



East Midland Baptist Association

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

A review of our life together as an Association
of Baptist Churches in the East Midlands

East Midland Baptist Association

Registered Charity Number: 1094457 Registered Company Number: 4302466

Registered Office: EMBA Office, c/o West Bridgford Baptist Church, Melton Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7NF

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EMBA Staff Team *(to 31 December 2025)*

Regional Ministers

Revd Mark Clay – Regional Team Leader (RTL)

Revd Dr Nick Ashton

Revd Pete Leveson

Mrs Becky Nicholls – Admin Lead and PA to Regional Team Leader

Mrs Gill McNab – Admin Assistant

Revd Sarah Fegredo – Comms Lead

Mr Kenny Henry – Safeguarding Lead

EMBA Board of Directors

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Regional Team Leader:

Revd Mark Clay

Treasurer:

Mr Andy Smallridge

Melton Mowbray BC, Leics

ELECTED MEMBERS

Moderator:

Revd David Harvey

Belper BC, Derbys *(until June 2025)*
Position vacant

Mrs Ellie Cox

Oadby BC, Leics *(until June 2025)*

Revd Martin Hills

Oundle BC, Peterborough *(until June 2025)*

Revd Elaine Blundell

Greenhill Community Church,
Coalville *(appointed June 2025)*

Revd Hannah Colk

Robert Hall Memorial BC, Leics

Revd Matt Jones

Westdale Lane BC, Notts

Mrs Kay McManus

New Day BC, Morton, Lincs

Mr David Mellen

New Life BC, Notts *(appointed June 2025)*

Mr Jonathan Morley

Sutton Elms BC, Leics *(appointed June 2025)*

Mrs Liz Shaw

Eastwood BC, Notts *(appointed June 2025)*

Revd Andy Warner

Oundle Road BC, Peterborough
(appointed June 2025)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

NONE

NON-VOTING MEMBER

Company Secretary:

Mrs Becky Nicholls

At the General Meeting as part of the 2026 EMBA Gathering there will be one vacancy on the EMBA Board of Directors specifically for a person to become the Moderator (a position that can only be held by an Elected Director).

Report of the EMBA Directors



Objectives and Activities

The objects of this charitable company are the advancement of the Christian faith, particularly across the East Midlands and 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 (BUGB).

The charitable company exists as a network of churches seeking to serve God's kingdom, led by the Holy Spirit, enabling all to do everything possible to fulfil God's apostolic mission and ministry within the communities in which they are placed. The charitable company believe that the local church is the primary way in which God's apostolic mission is fulfilled and as such, healthy churches are crucial to seeing God at work across the region. The trustees of the charitable company are committed to growing healthy churches through inspiring, equipping, pioneering, caring and partnering. These five priorities guide the work of the charitable company.

The principle activities of the charitable company are the employment of a Regional Ministry and administrative staff team and the organisation of a number of volunteers, working in groups or individually, to offer support and guidance, training and financial resources to advance the Christian faith in a way which benefits Baptist churches and the communities they serve.

The charitable company is part of the family of Baptist organisations serving the needs of many of the Baptist churches in Great Britain, working particularly closely with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and BMS World Mission.

Achievements and Performance

The EMBA Directors continue to work closely with the Staff Team on a range of significant issues which impact on the whole Baptist family and in particular the churches within the East Midland Baptist Association. We continue to take forward recommendations and actions that emerged from the Project Violet Report and we have been involved in a number events and there are further events planned for 2026.

We have been heavily involved in discussions with the wider Baptist family around the Financial Model Review which supports both associations and specialist teams. It has become clear that unless there is a significant increase in Home Mission giving that our current structure will become unsustainable. More will be said about this at the EMBA Gathering however, we again invite the churches within the EMBA to pray for us as we work out the implications of the Financial Model Review and encourage them to consider increasing their regular giving to Home Mission.

