ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR

Ampthill Baptist Church (CIO)

(Registered Charity 1198662)

For the year

January 1st, 2025 to December 31st, 2025

(unaudited)

AMPTHILL BAPTIST CHURCH
ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

STATUS

Ampthill Baptist Church is a registered charity (Charity Number 1198662). Registration was approved by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in April 2022.

This report is produced in accordance with the Accounting Requirements made under the Charities Act 2011 and the financial statements are produced to conform to Charities SORP FRS102 2019 recommendations.

CHURCH ADDRESS

Ampthill Baptist Church
Dunstable Street
Ampthill
Bedford
MK45 2JS

TRUSTEES

Rev'd Dr Andrew Goldsmith	Lead Pastor
Rev'd Maria E Abdon Shortley (until May 2025)	Associate Pastor
Mrs Claudia Tyson	Church Secretary
Mr Simon Herbert (until 18 March 2025)	Church Treasurer
Mr Craig Christie (from 18 March 2025)	Deacon
Mr Ben Gray	Deacon
Mrs Janice Evans	Deacon
Mr Simon Miller-Cranko (until 18 March 2025)	Deacon
Mr Jack Moore	Deacon
Mrs Catherine Sleight	Deacon
Miss Martha Spencer	Deacon
Mr Paul Spencer	Deacon
Mr Tony Royston	Deacon

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Joanna Jameson
Jameson Accounting Services Ltd
87 Hillesden Avenue
Elstow
Bedford
MK42 9AJ

BANK

Co-operative Bank
Skelmersdale

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CHARITABLE OBJECT

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in Ampthill and the surrounding area, but also throughout the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world. The Church mission statement is "Helping people meet Jesus Christ and become his fully devoted followers".

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity FRS 102.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The Church means members of the charitable incorporated association governed by the constitution and known as AMPTHILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

Members of the Church are admitted in accordance with the Church Constitution which requires them to publicly profess faith in Jesus Christ and accept the beliefs of the Church. Members commit themselves to serving Christ in the Church and beyond, abiding by the decisions of the Church Meeting and acknowledging their responsibilities as Church Members as required by the Church Constitution. The Church Members' Meeting shall be held not less than four times a year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. The Church Meeting appoints, by secret ballot, the Minister(s) (stipendiary and non-stipendiary), Church Secretary, Church Treasurer and up to 13 Deacons who together are the Charity Trustees. Special Church Members' Meetings are called to appoint Ministers and to decide on matters relating to the change in the building or the land owned by the Church. The Officers and Trustees/Deacons are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. New Trustees are given written advice produced by the Lead Pastor, the Baptist Union Corporation and the Chairty Commission to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the Church operates and also details of Trusteeship and disqualification from being a Trustee as provided by the Charity Commission. They are asked to sign to declare that they are a 'fit and proper person' for the post of Trustee. They are also DBS checked.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objectives. Proposals are submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for approval or may be raised by members in the Church Meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. The Constitution requires decisions to be made by the Church Meeting by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus whenever possible.

Ampthill Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Central Baptist Association and the Evangelical Alliance and has long-standing relationships with a number of Christian organizations that pursue similar objectives in the UK and overseas.

The Church works with Baptist Union Home Mission in assisting other churches and may receive voluntary help itself where needed. During the year, donations have been made to help the objectives which can best be done on a larger scale than Ampthill Baptist Church could do independently.

The Church employs a Lead Pastor, an Associate Pastor (Discipleship) (until May 2025), and a part-time Pastoral Support Assistant. In addition, the church worked in collaboration with Young Life International to employ a Youth Worker until August 2025. These, together with a Seniors' Ministry Co-ordinator form the pastoral team and provide oversight and all-round pastoral care for those in the fellowship and those connected with the Church. The church also employs a full time Operations Manager to support the ministry of the church alongside the part-time Administrator and part-time Caretaker (until Sept 2025). It is seen however as the work of every member of the church fellowship, whether employed or not, to make a difference in the Church and help it to achieve its objectives. The trustees acknowledge that the activities of the church can only go ahead with the voluntary engagement and work of members of the congregation and thank everyone who willingly gave their time and efforts. The financial resources of the Church are given by the congregation, and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the Church.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2025

The trustees have noted their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and are committed to ensuring that all activities of the Church are well publicised and open to the public. Activities are published on the church website.

