

EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

CONTENTS AND CHARITY INFORMATION

CONTENTS	PAGE
Report of the Trustees	1 - 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
Notes to the Accounts	10 - 18

TRUSTEES	Sandra Crawford Richard Lewis (Treasurer) Adrian Ward Paul Smith David Mayne	Louise Webber Valerie Khambatta Jessica West Gordon Hindmarch
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COMPANY SECRETARY Hayley Beckett

REGIONAL MINISTERS Claire Blatchford  
Gale Richards (resigned October 2025)  
David Mayne

REGISTERED OFFICE 2 Buchanan Gardens  
Wickford  
SS12 9QB

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 4221429

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1089795

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Ian Shipley FCCA  
For and on behalf of:  
Prentis & Co LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Independent Examiners  
115c Milton Road  
Cambridge, CB4 1XE

BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	Shawbrook Lutea House Warley Hill Business Park Brentwood Essex CM13 3BE
	Baptist Union Corporation Limited Baptist House PO Box 44 129 Broadway Didcot OX11 8RT	Redwood Broadway Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3TA
	United Trust One Ropemaker Street London EC2Y 9AW	

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees, (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act), present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2025 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Second edition, effective 1 January 2019).

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

**Introduction**

As trustees of Eastern Baptist Association, we are pleased to present the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2025. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the activities, financial performance, governance, and future outlook. We remain committed to ensuring that Eastern Baptist Association fulfils its mission and objectives, while adhering to the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and stewardship.

**Mission and Purpose of the Charity**

Eastern Baptist Association was established with the goal of the advancement of the Christian religion especially by the means of and in accordance with the principles of the Baptist denomination as set out for the time being in the Declaration of Principle of The Baptist Union of Great Britain. With a particular focus on Growing healthy churches in relationship for God's mission in the East of England.

Over the past year, we have continued to work towards achieving the charity's objectives through strategic initiatives, careful resource management, and effective governance.

**Governance and Trustee Activities**

In 2025, the charity continued to be governed by a dedicated group of trustees, each bringing diverse expertise and experience to our work. Regular trustee meetings were held throughout the year to review the association's operations, financial health, and alignment with its goals. Trustees remain responsible for:

- Overseeing the associations' activities and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Monitoring financial performance and approving the annual budget and expenditures.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of strategic priorities and initiatives.
- Evaluating and addressing risks to the charity's assets and operations.

We are committed to transparency and have adhered to all relevant regulations governing the management of charitable trusts. Each trustee has acted with due diligence, care, and loyalty to the beneficiaries and objectives of the association.

At the 2025 AGM the members re-elected Mr Richard Lewis as treasurer for a further 3 years and Revd Gordon Hindmarch as a trustee. At the same meeting Revd John Goddard, Revd Sean Fountain and Revd Alan Brand retired from the role of trustee. During the year the trustees appointed Revd Adrian Ward to the role of deputy moderator to assist and support the moderator and a further 2 co-options Miss Jessica West and Mrs Valerie Khambatta. At the conclusion of 2025 the trustee board was made up of the following individuals.

**Revd Lou Webber – Moderator**

**Mr Richard Lewis - Treasurer**

**Revd Adrian Ward – Deputy Moderator**

**Revd Gordon Hindmarch**

**Revd Sandra Crawford as a co-opted member (until January 2026) and Safeguarding Trustee**

**Mrs Valerie Khambatta, co-opted member (until February 2027)**

**Mrs Jessica West, co-opted member (until May 2027)**

**Revd Paul Smith, co-opted member (until September 2027)**

**Revd David Mayne (RMTL) an ex-officio member of council**

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

**Financial Performance**

The charity had a deficit of £30,077, reflecting a deficit budget in line with expectation (2024: surplus £65,430, but excluding the surplus on property there was deficit on ordinary activities of £89,514). We project and support similar annual deficits in subsequent years but recognise that this use of reserves to cover ongoing shortfalls in this way has significant implications. Reserves spent in this way cannot then be used to fund other activities and projects now or in the future. In the long term it can take many years to rebuild reserves, again reducing future possibilities and unless the funding structure for Associations is significantly revised, or other income streams can be developed. Saying that, it is expected that there will be significant financial structural changes in the Baptist Union and the associations in 2027 and following years. Once the impact of those changes is known, then the EBA can make long term sustainable plans.