The Regional Ministers continue to build relationships with churches and are available to offer support and encouragement to Ministers and Leadership Teams. Kenny Henry is our Safeguarding Lead and is organising a range of training courses as well as advising on specific issues. It has been good to see a number of churches taking advantage of the new Resourcing Grant aimed at churches that are growing quickly and need help to sustain and continue that growth. It is also pleasing to see a growing number of people responding to God's call into Baptist Ministry and being supported by our EMBA Minister in Training (MIT) Training Grants. We continue to work in close partnership with the St Hild Centre for Baptist Ministry and in particular with the Yorkshire Baptist Association and Heart of England Baptist Association as appropriate. The Staff Team continue to work hard at developing relationships with our churches and ministers and it has been gratifying to see good numbers supporting some of the new training initiatives that our Regional Team are providing.

At the Annual Gathering in June 2025, five new Directors joined the board (Revd Elaine Blundell, Mr David Mellen, Mr Jonathan Morley, Mrs Liz Shaw, Revd Andy Warner) and Mrs Kay McManus was re-elected for a second term of office. Many thanks to all board members who serve the churches faithfully and bring wise and strategic decision making to our Association. Please remember them in your prayers as they continue to serve us. Thanks were also expressed to Revd David Harvey who stood down from the role of Moderator of Directors after serving the churches for ten years. Since then the board have been proactively seeking a new Moderator but have so far been unsuccessful. Revd Mark Clay (EMBA Regional Team Leader) has been acting as interim Moderator until a new Moderator is appointed.

The Directors express sincere thanks to the Staff Team. Becky, Gill, Kenny, Mark, Nick, Pete, and Sarah together with Andy our Treasurer and Irene our bookkeeper serve the Association and our churches so very well. The Directors and Staff Team continue to look for innovative ways to engage with and draw on the skills and experience of ministers, church leaders, and the many retired ministers in our region. We are grateful for all the work done on a voluntary basis by so many.

I encourage you to pray for the Directors and Staff Team on a regular basis. We are always keen to hear from those who have a passion to see God's Kingdom grow and have some skills and time available. Please contact any of the Directors or Regional Ministers.

Revd Mark Clay

Acting Moderator of the EMBA Board of Directors

East Midland Baptist Trust Company (EMBTC)

Purpose Statement

The East Midland Baptist Trust Company (EMBTC) primarily acts as 'Custodian Trustee' for many EMBA churches. In addition, it has responsibility for advising congregations on property related matters; the maintenance of burial grounds arising from 'closed' churches; and the consideration of Small Building Project Grant (SBPG) applications from EMBA churches.

Achievements and Performance

The EMBTC is a bit like your family solicitor, you know you need one but you would rather not meet them too often as it often portends trouble. For most churches, most of the time, we are just there, quietly looking after your Trust deeds. Some of the work is sad, when a church closes and the building is sold but much of it is joyful, supporting a church in the purchase of a manse or making alterations because they are thriving and growing. If your church is considering taking out a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC), please feel free to contact us for advice before applying.

The directors have remained unchanged over 2025 and we have met in person and on line regularly. Financially we remain solid.

The final phase of the Charities Act came into force in 2025 which will require smaller churches which were previously exempt to register as charities with the Charity Commission. At the time of writing, we are awaiting guidance from the Commission before preparing advice leaflets. Please be prepared to act when the time comes.

The Renters Reform Act will be implemented from 01 May 2026. Churches considering rental of residential property are advised to seek legal advice.

Last year, I recommended that churches that rent out their premises should adopt an Ethos statement and I would reiterate that advice. Leaflet L09 on the BUGB Resources website gives details.

I want to thank my fellow directors for their service in 2025 as well as Tim Chowns and Sally Spicer of the BUGB Support Services Team and Becky Nicholls for keeping us in line, in order and on track.

Finally, the work of the EMBTC is not glamorous but it is a necessary part of the East Midlands Baptist Family. If you feel that you could serve as a director, please let me know.

Dr Chris Hanning (EMBTC Moderator)

Leadership Development

The mainstay of Regional Ministry work in 2025 were the core tasks of supporting and walking alongside our churches. This included churches in crisis, whether through disputes or relational difficulties, pastoral vacancy or facing other questions, as well as rejoicing with churches at inductions, ordinations and the re-opening of buildings following renovation work. Alongside this was building connections, regular preaching, as well as supporting ministers, including those considering ministry, and those entering training as MITs.

The focus of our team retreat in the summer of 2025 was on leadership development and how we can develop pathways to support leadership in the churches. The outcome from this was the drafting of a plan, looking at four levels of training: Core, Serve, Grow and Rooted.

