Melbourn Baptist Church
Cambridgeshire

Zion Baptist Church Melbourn CIO – reg. charity 1164945

Melbourn Baptist Church
2025 Annual Report for the Charities Commission

Introduction

The past year has been exciting for Melbourn Baptist Church (MBC) as we were once again involved in a variety of different activities both in the church and the wider community.

On Good Friday, after our service, we held a community event which the whole community was welcome to. We have also run the CAP Money Coaching course, we took part in the village Fete in June, a 'science themed' summer holiday club, we held our annual Light Party in October, have had a trial run of Christianity Explored within a homegroup, ran multiple Ignite! sessions, and again hosted the local primary school for their Carol Service in December. We continue to regularly serve our community weekly through our Toddlers Plus, Coffee Break and Craft groups.

Worship and Prayer

Over the year we had a variety of different themes running through the services which were themed: Fruit (Fruit of the Sprit), Rescuers (Women In The Bible), Names Of God, Live Life Differently (Galatians), The Gift (Advent and Christmas) and in 2026 we have started with The Big Picture (an overview of The Bible) and our all age services How We Pray – around the Lord's Prayer.

The worship group continues to weekly lead the church in praise of our Lord, meeting regularly to practice, seek his guidance & learn new songs. This year saw a collaboration with the group & the church choir to perform a song during the Christmas celebrations.

We are privileged to have four worship leaders, each bringing their own different styles into the weekly service.

During the Easter week we had a focussed 'Week of Prayer' with prayer meetings available online and in person each day. We continue to meet online weekly, and once a month together at the church, for the purpose of prayer, both local and international.

Sunday School

During 2025, Sunday School continued to meet most Sunday mornings, with the children and young people joining the first part of the service, before moving into their groups. On the first Sunday of each month, we normally held an all-age service where the children participated in the whole service. Our Sunday School also prepared and led a Nativity service, which took place in December, as part of our Christmas services.

There were two age groups covering roughly ages 3-9 and ages 10-14. Our older young people are encouraged to remain in the main service, and are also invited to our Grid group on a Sunday evening for

those in Year 7 upwards. Some of our young people also take on roles within the main service, such as operating the screens.

The group leaders have continued to use the online resource "Energize" to prepare our sessions. Our themes this year have been: Old Testament Characters, New Testament Characters, and Living Like Jesus. Our sessions include games, video clips, craft and music to support Bible teaching and how we can apply this to our lives. During 2025, we have had about 12 children regularly attending our Sunday School, and we have a team of 12 volunteers from within the church who lead and assist with the groups.

The Grid

The Grid is our youth group, formed of young people aged between 11 and 18. We meet on Sunday evenings at the church and attendance ranges from between 8 and 12 youth each meeting. The evenings involve a mixture of relaxing and connecting with friends and playing games, moving on to a more structured time of learning and reflection based around a theme. We cover topics based around Christian values and lifestyle, unpacking life's big issues such as wellbeing, contentment, money and making good decisions. We source most content from the online platform Energize (Urban Saints), but have also used material from CAP, 365 Prayer and a youth version of Christianity Explored. We continue to make good use of the smart screen that enables us to share slides, films and facilitate brainstorming more easily. We will often share refreshments which are always received well. The evenings will regularly involve looking up bible passages and use of worship videos for a time of prayer and reflection. Most of the youth attend church, some at Melbourn and others elsewhere, and for some of our young people this is their main connection with church.

We are connected with the local charity WCCYM (West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries), offering a range of activities including youth services, discipleship groups, social events and trips away. We encourage the young people to attend these well organised events, to widen their social and spiritual network. A number of the youth have become quite involved in these. A highlight being the summer camp, Satellites, held at Shepton Mallett, where they spend quality time with their friends to explore faith issues, enjoy large scale worship and have a lot of freedom in a safe space away from home. There is an option to volunteer at this for the over 16s, serving in a wide variety of locations. One of our youth worked on the milkshake bar completing 4-hour shifts each day, and spending the remainder of their time with their friends. Additionally, through friends made at WCCYM, some of the youth were very keen to attend the Big Church festival, which they attended with their parents and are booked to attend again this year.

It is important to keep relevant to be able to connect with young people. We really feel led to invest in this age group, to make them feel valued and to help close generational differences. Please continue to pray for the group. We are always looking for people to join the team. Please also pray for the impact we have and visibility, that we can extend to reach the community and that young people feel welcome and comfortable to join.

Pastoral Report

Our team consists of five people including a married couple and with our Joint Pastors also on hand, it does mean that personal prayer can be available for people of either gender. As always, though, we encourage Pastoral care and support wherever possible, through our Housegroups whenever possible, but we can help those who for whatever reason, do not currently belong to a specific home group or

where extra help is needed. We also operate through a confidential WhatsApp prayer link and people can and do, request prayer that way, too.

We occasionally meet up as a group in person too; for encouragement, to share prayers and answers and to pray for our Church in general. It is over two years now since the Pastoral team was re- formed, in the light of our then-Minister's call elsewhere and with an Interregnum coming along. Now we can continue to seek help for our church family and it is a privilege to do so.

Home Groups

Home groups continue to be an important part of the life of Melbourn Baptist Church. Their purpose is to provide an opportunity to link with others in friendship and fellowship more closely than in the main Sunday meeting. Typically, a group would have a social time, a time to study the bible and a time to pray for one another.

We have groups meeting in different locations across the area and most meet in the evening, with one meeting during the day; most meet each week. A majority of those who come to the church are linked to a home group, but we also have some coming along who are not otherwise linked to the church. People who are part of the church are encouraged to be part of a home group.