**Key Financial Metrics:**

- **Income: £405,824**
- **Expenditures: £435,901**
- **Net Assets: £2,156,827**
- **Free Reserves: £402,888**
- **Operational Spending: £311,314 (71.4% of total expenditures)**
- **Grant Spending: £124,587 (28.6% of total expenditures)**

**Fund Raising**

The Charity does not actively fundraise but does receive from time-to-time unsolicited gifts and donations from the public. The Trustees do not employ professional or outside agencies to fundraise on its behalf and as such does not consider it necessary to be part of a voluntary scheme or standard. Following a clarification of BU guidelines, EBA is exploring ways to raise funds specifically for our own purposes.

**Property Matters**

The Company Secretary and the Treasurer together with the Finance and Administration subgroup oversee the property portfolio for the EBA. During 2025 in line with the association's Environmental Sustainability Policy reviewed the EPC rating and report for each property to consider the environmental impact of each property and consider any ways in which we can improve the ratings. The outcome of the review was discussed in October with further investigation and costings to be developed into 2026. Following the resignation of Revd Gale Richards towards the end of the year the trustees reviewed the property stock and decided to sell the Ely Manse and at the end of the year this is on the market.

The association ends 2025 with the following properties

Southend Manse -- occupied by Rev David Mayne

Wickford Manse- occupied by Rev Claire Blatchford

Ely Manse- currently vacant and on the market.

Wickford Rental Property tenancy until January 2027 with a monthly income of £1400

All properties continue to be reviewed annually to maintain the five-year plan for routine maintenance and planned refurbishment of the EBA properties.

Lastly, the association is expected to receive a part share in a former church manse in Harold Hill, pending completion of the legal processes.

**Trustee Engagement and Activities**

In addition to regular meetings, trustees participated in the following activities over the past year:

- **Strategy and Planning:** Trustees engaged in strategic planning to set priorities for the coming year.
- **Training:** Trustees engaged with refresher training on the responsibilities of being a trustee.
- **Financial Review** Trustees engaged with reviewing the impact of decreased income and with the Baptist Union's national financial review which will continue into 2026.

**Programs and Initiatives**

Throughout 2025, the charity facilitated and hosted training and activities aimed at advancing its mission. Some of the highlights include:

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

1. **Minister's Conference:** A 3-day residential conference focused on worship, learning and networking. The teaching was provided by a variety of different people including Revd Dr Andy Goodliff who focused on Baptist Roots, Revd Dr Sally Mann who focused her session on doing ministry differently within a changing financial landscape, Dr Jonas Kurlberg whose session was on the changing digital landscape and Revd Lisa Kerry who focused on being rooted in Christ.

This initiative benefited directly 92 individuals who then return to their churches and ministry settings, and the benefit could be multiplied across the churches.

2. **Safeguarding Training:** Each year we facilitate several safeguarding courses for churches to be able to engage with the Baptist Union Excellence in Safeguarding material. During the year 10 different courses took place across the association training 503 individuals at level 2 and 214 individuals at level 3.
3. **Delivery of the "I am because you are training":** This training has been developed to raise the issues around diversity and equality. The association believe this training to be of benefit to new ministers coming through the ministerial recognition pathways and during 2025 continued to run sessions for individuals to engage with the material.
4. **Mentor Training:** The association engages mentors in the Newly Accredited Ministers (NAM) program. The association considers it important to equip the mentors to be as effective as they can be. In April a training day for mentors held and was attended by 10 individuals.
5. **Engagement in Project Violet:** Project Violet is a research project that investigated women's experiences in ministry with the results being published during 2024. The research provided us with some stark realities and recommendations for change. During 2025 the association continued with their commitments against the recommendations for change including identifying 3 individuals to take part in the next round of "Magnify You" and agreeing review points for accountability during the year to ensure we are staying true to our commitments.
6. **Engagement with the Eco-Church award:** This initiative developed by A Rocher encourages churches to be environmentally aware and put into place sustainable practices in their local area, awarding churches Bronze, Silver or Gold. The eco church enablers have highlighted this programme to our churches and inspired churches to engage with it. There are now 12 silver award holders and 5 bronze.

