

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1127294

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2008-12-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Gorse Hill Baptist Church
Cricklade Road
Swindon
SN2 1AA

Phone 01793534193

Email cc.contact@ghbc.org.uk

Website www.ghbc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of our Sunday Services. The church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally as set out in the Constitution. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Swindon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£369,694	£248,540	-	-
2023-12-31	£306,132	£194,788	-	-
2022-12-31	£119,537	£94,931	-	-
2021-12-31	£145,597	£140,921	-	-
2020-12-31	£145,596	£140,921	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Abigail Rachel Corry		2024-03-21
Elizabeth Grace Mildenhall		2019-04-25
Gary Pricor		2019-04-25
Gilbert Ngwaneh Miki		2026-03-19
Jonathan Ivan Murphy		2024-03-21
Julie Dawn Harris		2020-09-24
MARK HARRIS		2024-03-21
Matthew David Wright		2021-05-20
Peter Jonathan Morris		2024-03-21
Rebecca Louise Tromans		2020-09-24
Victoria Payn		2020-09-24

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127294

Accounts

Gorse Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report & Financial Statement

2024

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Annual Report 2024

The Charity Trustees¹ present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2024. The Charity, called Gorse Hill Baptist Church², has been registered in the Central Register of Charities since 29th December 2008.

The Charity registration number is 1127294.

Charitable Objective

The Charity is governed by a Constitution, which states that the purpose of the Church is the advancement of Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Charity may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted for the public benefit.



The Church occupies premises which are held by The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.

¹ 'Trustee' mainly refers to the Minister/Treasurer/Secretary and Deacons, i.e. those who are involved in the day-to-day operation of the Church. Where this is the case, the term used in this report will be 'Deacons' or 'Diaconate'.

² Referred to in this Report as 'the Church'

A Message from our Church Secretary, Mark Harris

Back in 2022 we had a church motto text from Joshua 1:9. *'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* Personally, it's a verse that is pinned to a board on my desk and as a church I believe it has been seen to be true in 2024.



2024 has seen change in the trustees of the church with both our Secretary and Treasurer at the start of the year needing to step down at the AGM having served for many years. Both had provided a legacy to build from, which Becky (Treasurer) and I (Secretary) have been immensely grateful for.

It has also been a year that has seen us as church continue to seek for the right person to act as our minister. This leading role remaining vacant has provided both challenge and opportunity. There is challenge in seeking to maintain the many activities and services provided through the church, such as preaching, leading services, children's work, youth work and sharing more widely in the local area. What has been encouraging is to see how the church continues to respond to these challenges and face into the opportunities with a desire to share all that we have been blessed with as a church.

Our vision continues to be "Knowing God, to make Him known", learning more of God and seeking to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. We support this through our 10.30am Sunday services, with age-appropriate classes for children and young people. On the first and third Sundays of each month we have a prayer-focused evening and a Bible teaching-focused evening. We have been blessed by a wide range of visiting speakers, who have brought us God's message in a variety of styles. Our congregation on Sunday mornings continues to increase in diversity, representing a wide range of ages, cultural identities and Christian experience. We have also been able to make the most of the more flexible seating we now have, on occasion breaking into smaller groups.

We have continued to meet for prayer on the first Saturday of each month and, through our ministerial vacancy, we have also been meeting on the third Saturday of each month to focus on praying for the right person to fulfil that role with us.

The Church runs several house groups across the town which meet regularly. As well as studying the Bible, discussing our faith and getting to know each other better, these groups provide pastoral care and other support to those that attend.

A natural outcome flowing from our vision, worship and teaching is outreach into our community. Trusting that *'...the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* Joshua 1:9 supports us in our aim of helping make God known. Later in the report you will find more information about the many ways we do this in and outside the building, across a wide range of ages, from food bags to fun days, so please take the time to read on.

A Message from our Moderator, Martyn Cook

As I said in my report last year, many churches stand still during a pastoral vacancy, awaiting the appointment of a new minister. This means that, in reality, the church goes backward as the world moves on.

I am very pleased to be able to again report that since Revd Steve Robinson retired in June 2022, this has not been the situation at Gorse Hill Baptist Church. The church has continued to move forward in developing its many activities for the benefit of both the church and the local community. The church is a warm and welcoming church, which means that visitors who do cross the threshold are encouraged to return. Visitors attending Sunday morning worship services continue to be warmly welcomed and, as a result, are drawn to become regular members of the congregation. It is encouraging to report an increase in membership.



The many and varied activities of the church continue to develop and expand, both those that are "outward facing" serving and providing benefits for the local community, eg. Bags of Hope Community Fridge, Cookery Classes, Drop in Cafe, English Lessons, Lunch Club, local schools - both in school and visits to the church. These are all part of our mission. In addition, there are



the inward facing activities, e.g. children's and young peoples' activities, Band of Brothers, Friends and Fun and many others.

All these activities provide the opportunity to share the Gospel and talk about Jesus. That is the challenge we all face: to use the opportunities we have to talk to those who do not know or understand who Jesus is and what Jesus means to us who do know Him. We are working to become better disciples.

I have visited the Community Café on several occasions and spoken to people who say how grateful they are for somewhere to come to be supported, helped, encouraged or to simply be able to sit and talk. For some it is the only time they get out of their home to meet and talk to other people. This offers the opportunity for volunteers and helpers to develop new friendships which means people are more open to hearing the Gospel when being told that Jesus loves them.

A lot happens here at GHBC every week and month, and it requires time from members and friends to enable them to happen. A large number of people help in ways both big and small. Every little helps - not only in enabling them to happen but in building friendship, relationships, encouragement and building God's family here in Gorse Hill.

Church Building

A great deal of work was carried out over 2024. Details are in the Facilities section of report. We are blessed in having a Facilities Manager who has expertise in maintaining the buildings. After

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters' Col 3:23

an extended time under scaffolding, everyone was delighted when the repair work on the church roof was completed on budget and the scaffolding finally removed.

Diaconate

Working with the new Diaconate during the last year has been encouraging, as each of them has taken on new and different responsibilities for a particular part of church life. They have worked together, encouraged and supported each other, which has enabled and encouraged the church to move forward.

Pastoral Vacancy

It has been encouraging to work with the Search Team in receiving and considering the profiles of ministers who have applied to be the next minister of GHBC. It has been a learning process, with its encouragements and disappointments.

Looking Forward in 2025: Being a disciple of Jesus means more than worshipping together on a Sunday and listening to sermons that challenge us. Therefore during 2025 I want to challenge and encourage the Church to:

- increase the number of homegroups so there are more opportunities for everyone to meet and discuss with others, study Bible passages, subjects and issues, to help each of us understand our own faith, so we are equipped to be better disciples of Jesus.
- develop a discipleship programme, so that every member will be a better disciple of Jesus, more able to respond to His calling to "go and make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you", remembering that Jesus promised He will be with us in all we do.

I thank God for his continued faithfulness to His Church, and for the faithfulness of this Church fellowship to Him, and that it will continue in building God's Kingdom here in Gorse Hill.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Cook

Martyn Cook, Moderator

Organisational Structure

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Charity Trustees, which include the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Church's operations, together with the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All Charity Trustees are aware of the specific guidance issued by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission and have confirmed that they will act in accordance with such information and directives.

The Trustees have appointed Martyn Cook as moderator during our time of ministerial vacancy, to help guide us through the process of searching and selecting a new minister. The members and broader fellowship have been involved in producing our Church Profile and minister specification. A search team has been created to work through receiving and processing applications, then bringing suitable applicants to the membership.

With the exception of the Minister, all Deacons are elected for an initial period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election for two further terms of three years. They are then required to step down for at least one year, before being eligible for reappointment.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution, through a personal profession of faith in Christ and are people:

- whose conduct corresponds with the beliefs and practice of the Church
- who accept the Declaration of Faith
- who have followed the Lord's command and example in Believer's Baptism (unless exceptional circumstances apply)

The Church has a policy of open membership where, at the discretion of the Members' Meeting, a person may be accepted into full membership following public profession of their faith. The list is constantly being reviewed to reflect members who have left but not resigned. At Christmas 2024, the number of members stood at 121.

The Church continues to review its organisational structures, processes and activities to deliver its objectives. We meet together on a regular basis, as elected leaders and as a gathering of committed members, to seek guidance and direction from God through prayer.

Matters for consideration by the Members' Meeting may be tabled by the Deacons or by members. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members' Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furthering of the Charitable Objectives. This is explained to all prospective members in a personal interview.

Charity Trustees

Minister

Pastoral vacancy since 10 July 2022.

Secretary

Shirley Westall (resigned March 2024 – Full term completed)

Mark Harris (*appointed March 2024*)

Treasurer

Ian Burbidge (Resigned March 2024 – Full Term completed)

Rebecca Tromans (*appointed May 2024*)

Deacons

Elizabeth Mildenhall (*re-appointed March 2022*)

Gary Prictor (*re-appointed March 2022*)

Julie Harris (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Vicki Payn (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Rebecca Tromans (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Matthew Wright (*appointed May 2021*)

Jonathan Murphy (*appointed March 2024*)

Peter Morris (*appointed March 2024*)

Abigail Corry (*appointed March 2024*)

Finance Team

Rebecca Tromans- *Treasurer and Accounts*

Paul Collins - *Payroll*

Julie Harris - *Gift Aid, Income and Banking*

Peter Morris - *Assets and Inventory*

Beverley Bolt - *Internal Audit (appointed March 2022)*

Brian Mildenhall - *Utilities Manager*

Property Trustees

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Kingsway

Bristol BS34 6JW

Independent Examiner

James Gare

Monahans Chartered Accountants

Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue,

Swindon, SN2 2GA

Banker

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Swindon Branch

5 High Street

Swindon SN1 3EN

Solicitor

Wood Awdry and Ford

3 St Mary Street

Chippenham SN15 3JL

Registered Address: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 1AA

Our Leadership Team

In 2024 the members elected a new Secretary but initially needed to second an existing Deacon to oversee finance in the absence of a Treasurer. This was rectified in May of 2024 when we seconded and appointed an existing Deacon as Treasurer. This gave us a Diaconate team that consisted of 8 Deacons, a secretary and a treasurer for the remainder of the year.



The Deacons met monthly, except during August, to receive reports, act within agreed and delegated guidelines and make recommendations to the membership. The team had away days in May and November, though due to financial limitations, these were held at the Church. These



sessions enabled the new team to align the areas outlined in the image on the left with activities across church life and agree diaconate responsibility for each area.

These areas of Church Life have become a focal point at Members Meetings in 2024 where we have been able to update the members on an area at each meeting. This has supported the sharing of key information, opportunities to be involved more and areas for prayer focus.

Church Life

Pastoral Care

The Care Team mission statement comes from Jesus' words in John 15:12 *"My command is this, love one another as I have loved you."*

Pastoral care at GHBC exists to encourage, promote and develop within the church Christ's principles regarding love for one another. The team meet regularly to discuss care needs within the fellowship and for those coming into the building during the week. The aim is to:

- to provide support, care and help on behalf of the Members through times of joy, sadness, illness, bereavement and loneliness.
- send out cards and flowers, distribute the Pastoral Fund as required to provide practical support.
- regularly organise church breakfasts, social family evenings for all and 'getting to know you' evenings for those newer to the fellowship.
- arrange for someone to take Communion and visit those who are housebound or in care homes
- stay connected with people that we have not seen for a while.
- be ready to be a 'listening ear' and to pray with anyone.
- seek to welcome new visitors to the church each week.



Sometimes Pastoral Care is a hospital visit or a chat over a cup of tea. Sometimes it is a group of people working together to sort a difficult problem

Children and Young People



Children and adults work together to present the story of Jesus' birth

Regular Sunday Morning Groups: Creche, Kidzone and Inferno:

On Sunday mornings our children and young people join the main service at the start, then leave to go to age-appropriate groups for around 45-60 minutes. We run a creche for our youngest members, from birth to 3-4 years old.

In Kidzone we are getting around 20 children each week. In the last year, numbers in the 4-7 age group have increased, so we often get 10. Many are children that have come through from crèche. We have similar numbers in the juniors group. We are encouraged to see an increase in regularity of attendance.

Our current teaching scheme builds week on week, with children being encouraged to explore

ideas. In the main it is chronological, with each lesson linking back to God and His love for us. It continues to remind the children of God's big plan for us, and that everything in the Bible leads us towards Jesus' sacrifice for us.

We have amazing teachers who are totally committed to our church children, and I would like to take this time to thank them for another year of commitment to sharing God with our Kidzone children.



Inferno Youth Bible Study

Our Inferno youth Bible study group is a place of prayer, learning, and encouragement. Each session, we pray for one another, offering caring support and strengthening our faith as a community.

We have studied the books of Galatians and John, exploring what the Bible teaches about faith, grace, and following Christ. Through discussion and reflection, we seek to deepen our understanding of God's Word.

Inferno also challenges us to live lives that glorify God and serve others. We are encouraged to put our faith into action, making a difference in our homes, schools, and communities.

Our Regular Friday Groups

These groups continued to grow in popularity, with several children and young people transitioning up to the next age group at the start of this academic year.

CFC (Children's Friday Club): is for primary-aged children and runs early on a Friday evening. New leaders have been recruited, along with some young leaders of secondary-school age. The children enjoy a variety of crafts, games, a Bible story and prayer each week. A large portion of this club is made up of children from the local community.

Ignite is our Friday night youth group, providing a safe space for young people to hang out, chat with friends and build strong connections. Open to all in school years 7-13, it's a welcoming environment where everyone can relax and have fun.

We enjoy a variety of activities, including games and themed nights like 'Ready, Steady, Cook,' which bring creativity and excitement. Regular meet-ups with other youth groups in the area help foster a wider sense of community.

Our tuck shop is run by the young people themselves, empowering them with responsibility and leadership skills. Ignite continues to be a fun and supportive space for all.

Pram Club: is a weekly, term-time toddler group, which is open to anybody with preschool aged children, at a cost of £1 per family per session. 2024 has seen both new and returning families attend, with approximately 20 children each week. They take part in activities such as free play, craft, song time and bike time. It's been a privilege to build relationships with these families and be able to share Gods love with them.



Slaving over a hot stove together

Seasonal Events: these run at key points in the Christian calendar and focus on inviting families from the local community to share with us and learn something of our faith. As well as our summer **Fun Day** (described below) we ran **Re-Create** sessions at Christmas and Easter - an event that has been running for many years. All ages are invited to attend for

a variety of themed crafts, followed by a story in the main church room, and a light lunch together. On average we see around 30-40 children with their parents or carers at this event. Our **Light Party** proved popular and was valued as a safe, positive alternative to Halloween. In December, alongside our **Sunday Advent** services, we held a **Christingle** service on one Sunday afternoon. This was well attended by a good mix of church regulars and newcomers.

Community Fun Day



All ages working together

Our 14th Community Fun Day was a fantastic event, bringing together over 1,500 people for a day of enjoyment, connection, and celebration. With everything completely free, families and individuals were able to fully participate without any financial burden, ensuring an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for all.

One of the highlights of the day was the incredible sense of community spirit. From games and activities to food and entertainment, people of all ages came together, creating a

joyful and uplifting experience. It was also a great opportunity to share the good work that our church does throughout the week, supporting those in need and fostering a caring community.

The event was enriched by the involvement of other charities, who showcased their efforts and provided valuable resources and information to attendees. Their presence reinforced the importance of collaboration in making a lasting impact.



Having fun in the sun together

We were also honoured to have the local fire service attend, engaging with families and providing safety awareness. Their participation added an educational element to the day and was greatly appreciated.

Overall, the Fun Day was a resounding success, strengthening community ties and highlighting the power of generosity and shared purpose. A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible!



Schools work

We continued to enjoy a positive relationship with our local schools and support them in providing RE. We join up with Florence Street Mission Hall to provide 10 assemblies per term in 8 local primary schools and it is always encouraging to receive an enthusiastic reception by both staff and pupils. Each assembly contains a Bible story, a song, a period of meditation and an explanation/application of the story. Many of the assemblies this year were around the theme of 'Miracles'. The scripts are written by the team and are acted out, as this is found to keep the children engaged. In many schools the assembly is repeated and adjusted to suit Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and all are carried out in accordance with guidelines set by SACRE (Standing



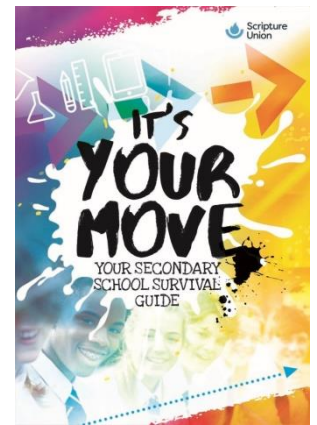
It's good to take a break from exploring the Bible Christmas story to design and bake your own mince pie

Advisory Committee for Religious Education in Swindon) and link into the National Curriculum for RE. Approximately 2,500 pupils are present at these assembly sessions each term.

We were able to welcome Year 5 and 6 pupils into our building to take part in the Investigating Easter and Christmas Unwrapped presentations. At Easter we had 300+ children and adults from 5 schools, who engaged fully with investigating for themselves the Bible story of Easter and finding out about the Christian symbols of the Cross, Baptism and Communion; at Christmas this increased to 6

schools and approximately 360 people. Among the positive feedback from staff were the following comments: *'I'm sure they understood the Bible story better, as they were asking a lot of questions to deepen their understanding.'* *'Lots of practical and interactive; multisensory, great!'* *'The children have really enjoyed their session and learned about Christmas in a fun, engaging way.'*

In the summer, we provided 180 Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' booklets to the Year 6s of 3 local primary schools. These were presented on our behalf by Janet from Florence Street Mission Hall, as part of events to prepare the children for their move to secondary school.



Communications and Technical

As with previous years, this year we have continued with our hybrid services, due to demand. We still have a significant number of people who watch our services online either exclusively or when they are unable to attend in the church building. For those who may miss the live Facebook feed, video and audio recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube, with sermons uploaded as podcasts on Apple Music and Amazon Music.

A number of projects have been conducted this year, which include installing the new sound desk and video cameras; additional TV screens showing relevant information have been set up in the Bright Room, Cricklade Hall and facing into the street. Various updates have been made to the website, including refreshed content, the ability to see room bookings and a revised menu structure. This all helps to make our website more useful to the public, as well as members of the church.

The GHBC Weekly Newsletter and GHBC prayer emails have continued to be crucial in keeping everyone up to date, providing us with channels for important information.

As well as hybrid church services, we have continued to conduct hybrid members' meetings, allowing people to attend virtually if they have trouble physically attending. This has been a great success, allowing audience participation and interaction from within the church or at home.

Worship and Discipleship

Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers continues to run regular and well-attended events for the men in the church, including curry nights and skittles evenings. Just recently they have introduced a pub ministry, which takes place after the Sunday evening services, the hope of which is to encourage more men to attend these services and then meet up informally afterwards to build up their friendship and faith. In addition to the regular meet-ups there are several men who attend a national men's event called The Gathering, which happens annually near Swindon.

Flourish

During 2024, Flourish ran two events for the women in the church, a walk and a Christmas crafts evening. There are already a variety of events planned for the whole of 2025.

Church Weekend Away

In July this year, about 45 people from the church went away and spent the weekend together having fun and getting to know each other better. It was a fantastic time full of chatting, playing games, eating food, enjoying lots of laughter and worshipping together. Another Church weekend away has been booked for 2025.



A chance to stay up late into the night getting to know each other

Home Groups

The aim of home groups is to provide a less formal environment for people to meet, study the Bible, get to know each other and support each other in growing our faith. Our groups continue to run regularly and be well attended. Nearing the end of the year there has been more of an appetite from people to join a group, so we continue to pray that, in 2025, more people would be willing to lead and host some new groups and more people would attend.

Sunday Morning and Evening Services

These continue to be the main times when our congregation comes together to worship God and learn more about Him. Our Sunday services this year have been supported hugely by visiting speakers, but we have also really valued and appreciated those within the church who have continued to support us with their preaching and teaching. While the morning services are the busiest time, with a wide variety of ages attending, the twice-monthly evening services are quieter, more reflective and more focussed on deeper teaching and prayer. Communion has been re-introduced into the evening service once a month, after a long absence.



Administration

Church Facilities

To comply with Health & Safety regulations, annual inspection/servicing of key facilities items were carried out to: boilers, thermostatic mixing valves, fire alarm system, emergency lighting and kitchen appliances, electrical equipment and fire extinguishers; rodent inspections were regularly carried out, to help maintain a high standard of hygiene; the kitchen grease trap was cleaned; a separate 'deep clean' of the kitchen was completed, including a service of our kitchen extraction system.

Decorating Works: External front and back timber doors were repainted; decoration works to Cricklade Hall and the Sanctuary were touched up, including internal handrails; the one remaining pew received a makeover to smarten it up.

Major Roof Works Completed: Having carried out roof survey works and developed detailed design solutions for the Parapet covering details in 2023, 2024 was the year to employ a roofing contractor to carry out these works. This was done successfully, despite at times, very bad weather. In addition to parapet repairs, we completed:

- repair works to the rooflight.
- Low level roof flashing repairs.
- Installation of a new cavity.
- Leak wall tray to the gable end wall.
- Installation of new UPVC fascia & soffit to the rear elevation of the church, complete with new rainwater guttering and rainwater downpipes.
- Modification of rainwater guttering/downpipe works to the sanctuary.
- Repair of roof lead flashings to the front gable of the sanctuary.
- Replacement of broken roof slates.
- Cleaning out of all existing gutters were cleaned out.
- Cleaning of all high-level glazing works, both internally and externally.

The value of these works is £50k. We acknowledge with gratitude generous funds received from a legacy donation from the estate of John Webb, plus a grant of £3k from the Benefact Trust.

Other New Works Completed:

- All the toilet lighting switches were removed and LED microwave detector light fittings installed.
- Between the rear of the church and the garages, ACO (Open grate cover) drainage was installed, to take away surface water to the underground system.
- All the external stainless-steel lettering to the church was repaired and cleaned
- At the front of the Sanctuary power and sound wiring were re-routed to under the stage. Six recessed floor plug-in boxes were installed.

- A new bespoke sound and vision control desk was installed at the rear of the Sanctuary for our AV team operators.
- Our Instaboiler and dishwasher internal pipework were descaled.
- The Poulton room cupboard received new shelving, with the wall units being relocated upstairs.
- Poulton room was fitted out completely with a racking/shelving system.
- Installation of two new upright fridges.
- Installation of a new coffee maker.
- A new wall protection dado rail to Bright room was supplied and fitted.
- The Sanctuary store room was decorated, carpeted and had new doors fitted.
- Security Smartwater was applied to our assets both internally and externally.

Repair Works:

- Various minor carpentry, electrical, plumbing and flooring repairs were carried out.
- A faulty door seal was replaced on the kitchen freezer.
- 6 damaged cushioned chairs were re-upholstered.

Health, Safety & Environmental Health

The Compliance Team continued to grow in numbers in 2024, with much valued existing team members supported by new additions, who brought a new zeal and energy to an often-unexciting part of church life!

2024 saw us continue to work across all areas of Health, Safety & Environmental Health, but saw a particular focus on re-examining our procedures to comply with the COSHH Regulations 2002.

The team continues into the new year with an intention to evaluate and update all of the Church's Health Safety & Environmental Health policies to ensure sufficiency and effectiveness in serving the church into the future.

Safeguarding Report

A safeguarding situation was raised to the Safeguarding Team, it was referred to the relevant authorities who carried out an independent investigation and determined no further action should be taken. DBS are continuing to be approved and updated as required.

Community

Stepping Stones

2024 has been a very busy year in which the Stepping Stones project has continued to see an increase in demand for all our services. Matthew Chapter 25 verses 35-40 explains exactly what the team aims to achieve each day.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

We aim to demonstrate God's love in action to all the people that we meet each week and are in a very privileged position to be able to see daily God at work in people's lives and the impact this has.

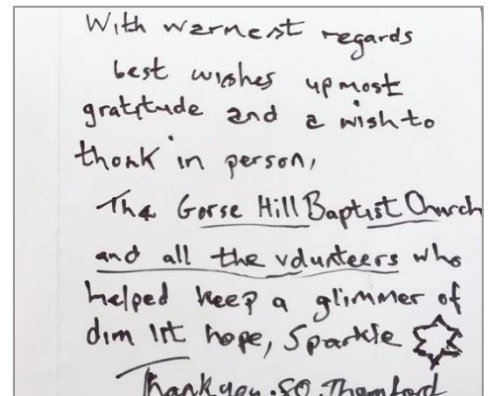


Our Boxes of Hope project continues to see an increase in demand. We work very closely with many agencies around Swindon and take referrals from many professionals for families that are struggling around the town. In 2024 we delivered 2334 food parcels, feeding 3244 adults and 3408 children. Since we started, we have delivered a total of 12,516 food parcels, feeding 17,921 adults and 21,964 children.

