Market Harborough Baptist Church

Report and Accounts

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Charity Information
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Status	The Church is a Registered Charity and is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain
Charity Registration Number	1132945

Charity Trustees

Rev C.S. Brown	Ex Officio & Chair
M Brown	Secretary appointed 22.01.26
L Smith	Treasurer appointed 22.01.26
C Gathercole	Secretary resigned 22.01.26
L Murphy	Treasurer resigned 22.01.26
D Few	Resigned 18.05.25
M Jones	
H Gathercole	Resigned 22.01.26
J Chew	
J Guilford	Resigned 16.03.26
Y Durrant	Appointed 22.01.26
E Sherwood	Appointed 22.01.26

Address for Correspondence

25 Coventry Road
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 9BX

Independent Examiner

Callum D. Veasey A.C.A.
Edward Thomas Peirson & Sons
Part of Cottons Group
21, The Point
Rockingham Road
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7NU

CONTENTS

	Page
Charity Information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	2-4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Accounts	8-14

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
For the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity ("the Church") for the year ended 31st December 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Church's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published in October 2019.

Structure, governance and management

The Church is governed by the Baptist Union of Great Britain Constitution dated 12 June 2022 and receives advice, guidance and support from East Midlands Baptist Association. It is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Church Trustees are responsible for the governance of the Church and the fulfilment of its purpose.

The Trustees are appointed at a Church Members' Meeting. They will always include the Minister and Church Leadership comprising Secretary and Treasurer together with any number of other members as agreed at the Meeting. Each Trustee, apart from the Minister, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be appointed for an initial three year term with the opportunity for reappointment for one further three year term. Any person qualified to be a Member of the church shall be eligible for appointment unless disqualified by statute. The Secretary and Treasurer are appointed annually.

Objectives and activities

Market Harborough Baptist Church is a church in the heart of Market Harborough who love Jesus and who love our community. The principal objective of the Church is to practice the Christian faith with integrity and in ways that bless the church family and the community. The Church abides by the Declaration of Principle of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Bearing in mind the public benefit guidance, the main activities of the Church are listed below:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching & teaching
- the sacraments of Holy Communion (monthly) and baptism (on request)
- evangelism & mission, locally, regionally, nationally & internationally
- pastoral care & safeguarding
- special services including weddings, funerals & infant blessings
- children, youth & families' ministries
- nurture & growth of Christian disciples through small groups
- giving of time, resources, talents & skills within the church family and community
- supporting & encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom & abroad
- working in partnership with other churches & denominations within the community
- community support groups such as Renew Wellbeing

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2025

Achievements and Performance

The Church has seen slow and steady growth in 2025, welcoming new people to the church family, including new members and baptisms. The Renew Wellbeing café has a well established and very warm and welcoming community of around 30 people who seek to attend to their mental health and wellbeing together. The cafe also enjoys very strong links with the local district council, GP surgery, mental health professionals, social prescribers, counselling centre and other voluntary organisations within the town. The cafe is the second largest referrer of foodbank requests.
Small group fellowship continues to be a vital part of the discipleship of the church, with new people joining existing groups, so that now approximately 75% of the church family belong to a small group. The children within the church family and within the community have been supported by Fun and Friends pre-school group (weekly) and Messy Church primary school age group and families (every 12 weeks), both are well attended. The pastoral team have continued to provide care for the most vulnerable within the church family through visits, transport, calls, advice and other types of help and support.

The Pastor continues to lead the Church with vision as well as being involved in many different groups and ministries. The Pastor also headed up the team for Easter Live on the Square, a new festival for the town to celebrate Easter in 2025. This was a well-attended event with plans to repeat in 2026.

The Church, through prayer and financial giving, continues to be self-sustaining and is in a financially healthy position. Furthermore, the Church has supported the ongoing work and ministry of Christian organisations such as BMS World Mission, Tearfund and EMBA Home Mission in their work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. As a Church we are thankful and grateful to all who have supported the work of MHBC spiritually, practically and financially during this past year.