For Core, training for all interested in any level of church leadership, 8 short video scripts have been developed, with the intention to release these with accompanying worksheets in spring/summer 2026.

In November an event under the Serve heading took place called “Help! I’m preaching”, a well-attended morning workshop which included both those just beginning their preaching journey and those who were more experienced.

Plans have been put in place to develop these initiatives further over the next couple of years.

Rooted

Rooted is the EMBA’s commitment to equip ministers and leaders for contemporary ministry and to help churches engage in mission and ministry in our ever-changing world. Themed days (usually two or three) are held each year that provide an opportunity to reflect theologically and practically on a particular aspect of ministry. We aim to make the days as practical as possible with subjects covered that stimulate our thinking in mission and ministry.



In early March 2025, we were delighted to have Revd Dr Steve Finamore (then President of Baptists Together), join us and lead a day for ministers and preachers reflecting on the purposes of preaching the whole of the Bible and the Bible as a whole. In September 2025, Lisa Holmes (Deeper Church Lead in the Baptist Union of Scotland) led a day for our church leaders on the theme of navigating leadership.

EMBA Ministry Recognition Committee (MRC)

- In 2025, we held three MRCs in the EMBA.
- Eight candidates went through MRC
 - Six were exploring full accreditation with the BU
 - One had their second MRC as part of the pathway towards being a nationally recognised lay pastor
 - We were also asked to interview a candidate from another regional association
- Seven candidates were commended
 - One is heading to the national residential selection committee (RSC) later this year
 - Five are pursuing the college route (either transferring to be a Minister in Training (MiT), having started in the Autumn of 2025, or commencing studies this year).
 - Four are at St Hild College, Sheffield
 - One is applying to Regent's Park College, Oxford
- Four of our Newly Accredited Ministers also completed their NAM studies and were commended to have their names transferred to the list of fully accredited ministers - they received their handshakes at Assembly back in May.
- In addition, the regional team are in conversation with 11 people who are actively exploring a call either as a fully accredited minister, or as a recognised local minister.
- At the end of 2025:
 - We had six Ministers in Training (five at St Hild, one Regent's Park College), and one MiT due to commence later this year.
 - We had six Newly Accredited Ministers (excluding those who had completed their NAM period).

Grants Group

During 2025 we were able to support EMBA mission and ministry through:

- 1 Mission Micro Grant to support the set up of a Renew Café at Kirby Muxloe Free Church, Leics.
- 2 Mission Partnership Grants supporting ministry at Castle Donington Community Church, Derbyshire and Greenhill Community Church in Coalville.
- 2 Resourcing Grants to support the appointment of additional workers at Melton Mowbray BC and Oakham BC.
- MIT Training Grants supporting 6 EMBA ministers in training (MiTs).

- Mission Action Plan (MAP) process available to support and resource churches seeking to be healthy, mission-minded and fruitful in their ministries.

Safeguarding

- Level 2 trainings held - 13 (21 already planned for 2026)
- Level 3 trainings - 10 (20 already planned for 2026)
- Level 2 delegates trained - 294
- Level 3 delegates trained - 140
- Investigations completed - 24
- New Level 1 video launched
- New Level 2 training programme launched
- 'BUGB Guide for Safeguarding Trustees' launched
- 'BUGB Guide for Training for Adult Volunteers with Learning Disability' launched

Kenny Henry (EMBA Safeguarding Lead)

EMBA Ministers' Conference

Approximately 100 ministers and pastors from the EMBA gathered between 5th and the 7th February 2025 at the Swanwick Conference Centre for our annual minister's conference. We were joined by the Rev Dr Helen Paynter (Bristol Baptist College) and Phil Knox (Evangelical Alliance) who provided the teaching input for the conference. In addition, ministers joined together in worship, fellowship and prayer.

Refresh Women's Conference

We continue to be excited and encouraged by the growth and development of the Refresh Women's Conference.

Spring Conference 2025 – Saturday 05 April at Bretton BC, Peterborough

Around 170 women gathered for a wonderful day of worship, teaching and encouragement with guest speaker Natalie Williams (CEO of Jubilee Plus).