All our food parcels are delivered by an amazing group of volunteers from church who aim to get alongside the families and build relationships with them. All food parcels contain Christian literature and information about events that we are running at church.

Our text for the Boxes of Hope project is Psalm 33 verse 22: *'Let your unfailing love surround us Lord, as our **hope** is in you alone.'*

The Community Fridge is open three days a week from 11am-2.00pm. Volunteers pick up food waste from many of the supermarkets around the town, which would have previously gone to landfill. The food is redistributed among our many customers. On average we have between



130-150 customers every day that the fridge is open, with our busiest day seeing 214 customers. Ethnicity data collected from these customers shows people who originated in 85 countries. In 2024 we had 21,993 visitors to the Community Fridge and prevented 59.5 tonnes of food from going to landfill. Since opening the fridge in June 2021 we have had 60,898 visitors and have prevented 171.2 tonnes of food going to landfill - a massive achievement. The fridge is a fantastic way of getting people into the church building on a regular basis. We are getting to know our regular customers well and are now at a point where we have some good relationships with them, giving us many opportunities to get alongside them and share our faith. Some of our customers have attended church activities such as Lunch Club, Pram Club, Friends and Fun, Table Tennis, with some of them have attending Sunday services. This year we have prayed with some of our customers and all of our volunteers, and we have given one of our volunteers a Bible.

Our Drop-in Café continues to be used as a Warm and Welcome Space for Swindon Borough Council. We are open twice a week from 11am-2pm. We offer a cup of tea/coffee or soup and a roll for 50p and customers are welcome to stay as long as they like. Many of our customers have made friends while visiting us and arrange to meet each other regularly at the café. Many agencies regularly attend the Community Fridge to offer advice and support. Citizens Advice Bureau, Healthwatch, Thames Water, Swindon Carers, Staff from Great Western Hospital, Gamblers Anonymous, the local PCSO and the Live Well Team all offer their advice signpost them to other services for support. We offer a free book swap and pre-loved clothes table.

We have additional volunteers who regularly attend the café and sit with our customers, getting alongside them, befriending them and chatting with them. We offer opportunities for prayer on a regular basis and have a prayer table.

Over the last year we have run many regular adult learning classes.

- Mondays, we run an ESOL class this has been popular, as we are based in an area where a high percentage of ethnic minority groups live
- Wednesdays we run a cookery class.
- We continue to run many CAP Money Management classes, with plans to run the Kids Matter parenting course, 5 ways to Wellbeing and the Power of Positivity.



Hilliers Funeral Service sends supplies for the Fridge



Students learning English

We have been encouraged by feedback we have received from outside agencies who have observed what we are doing, for example *'Our observations suggest the Community Fridge is an essential asset - an integral part of the Community and a life-line to many. This initiative offers essential companionship to those suffering isolation and loneliness something far greater than just a Community Fridge where people who are struggling to afford food can visit'*.³

We have been extremely fortunate during the last year that we have been awarded enough grant money to be able to continue the services that we offer. We never cease to be amazed at how the Stepping Stones project has grown and evolved and continue to be excited at the way God is working in and through us every day. We pray that we may be open to God's leading and continue to work for Him in our local community.

Lunch Club



Lunch Club diners enjoyed their Christmas Lunch

Lunch Club meets regularly during term-time on a Tuesday lunchtime and is open to anyone who wishes to join us. We provide a freshly cooked, 2-course meal for £5, offering good value with

generous portions. *During* the year we have been able to stay within our budget and have donated the excess to the church, thanks in part to donations from the Stepping Stones team and the rent-free facilities!

Our customers welcome the chance to meet old and new friends and value this opportunity to socialise while eating a nutritious meal. Many customers live alone and can be lonely without groups such as this. Others rarely cook, so this is often the only hot, freshly cooked meal they eat all week. As most of our customers are regulars, we are able to build good relationships with them and invite them to Church events.

Lunch Club provides the Church with opportunities to engage with people who may not otherwise come into our building or meet with Christians. We always aim to share the love of Jesus through our words and actions. Every week we have a brief Christian 'point to ponder' and we say grace before we eat.

Currently we have about 20-25 customers a week.

³ | Stewart, National Highways

Friends and Fun

Friends and Fun meets once a month on a Monday afternoon, offering a variety of activities such as craft, quizzes and colouring, plus refreshments and a chance to socialise. It is open to anyone who wishes to attend. It is funded by the 50p fee and donations of stamps and food.

Every month a newsletter is sent out with a Christian message, which keeps a connection with those who, through age and infirmity, are no longer able to attend this event. This letter is a source of comfort and friendship, and many respond to say what an encouragement the letter is to them.

Table Tennis

The Table Tennis Group meet for 2 hours every Monday morning to play table tennis and meet others. Numbering on average 6-10 people, they support each other and welcome to newcomers. The weekly fee is £1, with all the money being donated to Mary's Meals, to help feed children around the world.

Lunch Club, Friends and Fun and Table Tennis continue to regularly provide a social outlet for dozens of people to forge and build relationships within the Church, coming alongside each other for fun, fellowship and encouragement. The tapestry of Church relationships would certainly be less rich if it were not for the faithful service of these two ministries and their teams.

Mission Support

The Church's Mission & Outreach teams look forward to each year of serving God and fulfilling the Church's vision statement: "Knowing God, to make Him Known."

The Church Mission Committee continued to administer a significant proportion of Church funds as tithing to other charitable Christian organisations in places as far apart as central Swindon and rural Nepal, reflecting the Church, our beliefs and our faith. In addition to separating out an agreed proportion of our regular income, appeals throughout the year raised further funds from the whole fellowship for Operation Agri and three Tear Fund Emergency Appeals; our Christmas appeal for a nutrition programme in Burundi, managed through Tear Fund, projects chosen and supported by our children and young people to support the education of children in Costa Rica – see details below. These allow contributors, from the very young to the elderly, to see the very real impact



of their donations on the lives of some of the neediest in the world. Details of the amounts given are in the Finance section.

We gave to the following Christian causes: Home Mission Fund (Webnet), Baptist World Mission, Swindon Youth for Christ, Leprosy Mission, Tear Fund, Centre Mokili, Educación Plus, Angel's Orphanage, and Night Shelter (aka The Haven).

Many individuals from the church support a wide range of causes directly, and such support is not recorded in our accounts.

Elsewhere in this report you will read of many other examples of our outreach. Collectively, this represents our calling to share the gifts we have been given by God with those both near and far.

Webnet/Home Mission provides a wide range of support to Baptist Churches across the UK. This includes support to retired ministers and technical advice to churches, such as legal advice, HR and property services. New churches can receive support and many community projects take place because of the financial support given by Webnet.

The Baptist World Mission (BMS) tackles the injustice and suffering of the deeply disadvantaged in desperate places around the world. They work to see the flourishing of people with the fewest opportunities, who are the furthest behind and most excluded.



Paul and Sarah with the new graduates

We have a close link to Baptist missionaries Paul & Sarah Brown, praying for them and welcoming them to our church when they are in the UK. Paul & Sarah work directly with those in Thailand whose lives have been difficult and challenging, giving hope for a better future.

Swindon Youth for Christ is now a resource centre offering support to youth workers across Swindon. They work in partnership with local churches and communities, bringing hope to thousands of young people in Swindon each year. We have supported this charity for many decades.



The Leprosy Mission is a global organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. Leprosy Mission is focused on goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination. Their work

includes diagnosing and treatment, reconstruction, plus caring for disabled people, fighting stigma and advocating for change, and pioneering research. From time to time, representatives from TLM visit us to preach and update us on their work.

Tear Fund is a charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters and the challenges posed by global warming, and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Centre Mokili is a medical centre in Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has its roots in the Baptist faith and our connection with them spans many years. The people of the DRC have suffered years of extreme poverty and violence, which sadly continues to this day. Centre Mokili provides much needed health care, including a maternity unit. Our support is used to buy essential medicines, normally every other month, through a scheme first established by international governments to ensure safe medicines are supplied. Over recent years more than 4,000 patients have received essential medication provided by our donations.

Educación Plus works in the shanty towns in San José, Costa Rica. Our connection with them goes back many years. Their focus supports young people gain access to education and an alternative to street life, drug addiction and drifting into one of the many gangs that persist. The cost of education is often too much for poor families - uniforms, books, pens, pencils all have to be paid for. Educación Plus helps with these costs. They run "summer camps" and regular youth meetings, where young people can develop healthy attitudes and resilience. This year our children chose to support Educación Plus with their weekly offerings to buy uniforms so two children could go to school.



Children wearing the uniforms bought



Members of our fellowship went out to support Angel's Orphanage and the promotion of Freedom Kit Bags

Angel's Orphanage is a special family in Nepal. Initially 22 children were brought together and, for the past 16 years, have been supported by a small local UK charity. The children are a mix of true orphans, given up children and those rescued from the streets. They are now thriving young people on the verge of independent adult life full of opportunity and hope. Some of our congregation went out in the spring to work with and support an outreach to women in the area, promoting 'Freedom Kit Bags', enabling them to gain freedom from the difficulties experienced by them during menstruation.

Swindon Night Shelter (also known as The Haven) offers a safe, warm and secure place to spend the night for adults who have nowhere else to sleep. They run a day centre where people can get a good breakfast, buy food at heavily reduced prices and take part in various activities. Everyone is accepted and treated with dignity. In a world of homelessness, addiction, fear, rejection and marginalisation, The Haven comes alongside the needy to show that somebody does care. They aim to minister to the spiritual needs as well as the emotional and physical needs of the homeless and vulnerable by being a visible testimony of Jesus Christ. They work closely with churches and individual Christians in Swindon and the surrounding area.

This year our **Christmas Appeal** supported a Tear Fund programme in Burundi to bring much improved understanding of nutrition and its vital role in the early years of life. From “miracle porridge” to knowledge and effective monitoring, to kitchen gardens and self-help groups, local communities and churches are coming together to address the huge problem of malnutrition.

Lettings

Lettings have remained much the same as in 2023, with three Brazilian churches regularly hiring our main church.

Our bookings have increased during daytime hours, as we have been running a number of sessions through the Adult Learning Hub. The



exact courses can change but they use our building for 2-3 groups on a regular basis.

We continue to have a regular slimmers' group, a number of one-off hires for parties and other churches hiring for get togethers.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Miller".

Date:

18th March 2025

Finance Report

In accordance with the Charity Constitution, an annual budget has been completed for both Income and Expenditure. This was approved by members in the January 2024 meeting, along with a plan for the following four years, to enable effective financial planning. The 2025 budget was approved in November 2024 meeting.

General

The Church raises the funds that it needs to continue with its activities from donations provided by the membership and congregation. The annual income has improved from last year by £12,059.77 which is in part a reflection of more people attending on a regular basis, and existing members reviewing their own regular gifts. It has also been assisted by lettings income of £21,865, together with the continued rental of the manse, totalling £13,485.20. The Church was in receipt of 3 bequests during the year, totalling £15,625.55. This has been highlighted to the members throughout the year, as well as being part of the AGM and budget setting process.

The Church has continued to be without a minister or youth worker throughout the entirety of the year.

The Church has seen continued expenditure for the upkeep of the building totalling £87,618.14 and to local ministry of £9,989.36.

The Church has continued to donate 10% of its income by donating a total of £16,980.00 to national and international organisations and charities which have Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. The committee continues to work closely with a number of organisations which are listed in the accounts and regularly communicates their activity to the fellowship through a variety of different methods.

The church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of its activities, many of which run with little to no impact on the Church's expenditure, but contribute significantly to the achievement of its objectives. There were no significant "gifts in kind", although some members covered minor costs personally.

Specific Projects

The Boxes of Hope project has received funding of £18,635.92, including grant funding of £18,000 from Swindon Borough Council to provide food parcels. As noted above, this is in addition to numerous gifts of food and other supplies from the congregation and local supermarkets. There were approximately 300 hours of volunteer time every week buying, packing and delivering the bags to the local community. In addition, the delivery and collection

drivers' donate around 350 miles per week. The project spent £24,189.29 in year on provision of food and suppliers to the residents of Swindon.

The Stepping Stones Project has received funding of £120,398.81, of which grant funding accounted for £118,056.10 in year. In addition, the project for the first part of the year continued to work in partnership with Swindon Night Shelter and Gorse Hill Salvation Army to support vulnerable residents in the South Swindon parish area. This is funded by a grant received by the parish, and Stepping Stones received £47,306.01 to cover their part of the project, although this ceased in the summer of 2024. The project employed 4 part time staff (1.4 FTE) during the year to deliver various aspects of this work. Grants received in support of these projects cannot be used to support the running costs of the church; these are still met from the general funds of the Church, although some grants do allow an element of recharge in relation to electricity and photocopying costs.

Over the course of 2024, both the Boxes of Hope and Stepping Stones project have received additional grant funding to enable the projects to continue and assist Swindon with the cost-of-living crisis and help with reducing food waste within the town through the Community Fridge.

Budgets

The Deacons have undertaken a review of Church activities and, with the assistance of former treasurers, have set a 5-year budget that will keep the church in a healthy financial position. There has been no minister or youth worker in place during 2024, which has meant that budgets have managed to have an increase in spending; however, this is under review in monthly Deacons' meetings. Expenditure still requires the approval of the Treasurer before being incurred and of the Church membership at regular Church meetings.

Reserves

The Church maintains levels of reserves to meet its immediate needs, in particular stipends/salaries for the employees and the running costs of the premises. Sums are accumulated to facilitate specific projects and future strategic development, as agreed by members. The Church Reserves Policy is that it will maintain funds equivalent to 6 months of regular expenditure, and action needs to be taken should the reserves drop below this level. This policy is also applied to the Stepping Stones/Boxes of Hope projects. The policy is reviewed annually by the Diaconate.

The Deacons have noted the General Fund balance of £250,665.23 and have assessed this against the level of potential commitments from 2025 to 2029. It will continue to be reviewed at Deacons' meetings.

Capital Expenditure

The healthier position of the Church's reserves has assisted with increasing dedicated capital requirements. These include works to update the manse, church buildings and updating the AV and IT equipment. Over the course of 2024, a total of £67,204.14 was spent on this work and an additional amount of £29,980.00 has been set aside for 2025 expenditure.

Risks

The Deacons have assessed the major risks facing the Church and are satisfied that there are policies and insurance in place to mitigate these risks. The policies include internal financial controls with advance approval thresholds set at Treasurer and Diaconate levels; items costing in excess of £750 will require members' approval, outside of usual utilities or regular expenditures.

Conclusion

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying Financial Statements.

Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	12	1,850,000.00	1,850,000.00
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	9,587.40	12,635.15
Bank and cash	14	478,501.01	353,861.51
		<u>488,088.41</u>	<u>366,496.66</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables amounts falling due within one	15	<u>(20,430.20)</u>	<u>(19,992.41)</u>
Net Current Assets		467,658.21	346,504.25
Payables amounts falling due after one year	16	-	-
Net Assets		<u>2,317,658.21</u>	<u>2,196,504.25</u>
Charitable Funds			
Unrestricted	17	2,100,665.23	2,012,535.75
Restricted	18	155,809.22	90,214.62
Designated	19	61,183.76	93,753.88
		<u>2,317,658.21</u>	<u>2,196,504.25</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts

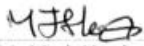
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These accounts were approved
by the Trustees on

18/03/2025

and signed on their behalf by


Mrs Rebecca Tromans
Treasurer


Mr Mark Harris
Secretary

Independent Examiners Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report to the church trustees on my examination of the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the church'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 church'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

Since the church's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 by section 130 of the 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 accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



James Gare – FCA, DChA

Monahans
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
SN2 2GA

Date 20 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Designated Capital £	Designated Departments £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Dec-24 £	Restated Dec-23 £
Income and endowments from:												
Donations and legacies	2	174,671.90	-	3,750.00	11,150.11	2,401.47	10,399.57	139,034.73	551.79	-	341,959.57	285,224.73
Investments	3	5,630.76	-			-	-	-	-	-	5,630.76	3,727.77
Other trading activities	4	22,103.35	-			-	-	-	-	-	22,103.35	17,179.05
											-	-
Total		202,406.01	-	3,750.00	11,150.11	2,401.47	10,399.57	139,034.73	551.79	-	369,693.68	306,131.55
Expenditure on												
Charitable activities	5	69,481.55	16,980.00	67,204.14	8,721.07	699.36	10,362.07	74,368.98	722.55	-	248,539.72	194,787.61
Total	7	69,481.55	16,980.00	67,204.14	8,721.07	699.36	10,362.07	74,368.98	722.55	-	248,539.72	194,787.61
Net Income/ (expenditure)		132,924.46	(16,980.00)	(63,454.14)	2,429.04	1,702.11	37.50	64,665.75	(170.76)	-	121,153.96	111,343.94
Transfers between funds		(44,607.87)	16,673.25	30,627.44	(2,692.82)		-		-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals		88,316.59	(306.75)	(32,826.70)	(263.78)	1,702.11	37.50	64,665.75	(170.76)	-	121,153.96	111,343.94
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	9									-	-	-
Net movement in Funds		88,316.59	(306.75)	(32,826.70)	(263.78)	1,702.11	37.50	64,665.75	(170.76)	-	121,153.96	111,343.94
Total Funds brought forward		162,535.75	372.85	93,381.03	-	6,832.44	(37.50)	82,246.64	1,173.04	1,850,000.00	2,196,504.25	2,085,160.31
Total Funds carried forward		250,665.23	66.10	60,554.33	563.33	8,534.55	-	146,912.39	1,002.28	1,850,000.00	2,317,658.21	2,196,504.25

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Boxes of Hope

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
Income		
Grants	18,500.00	30,400.00
Gifts	135.92	220.00
Tax Refunds	0.00	(200.00)
	<u>18,635.92</u>	<u>30,420.00</u>
Expenditure		
Groceries	21,333.08	23,594.49
Bags	225.00	615.87
Equipment	2,297.40	
Boxes of hope - Literature	83.16	8.94
Boxes of hope - Stationery	250.65	254.85
	<u>24,189.29</u>	<u>24,474.15</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(5,553.37)	5,945.85
Funds B/fwd	18,426.31	49,460.46
Transfer between funds		(36,980.00)
Funds C/fwd	<u>12,872.94</u>	<u>18,426.31</u>

Stepping Stones

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
Income		
Grants	118,056.10	38,656.51
Hall income for classes		2,836.20
Gifts	0.00	1,600.00
Share of interest	2,342.71	0.00
	<u>120,398.81</u>	<u>43,092.71</u>
Expenditure		
Office Costs	108.00	198.93
Communiy Fridge	1,250.97	8,770.57
Equipment	147.99	57.92
Satff Costs	47,306.01	33,964.48
Money Management	24.00	90.80
Mileage	932.45	
Staff DBS costs	76.00	
Teaching Materials	334.27	130.95
	<u>50,179.69</u>	<u>43,213.65</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	70,219.12	(120.94)
Funds B/fwd	63,820.33	26,961.27
Transfer between funds		36,980.00
Funds C/fwd	<u>134,039.45</u>	<u>63,820.33</u>

Notes to the Accounts

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value except for assets included at revalued amounts.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

b Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a trust deed.

The address of the registered office and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the Trustees' report.'

d Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Tax refunded under Gift Aid is accounted for on an accruals basis

The charges for the use of church premises are included in the accounts in the year in which they are receivable

Investment Income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable

All of the management is carried out without charge, by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service

e Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities.

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on fundraising and publicity costs is therefore not material

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid

f Receivables

Receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

g Bank and cash

Bank and cash comprise cash at bank and on hand, and demand deposits with other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

h Payables

Payables are stated at cost.

i Fixed Assets

The church and manse premises are included in the balance sheet at market value determined by the Trustees opinion based on insurance value and other available information.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises are capitalised if over £1,000 and depreciated as detailed in note j.

j Depreciation

Depreciation of other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Furniture and fittings	10%	Full year depreciation charged in year of acquisition; no depreciation charged in year of disposal
Computers and equipment	33.3%	

k Investment Assets

The Church has no quoted investments

l Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Members and Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes. The establishment of a restricted fund must be agreed by members.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in notes 17 and 18 in notes to the accounts.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Designated Capital £	Designated Departments £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Offerings	123,434.30				2,018.97	372.71				125,825.98	113,024.78
Tax refunds	22,041.85				382.50	1,485.00	0.00			23,909.35	16,001.50
Church departments	-							551.79		551.79	9,370.45
Income for Other charities						8,541.86				8,541.86	7,232.05
Grants							118,056.10			118,056.10	43,000.00
Legacies	15,625.55									15,625.55	50,274.35
Other	13,570.20		3,750.00	11,150.11			20,978.63			49,448.94	46,321.60
Totals	174,671.90	0.00	3,750.00	11,150.11	2,401.47	10,399.57	139,034.73	551.79	0.00	341,959.57	285,224.73

Government grants of £18,000 were received from Swindon Borough Council for the Boxes of Hope project. There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to these grants. The charity has not directly benefited from any other forms of government assistance

3 Investments

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Designated Capital £	Designated Departments £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Bank interest	5,630.76									5,630.76	3,727.77
Totals	5,630.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,630.76	3,727.77

4 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Designated Capital £	Designated Departments £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Use of premises	21,865.00									21,865.00	17,177.45
Other	238.35									238.35	1.60
Totals	22,103.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,103.35	17,179.05

5 Charitable activities costs

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Designated Capital £	Designated Departments £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Ministers	479.91									479.91	17,573.79
Other Ministry	6,913.33				699.36		74,368.98		0.00	81,981.67	74,106.37
Mission	3,638.90	16,980.00				10,362.07		0.00		30,980.97	31,188.39
Establishment	56,848.67									56,848.67	58,625.37
Church departments	-							722.55		722.55	5,970.72
Equipment and Property repairs	-		67,204.14					0.00		67,204.14	5,918.97
Other				8,721.07				0.00		8,721.07	0.00
Governance Costs (note 6)	1,600.74									1,600.74	1,404.00
Totals	69,481.55	16,980.00	67,204.14	8,721.07	699.36	10,362.07	74,368.98	722.55	0.00	248,539.72	194,787.61

6 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Designated Capital £	Designated Departments £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Departments £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Independent examination	1,600.74									1,600.74	1,404.00
Totals	1,600.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.74	1,404.00

7 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities £	Grants paid (Mission) £	Restricted projects £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Minister	479.91				479.91	17,573.79
Other Ministry	7,612.69		74,368.98	0.00	81,981.67	74,106.37
Mission		30,980.97			30,980.97	31,188.39
Establishment	56,848.67				56,848.67	58,625.37
Church departments	722.55				722.55	5,970.72
Furniture/furnishings	67,204.14				67,204.14	5,918.97
Other	8,721.07				8,721.07	0.00
Governance Costs	1,600.74				1,600.74	1,404.00
Totals	143,189.77	30,980.97		0.00	248,539.72	194,787.61

8 Grants paid (Mission)

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Outreach/youth work	2,853.55						2,853.55	2,579.15
Subscriptions	785.35						785.35	782.10
BMS World Mission		3,610.00		500.00			4,110.00	4,244.20
Education Plus		1,360.00		352.71			1,712.71	2,468.97
Friends of Angel's Orphanage		720.00					720.00	502.96
Friends of Centre Mokili		1,350.00					1,350.00	2,243.97
Harbour Project							0.00	581.00
Leprosy Mission		1,350.00		402.95			1,752.95	5,940.45
Mary's Meals							0.00	333.50
Operation Agri				1,715.00			1,715.00	1,689.25
SASRA							0.00	26.82
Spurgeons							0.00	895.97
Swindon Night Shelter		720.00					720.00	592.63
Swindon Youth For Christ		2,160.00					2,160.00	1,531.97
Tear Fund		2,100.00		7,271.41			9,371.41	3,613.47
Toilet Twining				120.00			120.00	0.00
WEBA Home Mission		3,610.00					3,610.00	3,161.98
Totals	3,638.90	16,980.00	0.00	10,362.07	0.00	0.00	30,980.97	31,188.39

9 Gains and losses on revaluations of fixed assets for the charity's own use

	Church premises £	Manse £	Furniture and fittings £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Revaluation (insured value)	0.00	0.00			0.00
Impairment			0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

10 Staff costs and Trustees expenses and Trustees remuneration

	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
General Fund Staff		
Salaries	0.00	13,119.32
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	10.00	12.00
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	0.00	1,248.00
Minister in Training Leaseback	0.00	1,000.00
Other costs	469.91	2,194.47
Totals	479.91	17,573.79

	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Restricted Projects Staff - Stepping Stones		
Salaries	45,356.63	32,144.64
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	0.00	0.00
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	2,465.75	1,819.84
Totals	47,306.01	33,964.48

Average number of employees during the year was 4, 2023 was 4, all of these are the staff for the Stepping Stones Project.