Toddlers

Our toddler group meets on Tuesday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 in term time and is open to any accompanied 0-4 year olds. In addition to offering a wide variety of toys and larger play equipment for free play we all join together half way through the morning for the children to have a snack and drink, listen to a Bible story and join in with action songs. After this a craft activity related to the story is available in addition to the free play activities. Tea and coffee is available throughout the morning for adults. We have a number of regular children with their parent or grandparent and average 15 children each week. Many friendships have been formed at the group. We also welcome a group of childminders once or twice a term which swells our numbers.

Coffee Break

Here at MBC we have enjoyed another year of coffee and chat on Wednesday mornings, mostly in term times for the best part of 20 years.

However, we still seem to fill a niche for the folk who come along which makes it worthwhile. Most attend weekly. We open at 10.30 am and continue (officially) until Noon, however it is not unusual for conversation to continue for a further hour or so! Those who come along are from the community around us, with a few from the Church, including our Pastor, Rob, whenever he can. This is especially good as we do have a couple of male regulars. Unfortunately, the acoustic quality of our the current 'coffee lounge' can be a challenge, but we manage- conversation flows well, and we now look forward to change for the better in that area!

Craft Group

The craft group meets in the church hall each Wednesday morning during term time from 9:30 – 12 noon. We share skills and learn new ones which have included various paper crafts, silk painting, clay work, mosaic, needle felting, and much more. Our primary focus continues to be friendship and mutual support. We have a mix of church and non-church people who join us with up to 12 people attending each week. We are a sociable and supportive group and keep in touch with each other via WhatsApp,

where we often share our efforts with those who are unable to be there. The materials are funded through a £1 a week donation. Whenever possible we supply cards to the charity card stand in the coffee lounge with the funds going to Christ's Hope International.

'External' Mission

Our support for mission beyond our church continues with prayer and giving for our BMS partners and Baptist Home Mission. In July we were visited by partners who we have been linked with for many years, and heard about their work with BMS in France. We once again sent a large number of 'shoe boxes' as part of Operation Christmas Child. In March, representatives from "Giving Hope to Turkey", came to the church to tell us about their work in Turkey; they provide prayer letters for us to support the work they do in Turkey.

New Hall

Over the past 12 months there has been significant progress to commencing the new hall and coffee lounge building work. We have taken on a new architect and chosen our builder. We have also begun the process as a church of being build ready: putting in place all the practical and administration jobs required to be ready for the start of the build.

Lots of people have also taken part in fund raising events over the past 12 months: Spring into Spring; filling Smarties tubes with 20ps; the bike 'Ride to the Coast'; and the pancake party. Thanks to everyone who took part in these or donated to the project via these events or separately. Through sponsorship, and giving in other ways, in the last year we raised an amazing £17,000 towards the project.

Let us commit to praying that in the Lord's timing we are ready to commence and that once completed the new facilities will be used to build His Kingdom.

Statistics – Membership, Fellowship and Trustees

At the end of 2025, there were 60 church members. We had a typical Sunday service attendance of around 60-70 people.

We are also in regular contact with many people throughout the week: approximately 90 adults (through House Groups, Coffee Break, Craft Group, Toddler Group), 16 young people aged 11-17 (through Sunday School and Grid), and around 30 children aged 0-11 (through Sunday School and Toddler Group).

At the end of 2025, we had 10 charity trustees (including our ministers).

Closing Comments

We would like to pass on a big thank you to everyone who contributes to our church in anyway, whether listed here or not, whether the work obviously visible or not. Our church is a body which can only function fully, when built on Christ, we all play our part. We once again thank you all.

Charity Name	No (if any)
Zion Baptist Church Melbourn	1164945

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General fund	76,347	-	-	76,347	60,611
Fabric fund	-	17,065	-	17,065	34,058
Sponsorship fund	-	-	-	-	-
Soul Survivor	-	-	-	-	-
Church weekend	-	-	-	-	-
Christ's Hope International	-	999	-	999	783
Activities	80		-	80	192
HMRC Gift Aid	15,770	1,155	-	16,925	19,047
Other income	84	2,497	-	2,581	11,869
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	92,282	21,716	-	113,998	126,560
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	92,282	21,716	-	113,998	126,560
A3 Payments					
Ministry Expenses	57,109	-	-	57,109	34,306
Manse Expenses	6,466	-	-	6,466	14,548
Church Expenses	21,088	2,408	-	23,496	21,551
Charitable Donations	7,828	1,521	-	9,349	7,953
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	92,490	3,929	-	96,419	78,358
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	92,490	3,929	-	96,419	78,358
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 209	17,788	-	17,579	48,202
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	89,533	261,093	-	350,626	302,424
Cash funds this year end	89,324	278,881	-	368,205	350,626

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	General Fund	89,324	-	-
	Fabric fund	-	276,415	-
	Other restricted funds	-	2,466	-
	Total cash funds	89,324	278,881	-

B2 Other monetary assets

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Church property (Donated during the year) Independent valuation		-	2,893,800
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	C R SIMS	24/3/26
	L HORDEN	24/3/26

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Zion Baptist Church Melbourn		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1164945
Set out on pages	1 and 2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 16th March 2026

Name: Rachel Jelley

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): The Association of Accounting Technicians

Address: 2 Titchmarsh Close
Royston

Herts SG8 5DD

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	The church property at Mortlock Street, Melbourn, Royston, Herts was independently valued by a qualified surveyor on 04/02/2026. The valuation was prepared on the basis of existing use as a place of worship and is included in the financial statements for disclosure purposes