The Church is not a building but a body of people. During the year, we were encouraged by the baptisms of eight members of the congregation. Membership saw changes with seven new members welcomed; the deaths of four members and six members resigning or being removed as they have moved away or joined other churches. This resulted in a total of 136 members at the end of the year. We mourned with those connected to the fellowship who lost loved ones, holding several funerals in the church, and we celebrated the marriages of others, including one wedding in the church.

The trustees have met monthly to consider our direction, priorities, activities, finances and policies. In addition, they spent two part days of deeper consideration, continuing work commenced in 2024, to establish a strategic way of working towards a new vision for the church for the next few years. This being that "Everyone who lives, learns, works, plays, or spends in Ampthill will have the opportunity to become a follower of Jesus". This was shared with the membership in January and the wider church subsequently. There have been bi-monthly meetings of the Church Members when there has been wider consideration of matters, and decisions made concerning the Church, including the recruitment of a new paid role of Children & Youth Ministry lead. This also creates a forum for sharing updates on all that is happening within the Church.

Throughout the year the life of the Church was demonstrated in ongoing activities aiming to meet the discipling and fellowship needs of the church congregation and the desire to reach

out to our local community. We have benefitted from continued clear biblical teaching by a team of preachers at Sunday services. Sunday morning sermon series included considering the books of Luke, 1 John, Joshua and Jeremiah. Several visiting speakers have also enhanced our learning. Sunday morning services continue to be live-streamed, benefitting those who are unable to get out and about as well as reaching both nationally and internationally. Congregation size has stabilised, but we continue to welcome visitors and new members most Sundays. Lighthouse continues to disciple our children alongside the morning service. In addition, the monthly contemporary style service, The Six Thirty has thrived, welcoming a slightly different congregation including some from other churches who have no evening service. Small groups for all ages continue to meet to study the Bible and pray together as house groups, formation groups and Sunday evening young people's groups. Once again, a short five week course in the Spring entitled Encourage and Equip did just that for a good number of people who attended. Additionally, this year on two Saturday mornings there was a new initiative – Digging Deeper - which allowed consideration of Who is God? and Jeremiah - the prophet

The Church took many opportunities to connect with our local community through the year aiming to introduce people to Jesus and serve them as Jesus would. An Alpha course welcomed around 30 people, Renew Wellbeing provides a weekly safe space for all to 'be OK or not be OK' throughout the year. A seven-week Bereavement Journey course provided opportunity for those from the local community as well as in the church to share together and work through issues surrounding bereavement. Monthly visits to Richmond Manor Care Home continue and we were invited to lead carol singing at Lavender Court. Fellowship Lunch and Tea@2, both monthly events as well as Holiday at Home week in the summer, saw 60 to 80 seniors in the building for food, both physical and spiritual, and friendship. Additionally Hymns of Praise was started. Held monthly this sees mostly seniors meeting to sing older hymns, share testimonies of God at work in their lives and hear a gospel message. Similarly, Women Unlimited, Bubbles group for widows, Men's Breakfast and Pub nights along with monthly Quiz or Games Cafe gave a chance to invite friends along to meet and enjoy time together.

On Palm Sunday we opened the Kings Arms community Garden to provide a place for reflection on the events of Holy Week. In July ABC bakers supplied cakes for the volunteers working at the Big Tent Event in Ampthill and subsequently were asked to support the Ampthill Cultural Events Ampthill Recitals autumn series in a similar way. On a sunny Sunday afternoon in late summer a small team were a presence in Ampthill Park, engaging people in conversations, inviting them to church and offering to pray for them. In October five 'Big Questions' sessions were held at Find café in the town centre when talks and discussions were well attended; a significant number of attendees had no previous relationship with the church. In November, ABC were once again asked to provide hospitality, including homemade bakes and drinks, to those with reduced mobility and special needs who were attending the Ampthill Fireworks event. Christmas gave further opportunities for outreach and in late November we opened the church to provide free hot drinks, mince pies and invitations to our Christmas services to over 400 people passing by on

