1 Statutory Information

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: 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) ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) <u>Change of legal structure</u>

The charity (the 'CIO') was dormant until 1 April 2024 and, until that date, the CIO's activities were undertaken by a trust with the same name (Chester Road Baptist Church with charity registration number 1134180). On 1 April 2024, the trust transferred its net assets and its activities to the CIO. As permitted by the Charities SORP, this transfer was accounted for as a merger because it qualified as a charity reconstruction (whereby the charity has simply changed its legal form). In accordance with the requirements of merger accounting, the net assets of the trust were transferred at book value , not fair value, to the CIO. The financial statements for the year to 31 March 2025 presented the combined results of the trust and the CIO and these constitute the comparatives used in the financial statements for the year to 31 March 2026.

b) <u>Going concern</u>

The trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

c) <u>Income</u>

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. 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 period.

Income from donations and legacies includes recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

2 Accounting Policies (continued)

The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

Income from charitable activities represents income receivable from goods, services and facilities supplied in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects. It includes income from operating a community café, from letting facilities for the benefit of the local community and from other activities and events .

Income from other trading activities represents income receivable from activities undertaken to generate funds for the charity. It includes income from letting a residential property that, temporarily, is not being used in the charity's activities and from other commercial lettings.

Investment income represents income generated by the charity's fixed assets investments and from bank deposits.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions and individuals to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

Expenditure on raising funds comprises expenditure incurred to raise funds for charitable activities. It comprises expenditure in respect of the residential property that has been let by the charity.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

e) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

f) Tangible fixed assets

As permitted by the Charities SORP, the charity's church building has been included at historic cost and the charity's residential property has been included at valuation (see note 11 'Tangible fixed assets' for more information).

The charity's properties are held in trust by The Heart of England Baptist Association on behalf of the charity. The church building is what might be regarded as a traditional church building; it would be difficult to establish a reliable market value and so it has not been included at valuation. This property is essential for the mission of the church but, as the historic cost of the asset is not known, it has been included at a notional cost of £1 in these financial statements. The property has been in use for many years; had the property's historic cost been known, it is unlikely that its depreciated carrying value would be significant.

2 Accounting Policies (continued)

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £1,000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Freehold land	Is not depreciated (because it is not consumed by use)
Freehold buildings	Over 50 years after taking account of the building's residual value
Equipment	Over 3 to 7 years

The residual value of the charity's residential property is believed to be very high and the cumulative provision for depreciation is not considered to be significant. Therefore no depreciation has been charged in respect of this property in these financial statements.

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

g) Investments

Fixed asset investments are held to generate income and / or for their investment potential. They comprise listed investments, which are valued at their market value (fair value) at the balance sheet date.

All gains and losses on investment assets are included in the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading 'Net gains / (losses) on investments'.

h) Pension scheme arrangements

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 payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan.

Where the plan is, or was in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost and any other change in the measurement of this liability is expensed to the Statement of Financial Activities.

i) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

j) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

2 Accounting Policies (continued)

k) Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement
The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

o) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement
The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 Donations and legacies

	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations of cash and similar	85,855	81,148
Grants receivable	23,568	14,245
Gift aid recoverable	19,487	19,074
	128,909	114,467

4 Income from charitable activities

	2026	2025
	£	£
Community café	74,561	70,608
Letting of facilities for community use	20,020	26,778
Activities for children and young people	6,017	6,788
Other activities and events	257	1,735
Speaking engagements and ministry support	450	920
Weddings and funerals	2,775	7,106
Other income	2,959	806
	107,039	114,740

5 Income from other trading activities

	2026	2025
	£	£
Letting of residential property	15,600	14,400
Car parking and other lettings	4,190	4,125
	19,790	18,525

6 Investment income

	2026	2025
	£	£
Dividends on investments	11,153	11,344
Interest on bank deposits	292	587
	11,445	11,932

7 Charitable expenditure

		2026	2025
		£	£
a	**Costs incurred directly on specific activities**		
	Staff costs		
	Salaries, pensions and national insurance	190,280	160,984
	Staff travel, phone and training	3,790	3,953
	Other ministry expenses		
	Children and youth work	4,169	3,435
	Local mission and outreach	2,085	3,093
	Other ministry expenses including hospitality	5,631	5,159
	Café expenses	27,870	24,730
	Property expenses		
	Church utilities	15,377	16,678
	Church insurance	3,916	3,522
	Church repairs, maintenance and cleaning	28,925	29,436
		282,043	250,989
	Grants payable (note 7c)	15,742	14,372
		297,785	265,361
b	**Costs incurred on support & administration**		
	Governance costs		
	Independent examiner's fee	3,570	3,420
	Other	146	1,526
		3,716	4,946
	HR, recruitment and payroll bureau	1,222	811
	Printing, postage and stationery	2,374	3,217
	Telephone, internet and website	2,573	2,290
	Other administrative expenses	3,355	2,082
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	12,989	12,184
		26,230	25,530
	Total expenditure	324,016	290,892

The fee payable to the independent examiner for preparing and examining the accounts was £3,570 (2025: £3,420).

