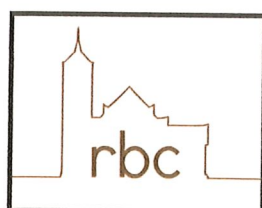


2022–23 Annual Report and Accounts



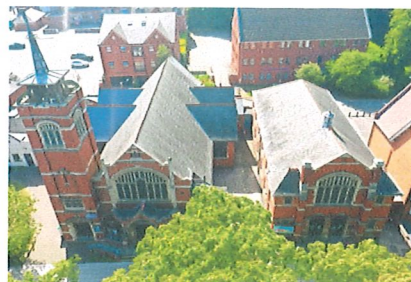
Rugby Baptist Church

Regent Place
Rugby CV21 2PJ

Annual Report

The Trustees of Rugby Baptist Church are pleased to present their report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

In accordance with Charity Law for churches with an income of over £10,000, we now present this annual report of our recent activities. This report will be forwarded, in due course, to the Charity Commission along with the independently examined accounts of our Church.



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name	Rugby Baptist Church
Registered Charity	1126606
Address	Regent Place Rugby CV21 2PJ

Managing Trustees (Diaconate)

Senior Minister	Rev David Fleming
Student Minister	Mathew Sheffield

Deacons	Carey Cowperthwaite	from 13 November 2022
	Michael Daulman	
	David Higham	until 13 November 2022
	Louise Morley	
	Rosemary Pugh	from 13 November 2022
	Jessica Quirke	from 13 November 2022
	Graham Ridgway (Secretary)	
	Richard Smith (Treasurer)	until 13 November 2022
	Emma Spraget	
	Emma Tiller	from 13 November 2022
	Milton Williams	

On 13 November 2022 Simon Morley was appointed church Finance Officer. He does not serve as a deacon or as a managing trustee.

Structure, Governance and Management

Rugby Baptist Church (RBC) is a charitable unincorporated association governed by constitution. The constitution was adopted by resolution of a special church meeting on 17th November 2009, modified by resolution of a special church meeting on 9th September 2014 and 10th November 2015. The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA). HEBA is the Trustee for the charity, holding the titles to the charity's properties other than those for the Manse which are held by the BU Corporation.

The Church Members' Meeting

In common with most Baptist churches, the Church is governed by its own members through the Church Meeting which is normally held bimonthly. Ministers and diaconate meet monthly to exercise executive oversight and prepare business for the Church Meeting. The latter has reserved authority in the appointment and removal of a Minister, the appointment and removal of Trustees, decisions related to church property, the administration of the membership list, and the closure of the Church¹. During 2022-23 there were 5 ordinary church members' meetings as well as the Annual Church Meeting. All but one were chaired by Rev David Fleming

The method of appointment of Trustees is set out in the constitution. The Trustees (the diaconate) are the ministers of the church and the deacons—including Secretary and Treasurer—who are elected by the members at a church members' meeting.

The Diaconate

The diaconate (Board of Trustees) had 10 regular meetings over the course of the year 2022–23, all chaired by Rev David Fleming.

At the 13th November 2022 ACM Richard Smith stepped down as Deacon and Church Treasurer and David Higham stepped down as Deacon. Carey Cowperthwaite, Rosemary Pugh, Jessica Quirke and Emma Tiller were appointed to the diaconate. Louise Morley was re-elected for a two year term.

Over the course of the year the Diaconate has reported regularly to the Church Meeting, which usually meets bi-monthly, to discuss, share information and to make decisions together.

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.²

¹ Rugby Baptist Church (RBC) *Constitution* 9.2

² RBC *Constitution* 2

May Peace Prevail On Earth

世界人類が平和でありやすうに

Activities in relation to the purpose

Over the course of the year the Diaconate has sought to manage its priorities, workload, and response to changing circumstances. Our principal activities as a church are:

1. Worship and prayer.
2. The nurturing of Christian discipleship and building fellowship within the church.
3. The teaching and sharing of the Christian faith within an all-age faith community.
4. The pastoral care of individuals, and
5. Service to the local community and the wider world.