Employer pension contributions are included for all Members of staff except one member who has opted out.

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year 2024 nor for 2023

Mrs J Harris is a trustee and was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £12,112.43 (2023: £8,753) and employers pension contributions of £604.49 (2023: £422).

There was no other trustee remuneration for the year.

The church pays pension contributions for its Employees to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension.

The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

11 Comparative Statement of financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted		Designated		Restricted			Departments	Total
	General Fund	Asset Fund	Missionary	Capital	Fellowship	Other charities	Projects		
	£		£	£	£	£	£		£
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	188,444.22	0.00	0.00	6,650.00	1,694.00	9,039.55	70,676.51	8,720.45	285,224.73
Investments	3,727.77	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,727.77
Other trading activities	14,342.85	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	2,836.20	0.00	17,179.05
Total	206,514.84	0.00	0.00	6,650.00	1,694.00	9,039.55	73,512.71	8,720.45	306,131.55
Expenditure on									
Charitable activities	87,618.14	0.00	18,626.59	5,918.97	414.84	9,039.55	67,687.80	5,481.72	194,787.61
Total	87,618.14	0.00	18,626.59	5,918.97	414.84	9,039.55	67,687.80	5,481.72	194,787.61
Net Income/ (expenditure)	118,896.70	0.00	(18,626.59)	731.03	1,279.16	0.00	5,824.91	3,238.73	111,343.94
Transfers between funds	(69,243.93)	0.00	17,599.91	54,650.00		0.00		(3,005.98)	0.00
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals	49,652.77	0.00	(1,026.68)	55,381.03	1,279.16	0.00	5,824.91	232.75	111,343.94
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets									0.00
Net movement in Funds	49,652.77	0.00	(1,026.68)	55,381.03	1,279.16	0.00	5,824.91	232.75	111,343.94
Total Funds brought forward	112,882.98	1,850,000.00	1,399.53	38,000.00	5,553.28	(37.50)	76,421.73	940.29	2,085,160.31
Total Funds carried forward	162,535.75	1,850,000.00	372.85	93,381.03	6,832.44	(37.50)	82,246.64	1,173.04	2,196,504.25

12 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church premises £	Manse £	Furniture and fittings £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
01 January 2024	1,500,000	350,000	-	16,632	1,866,632
Additions				-	-
Disposals				-	-
Impairment					-
Revaluation	-	-	-		-
					-
31 December 2024	1,500,000	350,000	-	16,632	1,866,632
Depreciation					
01 January 2024				-	16,632
Charge for the year					-
On Disposals				-	-
31 December 2024	-	-	-	16,632	16,632
Net Book Value					
31 December 2023	1,500,000	350,000	-	-	1,850,000
31 December 2024	1,500,000	350,000	-	-	1,850,000

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes

The church premises and the manse and revalued to the estimated market value at 31 December 2020 as determined by the trustees.

The trustees do not believe that the carrying amount will not differ materially from the fair value of the asset at the end of the reporting period.

13 Receivables

	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Accrued income	6,628.19	9,762.01
Prepayments and other receivables	2,959.21	2,873.14
Totals	9,587.40	12,635.15

14 Bank and cash balances

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	£	£
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	381,900.08	308,881.41
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd	96,248.65	44,457.06
Departments	352.28	523.04
Totals	478,501.01	353,861.51

15 Payables : amounts falling due within one year

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	£	£
Other creditors	0.00	0.00
Accruals	20,430.20	19,992.41
Totals	20,430.20	19,992.41

16 Payables : amounts falling due after more than one year

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	£	£
Other creditors	0.00	0.00
Totals	0.00	0.00

17 Unrestricted Funds

	01/01/2024	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	162,535.75	202,406.01	(69,481.55)		(44,607.87)	250,665.23
Asset Fund	1,850,000.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	1,850,000.00
Totals	2,012,535.75	202,406.01	(69,481.55)	0.00	(44,607.87)	2,100,665.23

The balance of this fund includes elements which are represented by fixed and current assets

	01/01/2023	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	112,882.98	206,514.84	(87,618.14)		(69,243.93)	162,535.75
Asset Fund	1,850,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,850,000.00
Totals	1,962,882.98	206,514.84	(87,618.14)	0.00	(69,243.93)	2,012,535.75

18 Restricted Funds

	01/01/2024	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	6,832.44	2,401.47	(699.36)			8,534.55
Other charities	(37.50)	10,026.86	(9,989.36)			0.00
Boxes of Hope	18,426.31	18,635.92	(24,189.29)			12,872.94
Stepping Stones	63,820.33	120,398.81	(50,179.69)			134,039.45
Childrens collection		372.71	(372.71)			0.00
Pram Club	1,173.04	551.79	(722.55)		0.00	1,002.28
Totals	90,214.62	152,387.56	(86,152.96)	0.00	0.00	156,449.22

	01/01/2023	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	5,553.28	1,694.00	(414.84)			6,832.44
Other charities	(37.50)	9,039.55	(9,039.55)		0.00	(37.50)
Boxes of Hope	49,460.46	30,420.00	(24,474.15)		(36,980.00)	18,426.31
Stepping Stones	26,961.27	43,092.71	(43,213.65)		36,980.00	63,820.33
Pram Club	940.29	8,720.45	(5,481.72)		(3,005.98)	1,173.04
Totals	82,877.80	92,966.71	(82,623.91)	0.00	(3,005.98)	90,214.62

Fellowship Fund
Other charities
Boxes of Hope
Stepping Stones
Church departments

this fund is available at the discretion of the Minister and Care Co-ordinators to provide financial assistance to those in specific need
this represents gifts which the donor has restricted to other parties in furtherance of the charity's objectives
this represents funds raised as a result of the pandemic to provide food parcels to the residents of Swindon
this represents funds raised to help Swindonians deal with the cost of living crisis and to help improve their life chances
this represents funds related to clubs and groups run by the Church; Pram Club

19 Designated Funds

	01/01/2024	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	372.85	0.00	(16,980.00)	0.00	16,673.25	66.10
Luncheon Club	-	4,441.74	(1,913.92)		(2,527.82)	0.00
Funday		3,003.37	(3,267.15)		827.11	563.33
Church Holiday		3,705.00	(3,540.00)		(165.00)	0.00
Capital Fund	93,381.03	3,750.00	(67,204.14)		30,627.44	60,554.33
Totals	93,753.88	14,900.11	(92,905.21)	0.00	44,607.87	61,183.76

	01/01/2023	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	1,399.53	0.00	(18,626.59)		17,599.91	372.85
Luncheon Club						
Funday						
Capital Fund	38,000.00	6,650.00	(5,918.97)		54,650.00	93,381.03
Totals	39,399.53	6,650.00	24,545.56	-	72,249.91	93,753.88

Missionary Fund Capital fund Church departments

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to facilitate annually agreed support in the furtherance of the church's charitable objectives
Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to deliver one off capital projects as formalised during the annual budget setting process
This represents funds related to clubs and groups run by the Church; Luncheon Club, Funday and Church Holiday

20 Analysis of net assets

31-Dec-24	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
General Fund	1,850,000.00	250,665.23	2,100,665.23
Missionary Fund	-	66.10	66.10
Capital Fund		60,554.33	60,554.33
Fun Day		563.33	563.33
Fellowship Fund	-	8,534.55	8,534.55
Other charities	-	-	-
Church departments	-	362.28	362.28
Restricted Projects		146,912.39	146,912.39
Totals	1,850,000.00	467,658.21	2,317,658.21

31-Dec-23	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
General Fund	1,850,000.00	162,535.75	2,012,535.75
Missionary Fund	-	372.85	372.85
Capital Fund		93,381.03	93,381.03
Fellowship Fund	-	6,832.44	6,832.44
Other charities	-	(37.50)	(37.50)
Church departments	-	1,173.04	1,173.04
Restricted Projects		82,246.64	82,246.64
Totals	1,850,000.00	346,504.25	2,196,504.25

21 Related parties

The custodian Trustee of the church is The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Limited. The church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the West of England Baptist Association.

The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 8

The church made a donation to the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission (charity no 233782) as set out in note 8

The church paid a subscription to the Baptist Union of Great Britain amounting to £649.75 which is included in note 8

Total donations of £16,090 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

The spouse of trustee G Prictor was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £17,421.47 (2023: £13,740) and employers pension contributions of £869.92 (2023: £688)
The spouse of trustee I Burbidge was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £3,867.74 (2023: £7,326) and employers pension contributions of £309.43 (2022: £707). I Burbidge stood down in March 2024.

Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Cricklade Road
Gorse Hill
Swindon SN2 1AA

01793 534193

ghbc.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1127294

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127294

Accounts

Gorse Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report & Financial Statement

2023

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Annual Report 2023

The Charity Trustees¹ present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2023. The Charity, called Gorse Hill Baptist Church², has been registered in the Central Register of Charities since 29th December 2008.

The Charity registration number is 1127294.

Charitable Objective

The Charity is governed by a Constitution which states that the purpose of the Church is the advancement of Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Charity may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted for the public benefit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.



¹ 'Trustee' mainly refers to the Minister/Treasurer/Secretary and Deacons, i.e. those who are involved in the day-to-day operation of the Church. Where this is the case, the term used in this report will be 'Deacons' or 'Diaconate'.

² Referred to in this Report as 'the Church'

A Message from our Church Secretary, Shirley Westall

2023 has been a year of challenge, expansion and encouragement for Gorse Hill Baptist Church. We are in our second year without a minister, and are actively searching for the right person to join us in this capacity. Our Children and Families Worker, Jacob Barron, got married in June and moved to the south coast to enable his wife to continue her training. As a church, we have risen to the challenge of providing the things these paid members of staff covered including, among others, preaching, pastoral care, children's work, youth work.

Our vision continues to be "Knowing God, to make Him known", to grow our knowledge of God and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. Central to this are our 10.30am Sunday services, with age-appropriate classes for children and young people. On the first and third Sundays of each month we have a prayer-focused evening and a Bible teaching-focused evening. We have enjoyed a number of diverse visiting speakers, who have brought us God's message in a variety of styles. Our congregation on Sunday mornings continues to increase in diversity, representing a wide range of ages, cultural identities and Christian experience.

The Church runs house groups across the town which meet regularly. As well as studying the Bible, discussing our faith and getting to know each other better, these groups provide pastoral care and other support to those that attend.



A natural outcome flowing from our vision, worship and teaching is outreach into our community.

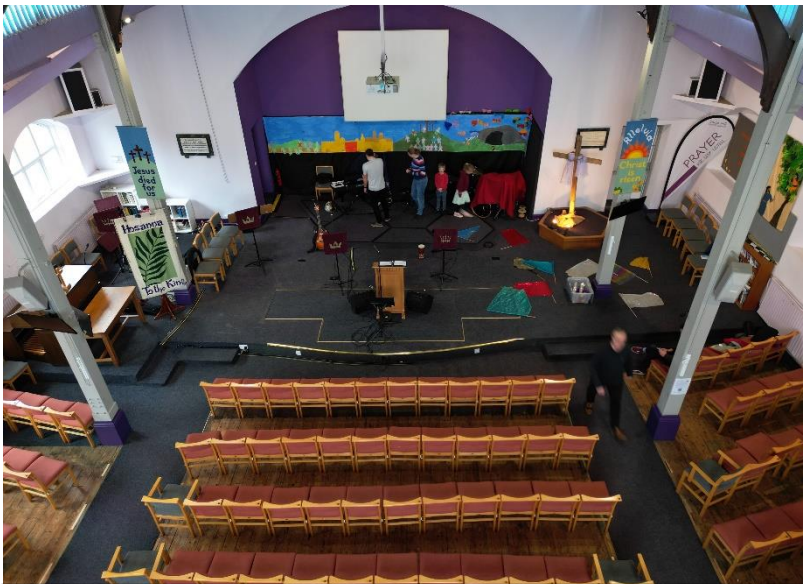
Jesus said: 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

These words from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25:35-36, are core to our aim of helping make God known. Later in the report you will find more information about the many ways we do

this, including the Stepping Stones Project, within which we house and run a Community Fridge and Boxes of Hope, provide a warm space and café, plus classes chosen to meet the needs of the community; examples of these include cooking with a slow cooker, CAP Money Management and teaching English to those for whom English is not their first language.

Many people in our society struggle with loneliness. We provide an antidote to this in events we provide to the community, such as Friends and Fun, which meets monthly on Monday afternoons for the over-50s and Lunch Club, which meets on Tuesdays in term-time to provide a hot meal and an opportunity to socialise; numbers are growing. On Fridays we have Pram Club for parents and carers of pre-school children, Children's Friday Club for children in years 4-6 children and Ignite for young people in years 7-13.

We again ran a Family Fun Day for our local community of Gorse Hill, which was very well attended.



Gorse Hill Baptist Church is so much more than the building we worship God in. We are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose motto is 'Knowing God to make Him known.' Our aim is to live in the hope He gives us and share that hope to the community around us.

This year the Deacons have reviewed every policy and updated where necessary. All our policies are available on our website. They have initiated an update of all contact details held by the church.

This was the year we finally broke with the tradition of sitting on pews. These were replaced with chairs, gifted to us by another church. In turn, we blessed a number of other people and organisations with our pews. This change has given us flexibility to experiment with new layouts for our services and the ability to open up the room to new activities.

A Message from our Moderator, Martyn Cook



Often during a pastoral vacancy, churches either stand still or even decline in membership and mission/outreach activities, as they wait for a new minister to be appointed to take them forward. This has not been true of Gorse Hill Baptist Church. As another year has passed, it has been a year of challenge and change, but also of growth and encouragement as new members have joined, cultural diversity has increased, attendance at worship services has been maintained or increased and mission and outreach have continued to grow.

There is so much going on at here: children's work, homegroups, music group, worship leaders, pastoral care and prayer. It is a thriving church that is striving to fulfil its calling to "go and make disciples" and "teaching them".

In particular, I have been encouraged by the work of Stepping Stones, especially the Community Café on a Monday and Thursday, which continues to expand to meet the needs of those who attend physically, mentally and spiritually. On the occasions I have attended, everyone I have spoken to has said how grateful they are for somewhere to come to be supported, helped, encouraged and to simply be able to sit and talk. For some it is the only time they get out of their homes to meet and talk to other people. This offers the opportunity for volunteers to develop new friendships, meaning people are more open to hearing the Gospel and being told that Jesus loves them. Who knows what seeds are being planted? The staff and helpers pray regularly for the work being carried out. This is just one example of the ways in which GHBC is serving the Lord in its local community. It only works due to the dedication, faithfulness and commitment of those who give their time in so many ways week by week to God's love.

During the year, the Church faced many issues and challenges, not least with the maintenance and repair of its buildings, in particular the repairs of the roof and parapet of the extension. I want to commend our current facilities manager and his team as they ensure the buildings continue to be fit for use in the long term.

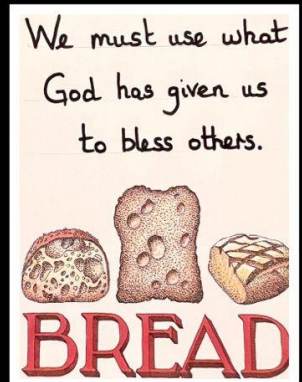
The work of the Transition Search Team on the appointment of the next Minister has continued to seek the way forward, trying to overcome the delays and frustrations of the new Baptist Union process, plus the reduction in the number of accredited Baptist Ministers and of those who are seeking a new pastorate. The church is aware that God's timing is not the same as ours and therefore we need to be patient and faithful and, as well as praying within services and members' meetings, a regular prayer meeting is held on this issue.

The Diaconate has continued to work together, encouraging and supporting each other as they work through issues and lead. The current Secretary and Treasurer have now come to the end of the maximum-allowed 9 years' service, just one example of the dedication shown by a great many people.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Cook

Martyn Cook, Moderator



Organisational Structure

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Charity Trustees, which include the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Church's operations, together with the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All Charity Trustees are aware of the specific guidance issued by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission and have confirmed that they will act in accordance with such information and directives.

The Trustees have appointed Martyn Cook as moderator during our time of ministerial vacancy, to help guide us through the process of searching and selecting a new minister. The members and broader fellowship have been involved in producing our Church Profile and minister specification. A search team has been created to work through receiving and processing applications, then bringing suitable applicants to the membership.

With the exception of the Minister, all Deacons are elected for an initial period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election for two further terms of three years. They are then required to step down for at least one year, before being eligible for reappointment.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution, through a personal profession of faith in Christ and are people:

- whose conduct corresponds with the beliefs and practice of the Church
- who accept the Declaration of Faith
- who have followed the Lord's command and example in Believer's Baptism (unless exceptional circumstances apply)

The Church has a policy of open membership where, at the discretion of the Members' Meeting, a person may be accepted into full membership following public profession of their faith. The list is constantly being reviewed to reflect members who have left but not resigned. At Christmas 2023, the number of members stood at 112.

The Church continues to review its organisational structures, processes and activities to deliver its objectives. We meet together on a regular basis, as elected leaders and as a gathering of committed members, to seek guidance and direction from God through prayer.

Matters for consideration by the Members' Meeting may be tabled by the Deacons or by members. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members' Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furthering of the Charitable Objectives. This is explained to all prospective members in a personal interview.

Charity Trustees

Minister

Pastoral vacancy since 10 July 2022.

Secretary

Shirley Westall (*appointed 2021*)

Treasurer

Ian Burbidge (*re-appointed May 2021*)

Deacons

Elizabeth Mildenhall (*re-appointed March 2022*)

Gary Pictor (*re-appointed March 2022*)

Julie Harris (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Vicki Payn (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Rebecca Tromans (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Matthew Wright (*appointed May 2021*)

Adam Sibley (*appointed September 2020, stood down March 2023*)

Finance Team

Ian Burbidge - *Treasurer*

Ian Burbidge - *Payroll & Accounts*

Julie Harris - *Gift Aid, Income and Banking*

Peter Morris - *Assets and Inventory*

Beverley Bolt - *Internal Audit (appointed March 2022)*

Brian Mildenhall - *Utilities Manager*

Property Trustees

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Kingsway

Bristol BS34 6JW

Independent Examiner

James Gare

Monahans Chartered Accountants

Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue,

Swindon, SN2 2GA

Banker

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Swindon Branch

5 High Street

Swindon SN1 3EN

Solicitor

Wood Awdry and Ford

3 St Mary Street

Chippenham SN15 3JL

Registered Address: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 1AA

Our Leadership Team

The members re-elected three deacons in 2023, giving a team of five deacons, secretary and treasurer.

The deacons met monthly, except during August, to receive reports, act within agreed and delegated guidelines and make recommendations to the membership. The team had away days in May and November, though due to financial limitations, these were held at church.

The different teams and events within the church have been divided up and each has a member of the leadership team responsible for it.

Church Life

Pastoral Care

Our mission statement (see below) is displayed on the wall in church as a reminder to everyone. It sums up all that pastoral care in this church stands for. It is love in action, caring and supporting each other, which is what we strive to do.

The Pastoral Care Team met regularly over the last year to discuss pastoral issues and ensure we care for both regular and new attendees. To ensure this, we have divided the fellowship into care groups, each with a Care or Home Group Leader. Care group lists are regularly looked at and revised.

During the meetings we discuss people we have not been seen at church for a while. Our 'missed you card' is sent out and we aim to follow it up with a phone call, to ask if they need any support or help.

We have concentrated on welcoming visitors and new people attending the church, encouraging those who have attended a few times to engage with us more. We encourage them to fill in one of our welcome cards and introduce them to a Care Leader. We believe it is important for new people to feel welcome, to have the opportunity to become part of a group, if they choose to do so, and to know who their Care Leader is.

We take Communion to people living in care homes or who are housebound, bi-monthly or more often if they prefer. This has been welcomed and is a good way to show people they are still important and cared for by the fellowship.

People leading regular church activities are invited to the start of pastoral care meetings, to give an update on their group and on any pastoral needs that have arisen, so we can support them, and we regularly update the Diaconate about any problems, prayer needs, issues, and any needs for further support for members of the fellowship.

The pre-service church breakfasts provide people with more time to get to know each other and have become a regular feature in the church calendar, with more of the fellowship attending; they create a 'buzzy' and welcoming atmosphere on those Sunday mornings.



Sometimes pastoral care is giving somebody a lift to help them achieve what they couldn't do alone. Sometimes it's holding up something that would overwhelm them.

Children and Young People

Regular Sunday Morning Groups: Creche, Kidzone and Inferno: On Sunday mornings our children and young people join the main service at the start and then leave to go to age-appropriate groups for around 45-60 minutes. We run a creche for our youngest members, from birth to 3-4 years old. We have 2 Kidzone groups, broadly split into 3-6-year-olds and 7-11-year-olds with some flexibility relating to the abilities or maturity of each individual child. These groups follow a programme of work that will take them through the whole Bible, with breaks to cover the Easter and Christmas stories. Inferno, our teenage group, is more discussion-based, relating the Bible and Christian teachings to contemporary issues. Across all of our children and young peoples' groups we place huge importance on safeguarding and safer recruitment and meeting all requirements.

Our Regular Friday Groups

These groups have had a boost in popularity, with several children and young people transitioning up to the next age group at the start of the 2023/4 academic year.

CFC (Children's Friday Club): our popular group for primary-aged children continues to run early on Friday evenings. New leaders have been recruited, along with some young leaders of secondary-school age. The children enjoy a variety of crafts, games, a Bible story and prayer each week. A large portion of this club is made up of children from the local community.



Many children who attend our clubs came to the Fun Day with their families.

Ignite: our Friday night youth club is open to all in school years 7-13. This year we saw an influx of year 7s in September, but the loss of some of the regular older young people as they transitioned from school to college. We have a strong team of leaders and each week sees a variety of sport, craft, chill time and a Bible memory verse with free tuck for those who can remember it the next week. Attendance is currently free but there is a charge for the tuck shop.

Pram Club: is a weekly, term-time toddler group, which is open to anybody with preschool aged children. At a cost of £1 per family per session, the session aims to build relationships with those who attend, enabling us to offer support and share our faith.

During 2023 we have seen between 15-25 children each week and have offered them activities including free play, craft and bike time.

It's exciting to see the group continue to grow with both new and returning members, and to see some of those people attending other church activities. We will continue to encourage this.

Seasonal Events: these run at key points in the Christian calendar and focus on inviting families from the local community to share with us and learn something of our faith. At **Easter** we held a **drop in cafe**, making the most of the flexible space in the sanctuary since the removal of the pews. We had an egg hunt, crafts and hot-cross buns with drinks; there was a steady stream of visitors. We ran two **Re-Create** sessions, which have been running for many years. All ages are invited to attend for a variety of themed crafts, followed by a story in the sanctuary and a light lunch together. On average we see around 30-40 children with their parents or carers at this event.

In 2023 we were, unfortunately, unable to run our popular **Light Party** as a safe, positive alternative to Halloween, due to volunteer illness. In December, alongside our **Sunday Advent services**, we held a **Christingle** service on a Saturday afternoon. This was well attended by families both from within and outside of our usual church fellowship



There were plenty of volunteers to join the paramedics!

GHBC's Community Fun Day

2023 saw our 13th annual Community Fun Day held on Edinburgh Street Rec. We had the highest attendance yet, with over 1,000 people of all ages coming to enjoy games, inflatables, crafts and BBQ, all free of charge. Particular attractions this year were the Paramedics, ambulance and other emergency equipment, and the Fire Brigade, who brought along a couple of engines. These were called away to an emergency, demonstrating how vital these services are.



This event takes a huge amount of planning throughout the year, by a core team, plus a large team of volunteers on the day from dawn to dusk.

Due to financial constraints, funding for this event was not included in the church budget. The fact that individuals within the church donated to ensure it happened, is an indication of how important the people in the church think this event is.