### Looking Ahead

There were some unexpected issues within the team during 2025, with one member needing to take some time out on health grounds and another member resigning in October as she was called to a different role. Trustees agreed to roll over some of the priorities from 2025 recognising that not as much progress had been made as would have been hoped. As we move into 2026, the association will focus on the following priorities:

1. **Furthering kingdom justice:** Continuing to implement the agreed outcomes of Project Violet, working to have our justice hub integrated into the life of the association and growing its impact, helping as many churches as possible to become Eco-Church award holders and ensuring that the association complies with its Environmental and Sustainability Policy
2. **Association Reform:** There is a realisation that the association cannot continue to offer the same as it has always done with a picture of decreasing income. We will be actively exploring ways to network and associate differently. Whilst ensuring the trustee board is fit for purpose and contains the requisite skills and experience needed for an effective and balanced board.
3. **Collaborating with our Baptist Movement:** We are only a part of the Baptist family during the next year we will be active and constructive in collaboration with other parts of the family. Ensuring that the association is well represented in all areas of Baptist life, the association had a good representation at the All Teams Retreat in December.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

4. **Project 17:** A commitment to identify and connect with our 10% least engaged churches, which we'll refer to as Project 17. It is hoped that EBA Trustees will work alongside the EBA Team to find good and constructive ways of building better links with these churches.

**Conclusion**

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our team, volunteers, and member churches for their unwavering support throughout the year. The association is not without its challenges during the next year. We are confident that with your continued support, we can achieve great things in the coming year.

Thank you for your trust and commitment to our shared goals.

**Risk Management and Compliance**

We continue to uphold robust risk management practices to safeguard the charity's assets. Key risks identified in 2025 included

	Key Risk	Response and mitigation
Critical Risk	Church Membership and giving decreases.	The association prepared different income forecasts to assess its viability if different circumstances occurred Assess our expenditure and use current funds wisely
Critical Risk	Breakaway Baptist union is formed.	Regional ministers remained visible and approachable to churches wishing to talk through issues
Critical Risk	Churches response to different theological viewpoints (Reputation) Indirect risk of Baptist reputation	Maintain a good relationship with the National Resource and support mechanisms. Regional ministers remained visible and approachable to churches wishing to talk through issues
Finance (including systems and controls)	Changes to financial model with impacts our income	The association prepared different income forecasts to assess its viability if different circumstances occurred Assess our expenditure and use current funds wisely

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT****Governing Document**

Eastern Baptist Association is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status which is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Appointment of Trustees (also known as Council members)**

The following revised process for appointing Council members was agreed at the EBA Assembly in June 2025:

1. Council will consist of individuals who hold the requisite skills and experience as to administer the duties required of Charity trustees and Company Directors.

These duties include

- a. Maintaining the aims and developing the strategies of the EBA.
- b. Setting policies and reviewing the practice of the EBA in terms of Ministry and Mission.
- c. Maintaining the financial practice of the Association through setting budgets and approving accounts.
- d. Supporting and resourcing EBA staff and volunteers to carry out their functions, roles and responsibilities.
- e. Undertaking representation and partnership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and other recognised bodies.

Nominations for council members will be sought from the churches of the association, the regional team and current council members.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

A member is appointed by a simple majority at a general meeting.

Any person appointed as a council member shall be eligible for re-appointment unless that person has immediately before such re-appointment already served three consecutive periods of office.

2. Subject to the other bylaws the appointment of council members shall take effect for a term which expires at the third Annual General Meeting following their appointment.