The activities and events of the church have been to further these purposes.

2022-2023 saw the final transition of the church out of Lockdown restrictions. In May 2022 our services returned fully to their pre-Lockdown pattern, and in July 2022 our church members meeting was held for the first time since Lockdown in person rather than on Zoom.

Activities for public benefit

The Trustees have given due regard to Charity Commission guidance on the public benefit of the Charity.

During the period of this report we saw significant numbers of new worshippers joining our church, and in response to this held two events to welcome newcomers in integrate them into the life of the church – a BBQ on 8 May 2022 and a lunch on 5 March 2023.

To support worshippers unable to attend church in person due to illness or other reasons, we have continued to maintain regular contact through zoom meetings (including a daily prayer time and other hybrid meetings) and by live streaming and uploading online our main Sunday services. We have also offered support to our members through distributing flowers weekly and offering other such support, including meals and cards, to those in particular need. We have produced daily devotions for use in Lent and Advent which were distributed electronically.

We have offered financial and prayer support to charitable organizations which benefit the whole local community, including Hope4 (Rugby) Ltd (working with homeless and badly housed people), Food Bank, Christians against Poverty (debt counselling), Gift of Years (care home chaplaincy) and Street Pastors.

We have continued our support of world mission, including BMS world mission. As part of this, in the new year our church began supporting the BMS birthday Scheme. We also on two occasions welcomed mission personnel to our church for services or midweek meetings.

We have sought to reach out and support the local community through a number of initiatives and events:

- A community Family Day was held on 10th October for our Brigades, our church family and locals, including entertainment and a circus skills workshop. On that day two of our senior Boy's Brigade members were awarded their Queen's Badge, the highest award BB members can earn.
- On 5 June we held a street party for the queen's Platinum Jubilee (which because of weather had to be held indoors. Entertainment was provided by local band Scratch, Sniff and Itch and by children's entertainer John Hardwick. The event was extremely well attended and well received.
- On the death of the queen on 8th September 2022, we opened the church for prayer and reflection and opened a book of condolence. Several members of the public came in to pray and send messages of condolence.
- During Advent we took nativity costumes and a portable stable out into the town centre for an initiative called "Get in the Picture," inviting people to dress in nativity costumes and take selfies. As part of this our Christmas magazine and copies of the Christmas story were given away. For several weeks we were able to offer this in the Santa's grotto in the main town shopping precinct.



- Also expressing the creativity of our congregation, we held a daily Advent Photo challenge with people submitting photos on a daily theme.

- At Christmas we once again produced a high-quality Christmas magazine and distributed it in the local community.



Achievements and Performance

"carry the light-giving message into the night" ... (Philippians 2:15)

Our church text from the Bible for 2023, illustrated with a pulpit fall created by one of our church members, spoke of our sense of purpose and mission, and also our conviction that we have an affirming and positive message to share as a church. It was chosen for us by our deacons and has proved very appropriate for this year.

2022-23 brought many challenges, not least the major work that was needed on our premises, but as a church we have grown numerically and needed to expand our work, including a new focus on prayer ministry, a new Ladies ministry called Bloom which put on several events through the year, and a new midweek Home group to meet increased demand. This increased workload has been greatly helped by maintaining a ministry team in the church, including our student minister, Mat Sheffield.

As part of our commitment to sharing a positive message with our community, on 12 March we installed a Peace Pole in the church garden, with the message “May peace prevail on Earth” written in the most common languages spoken in Rugby plus Ukrainian (to reflect the ongoing war there.) This is part of an international network of over 200,000 peace poles in 200 countries. Our particular Peace Pole is illustrated on page 3 of this report.

Our use of church suite to improve communications and efficiency of church has continued, mainly thanks to our church administrator, Gill Harrison. Thanks to Gill and one of our deacons, Emma Tiller, we have continued to develop our use of Churchsuite church management software.



