan on behalf of the Lead Pastor, in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment.

14. Comparatives for the SOFA

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2020			
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year ended 31.03.20 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations	150,205	24,374	174,579
Income Tax Recoverable	24,458	-	24,458
Premises Hire	31,273	-	31,273
Investment	467	-	467
Treehouse Preschool	116,475	7,000	123,475
Total	322,878	31,374	354,252
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities:			
Leadership	37,174	-	37,174
Worship & Discipleship	5,317	-	5,317
Neighbourhood	4,635	10,194	14,829
Seniors	3,381	1,474	4,855
Site Operations	84,588	-	84,588
Repairs to church	13,206	-	13,206
Generation Next	48,345	102	48,447
Outreach	15,611	-	15,611
Treehouse	107,067	7,000	114,067
Depreciation	4,000	-	4,000
Total	323,324	18,770	342,094
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(446)	12,604	12,158
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(446)	12,604	12,158
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	243,374	3,443	246,817
Total funds carried forward	242,928	16,047	258,975