their way to the Christmas lights switch-on event. Again this year, invitation cards to our Christmas services and events were delivered to all the homes in Ampthill – over 3000 - alongside social media advertisements. We were thrilled to see the church filled twice on the Sunday evening before Christmas for traditional carol services and many of those attending both these and other Christmas events, were visitors coming in response to the invitations. Other opportunities to engage with the community were Carols at the Pub – an evening at The Albion pub singing carols and reading the Christmas story, wrapped gifts containing copies of Why Christmas, invitations to Alpha course 2026 and a chocolate bar were given to around 250 visitors to the church, and One Big Christmas welcomed 28 guests on Christmas Day for full dinner, games etc.

Our events for children and families included Messy Church once a quarter including specific events for Easter and Christmas; also, Coffee Stop continued to provide a weekly term-time drop in for pre-schoolers and their carers. Members of the church regularly took 'Open The Book' to Russell School assemblies and a special 'Easter in a Box' event was also taken to the school. Additionally, Russell School came to ABC for their Harvest Festival assembly and our Lead Pastor Andrew, attended The Firs Lower School to lead their Harvest Festival. Friday Club and Open House continue to provide activity for middle and upper school aged children. Once again, our 'new to university' young people received encouragement from messages, goodies and a visit in their first term, while a young adults' group providing support and fellowship continues to thrive.

Many of these activities depend on our facilities as well as personnel. We are very grateful to Central Bedfordshire Council for choosing the Church to receive a further grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the purpose of shoring up the corner of the building which was found to be unstable and damp. The work to build support buttresses and reorganise drainage was completed in the summer.

We have maintained our relationships with the wider church, taking part in the ecumenical activities of the town including services and community activity. We also continue to support our twin church family – Shefar'am Baptist Church in Israel and our worldwide mission partners – BMS World Mission workers in Bangladesh, MAF workers in South Sudan, community and mission workers in India, a Fusion worker in the midlands/north of England universities, Impact schools' workers in Bedford and district. The congregation members give food gifts to a collection for the NEED local food bank each month and our Harvest service donations also went to NEED.

All this work is only possible by the grace of God and we turn to him in prayer at every opportunity. Specific times were set aside for monthly Prayer Central when all were invited to pray for different aspects of church life. Monthly prayer breakfasts continued throughout the year and the fortnightly prayer meeting for children and young people also. It is only by God's strength that we can fulfil our purpose as a Church.

FINANCE REVIEW

We remain very grateful to our faithful members and supporters as without this on-going support we would not be able to continue to function as a Church and see the ongoing impact in our community. Income was £300.3k (2024: £281k) and expenses were £281k (2024: £294.7k).

We are pleased to report that at the end of the year, total funds stood at £858.8k (2024 £839.5k), of which £143.6k (2024: £121.9k) was in unrestricted general & fabric funds.

Full details of the financial activities are given in the attached financial statements.

RESERVES

The Trustees have set a minimum free general reserves limit of between 90 and 180 days' current year cash expenses. At the end of the period, reserves stood at £143.6k. (2024 £121.9k)

INVESTMENTS

Any short-term surplus cash is invested in interest bearing accounts. This is reviewed by the Trustees.

GRANT-MAKING POLICY

The Trustees consider grants to external organizations and individuals on the basis of need and whether they are in line with the charitable objectives of the Church. There are no upper or lower limits of support but, while some donations from the fellowship are specific, other amounts are ultimately determined by the status of free reserves. The Church Meeting is the final authority for the making of such grants. Grants totalled £34.5K (2024: £32.3k) and are detailed in note 8.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All major insurable risks are covered by the Church and employers' insurance. Contractual risks are reviewed before being entered into, to ensure that they could not significantly impact upon the Church's ability to fulfil its objectives. An annual review of all areas of risk is undertaken by the Trustees in conjunction with responsible staff and volunteers. A financial risk management policy exists and is reviewed annually along with the all-area policy.