The Council shall be entitled to fill any vacancy for a Council Member which occurs during a term of appointment.

A person filling that vacancy shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting of the Association. In seeking to fill any vacancy under this Bye law the Council may (but shall not be obliged to) appoint a Nominating Group to seek nominations from the Churches of the Association and make a nomination for appointment to Council.

3. The Moderator and Treasurer of the Association shall be appointed by a majority vote of a General Meeting of the Association following nomination by the Council.

The Moderator and the Treasurer shall be appointed for such term(s) as recommended by the Council and agreed by the General Meeting.

**Trustee induction and training**

The Trustees seek to ensure that procedures are in place for Trustee induction and training by reference to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Organisational Structure**

The charity has a Council who meet a minimum of four times a year and are responsible for its strategic direction and policy. Regional ministers are appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of Eastern Baptist Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

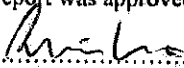
Company law and charity law require the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- (i) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- (ii) Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- (iii) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (iv) State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- (v) Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf.

  
.....  
Richard Lewis - Trustee

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having been satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Pt.16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

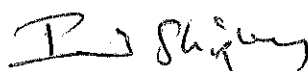
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in s.145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by s.386 of the 2006 Act;
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of s.396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



IAN SHIPLEY FCCA

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:  
PRENTIS & CO LLP  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS &  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

115c Milton Road  
Cambridge  
CB4 1XE

12<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	2025			2024				
		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>INCOME</b>									
Grants and donations	2	317,927	-	35,744	353,671	256,068	-	17,790	273,858
Investment income	3	52,153	-	-	52,153	61,604	-	-	61,604
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	154,944	-	-	154,944
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>370,080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,744</b>	<b>405,824</b>	<b>472,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,790</b>	<b>490,406</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>									
Charitable activities	4	394,747	11,800	29,354	435,901	349,033	8,156	67,787	424,976
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>394,747</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>29,354</b>	<b>435,901</b>	<b>349,033</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>67,787</b>	<b>424,976</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>		<b>(24,667)</b>	<b>(11,800)</b>	<b>6,390</b>	<b>(30,077)</b>	<b>123,583</b>	<b>(8,156)</b>	<b>(49,997)</b>	<b>65,430</b>
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	11-12	705	-	(705)	-	215	-	(215)	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(23,962)</b>	<b>(11,800)</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>(30,077)</b>	<b>123,798</b>	<b>(8,156)</b>	<b>(50,212)</b>	<b>65,430</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>									
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 1ST JANUARY 2025</b>		<b>2,079,122</b>	<b>49,510</b>	<b>58,272</b>	<b>2,186,904</b>	<b>1,955,324</b>	<b>57,666</b>	<b>108,484</b>	<b>2,121,474</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025</b>		<b>2,055,160</b>	<b>37,710</b>	<b>63,957</b>	<b>2,156,827</b>	<b>2,079,122</b>	<b>49,510</b>	<b>58,272</b>	<b>2,186,904</b>

All the above results derived from continuing activities. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movement in funds are disclosed in notes 11 and 12 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

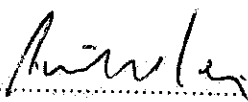
## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	7		1,272,068		1,280,748
Investments	8		380,204		380,204
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>			<b>1,652,272</b>		<b>1,660,952</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	9	14,290		11,260	
Cash at bank and in hand		509,284		531,662	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>523,574</b>		<b>542,922</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	19,019		16,970	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>504,555</b>		<b>525,952</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>2,156,827</b>		<b>2,186,904</b>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>					
Unrestricted Income Funds			2,055,160		2,079,122
Designated Income Funds	11		37,710		49,510
Restricted Income Funds	12		63,957		58,272
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>			<b>2,156,827</b>		<b>2,186,904</b>

The trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of Section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006. Members have not required the charitable company under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31 December 2025. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at 31 December 2025 and of its deficit for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to the financial statements as far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, were approved by the board on  
 30 April 2026 and signed on its behalf.