7 Charitable expenditure (continued)

c Grants payable

	Institutions	Individuals	2026
	£	£	£
Grants for UK and overseas mission	15,742	-	15,742
	15,742	-	15,742

The comparatives for the previous year are as follows:

	Institutions	Individuals	2025
	£	£	£
Grants for UK and overseas mission	14,372	-	14,372
	14,372	-	14,372

The charity's principal grants to institutions comprised:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Baptist Union World Mission	5,441	4,836
Baptist Union Home Mission	5,441	4,836
Timberley Lane Baptist Church	4,500	4,500
Grants to institutions for less than £1,000 each	360	200
	15,742	14,372

8 Cost of raising funds

	2026	2025
	£	£
Manse expenses	7,292	3,361
	7,292	3,361

9 Analysis of staff costs, the cost of key management personnel and trustee remuneration

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 12.9 (2025: 11.6). Most of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.

No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

The charity's key management comprise the trustees and the key staff named on the Charity Information page. Total employment benefits payable to key management for the year were as follows:

	Wages & salaries	Other employment benefits	Employer pension contributions	2026 £
Trustees:				
Rev. D. Brierley	42,217	-	4,222	46,439
				46,439

The following amounts were payable in the previous year:

	Wages & salaries	Other employment benefits	Employer pension contributions	2025 £
Trustees:				
Rev. D. Brierley	40,804	-	4,091	44,894
				44,894

Rev. D. Brierley served as the church's minister and received the above payments for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

The Church pays pension contributions for its Minister to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme. For service up to 2012, the Scheme provided benefits on a defined benefit basis. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the defined benefit section which are attributable to the church. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

No other trustees received employment benefits in either the current or preceding year.

10 Acting as agent

On occasion the charity receives money on behalf of other charities, which it banks and then pays out to these charities. This income is received as agent for these other charities and the income, and the related payments, are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities; any money that has not been distributed by the year end is recognised as a creditor.

During the year the charity acted as agent for various charities and, in that capacity:

a) received £15 (2025: £851) and paid £nil (2025: £316)
b) at the year end the charity owed £550 (2025: £535) to other charities

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property		Fixtures,	
	Church Building	Residential Property	fittings and equipment	Total 2026
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2025	1	450,000	60,921	510,922
Additions	-	-	17,292	17,292
At 31 March 2026	1	450,000	78,214	528,215
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	-	-	41,943	41,943
Charge for the year	-	-	12,989	12,989
At 31 March 2026	-	-	54,932	54,932
Net book value				
At 31 March 2026	1	450,000	23,282	473,283
At 31 March 2025	1	450,000	18,979	468,980

The charity's residential property was valued at £450,000 on 1 April 2021 by the trustees at open market value assuming vacant possession. In arriving at their valuation, the trustees considered the values of similar properties in the same area. The trustees are not aware of any material changes in value since the last valuation and the valuation has not been updated. The historic cost of the freehold property is not known.

12 Fixed asset investments

	Quoted Investments	2026 £	2025 £
Fair value brought forward	310,831	310,831	319,569
Disposals during the year	(50,000)	(50,000)	-
Change in value of investments	(15,237)	(15,237)	(8,738)
Cost or fair value carried forward	245,594	245,594	310,831

13 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Lettings debtors	415	3,320
Gift aid recoverable	2,455	2,890
Other debtors	2,209	3,991
Grants receivable	35,392	54,950
Prepayments and accrued income	3,124	4,618
	43,596	69,768

14 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2026	2025
	£	£
Cash at bank with immediate access	15,681	22,369
Petty cash and unbanked cash	278	528
	15,959	22,897

15 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Taxation and social security	3,555	1,688
Other creditors	4,313	3,217
Accruals	3,570	3,420
Deferred income	17,568	17,797
	29,006	26,121

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deferred income	11,569	29,137
	11,569	29,137

17 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises the following:

	Income in advance	Grants receivable	2026 £	2025 £
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period	229	46,705	46,934	-
Amount released to income	(229)	(17,568)	(17,797)	-
Amount deferred in year	-	-	-	46,934
Balance at the end of the reporting period	-	29,137	29,137	46,934

The income deferred at the period end will be released to income over the following periods:

	Income in advance	Grants receivable	2026 £	2025 £
Within one year	-	17,568	17,568	17,797
After one year	-	11,569	11,569	29,137
	-	29,137	29,137	46,934

18 Pension commitments

The Baptist Union Pension Scheme

The charity is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited).

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund, started in 1925. At the beginning of the financial year, the scheme comprised of a defined benefits scheme which was closed to future accrual on 31 December 2011 and a defined contribution plan which was opened in January 2012.The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For the current financial year, the pension provision for members of the Scheme is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited. Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%

In October 2024, the insurance company Just Group completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022 also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just Group from that date.