Project Rufus

In October work began on the renewal of the South facing roofs of the church and halls, this being the first phase of work recommended in the 2021 survey. The work was undertaken by Swingers and sons, at an eventual cost of ca£130K. The work was funded by a combination of grants, gifts and loans from church members, fundraising efforts and use of available church funds.

The work took several weeks to complete, and fundraising for it was a major focus of the year.



Fundraising was organised by a dedicated team supported by the Diaconate.



Among the events undertaken to raise funds were Easter and Christmas Fayres, concerts by the local Rock Choir and by flautist Simeon Wood, a quiz night, a “sponsor a slate” scheme and supper evenings. Added to this has been the generosity of many church members who have continually given generously to the Project Rufus appeal.

Membership

As of April 2022, our church community had 169 members and a further 128 adherents (who are under our pastoral care but not in membership). This shows a modest increase in membership (despite a number of deaths over the year) but a significant increase in adherents.

Numbers engaging with the church online continue to be strong, with up to 100 views of our livestreamed/recorded services each week.

Wider church relations

We continued to build our relationship with the local Baptist cluster consisting of the Dunchurch, Wolston, Daventry and Rugby churches. This group has not only supported one another but also collectively supported out new BMS link missionaries, Wit and Hele Boondeekhun and Brian and Jackie Chilvers.

We continued to support Rugby Revive, a network which links the churches of Rugby and district.

Finances

A copy of our independently examined accounts accompanies this report.

On our 2023 Gift Day the congregation responded generously to an appeal for our Rufus project, and £5,544.50 was raised.

the Church continued to give generously to needy causes nationally, internationally and locally as the accompanying accounts reveal. The Church has a reserves policy which ensures that between three and six months' core expenditure is ring-fenced. £50,000 in reserves are lodged with the Baptist Union Corporation.

Fabric

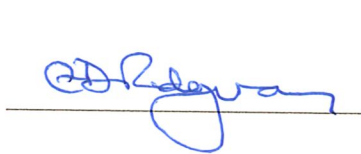
As well as the aforementioned Project Rufus, the large premises of the church have needed considerable attention. During the year the Blue Room and adjacent corridor were redecorated, and maintenance work undertaken by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Future

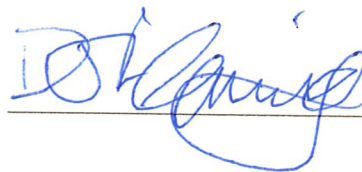
Every year brings its own opportunities and challenges. 2022-2023 brought many blessings, and good time. We also faced the challenge of significant fabric work and rising utility prices and inflation. We acknowledge the difficulty of the journey we have been on over the past few of years and yet we face the future with confidence that God will bring us out of the valley of trouble and through a doorway of hope.

We believe, then, that we have demonstrated again our commitment as Trustees to advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.³

Signed



Graham Ridgway
(church Secretary)



David Fleming
(Minister)

Date 11/12/23

for and on behalf of the Church's Trustees' Board (the Diaconate) for presentation to the Annual Church Meeting on 12th September 2023.

³ RBC Constitution 2

RUGBY BAPTIST CHURCH**Financial Statement for the year ended 31/03/2023**

General receipts and payment account

	Note	2022/23	2021/22 Restated
Receipts			
Weekly offering		£ 91,319.45	£ 87,295.52
Donations & other income	2	£ 72,436.49	£ 23,041.35
Income tax recovered on gifts		£ 14,193.00	£ 19,839.50
Investment income	3	£ 241.65	£ 1,197.91
Rents & contributions for use of premises		£ 30,091.44	£ 21358.96
Raised for other causes	4	£ 0.00	£ 2,705.20
Home Mission grant		£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Loans from Members		£ 62,800.00	£ 0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 271,082.03	£ 155,438.44
Payments			
Ministry	5	£ 83,237.86	£ 77,978.60
Other staff		£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Mission	6	£ 27,256.30	£ 26,211.08
Upkeep of church premises	7	£ 116,749.58	£ 30,401.07
Administration	8	£ 19,724.75	£ 8,547.07
Repayment of loans from members		£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Amounts passed on to other causes		£ 0.00	£ 406.40
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 246,968.49	£ 143,544.22
Net receipts (payments) for the year		£ 24,113.54	£ 11,894.22
Transfers to/from General fund		£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Cash balance at previous year end		£ 90,917.75	£ 79,023.53
Cash balance at current year end		£ 115,031.29	£ 90,917.75

