

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST CHURCH

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 30th September 2024**

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

PURPOSE

The principal purpose of Rathfriland Baptist Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Biblical principles.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on provision of public benefit and are confident that the Church fully satisfied this requirement throughout 2024 through its activities.

Sunday services and the mid-week Bible Study are livestreamed via the Churches U Tube Channel. These services are freely available on an ongoing basis on this Channel. Services are also uploaded onto SermonAudio website where they may be also freely accessed on an ongoing basis. Drive-in Gospel services were again conducted in the carpark of Rathfriland Farmers Coop, kindly granted, as a gospel outreach on Sunday afternoon from June to the middle of September.

Youth fellowship (CAST) meetings are held on alternate Sunday evenings, after the evening service, during October to April. CAST also organised a number of social events throughout the year. Our Ladies Fellowship meeting also continued on the 1st Monday of each month during the period September to May.

In addition to the usual monthly activities during 2024, the annual soccer club was held over the course of 4 evenings in early June as a special outreach, with over 100 boys and girls attending. The annual holiday bible club was also held in late July with up to 130 children attending.

A number of Missionary Societies and Christian organisations attended the Fellowship to provide members the opportunity to receive information on their work.

Visitation of the sick, consolation and support of members suffering bereavement continued in 2024 as the Pastor and the Assistant Pastor, together with others from within the Fellowship, sought to provide comfort and support for those affected.

A new church complex was completed in August 2023, work having commenced in March 2022. The first service was held in the new building on the 30 August of 2023, with Sunday services commencing mid-September and the official opening following in October 2023. The Trustees wish to record they're thanks to Walter Graham for his efforts and faithfulness in undertaking the construction of the new church complex.

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Charity name: Rathfriland Baptist

Church Address: Loughbrickland Road, Rathfriland. BT34 5PZ.

Email: ian@rathfrilandbaptist.com

Website: www.rathfrilandbaptist.com

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees are the members of the Church Oversight Committee which consists of Pastor, Elders and Deacons.

All male members of the Church are eligible to stand for election as a deacon unless disqualified by Statute from holding office as a trustee. Elections to the Office of Deacon are conducted at the Annual Members Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Church Meeting is open to all church members.

The Church's Constitution requires a two thirds majority of those voting for the appointment of Pastors or Elders. Elders are elected for life unless they choose to retire or leave the Fellowship. Pastors serve for the period of their pastorate.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Following appointment each newly appointed Trustee receives an Induction Pack containing copies of Charity Commission for Northern Ireland publications: Running Your Charity. Trustees are also encouraged to access further information available on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland website.

The Trustees in office at 30 January 2024 and the date of signing this report were:

I Wilson	Pastor
G Anderson	
J Henry	
R Stewart	Church Secretary
G McCrum	
J Boyd	
I McConnell	Church Treasurer
E McAuley	Child Safeguarding Officer
K McKinstry	
L McKinstry	
M Scott	Youth Coordinator

PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No Trustee received payment for undertaking trustee duties. Payments to the Pastor relate to expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of pastor. Where Trustees purchase items on behalf of the Charity these costs may be reimbursed.

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

ADVISORS

Bankers:	Danske Bank, High Street, Portadown, BT62 1LB.
Accountants:	WHR Accountants Ltd, 56 Upper English St, Armagh, BT61 7LG.
Insurance Adviser:	Kingdom Bank, Media House, Padge Rd, Beeston, HG9
Solicitors:	Bell Gordon & Son, 9 Newry St, Rathfriland, BT34 5PY

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Rathfriland Baptist Church is a registered charity. The charity is registered in Northern Ireland with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland with the charity number 107417. It has been registered as a charity since June 8th, 2020.

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

MANAGEMENT

The Trustees continued to meet regularly to discuss the work of the church, and to make decisions concerning the regular activities within the church, and also outreach activities. Matters are reported to Church Members via the Annual Church Members Meeting when the Report and Accounts are also presented. Matters requiring approval of a Church Members Meeting, other than appointment of Elders or Pastors, are decided by majority vote. In event of a tie the Chairman of the Church Members Meeting has a casting vote. Approval at a Church Members Meeting is required for significant projects, such as a building program, prior to commencing any major new undertaking.

Volunteers continue to play key roles in various Departments of the Church. It is not possible to quantify this support as much is done behind the scenes. However, Rathfriland Baptist Church could not function as it does without their faithful support.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have conducted an assessment of the risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed systems and procedures to mitigate such risks. Risk assessment covering fire, health & safety and the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an ongoing process and is reviewed annually or before any new major undertaking.

RATHFRILAND BAPTIST

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT cont'd

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church is funded by voluntary gifts and donations and use is made of the Gift Aid Scheme. The church does not seek funds from other sources.