Autumn Conference 2025 – Saturday 20 September at Whetstone BC, Leicestershire

Around 160 women came together for an inspiring day led by Lisa Holmes (Baptist Union Of Scotland, Spring Harvest and Church Leader) speaking on the theme of 'Being Transformed', reflecting on 2 Corinthians 3 v 18.

EMBA Retired Baptist Ministers' Network (RBMN)

Around 90 Baptist Ministers have “retired” in the East Midlands with many decades of ministry experience and service between us. In 2025 we continued a pattern of both Zoom and in-person gatherings, locally and regionally. Our Lent Zoom Gathering was guided by The President of Bristol Baptist College, the Revd Dr Peter Morden, who reflected with us on “Jesus in the Garden” including insights into “sleepy disciples”, Peter and the way back and what it is to be, at times, truly alone. At this year’s in person Summer Gathering, we welcomed back to the EMBA Dianne and Derek Tidball, both former Presidents of our Union, for what has become known as “team teaching”. Dianne reflected on the power and ongoing influence of the Book of Romans, appealing for a return to preaching the simple truths of the gospel. Derek’s complementary message invited us to read Romans backwards; learning how to live, worship work and grow together in our churches, he reminded us, must always be rooted in the good theology with which Paul’s letter begins. Another fine buffet lunch added, in no small measure, to a very good gathering.

Before our Advent Zoom Gathering, a copy of a recent Sunday Times best seller – Bear Grylls’ *The Greatest Story Ever Told* – had been made available, on request and as a gift, to around 30 of us. In this fine book we were invited, to re-enter the drama and impact of Jesus’ life and ministry through the eyes of some of those who knew Jesus (Yeshua) best—Maryam (his mother Mary), Ta’om (Thomas), Shimon (Simon Peter), Yohanan (a friend) and Maryam of Magdala (Mary Magdalene). This fresh retelling of the gospel story was generally very well received by those of us at the gathering – in both our plenary and breakout group sessions. Complementing these whole Network gatherings, a number of more local opt-in meetings were organised in 2025, sometimes with a meal together.

This Network would not be happening at all without the continuing affirmation and support of Mark Clay, his PA Becky Nicholls, and the EMBA Team. We remain grateful to them all for this.

Revd Michael I Bochenski (EMBA – RBMN Coordinator)

Welcome to new EMBA ministers

Those in ministry who we have welcomed into the Association during 2025 are:

Elaine Blundell – Greenhill Community Church, Leicestershire

Alexis Brooks - Prison Chaplain (HMP Stocken)

Elsie Fraser – Littleover BC, Derbyshire

Margaret Gibbs – Chesterfield BC, Derbyshire

Matt Jones – Mansfield Road BC, Nottinghamshire

Eleanor Kelsey – Transform.Church

Henry Ohakah – Mountsorrel BC, Leicestershire

Richard Stein – Javea International Baptist Church, Spain

Gary Webb – Holbeach BC, Lincolnshire

The following Ministers in Training (MITs) have begun ministerial training within EMBA churches during 2025:

Marianne Birtwistle – Friar Lane and Braunstone BC, Leicestershire

Debbie Clarke – Sutton St James BC, Lincolnshire

Sarah Jones – Westdale Lane BC, Mapperley, Nottinghamshire

Sue Smout – Oakham BC, Rutland

Ministerial Recognition

Having successfully completed their Newly Accredited Minister (NAM) studies the following ministers transferred to the Fully Accredited Baptist Minister list in 2025 and received their handshake at Baptist Assembly in Harrogate in May 2026:

Revd Sam Dunn (Melton Mowbray BC, Leics)

Revd Mark Herd (Mansfield BC, Notts)

Revd Karen Smilley (Spalding BC, Lincs)

Revd Ruth Tiso (Pear Tree Road BC, Derby)

Finance review

Nationally Home Mission giving increased - this is the first time this has happened for a few years. We are really grateful to those churches who faithfully support the work of our Baptist family in this way.

Our own figures, subject to audit, show expenses exceed income by just under £27,000.

However, the Baptist Union and many associations continue to draw on reserves which, in some places, are either exhausted or reaching critical levels.

