



SCBA Annual General Meeting 2025

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Basingstoke Baptist Church on 16th June 2025

Present: 60 Delegates and 20 Visitors from 42 SCBA churches and organisations
4 Staff and the Moderator from SCBA
23 apologies had been received

1. Chris Brockway welcomed everyone to the meeting opened in prayer.

2. Minutes – The minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting, held on 4th November 2024 had been previously circulated. These were accepted as a correct record.

3. Election of Trustees

Chris thanked Martin Hardwidge who was coming to the end of his two terms of service. He asked him what was the best and the worst of the time spent as trustee – the best was recruiting Clare & Hayley; and he helpfully posed the challenge that if it's an AGM for the churches of our Association then holding the AGM midweek during the day prevents it being accessible to most people in our churches.

Emma Green, Andy Johnson and Jon Keyworth are all standing for a second term. Chris also thanked Anthony Clarke for his contribution on the trustees as the Regent's Park College representative. Christine Leong and Ian Coffey were appointed as scrutineers and following the count, all three were voted in.

Chris led a time of prayer for Emma, Andy and Jon, as well as the SCBA team.

4. Update from the Team

Question and comments were welcomed on the Annual Report and it was commented that it looks amazing. The Annual Report is available to view on the SCBA website [here](#).

Hayley and Clare highlighted how SCBA is not the Regional Team, it is all of the churches in our Association.

A couple of things they are noticing, firstly that the quiet revival which some may have picked up on is being seen in some of our churches which is amazing. There have also been more baptisms in the last year than in the last 10 years!

Secondly, they notice that a lot of our ministers will be retiring, and not as many people coming into ministry. Do you have people in your churches that might respond to a call into ministry? There are many pathways into ministry now, including The Learning Collective.

This morning's sessions were great and have been recorded, and will be on the Basingstoke Baptist Church YouTube channel.

The Baptist Union are currently undertaking a Financial Model Review, something that has been rumbling along for many years, which is about how we fund Baptists Together. We want to know what you think and what is on your heart. We will keep you updated with this.

5. Summary of Accounts

Simon explained that the main income to SCBA comes from the grant from BUGB which comes from Home Mission giving. There was an increase in 2024 because of a claw back in 2023, which was not needed in the end, so was received back in 2024. However, monies received from the grant are reducing year by year because of the reduction in Home Mission giving.

The monies received from closed churches in 2024 was less, which is a good thing, but does not help the funds, as a deficit of £104,000 is not sustainable.

The team were congratulated in getting the accounts ready for the June AGM.

It was AGREED to adopt the Annual Accounts for 2024. These can be viewed [here](#).

6. Local Discernment

The Regional Team wanted to spend some time listening to the churches and people present.

Firstly, they were invited to reflect on what they valued about Baptists Together. There were 12 choices that came from participants involved in some previous training. People were invited to stick 3 stickers onto their choices.

Secondly, they were invited into facilitated groups to discuss:

What are you noticing God doing in your communities and churches?

How can SCBA support you in response to what God is doing in your communities and churches?

The following responses were given to the second question:

- Healthy discipleship
- An SCBA forum – pooling resources and getting to know each other
- Finding out expert knowledge
- Listening to churches who don't connect with SCBA
- Connecting those who already 'do it well' with those who 'want to do it well and don't know how to'
- Being agile in resourcing, particularly around closed churches
- Openness within church and outside
- Greater recognition within society?
- Access and connection to experts
- Sharing stories
- Social media – sharing resources – some churches do it really well; and other areas of training
- Good practice on encouraging volunteers
- A good link between congregations and SCBA – not all midweek meetings
- To hear other voices
- Ongoing support with safeguarding

The team will now go away and work on this.

The AGM was formally drawn to an end