Schools work

We continued to enjoy a positive relationship with our local schools and support them in providing RE. We join up with Florence Street Mission Hall to provide 9 assemblies per term in 7+ local primary schools and it is always encouraging to receive an enthusiastic reception by both staff and pupils. Each assembly contains a Bible story, a song, a period of meditation and

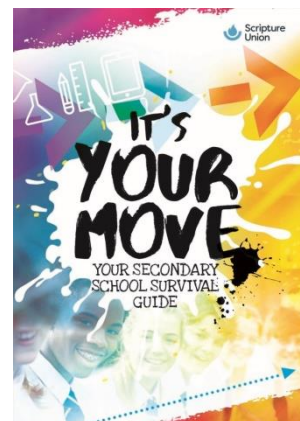


If you want to know what actually happened, it's always best to investigate the evidence for yourself.

an explanation/application of the story. The Parables of Jesus provided a theme for many assemblies during the year. The scripts are written by the team and are acted out, as this is found to keep the children engaged. In many schools the assembly is repeated and adjusted to suit Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Assemblies are carried out in accordance with guidelines set by SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education in Swindon) and link into the National Curriculum for RE. Some 2,200 pupils are present at these assembly sessions each term.

We were able to welcome 5 schools into our building to take part in the Investigating Easter and Christmas Unwrapped presentations. At Easter we had approximately 330 children and adults who engaged fully with a lively presentation of the Bible story of Easter; at Christmas we had approximately 300. We received positive feedback from staff such a *'As always, another lovely morning for the children to interact and learn more about Easter.'* *'Fantastic engagement from all the children 10/10 to church team.'* *'The layout and options were great for all range of learning.'* *'Very easy for children with different abilities to work and enjoy the event. Every need is catered for. The children better understand the Bible story of Christmas.'*

In the summer, we provided 180 Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' booklets to the Year 6s of 3 local primary schools. These were presented on our behalf by Janet and Adebola from Florence Street Mission Hall, as part of events to prepare the children for their move to secondary school.



Media

As with previous years, this year we have continued with our hybrid services due to demand. We still have a significant number of people who watch our services online either exclusively, if they

have yet to physically return, or when they are unable to attend the church building. For those who can't make it to church, or who may miss the live Facebook feed, video recordings and audio recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube, with sermons uploaded as podcasts on Apple Music and Amazon Music.

We are grateful for those who volunteer to run the AV setup and especially to the new volunteers, of whom we have had quite a number. Co-ordinating the cameras, sound, song

words, presentations and the occasional video is a much trickier task than you might imagine, let alone streaming it to Facebook, and it requires a number of people working together as a team.



The GHBC Weekly Newsletter and GHBC prayer emails have continued to be crucial in keeping everyone up to date, providing us with channels for important information and it has been good to have a new editor for this.

As well as hybrid church services, we have continued to conduct hybrid members meetings, allowing people to attend virtually if they aren't comfortable mixing, have childcare commitments or are away at the time. This has been a great success, allowing audience participation and interaction from within the church or at home.

Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers has continued to run very successfully with a number of well attended events, including skittles evenings playing against other churches, Scalextric racing and the ever-popular curry evening!

It has been encouraging to see this important area of men's fellowship continue and we pray it will continue to facilitate more contact with men outside of the church, as well as helping to build friendships between the men of the congregation itself.

Flourish

Flourish, a ministry for the women of the fellowship, has yet to restart. We hope that this will be re-launched during 2024.

Administration

Church Facilities

The following works were carried out in 2023:

To comply with **Health & Safety regulations**, annual inspection/servicing of key facilities items were carried out to:

Boilers, thermostatic mixing valves, fire alarm system, emergency lighting, and kitchen appliances, electrical equipment and fire extinguishers. Rodent inspections are regularly carried out, to help maintain a high standard of hygiene. Kitchen grease trap cleaned.

Decorating works: External front and back timber doors were repainted; decoration works to Cricklade Hall and main sanctuary were touched up.



New Works completed:

- A new video wall screen was installed in the main sanctuary.
- Completed the replacement of the main sanctuary wooden pews with modern cushioned chairs.
- Rear controlled door access system was completely refurbished and updated to current specifications
- A new dishwasher & freezer was installed in the kitchen.
- A new doorbell system was installed to the 3 entrances.
- New permanent hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed to the 3 church entrances
- New door signage was fixed to the 3 downstairs toilet doors.
- The ground floor accessible toilet had various fittings installed to comply with current regulations eg full length mirror, coat hook, small shelf for those with a colostomy bag.
- All the toilet, kitchen/kitchenette facilities were fitted with new hand gel dispensers.
- New notice boards were fitted to Cricklade Hall, Bright Room and entrance foyer.
- A new mobile leaflet display unit has been purchased, for the use in Bright Room and Cricklade Hall areas.
- The ladies' toilet was fitted with a new hand dryer.
- Poulton door received a new dado protection plate.
- A new computer screen table & chair was installed for the AV team

Repair works:

- Various minor carpentry, electrical and plumbing repairs were carried out.
- All the blue cushioned chairs upstairs were refurbished and, where necessary, repairs carried out to the fabric, stacking buffers and floor protectors.
- Replaced 2 External high-level lights with LED light fittings
- Survey works were carried out to the church roofs to identify what needs repairing. Roof design solutions have been prepared and construction planning works completed. It is intended to carry out major roofing repair works in 2024.

Health, Safety & Environmental Health

2023 has seen the Compliance Team adapt to better support the Church in its mission to serve the community in these challenging economic times. The team grew, adding new members to cover specialist areas such as COSHH, and areas of Church operations such as Stepping Stones and ministries aimed at adults. We focused less on the diminishing threat of Covid and more on adapting our building and ways of working to allow us to open up to the general public more, while keeping our Covid-19 Secure procedures to hand and available, should we ever need to use them again.

We passed a comprehensive external audit, assuring us both practically and spiritually that we were doing all that we should to fulfil Christ's command to love and care for one another, as well as providing a framework to assure funders and partners of our credibility to deliver social and economic change within the local community.

On this footing we move forward into 2024 to meet the practical, pastoral and spiritual needs of our community and members, ensuring their safety and wellbeing as they meet with us and with God. The Compliance Team will continue to adapt in its structure and the work that it produces, be that risk assessments, policies, training or routine checks as required, to support the Church in serving the community that God has called us to serve.

Safeguarding report

There have been no major issues requiring reports to other agencies. DBS are continuing to be approved or updated as required.

Community

Stepping Stones

2023 has been a very busy year, when the Stepping Stones project has continued to see an increase in demand for all services. Matthew Chapter 25 verses 35-40 explain exactly what the team aims to achieve each day:

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

We aim to demonstrate God’s love in action to all the people that we come into contact with each week.

Our **Boxes of Hope** project continues to see an increase in demand. We work very closely with a wide range of agencies around Swindon and take referrals from many professionals for families that are struggling. We have now delivered 10,105 food parcels, feeding 14,514 adults and 18,424 children.

All our food parcels are delivered by an amazing group of volunteers from church who aim to get alongside the families and build relationships with them. All our food parcels contain Christian literature and information on events that we are running at church.



Dear Steve & 'The Bag of Hope Team'
God Bless you all!
Thank you very much for our
'Bag of Hope', it really helped me.
My daughter loves Frozen, so very
grateful for the Frozen II Stationery set.
Many Thanks for support at this time.
Kind Regards

Our theme for the Boxes of Hope project is Hope, as it says in Psalm 33 verse 22:

'Let your unfailing love surround us Lord, as our hope is in you alone. '

The Community Fridge is open three days a week from 11am-2pm. Our volunteers pick up food waste from many of the supermarkets from around the town, which would have previously gone to landfill. The food then is redistributed to our customers. On average we have 130 customers every day that the fridge is open. On our busiest day we had 172 visitors! Since opening, we have had 38,905 visitors and have prevented 111,238 kgs of food from going to landfill, which is a massive achievement. The fridge is a fantastic way of getting people into the church building on a regular basis. We are getting to know our regular customers well and are at a point where we have some good relationships with them, giving us many opportunities to get alongside them and share our faith. Some of our customers have attended church activities such as Lunch Club, Pram Club and some of them have attended Sunday services.



Our **Drop in Café** is now used as a Warm and Welcome Space for Swindon Borough Council. We are open twice a week from 11am-2pm, offering a cup of tea/coffee or soup and a roll for 50p, with customers are welcome to stay as long as they like. Many have made friends while visiting us and arrange to meet each other regularly at the café. A variety of agencies regularly attend the Community Fridge to offer advice and support: Citizens Advice Bureau, Healthwatch, Thames Water, Swindon Carers, Staff from Great Western Hospital, Gamblers Anonymous. The local PCSO and the Live Well team offer their advice to our customers, signposting them to other services that can support them, as appropriate. We offer a free book swap and a pre-loved clothes table.

We have additional volunteers who regularly attend the café, sit with our customers, getting alongside them, befriending them and chatting to them. We offer opportunities for prayer on a regular basis.



We have recently added a **Knit and Natter** group to our Thursday Café, which has been very popular and well attended.

Over the last year we have run many regular **Adult Learning Classes**.



On Mondays we run an **ESOL class** (English for Speakers of Other Languages). This has been very popular, as we are based in an area where a high percentage of ethnic minority groups live.

On Tuesdays there is a **craft class**.

On Wednesdays we run a **Slow cooker class**

On Fridays we run an **adult Maths class**.

In the past we have run **CAP Money Management** classes and are planning on starting these again soon, as well as adult literacy classes.

We have been extremely fortunate during the last year that we have been awarded enough grant money to be able to continue the services that we offer. We have been awarded money from the Swindon North Central Parish Council to run a localised food poverty, alongside two other local charities, The Night Shelter and the Salvation Army.

We never cease to be amazed at how the Stepping Stones project has grown and evolved and continue to be excited at the way God is working in and through us. We pray that we may be open to God's leading and continue to work for him in our local community.



Lunch Club

Lunch Club meets every Tuesday during term time, serving a freshly cooked, nutritious, home-cooked, 2-course meal, all for £5. Initially for the over-50s, we have widened this to anyone who wishes to attend. People attend for many reasons and it provides an opportunity to socialise over an enjoyable meal and to meet new and old friends regularly. Not only does it provide a hot meal and help combat some of the loneliness that is endemic in our society, but it brings people into our building who would not normally engage with us, providing the opportunity to share the love and salvation of Jesus with them. The event is run by volunteers, who cook, set up, wash up and, importantly, chat to the guests. The team are always happy to have new volunteers and new guests

Table tennis

The table tennis group is a small group of 6-10 people, who meet for 2 hours every Monday morning. People support each other in many ways and welcome newcomers. Each participant pays £1 per week, with all the money being donated to Mary's Meals, to help feed children around the world.

Friends and Fun

Friends and Fun meets once a month on a Monday afternoon, offering a variety of activities such as craft, quizzes and colouring. Originally meant for the over 50s from Lunch Club, they now welcome anyone who wants to join in.

Some people stopped coming during the pandemic, some becoming housebound. Every month a newsletter is sent out with a Christian message. This letter is a source of comfort and friendship to many and regular calls are received from people saying how blessed they are by its content. Costs of postage and refreshments is partly funded by the 50p-per-session fee and partly by donations of stamps and food.

Mission Support

Despite challenging times, we have steadfastly upheld our commitment to mission support, generously distributing our resources to assist those in need. Our financial contributions, drawn from general income, supported various Christian initiatives including Webnet/Home Mission, Baptist World Mission, Swindon Youth for Christ, Leprosy Mission, TearFund, Centre Mokili, Educación Plus, Angel's Orphanage, Night Shelter, Harbour Project and Mary's Meals.

Throughout the year, we also launched several appeals that successfully raised additional funds, particularly for Operation Agri, Spurgeons, emergency responses by Tear Fund, and our Christmas appeal benefiting The Leprosy Mission. Our total contributions for the year surpassed £30,000.

Details of the above mission support can be found in our accounts section.

We gave donations in kind to the Harbour Project, namely essential items such as toiletries and new clothing.

Many individuals from the church support a wide range of causes directly and such support is not recorded in our accounts.

Elsewhere in this report you will read of many other examples of our outreach. Collectively, this represents our calling to share the gifts we have been given by God with those both near and far.

Webnet/Home Mission provides a wide range of support to Baptist Churches across the UK. This includes support to retired ministers and technical advice to churches, such as legal advice,



Paul and Sarah Brown work in Chiang Mai, Thailand, supporting and empowering in particular women.

HR and property services. New churches can receive support and many community projects take place because of the financial support given by Webnet.

The Baptist World Mission (BMS) tackles the injustice and suffering of the deeply disadvantaged in desperate places around the world. They work to see the flourishing of people with the fewest opportunities, who are the furthest behind and most excluded.

We have a close link to Baptist missionaries Paul & Sarah Brown, praying for them and welcoming them to our church when they are in the UK. Paul & Sarah work directly with those in Thailand whose lives have been difficult and challenging giving hope for a better future.

Swindon Youth for Christ is now a resource centre offering support to youth workers across Swindon. They work in partnership with local churches and communities, bringing hope to thousands of young people in Swindon each year.



Leprosy Mission is a global organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. Leprosy Mission is focused on goals of zero Leprosy transmission, zero Leprosy disability and zero Leprosy discrimination. Their work includes diagnosing and treatment, reconstruction, plus caring for disabled people, fighting stigma and advocating for change, and pioneering research. During the year Chris Stratta from Leprosy Mission visited us to lead a service.

This year **our children** chose to support Leprosy Mission with their weekly offerings. They gave £170 to be used to buy goats for poor families affected by this disease.

This year our **Christmas Appeal** raised over £4,000 to help **The Leprosy Mission** working to transform the lives of children affected by this devastating disease. As well as treating the disease and giving the children a full cure, Leprosy Mission work to get the children back into education and accepted by their community.

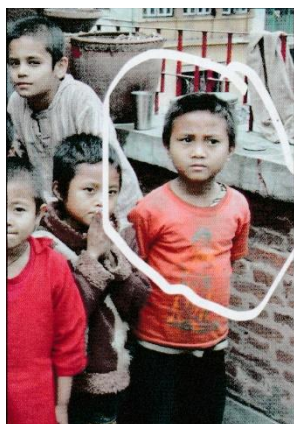
Tear Fund is a charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters and

the challenges posed by global warming, and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Centre Mokili is a medical centre in Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has its roots in the Baptist faith and our connection with them spans many years. The people of the DRC have suffered years of extreme poverty and violence. Centre Mokili provides much needed health care, including a maternity unit. Our support is used to buy essential medicines, normally every other month, through a scheme first established by international governments to ensure safe medicines are supplied. Over recent years more than 3,000 patients have received essential medication provided by our donations.

Educación Plus works in the shanty towns in San José, Costa Rica. Our connection with them goes back many years. Their focus supports young people gain access to education, providing an alternative to street life, drifting into one of the many gangs that persist and drug addiction. The cost of education is often too much for many very poor families - uniforms, books, pens, pencils all have to be paid for. Educación Plus helps with these costs. They also run summer camps and regular youth meetings, where young people can develop healthy attitudes and resilience.

Angel's Orphanage is a special family in Nepal. Initially 22 children were brought together and, for the past 15 years, have been supported by a small local UK charity. The children are a mix of true orphans, given up children and some rescued from the streets. They are now thriving young people on the verge of independent adult life. There are currently five girls at home, three have just completed nursing study and are about to begin their working careers; two are studying at college hoping to start university during 2024. Of the boys at home, four are still studying and two are in the early stages of work-related training. Those who have left are working independently and many have reconnected with their village families.



Juniper 15 years ago...



...and Juniper now



Swindon Night Shelter offers a safe, warm and secure place to spend the night for anyone over the age of 18 who has nowhere else to sleep. Everyone is accepted and treated with dignity. In a world of homelessness, addiction, fear, rejection and marginalisation, the Night Shelter aims to come

alongside the needy to show that somebody does care. They aim to minister to the spiritual as well as the emotional and physical needs of the homeless and vulnerable, by being a visible testimony of Jesus Christ. They work closely with churches and individual Christians in Swindon and surrounding area.

During the year we supported **three Emergency Appeals** via Tear Fund. A total of £1,200 was given to the appeals in response to the Gaza humanitarian needs, the earthquake in Turkey, and the hunger in Ethiopia.

For a summary of all of our giving to charities we support please see note 8 to the accounts

Lettings

During the course of 2023 the number of Brazilian churches regularly hiring our main church has increased to three.

Our bookings have increased during daytime hours, as we have been running a number of sessions through the Adult Learning Hub. The exact courses can change but they use our building for 2-3 groups on a regular basis.

We continue to have a regular slimmers' group, a number of one-off hires for parties and other churches hiring for get togethers.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:



Date: 3rd May 2024

Finance Report

Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Cricklade Road
Gorse Hill
Swindon SN2 1AA

01793 534193

ghbc.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1127294

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127294

Accounts

Gorse Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

**Annual
Report &
Financial
Statement**

2022

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Annual Report 2022

The Charity Trustees¹ present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2022. The Charity, called Gorse Hill Baptist Church², has been registered in the Central Register of Charities since 29th December 2008.

The Charity registration number is 1127294.

Charitable Objective

The Charity is governed by a Constitution which states that the purpose of the Church is the advancement of Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Charity may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.



Gorse Hill Baptist Church is so much more than the building we operate from. It is a group of followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose motto is 'Knowing God to make Him known.' Our aim is to live in the hope He gives us and share that hope to the community around us.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.

¹ 'Trustee' mainly refers to the Minister/Treasurer/Secretary and Deacons, i.e. those who are involved in the day to day operation of the Church. Where this is the case, the term used in this report will be 'Deacons' or 'Diaconate'.

² Referred to in this Report as 'the Church'

A Message from our Church Secretary, Shirley Westall

2022 has been a year of changes, challenges and opportunities at GHBC. Alongside the society we live in, we have needed to absorb the ongoing effects of Covid and the increasing pressures of the cost of living crisis; we have said goodbye to Steve Robinson, our minister of 11 years, and his wife, Christine; we have welcomed new people into our fellowship and we have continued to rise to the challenge of offering hope to the community around us, who are faced with increasing poverty, fear and hopelessness.

It is our faith gives us a firm foundation and hope with which to face an uncertain world, full of threat, darkness, loss and poverty. *"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." Psalm 62:5-6*



Steve and Christine retired in July and the service was attended by family and friends from afar

Steve's final service with us took place on July 10th and was a joyful celebration of lives lived in the service of Jesus Christ. The occasion brought together many people who have known, studied, and worked with Steve and Christine over the years and gave us a full church building.

Steve and Christine were heavily involved in all aspects of our fellowship and their departure has left many gaps. Naturally we miss them, not just for what they did, but for who they are and their friendship. However, the church must not

depend on one leader for survival. Our purpose remains the same – to serve God and share the Christian faith. Each of us has a part to play and it has been encouraging to see many people rising to the challenge of taking part in what we do, from preaching to cooking, to delivering Bags of Hope to advising people on how to manage money and escape from debt and of course making sure people are looked after pastorally. We continue to be a church which looks outwards to our community. Nowadays it is unusual to find the church building silent and empty. Instead there is the joyful noise of regular Sunday worship, the pushing of trolleys of groceries for distribution to those in need, the welcoming of people to share a meal, and the bustle in the queues of people coming in to take part in the Stepping Stones project. We believe we are using our buildings for the glory of God.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Luke 6:30.

The Trustees have appointed Martyn Cook as moderator during our time of ministerial vacancy, to help guide us through the process of searching and selecting a new minister. The members and broader fellowship have been involved in producing our Church Profile and minister specification and we look forward to working with the new leader God has chosen for us, when that time arrives.

Of course we have not been immune to changes resulting from Covid and the economy. Our income is reduced for various reasons: people don't carry cash in the same way as they used to; the cost of living crisis affects everyone and so what was once able to be given now needs to be spent on basics such as food and heating. Because of this the Trustees and church members have had to make some difficult decisions. We know that, if God wants this fellowship to carry out work, He will enable us to do this.

"That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:10.

The following pages illustrate how we have used the resources God has blessed us with and give a flavour of how we continue to live out our faith.

A Message from our Moderator, Martyn Cook

It was a great privilege to be invited to be Moderator again during the current pastoral vacancy, to assist the trustees and the church fellowship in the process of appointing a new minister.

There have been some unexpected issues, which both the trustees and the fellowship have had to work through and that have been resolved with prayer, cooperation and understanding.

During this time it is necessary for the fellowship to support the trustees and leaders of the various activities by praying for:

- The person that God is calling to be the next minister of Gorse Hill Baptist Church.
- The trustees and their families as they take on additional responsibilities that would normally be those of the minister.
- The trustees and the search team, as they work through what is a new and very different Baptist Union and West of England Baptist Association process.
- More members of the fellowship to take on new and additional roles and responsibilities to enable the church to continue to serve Christ through its many activities.



We said goodbye to our Minister Steve (c) and welcomed Martyn (r) as moderator

- God to guide and lead the whole fellowship in the appointment of the new minister and into the next chapter of its work and witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the community here in this area of Swindon.

Also, as a church we thank God for His continued faithfulness and pray that we will be faithful to Him.

Organisational Structure

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Charity Trustees, which include the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, who are collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Church's operations, together with the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All Charity Trustees are aware of the specific guidance issued by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission and have confirmed that they will act in accordance with such information and directives.

The Trustees have appointed Martyn Cook as moderator during our time of ministerial vacancy, to help guide us through the process of searching and selecting a new minister. The members and broader fellowship have been involved in producing our Church Profile and minister specification.

With the exception of the Minister, all Deacons are elected for an initial period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election for two further terms of three years. They are then required to step down for at least one year, before being eligible for reappointment.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution through a personal profession of faith in Christ and are people:

- whose conduct corresponds with the beliefs and practice of the Church
- who accept the Declaration of Faith
- who have followed the Lord's command and example in Believer's Baptism (unless exceptional circumstances apply)

The Church has a policy of open membership where, at the discretion of the Members' Meeting, a person may be accepted into full membership following public profession of their faith. The list is constantly being reviewed to reflect members who have left but not resigned. At Christmas 2022, the number of members stood at 128.

The Church continues to review its organisational structures, processes and activities to deliver its objectives. We meet together on a regular basis, as elected leaders and as a gathering of committed members, to seek guidance and direction from God through prayer.



Just as we need the structure of the tents used in our Fun Day, so we also need a structure for our church

Matters for consideration by the Members Meeting may be tabled by the Deacons or by members. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furthering of the Charitable Objectives. This is explained to all prospective members in a personal interview.

Charity Trustees

Minister

The Reverend Steve Robinson (*appointed March 2011, commenced Ministry July 2011, retired 10 July 2022*)

Secretary

Shirley Westall (*appointed 2021*)

Treasurer

Ian Burbidge (*re-appointed May 2021*)

Deacons

Elizabeth Mildenhall (*re-appointed March 2019*)

Gary Prictor (*re-appointed March 2019*)

Julie Harris (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Vicki Payn (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Adam Sibley (*appointed September 2020, Stood down March 2023*)

Rebecca Tromans (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Matthew Wright (*appointed May 2021*)

Finance Team

Ian Burbidge - *Treasurer*

Ian Burbidge - *Payroll & Accounts*

Julie Harris - *Gift Aid, Income and Banking*

Peter Morris - *Assets and Inventory*

Beverley Bolt - *Internal Audit (appointed March 2022)*

Brian Mildenhall - *Utilities Manager*

Property Trustees

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Kingsway

Bristol BS34 6JW

Independent Examiner

James Gare

Monahans Chartered Accountants

Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue,

Swindon, SN2 2GA

Banker

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Swindon Branch

5 High Street

Swindon SN1 3EN

Solicitor

Wood Awdry and Ford

3 St Mary Street

Chippenham SN15 3JL

Registered Address: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 1AA

Our Leadership Team

The members re-elected two deacons in 2022, giving a team of seven deacons, secretary and treasurer. During the year the minister left due to planned retirement.

The deacons meet monthly, except August, to receive reports, act within agreed and delegated guidelines and make recommendations to the membership. This year the meetings have all been held in person in the building, as prior to the pandemic. In November the team met together for an "Away Day".

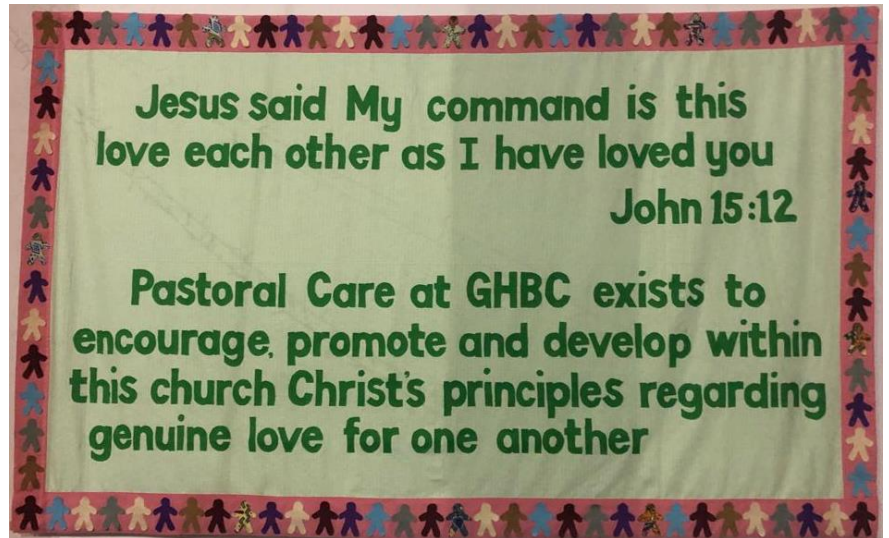
The different teams and events within the church have been divided up and each has a member of the leadership team responsible for it.