The Financial Model Review work continues and while not concluded it will mean significantly less funding for the EMBA particularly in 2027 and 2028 when the likely reduction is around £130,000. This comes at a time when over the next three years, we will be giving out £450,000 in grants.

The Directors have affirmed the commitment to use reserves to honour grants and maintain our services in the short/medium term although if the funding remains at the lower levels beyond 2028, we will need to re-think and a working party has been established to start this process.

It's sad and a real concern that at a time when many churches are showing signs of growth, funding for grants, associations and the Central Teams is under so much pressure.

Andy Smallridge (EMBA Treasurer)

EMBA Working Groups



East Midland Baptist Trust Company (EMBTC)

Chris Hanning (Moderator), Andy Smallridge (EMBTC Treasurer), Gary Anderson, David Harvey

Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC)

Rashell Beya, Colin Bowden, Ellie Cockbill, Margaret Gibbs, Jon Grant, Chandra Morbey, Richard Nicholls, David Pile, Claire Roberts, Ruth Tiso

Ministers' Conference Planning Group

Sam Dunn (Coordinator), Sarah Fegredo (Administrator), Tom Cox (Treasurer), Rachel Malyk

Refresh Women's Conference

Dianne Tidball (Coordinator), Vivienne Edwards, Margaret Hanning, Sarah Liquorish, Linda Patel

Retired Baptist Ministers' Network (RBMN) Planning Team

Michael Bochenski (Coordinator), Ron Day, Clive Doubleday, Arderne Gillies, Nic Hasnip, David Luce, Dick Prior, Jane Webb

Safeguarding Team

Dave Bedford, Clare Blain, Elaine Burrows, Sarah Fegredo, Sarah Jones, Kenny Henry, Paul Muir, Helen Parker, Amanda Tasker

Wider EMBA Team

EMBA & EMBTC Treasurer: Mr Andy Smallridge

Bookkeeper: Ms Irene Milburn

Data Protection Officer: Mrs Becky Nicholls

Home Mission Administrator: Mr Jack Liquorish

EMBA Associates

People recognised and endorsed by the Association in offering specific skills and experience to the churches of the EMBA (largely in a voluntary capacity) thereby expanding the capacity of the Regional Team.

Children, Young People and Families (CYF): Revd Sarah Fegredo

Church Development: Revd Graham Dunn

Ministerial Development: Revd Nick Swanson

Pioneering Support: Revd Sue Steer

Spiritual Accompaniment: Revd Stephen Ibbotson

Training: Revd Elaine Burrows and Revd Nick Swanson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EAST MIDLANDS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 20 to 28.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My independent examination work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charities Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my Independent examination work, for this report, or for the opinions I have found.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity's Trustees of the company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 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 section 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 section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 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 the 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 (FRS102).

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.

Name: A R R PRICE FCA Chartered Accountant

For and on behalf of ARR Price Limited
17 Newstead Grove
NOTTINGHAM
NG1 4GZ



Date:

4th September 2016

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
INCOME from				
Charitable activities				
BU Operational Funding	262,571	-	262,571	260,951
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	360
Ministers Conference	18,710	-	18,710	16,820
Preaching Contributions	5,184	-	5,184	4,321
Sundry Income	18,769	-	18,769	7,719
Closed Church funds	138,475	103,455	241,930	-
Investment Income	29,823	4,226	34,049	42,291
Rental Income	-	-	-	5,029
TOTAL INCOME	473,532	107,681	581,213	337,491
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Employment Costs	204,124	-	204,124	206,469
Manse Costs	18,423	-	18,423	34,213
Travel Costs	15,814	-	15,814	12,208
Minsters Sabbatical	-	-	-	3,000
Training	5,132	-	5,132	6,756
Ministers Conference	10,769	-	18,175	16,373
Other Conferences, Committees and Meetings	18,175	-	10,769	5,935
Home Mission Grants	88,949	-	88,949	76,267
Grants and Donations	8,508	3,325	11,833	23,639
Church Relations	1,095	-	1,095	1,135
Office Costs Inc. Printing and Photocopying	9,081	-	9,081	4,726
Technology and Telephone	12,137	-	12,137	11,538
Insurance	1,416	-	1,416	2,589
Depreciation	3,988	-	3,988	3,958
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	(129)
Legal and Professional	-	-	-	10,641
Sundry Expenses	9,757	1,000	10,757	11,174
Subscriptions	1,046	-	1,046	1,176
Closed Church costs	-	-	0	4,001
Governance Costs				
Independent Examiner's Fee	3,358	-	3,358	1,584
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	411,772	4,325	416,097	437,253
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year before other recognised gains	61,760	103,356	165,116	(99,762)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Other Recognised Losses on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year and Net Movement in Funds	61,760	103,356	165,116	(99,762)
Balances at 1st January 2025	1,373,610	210,786	1,584,396	1,684,158
Balances at 31st December 2025	1,435,370	314,142	1,749,512	1,584,396