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

Summary of pension contributions payable for year:

The charity's pension contributions were as follows

	2026	2025
	£	£
to the Baptist Pension Scheme defined benefit pension scheme	-	7
to defined contribution pension schemes	13,816	11,931
	13,816	11,938

Summary of pension liabilities at the year end:

The charity's pension liabilities at the end of the year were as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
in respect of defined benefit pension arrangements	-	-
in respect of defined contribution pension arrangements	799	-
	799	-

CHESTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

19 Funds

During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2026 £	Incoming resources 2026 £	Outgoing resources 2026 £	Transfers in the year 2026 £	Gains and losses 2026 £	Closing balance 2026 £
Designated Funds						
Fixed assets fund	468,980	-	(12,989)	17,292	-	473,283
Additional workers fund	280,149	-	-	(87,973)	-	192,175
Reserve fund	60,000	-	-	-	-	60,000
	809,129	-	(12,989)	(70,681)	-	725,458
General Unrestricted Funds	-	243,616	(287,982)	59,603	(15,237)	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	809,129	243,616	(300,972)	(11,078)	(15,237)	725,458
Restricted Funds						
Community café fund	1,806	-	-	-	-	1,806
Churches Together fund	1,593	-	-	-	-	1,593
Warm Spaces fund	3,000	6,000	-	-	-	9,000
Senior Workers fund	1,690	17,568	(30,336)	11,078	-	-
	8,089	23,568	(30,336)	11,078	-	12,399
Aggregate of funds	817,218	267,184	(331,308)	-	(15,237)	737,857

The transfers referred to above were made for the following reasons:
a)
b)

Analysis of net assets by fund

The assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds			
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	473,283	-	473,283
Fixed asset investments	-	233,195	12,399	245,594
Debtors	43,596	-	-	43,596
Cash at bank and in hand	(3,021)	18,981	-	15,959
Creditors falling due within one year	(29,006)	-	-	(29,006)
Creditors falling due after one year	(11,569)	-	-	(11,569)
	-	725,458	12,399	737,857

19 Funds (continued)

In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2025 £	Incoming resources 2025 £	Outgoing resources 2025 £	Transfers in the year 2025 £	Gains and losses 2025 £	Closing balance 2025 £
Designated Funds						
Fixed assets fund	481,164	-	(12,184)	-	-	468,980
Additional workers fund	149,983	-	-	130,166	-	280,149
Reserve fund	50,000	-	-	10,000	-	60,000
	681,147	-	(12,184)	140,166	-	809,129
General Unrestricted Funds	175,999	245,419	(272,514)	(140,166)	(8,738)	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	857,146	245,419	(284,698)	-	(8,738)	809,129
Restricted Funds						
Community café fund	1,806	-	-	-	-	1,806
Churches Together fund	1,593	-	-	-	-	1,593
Warm Spaces fund	-	6,000	(3,000)	-	-	3,000
Senior Workers fund	-	8,245	(6,555)	-	-	1,690
	3,399	14,245	(9,555)	-	-	8,089
Aggregate of funds	860,545	259,664	(294,253)	-	(8,738)	817,218

Analysis of net assets by fund

In the previous year, the assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds			
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	468,980	-	468,980
Fixed asset investments	-	302,742	8,089	310,831
Debtors	69,768	-	-	69,768
Cash at bank and in hand	(14,510)	37,407	-	22,897
Creditors falling due within one year	(26,121)	-	-	(26,121)
Creditors falling due after one year	(29,137)	-	-	(29,137)
	-	809,129	8,089	817,218

19 Funds (continued)

Designated funds

The designated **Fixed Asset** fund represents the net book value of the charity's fixed assets and represents resources that cannot be used to meet day to day expenses

The designated **Additional Workers** fund represents funds that have been set aside by the trustees to help employ staff to work primarily with children, young people and seniors.

The designated **Reserve** fund represents funds set aside by the trustees to help the charity continue operating should there be any exceptional unforeseen events (such as the recent pandemic)

Restricted funds

The restricted **Community Café** fund was created from donations and grants received to help meet certain expenses that need to be incurred to set up and operate the charity's café.

The restricted **Churches Together** fund was created from contributions received to help meet the cost of events held jointly with other local churches.

The restricted **Warms Spaces** fund was created from a grant received to help support the charity's work with young people (and their parents) by helping to meet heating costs during the winter months.

The restricted **Senior Workers** fund was created from a grant received from a trust to fund the appointment of a Seniors Worker over a three-year period.

20 Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity:

a) received donations totalling £23,731 (2025: £26,282) from related parties (which includes trustees, any other members of key management and anyone closely connected to them).

b) paid no expenses (2025: £nil) for or to trustees for carrying out duties associated with being trustees; reimbursements for expenses incurred when acting as agent for the charity or incurred when undertaking employment duties not connected with serving as a trustee are not included in this disclosure.

During the year the charity also made the following payments to, or for, related parties:

a) Jasmine Brierley, who is closely related to Rev. D. Brierley, who is a trustee, received employment benefits totalling £6,886 (2025: £10,347) for working in the charity's café.

b) Elaine Gerald, who is closely related to C. Gerald, who was a trustee, received employment benefits totalling £19,012 (2024: £17,753) for working in the church office.

Except as disclosed in note 9 'Analysis of staff costs', there have been no other transactions with related parties during the year.