Financial review

Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £127,822, of which £125,953 were completely unrestricted. The completely unrestricted income was increased from the previous year, as gift aid increased. There was no designated income again this year. Restricted fund income remained small as there are no major projects underway at the present time.

Expenditure for the year was £108,796. The balance of the restricted fund will be paid to the Specific Causes for which it was raised in the following year. General unrestricted fund expenditure was £108,262 a decrease on the previous year mainly due to the replacement of the boundary wall in the previous year. Designated fund expenditure of £310 is mainly due to spending from the Walton fund.

Therefore, the net income for the year was £19,026. As a result, total funds increased by this amount to end the year at £1,307,587 of which £63,347 (2024: £45,656) represents general funds which have not been designated for a specific purpose.

The overall result for 2025 is a surplus of £19,026. A deficit has arisen on the designated unrestricted funds of £310 and a surplus on the restricted funds of £1,645. The general unrestricted funds showed a surplus of £17,691.

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ending 31 December 2025

Reserves policy

The Church requires general reserves, that is funds that are freely available to spend in furtherance of its objects, to provide cover against any future deficits.

The Trustees believe that a level of general reserves equivalent to at least three months expenditure should be sufficient and appropriate for the needs of the Church. This is calculated to be in the region of £23,000 so the level of general reserves at 31 December 2025 may be slightly high. The Trustees will continue to review the position at regular intervals.

This report was approved by the Trustees on ~~25 June~~ 23 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Luke Smith, Treasurer

Martyn Brown, Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Market Harborough Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, the members of the Leadership Team 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Callum D. Veasey A.C.A.

Dated 23 July ~~25 Jun~~ 26

For and on behalf of:
Edward Thomas Peirson & Sons
Part of Cottons Group
21, The Point
Rockingham Road
Market Harborough
Leics, LE16 7NU

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	General Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES FROM:						
Donations, pledges & grants	2(a)	110,833	-	1,869	112,702	106,682
Church activities	2(b)	14,228	-	-	14,228	12,669
Investments	2(c)	892	-	-	892	1,413
Total income		125,953	-	1,869	127,822	120,764
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities	3	11,478	-	224	11,702	10,372
Church activities & administration	3	96,784	310	-	97,094	125,300
Total expenditure		108,262	310	224	108,796	135,672
Net income/(expenditure)		17,691	(310)	1,645	19,026	(14,908)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		17,691	(310)	1,645	19,026	(14,908)
Total funds brought forward		45,656	1,241,835	1,070	1,288,561	1,303,469
Total funds carried forward	12	63,347	1,241,525	2,715	1,307,587	1,288,561

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

Movements on reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

The notes on pages 8-14 form part of these accounts.

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8		1,200,000		1,200,000
			1,200,000		1,200,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	3,550		6,040	
Cash at bank	10	121,330		91,112	
		124,880		97,152	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	17,293		8,591	
Net current assets			107,587		88,561
NET ASSETS			1,307,587		1,288,561
CHARITY FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds					
General funds			63,347		45,656
Designated funds			1,241,525		1,241,835
			1,304,872		1,287,491
Restricted funds			2,715		1,070
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			1,307,587		1,288,561

Approved by the Church Trustees and signed on their behalf on ~~25 June~~ 23 July 2026 by:

Luke Smith, Treasurer

Martyn Brown, Secretary

The notes on page 8-14 form part of these accounts.

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Notes to the Accounts
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

a) The Church constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) issued in October 2019 "SORP (FRS 102)", the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the 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) in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, they are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Church and rounded to the nearest £. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Church is responsible in law.

