

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.

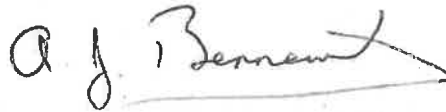
Independent examiner's statement

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 <i>M Rogers</i></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).