All of the Charity's activities are derived from continuing activities.

EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025
 Company Number 4302466

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets: Tangible Assets	6	2,971	5,207
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	639,872	685,443
Cash on Deposit		1,129,145	919,258
Cash at Bank		<u>37,993</u>	<u>18,215</u>
		1,807,010	1,622,916
Creditors			
Falling due within one year	8	<u>(60,469)</u>	<u>(43,727)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>1,746,541</u>	<u>1,579,189</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		1,749,512	1,584,396
Defined benefit Pension scheme Deficit Liability	9	-	-
Net Assets		<u><u>1,749,512</u></u>	<u><u>1,584,396</u></u>
Funds			
Unrestricted:			
General	11	1,435,370	1,373,610
Restricted:	12	230,655	127,964
Endowed:	12	<u>83,487</u>	<u>82,822</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u><u>1,749,512</u></u>	<u><u>1,584,396</u></u>

For the year ended 31st December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476: and

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts:-

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

These accounts were approved by the Directors and authorised for issue on 04/09/2026 and are signed on their behalf by:-

Revd M Clay
Director



A D Smallridge
Treasurer



The notes on pages 22 to 28 form part of these accounts.

EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Constitution

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales company number 4302466 and a registered Charity number 1094457. The registered office is West Bridgford Baptist Church, Melton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7NF.

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with 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 SORP 2019 (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The East Midlands Baptist Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS (102).

The presentation currency is £ Sterling.

Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The Trustees consider that the Charity can continue as a going concern for at least the next 12 months and accordingly the accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

Key assumptions and judgements

Estimates and judgements 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.

Multi-employer defined benefit plan

On 1st July 2022 an agreement was signed with Just Group to secure DB plan member's pension benefits as a 'buy in policy', providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB plan.

The time to complete the exercise of setting up individual pension arrangements is anticipated to complete over the next couple of years. Until the buy-out and wind up are complete not all risks relating to the DB plan are removed. The uncertainties include:

- the sale values that will be achieved on disposal of residual investments.
- the costs of operating the DB plan until completion of the buy-out process.
- the costs of the buy-out process; and
- the cost of making any amendments to the DB plan to enable the buyout to proceed.

It is expected that the assets of the DB plan will be sufficient to cover all costs and liabilities that remain.

The Trustees and the Baptist Union currently, they do not anticipate reinstating the requirement to pay the full deficit reduction contributions in the future, but cannot rule this out at this stage.

Consolidation

In the opinion of the Trustees, the company and its subsidiary undertaking comprise a small group. The company has taken advantage of the exemption provided by Section 398 of the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare group accounts.

EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Income Recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached have been met and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Investment income is included when receivable and can be measured reliably

Proceeds from the sale of closed churches is recognised when notified of entitlement to the funds has been established.

Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be made and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is inclusive of any VAT as the charity's activities are exempt.

Expenditure primarily relates to staffing and support costs to enable the Charity to support Baptist Church Communities in the East Midlands. The support is wide ranging and involves pastoral care of ministers and churches, support for outreach, youth work, training, payroll service and finance. The Charity also makes a number of grant payments through its Home Mission Grants to support ministries across the region.

Included with charitable activities are governance costs that are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and the strategic management of the Charities activities.

Tangible Fixed Assets

The Charity is not the owner of any properties. It has an interest in properties owned by the East Midlands Baptist Trust Company to the value of £408,250. Depreciation is provided at 33% on cost to write off office and IT equipment over its estimated useful life.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a maturity within 3 months of the Balance Sheet date.