The going concern basis is considered to be appropriate and the Church's income stream is continuing at a satisfactory level.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b) Funds

Restricted funds comprise revenue donations or grants for a specific Church activity intended by the donor and funds raised by the Church for particular purposes. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on the average balance basis.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the Church for a specific purpose, they remain unrestricted and the Church may move any surplus to other general funds.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which may be used by the Church in furtherance of its general objectives.

c) Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities where the Church is legally entitled to the income, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. If conditions are attached to a grant or donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained the recognition of the income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Tax refunds under the Gift Aid Scheme are recognised in the period in which they are received. Gifts in kind donated for the use of the Church are recognised in income at their fair value, that being the value of the gift to the Church, at the point they gain control over them, with an equivalent amount being recognised as a component of expenditure. Gifts in kind donated for resale are recognised when sold due to the impracticality of obtaining a fair value for them when donated, other fundraising income is recognised when entitlement has occurred. All incoming resources are accounted for gross of any related expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

d) *Expenditure recognition*

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised, gross of any amounts recoverable, where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. As the Church is not VAT registered the expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT.

e) *Tangible fixed assets*

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and have a cost of at least £1,000. No depreciation is provided on freehold land and buildings and depreciation on equipment and fixtures is charged at 20%.

f) *Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year*

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

g) *Grants payable*

Grants payable are only recognised in the accounts when a committment has been made and if conditions are attached to a grant or donation which requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained the recognition of expenditure is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Church and it is probable that they they will be fulfilled.

h) *Financial instruments*

The Church only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments, all of which are measured at transaction value.

2 Incoming Resources from:

a) Donations, pledges & grants	General Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Offerings	78,044	-	-	78,044	81,678
Donations & other income	8,133	-		8,133	7,016
Tax recovered under Gift Aid	24,449	-		24,449	17,554
Spurgeons	-	-	1,319	1,319	-
B.M.S./ Home Mission Boxes	-	-	228	228	385
Open Doors	-	-	322	322	-
In memorium	207	-		207	50
	110,833	-	1,869	112,702	106,682

Income of £2,270 from donations, pledges and grants in 2024 was restricted.

2 **Incoming Resources from (continued):**	General Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
b) Church activities					
Rent for use of halls	13,039	-	-	13,039	12,669
Coffee mornings	-	-	-	-	-
Small fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral event & Church trips	1,189	-	-	1,189	-
	14,228	-	-	14,228	12,669

There was no restricted income from church activities in 2024.

c) Investments					
Bank & other interest	892	-	-	892	1,413
HSBC Compensation	-	-	-	-	-
	892	-	-	892	1,413

There was no restricted income from investments in 2024.

3 **Expenditure on:**	General Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities:					
Spurgeons childcare	-	-	-	-	-
B.M.S. World Mission	5,632	-	-	5,632	4,975
E.M.B.A.	5,632	-	224	5,856	4,975
Churches Together	214	-	-	214	422
	11,478	-	224	11,702	10,372
Church activities & administration:					
Upkeep & renovation of premises	21,521	-	-	21,521	52,491
Ministry	32,446	180	-	32,626	31,759
Manse expenses	4,423	-	-	4,423	6,124
Focus group	-	30	-	30	140
Administration expenses	34,085	-	-	34,085	30,300
Activity expenses	2,058	100		2,158	1,981
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	229
Governance costs (note 4)	2,251	-	-	2,251	2,275
	96,784	310	-	97,094	125,300

Expenditure in 2024 included the following amounts attributable to restricted funds, Church administration £1,200.

4 Governance Costs

	General Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Independent examiner's remuneration	1,560	-	-	1,560	1,500
Leadership training	691	-	-	691	775
	2,251	-	-	2,251	2,275

5 Independent Examiner's Remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration consisted of an independent examination fee of £1,560 (2024: £1,500).

6 Trustees and Key Management Personnel Remuneration and Expenses

Reverend C.S. Brown, a trustee, has received a stipend for his employment as minister rather than as a trustee which is included in the figures at Note 7. In addition the minister and one other Trustees received reimbursed expenses totalling £2,174 (2024:£4,468). These expenses were for ministry, church activities, equipment & fixtures, travel, property maintenance, courses and training, stationery and gifts.

The Church considers that it has no key management personnel other than the Trustees themselves.