FINANCE GROUP

In the absence of an elected Treasurer following the ACMM in March 2025, the Trustees appointed a Finance group in accordance with the Church Constitution, to consider financial matters and advise the Trustees.

SAFEGUARDING

It is a priority for the Church that those attending events and entering the premises are safe. The church operates a safeguarding system to protect children, young people and adults at risk. The Safeguarding Policy is reviewed each year and training sessions are made available for volunteers and leaders of the many activities.

The Safeguarding Trustees and the Designated Person for Safeguarding/Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding are fully aware of referral processes should they be required.

Each year at the Annual General Meeting, the members are made aware that Safeguarding is a collective responsibility for the whole church.

As well as the usual training, other courses attended included Trustee Safeguarding training. Advice from the Baptist Union and 31.8 (regional and national Safeguarding advisors) is received and reviewed regularly.

Risk assessments for all activities are reviewed regularly and revised as required.

The leaders of the various ministries and the members are aware of Natasha's Law and displaying the contents of food items is now second nature in events. Food training and an annual external hygiene check is in place.

We hold basic first aid training and have trained First Aiders on site at our meetings. A Facilities Management Group oversees the safe use of the site, premises and resources.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the association will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom for governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st April 2026

and signed on its behalf by:

Claudia Tyson, Secretary

Simon Herbert, Finance Group member

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AMPTHILL BAPTIST CHURCH

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Ampthill Baptist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's financial statements 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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW).

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Financial statements and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Joanna Jameson

Date: 22 September 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	**Total 2025 £**	*Total 2024 £*
Income:							
Donations and Legacies	2	234,627	3,767	21,661	-	260,054	*234,807*
Grants	3	-	-	22,444	-	22,444	*31,855*
Charitable Activities	4	255	11,983	-	-	12,238	*9,797*
Other Income	5	2,301	1,137	-	-	3,438	*1,746*
Investment Income	6	2,129	-	-	-	2,129	*2,825*
Total Income		**239,311**	**16,887**	**44,105**	**0**	**300,303**	***281,030***
Expenses:							
Charitable Activities	7	169,605	67,514	43,889	-	281,008	*294,746*
Total Expenses		**169,605**	**67,514**	**43,889**	-	**281,008**	***294,746***
Net income/(expense)		**69,706**	**(50,627)**	**216**	**0**	**19,295**	***(13,716)***
Transfers between funds	12	(48,091)	47,020	1,071	-	0	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension	10	12	-	-	-	12	*12*
Net movement in funds		**21,627**	**(3,607)**	**1,287**	**0**	**19,307**	***(13,704)***
Total Funds brought forward		121,922	5,836	11,818	700,000	839,576	*853,280*
Total Funds carried forward		**143,549**	**2,229**	**13,105**	**700,000**	**858,883**	***839,576***

All gains and losses have been recognised in the statement above. A detailed prior year comparison is included in note 16.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

	Note	December 31st, 2025 £	£	December 31st, 2024 £	£
Fixed Assets	11		700,000		700,000
Cash in hand and at bank		159,298		142,249	
Gift Aid Claims outstanding		4,691		3,989	
Current Assets		163,989		146,238	
PAYE and NI payable		(2,999)		943	
Other Creditors		(2,101)		(7,587)	
Current Liabilities		(5,100)		(6,644)	
Net Current Assets			158,889		139,594
Long term liabilities - Pension			(6)		(18)
Total Net Assets			**858,883**		**839,576**
Unrestricted Funds			143,549		121,922
Designated Funds			2,229		5,836
Restricted Funds			13,105		11,818
Endowment Funds			700,000		700,000
Total Funds			**858,883**		**839,576**

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

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 2019)', 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.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern with unrestricted income continuing to exceed our expenditure together with our flexibility to reduce optional expenditure should the need arise.

b. Donations & Room Hire Fees

Donations are accounted for gross when received. The limited income from room hire fees are accounted for in the year the hire occurred.

c. Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

d. Investment income

The only investments are bank accounts and the Baptist Union Loan Fund. Interest from these accounts is shown separately.

e. Fund raising and publicity costs

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

f. Donations payable

The Church makes grants (donations) to other organisations whose charitable objectives complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid.

g. Governance costs

This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the church. Historically, the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. During 2024, owing to the increased complexity of managing the church, a full time Operations Manager was employed as salaried staff. The costs related to this are included under the staff costs in both notes 7 and 9.

h. Fixed Assets

The Church Property and the Manse are valued at Market Value.