  
 Richard Lewis  
 Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	16	(74,531)	(131,490)
		-----	-----
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents		52,153	61,604
Purchase of fixed asset		-	(550,000)
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		-	877,794
		-----	-----
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		52,153	389,398
		-----	-----
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(22,378)	257,908
		-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		531,662	273,754
		-----	-----
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		509,284	531,662
		-----	-----

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## (a) BASIS OF PREPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) Second edition, issued October 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and The Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees are of the view that they hold sufficient liquid assets to meet operating costs in the medium term. The principle uncertainties are the future upkeep costs of the properties.

The charity constitutes a public benefit as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are presented in pound sterling (£), the charity's presentational currency.

## (b) FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Council of the Association in furtherance of the objectives of the Association

Designated Funds are funds set aside by the Association in order to undertake specific projects, or equalise anticipated major expenditure on maintenance of fixed assets in future years.

Restricted Funds are monies subject to regulation by the donors of the funds as to their use.

## (c) INCOME

Income is recognised in the year in which the charity is entitled to the receipt, and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future year.

## (d) EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis at the time a liability is incurred. VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

## (e) OPERATING LEASES

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged against income as incurred.

## (f) OPERATING PROPERTIES

The Trustees recognise 3 properties as operating properties. They have been initially recognised at cost and the building proportion is depreciated over 100 years.

## (g) INVESTMENT PROPERTY

The trustees recognise property 40 Melville Drive as an investment property. This is revalued on a yearly basis using a third party source. The difference between the properties value at the year end is adjusted through the statement of financial activities.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

## (h) DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office and computer equipment	20% straight line basis
Operating property	2% on property costs only

The charity has a policy to write off any capital items which cost less than £500 in the year in which the expense is incurred.

## (i) DEBTORS

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

## (j) CREDITORS

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing any trade discounts due.

The pension scheme was bought out in the year ended 31 December 2023. Therefore no pension provision has arisen since that date

## 2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
Baptist Union Grants	273,372	-	-	273,372
Other grants and donations	2,159	-	35,744	37,903
Preaching fees and expenses	5,816	-	-	5,816
Conferences	8,850	-	-	8,850
Ministers Conference	21,040	-	-	21,040
Training courses	6,690	-	-	6,690
	<u>317,927</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,744</u>	<u>353,671</u>

## GRANTS AND DONATIONS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Baptist Union Grants	226,136	-	-	226,136
Other grants and donations	4,253	-	17,790	22,043
Preaching fees and expenses	5,794	-	-	5,794
Ministers Conference	12,742	-	-	12,742
Training courses	7,143	-	-	7,143
	<u>256,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,790</u>	<u>273,858</u>

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 3. INVESTMENT INCOME - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
Bank interest	13,594	-	-	13,594
Baptist Insurance Company	801	-	-	801
Property rental	37,758	-	-	37,758
	<u>52,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,153</u>

## INVESTMENT INCOME - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Bank interest	10,185	-	-	10,185
Baptist Insurance Company	801	-	-	801
Property rental	50,618	-	-	50,618
	<u>61,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,604</u>



## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Ministry employment costs	107,419	-	4,414	111,833
expenses	22,520	-	340	22,860
Baptist deficit pension adjustment	(10)	-	-	(10)
Safeguarding Officer	7,838	-	-	7,838
Safeguarding officer expenses	2,520	-	-	2,520
Manse regular expenses	7,701	-	-	7,701
One off Manse expenses	17,282	-	-	17,282
Manse rental	15,936	-	-	15,936
Manse repairs/services/rental	4,874	-	-	4,874
Mission	68,994	8,156	55,587	132,737
Establishment	18,023	-	2,048	20,071
Ministers conference	18,506	-	422	18,928
Other expenditure	3,511	-	4,976	8,487
EBA Assembly	440	-	-	440
Depreciation	6,522	-	-	6,522
	<u>302,076</u>	<u>8,156</u>	<u>67,787</u>	<u>378,019</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Support Costs:				
Company secretary's salary	25,133	-	-	25,133
Company secretary's expenses	3,721	-	-	3,721
Independent examiner's fees	1,962	-	-	1,962
Legal and statutory payments	16,141	-	-	16,141
	<u>46,957</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,957</u>
Total Charitable Activities	<u>349,033</u>	<u>8,156</u>	<u>67,787</u>	<u>424,976</u>

