

Witham Baptist Church

Serving Christ and Our Community

Trustees Annual Report 2023~2024

Trustees

The Church currently has three Trustees: Rev'd. Michael R Child (Chairman); Mrs Ann M Coleman (Secretary); Philip J West (Treasurer).

The Trustees met once during the year.

Membership

As at end of March we had 5 members. Although the membership has remained static, we are pleased to report and greatly encouraged that the regular weekly congregation has grown by three families and others.

The Diaconate

The Church is served by a Diaconate of two: Ann Coleman and Philip West.

Baptismal Service

There were no Believers' Baptisms during the year.

Giving

Members and Friends are still giving sacrificially and generously to the work of the Church. The Building Fund is continuing to grow.

The Church supports the ministry of Leslie and Elizabeth Message (Belgium), we were delighted that they join us for Sunday services and Wednesday prayer meetings via Zoom.

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 the Church gave a donation to the Leprosy Mission. The Harvest Thanksgiving produce and products were given to the Witham Food Bank and monetary donations to Mill Grove Centre, South Woodford.

The Church also donated shoe boxes this year for the Samaritan's Purse "Operational Christmas Child" appeal.

The Carols by Candlelight Service offering was given to Farleigh Hospice.

Services and Auxiliaries

We held weekly Sunday Services for Worship, Prayer and Preaching at the Royal British Legion Hall and mid-week Prayer Meetings each Wednesday via Zoom.

Others join our Sunday Services and Mid-week Meetings via Zoom.

Our Pastor continues as Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Air Forces Association and Royal Air Force Air Cadets (Air Training Corps).

We joined our friends at Maldon Baptist Church for a Christmas Services throughout December and held a Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 17th December 2023 at the Royal British Legion Hall at which an offering was taken for Farleigh Hospice.

Church Premises

The Trustees are still actively seeking a suitable site or premises for Sunday Services and to develop the Church's ministry.

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Witham Baptist Church is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Eastern Baptist Association

Witham Baptist Church is also affiliated to the Eastern Baptist Association.

Churches Together in Witham and District

We continue to be part of Churches Together in Witham and District. There were less United activities, but we participated in the open-air Witham Town carol Service.

Harvest

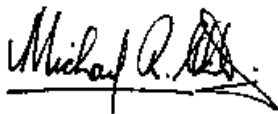
Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday 24th September 2023 the monetary offering was divided between the Witham Food Bank and the Mill Grove Centre, South Woodford, a Christian charity working with children and deprived families in Woodford.

Special Services

The Church celebrated its 26th Anniversary on Sunday 3rd December 2023.

The Annual Carols by Candlelight Service was on Sunday 17th December 2023 and an offering was taken for the Farleigh Hospice. A short Family Service was also held on Christmas Day.

We are thankful to God for His loving faithfulness to us throughout a difficult and challenging year and for providing for our needs and we trust Him for all that is to come as we seek further ways of serving our community.



Revd Michael R Child
Pastor and Chairman of the Trustees

WITHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2024

Receipts and Payments Account (General Purposes Fund)

Income Receipts

	£	£	2023
Donations			18067
Weekly Offerings	21481		2145
L & E Message	2390		80
Leprosy Mission	97		200
D & A Boyle	-		95
Millgrove	75		90
BRE Ukraine	-		110
Farleigh Hospice	160		80
Preacher's Fees Gifted Back	174		-
Other	<u>-</u>		

24377

Trading Activities

Subscriptions and Tuck Sales

Investment Income

Bank and Building Society Interest

- 4

24377 20871

Income Tax Rebate

4333 4198

Total Receipts

28710 25069

Direct Charitable Expenditure

Hire of Premises	1970		1700
Minister's Stipend and NI	17578		17752
Minister's Council Tax	2933		2838
Preacher's Expenses	<u>477</u>		<u>745</u>

22958 23035

Other Expenditure

Advertising		324	312
Churches Together in Witham		-	55
Baptist Union Subscription		26	24
Donations		-	65
Millgrove		-	95
L & E Message		2390	2145
Data Protection		40	40
D & A Boyle		-	200
P C Help		53	53
Farleigh Hospice		160	110
CCL Licence		98	92
Insurance		428	401
The Leprosy Mission		80	80
Website Costs		-	-
Stationery		-	-
Transfer Building Fund		-	-
Sundry Expenses		312	<u>262</u>

3934

Total Payments

26869 26969

Net Receipts/(Payments) for the Year

1841 (1900)

Cash and Bank balances at 31 March 2023

2574 4474

Cash and Bank balances at 31 March 2024

4415 2574

WITHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2024

Receipts and Payments Account (Building Fund)

Income Receipts	£	£	<u>2023</u>
Donations			
In Memory Of	100		50
Other	-		-
Sundry	-		-
Tax Reclaimed on Covenants and Gift Aid	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
		100	50
Trading Activities			
Buy a Brick		-	-
Knitting		27	30
Sundry Sales		-	-
Investment Income			
Bank and Building Society Interest		<u>2717</u>	<u>604</u>
Total Receipts		2844	684
Other Expenditure			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Payments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Receipts for the Year		<u>2844</u>	<u>684</u>
Building Fund Balance at 31 March 2023		<u>144748</u>	<u>144064</u>
Building Fund Balance at 31 March 2024		<u>147592</u>	<u>144748</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Witham Baptist Church

We report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - . to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - . to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

RONALD W CHIVERS & CO
ACCOUNTANTS

61 Manor Street
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3HP

2 October 2024