The policy is to revalue the Church & Manse every 5 years.

All other Fixed Assets (Equipment and Furnishings) are expensed in the year they are purchased.

i. Depreciation

The two church properties have now been revalued to fair market price. The land and buildings are not depreciated because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the last revalued amount.

All other Fixed Assets are expensed in the year of purchase.

j. Gift Aid income

Gift Aid is recognised in the accounts as income in the same period as qualifying donations.

k. Designated, Unrestricted, Restricted and Endowment Funds

Designated funds are those received for use on specified purposes. Expenditure which meets those criteria are allocated to that fund. Unrestricted funds are those received or generated that can be used on the general aims of the Church.

Restricted Funds are those where there are special conditions on how the monies can be used. Endowment funds hold the values of the Church building and the Manse, where there are restrictions on the use of the capital should the property be sold.

l. Reserves policy

It is the policy of the church to hold a minimum reserve against the Unrestricted funds equivalent to at least three months General Fund expenditure.

m. Fund Transfers

Transfers between Unrestricted General Fund and Designated Funds are used to ensure funds are available for and ring fenced for Trustee approved Mission Grant policies, also used to subsidise the income from Holding Fund church activities

n. Legally, Ampthill Baptist Church is a Charitable Incorporated Association.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Congregational Giving	213,925	196,883
Gift Aid	46,129	37,924
	260,054	234,807

3. Grants

	2025 £	2024 £
Grant for Building Works	22,444	31,855

The Church gratefully acknowledges the support of Central Bedfordshire in 2025 for funding towards essential structural work on the church building, which sits in the conservation area of Ampthill.

4. Income From Charitable Activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Events, Activities, Book Sales	12,238	9,797

5. Other Income

	2025 £	2024 £
Room Hire	1,311	948
Other Income	2,127	798
	3,438	1,746

6. Investment Income

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Interest	2,129	2,825

7. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	*Unrestricted Funds £*	*Designated Funds £*	*Restricted Funds £*	*Total 2024 £*
Staff Costs and Expenses	121,643	82	-	121,725	*116,899*	*28,671*	-	*145,570*
Fellowship Costs	8,995	39,609	317	48,921	*5,844*	*14,814*	*551*	*21,209*
Administration	13,342	60	-	13,402	*14,983*	*94*	-	*15,077*
Building Costs	25,625	148	38,390	64,163	*32,677*	*73*	*41,436*	*74,186*
Equipment	-	-	-	-	*2,121*	*1,644*	*449*	*4,214*
Grants	-	27,615	5,182	32,797	-	*30,020*	*4,470*	*34,490*
	169,605	67,514	43,889	281,008	*172,524*	*75,316*	*46,906*	*294,746*

8. Grants

	2025 £	2024 £
Association of Baptist Churches in Isreal	5,505	1,182
Bedford Area Schools Christian Trust	4,200	4,200
BMS World Mission	8,250	8,485
Central Baptist Association	2,500	7,000
Fusion	960	960
Hope & Future	-	2,231
Mission Aviation Fellowship	5,000	5,000
Rebecca Langley	-	775
SERV Herts	-	1,057
Shefford Baptist	1,000	3,500
Wilberforce Academy	-	100
Wycliffe Bible Translators	200	-
Cancer Research (UK)	981	-
Leprosy Mission	1,059	-
Saturday Outreach Service	1,180	-
Embrace (Bedford)	981	-
CURE (Uganda)	981	-
	32,797	**34,490**

All grants were made in accordance with the policy noted on page 13, and all were made to organisations rather than individuals.