	2025 £	2024 £
5 TRUSTEE AND STAFF REMUNERATION		
The staff costs were:		
Trustees (Regional Ministers) and support staff		
Salaries	160,724	126,635
Social security costs	5,924	5,800
Pension costs	13,703	12,359
	<u>180,351</u>	<u>144,794</u>
Average weekly number of staff employed during the year:		
Full time	2	2
Part time	8	7
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

David Mayne is a Regional Minister and also an ex-officio member of council.

Claire Blatchford and Gale Richards are Regional Ministers and not Trustees. Gale Richards resigned in October 2025.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 5 TRUSTEE AND STAFF REMUNERATION - continued

Four part time roles were started in October 2024 under the Southminister fund. Two of these roles ended in September 2025 and two were extended until March 2027.

No member of staff received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year.

Three (2024: Three) regional Ministers live in properties wholly owned by the Association. The Baptist Union pays market rent to the Association to cover one of the Manses.

Expenses totalling £12,230 (2024: £13,692) were reimbursed to the Trustees (D Mayne as ex-officio member and other Trustees).

The Trustees consider they are the key management and the ex-officio Regional Ministers are remunerated. The total compensation received by key management including benefits is £44,463 (2024: £40,040).

6	NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	2025	2024
	Net income for the year is stated after charging:	£	£
	Independent examiner's fees	2,032	1,962
		-----	-----
7	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - CURRENT YEAR		Operating property
	COST		£
	Balance at 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025		1,302,000
			-----
	DEPRECIATION		
	Balance at 1 January 2025		21,252
	Depreciation charge		8,680
			-----
	Balance at 31 December 2025		29,932
			-----
	NET BOOK VALUE at 31 December 2025		1,272,068
			-----
	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - PRIOR YEAR		Operating property
	COST		£
	Balance at 1 January 2024		1,499,950
	Additions		550,000
	Disposals		(747,950)
			-----
	Balance at 31 December 2024		1,302,000
			-----
	DEPRECIATION		
	Balance at 1 January 2024		39,830
	Depreciation charge		6,522
	Eliminated on disposal		(25,100)
			-----
	Balance at 31 December 2024		21,252
			-----
	NET BOOK VALUE at 31 December 2024		1,280,748
			-----

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued		Book Value	Book Value	
		as at	as at	
OPERATING PROPERTY NET BOOK VALUE		31/12/2025	31/12/2024	
		£	£	
	2 Buchanan Gardens, Wickford	340,340	342,720	
	16 Firethorn Court	386,970	389,570	
	59 Station Road	544,758	548,458	
		<u>1,272,068</u>	<u>1,280,748</u>	
8	INVESTMENTS - CURRENT YEAR	Freehold Property	Unlisted investments	Total
		£	£	£
	Market value at 1 January 2025	377,000	3,204	380,204
	Market value at 31 December 2025	<u>377,000</u>	<u>3,204</u>	<u>380,204</u>
	INVESTMENTS - PRIOR YEAR	Freehold Property	Unlisted investments	Total
		£	£	£
	Market value at 1 January 2024	377,000	3,204	380,204
	Market value at 31 December 2024	<u>377,000</u>	<u>3,204</u>	<u>380,204</u>
	Unlisted investments		2025	2024
	Baptist Insurance Company shares		£	£
	Loan fund		801	801
	General fund		2,403	2,403
			<u>3,204</u>	<u>3,204</u>
9	DEBTORS: Due within one year		2025	2024
			£	£
	Loans to Churches		-	2,250
	Trade debtors		896	-
	Other debtors		13,394	9,010
			<u>14,290</u>	<u>11,260</u>
10	CREDITORS: Due within one year		2025	2024
			£	£
	Trade creditors		5,760	-
	Accruals		2,004	1,880
	Deferred income		11,255	15,090
			<u>19,019</u>	<u>16,970</u>

