

**Annual report of the Trustees of
Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church,
Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen, West Midlands. B63 2HJ**

Year Ending 31 December 2024

Governing Document

The Church is governed by the Trust Deed and its Basis of Faith and Constitution. It is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 518320.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Mr Christopher M Adams
Mr Alan Cutler (Died 21 October 2024)
Mr Wesley R Erpen
Mr Alan J Harborne (Chairman)
Mr Richard J Mansell
Mr Paul D Vanden Branden
Mr Robert J Warner (Treasurer and Secretary)

Trustees are appointed after receiving unanimous approval by the other trustees.

Bankers

HSBC UK Bank plc
31 Church Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY10 2AY

Independent Examiner

Mrs G Morton
11 Abbey Crescent
Halesowen B63 2HP

The aims of the Charity are to provide a meeting place for its members and others who are interested in the Christian faith. We seek to reach out to those in the community with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. A summary of the achievements in these activities is set out below. The Trustees are satisfied that these achievements clearly demonstrate that the Charity has throughout the year fulfilled its responsibility to meet the requirement of providing a Public Benefit and has thereby complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Church is led by Elders and supported by Deacons who are elected by the Church membership in accordance with the constitution. The Church does not employ anyone, all roles are done by volunteers.

There have not been any related party transactions during the year.

The policy of the Trustees is to try and keep at least £1,500 in cash for the General Fund, as reserves for contingencies. In planning for the future we will also need to increase funds for possible building alterations and the employment of a Church Community Outreach Worker or Pastor. During the year this has been maintained and funds retained for the possibility of making improvements to the Church building.

The Church does not have any specific investment powers.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are making sure that there

are sufficient leaders to look after the Church when others are absent or if any should leave. The Elders and Deacons make any needs known at a Church members meeting and nominations are invited. There is also a need to make sure that the various activities are adequately staffed by appropriate volunteers, again requests are made to the Church as the need arises. The Trustees are satisfied that any risks have been mitigated.

Review of Activities and Future Plans

Once again, we can give thanks to God for bringing us through another year and for all that He has done in us and through us on Fatherless Barn estate.

It was very sad to say goodbye to dear Matthew Vangool, one of our members, who went to be with the Lord on 19th January. The church was full for his Thanksgiving Service, and as would be expected, it was a very emotional time. Matthew was loved by all, and he had impacted many people with his clear and constant faith as he faced so many challenges.

It has been encouraging to have one or two other people off the estate attend the church on a Sunday morning fairly regularly. We have also had a family with four children who used to attend FB return for our morning Services. If everyone who sometimes attends church came on the same day, we would easily have over eighty people.

In January we had a Christian comedian, Andy Kind, come and do a Saturday evening 'outreach' event. It was very well attended, and Andy's presentation was well received. It was encouraging to have three people attend who come to the Little Sunbeams on a Wednesday morning.

During the year a young adults meeting started which met on a Friday evening. They have had up to a dozen attend and they have enjoyed the Bible studies, chilling out together, and the regular pizzas!

The 'Encounter Service,' on a Friday evening, has continued throughout the year, and has been appreciated by all those who attend. The numbers have been consistently around forty. The 'Music Group' have done an excellent job in leading the worship for this event as they have at every other Service in the church. Some Sundays there are ten people in the 'Group' and they meet most Monday evenings to prepare for the Sunday.

Our weekend away at the Quinta was well attended. It was great having Andrew and Ruth Garvey Williams join us from Ireland to be our speakers.

We ran a Christianity Explored Course for six weeks. Some weeks they had a dozen people attend which was encouraging. It was a thrill to baptise four young people in September and the church was full. Others who attended the baptism course were considering being baptised.

Following a Members meeting and further discussions in our Elders and Deacons meeting, it was decided that at the moment we wouldn't move ahead with applying for membership of the FIEC. This might change in the future, but we agreed at present to consider becoming a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

Many people who visited the church during the year commented on how fresh the building now looked after the new carpets had been laid, new curtains hung, and the stage removed.

Most of the ministry has once again been delivered by members of our Leadership Team and we have been systematically been going through the Gospel of John. It has also been helpful to have a number of visiting speakers, bringing variety to our Services.

Our '60 Plus' club has continued once a month on a Monday. The team of volunteers do a great job, and they have over twenty older folks attending, all enjoying their meal and time together.

The 'Knit & Natter' group on a Friday morning has seen up to sixteen people attend and everyone enjoys the opportunity of just spending time together. The Ladies Bible study group on a Friday has also continued.

Our children's and youth work has continued, and we are thankful that so many people volunteer either in teaching in Sunday School, helping with JAM Club, or running Ignite, on one occasion sixteen young people went to BCM's Fulfil event in Birmingham. At our JAM Club, the numbers have regularly been around the fifteen mark. Everyone enjoys it including the leaders who love the opportunity of teaching the children the Word of God.

The 'Little Sunbeams,' our parent and toddler group, has continued to run on a Wednesday morning. Some Wednesdays there have been up to twenty-five children and lots of positive conversations take place with the parents. The Christmas Craft Day was the busiest ever with over 150 people passing through the church.

Some of the men of the church once again went to Snowdon for the weekend and as on other occasions had a great time. Some climbed Snowdon and others enjoyed the local amenities, but the highlight was just being together. It was great having some younger men attend. In the autumn, a men's breakfast took place with around twenty-five men attending

Christmas was a busy time. The young people put on their Christmas presentations in the morning Service and our Candlelit Carol Service saw the church more-or-less full, and it was great to have such a clear challenge from our guest speaker.