9. Staff Costs	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries	106,569	98,682
National Insurance	2,125	2,974
Pension Costs	7,577	9,413
Manse Utility Costs	4,606	4,685
Pension Deficit Payments	12	10
	120,889	**115,764**

At the end of the year, the church had 1 paid office holder and 3 employees (2024: 2 and 3). Namely, the Lead Pastor, a full time Operations Manager, a part time Pastoral Support Assistant and a part time Church Administrator. No member of staff received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2024 none).

National Insurance costs are shown net of the NI Rebate of £9,353 (2024: £5,000).

One Trustee, the Senior Pastor (Andrew Goldsmith) who is also an employee lived in a house owned by the church.

No sums were reimbursed to the Trustees for their work as Trustees (2024 none).

As employees of the charity Revd Andrew Goldsmith was paid a stipend and reimbursed for day-to-day expenses totalling £848 (2024 £1,307) for training, books and travel expenses.

The church pays pension contributions for its Lead Pastor and Operations Manager to "The Baptist Pension Scheme" which is a defined contribution scheme which started in January 2012. The church contributions to this scheme are shown above.

10. Pensions

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited).

The Minister and some members of the church staff are eligible to join the Scheme.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million.

In July 2022, the Scheme announced that they had signed an agreement with the insurance company JustGroup ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan.

The costs of such policies are largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee have agreed that deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022.

Under FRS 102 we are required to value the pension deficit. The Trustee and the Baptist Union have agreed that Debt Reduction Contributions (DRC) will reduce to £1 per month for each employer from the August 2022 payment until June 2026. Currently, they do not anticipate reinstating the requirement to pay full DRCs in the future but we cannot rule that out at this stage. Participating employers remain responsible for providing a share of any additional funds that the DB Plan may require in future. Based on this, we have revalued our pension provision to £6 (2024 £18).

During the year, the church paid £12 (2024: £10) in Debt Reduction Contributions, and £9,413 (2023: £8,553) in contributions to the Defined Contribution Scheme.

11. Fixed Assets	Church	Manse	Total
	£	£	£
Cost b/fwd Jan 1st, 2025	275,000	425,000	700,000
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Cost c/fwd Dec 31st, 2025	275,000	425,000	700,000
Depreciation b/fwd Jan 1st, 2025	-	-	-
Charge in year	-	-	-
Released	-	-	-
Depreciation c/fwd Dec 31st, 2025	-	-	-
Net Book Value at 31st Dec 2025	275,000	425,000	700,000
Net Book Value at 31st Dec 2024	275,000	425,000	700,000

All assets are held and used for the charitable purposes of the church.

12. Analysis of Income and Expense by Fund

	Balance at 1st Jan 2025	Income	Expense	Net Movt	Transfers	Re-valuation of Provision	Balance at 31st Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	120,498	239,311	166,640	72,671	(49,632)	12	143,549
Fabric Fund	1,424	-	2,965	(2,965)	1,541	-	-
Total Unrestricted Fund	121,922	239,311	169,605	69,706	(48,091)	12	143,549
Board Game Café	519	303	75	228	(747)	-	(0)
Book Stall	0	66	154	(88)	88	-	0
Children and Youth	(0)	4,516	32,136	(27,620)	27,620	-	0
Coffee Stop	399	710	309	401	(800)	-	(0)
Fellowship Lunch	594	-	-	-	-	-	594
Flower Arranging	270	715	683	32	-	-	302
Holiday at Home	375	2,900	2,815	85	(460)	-	(0)
Israel Visits	502	-	-	-	(502)	-	-
Churches Together	363	300	330	(30)	-	-	333
Fusion	1,511	-	-	-	(1,511)	-	-
Seniors	0	5,452	3,397	2,055	(1,055)	-	1,000
Mission Grant Fund	1,303	1,925	27,615	(25,690)	24,387	-	(0)
Total Designated Funds	5,836	16,887	67,514	(50,627)	47,020	-	2,229
ABC 200	6,574		-	-	0	-	6,574
Advent Giving	4,922	6,786	5,182	1,604	0	-	6,526
Butress Fund	0	37,069	38,390	(1,321)	1,321	-	(0)
Kitchen Grant	0	250	-	250	(250)	-	0
One Big Christmas	322	-	317	(317)		-	5
Total Restricted Funds	11,818	44,105	43,889	216	1,071	-	13,105
Holburn Trust (Manse)	425,000	-	-	-	-	-	425,000
Fairburn Trust (Church)	275,000	-	-	-	-	-	275,000
Endowment Funds	700,000	-	-	-	-	-	700,000
TOTAL FUNDS	**839,576**	**300,303**	**281,008**	**19,295**	**0**	**12**	**858,883**