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

11.	DESIGNATED FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Movement £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
	Mission	49,510	-	(11,800)	(11,800)	-	37,710
	DESIGNATED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Movement £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
	Mission	57,666	-	(8,156)	(8,156)	-	49,510
12.	RESTRICTED FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Movement £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
	Southminster Fund	33,076	303	(20,051)	(19,748)	(515)	12,813
	Lay Ministry Fund	8,264	-	(550)	(550)	-	7,714
	Ministers' Benevolent Fund	4,157	1,352	(1,083)	269	(190)	4,236
	Ministers Training Fund	107	-	(107)	(107)	-	-
	Small Church Connexion	12,668	10,089	(7,147)	2,942	-	15,610
	BUEN Entwined Project	-	24,000	(416)	23,584	-	23,584
		58,272	35,744	(29,354)	6,390	(705)	63,957
	RESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Movement £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
	Home Mission Fund	55,587	-	(55,587)	(55,587)	-	-
	Southminster Fund	38,319	140	(5,383)	(5,243)	-	33,076
	Lay Ministry Fund	8,660	-	(396)	(396)	-	8,264
	Ministers' Benevolent Fund	3,380	2,262	(1,485)	777	-	4,157
	Ministers Training Fund	2,538	-	(2,216)	(2,216)	(215)	107
	Small Church Connexion	-	15,388	(2,720)	12,668	-	12,668
		108,484	17,790	(67,787)	(49,997)	(215)	58,272

## DESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTED FUNDS:

**Southminster Fund** - training for mentors of newly accredited ministers, gatherings for leaders of small churches.

**Lay Ministry Training** - training grants and support for non-ministerial leaders.

**Ministers Benevolent Fund** - support for church pastors where financial need arises.

**Ministers Training Fund** - combined Accredited Ministers Fund Bursary Fund in 2016.

**Small Church Connexion** - Grant money donated by the Baptist Union Mission Forum to further the work among smaller churches in the BU and support the SCC Team with expenses.

**The Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN)** - Grant money donated by the Baptist Union Mission Forum for a new initiative that aims to raise awareness and respond to the environmental crisis, building a network of environmental partners across our Regional Association life who can journey alongside churches to enable them to declare with God in worship, life, and action that 'creation is good' (Gen 1:25).

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

13.	ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS - CURRENT YEAR	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
	Tangible fixed assets	1,272,068	-	-	1,272,068
	Investments	379,403	801	-	380,204
	Net current assets	403,689	36,909	63,957	504,555
		-----	-----	-----	-----
		2,055,160	37,710	63,957	2,156,827
		-----	-----	-----	-----
	ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS - PRIOR YEAR	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
	Tangible fixed assets	1,280,748	-	-	1,280,748
	Investments	379,403	801	-	380,204
	Net current assets	418,971	48,709	58,272	525,952
		-----	-----	-----	-----
		2,079,122	49,510	58,272	2,186,904
		-----	-----	-----	-----

## 14. LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS

The Association is limited by guarantee. In the event of the Association being wound up, the liability of the members is limited to £10.

## 15. RELATED PARTIES

During the year there were no related party transactions.

## 16. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period as per SOFA	(30,077)	65,430
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(52,153)	(61,604)
Depreciation	8,680	6,522
Surplus on sale of fixed assets	-	(154,944)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(3,030)	9,056
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,049	4,050
	-----	-----
Net cash used in operating activities	(74,531)	(131,490)
	-----	-----

## 17. PENSION SCHEME

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution scheme on behalf of its employees, the total amount it contributed during the year was £13,703 (2024: £12,359) and no amounts were outstanding at the year end.