7 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross wages, stipend and self-employed	46,828	41,173
Employer's National Insurance costs	-	-
Pension costs	3,830	3,671
	50,657	44,844

The average number of employees for the year is 3 (2024: 3) plus self-employed 2 (2024: 2)

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Properties £	Fixtures & Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2025	1,200,000	7,946	1,207,946
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	1,200,000	7,946	1,207,946
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	-	7,946	7,946
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Written off on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	-	7,946	7,946
Net book value			
At 31 December 2025	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
At 1 January 2025	1,200,000	-	1,200,000

The freehold properties comprise the Church land and buildings and the Manse land and buildings. These properties were revalued for insurance purposes on 31 December 2006 and this valuation (Church £950,000, Manse £250,000) was taken as deemed cost on transition to SORP (FRS 102) on 1 January 2015, there are no subsequent additions. The original cost of the Church land and buildings was £4,500. The Church was valued for insurance purposes in March 2022 and its rebuild value including contents was £3,243,613.

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepaid expenses	2,944	4,274
Accrued income	-	-
Other debtors:		
Hall rents	606	1,766
	3,550	6,040

10 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank & Building Society accounts	121,330	91,112
	121,330	91,112

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income:		
Independent examination fee	1,560	1,500
Utilities	776	1,140
HMRC	1,141	-
Other creditors	1,317	3,481
Due to BMS/EMBA	12,499	2,470
	17,293	8,591

Market Harborough Baptist Church
Notes to the Accounts
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

12 Movement of Funds

	Balances at 1 Jan 2025 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers & Revaluations £	Balances at 31 Dec 2025 £
Restricted Funds					
Building Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Specific causes	1,070	1,869	(224)	-	2,715
	1,070	1,869	(224)	-	2,715
Unrestricted Funds (Designated)					
Church Land & Buildings	950,000	-	-	-	950,000
Manse	250,000	-	-	-	250,000
Focus group	90	-	(30)		60
Ministry Walton	41,745	-	(280)	-	41,465
	1,241,835	-	(310)	-	1,241,525
Unrestricted Funds (General)					
Unrestricted Funds	45,656	125,953	(108,262)	-	63,347
	45,656	125,953	(108,262)	-	63,347
Unrestricted Funds (Total)	1,287,491	125,953	(108,572)	-	1,304,872
TOTAL FUNDS	1,288,561	127,822	(108,796)	-	1,307,587

Restricted Funds are funds that can only be expended on the restricted purposes intended by the donor. The only material restricted fund is the Building Reserve for the renovation and upkeep of the Church buildings

Designated Funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees have set aside for a specific purpose. Material designated funds are as follows:

Church Land & Buildings and Manse are designated as they are funds invested in the fabric of the actual buildings

Ministry Walton fund is designated for ministry purposes from monies transferred from Walton Baptist Chapel on its closure.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which may be used by the Church for furtherance of its objectives

12 Movement of Funds (continued)

The movements in funds for the previous financial year were as follows:

	Balances at 1 Jan 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers & Revaluations £	Balances at 31 Dec 2024 £
Restricted Funds					
Building Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Specific causes	-	2,270	(1,200)	-	1,070
	-	2,270	(1,200)	-	1,070
Unrestricted Funds (Designated)					
Church Land & Buildings	950,000	-	-	-	950,000
Manse	250,000	-	-	-	250,000
Focus group	230	-	(140)		90
Ministry Walton	42,926	-	(1,181)	-	41,745
	1,243,156	-	(1,321)	-	1,241,835
Unrestricted Funds (General)					
General Fund	60,313	118,494	(133,151)	-	45,656
	60,313	118,494	(133,151)	-	45,656
Unrestricted Funds (Total)	1,303,469	118,494	(134,472)	-	1,287,491
TOTAL FUNDS	1,303,469	120,764	(135,672)	-	1,288,561

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
Bank balances	2,715	41,525	77,090	121,330
Debtors	-	-	3,550	3,550
Creditors	-	-	(17,293)	(17,293)
	2,715	1,241,525	63,347	1,307,587

The analysis of net assets between funds for the previous year was as follows:

	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
Bank balances	1,070	41,835	48,207	91,112
Debtors	-	-	6,040	6,040
Creditors	-	-	(8,591)	(8,591)
	1,070	1,241,835	45,656	1,288,561

13 Related party transactions

Trustees of the Church made donations during the year totalling £10,741 without any conditions attached.