Church resources have been allocated to the following funds:

- **General Fund** – unrestricted funds given to further the mission of the church.
- **Fabric Fund** – unrestricted fund held for major repairs to the buildings and equipment. Income is allocated from general fund.
- **Children & Youth** – relates to activities such as youth clubs, camps, outings, celebration events.
- **Coffee Stop** – weekly coffee morning for parents/carers and pre-school age children.
- **Fellowship Lunch** – monthly lunch club and worship service, mainly attend by seniors.
- **Flower Arranging** – activities relating to floral decorations within the church
- **Holiday @ Home** – summer week-long activity for seniors.
- **Israel Visits** – funds to support visits to partner church in Israel.
- **Churches Together** – funds held for ecumenical activity in Ampthill and Flitwick.
- **Fusion** – summer week-long activity for junior school-age children.
- **Mission Funds** – funds used to support partners in national and global mission (see note 8).
- **ABC200** – restricted funds towards the purchase or redevelopment of the church building.

- **Advent Giving** – funds given during the advent season to support specific charities which are chosen each year by the church members.
- **BLFC Grant** – funds given to refurbish the youth hall (Upper Room).
- **Kitchen Grant** – funds given to refurbish the community kitchen
- **Buttress Grant** – funds given to make structural repairs to the church

At the end of the year, transfers have been made between various designated funds to either clear deficit balances in specific funds or to move excess balances from designated funds to the general fund.

13. Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

The fund balances at the end of the period are represented by the following net assets:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**Total 2025**	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Total 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	*£*
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	700,000	**700,000**	-	-	-	700,000	*700,000*
Current Assets	148,654	2,229	13,105	-	**163,989**	128,584	5,836	11,818	-	*146,238*
Current Liabilities	(5,100)	-	-	-	**(5,100)**	(6,644)	-	-	-	*(6,644)*
Provisions	(6)	-	-	-	**(6)**	(18)	-	-	-	*(18)*
Total Funds	**143,549**	**2,229**	**13,105**	**700,000**	**858,883**	**121,922**	**5,836**	**11,818**	**700,000**	**839,576**

14. Related Party Transactions

During the year there were no related party transactions (2024: None)

15. Related Charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Central Baptist Association. The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 8.

16. Prior Year Statement of Financial Activity by Fund

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	*Total 2024 £*
Income:						
Donations and Legacies	2	205,736	20,559	8,512	-	*234,807*
Grants	3	-	-	31,855		*31,855*
Charitable Activities	4	10	9,787	-	-	*9,797*
Other Income	5	1,288	458	-	-	*1,746*
Investment Income	6	2,825	-	-	-	*2,825*
Total Income		**209,859**	**30,804**	**40,367**	-	***281,030***
Expenses:						
Charitable Activities	7	172,524	75,316	46,906	-	*294,746*
Total Expenses		**172,524**	**75,316**	**46,906**	-	***294,746***
Net income/(expense)		**37,335**	**(44,512)**	**(6,539)**	-	***(13,716)***
Transfers between funds	12	(46,668)	41,477	5,191	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension	10	12	-	-	-	*12*
Net movement in funds		**(9,321)**	**(3,035)**	**(1,348)**	-	***(13,704)***
Total Funds brought forward		131,243	8,871	13,166	700,000	*853,280*
Total Funds carried forward		**121,922**	**5,836**	**11,818**	**700,000**	***839,576***

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