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets

Bank and other cash balances:

Petty Cash		Not material	Not material
Lloyds Bank Account	14	£ 115,031.29	£ 89,095.75
BUC deposit account	14	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
Other monetary assets:			
Debtors		£ 0.00	£ 1,822.00
Loans made		£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Gift aid claimed but not received		£ 0.00	£ 6,479.50
Investment Assets	9	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	£ 7,846,375.00	£ 7,821,380.00
Total Assets		£ 8,011,406.29	£ 7,968,777.25

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	11	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Long Term Loans	12	£ 62,800.00	£ 0.00
Pension Scheme liability	13	£ 0.00	£ 22,700.00
Other liabilities		£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Total Liabilities		£ 62,800.00	£ 22,700.00

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 to 5 relating to the year ending 31 March 2023 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

Date:

Notes to the accounts

1. Basis of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations & other income

Donations	£ 47,702.84	£ 3,000.00
Legacies	£ 5,571.33	£ 14,000.00
Memorial Gifts	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Events	£ 15,823.99	£ 4,827.21
Other income	£ 3,338.33	£ 1,383.32
Total donations & other income	£ 72,436.49	£ 23,210.53

3. Investment income

Bank interest	£ 241.65	£ 8.15
Trust income	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Other investment income	£ 0.00	£ 1,189.76
Total Investment Income	£ 241.65	£ 1,197.91

4. Raised for other causes

BMS Harvest	£	0.00	£	0.00
ROC	£	0.00	£	0.00
Other	£	0.00	£	2,705.20
Total Raised for Other causes	£	0.00	£	2,705.20

5. Ministry

Minister's stipend	£	36,884.90	£	30,711.80
Pension contribution	£	10,920.12	£	12,441.27
National insurance	£	7,392.04	£	7,930.88
Ministers Expenses	£	2,265.61	£	1,328.57
Other staff costs	£	24,303.99	£	24,676.08
Visiting Preachers	£	402.30	£	365.00
Other ministry	£	1,068.90	£	525.00
Total Ministry	£	83,237.86	£	77,978.60

Both ministers act as church trustees and receive remuneration and other benefits in respect of their services as minister.

6. Mission

Home Mission	£	10,500.00	£	10,500.00
BMS World Mission	£	8,488.08	£	8,488.08
RYFC	£	2,199.97	£	1,992.00
Other mission	£	6,068.25	£	5,231.00
Total Mission	£	27,256.30	£	26,211.08

7. Upkeep of church premises

Lighting and heating	£	7,964.48	£	8,501.19
Cleaning	£	521.40	£	400.39
Insurance	£	6,278.13	£	5,645.03
Repairs and maintenance	£	98,331.78	£	11,892.48
Other premises	£	3,653.79	£	3,961.98
Total Upkeep of church premises	£	116,749.58	£	30,401.07

8. Administration

Printing and stationery	£	730.69	£	631.36
Telephone and postage	£	973.22	£	598.78
Bank Charges	£	281.46	£	242.54
Events	£	3,021.17	£	1,939.44
Equipment	£	8,902.01	£	0.00
Subscriptions	£	3,954.84	£	2,423.27
Other administration	£	1,861.36	£	2,711.68
Total Administration	£	19,724.75	£	8,547.07

9. Investment assets

Stocks and Shares	£	0.00	£	0.00
Corporate bonds	£	0.00	£	0.00
Gilts	£	0.00	£	0.00
Investment property	£	0.00	£	0.00
Other investment assets	£	0.00	£	0.00
Total Investment Assets	£	0.00	£	0.00

10. Assets held of the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee [the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd]:

Church premises at Regent Place valued in the accounts at £6,508,994 based on insured value.

