

Report for Trustees and Deacon's (2024)

February 2025

We are very happy to report that we have successfully recruited a minister for our church a local gentleman Scott Beaton is now insitu and commenced his position on the 1st March 2024, and completed his final studies in November, his ordination service will be held in the new year, mean while he fulfilled all our church's requirements that he is able until his ordination. His position is part time which fulfils our needs, and we feel very optimistic about the future, with Scott to lead us.

Our aim to provide a weekly service for members and any other worshippers who might like to attend has been achieved and we managed a regular attendance of 14 plus. Our organist Ruth ensures we have music each week for which we are very grateful. John has admirably stepped up to help out if Ruth is indisposed. We had 1 Christening, 1 marriage Blessing and 1 funeral over the year.

Church Events:

We have enjoyed several social events over the year, and took part in the Annual Oakamoor Festival when our church participated by hosting a special exhibition in the church of art and craft work, this as usual was very well attended and the whole event enjoyed and any monies raised donated to local charities We held our usual Christmas Candle Light service which is always well attended, many thanks to John for setting up the candles and making a beautiful setting for this service. We all went out for a Christmas meal together at the Queen's Arms, Freehay, and a social visit as a church to the Denstone Farm Shop, these were very pleasant occasions and enabled us to enjoy each other's company on a social level. We are all socially involved with a fortnightly group (Wednesday Club) where we have guest speakers and fund raising events, along with joining the recently formed Village Group, all these events help bring the village together, which is a bonus for the church, Our new minister has also managed to build up a repore with the Valley Primary School in the village and visits fortnightly and has manged to hold two services with them in the church, a positive step forward in involving the children with the church.

Charity Giving:

Our charity giving for this year: Our Lenten giving was donated to the local Home link Charity which supports elderly and vulnerable people in the local area. We give to Christian aid annually. Our Harvest Festival Sale proceeds were given to 'The Honeycomb Group' a small charity in Cheadle who offer refuge for women and children suffering abuse. The Salvation Army is supported annually as we hold a Christmas Toy service, the gifted toys were given to Tunstall Christmas Toy Appeal the toys are distributed in the Staffordshire area to disadvantaged children and their families.

Property Repairs:

We are always aware that our church is Grade 2 listed and was opened in 1878, whenever we have to restore or repair any features, we try to be as discreet as possible and are always mindful that we are in a conservation area. Our stonemason has finally completed his work on the interior and exterior of the church, extensive work has been completed on the bell tower and both the interior and exterior has been pointed and any repairs carried out. This work should we hope now ensure the church's remains in good repair far into the future. The organ is tuned regularly and any work needed is done without delay. All safety checks are completed to comply with Health & Safety regulations. We give special thanks to John for keeping our church clean and tidy on a weekly basis and helping out with key holding as well.

We have excellent tenants in our two cottages, unfortunately The Manse has needed extensive work doing this year with all windows and doors replaced to bring the house up to standard, all regulatory checks have been undertaken.

Grounds:

The grounds and churchyard are kept in excellent condition by our ground men Norman and John. The approach drives are included in their work. We thank them both for their conscientious work throughout the year as our church is in a conservation area. John consults with them regarding any work that needs to be done with felling branches etc. so we comply with the current legislation regarding the grounds.

Another very successful year!

Dorothy Clowes (Hon Sec) February 2025

MEMORIAL FREE CHURCH,OAKAMoor.				
TRUSTEES CURRENT ACCOUNT 75446367 - DEBT 2024				
	£	p		
Scott Beaton salary	8926.45			
Scott Beaton assembly expenses	424.35			
Scott Beaton pre appointment services	150.00			
Scott Beaton Ink cartridges etc	68.65			
Nest pension	691.92			
gold cover insurance	130.00			
Church Insurance	4084.51			
Manse/Bluebell cottage/study insurance	1021.72			
HMR&C outstanding payment	602.88			
HMR&C	3623.83			
Curtis partnersip fees	222.90			
Curtis partnership pension enrolment	180.00			
Treasurers Expenses -Properties	339.00			
Treaurers Expenses - N.Edwards	195.00			
Treasurers ExpensesDrinks at Christmas lunch (17)	56.00			
Treasurers Expenses token to auditor	30.00			
Churchyard Maintenance (N.Edwards)	2280.00			
Julie Mallory - carpetting	90.00			
Cong Fed afile fees	300.00			
John Oakes (organ tuning & cello stop)	179.00			
Manse windows/doors Dave Hill	9222.00			
Schoolroom electric	619.28			
Church electric	2919.97			
Solar Star (panel meter repair)	168.00			
I Marsh Landlord checks + work at manse	240.00			
D.Harrison -time clock church heating	145.00			
Water rates Water Plus	190.64			
North Staffs fire	100.74			
repointing (Paul Beardmore)	5520.00			
Expenses to Trustees meeting H.Bolton	150.00			
Paul Lucas Services taken	100.00			
D.Harrison Manse & Bluebell	299.00			
Organist Weddings/funerals	85.00			
Total Debit 2024	43355.84			

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The Memorial Free Church , Oakamoor accounts for 2024 were audited by Judy Ford FCCA on 10th October 2025 and were found to be a correct record of the financial affairs.