Church Life

Pastoral Care

Our mission statement (see right) is displayed on the wall in church as a reminder to everyone. This sums up all that pastoral care in this church stands for. It is love in action, caring and supporting each other, which is what we strive to do.

The Pastoral Care Team met regularly over the last year to discuss pastoral issues and ensure we care for both regular and new attendees. To ensure this, we have divided the fellowship into care groups, each with a Care Leader. Care group lists are regularly looked at and revised.



During the meetings we discuss people we have not been seen at church for a while. A recently produced 'missed you card' is sent out and we aim to follow it up with a phone call, to ask if they need any support or help.

We have concentrated on welcoming visitors and new people attending the church, encouraging those who have attended a few times to engage with us more. We encourage them to fill in one of our welcome cards and introduce them to a Care Leader. We believe it is important for new people to feel welcome, to have the opportunity to become part of a group, if they choose to do so, and to know who their Care Leader is.

Since our minister, Steve, retired, we now organise taking Communion to people living in care homes or who are housebound. This has been welcomed and is a good way to show people they are still important and cared for by the fellowship.

People leading regular church activities are invited to the start of pastoral care meetings, to give an update on their group and on any pastoral needs that have arisen, so we can support them,

and we regularly update the Diaconate about any problems, prayer needs, issues, and any needs for further support for members of the fellowship.

We have continued to expand the pre-service church breakfasts, in order to give people more time to get to know each other. These have become a regular feature in the church calendar, with more of the fellowship attending, creating a 'buzzy' and welcoming atmosphere on those Sunday mornings.



Children and Young People

After two years being disrupted by Covid, and high infection numbers at the start of 2022, there has been a more determined return to normality and in-person events over the course of the year.

Jacob Barron has continued his work with us over the last year, as our **Children, Youth and Family Worker**. In addition to his work, Jake has been attending Bristol Baptist College, where he is studying for the Level 4 Children and Youth Ministries' qualification.



Our Regular Groups

2022 has allowed for the "new normal" to settle in. Our regular groups have been increasing in popularity, giving the leaders a larger number of people with which to explore new and exciting themes. The Sunday groups have moved and settled into different rooms, and we are implementing improvements, as suggested by leaders.

The Friday groups have had a boost in popularity. **Pram Club**, which is now back to 'pre-pandemic' numbers, continues to run brilliantly, with credit to the wonderful team – more information is to be found below. Sadly some of the leaders of **CFC** have had to step down, due to new priorities and this has had a knock-on effect in the children able to attend. CFC would love to have some fresh faces, to allow this group to continue. **Ignite** has had the opposite situation: a keen new team has arisen, providing fresh ideas and a fresh start for the year to come. We have so many regular attendees, we are now able to speak more deeply about the themes we present.

At the start of the year a team was put together to create Sunday Plus, with the idea of adding something to each Sunday to complement the morning service. Examples of this included worship evenings, Pizza in the Park, Pastoral Breakfast and a youth service entitled Blaze. These were trialled for a few months, from which we learnt the type of events the GHBC community

want and we discontinued events with low attendance. Pastoral Breakfast and the Hour of Prayer on a Saturday have been continued and seasonal worship sessions have been reinstated.

Seasonal Events

Our Seasonal Events have evolved from the pandemic restrictions to freer, more adventurous events. Easter began this transition, converting our **Seasonal Giveaways** into **Festive Cafés**. Easter also marked the start of our various groups beginning to interweave. Our **Egg Hunt Map** proved popular and gave a great opportunity for people from different groups to interact.

Our **Jubilee Celebration** in the Rec may have been rained off, but our outstanding team



persevered and, within 24hrs, had the plan rewritten to fit in the church building. A day that could have been spoiled by wet weather turned out to be gloriously busy, and a great way to work with our other local churches.

Our youth activity **Swindon Forge** sadly didn't quite go to plan, and had to be cancelled due to unforeseen logistical problems. However, our second season of **EcoHeroes** was very well received by both children and parents. EcoHeroes: Festivals and Fun took a slightly different angle from last year, by exploring

some of the best bits about life and God's Creation, and the way that we celebrate them across the world and in the Bible. We were also able to provide lunch, which helped parents out by giving them one less meal to think about.

GHBC's Community Fun Day

barbecue, games, crafts and sports, engine, inflatable football pitch, variety of visiting charities. All of best it could be, and we enjoyed who attended. We are grateful to spend the best part of the year detail, including the setup and take an enjoyable event for everyone.



included our regular inflatables, but with the addition of a fire wellbeing café, Sumo suits and a this made the 2022 Fun Day the celebrating with 900+ people the planning committee, who planning the events in minute down, ensuring the day is such

The 2022 **Light Parties** were

the theme was Pirates and the children and leaders alike enjoyed dressing up to play the parts. Primary School children enjoyed hot dogs and chips, crafts and games and the over-the-top decorations. Their party was followed by one for the teenagers, who were treated to a purpose-written Murder Mystery Game.

enthusiastically attended. The

Christmas had a packed programme. The year's last **ReCreate** gave us time to make decorations for the church building, and it was well attended by lots of familiar faces. The **Christmas Café** mimicked the idea started at Easter and was able to run more effectively, with the now flexible Sanctuary space.

We trialled new or changed events and evaluated how they went. The family version of our schools presentation, **Christmas Unwrapped**, the **online Parents' Quiz** and **in-person Family Quiz** were not well attended, however moving the **Christingle Service** to the 24th December was very well received. All our Christmas services proved very popular this year.



All generations have enjoyed food and friendship at events held in the church and outside

Pram Club is our toddler group, which is run weekly during school term-time. It is open to anybody with preschool children and this year we have welcomed up to 25 children per session. The morning starts with open play and a craft, within which we try to share something about the Christian faith, followed by a song time, snack time and bike time. The aim of the sessions is to get alongside those that attend, to support them in any way needed, to share the love of Jesus with them and to invite them to other activities that the church runs.

Moving Forward

2023 looks to be as exciting as 2022. We are rebranding our groups and re-evaluating where they take place, with a view to making them relevant to the needs of the community. We will be building on links made with groups such as SYFC and food.gives.

Schools work

We enjoy a positive relationship with our local schools and continue to support them in providing RE. A group of members from the church, plus a member from Florence Street Mission Hall, carry out assemblies once a term (6 annually) in six Swindon primary schools and a village school to the south of Swindon. Each assembly contains a Bible story, a song, a period of meditation and an explanation / application of the story. This year we focussed on characters from the Old Testament. The scripts have been written by the team and are acted out, as this is found to keep the children engaged. In many schools the assembly is repeated and adjusted to suit Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Assemblies are carried out in accordance with guidelines set by SACRE (Standing

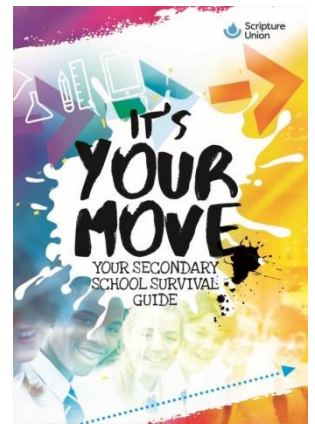


*Smiling faces of local children investigating the Bible story of Christmas for themselves.
Photo used by permission*

Advisory Committee for Religious Education in Swindon) and link into the National Curriculum for RE. Some 2,200 pupils are present at these assembly sessions each term. At one school we have been voted as the best assembly of the year.

We were able to welcome 5 schools into our building to take part in the Investigating Easter and Christmas Unwrapped presentations. At Easter we had 255+ in person and 30 online, due to a last minute Covid outbreak. At Christmas it was encouraging to once again be able to provide the full in-person experience for up to 330 children and adults, who engaged whole-heartedly. We received positive feedback from staff such as *'We always enjoy visiting and the children get to learn about Christianity in an interactive way.'* *'Thank you so much for welcoming us back again. The session is always informative and there are plenty of activities to engage the children.'*... *'A lovely morning as usual.'*... *'I thought the Christmas story was fantastic and fitted well with the retrieval question work in our reading lessons at school.'*... *'Amazing there was differentiated reading, so all children could access.'*... *'...you bring the true meaning of Christmas to life.'*

In the summer, Jacob from GHBC and Janet from Florence Street Mission Hall gave out approximately 170 Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' booklets to the Year 6s of 3 local primary schools, presenting them as part of events to prepare the children for their move to secondary school.



Media

This year we have continued with our hybrid services due to demand. As more and more people have returned to church the AV team has been squeezed into the back rows. This is restricting for them, though for encouraging reasons! We still have a significant number of people who watch our services online either exclusively, if they have yet to physically return, or when they are unable to attend the church building.

We are grateful for those who to volunteer to run the AV setup and especially to the new volunteers. Co-ordinating the cameras, sound, song words, presentations and the occasional video is a much trickier task than you might imagine, let alone streaming it to Facebook and it requires a number of people working together as a team.

For those who can't make it to church, or who may miss the live Facebook feed, video recordings and audio recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube, with sermons uploaded as podcasts on Apple Music and Amazon Music.

The GHBC Weekly Newsletter and GHBC prayer emails have continued to be crucial in keeping everyone up to date, providing us with channels for important information.

As well as hybrid church services, we have continued to conduct hybrid members meetings, allowing people to attend virtually if they aren't comfortable mixing, have childcare commitments or are away at the time. This has been a great success, allowing audience participation and interaction from within the church or at home.

Our youth worker Jacob has continued to use TikTok, Instagram and Facebook to connect with the youth of the church, which is proving successful. We are looking at how to improve our communications in the light of new technologies, for example this year we have also set up a church Twitter account to try to reach more people outside of the church's normal sphere of communications.

Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers returned this year, having been paused during Covid. There have been a number of well attended events, including a skittles evening playing against our arch-rivals Rodbourne Baptist church



and being able to bless the ladies of the church with a fellowship breakfast event. We hope to have many of our men join us for 'The Gathering' in June for some great fellowship over a fantastic weekend.

It has been encouraging to see this important area of men's fellowship start up again and we pray it will

continue to facilitate more contact with men outside of the church, as well as increase the bond between the men within the congregation itself. We will be looking to really move things forward next year with lots of different events to build a real network of men supporting one another throughout the fellowship.

Flourish

Flourish, a ministry for the women of the fellowship, has yet to restart, and we hope that this will be re-launched during 2023.

Administration

Church Facilities

The following works were carried out in 2022:

Inspection/servicing of key facilities items were carried out to: boilers, thermostatic mixing valves, fire alarm system, emergency lighting, and kitchen appliances, electrical equipment and fire extinguishers. Rodent inspections are regularly carried out, to help maintain a high standard of hygiene and the kitchen grease trap was cleaned.

Decorating works: External front and back timber doors were repainted; decoration works to the Cricklade Hall and the main sanctuary were touched up; new flooring to cleaner's cupboard was laid.

New Works completed:

- Blue roller blinds were installed to all the Bright Room windows.
- New hot water boiler installed in cleaner's cupboard.
- Remedial works to the underground drainage at the rear of the church.
- The old front external foyer area received a complete makeover. Non-slip floor paint applied. Repair works to the floor tiles completed, with coloured nosings supplied and fixed. Decorations refreshed to walls, ceiling and doors. Lighting upgraded to current regulations. Handrails repainted.
- Additional double set of stair handrails were fixed to the stair wall.
- Some of the first floor windows in the classrooms, received 'safety
- New automatic hand dryer fixed to the toilet.
- Both floor closers to main sanctuary doors replaced.
- Main sanctuary Teleflex window openers and high level blinds.
- External stainless steel letter repaired.
- Various carpentry, electrical and plumbing repairs.
- High level gutters cleared of debris and minor roofing repairs carried out at the same time.

Health, Safety & Environmental Health

2022 has seen the emergence of the UK and wider world from Coronavirus lockdowns and other restrictive measures. The church faced the challenge of trying to ensure people's safety on our premises and in our work, which has involved ministering to the vast array of needs which have arisen within our community over the last 2 years. We have tried to meet these needs in a practical, pastoral and spiritual manner.

This year we established a dedicated Health, Safety & Environmental Health team, which began to grow in size through 2022, with more members of the church getting involved in ensuring the safety of those within the life of the church.

As we move forward into 2023, we look forward to further increasing participation in this important function from all within the Church, allowing us to better place the safety and wellbeing of people at the centre of all that we do. This reflects Christ's command to have care for one another, and at the same time reassuring the public, volunteers, local government and other charity partners that we are a responsible organisation with which to partner and deliver real results to those Christ has called us to serve.

Safeguarding report

There have been no major issues requiring reports to other agencies. DBS are continuing to be approved or updated as required. The Safeguarding Policy was under review in 2022, with the aim of being adopted by the Trustees in February and voted on by the members at the March AGM.

Community

Stepping Stones



The Stepping Stones project has continued to develop and grow since we started it in a very small way in June 2020. The aim of the project is to meet our customers' holistic needs - physical, psychological and spiritual - in a variety of ways, by the services that we offer. Matthew 25 verses 35-40 explain perfectly what we are trying to achieve:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Our **Boxes of Hope** project continues to expand. We now take referrals from professionals from many agencies across the town, both statutory and non-statutory, ensuring that the families who actually need the food receive it. We are recognized as a food provider for the Borough of



Swindon and work closely in partnership with many other services. To date we have delivered 6,732 food parcels, feeding 9,351 adults and 13,217 children. We have a fantastic group of volunteer drivers, who deliver the food parcels and aim to build relationships with the families that they deliver to. We have seen families come to many other events that we run as a church, as a result of them receiving support with food parcels from us.

Our overarching theme for the food parcels is **Hope**, as it says in Psalm 33 verse 22: 'Let your unfailing love surround us Lord, as our hope is in you alone.'

The **Community Fridge** has really taken off. We open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 11am-2pm. All the food that we have available is waste food which would have been thrown away by supermarkets. On average we have 130 visitors to the fridge each day. Since we opened in June 2021 we have had over 20,000 visitors and have prevented over 52,000 tonnes of waste food from going to landfill. The fridge is a fantastic way of getting many people into the church building and we are able to meet a need for them by providing good quality food for free. We are really starting to get to know many of the customers, building good relationships with them. In December one of our customers asked to go in to church, then asked one of the volunteers to pray with him - just one of the many small ways that we are seeing God work through us.

We are seeing many more of our customers pop into our **drop-in café** on a regular basis, as they get to know and trust us. It is open Monday from 11am-2pm and Thursday from 11am-2.30pm. This winter the café is also a 'Warm Space', to enable people to come and spend time with us. We offer a hot drink and a cake for 50p, and people can stay as long as they want to. We have lots of agencies that attend the café on a regular basis to help support people with immediate needs; the

agencies include, among others, Healthwatch, The Citizens Advice Bureau, Thames Water, The Live Well team. They can offer support to people and signpost them to other



agencies, as appropriate. We have a pre-loved clothes table, where our customers can take clothes for free, and a prayer table with lots of Christian booklets and posters, plus the opportunity to make prayer requests or have someone to pray with them.

In the last 12 months we have added some **adult education classes** for our customers to attend. We have been successful in running **CAP Money Management** sessions and have now had several people attend these classes. More recently we have started an **iCaf**, where our customers are able to come and learn English as a second language and put it into practice in an informal café-style class. We have just completed our first successful course which was well attended, and we hope to run these again in 2023. We have recently started a **computer course** for beginners which we called '**Getting Connected**'; this is run by Swindon Borough Council's Adult Learning Team and has proved popular.

Looking ahead, we are hoping to start running some **cookery classes** with slow cookers and look to distribute healthy start vitamins as well as continuing to develop all that we are doing.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers that work really hard in making the Stepping Stones project a real success. Recently we have been on Points West, filmed by Fuelcast to showcase what Baptist churches around the country are doing to help the people in their local communities and been interviewed by Wiltshire Community Foundation for an article in Wiltshire Life Magazine. In many small ways every day we are showing God's love in action to all the people that we meet and are seeing many rewards. As a team we are all excited by the way that God is using us and working through us. We can't wait to see what He has in store for us next.

ReCreate

It was great to be able to welcome families back to **ReCreate** again this year. In particular, the Christmas one was well-attended by lots of familiar faces. It gave us the opportunity to make decorations for the church building, which were widely appreciated.



Lunch Club

After Steve and Christine retired in July, Lunch Club took a break over the summer and re-opened refreshed in the autumn, with some new volunteers joining the team. It meets on Tuesday each week in term-time, from 12.30-2pm, to provide a 2-course meal, generally to the over 50s, who need to book in advance. As well as providing a hot meal to people who might



not cook for themselves on a regular basis, it is also a place which addresses one of the great ills of our society: loneliness. To quote one team member 'It is good to serve the community of Gorse Hill and give them a purpose to meet up and make new friends.'

The meal delivery service, which supported many during Covid, has now ceased and we are delighted to have people regularly coming into our building to share food and friendship.

Re-launched Outreaches in 2022

Friends & Fun re-started as planned in 2022, meeting on 2nd or 3rd Monday afternoon of the month. Originally intended to be a way of maintaining contact with members of Luncheon Club,

before Covid, it numbered 40-45 attendees. During the pandemic, a newsletter was sent out monthly, each with a theme (love, flowers, special days, the Queen, Easter, autumn, Remembrance Day, Coronavirus, holidays and now Christmas Light). There has always been a Christian message. For many this was a lifeline, demonstrated by numerous letters and phone calls from people who were richly blessed.

The current numbers are now around 20-25 people, as many originals have become infirm, moved into care homes or have sadly passed away. However, new members have started to join, either by personal invitation, or because they come to the Community Fridge. The group is keen to encourage church members to join and support.

The Table Tennis group started during the year, meeting every Monday from 11am-1pm. The group numbers between 4-10 weekly and attendance depends on commitments, as many are grandparents or have aging parents. Originally an offshoot of the Badminton Club, many of those involved used to help prepare vegetables for the Tuesday Luncheon Club. It is a social group, who support each other through tough life issues, such as losing loved ones. Members enjoy supporting other church outreaches such as the Fridge and Friends and Fun. Money donated goes to Mary's Meals, a charity which helps feed children around the world.

Mission Support

Despite the very challenging times, we have maintained our mission support, sharing our gifts and resources with those in need. The amount allocated from general income was £16,000, plus a carried forward amount of £2,576 from previous years.



*The people of Ghusel live in an isolated and challenging location, and want to work to improve their lives.
Photo(s): © Clive Thomas for BMS World Mission*

In addition, a number of appeals throughout the year raised further funds: notably for Leprosy Mission (£1,911); for those suffering in Ukraine (£2,425); for Operation Agri (£963); for Spurgeons (£1,378); and our Christmas Appeal for the Baptist World Mission (£4,602).

Many individuals from the church support a wide range of causes directly and such support is not recorded in our accounts.

Elsewhere in this report you will read of many other examples of our outreach. Collectively, this represents our calling to share the gifts we have been given by God with those both near and far.

The Mission Committee's budget of £16,000 was allocated to the following Christian causes: Webnet/Home Mission (£4,500); Baptist World Mission (£3,500); Swindon Youth for Christ (£2,000); Leprosy Mission (£1,600); Tear Fund (£1,600); Centre Mokili (£800); Educación Plus (£500); Angel's Orphanage (£500); Night Shelter (£500); Emergency Appeals (£500).

Webnet/Home Mission provides a wide range of support to Baptist Churches across the UK. This includes support to retired ministers and technical advice to churches, such as legal advice, HR and property services. New churches can also receive support and many community projects take place because of the financial support given by Webnet.



Paul and Sarah, front left, with people they are working with

The Baptist World Mission (BMS) tackles the injustice and suffering of the deeply disadvantaged in desperate places around the world. They work to see the flourishing of people with the fewest opportunities, who are the furthest behind and most excluded. During the year Ruth Whiter from BMS visited us to lead a service.

We have a close link to Baptist missionaries Paul & Sarah Brown, praying for them and

welcoming them to our church when they are in the UK. Paul & Sarah work directly with those in Thailand whose lives have been difficult and challenging giving hope for a better future.

Swindon Youth for Christ is now a resource centre offering support to youth workers across Swindon. They work in partnership with local churches and communities, bringing hope to thousands of young people in Swindon each year.

Leprosy Mission is a global organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. Leprosy Mission is focused on goals of zero Leprosy transmission, zero Leprosy disability and zero Leprosy discrimination. Their work includes diagnosing and treatment, reconstruction, plus caring for disabled people, fighting stigma and advocating for change, and pioneering research. During the year Chris Stratta from Leprosy Mission visited us to lead a service.

Tear Fund is a charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters and the challenges posed by global warming, and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible. During the year David Morrell from Tear Fund visited us to lead a service.

Centre Mokili is a medical centre in Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has its roots in the Baptist faith and our connection with them spans many years. The people of the DRC have suffered years of extreme poverty and violence. Centre Mokili provides much needed health care, including a maternity unit. Our support is used to buy essential medicines, normally every other month, through a scheme first established by international governments to ensure safe medicines are supplied.



Educación Plus works in the shanty towns in San José, Costa Rica. Our connection with them



goes back many years. Their focus is supporting young people gain access to education and an alternative to street life and drifting into one of the many gangs that persist and drug addiction. The cost of education is often too much for many very poor families - uniforms, books, pens, pencils all have to be paid for. Educación Plus helps with these costs. They also run "summer camps" and regular youth meetings, where young people can develop healthy attitudes and resilience. During the year Keith

Holder from Ed Plus visited us to lead a service.

Angel's Orphanage is a special family in Nepal. Initially 22 children were brought together and, for the past 13 years, have been supported by a small local UK charity. The children are a mix of true orphans, given up children and rescued from the streets. They are now thriving young people on the verge of independent adult life. There are currently five girls at home, three are in the second year of nursing study and two are studying at college. Of the eight boys at home, four are studying at school or college, two are in the early stages of work-related training, one is trying to fund his way through further education, and one is recovering from back surgery. Those who have left are working independently and many have reconnected with their village families.



Swindon Night Shelter offers a safe, warm and secure place to spend the night for anyone over the age of 18 who has nowhere else to sleep. Everyone is accepted and treated with dignity. In a world of homelessness, addiction, fear, rejection and marginalisation, the Night Shelter aims to



come alongside the needy to show that somebody does care. They aim to minister to the spiritual needs as well as the emotional and physical needs of the homeless and vulnerable by being a visible testimony of Jesus Christ. They work closely with churches and individual Christians in Swindon and surrounding area.

During the year we supported **three Emergency Appeals** via Tear Fund. A total of £2,400 was given to the appeals in response to the Afghanistan earthquake, the Mozambique hunger, and the Pakistan floods. Our budget for such appeals was £500, so £1,900 was drawn from the £3,676 carried over from earlier years.

This year our **Christmas Appeal** a total of £4,602 was to help the **Baptist World Mission** working to transform the village of Ghusel in Nepal. Over a three year period, they will help to transform this village, by working alongside the villagers and listening to their dreams and wishes.

Our appeal focused on four key areas: improving the villagers' goat husbandry skills, leading to sustainable family income; improving the villagers' water and public hygiene knowledge, leading to healthier lives; training the school teachers, leading to better education for the children; and training volunteer community midwives, leading to safer mother and baby care.

For a summary of all of our giving to charities we support please see note 8 to the accounts

Lettings

Hires have been broadly the same over past year:

- Slimming World and Parent Partnership continue to hire from us. PP plan to reduce to once a week in 2023.
- The Brazilian church has continued hiring and now has a midweek Bible study. Another church uses the premises on a Sunday afternoon.
- We have had a number of one-off hires and many enquiries.
- We have had some issues:
 - Relating to the door codes and fobs in the last couple of months, which has caused difficulties for our hirers, especially the one off ones.
 - With damage to property with one particular group, but this was addressed and has not re-occurred.

- Billing difficulties with a few one-off hirers unwilling to settle bills. To address this we plan to introduce a system of upfront payments.
- A few groups chose to leave when we put up our rates last summer, but most regular hirers have chosen to stay.

Finance Report

In accordance with the Charity Constitution, an annual budget is compiled for both income and expenditure and approved by members in January, along with a plan for the following four years to enable effective financial planning.

