

**EAST MIDLAND  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**Company Registered Number: 4302466  
Charity number 1094457**

# EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## COMPANY INFORMATION

**DIRECTORS**

Revd M Clay	(Regional team leader)
Revd M I Hills	
Revd H M Colk	
Revd M A Jones	
Mr A Smallridge	(Treasurer)
Mr D C Harvey	(Moderator)
Mrs E M Cox	
Mrs K G McManus	

**COMPANY SECRETARY** Mrs R Nicholls

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

West Bridgford Baptist Church  
Melton Road  
West Bridgford  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG2 7NF

**REGISTERED NUMBER** 4302466

**CHARITY NUMBER** 1094457

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

A R R Price FCA  
A R R Price Limited  
17 Newstead Grove  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG1 4GZ

**BANKERS**

Lloyds TSB  
43 Irongate  
DERBY  
DE1 3FT

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**EMBTC Small Building Project Grants**

The East Midland Baptist Trust Company (EMBTC) established the Small Building Project Grant fund to support EMBA churches in the maintenance, renewal and development of their church buildings. During 2023, EMBTC have awarded five Small Building Project Grants to assist with the following projects:

- **Buckminster Road Baptist Church, Leicester** – Refurbishment of three rooms for community use.
- **Central Baptist Church, Leicester** – Garden project.
- **Market Bosworth Free Church, Leicestershire** – Damp proofing course.
- **Melton Mowbray Baptist Church, Leicestershire** – Community Church Garden.
- **Swanwick Baptist Church, Derbyshire** – re-roofing, replacing entrance door, insulation and damp proofing.

**EMBA Retired Baptist Ministers' Network (RBMN)**

Around 90 Baptist Ministers have "retired" in the East Midlands.

A clear pattern for our Retired Ministers' Network has now emerged as some prefer to meet by Zoom only, some enjoy both Zoom and in-person gatherings, some engage only very occasionally, and some not at all. It has been good, in 2023, to see many of these Ministers, long or more recently retired, supporting our gatherings.

We will continue to facilitate further activities for this network.

**EMBA Ministry Recognition Committee (MRC)**

The Ministry Recognition Committee primarily works with those who are exploring a call to ministry across the EMBA.

In 2023 we had the privilege of meeting with four individuals who were exploring a call to accredited ministry. One was exploring a call to be an accredited pastor, and three were exploring a call to be a fully accredited minister with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Of these three, one was already undertaking training at College, one was looking to go to college in 2024, and one was a reinstatement to the accredited list following a return to the United Kingdom. The MRC were delighted to commend all four to the Baptist Union.

In November 2023, the EMBA joined with the Yorkshire Baptist Association and with St Hild College to host an online 'explore your call event' for individual's we are in the early stages of asking what God might be asking of them, and whether this might include some form of ministerial formation.

MRC is comprised of representatives from the regional team, EMBA ministers, and others who have been appointed by our churches. We are grateful for the work and time that they give to this group.

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**EMBA Ministers' Conference**

As in previous years, we continue to hold a Ministers Conference in February.

There is a growing sense among ministers that the conference is drawing them closer together and is a significant time for in their ministries. We encourage ministers and churches to invest in these days as a priority for challenging, refreshing, learning and enabling that will have an impact back home in our churches.

**RESERVES POLICY**

The Directors have determined that the minimum Reserves required to be maintained are equivalent to three months' pay in lieu of notice for all paid staff plus an equal amount for contingencies.

**RISK REVIEW**

A review of the major risks which impact on the work of the Association has been undertaken and procedures have been established to manage the risks identified.

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees of the company during the year and at the date of this report were:

Moderator:	Rev David Harvey
Company Secretary:	Mrs Becky Nicholls (non-voting)
Treasurer: (ex officio)	Mr A Smallridge
Revd Mark Clay (ex officio)	Mrs Eleanor Cox
Revd Martin Hills	Mrs Kay McManus
Revd Matthew Jones	Revd Hannah Colk

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and of its excess or deficiency of income over expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

**STATEMENT ON PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Our main activities and who we are and the objectives of the charitable company are described above. All our charitable activities focus on the promotion of the Evangelical Christian Religion and the support of its Ministers, Lay pastors and Churches connected with the Baptist denomination and are undertaken to further our charitable purpose for the public benefit.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# **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 2023 which are set out on pages 12 to 19.