Income for the year amounted to £269,250. An amount of £33,376, recognised as income during the year related to Gift Aid Rebates but had not been received as at 30th September 2024. In addition a further Gift Aid Rebate of £25,526 relating to covenant offerings in the previous financial year had also not been received. Expenditure amounted to £111,407, which includes £2100 of depreciation on equipment, leaving a surplus of £157,843 for the year.

A Loan facility of £450,000 was agreed and drawn down from Danske bank to ensure adequate funds were available to pay for the accrued costs of capital works relating to the new church and hall complex. At the 30 September 2024 the Loan balance had been reduced to £340,268.

The Church uses Restricted and Unrestricted Funds in its accounting policies. Restricted Funds are used for money donated to the Church for specific purposes e.g. Building Fund. Unrestricted Funds from general offerings are used for all other purposes. Any shortfalls in the Restricted Funds are made up by transfers from the Unrestricted Fund.

RESERVES POLICY

A policy on reserves has been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. The income of the church is stable, and sufficient to both meet normal expenses and pay off the cost of planned capital works. In the event of an unexpected financial need the Trustees are confident that members would respond accordingly. The Trustees are satisfied that a figure equating to approximately three months' expenditure is an appropriate level of reserve balances at the present time. Cash balance at year end exceeded the level of Reserves required.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF TRUSTEES BY:

I McConnell
Church Treasurer
Date: 27 January 2025

R Stewart
Church Secretary
Date: 27 January 2025

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rathfriland Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner:

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report:

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.


James Robinson F.C.C.A.
WHR Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
56 English Street
Armagh
BT61 7LG

27/01/2025
Date

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Statement of Financial Activity for the Year Ended 30 September 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations & Legacies	2	148,097	121,032	-	269,129	291,119
Investment income	3	120	1	-	121	908
Total Income		148,217	121,033	-	269,250	292,027
Expenditure on:						
Charitable Activities	4	84,825	22,687	-	107,512	70,623
Other Expenses	5	1,795	2,100	-	3,895	2,935
Total expenditure		86,620	24,787	-	111,407	73,558
Net Income / (deficit)		61,597	96,246	-	157,843	218,469
Transfers between funds		(63,863)	63,863	-	0.00	-
Revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	10,000
Net movement in funds		(2,266)	160,109	-	157,843	228,469
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		256,091	430,408	-	686,499	458,030
Total funds carried forward		253,825	590,517	-	844,342	686,499

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	8	200,000	868,667	-	1,068,667	1,069,805
Total fixed assets		200,000	868,667	-	1,068,667	1,069,805
Current assets						
Debtors and prepayments	9	26,120	32,782	-	58,902	47,419
Cash at bank and in hand	10	30,105	29,336	-	59,441	70,475
Total current assets		56,225	62,118	-	118,343	117,894
Current liabilities						
Creditors due within one year	11	2,400	-	-	2,400	501,200
Bank Loans & Overdrafts	12	-	340,268	-	340,268	-
Total current liabilities		2,400	340,268	-	342,668	501,200
Net current assets		53,825	(278,150)	-	(224,325)	(383,306)
Total net assets		253,825	590,517	-	844,342	686,499
Funds of the charity						
Unrestricted funds	13	253,825	-	-	253,825	256,091
Restricted funds	13	-	590,517	-	590,517	430,408
Total charity funds		253,825	590,517	-	844,342	686,499

Signed on behalf of the Trustees By:

Treasurer: Mr I McConnell

Church Secretary: Mr R Stewart

Date: 27/01/2025

Date: 27/01/2025

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources before interest received	157,722	217,561
Depreciation	2,100	2,100
Increase in debtors and prepayments	(11,483)	(47,419)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors and accruals	(498,800)	501,200
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from incoming resources	(350,461)	673,442
Return on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received	121	908
	121	908
Capital expenditure		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(962)	(1,061,905)
	(962)	(1,061,905)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash for the year	(351,302)	(387,555)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	70,475	458,030
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	(280,827)	70,475

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 30 September 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2022), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

b Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

c Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value.

d Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the Church.

e Investment income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

f Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised 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.

g Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance costs. Where the support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

h Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost as least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt.

The new Church building and Church hall have been valued at cost. The existing car park and graveyard have a fair value of £10,000 as there is no reliable information regarding this.

i Depreciation

During the year ended 30th September 2024, depreciation has been provided on all fixed assets, other than the Church building and Church Hall, to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rate:

Equipment	15%
Fixtures and fittings	10%

No depreciation will be provided on the Church building and Church Hall as its remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

The fair value of all tangible fixed assets will be reviewed by the Trustees annually.