The Church raises the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The annual income that had started to recover has dropped this year by £10,447, this is in part linked to the current cost of living crisis and the impact this is having on people's ability to give. This has been offset to a certain degree by the increase in lettings income of £7,367. This situation has been highlighted to members as part of the AGM and budget setting process.

Our principal expenditure continues to be related to employing a full time minister and a full time youth worker.

Material areas of expenditure during the year include local ministry of £4,880 and running expenses which account for £49,801. This increase over the last year is due, in part, to the much higher energy costs.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by donating to national and international organisations and charities with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. The Church budgets for this activity principally through its Missionary Committee and Missionary Fund. The Committee continues to work closely with a number of supported organisations, which are listed in the notes to the accounts, and communicates the activities of these organisations to the fellowship.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of its activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but contribute substantially to the achievement of its objectives. There were no significant 'gifts in kind', although some members cover minor costs personally.

The Boxes of Hope project has received funding of £33,514, including grant funding of £29,860, of which £29,160 came from Swindon Borough Council to provide food parcels. As noted above, this is in addition to numerous gifts of food and other supplies from the congregation and local supermarkets. There were approximately 250 hours of volunteer time every week, buying, packing and delivering the bags to the local community. In addition, the delivery and collection drivers gift around 300 miles per week. The project spent £21,034 in year on the provision of food and supplies to the residents of Swindon.

The Stepping Stones project has also received grant funding of £10,490 in year. The project employed 3 part-time staff (1 FTE) during the year to help deliver various aspects of this work. Grants received in support of these projects cannot be used to support the general running cost of the church; these are still met from the general funds of the church.

Both projects are in receipt of additional funding in 2023 to enable these activities to continue and assist Swindon residents recover from the effects of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

The Church maintains levels of reserves to meet its immediate needs, in particular stipends/salaries for the employees and the running costs of the premises. Sums are accumulated to facilitate specific projects and future strategic development, as agreed by members.

The Church is supported by a steady stream of income from the congregation

The Deacons have noted the General Fund balance of £112,882 and have assessed this against the level of potential commitments from 2022 to 2026. They have concluded that there is a need to carefully monitor these reserves, given the current uncertainty around future income

In addition, the Deacons have undertaken a significant review of church activities and, with the assistance of two former treasurers, have set a 5-year budget that will keep the Church in the black. This has meant that there have been significant cuts to some of the activities that have been historically undertaken. The funding is reviewed at the monthly deacons meetings and all spend requires the approval of the treasurer before being incurred. The members and wider congregation are updated regularly about the church's finances.

Given the current uncertainty, the Deacons have set the minimum level of reserves to equate to 6 months of unavoidable spend, this is approximately £50,000 (reduced as a currently we are searching for a new minister). Certain items of discretionary spend have been delayed to the end of 2023, which will ensure that they are still affordable, based on how the church finances have recovered. This policy is reviewed annually by the Diaconate. The Church agreed its annual budget at its January members meeting and noted that it is likely that the church reserves will be close to the minimum set if giving does not increase and expenditure continues at its current level. That meeting also agreed to set aside £38,000 of funds to address specific capital requirements, these include works to update the manse, replace aging AV & IT equipment and to replace the electronic piano.

The Deacons have assessed the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies and insurance in place to mitigate these risks. These policies include internal financial controls with advance approval thresholds set at Treasurer and Diaconate levels; items costing in excess of £750 require members' approval.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying Financial Statement.

Balance Sheet

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET (as at 31st December 2022)

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	12	1,850,000	1,850,000
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	8,142	8,838
Bank and cash	14	241,236	255,405
		<u>249,378</u>	<u>264,243</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(14,218)</u>	<u>(17,171)</u>
Net Current Assets		235,160	247,072
Payables amounts falling due after one year	16	-	(15,154)
Net Assets		<u>2,085,160</u>	<u>2,081,918</u>
Charitable Funds			
Unrestricted	17	1,962,882	1,990,680
Restricted	18	82,878	87,562
Designated	19	39,400	3,676
		<u>2,085,160</u>	<u>2,081,918</u>

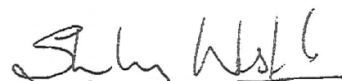
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 9th March 2023

and signed on their behalf by



Mr I Burbidge ACCA MAAT
Treasurer



Mrs S Westall
Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2022, which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of the Committee and Examiner

The committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act), to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

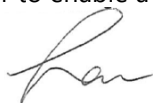
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 14th March 2023

Name: James Gare

Address: Monahans, Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2GA

Qualifications: Chartered Accountant

Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted		Designated		Restricted			Dec-22	Dec-21
		General Fund	Asset Fund	Mission	Capital	Fellowship	Other charities	Projects	Depts.	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:										
Donations and legacies	2	109,231				571	13,294	44,043	4,331	171,470
Investments	3	900								900
Other trading activities	4	9,406								9,406
Total		119,537				571	13,294	44,043	4,331	181,776
Expenditure on										
Charitable activities	5	94,931		18,277		927	13,331	48,671	2,396	178,533
Total	7	94,931		18,277		927	13,331	48,671	2,396	178,533
Net Income/ (expenditure)										
Transfers between funds		24,606		(18,277)		(356)	(38)	(4,629)	1,935	3,243
		(52,402)		16,000	38,000				(1,598)	59,431
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals										
		(27,796)		(2,277)	38,000	(356)	(38)	(4,629)	337	3,243
Net movement in Funds		(27,796)		(2,277)	38,000	(356)	(38)	(4,629)	337	59,431
Total Funds brought forward										
		140,679	1,850,000	3,676		5,909		81,050	603	2,081,918
Total Funds carried forward		112,883	1,850,000	1,400	38,000	5,553	(38)	76,422	940	2,081,918

Stepping Stones & Boxes of Hope Summary Accounts

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Boxes of Hope

	2022	2021
Income		
Grants	29,860	32,600
Gifts	3,092	4,610
Tax Refunds	600	575
	33,552	37,785
Expenditure		
Groceries	19,282	12,814
Bags	1,280	878
Equipment		195
Boxes of hope - Literature	48	224
Boxes of hope - Stationery	425	191
	21,035	14,301
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	12,517	23,484
Funds B/fwd.	36,943	13,460
Funds C/fwd.	49,460	36,943

Stepping Stones

	2022	2021
Income		
Grants	9,570	42,200
Gifts	921	437
	10,491	42,637
Expenditure		
Office Costs	124	862
Community Fridge	978	64
Equipment	30	565
Staff Costs	24,962	4,074
Money Management	1,250	3,500
Community outreach		2,465
Teaching Materials	293	
	27,637	11,530
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(17,146)	31,107
Funds B/fwd.	44,107	13,000
Funds C/fwd.	26,961	44,107

Notes to the Accounts

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value except for assets included at revalued amounts.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

b) Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a trust deed.

The address of the registered office and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the trustees' report.'

d) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Tax refunded under Gift Aid is accounted for on an accruals basis

The charges for the use of church premises are included in the accounts in the year in which they are receivable

Investment Income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable

All of the management is carried out without charge, by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service

e) Expenditure recognition

"Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities. "

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on fundraising and publicity costs is therefore not material

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid

f) Receivables

Receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

g) Bank and cash

Bank and cash comprise cash at bank and on hand, and demand deposits with other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

h) Payables

Payables are stated at cost.

i) Fixed Assets

The church and manse premises are included in the balance sheet at market value determined by the trustee's opinion based on insurance value and other available information.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises are capitalised if over £1,000 and depreciated as detailed in note j.

j) Depreciation

Depreciation of other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Furniture and fittings	10%	Full year depreciation charged in year of acquisition; no depreciation charged in year of disposal
Computers and equipment	33.3%	

k) Investment Assets

The Church has no quoted investments

l) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Members and Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes. The establishment of a restricted fund must be agreed by members.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in notes 17 and 18 in notes to the accounts.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		Restricted			31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	General Fund	Fellowship	Other charities	Projects	Departments	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Offerings	86,429	571				87,000	95,394
Tax refunds	16,496		2,263	600		19,359	19,959
Church departments					4,331	4,331	4,411
Income for Other charities			11,031			11,031	6,973
Other	6,306			43,443		49,749	86,712
Totals	109,231	571	13,294	44,043	4,331	171,470	213,447

Government grants of £29,160 were received from Swindon Borough Council for the Boxes of Hope project. There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to these grants. The charity has not directly benefited from any other forms of government assistance

3 Investments

	Unrestricted	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	General Fund		
	£	£	£
Bank interest	900	900	113
Totals	900	900	113

4 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	General Fund		
	£	£	£
Use of premises	9,406	9,406	2,039
Totals	9,406	9,406	2,039

5 Charitable activities costs

	Unrestricted General Fund	Designated Missionary	Fellowship	Restricted Other charities	Projects	Depts.	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ministers	32,861						32,861	58,468
Other Ministry	3,953		927		48,671		53,551	30,408
Mission	7,058	18,277		13,331			38,666	32,989
Establishment	49,801						49,801	30,519
Church departments						2,396	2,396	2,382
Governance Costs (note 6)	1,258						1,258	1,404
Totals	94,931	18,277	927	13,331	48,671	2,396	178,533	156,169

6 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted General Fund	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£
Independent examination	1,258	1,258	1,404
Totals	1,258	1,258	1,404

7 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities	Grants paid (Mission)	Restricted projects	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Minister	32,861			32,861	58,468
Other Ministry	4,880		48,671	53,551	30,408
Mission		38,666		38,666	32,988
Establishment	49,801			49,801	30,519
Church departments	2,396			2,396	2,382
Governance Costs	1,258			1,258	1,404
Totals	91,196	38,666	48,671	178,533	156,169

8 Grants paid (Mission)

	Unrestricted General Fund	Designated Missionary	Restricted Other charities	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Outreach / youth work	6,278			6,278	1,411
Subscriptions	780			780	825
BMS World Mission		3,500	5,492	8,992	5,926
Education Plus		500	1,247	1,747	4,215
Friends of Angel's Orphanage		500		500	500
Friends of Centre Mokili		800		800	1,600
Leprosy Mission		4,000	375	4,375	3,573
Mary's Meals					1,090
Mellon Mission			1,247	1,247	2,701
Operation Agri			963	963	1,144
SASRA		377		377	-
Spurgeons			1,379	1,379	2,357
Swindon Night Shelter		500		500	-
Swindon Youth For Christ		2,000		2,000	2,500
Tear Fund			2,441	2,441	1,146
Toilet Twining		1,600		1,600	1,000
WEBA Home Mission		4,500	188	4,688	3,000
Totals	7,058	18,277	13,331	38,666	32,988

9 Staff costs and Trustees expenses and Trustees remuneration

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
General Fund Staff		
Salaries	39,229	48,671
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	3,204	1,133
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	(14,943)	5,121
Minister in Training Leaseback	1,732	0
Other costs	3,638	3,542
Totals	32,861	58,468
	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Restricted Projects Staff - Stepping Stones		
Salaries	23,367	3,896
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	44	0
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	1,550	178
Totals	24,962	4,074

Average number of employees during the year was 5, 2021 was 2.5, 3 of these are the staff for the Stepping Stones Project.

Employer pension contributions are included for all Members of staff except for the Minister who left the pension scheme during the year.

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year 2022 nor for 2021

Mrs J Harris is a trustee and was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £5,946 (2021: £991) and employers pension contributions of £322 (2021: £421).

Minister, Revd S Robinson, is also a trustee. He received remuneration of gross salary £16,388 (2021: £28,631) and employers pension contributions of £Nil (2021: £6,997).

There was no other trustee remuneration for the year.

The church pays pension contributions for its Employees to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

10 Comparative Statement of financial Activities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Projects £	Depts. £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Total £
Income and endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	118,681			9,934	80,422	4,411		213,447
Investments	113							113
Other trading activities	2,039							2,039
Total	120,833			9,934	80,422	4,411		215,599
Expenditure on								
Charitable activities	96,299	14,000	903	16,752	25,831	2,382		156,169
Total	96,299	14,000	903	16,752	25,831	2,382		156,169
Net Income/ (expenditure)	24,533	(14,000)	(903)	(6,818)	54,591	2,028		59,431
Transfers between funds	(14,210)	16,000				(1,790)		
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals	10,234	2,000	(903)	(6,818)	54,951	238		59,431
Net movement in Funds	10,234	2,000	(903)	(6,818)	54,951	238		59,431
Total Funds brought forward	130,355	1,676	6,812	6,818	26,460	365	1,850,000	2,022,487
Total Funds carried forward	140,697	3,676	5,909		81,050	603	1,850,000	2,081,918

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church premises	Manse	Computers & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
01 January 2022	1,500,000	350,000	16,632	1,866,632
31 December 2022	1,500,000	350,000	16,632	1,866,632
Depreciation				
01 January 2022			(16,632)	(16,632)
31 December 2022			(16,632)	(16,632)
Net Book Value				
31 December 2021	1,500,000	350,000		1,850,000
31 December 2022	1,500,000	350,000		1,850,000

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes

The church premises and the manse and revalued to the estimated market value at 31 December 2020 as determined by the trustees.

The trustees do not believe that the carrying amount will not differ materially from the fair value of the asset at the end of the reporting period.

12 Receivables

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Accrued income	5,035	5,844
Prepayments and other receivables	3,107	2,994
Totals	8,142	8,838

13 Bank and cash balances

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	197,122	212,287
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd	43,174	42,515
Departments	940	603
Totals	241,236	255,405

14 Payables : amounts falling due within one year

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Other creditors	-	4,146
Accruals	14,218	13,025
Totals	14,218	17,171

15 Payables : amounts falling due after more than one year

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Other creditors	-	15,154
Totals	-	15,154

16 Unrestricted Funds

	01/01/2022	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	140,679	119,537	(94,931)	(52,402)	112,883
Asset Fund	1,850,000		0	0	1,850,000
Totals	1,990,679	119,537	(94,931)	(52,402)	1,962,883

The balance of this fund includes elements which are represented by fixed and current assets

	01/01/2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	130,355	120,833	(96,299)	(14,210)	140,679
Asset Fund	1,850,000	0	0	0	1,850,000
Totals	1,980,355	120,833	(96,299)	(14,210)	1,990,679

17 Restricted Funds

	01/01/2022	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	5,909	571	(927)		5,553
Other charities		13,294	(13,331)		(38)
Boxes of Hope	36,943	33,552	(21,035)		49,460
Stepping Stones	44,107	10,491	(27,637)		26,961
Church departments	603	4,331	(2,396)	(1,598)	940
Totals	87,562	62,238	(65,325)	(1,598)	82,878

Transfers - a transfer of £1,597.85 was made from the restricted fund to the general fund to recognise the departments' contribution of their surplus towards the church's running costs.

	01/01/2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	6,812	0	(903)		5,909
Other charities	6,818	9,934	(16,752)		-
Boxes of Hope	13,460	37,785	(14,301)		36,943
Stepping Stones	13,000	42,637	(11,530)		44,107
Church departments	365	4,411	(2,382)	(1,790)	603
Totals	40,455	94,767	(45,869)	(1,790)	87,562

Fellowship Fund

This fund is available at the discretion of the Minister and Care Co-ordinators to provide financial assistance to those in specific need

Restricted Grant

This represents Community Grant Funding which the donor has restricted for the purchase of lunch club crockery and the creation of the gorse hill community garden

Other charities

This represents gifts which the donor has restricted to other parties in furtherance of the charity's objectives

Boxes of Hope

This represents funds raised as a result of the pandemic to provide food parcels to the residents of Swindon

Stepping Stones

This represents funds raised to help Swindonians recover from the dual impact of the closure of Honda and the pandemic.

Church departments

This represents funds related to clubs and groups run by the Church; Luncheon Club, Badminton and Pram Club

18 Designated Funds

	01/01/2022	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	3,676	(18,277)	16,000	1,400
Capital Fund			38,000	38,000
Totals	3,676	(18,277)	54,000	39,400

	01/01/2021	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	1,676	(14,000)	16,000	3,676
Totals	1,676	(14,000)	16,000	3,676

Missionary Fund

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to facilitate annually agreed support in the furtherance of the church's charitable objectives

Capital fund

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to deliver one off capital projects as formalised during the annual budget setting process and confirmed at the January members meeting.

19 Analysis of net assets

31-Dec-22	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£
General Fund	1,850,000	112,883	1,962,883
Missionary Fund		1,400	1,400
Capital Fund		38,000	38,000
Fellowship Fund		5,553	5,553
Other charities		(38)	(38)
Church departments		940	940
Restricted Projects		76,422	76,422
Totals	1,850,000	235,160	2,085,160

31-Dec-21	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£
General Fund	1,850,000	140,679	1,990,679
Missionary Fund		3,676	3,676
Fellowship Fund		5,909	5,909
Other charities		-	-
Church departments		603	603
Restricted Projects		81,050	81,050
Totals	1,850,000	231,918	2,081,918

20 Pensions

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust

Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For any month, each participating employer in the Scheme pays contributions as set out in the Schedule of Contributions in force at that time.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, plus any impact of deficiency contributions (see below).

The Minister(s) [and some members of the church staff] is / are eligible to join the Scheme. From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva plc. [Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.] The further 4% contribution rate is reduced to 3% for Employer contributions made to the Segregated DC Arrangement.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £18 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

The key assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of financial assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (RPI)	3.20
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	2.95
- Post retirement	1.70
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension	2.70

- Post-retirement mortality in accordance with 80% of the S3NFA and S3NMA tables, with allowance for future improvements in mortality rates from 2013 in line with the CMI 2019 core projections, with a long term annual rate of improvement of 1.75% for males and 1.5% for females, with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Recovery Plan

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Following the 2019 valuation a

Recovery Plan was signed in September 2020 under which deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions were broadly based on each employer's membership at 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Balance sheet liability at year start	19,299	23,521
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(2,449)	(4,130)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	362	294
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	(17,212)	(386)
Balance sheet liability at year end	0	19,299

* Comprises any change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

Accounting date	31/12/2022	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Discount rate	5.7%	2.0%	0.4%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	0.0%	4.1%	3.0%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2022 was Nil (31 December 2021: £226,000).

21 Related parties

The custodian Trustee of the church is The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Limited. The church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the West of England Baptist Association. The church does not receive any grant funding from either party.

The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 8

The church made a donation to the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission (charity no 233782) as set out in note 8

The church paid a subscription to the Baptist Union of Great Britain amounting to £674.50 which is included in note 8

Total donations of £7,280 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

The spouse of trustee G Pricor was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £11,531 (2021: £1,416) and employers pension contributions of £593 (2021: £77)

The spouse of trustee I Burbidge was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £5,935 (2021: £991) and employers pension contributions of £634 (2021: £59).

Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Cricklade Road
Gorse Hill
Swindon SN2 1AA

01793 534193

ghbc.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1127294

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127294

Accounts

Gorse Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report & Financial Statement

2021

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Annual Report 2021

The Charity Trustees¹ present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2021. The Charity, called Gorse Hill Baptist Church², has been registered in the Central Register of Charities since 29th December 2008.

The Charity registration number is 1127294.

Charitable Objective

The Charity is governed by a Constitution which states that the purpose of the Church is the advancement of Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Charity may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.



After an enthusiastic Fun Day, there were some happy smiles from the clear-up team

¹ 'Trustee' mainly refers to the Minister/Treasurer/Secretary and Deacons, ie those who are involved in the day to day operation of the Church. Where this is the case, the term used in this report will be 'Deacons' or 'Diaconate'.

² Referred to in this Report as 'the Church'

A Message from our Pastor, Steve

Back in March 2020, none of us could have foreseen that almost 2 years later we would still be living under the shadow of Covid 19.

What's happened has been unique to our experience; many have found it both hard to cope and to respond to changing circumstances where we have little personal control over what's happening. No part of life has remained unaffected and none of us has been exempt from the immediate impact of this pandemic.



We have had to adapt at short notice to directives and matters beyond our control: we have missed the joys and encouragements that come from seeing one another face to face; even catching up on news has not been easy when we have been encouraged to stay at home to protect the vulnerable. At the same time, we have been very conscious that, whilst needs have grown, we have responded where we

have been in a position to help.

This Annual Report details the different ministries that were expressed through church life at GHBC in 2021. Many of our regular activities, including meeting for Sunday Worship, restarted on a gradual basis () after restrictions were eased mid-year but, with a church-wide commitment to make best of all opportunities (Ephesians 5: 16a), we have remained active in supporting the church fellowship, as well as reaching out to those in need both in the local community and across Swindon.

You'll be able to read more about our connections with church and community in the updates from the different groups. These reports have been compiled by members of those groups, enabling us to reflect on what has happened over the past year and, in the light of this, to consider what being church and living as disciples might look like in the future.

I'd like to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed to and/or supported the work of the church throughout this year. We have worked, laughed, wept, celebrated, lamented, explored and responded together. Yes, it has been a year of change, surprises, sadness and joy but God's people at GHBC have stepped up as He has called. God has not been silent nor has He been absent throughout the circumstances dictated by COVID19: the church has sought to follow God's leading and to partner in His work.



As ever, we do not measure success by numbers reached or income received. Rather, we see our calling as being faithful disciples of Christ, responding to the needs of today's world as we encounter them through the people or circumstances we come across. In being faithful we receive Christ as Saviour and Lord and seek to make Him known.

Signs of Hope

There are many signs of hope in the life of GHBC, ranging from those committed to bringing us worship and teaching every week, to others who are offering practical care to people both within the church and, in the community beyond.

We have looked at ways which encourages us all to continue to meet in safe ways wherever we can. I know that the home groups are valued for the contact and encouragement they provide. As lockdown has eased, many of us have begun to meet family and friends at church and in other settings.

We have also been blessed by a greater openness towards our work in local schools and our young peoples' groups have successfully restarted, with good numbers from the beginning. Many of these young people have had little contact with church before - we have a great opportunity of now being able to demonstrate our faith and to share what a church community is really all about.



Taking the next steps

Our motto text for 2022, taken from Joshua 1 verse 9, encourages us to face life head on: *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged...*

Crossing any river requires an element of faith. Whether that crossing is by bridge or ferry or, in the case of the nation of Israel, the possibility of getting more than your feet wet, we have to



trust that it's the right step to take. We also have to commit to moving on when, given the uncertainty of what's across the river, staying put could be the most comfortable option.

God alone knows what the future holds for us and for this local church. To take on all God offers is to step out in faith into the future of each day, as well as each new year. Embracing God's best demands more of us than simply putting our toes in the water – His is an invitation to cross over, even if it looks too deep. In trusting God for this next step, we will not be overwhelmed, but will be immersed into the ministry God is calling us to.

As time goes by, so our opportunities grow. In trusting God, we can find the kind of peace that is so often elusive but, when it is discovered and embraced, makes such a difference to our lives and to the lives of those around us. Our impact is greatest when it reflects the gifts and talents of us all, expressed as we work together to see God's Kingdom come in Swindon.

Closing thoughts

This will be the last time that I will be writing this report as the Minister of GHBC. I will be stepping down from Ministry this summer, taking early retirement and moving to a new home in Bedfordshire.

The last 11 years have passed quickly, like the last 25! It seems that they have raced by, such that it is hard to remember all the places and celebrate all the lives where God has been at work. There have been so many of these as we have shared in Christ's work at GHBC.

Christine and I are thankful for your love and care. We have valued your prayers and support. We will continue to pray for you all, entrusting everyone to our God who is able to do more than we ask or imagine.

To Him be the glory for ever and ever.

Peace and blessings.

Steve



Organisational Structure

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Charity Trustees, which include the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, who are collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Church's operations, together with the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All Charity Trustees are aware of the specific guidance issued by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission and have confirmed that they will act in accordance with such information and directives.

With the exception of the Minister, all Deacons are elected for an initial period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election for two further terms of three years. They are then required to step down for at least one year, before being eligible for reappointment.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution through a personal profession of faith in Christ and are people:

- whose conduct corresponds with the beliefs and practice of the Church
- who accept the Declaration of Faith
- who have followed the Lord's command and example in Believer's Baptism (unless exceptional circumstances apply)

The Church has a policy of open membership where, at the discretion of the Members' Meeting, a person may be accepted into full membership following public profession of their faith. The list is being reviewed to reflect members who have left but not resigned.

The Church continues to review its organisational structures, processes and activities to deliver its objectives. We meet together on a regular basis, as elected leaders and as a gathering of committed members, to seek guidance and direction from God through prayer.

Matters for consideration by the Members Meeting may be tabled by the Deacons or by members. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furthering of the Charitable Objectives. This is explained to all prospective members in a personal interview.

With the continued issues connected to Covid-19, especially the re-introduction of a national lockdown at the beginning of the year slowed the process of returning to normal. Meeting

together in any form was again illegal. We decided that our 2021 AGM would be held in May and was entirely on Zoom.