Creditors and Provisions

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

EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

1.ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds- are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Charity.
Designated- funds are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – are funds that can only be used for a particular restricted purpose. The restriction may be declared by the donor when making the gift or may result from the terms of an appeal.

Endowment funds- are resources received by the Charity that represent capital and that Charity law requires the Trustees to invest it or retain and use it for the Charity's purposes. In respect of permanent endowments, the Trustees have no power to convert it into income and apply it. Whereas expendable endowments the Trustees do have this power. Expenditure that meets these criteria is charged to the appropriate fund.

Voluntary Assistance

The Charity has not made any financial consideration for the voluntary help it has received during the year, nor is it able to quantify such assistance.

Taxation

The Association is a registered charity and is exempt from any liability to taxation on its income and capital gains

Pension Schemes

Defined contribution scheme

The Association operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions payable are recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities when due.

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	360
Legacies	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	<u>360</u>

3 EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES

Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries	176,868	177,216
Employers NI	9,250	10,723
Pension Costs: Defined Pension Scheme	18,006	18,530
Other Costs (Council tax, water and accommodation)	18,422	34,213
	<u>222,546</u>	<u>240,682</u>

No employees have emoluments above £60,000. The average number of employees is 7.

Five Trustees were reimbursed expenses for travelling conferences and other expenses of £891
(2024: £1,070 number of trustees reimbursed was 5)

Trustees receiving remuneration is the Regional Minister Revd M Clay consisting of:-

Remuneration	£44,359
Employer Pension Contributions	£3,907
Manse	£3,554

The Memorandum of Association of the Charity provides for remuneration and benefits to be paid to those appointed as Regional Ministers of the Charity. Remuneration is paid to the Regional Ministers as fully accredited Baptist Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, to exchange information, provide advice and support to churches and to their ministers and leaders to enable the Charity to further its objects.

4 EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Home Mission Grants		
Home Mission Grants to Churches	<u>88,949</u>	<u>76,267</u>
Other Grants to Churches (restricted)	-	3,714
Other Grants to Churches and related organisations (unrestricted)	8,508	15,000
Other Grants to Individuals (restricted)	2,700	4,925
Other Grants to Individuals (restricted)	<u>625</u>	-
	<u>11,833</u>	<u>23,639</u>

The grants to individuals are in support of theological training, spiritual courses and benevolent payments.

5 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR IS STATED AFTER CHARGING

		2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiner's Fee	Current year	1,990	1,584
	Prior year	1,368	-
Depreciation		3,988	3,958
Profit on disposal of assets		<u>-</u>	<u>(129)</u>

EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Computer and Office Equipment	£
At cost 01.01.25	53,227
Additions	1,752
Disposals	-
Cost 31.12.25	54,979
Depreciation - at 01.01.25	48,020
- disposals	-
- for year	3,988
Net book value at 31.12.25	2,971

7 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts owed by group undertakings		
Inter-company Account (Note 13)	578,812	593,189
Prepayments and accrued income	61,060	92,254
	<u>639,872</u>	<u>685,443</u>

8 CREDITORS - Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	42,544	19,067
Other creditors and accruals	1,990	5,579
Income in advance	15,935	15,580
Taxation and Social security	-	3,501
	<u>60,469</u>	<u>43,727</u>

9 PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Deficit Liability		
Balance Sheet Liability at 1st January 2025	-	30
Deficiency Contributions paid	-	(7)
Interest Cost	-	-
Change in Liability	-	(23)
Balance as at 31st December 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
31st December 2025			
Fixed Assets	2,971	-	2,971
Current Assets	1,596,224	210,786	1,807,010
Current Liabilities	(60,469)	-	(60,469)
Provisions for Liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>1,538,726</u>	<u>210,786</u>	<u>1,749,512</u>
31st December 2024			
Fixed Assets	5,207	-	5,207
Current Assets	1,412,130	210,786	1,622,916
Current Liabilities	(43,727)	-	(43,727)
Provisions for Liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>1,373,610</u>	<u>210,786</u>	<u>1,584,396</u>

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 01.01.25	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Realised Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25
Unrestricted Funds	1,373,610	473,532	(412,397)	-	-	1,434,745