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:.....**

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023**  
 Company Number 4302466

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets: Tangible Assets</b>	6	5,334	11,420
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7	623,038	1,746,081
Cash on Deposit		1,007,365	
Cash at Bank		<u>82,417</u>	<u>15,535</u>
		1,712,820	1,761,616
<b>Creditors</b>			
Falling due within one year	8	<u>(33,966)</u>	<u>(5,562)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>1,678,854</u>	<u>1,756,054</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		1,684,188	1,767,474
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>			
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Deficit Liability	9	(30)	(42)
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>1,684,158</u></u>	<u><u>1,767,432</u></u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted:			
General	11	1,470,832	780,494
Designated	12	-	773,615
Restricted:	13	129,801	131,330
Endowed:	13	<u>83,525</u>	<u>81,993</u>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<u><u>1,684,158</u></u>	<u><u>1,767,432</u></u>

For the year ended 31st December 2023 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 and are signed on their behalf by:-

**R Nicholls:**  
Secretary

**A D Smallridge**  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these accounts.

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**Income Recognition**

Income from grants, donations and other voluntary income are recognised on a receivable basis. Proceeds from the sale of closed churches is recognised when notified of entitlement to the funds has been established.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued**

**Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT that cannot be recovered. 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.

**Investment Policy**

Investments are held in the name of the East Midland Baptist Trust Company Limited where they are shown at fair Value and managed by means of a mix of Gilt Edged Securities and high interest deposits so as to meet the ongoing needs of the Charity.

**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 12 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.

**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.

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	1,500
Legacies	-	-	-	6,454
	-	-	-	7,954

**3 EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES**

Staff Costs	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries	131,577	118,301
Employers NI	6,768	6,823
Pension Costs: Defined Pension Scheme	14,783	13,292
Other Costs (Council tax, water and accommodation)	26,326	25,116
	<u>179,454</u>	<u>163,532</u>

No employees have emoluments about £60,000. The average number of employees is 5.

Five Trustees were reimbursed expenses for travelling conferences and other expenses of £1,214 (2022: £6,109 number of trustees reimbursed was 5)

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

Remuneration	£39,750
Employer Pension Contributions	£4,688
Manse	£4,677

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**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Home Mission Grants</b>		
Home Mission Grants to Churches	<u>88,317</u>	<u>81,101</u>
Other Grants to Churches (restricted)	9,432	4,125
Other Grants to Individuals (designated)	-	1,950
	<u>9,432</u>	<u>6,075</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**

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent Examiner's Fee	1,644	1,330
Depreciation	9,345	9,017
Profit on disposal of assets	-	-



**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 01.01.23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Realised Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.23
Unrestricted Funds	780,494	259,224	(361,571)	19,070	773,615	1,470,832

**12 DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	Balance at 01.01.23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Realised Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.23
	£	£	£			£
a Pioneer Ministry Fund	175,573	-	-	-	(175,573)	175,573
b Regional Ministry Fund	125,000	-	-	-	(125,000)	125,000
c Pension Reserve Fund	473,042	-	-	-	(473,042)	473,042
	<b>773,615</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(773,615)</b>	<b>773,615</b>

**13 RESTRICTED AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

	Balance at 01.01.23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Realised Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£		£
<b>Restricted</b>						
d Benevolent Fund	87,451	3,154	(4,807)	1,075	-	86,873
e Hunt Legacy	11,151	396	(932)	135	-	10,750
f Thos Cooke Trust	14,585	502	(2,125)	171	-	13,133
g Sutton in Ashfield	5,232	194	-	66	-	5,492
h Leicester Ass	10,782	400	-	136	-	11,318
i Peterborough Chaplaincy	484	18	-	6	-	508
j Burton on Trent	1,645	61	-	21	-	1,727
	<b>131,330</b>	<b>4,725</b>	<b>(7,864)</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>129,801</b>
<b>Endowments</b>						
k Hart Foundation	45,747	1,666	(2,500)	563	-	45,476
l Midland/Pegg Fund	18,652	692	-	236	-	19,580
m Round/Keywood Trust	12,048	447	-	152	-	12,647
n Doric Trust	4,640	172	-	59	-	4,871
o Knipton Trust	906	34	-	11	-	951
	<b>81,993</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>(2,500)</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,525</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,323</b>	<b>7,736</b>	<b>(10,364)</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>213,326</b>

**Explanatory Notes**

- a The Pioneer Ministry Fund has been created to set aside resources for mission projects currently under consideration and those in the future (e.g. Church Planting).
- b The Regional Ministry Fund has been created during the present uncertainty of future Association funding to contribute towards the potential budget deficit over the next 5 years.
- c A fund to be used for churches who get into financial difficulty with their pension fund deficit or closed churches where the pension deficit is higher than their assets  
The above designated funds are no longer needed and have been transferred back into general funds.
- d The Benevolent Fund is used to relieve financial distress amongst Baptist Ministers and/or their dependants in the event of incapacity or death.

**EAST MIDLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**15 Pensions (Continued)**

**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 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 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. However, it is possible that if things turn out worse than anticipated that further funds will be needed from employers.

The Trustee and the Baptist Union have agreed that deficit reduction contributions will reduce to £1 per month until June 2026. 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.