Charity Trustees

Minister

The Reverend Steve Robinson (*appointed March 2011, commenced Ministry July 2011*)

Secretary vacancy

Shirley Westall (*appointed 2021*)

Treasurer

Ian Burbidge (*reappointed May 2021*)

Deacons

Elizabeth Mildenhall (*appointed April 2019*)

Gary Pricor (*appointed April 2019*)

Julie Harris (*appointed September 2020*)

Vicki Payn (*appointed September 2020*)

Adam Sibley (*appointed September 2020*)

Rebecca Tromans (*appointed September 2020*)

Matthew Wright (*appointed May 2021*)

Finance Team – AWAITING CONFIRMATION BY IAN

Ian Burbidge - *Treasurer*

Ian Burbidge - *Payroll & Accounts*

Julie Harris - *Gift Aid*

Peter Morris - *Assets and Inventory*

Kathleen Wood - *Income and Banking*

John Wood - *Internal Audit (resigned January 2022)*

Brian Mildenhall - *Utilities Manager*

Property Trustees

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Kingsway

Bristol BS34 6JW

Independent Examiner

James Gare

MHA Monahans Chartered Accountants

38 – 42 Newport Street

Swindon SN1 3DR

Banker

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Swindon Branch

5 High Street

Swindon SN1 3EN

Solicitor

Wood Awdry and Ford

3 St Mary Street

Chippenham SN15 3JL

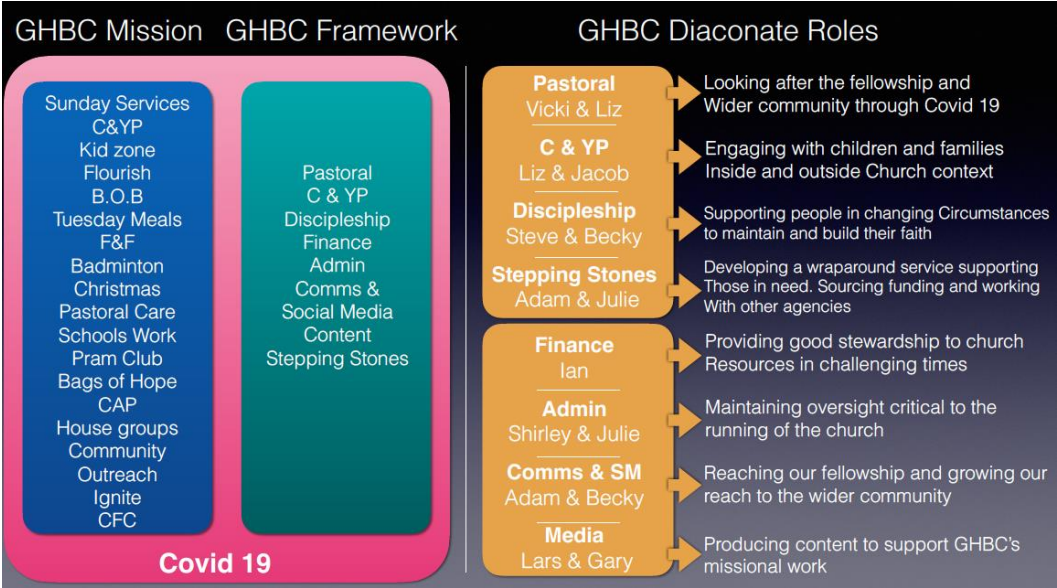
Registered Address: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 1AA

Our Leadership Team

The members elected one new deacon and a church secretary in 2021 giving a team of seven deacons, together with a treasurer, secretary and minister.

The deacons meet monthly, except August, to receive reports, act within agreed and delegated guidelines and make recommendations to the membership. For the first six months of the year meetings were conducted online. The summer meetings have since been conducted onsite. In November the team met together for an “Away Day”.

The different teams and events within the church have been divided up and each has a member of the leadership team responsible for it. The table below is from 2020, has not been updated, but is still broadly correct.



Children, Youth and Families Worker

Jacob Barron has continued to build on the foundations laid in 2020. The highlights from 2021 have been:

- Easter Explored presentations recorded on Video and distributed to local schools (Year 6 age groups)
- Christmas Unwrapped presentations live to 3 schools at GHBC
- Regular Assemblies at 7 schools reaching 2,000 children each term
- An EcoHeroes Holiday Club, running one day a week during the summer holidays
- Joint lead for the Gorse Hill Community Festival in August - over 800 attendees
- Easter and Christmas trails around Gorse Hill
- Developing the work amongst children - due to numbers, an extra group for Key Stage 2 is being planned for Easter 2022
- Liaising with other stakeholders across the town, for example Swindon Youth for Christ, covering Children's and Youth work



Church Life

Pastoral Care

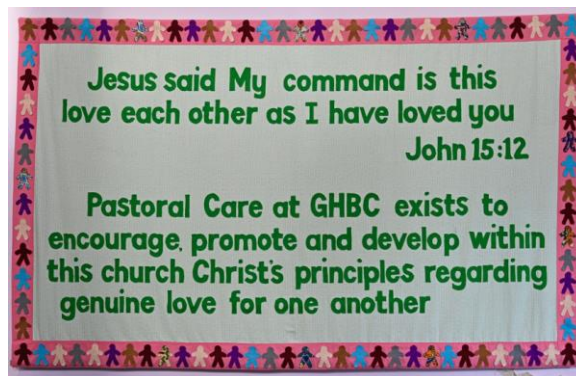
The Pastoral Care team has begun to meet regularly in person again and a new team has been formed to support, help and care for the fellowship. As such, we considered what this means both for the fellowship and the community around us, as we slowly start to come out of the pandemic restrictions.

Pastoral Care at GHBC exists to encourage, promote and develop Christ's principles regarding genuine love for one another within this church. The verbs 'encourage, promote and develop' are important principles towards which, as God's children, we work towards all the time. It is a work in progress. Pastoral Care is love in action and it is for everyone to have a part in, not just the leaders or the Pastoral Care team. We are working towards a unified fellowship that reaches out in love and cares for one other.

We decided on a mission statement to remind everyone of how important Pastoral Care is in the lives of the fellowship of God's People. Jesus said, "My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:12). We have had a banner made to show its importance. It is now displayed in church

Covid has made us become fragmented and separated and we aim to build unity back into the fellowship. Many things were done during the pandemic in supporting and caring for people in different ways. Some of these, with the benefit of hindsight, we could have done differently, but this was an unprecedented time in all of our lives and we all struggled at times to cope and come to terms with it. We understand some people are still reluctant to meet in person for many reasons, but we want them to know they are still an important part of the fellowship and are cared for.

Care Group lists have been updated to ensure that everyone in the fellowship is included and cared for, in the first instance by the Care Group Leader. We have been encouraged that several new people have been attending and engaging with us over the past few months. New cards are being produced to be given out to visitors to share some basic details and provide a point of contact, should they wish.



Home groups are meeting again, either in person or online and bi-monthly fellowship breakfasts have begun, as Covid restrictions allow and have been quite well attended. They will become a regular feature.

We are facing a changing church and a changing world but God's love never changes as I John 3:16 tells us: 'We love because He first loved us'.

Children and Young People

2021 like 2020, has brought changes, challenges and new ways of working to the Children and Young Peoples' ministries at Gorse Hill Baptist Church. The year began with another national lockdown, schools closed and children and young people being educated online, isolated from their friends. The majority of our activities were able to continue in some way, be it with online sessions, or doorstep drop-offs. As restrictions lifted, our activities re-started in person, and all have seen new members and families attending. Our Children, Youth and Families worker, Jacob, and the whole team of volunteers have more than risen to the challenge to ensure all the children and young people we come into contact with have continued to be part of the fellowship, receive Christian teaching and be shown the love of Christ.



The year began with Kidzone, Youthzone, Pram Club, CFC and Ignite all meeting on Zoom with Bible teaching, sung worship, games and doorstep deliveries of craft activities. "Maker Jake" made regular online appearances for live crafting sessions themed around Valentine's, Mother's Day and Easter. Easter was celebrated with an Easter egg creation trail through Gorse Hill and the Good Friday Giveaway, providing crafts, gifts and hot-cross buns to passers-by.

In May the long-awaited relaxation of Covid restrictions meant groups could meet in person once more, much to everyone's delight. Some restrictions remained, but thorough risk assessments and alternative activities meant we could open our doors once more.

The summer holidays brought an action-packed programme of activities led by Jacob. With children, teens and families catered, for there were trips to Roves Farm, Soft Play, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Laserquest, Bowling, a BBQ and a sleepover. Jacob also



ran a weekly holiday club called "EcoHeroes", where the children learned who created the world and why we should look after it. The summer ended with our annual Fun Day on Edinburgh Street Rec, which was a great success and well received by the local community, with well over 800 attending.

The autumn saw the restart of our Friday clubs, a very popular Light Party and the return of Recreate, for the first time in nearly 2 years.



December saw a wide range of activities leading up to Christmas with the Christingle service, Nativity Trail, Christmas Give-away, Parents Quiz night and the Kidzone Nativity Production.

Throughout the year we have maintained close contact with our local schools providing assemblies either via videos or in person. We have also run our popular Investigating Easter and Christmas Unwrapped RE sessions. The Reception children from Gorse Hill School visited the church to learn about weddings.

Schools work

We continued to support our local schools in delivering their RE curriculum by providing online resources up to and including the summer term. This included in-school assemblies and Investigating Easter, which was accessed by approximately 350 children and adults. We were delighted that most schools re-opened their doors to us in September. This meant we were again able to offer Christmas Unwrapped, involving visits to the school by up to 400 Y5 or Y6 pupils and their teachers. Another approximately 60 children accessed our online version. We delivered Bible-based assemblies to up to 1,000 children, before the rising numbers of Omicron cases caused schools to reduce or cancel visits to and from the school.

Media

Last year's report concentrated on how we adapted to the pandemic and how we were used media to deal with suddenly not being at church anymore. This year's is focuses on how we have been moving out of it, well partially at least! As more people have returned to church we have concentrated on how to make media work for hybrid services, ie meetings with people both in church and at home at the same time.

We have been grateful for a number of new volunteers who have stepped up to be trained on various aspects of the AV setup. Co-ordinating the cameras, sound, song words, presentations

and the occasional video is a much trickier task than you might imagine, requiring a number of people working together as a team.

As people came back to church in increasing numbers, we made the decision to cease broadcasting on Zoom. This allowed us to streamline the number of activities the overworked broadcasting team were dealing with and it freed up capacity in the software which allowed the team to improve the video feed.



For those who can't make it to church or who may miss the live Facebook feed, video recordings and audio recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube, with sermons uploaded as podcasts on Apple and Amazon Music. The morning service can be watched live on YouTube.

The GHBC Weekly Newsletter and GHBC prayer emails have been crucial in keeping everyone up to date, providing us with channels for important information. This continues to be especially important while some people are still restricted in meeting up.

As well as hybrid church services we have conducted hybrid members meetings, allowing people to attend virtually if they aren't comfortable mixing, have childcare commitments or are away at the time. This has been a great success, allowing audience participation and interaction from within the church or at home. We will look to continue this even when/if Covid recedes. Anything that facilitates greater participation is always welcome.

Our youth worker Jacob has set up a TikTok account, which is proving successful. We are continuing to look at how we can improve our communications in the light of new technologies.

Admin

Fabric

Despite the reduced use of the church facilities, and budgetary constraints, the following works were carried out in 2021:

Inspection/servicing: boilers, thermostatic mixing valves, fire alarm system, emergency lighting, and kitchen appliances /canopy, electrical equipment and fire extinguishers. Rodent inspections are regularly carried out to ensure our facilities are safe. Kitchen grease trap cleaned.

Decorating/refurbishment: Minor touch up decorating works completed.

New Works: Pram club cupboard and our garage have received new racking and shelving. The two Bright Room fire doors have had 'Hold Open' devices fixed to them.

Repair works: The car park concrete channel and drain gully has been repaired. Four faulty extraction fans to the toilets were replaced.

Health, Safety & Environmental Health



2021 brought no let up for the Church and our wider community in regards to the impact of Coronavirus on our everyday lives and Church Activities. As the UK entered a third national lockdown, all of our Church ministries again required support in adapting how they worked to ensure they could continue to operate safely, and in line with the ever-changing myriad of rules and guidance.

The Church passed a total of 4 external audits covering food safety, water safety and general safety, again reassuring volunteers, the public and local government that we are a safe and responsible organisation with which to volunteer, grow spiritually within and to partner with to meet the sheer scale of local need within our community.

As we enter 2022, we are working on further adapting our

Health & Safety procedures to ensure that they are flexible and dynamic enough to respond to opportunities to minister in an engaging way to the local community, while still recognising the need to provide a safe space to meet with God for the most vulnerable in our society, and for the dozens of paid and voluntary workers within the Church.

Safeguarding report

Safeguarding has continued for GHBC throughout 2021 with face-to-face meetings beginning to increase once again following the pandemic. There have been no major issues requiring reports to other agencies. DBS are continuing to be approved or updated as required. This is an ongoing process and will continue as restrictions are lifted with more groups restarting and people contact increases. The Safeguarding Policy is currently under review with an aim for a revised policy to be implemented in 2022.

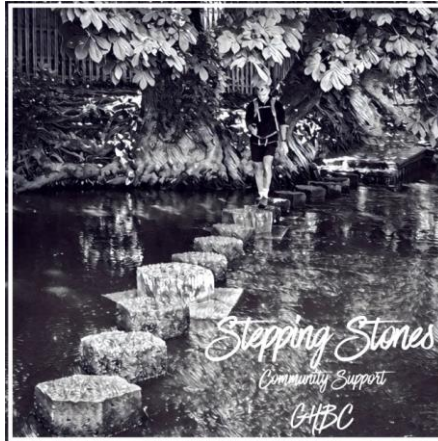
Community

Stepping Stones

Swindon's Community Fridge

Early in 2021 a young man named Chris Anthulakis approached us, as he had seen what the church had been doing with the Boxes of Hope project. He was interested in partnering with us to set up a community fridge. Following some discussion we partnered with both Chris and Hubbub, an organisation that promotes environmental change. The idea of a community fridge is to reduce both food waste and food poverty and to be a social space that brings people from the community together. We launched the fridge in June 2021 and currently open three times a week between 11-2. We are one of 250 fridges that operate across the UK. Supermarkets donate waste food to us that would otherwise have gone to landfill. In just three months, between September and December, we had 2,448 visitors and had prevented over 6.2 metric tonnes of food going to landfill. On average in the last month we have had 100 visitors to the fridge each day. Some of our visitors come just to collect food but for others it is much more about meeting other people and seeing a friendly face.

One of our visitors said, 'I had no money for food. This has saved me.'



Another said, 'I think the fridge is a wonderful idea; it has helped so many people in very tough times. It has also given me a place to go and chat.'

Our customers include the homeless, asylum seekers, refugees, people who are dependent on substances, people waiting for benefit payments and others who are environmentally aware want to make a difference.

Jesus said, 'For I was hungry and you

gave me something to eat. Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.'

We have recently responded to our customers' need for a chat and some company by starting a drop in café on a Monday. This enables us to get alongside and get to know them.

We are planning a CAP course which is an introduction to money management. This will help some of our customers manage financial difficulties, which have arisen because of the pandemic.

Boxes of Hope

We continue to run the Boxes of Hope project that we started in June 2020 and have now delivered over 4,000 food parcels to families around the town who are struggling. We are working closely with many agencies to ensure that the food gets to the families and individuals who need it. All of our food parcels have Christian literature in them and we have a theme each month.

Our overarching theme for the food parcels is Hope, as it says in Psalm 33 verse 22: 'Let your unfailing love surround us Lord, as our hope is in you alone.'

As a team we have been really encouraged by some of our customers attending our church services. One lady has asked for Bible and met with the team and one mum asked for books about the Easter story, so that she could read them to her children. A couple of ladies have attended our luncheon club, children the holiday clubs and many families attended the light party, all after having their initial contact from a food parcel or the Community Fridge.

As a team we continue to be overwhelmed by the way that God is using us and working through us and we are really excited as we look to the future to see what he has in store for us next.

ReCreate

We couldn't hold ReCreate for a while so a walk-by, pick-up-your-own goody-bags were provided. Several hundred were prepared, given out and thoroughly enjoyed. They contained crafts, gifts and edible goodies.

ReCreate had its first 'back to normal' time at Christmas. Craft tables were widely spaced, up and downstairs; there were no games, but plenty of colouring, word-searches and puzzles, alongside food and refreshments. Story time was in church and was followed by lunch. It was lovely to renew friendships and make new ones. We are planning our next ReCreate at Easter.



Lunch Club

Lunch Club has not stopped cooking! Initially, meals were delivered to the doorstep, first fresh, and then frozen too. Through this relationships grew and telephone conversations were had. Up to 45 meals were prepared and delivered each week by our team of drivers.

As restrictions changed, we opened and still maintained the delivered meals service. It has been exciting to see both old members and new people come into Lunch Club. We are sad that many of our older members are no longer with us and we remember those families in our prayers. Many things have changed, but God is our rock.

Other Outreaches

There are plans to re-start Friends and Fun early in the New Year, after nearly 2 years of keeping in contact by mail. Flourish and Band of Brothers have not yet announced plans.

Mission Support

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid outbreak and reduced income during the last year, we have maintained our support for mission both in local areas and abroad. Our total giving allocated from our general income was £16,000, as shown in our annual budget statement. £2,000 of this was not used in year and will be allocated in 2022. This was split to the following charities:-



Baptist World Mission, Educación Plus in Costa Rica, Swindon Youth for Christ, Leprosy Mission, Angel's Orphanage in Nepal, TEAR Fund Webnet, Mokili Hospital DRC, Mary's Meals, SASRA and Disasters Emergency Committee.



During 2021 we also held special appeals, which went to provide finance for the following: BMS (for Chad), The Leprosy mission (for Nepal), TearFund £1,146 (for hurricane damage in Honduras), Spurgeon's Childcare (in the UK), Mary's meals (in Ecuador) Educación Plus4 (Pavas Slum, San José, Costa Rica), Centre Mokili (Medicines for DRC), Operation AGRI.

Our annual Christmas Appeal raised £7,000, which was equally split between Educación Plus in Costa Rica and Melon Mission in Kenya. The aim was to share the lifetime of benefits we enjoy through education with deprived children in these countries.

Details are given under the relevant sections below. The aim was to buy curriculum books and uniforms to enable the children to attend school, which would transform the lives of 360 children.

In addition to the above, individual churchgoers have donated special gifts, which have been allocated to specific charities. Full details of all gifts are found in Note 8 of the accounts.

Educación Plus, Costa Rica

Educación Plus provided essential food and other support to many families during the Covid crisis. Life is still hard for those in the shanty towns of San José, and the children have missed out on a lot of education, due to lockdown. They have been deemed to have passed their exams, even though the normal standards have not been reached.

Camps for the children resumed for both girls and boys, following their cancellation due to the pandemic. Children return to school in March 2022. Thanks to the GHBC Christmas Appeal, new uniforms have been supplied to over 50 children, with up to 350 other children being supplied with new shoes (providing business for a local cobbler) and the items they need at school such as pencils, books. Educación Plus is still providing training in IT skills and carpentry.

We received a visit mid-year from Juan Carlos, Director of Educación Plus, a man whose enthusiasm is key in keeping this project flourishing.



Melon Mission School



Melon Mission is a school in Nakuru, Kenya run by Christians, for about 400 children from age 5 or 6 through to the end of primary education at age 14. If the children pass their end of primary examinations they can secure a place in senior school (age 14-19 years) and Melon will pay fees for them to attend, if needed. Melon Mission does not receive government funding and is run on donations received from churches, charities and volunteer groups from around the world. The children they support are the very poorest, who could not go to school anywhere else, as they can't afford the necessary uniform, books and 'desk rent' usually required at other schools. In addition, the school provides food.

During the pandemic the school went into lockdown (along with other Kenyan schools) and children were given food to cook at home by Melon Mission. Very little academic support could be put

in place as these children have no internet or devices to receive online education (although internet is widely available in Kenya for those who can afford it and a device to receive it on). Once back in school, support from overseas charities had mostly dried up and the school was unable to provide much food at all, so the children went hungry for several months.

During summer 2021 GHBC sent £250 from an emergency budget which paid for about one month's food supply. The Christmas project Dec-Jan 2021/2022 has paid for text books / workbooks for most of the children to help them catch up with academic work missed over the last 2 years. This will help significantly, as the children will have books to use in class and also to take home for further study. Before this there were usually one or two books to share between about 40 children.

Angel's Orphanage, Nepal

Thirteen years ago the trustees of the UK charity Friends of Angels first met the children in this "large family". They were living in the slums of Kathmandu with no running water, often no electricity, very poor health and little prospects. Since then they have had regular food, education, better housing and as near an ordinary, supportive and caring family life as you can get with a family of more than twenty.

Today there are sixteen at the home, ranging in age from 14 to 20; the others having moved on into young adult life. The last two years have been really difficult with lockdowns keeping them in the home much of the time, with little physical activity. School and college lessons have moved online, though schools have negligible experience to deliver this well.

The three oldest girls are working exceptionally hard for their nursing qualification; another is in year 12, the final year of school education; two are about to take the all-important national school examination in year 10. The oldest boy is still hoping to join the army; one is "teaching" IT while waiting to get into the IT world; one is in vocational training; one is about to start in the tourist industry; two are in year 12; three also about to take the year 10 national examinations; and the youngest is in year 8.

For all these children the next few years are critical. There is minimal careers advice and few jobs. Many of their peers simply keep studying in the hope of better prospects at some point in the future. The trustees' role is changing from primarily "caring" to "mentoring" as the children seek their own path in life, learning from mistakes, staying firm in their faith and supporting each other.



GHBC has been a part of this friendship, this big family, this remarkable connection across thousands of miles, between those “with” and those “without”. We give thanks to God.

Soldiers and Airmen Scripture Readers Association

Covid still played a big part in the ministry of our SASRA rep, Meg Atkinson, as she was furloughed from January to mid-April. She still, however, “enjoyed great times visiting my troops” for the remaining months of the year, visiting to provide encouragement, fun and an opportunity to talk about difficult issues in life, as well as to share her own faith in Jesus Christ. Regular treats have included boosting morale for one group of staff, who were feeling down. She provided fun, but challenging, quizzes of Bible questions and humour, with prizes of larger-than-normal chocolate bars and bags of sweets. Meg spent time with airmen and women who were asking the big questions in life, or experiencing anxiety, and particularly delighted in the stories of two that she was able to lead to Jesus Christ. She summed it up ‘To experience God’s guidance and perfect timing is so exciting.’



Meg has now retired from SASRA, after serving the Lord with them for 38 years.

Regular Giving to Charities we Support

Organisation	Amount £
BMS World Mission	3,000
Educación Plus	1,000
Swindon Youth for Christ	2,500
The Leprosy Mission (Nepal)	1,500
Angel’s Orphanage	500
TEAR Fund Webnet (hurricane damage Honduras)	1,000
Friends of Centre Mokili, Congo (medicines for DRC)	1,000
Mary’s Meals	250
Home Mission (WEBA)	3,000
Total	13,750

Comment [M1]: Ian – this is what I make it add up to. You put 146,000 or 1,000 – not entirely clear.

Lettings

Lettings are picking up again, which is very encouraging after the pandemic. Parent Partnership (formerly Butterflies) have come back and are now booking 2 mornings rather than one, which is welcome.

The Brazilian church has also resumed hiring now and we have a Bible study group meeting one morning a week.

Slimming World have re-started and Swindon Contact Centre are using the premises twice a month on a Saturday morning.

Alongside this we have had a number of one-off hires and many enquiries. This is a definite upturn after the lockdowns of the last couple of years.

Finance Report

In accordance with the Charity Constitution, an annual budget is compiled for both income and expenditure and approved by members in January, along with a plan for the following four years to enable effective financial planning.

The Church raises the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The annual income has started to slowly recover following the large drop last year, with general giving and gift aid recovery up by £17,032, with letting income also increasing slightly. This situation has been highlighted to members as part of the AGM and budget setting process. The church has received grants of £35,467 from Swindon Borough Council, as part of the Government's Covid response.

Our principal expenditure continues to be related to employing a full time minister and a full time youth worker.

Material areas of expenditure (net) during the year include local ministry of £4,576 and a running expenses account for £30,519.