12 RESTRICTED AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 01.01.25	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Realised Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.25
Restricted	£	£	£	£		£
a Benevolent Fund	87,633	1,745	(2,700)	-	-	86,678
b Hunt Legacy	8,449	171	-	-	-	8,620
c Thos Cooke Trust	12,338	249	-	-	-	12,587
d Sutton in Ashfield	5,636	114	-	-	-	5,750
e Leicester Ass	11,615	235	-	-	-	11,850
f Peterborough Chaplaincy	521	11	-	-	-	532
g Burton on Trent	1,772	36	-	-	-	1,808
h Ministers in Training Fund	-	103,455	-	-	-	103,455
	127,964	106,016	(2,700)	-	-	231,280
Endowments						
i Hart Foundation	43,199	864	(1,000)	-	-	43,063
j Midland/Pegg Fund	20,094	406	-	-	-	20,500
k Round/Keywood Trust	12,979	262	-	-	-	13,241
l Doric Trust	5,574	113	-	-	-	5,687
m Knipton Trust	976	20	-	-	-	996
	82,822	1,665	(1,000)	-	-	83,487
TOTAL	210,786	107,681	(3,700)	-	-	314,767

Explanatory Notes

- a The Benevolent Fund is used to relieve financial distress amongst Baptist Ministers and/or their dependants in the event of incapacity or death.
- b The Hunt Legacy is used to support work amongst women, with a preference for Derbyshire.
- c The Thomas Cooke Fund is a legacy supporting ministry within the Loughborough District.
- d The Sutton in Ashfield Fund is to be used for the advancement of Baptist work in Nottinghamshire.
- e Leicester Association Fund - This represents the residual funds of the Association to be used to support the ministry in Leicester.
- f
- f The Peterborough Prison Chaplaincy Fund is a fund to support the ministry at Peterborough Prison.
- g The Burton on Trent Fund is to assist young people to attend Baptist events.
- h Funds from the closure of the East Leake Baptist Church to support Ministers in training
- i The income from the Hart Foundation supports the education of Baptist Association area.
- j/k/l The Midland/Pegg Trusts provide grants for those in theological training.
- m The income from the Round, Keywood, Doric and Knipton Trusts are distributed to various causes.

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

13 RELATED PARTIES

a) East Midlands Baptist Trust Company

The East Midland Baptist Trust Company (limited by guarantee no 178555 incorporated in England and Wales, Charity Number 250068) is a wholly owned subsidiary. Directors are appointed by the board of its holding company.

The financial results of East Midland Baptist Trust Company are: -

Gross assets are £2,206,964 (2024: £1,786,261) liabilities are 906,769 (2024 £594,439) with total net funds £1,300,195 (2024: £1,191,822). Total income amounts to £139,408 (2024: £39,845) and expenditure of £31,035 (2024:£10,389) resulting in a surplus for the year of £108,373 (2024: Surplus £29,456).

b) Baptist Union of Great Britain

The Association is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). During the year, it received grants from the BUGB as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
BUGB Operational Funding	<u>262,571</u>	<u>260,951</u>

c) Rent was paid to West Bridgford Baptist Church in respect of rent of the Association offices amounting to £2,160 (2024:£2,160)

d) During the year £NIL (2024:£15,000) was paid to St Hild College for Baptist Ministry, a charity with a trustee in common with the East Midlands Baptist Association, for the support of Baptist Ministry training

14 Pensions

Baptist Pension scheme - Defined Benefit Plan

On 1st July 2022 an agreement was signed with Just Group to secure DB plan member's pension benefits as a 'buy in policy', providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB plan

The time to complete the exercise of setting up individual pension arrangements and the wind up of the scheme is expected to be fully completed in 2025.Until the wind up the scheme not all risks are removed. These risks include:

the sale values that will be achieved on disposal of residual investments;

the costs of operating the DB plan until completion of the buy out process;

the cost of the buy-out process and making any amendments to the DB plan to enable the buy-out to proceed.

It is expected that the assets of the DB plan will be sufficient to cover all costs and liabilities that remain.

The Trustees and the Baptist Union currently, do not anticipate reinstating the requirement to pay the full deficit reduction contributions in the future, but cannot rule this out at this stage. The DB plan wind up is expected to be fully completed in 2025.