Church manse at Eastlands Road valued in the accounts at £280,942 based on insured value.

A nursery premises at Overslade valued in the accounts at £263,598 based on insured value.

Marriot Field. No meaningful value is available so it has not been included In the Statement Of Assets And Liabilities.

The church also owns **fixtures, furniture, organ and equipment** with an insured value of £792,841

11. Current liabilities

Electricity billed but not yet paid	£	0.00	£	0.00
Cheques written but not yet cashed	£	0.00	£	0.00
Other	£	0.00	£	0.00
Total current liabilities	£	0.00	£	0.00

12. Long-term liabilities

Baptist Building Fund Loan	£	0.00	£	0.00
Baptist Union Loan Fund Loan	£	0.00	£	0.00
Loan from Church Members'	£	62,800.00	£	0.00
Other	£	0.00	£	0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	£	62,800.00	£	0.00

13. Pension scheme liability

The church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. The church understands that if it had left the scheme at the year-end, it would have to have made a one-off payment estimated to be £0 to meet its statutory obligations to the scheme. The church has no plan to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.

14. Cash

Restricted funds

Disability access fund

Total receipts	£	0.00	£	0.00
Total payments	£	0.00	£	63.03
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£	0.00	£	-63.03
Cash balance at start of year	£	6,077.27	£	6,140.30

Cash balance at current year end	£ 6,077.27	£ 6,077.27
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Matt Sheffield College Fund

Total receipts	£ 0.00	£ 3,000.00
Total payments	£ 0.00	£ 1,168.15
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£ 0.00	£ 1,831.85
Cash balance at start of year	£ 1,831.85	£ 0.00
Cash balance at current year end	£ 1,831.85	£ 1,831.85

Marriott Field fund for the poor of the Church

Total receipts	£ 451.73	£ 0.00
Total payments	£ 240.00	£ 0.00
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£ 211.73	£ 0.00
Cash balance at start of year	£ 451.74	£ 451.74
Cash balance at current year end	£ 663.47	£ 451.74

Designated funds

Project Rufus

Total receipts	£ 120,964.67	£ 2,353.20
Total payments	£ 90,107.96	£ 3,110.00
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£ 30,856.71	£ -756.80
Cash balance at start of year	£ 4,978.20	£ 5,735.00
Cash balance at current year end	£ 35,834.91	£ 4,978.20

Flowers

Total receipts	£ 30.00	£ 140.00
Total payments	£ 176.20	£ 0.00
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£ -146.20	£ 140.00
Cash balance at start of year	£ 193.57	£ 53.57
Cash balance at current year end	£ 47.37	£ 193.57

Thursday Fellowship

Total receipts	£ 54.00	£ 1,002.98
Total payments	£ 0.00	£ 50.00
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£ 54.00	£ 952.98
Cash balance at start of year	£ 952.98	£ 0.00
Cash balance at current year end	£ 1,006.98	£ 952.98

Unrestricted funds

Total receipts	£ 149,581.63	£ 148,690.26
Total payments	£ 156,444.33	£ 138,746.64
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	£ -6,862.70	£ 9,943.62
Cash balance at start of year	£ 126,432.14	£ 116,488.52
Cash balance at current year end	£ 119,569.44	£ 126,432.14

RUGBY BAPTIST CHURCH
Church Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Rugby Baptist Church.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 as set out on various pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required under section 130 of the 2011 Act
or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of
- 4) accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement
- 5) that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent
- 6) examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in the report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Keith Moore
5th December 2023
Keith Moore
KLM ACCOUNTS
15 Shenstone Road
Great Barr
Birmingham B43 5LW