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 30 September 2024 (cont'd)

j Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

k Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payment obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. These assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

l Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The Church generally meets its day-to-day working capital requirements from its annual income. The Trustees have obtained and reviewed cash flow forecasts for the incoming year and based on these are satisfied that the Church has resources to provide a reasonable expectation that it can continue to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future. Therefore, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

2. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	129,676	106,077	-	235,753	243,700
Gift Aid on donations, gifts, legacies and bequests	18,421	14,955	-	33,376	47,419
	<u>148,097</u>	<u>121,032</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>269,129</u>	<u>291,119</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Deposit Interest	120	1	-	121	908
	<u>120</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>908</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Church Envelopes	215	-	-	215	188
Ministry and support staff costs	49,727	-	-	49,727	39,287
Utilities	9,936	-	-	9,936	3,292
General Church activity expenses	24,609	3,185	-	27,794	20,389
Building Loan Interest Charges	-	19,132	-	19,132	-
Donations and gifts	338	370	-	708	7,467
	<u>84,825</u>	<u>22,687</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,512</u>	<u>70,623</u>

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 30 September 2024 (cont'd)

5. OTHER EXPENSES

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Governance costs		1,795	-	-	1,795	835
Depreciation		-	2,100	-	2,100	2,100
		<u>1,795</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,895</u>	<u>2,935</u>

6. TOTAL EXPENDITURE

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable Activities	4	84,825	22,687	-	107,512	70,623
Other Expenses	5	1,795	2,100	-	3,895	2,935
Fixed Asset Additions	8	-	962	-	962	1,061,905
		<u>86,620</u>	<u>25,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,369</u>	<u>1,135,463</u>

7. EMPLOYEES

Employment Costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	<u>49,727</u>	<u>39,287</u>
	<u>49,727</u>	<u>39,287</u>

Number of employees

	2024	2023
The average number of employees during the year was:	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

There were no employees in receipt of employee benefits in excess of £60,000.

The Pastor acts as one of the Church's trustees in accordance with the Trust deed and received remuneration, expenses allowance and pension contributions totalling £1,140 in respect of his services as Pastor. To fulfil his role within the Church, he is also provided with accommodation at the Church Manse which the Church rent on his behalf.

The only amounts paid to the remaining Trustees were for out-of-pocket expenses.

The Church pays pension contributions for its Pastor to Standard Life, a defined contribution scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church.

The Assistant Pastor who is not a Trustee of the Church received remuneration of £21,137 and an expenses allowance of £3,231. Life Assurance of £476 was paid to Unum and Pension contributions of £1057 were also paid by the congregation in respect of the Assistant Pastor to the Standard Life.

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 30 September 2024 (cont'd)

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Church, Church Hall, Car Park & Graveyard £	Manse £	Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost/valuation					
As at 1st October 2023	1,057,905	-	14,000	-	1,071,905
Additions	962	-	-	-	962
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
As at 30th September 2024	1,058,867	-	14,000	-	1,072,867
Depreciation					
As at 1st October 2023	-	-	2,100	-	2,100
Charge for the year	-	-	2,100	-	2,100
As at 30th September 2024	-	-	4,200	-	4,200
Net Book Value					
As at 30th September 2024	1,058,867	-	9,800	-	1,068,667
As at 30th September 2024	1,057,905	-	11,900	-	1,069,805

The assets of the Church comprise:

- Church building, and Church Hall and their contents along with a graveyard and car park.

During the year ended 30th September 2024, the depreciation has been provided on all fixed assets, other than the Church building and Church Hall. No depreciation will be provided on the Church buildings as its remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

The fair value of all tangible fixed assets will be reviewed by the Trustees annually.

9. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors	58,902	47,419

10. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	59,441	70,475

11. CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	2,400	501,200

12. BANK LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank Loans and Overdrafts	340,268	-

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 30 September 2024 (cont'd)

13. FUND BALANCES

	Balance at start £	Income £	Costs (including revaluation) £	Surplus/ (Deficit) £	Transfers nett £	Balance at end £
Unrestricted Funds						
- Fund	256,091	148,217	86,620	61,597	(63,863)	253,825
Total Unrestricted Funds	256,091	148,217	86,620	61,597	(63,863)	253,825
Restricted Funds						
- Fund	430,408	121,033	24,787	96,246	63,863	590,517
Total Restricted Funds	430,408	121,033	24,787	96,246	63,863	590,517
Endowment Funds						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Endowment Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	686,499	269,250	111,407	157,843	0	844,342

Analysis of closing funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	200,000	868,667	1,068,667	1,069,805
Current assets	56,225	62,118	118,343	117,894
Current liabilities	(2,400)	(340,268)	(342,668)	(501,200)
Total Funds	253,825	590,517	844,342	686,499

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Pastor Ian Wilson is a trustee of the Church. In his capacity as the Pastor of the congregation he received remuneration of £22,800 and an expenses allowance of £0. Life Assurance of £513 was paid to Unum and Pension contributions of £1,140 were also paid by the congregation in respect of the Pastor to the Standard Life.

None of the other trustees received any remuneration, only reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with their duties.

There were no other related party transactions.

15. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Rathfriland Baptist Church

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 30 September 2024 (cont'd)

16. PENSION

The Church pays pension contributions for its Pastor to Standard Life, a defined contribution scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 30th September 2024 the Church had no capital commitments.