Our House Groups have continued on a Tuesday evening with a Halesowen and a Stourbridge Group meeting.

Dudley MBC have used the Church for elections, including the General Election. The Church building has also been used a number of times by a local charity 'Freetime' for meetings.

The Church House continues to be occupied by Wesley and Jackie Erpen on a rent free basis.

Church Building

All of the annual checks of the gas appliances, electrical appliances and fixed wiring have been done and are up to date.

The new audio-visual system has made a big difference to our worship.

Outside, work is being done to the grounds at the back of the Church where a new fence is needed and it needs a general 'tidy-up'. On the side, facing the road, the grass is being levelled up to make it usable in the summer months and an area where wedding photos can be taken.

The kitchen is in need of attention and we are looking at updating or relocating it to the rear hall.

Finance

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 have been independently examined. The accounts show a very healthy position. We give thanks again to God for His provision and for all who give to the work of the Church.

Principal Funding Sources

Donations and gifts are our main source of income and we are most appreciative of the continued support of church members and others who give in various ways. We do not make appeals for funding to people outside of Church membership other than through collections made at our Sunday morning family service. We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

Future Plans

Further to our meeting with Paul Mallard about joining the FIEC, after a discussion with the Church membership the leadership of the church agreed that we would not join. It was agreed that we should consider joining the Evangelical Alliance.

Searchlight Theatre Company have been asked to come to us again for a Saturday evening outreach event. Other outreach events such as the breakfasts, will continue.

We are expecting a number of people to be baptised.

We are still keeping in mind the need to keep praying that the Lord will guide us regarding whether we employ a part-time worker or a full-time Pastor.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

On 11/10/25

A J Harborne
.....

Alan J Harborne

Chairman



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

518320

Set out on pages

One to three

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

G Morton

Date:

22 September 2025

Name:

Gillian Morton

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

BOOKKEEPER.

Address:

11 Abbey Crescent

Halesowen

West Midlands B63 2HP

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****INCOME**

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Total Funds 2024</u> £	<u>Total 2023</u> £
Donations and Legacies	33,400	7,591	40,991	28,576
Charitable Activities	0	1,145	1,145	0
Other Income	895	0	895	0
Investments	526	0	526	650
TOTAL INCOME	34,821	8,736	43,557	29,226

EXPENDITURE

Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	43,513	10,192	53,705	62,696
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	43,513	10,192	53,705	62,696

NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE	-8,692	-1,456	-10,148	-33,470
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year	26,510	1,496	28,006	61,476
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	17,818	40	17,858	28,006

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2024

<u>2023</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2024</u>
8,369.19	Offerings & Donations	9,339.50
12,648.00	Gift Aid Donations	20,421.07
4.93	Offertory Box	18.32
3,441.25	HMRC Tax Refund	3,581.25
2,915.03	Gifts for Maintenance Fund	589.65
297.61	Gifts for Missionary Fund	640.75
	Gifts to Missionary Fund for R Gidney Support	40.00
580.00	Gifts for PA Fund	120.00
	60+ Lunch Club	1145.00
	Other Income	895.01
649.68	Interest Received	526.10
320.00	Quinta 2024	<u>6,240.00</u>
<u>29,225.69</u>	Total Income	43,556.65
61,475.91	Opening Balance	<u>28,005.92</u>
<u>90,701.60</u>		<u>71,562.57</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
2,963.58	Gas	1,789.15
1,456.24	Electricity	806.15
186.76	Water Rates - Church	193.34
1,125.00	Insurance - Church	1,140.00
620.00	Speakers Expenses and Gifts	810.00
3,400.00	Gifts to Missionaries	3,300.00
2,760.00	Gifts to Birmingham City Mission	3,720.00
44,024.31	Building Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements	24,007.63
	60+ Group	1,971.93
540.73	Youth Expenses	384.80
145.00	Thirty one eight (Formerly CCPAS)	145.00
252.00	Training	176.15
1,063.41	Outreach Expenses	901.91
820.70	CCLI - Copyright Licence	877.37
200.00	Quinta 2024	7,933.50
611.71	Other Miscellaneous Expenditure	1,079.03
71.20	Bank Charges	76.50
	Legal Expenses	600.00
427.78	Insurance - Church House	455.38
	Water Rates - Church House	1,322.43
396.19	Church House Repairs and Maintenance	300.00
1,631.07	Church House Council Tax	<u>1,714.18</u>
<u>62,695.68</u>	Total Expenditure	53,704.45
<u>28,005.92</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>17,858.12</u>
<u>90,701.60</u>		<u>71,562.57</u>
	Represented By:	
1,507.55	Current Account	512.06
25,725.47	Savings Account	17,285.28
772.90	Cash in Hand	60.78
<u>28,005.92</u>		<u>17,858.12</u>

In addition to the cash balances held above the charity owns the freehold Church buildings and the Church house in the unrestricted fund.

Liabilities

There were no liabilities outstanding at the year end.

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

Restricted Funds

	<u>Missionary</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Maintenance</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>PA Fund</u>	<u>Quinta</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>60+</u> <u>Group</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balances as at 31 December 2023	0	0	580	120	796	1,496
Income for the year	641	590	120	6240	1145	8,736
Expenditure for the year	-601	-590	-700	-6360	-1941	-10,192
Balances as at 31 December 2024	40	0	0	0	0	40

Unrestricted Funds

Balance as at 31 December 2023	26,510
Net movement in year	<u>-8,692</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2024	<u>17,818</u>

Total Funds

Restricted Funds	40
Unrestricted Funds	<u>17,818</u>
	<u>17,858</u>