

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HEART OF ENGLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS HELD ON SUNDAY, 6TH JULY 2024 AT BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH 5:00 pm**

Present: Five trustees, five members of staff and the representatives of 22 churches. Mrs Judith Miller in the Chair.

1. Judith Miller opened the meeting by thanking the host church for their hospitality and all attendees for attending this meeting.
2. She read the apologies submitted and gave an outline of the event which would include a Celebration of 370 years of Association life in the West Midlands; looking back and looking forwards at a challenging point in the life of the Association.
3. Prayers and worship
4. Minutes of the AGM held on 9th June 2024
   1. Judith noted that the Minutes of the AGM held on 9th June 2024 had been posted on the HEBA website for several months. **The Minutes were accepted by those present**.
5. Key actions arising from the Minutes were the appointment of a new Trustee and Treasurer – Mr Chris Knight, completion of the HEBA Review and starting to implement the findings of the review; continuing to prioritise reducing our financial deficit.
   1. Judith pointed out one amendment to the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements for year ending 31.12.2024 – Shilton Baptist Church had been omitted from the list of properties in trust.
6. The following changes to the Board of trustees were noted and all trustees and volunteers were thanked for their service.
   1. **Retiring Trustees**

Rev Glen Gordon sadly passed away

Rev Duncan Maclean, Rev Edward Pillar, Rev Amy Wearing stepped down from the board.

**New Recruits**

Rev John Bernard, Chris Knight as Trustee/Treasurer, Rev Denise Dobie

6.2 A Special mention was made of two volunteers:

John Knight – Previous Moderator Trust Working Group and

John Levick – New Moderator of Trust Working Group

1. News of the churches

**Church Closures**

Glebe Farm, Birmingham.

Cornerstone, Oswestry

Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent

**New Members**

The Well, Herefordshire (Associate Member)

Judith highlighted the additional volunteers needed to help run the Association.

1. **Presentation of the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements for year ending 31.12.2023**.
   1. The Association Treasurer, Mr Chris Knight presented the Financial Statements. He pointed out that HEBA was experiencing challenging times, with an underlying deficit of around £200,000 pa. The Association was not alone in this and BUGB was working with Associations on solutions.
   2. Chris pointed out that income during 2024 had increased, but so had expenditure, however it was pleasing to see a small positive position (£34,000) at the end of 2024 compared to previous years. He described the nature of the surpluses and pointed out that the underlying position remained poor, though the trustees were addressing this.
   3. The Home Mission grants were discussed (Chris being a member of a Home Mission supported church) and Chris encouraged churches to give to Home Mission and BMS.
   4. Chris was pleased to report that the 2024 audit went well, the auditors giving an unqualified sign off and he was happy to commend them.
   5. Judith thanked Chris for his presentation and also the staff who assisted with the audit. She asked the Meeting to receive the accounts, which had been adopted by the trustees. **The AGM received the accounts.**
   6. Judith put the following Resolution to the meeting:
   7. **Resolution - Appointment of Auditor**

*That we appoint Macintyre Hudson to complete the audit for 2025 in 2026.*

**The Auditors were re-appointed unanimously.**

Judith closed the Annual General Meeting. At 5:45 pm

JM/kam/18.07.2025