Whilst the income dropped because of the pandemic, the running costs for the church were still being incurred. Possible spend was reviewed and reduced.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by donating to national and international organisations and charities with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. The Church budgets for this activity principally through its Missionary Committee and Missionary Fund. The Committee continues to work closely with a number of supported organisations, which are listed in the notes to the accounts, and communicates the activities of these organisations to the fellowship.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of its activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but contribute substantially to the achievement of its objectives. There were no significant 'gifts in kind', although some members cover minor costs personally.

The Boxes of Hope project has received funding of £37,735, including grant funding of £32,600. As noted above, this is in addition to numerous gifts of food and other supplies from the congregation and local supermarkets. There were approximately hundreds of hours of volunteer time every week, buying, packing and delivering the

bags to the local community. The project spent £14,300 in year on the provision of food and supplies to the residents of Swindon.

The Stepping Stones project has also received grant funding of £42,300 in year. The project started to employ 3 part-time staff (1 FTE) in November to help deliver various aspects of this work. Grants received in support of these projects cannot be used to support the general running cost of the church; these are still met from the general funds of the church.

Both projects are in receipt of additional funding in 2022 to enable these activities to continue and assist Swindon residents recover from the effects of the pandemic.

The Church maintains levels of reserves to meet its immediate needs, in particular stipends for the employees and the running costs of the premises. Sums are accumulated to facilitate specific projects and future strategic development, as agreed by members.

The Church is supported by a steady stream of income from the congregation

The Deacons have noted the General Fund balance of £140,678, have assessed this against the level of potential commitments from 2022 to 2026, and have concluded that there is a need to carefully monitor these reserves, given the current uncertainty around future income

In addition, the Deacons have undertaken a significant review of church activities and, with the assistance of two former treasurers, have set a 5-year budget that will keep the Church in the black. This has meant that there have been significant cuts to some of the activities that have been historically undertaken. The funding is reviewed at the monthly deacons meetings and all spend requires the approval of the treasurer before being incurred. The members and wider congregation are updated regularly about the church's finances.

Given the current uncertainty, the Deacons have increased their minimum level of reserves to equate to 6 months of unavoidable spend, this is approximately £72,000. Certain items of discretionary spend have been delayed to the end of 2022, which will ensure that they are still affordable, based on how the church finances have recovered. This policy is reviewed annually by the Diaconate.

The Deacons have assessed the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies and insurance in place to mitigate these risks. These policies include internal financial controls with advance approval thresholds set at Treasurer and Diaconate levels; items costing in excess of £750 require members' approval.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying Financial Statement.

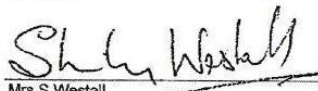
Financial Statement

BALANCE SHEET

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	Notes	£	2021 £	2020 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		1,850,000.00	1,850,000.00
Current Assets				
Receivables	13	8,837.91		9,525.44
Bank and cash	14	<u>255,405.03</u>		<u>190,069.86</u>
		264,242.94		199,595.30
Current Liabilities				
Payables amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(17,171.41)</u>		<u>(6,477.51)</u>
Net Current Assets			247,071.53	193,117.79
Payables amounts falling due after one year	16	(15,154.00)	(15,154.00)	(20,631.00)
Net Assets			<u>2,081,917.53</u>	<u>2,022,486.79</u>
Charitable Funds				
Unrestricted	17		1,990,678.86	1,980,355.21
Restricted	18		87,562.40	40,455.23
Designated	19		3,676.27	1,676.35
			<u>2,081,917.53</u>	<u>2,022,486.79</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 	and signed on their behalf by  Mr I Burbidge ACCA MAAT Treasurer  Mrs S Westall Secretary
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Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021 I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2021, which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements. Respective Responsibilities of the Committee and Examiner The committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act), to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. Basis of Independent Examiner's Report My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below. Independent Examiner's Statement In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: • the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or • the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or • the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. Signed:  Date: 21st March 2022 Name: S G Fraser Address: MHA Monahans, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 3DR Qualifications: Chartered Accountant
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Statement of Financial Activities

Registered charity no: 1127294											
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES											
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021											
	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Dec-21 £	Restated Dec-20 £	
Income and endowments from:											
	2	118,680.76	-	-	9,933.80	80,422.14	4,410.77	-	213,447.47	143,332.18	
	3	113.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	113.04	306.35	
	4	2,038.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,038.76	1,958.35	
	Total	120,832.56	-	-	9,933.80	80,422.14	4,410.77	-	215,599.27	145,596.92	
Expenditure on											
	5	96,299.31	14,000.08	903.33	16,752.15	25,831.35	2,382.31	-	156,168.53	140,921.05	
	7	96,299.31	14,000.08	903.33	16,752.15	25,831.35	2,382.31	-	156,168.53	140,921.05	
Net income/ (expenditure)											
		24,533.25	(14,000.08)	(903.33)	(6,818.35)	54,590.79	2,028.46	-	59,430.74	4,675.87	
	Transfers between funds	(14,209.60)	16,000.00	-	-	-	(1,790.40)	-	0.00	-	
	Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals	10,323.65	1,999.92	(903.33)	(6,818.35)	54,590.79	238.06	-	59,430.74	4,675.87	
	Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(897,909.00)	
	Net movement in Funds	10,323.65	1,999.92	(903.33)	(6,818.35)	54,590.79	238.06	-	59,430.74	(893,233.13)	
	Total Funds brought forward	130,355.21	1,676.35	6,812.32	6,818.35	26,459.58	364.98	1,850,000.00	2,022,486.79	2,915,719.92	
	Total Funds carried forward	140,678.86	3,676.27	5,908.99	-	81,050.37	603.04	1,850,000.00	2,081,917.53	2,022,486.79	

Notes to the Accounts

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

"The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value except for assets included at revalued amounts."

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

b) Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a trust deed.

The address of the registered office and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the trustees' report.'

d) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Tax refunded under Gift Aid is accounted for on an accruals basis

The charges for the use of church premises are included in the accounts in the year in which they are receivable

Investment Income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable

All of the management is carried out without charge, by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service

e) Expenditure recognition

"Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities. "

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on fundraising and publicity costs is therefore not material

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid

f) Receivables

Receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

g) Bank and cash

Bank and cash comprise cash at bank and on hand, and demand deposits with other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

h) Payables

Payables are stated at cost.

i) Fixed Assets

The church and manse premises are included in the balance sheet at market value determined by the trustees opinion based on insurance value and other available information.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises are capitalised if over £1,000 and depreciated as detailed in note h.

j) Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the church or manse premises, because in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the original cost price

Depreciation of other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Furniture and fittings	10%	Full year depreciation charged in year of acquisition; no depreciation charged in year of disposal
Computers and equipment	33.3%	

k) Investment Assets

The Church has no quoted investments

l) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Members and Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes. The establishment of a restricted fund must be agreed by members.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in notes 17 and 18 in notes to the accounts

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Offerings	95,393.90		0.00					95,393.90	77,804.77
Tax refunds	16,997.50		0.00	2,961.30				19,958.80	17,515.00
Church departments						4,410.77		4,410.77	205.27
Income for Other charities				6,972.50				6,972.50	7,767.64
Other	6,289.36				80,422.14			86,711.50	40,039.50
Totals	118,680.76	0.00	0.00	9,933.80	80,422.14	4,410.77	0.00	213,447.47	143,332.18

Government grants of £35,467 were received from Swindon Borough Council for the Boxes of Hope project and for COVID relief. There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to these grants. The charity has not directly benefited from any other forms of government assistance

3 Investments

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Bank interest	113.04							113.04	306.39
Totals	113.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	113.04	306.39

4 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Use of premises	2,038.76							2,038.76	1,899.64
Other	-							0.00	58.71
Totals	2,038.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,038.76	1,958.35

5 Charitable activities costs

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Ministers	58,467.57							58,467.57	42,829.84
Other Ministry	3,673.51		903.33		25,831.35		0.00	30,408.19	14,934.84
Mission	2,235.36	14,000.08		16,752.15		0.00		32,987.59	37,907.51
Establishment	30,518.87							30,518.87	43,824.87
Church departments						2,382.31		2,382.31	163.24
Furniture/furnishings	-					0.00		0.00	0.00
Other	-					0.00		0.00	0.00
Governance Costs (note 6)	1,404.00							1,404.00	1,260.75
Totals	96,299.31	14,000.08	903.33	16,752.15	25,831.35	2,382.31	0.00	156,168.53	140,921.05

6 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Independent examination	1,404.00						1,404.00	1,260.75
Totals	1,404.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,404.00	1,260.75

7 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities £	Grants paid (Mission) £	Restricted projects £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Minister	58,467.57				58,467.57	42,829.84
Other Ministry	4,576.84		25,831.35	0.00	30,408.19	14,934.84
Mission		32,987.59			32,987.59	37,907.51
Establishment	30,518.87				30,518.87	43,824.87
Church departments	2,382.31				2,382.31	163.24
Furniture/furnishings	-				0.00	0.00
Other	-				0.00	0.00
Governance Costs	1,404.00				1,404.00	1,260.75
Totals	97,349.59	32,987.59		0.00	156,168.53	140,921.05

8 Grants paid (Mission)

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Outreach/youth work	1,410.86						1,410.86	7,804.24
Subscriptions	824.50						824.50	848.00
BMS World Mission		3,000.00		2,926.00			5,926.00	5,548.79
Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	0.00						0.00	63.00
Education Plus		1,000.02		3,215.10			4,215.12	2,060.04
Forging Connections	0.00						0.00	(500.00)
Friends of Angel's Orphanage		499.98		0.00			499.98	515.00
Friends of Centre Mokili		1,000.02		600.00			1,600.02	1,229.96
Leprosy Mission		1,500.02		2,072.90			3,572.92	2,282.68
Mary's Meals		250.00		840.25			1,090.25	160.00
Mellon Mission		250.00		2,451.10			2,701.10	0.00
Macmillan							0.00	41.10
Operation Agri				1,143.75			1,143.75	3,133.00
SASRA		0.00					0.00	3,133.00
Spurgeons				2,357.05			2,357.05	687.50
Swindon Food Collective	0.00						0.00	1,000.00
Swindon Night Shelter	0.00						0.00	1,000.00
Swindon Youth For Christ		2,500.02					2,500.02	4,455.01
Synergie	0.00						0.00	(500.00)
Tear Fund							0.00	2,677.52
Toilet Twining		1,000.02		1,146.00			1,146.00	9.13
Vision for China				0.00			0.00	180.00
WEBA Home Mission		3,000.00					3,000.00	5,212.54
Totals	2,235.36	14,000.08	0.00	16,752.15	0.00	0.00	32,987.59	41,040.51

9 Gains and losses on revaluations of fixed assets for the charity's own use

	Church premises £	Manse £	Furniture and fittings £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Revaluation (insured value)	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Impairment			0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

10 Staff costs and Trustees expenses and Trustees remuneration

	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
General Fund Staff		
Salaries	48,671.06	32,170.68
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	1,133.35	374.88
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	5,120.83	7,477.42
Minister in Training Leaseback	0.00	0.00
Other costs	3,542.33	5,474.86
Totals	58,467.57	45,497.84
Restricted Projects Staff - Stepping Stones		
Salaries	3,896.42	0.00
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	0.00	0.00
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	177.64	0.00
Totals	4,074.06	0.00

Average number of employees during the year was 2.5, 2020 was 1.3, 0.5 of these are the staff for the Stepping Stones Project. Employer pension contributions are included for all Members of staff except for the Minister who left the pension scheme during the year. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year 2021 nor for 2020. Mrs J Harris is a trustee and was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £991 (2020: £nil) and employers pension contributions of £42 (2020: £nil). Minister, Revd S Robinson, is also a trustee. He received remuneration of gross salary £28,631 (2020: £27,486) and employers pension contributions of £6,997 (2020: £7,477). There was no other trustee remuneration for the year.

The church pays pension contributions for its Employees to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

11 Comparative Statement of financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Income and endowments from:

Donations and legacies
Investments
Other trading activities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Total £
97,673.33	0.00	369.19	9,423.89	35,660.50	205.27			143,332.18
306.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	306.39
1,958.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,958.35
Total	99,938.07	0.00	369.19	9,423.89	35,660.50	205.27	0.00	145,596.92
Expenditure on								
Charitable activities	102,723.22	25,098.13	891.40	2,803.04	9,200.92	204.34		140,921.05
Total	102,723.22	25,098.13	891.40	2,803.04	9,200.92	204.34	0.00	140,921.05
Net Income/ (expenditure)								
Transfers between funds	(2,785.15)	(25,098.13)	(522.21)	6,620.85	26,459.58	0.93	0.00	4,675.87
	(26,074.00)	26,574.00		0.00		(500.00)		0.00
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals	(28,859.15)	1,475.87	(522.21)	6,620.85	26,459.58	(499.07)	0.00	4,675.87
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets							(897,909.00)	(897,909.00)
Net movement in Funds	(28,859.15)	1,475.87	(522.21)	6,620.85	26,459.58	(499.07)	(897,909.00)	(893,233.13)
Total Funds brought forward	159,214.36	200.48	7,334.53	197.50	0.00	864.05	2,747,909.00	2,915,719.92
Total Funds carried forward	130,355.21	1,676.35	6,812.32	6,818.35	26,459.58	364.98	1,850,000.00	2,022,486.79

12 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church premises £	Manse £	Furniture and fittings £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
01 January 2021	1,500,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	16,631.65	1,866,631.65
Additions				0.00	0.00
Disposals				0.00	0.00
Impairment					0.00
Revaluation	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
31 December 2021	1,500,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	16,631.65	1,866,631.65
Depreciation					
01 January 2021				(16,631.65)	(16,631.65)
Charge for the year					0.00
On Disposals				0.00	0.00
31 December 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	(16,631.65)	(16,631.65)
Net Book Value					
31 December 2020	1,500,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,850,000.00
31 December 2021	1,500,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,850,000.00

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes

The church premises and the manse and revalued to the estimated market value at 31 December 2020 as determined by the trustees.

13 Receivables

	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Accrued income	5,844.25	6,835.00
Prepayments and other receivables	2,993.66	2,690.44
Totals	8,837.91	9,525.44

14 Bank and cash balances

	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	212,286.64	147,276.94
Principality	0.00	0.00
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd	42,515.35	42,427.94
Departments	603.04	364.98
Totals	255,405.03	190,069.86

15 Payables : amounts falling due within one year

	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Other creditors	4,146.00	2,890.00
Accruals	13,025.41	3,587.51
Totals	17,171.41	6,477.51

16 Payables : amounts falling due after more than one year

	31/12/2021 £	31/12/2020 £
Other creditors	15,154.00	20,631.00
Totals	15,154.00	20,631.00

17 Unrestricted Funds

	01/01/2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	130,355.21	120,832.56	(96,299.31)		(14,209.60)	140,678.86
Asset Fund	1,850,000.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	1,850,000.00
Totals	1,980,355.21	120,832.56	(96,299.31)	0.00	(14,209.60)	1,990,678.86

The balance of this fund includes elements which are represented by fixed and current assets

	01/01/2020	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	159,214.36	99,938.07	(102,723.22)		(26,074.00)	130,355.21
Asset Fund	2,747,909.00	0.00	0.00	(897,909.00)	0.00	1,850,000.00
Totals	2,907,123.36	99,938.07	(102,723.22)	(897,909.00)	(26,074.00)	1,980,355.21

18 Restricted Funds

	01/01/2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	6,812.32	0.00	(903.33)			5,908.99
Other charities	6,818.35	9,933.80	(16,752.15)		0.00	(0.00)
Boxes of Hope	13,459.58	37,785.00	(14,301.44)			36,943.14
Stepping Stones	13,000.00	42,637.14	(11,529.91)			44,107.23
Church departments	364.98	4,410.77	(2,382.31)		(1,790.40)	603.04
Totals	40,455.23	94,766.71	(45,869.14)	0.00	(1,790.40)	87,562.40

Transfers - a transfer of £1,790.40 was made from the restricted fund to the general fund to recognise the clubs' contribution of their surplus towards the church's running costs.

	01/01/2020	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31/12/2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	7,334.53	369.19	(891.40)			6,812.32
Other charities	197.50	9,423.89	(2,803.04)		0.00	6,818.35
Boxes of Hope		22,660.50	(9,200.92)			13,459.58
Stepping Stones		13,000.00	0.00			13,000.00
Church departments	864.05	205.27	(204.34)		(500.00)	364.98
Totals	8,396.08	45,658.85	(13,099.70)	0.00	(500.00)	40,455.23

Fellowship Fund

this fund is available at the discretion of the Minister and Care Co-ordinators to provide financial assistance to those in specific need

Other charities

this represents gifts which the donor has restricted to other parties in furtherance of the charity's objectives

Boxes of Hope

this represents funds raised as a result of the pandemic to provide food parcels to the residents of Swindon

Stepping Stones

this represents funds raised to help Swindonians recover from the dual impact of the closure of Honda and the pandemic.

Church departments

this represents funds related to clubs and groups run by the Church; Luncheon Club, Badminton and Pram Club

19 Designated Funds

	01/01/2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Transfers £	31/12/2021 £
Missionary Fund	1,676.35	0.00	(14,000.08)	0.00	16,000.00	3,676.27
Totals	1,676.35	0.00	(14,000.08)	0.00	16,000.00	3,676.27

	01/01/2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Transfers £	31/12/2020 £
Missionary Fund	200.48	0.00	(25,098.13)	0.00	26,574.00	1,676.35
Totals	200.48	-	25,098.13	-	26,574.00	1,676.35

Missionary Fund

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to facilitate annually agreed support in the furtherance of the church's charitable objectives

20 Analysis of net assets

31-Dec-21	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
General Fund	1,850,000.00	140,678.86	1,990,678.86
Missionary Fund	-	3,676.27	3,676.27
Fellowship Fund	-	5,908.99	5,908.99
Other charities	-	(0.00)	(0.00)
Church departments	-	603.04	603.04
Restricted Projects	-	81,050.37	81,050.37
Totals	1,850,000.00	231,917.53	2,081,917.53

31-Dec-20	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
General Fund	1,850,000.00	130,355.21	1,980,355.21
Missionary Fund	-	1,676.35	1,676.35
Fellowship Fund	-	6,812.32	6,812.32
Other charities	-	6,818.35	6,818.35
Church departments	-	364.98	364.98
Restricted Projects	-	26,459.58	26,459.58
Totals	1,850,000.00	172,486.79	2,022,486.79

21 Pensions

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For any month, each participating employer in the Scheme pays contributions as set out in the Schedule of Contributions in force at that time.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, plus any impact of deficiency contributions (see below).

The Minister(s) [and some members of the church staff] is / are eligible to join the Scheme. From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva plc. [Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.] The further 4% contribution rate is reduced to 3% for Employer contributions made to the Segregated DC Arrangement.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £18 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

The key assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of financial assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (RPI)	3.20
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	2.95
- Post retirement	1.70
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension	2.70

- Post-retirement mortality in accordance with 80% of the S3NFA and S3NMA tables, with allowance for future improvements in mortality rates from 2013 in line with the CMI 2019 core projections, with a long term annual rate of improvement of 1.75% for males and 1.5% for females, with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Recovery Plan

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan.

Under the current Recovery Plan dated 30 September 2020, deficiency contributions are payable until 30 June 2026. These contributions are broadly based on the employer's membership at 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules. However, the Trustee and the Council agreed a 50% reduction for all deficiency contributions payable between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
	£	£
Balance sheet liability at year start	23,521	34,757
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(4,130)	(2,978)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	294	615
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	(386)	(8,873)
Balance sheet liability at year end	<u>19,299</u>	<u>23,521</u>

* Comprises any change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

Accounting date	31/12/2021	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
Discount rate	2.0%	0.4%	1.7%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	4.1%	3.0%	3.2%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was approximately £226,000 (31 December 2020: £226,000).

22 Related parties

The custodian Trustee of the church is The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Limited. The church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the West of England Baptist Association. The church does not receive any grant funding from either party.

The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 8

The church made a donation to the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission (charity no 233782) as set out in note 8

The church paid a subscription to the Baptist Union of Great Britain amounting to £674.50 which is included in note 8

Total donations of £13,720 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

The spouse of trustee G Pricor was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £1,416 (2020: £nil) and employers pension contributions of £77 (2020: £nil)

The spouse of trustee I Burbidge was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £991 (2020: £nil) and employers pension contributions of £59 (2020: £nil).

Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Cricklade Road
Gorse Hill
Swindon SN2 1AA

01793 534193

ghbc.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1127294

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127294

Accounts

Gorse Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report & Financial Statement

2020

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Annual Report 2020

The Charity Trustees¹ present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2020. The Charity, called Gorse Hill Baptist Church², has been registered in the Central Register of Charities since 29th December 2008.

The Charity registration number is 1127294.

Charitable Objective

The Charity is governed by a Constitution which states that the purpose of the Church is the advancement of Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Charity may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.



A photo from 2019, owing to the lack of opportunity to meet together as a group during the past

¹ 'Trustee' mainly refers to the Minister/Treasurer/Secretary and Deacons, ie those who are involved in the day to day operation of the Church. Where this is the case, the term used in this report will be 'Deacons' or 'Diaconate'.

² Referred to in this Report as 'the Church'

A Message from our Pastor, Steve

'Unprecedented. Unique. One of a kind. Once in a lifetime' aren't the sort of words that you or I normally use on an everyday basis: they are the kind of thing we reserve for the exceptional, not the run of the mill. In the last 9 months of 2020 they – and others like them – have been in near-daily use in an attempt to describe, if not to come to terms with, the circumstances generated by the Covid19 pandemic.

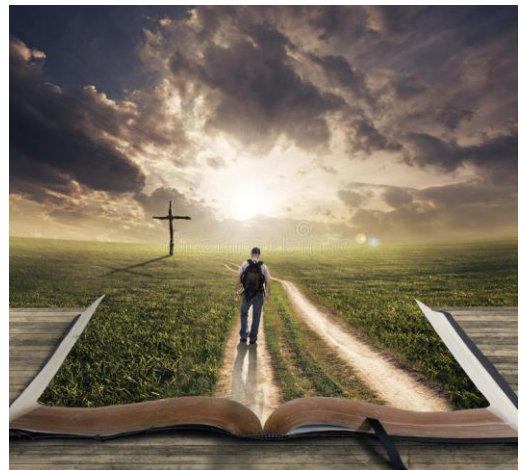
None of us expected, nor could anyone have predicted, that we would be facing such extreme conditions for such a long time. Everyone has been affected and we have yet to realise the full consequences of the pandemic on the social and economic life of our nation and our local community. The impact on our spiritual life has been no less severe, as we have had to respond quickly to circumstances, needs and directives.

This has often meant change at very short notice, but we have sought to keep the fellowship up to date with these changes as they have occurred. All our teams have worked hard, in trying circumstances, to ensure that all are supported and that the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues.

Building our Foundation

Being Christians who believe the Bible is the Word of God, this is where we turn to in all circumstances in life, especially in times like these. Each year we take one or two verses to serve as a motto or key guide for the succeeding twelve months, the example for 2021 being taken from Isaiah 58 verse 11.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden; like a spring whose waters never fail.



When I first spoke from Isaiah 58 last November, it struck me that there was much more in these verses than we could cover in a single morning. My theme then focussed on the kind of example we are setting and the impact this would have on those around us. – very much in line with our motto text from January 2020. Revisiting Isaiah's powerful words of restoration over the following weeks, also led me to Hebrews 11 verses 8 to 10 (which summarises Abraham's response to God's call):

'By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.'

Like Abraham, we face uncertain times. Like him, we've left the comfort of one life (in our case early March 2020 with all its hopes and dreams), only to find ourselves in circumstances far removed from any reality we could have ever imagined. We aren't, though, abandoned to our fate, nor must we go to ground only to emerge blinking in the daylight once the tough times have passed us by.

Finding our feet

Where is the church today, in the midst of the Covid 19 crisis? At a time when Christians have been separated in a way recent generations in the West have never experienced, it's important to remember that the church isn't a building, nor is it an institution. It is a movement intimately connected, fully functioning and out in the world, where God intends us to be. We're here, not because that's where the money or rewards might be found, but because that's where the real needs lie. We are living, as Christ intends, in our world, and we are bringing something special to our relationships with those around us.

Like everyone else, we have got used to living differently, taking the inconveniences of shortages and queues in our stride. We've come to terms with working from home, perhaps rediscovering some ways of relaxation we'd allowed to slip away.



We have overcome something of our isolation through technology that links us together. As Christians, we can still worship together as we Zoom in or catch up on Facebook on a Sunday morning. Towards the end of 2020 we had begun to rediscover the joy of meeting face to face, even if it was subject to tight restrictions. We were then able to offer Christmas Services in a variety of formats, including a Community Carol Service, where we welcomed virtual contributions from local schools.

We have adjusted our routines and adapted our outlook to accommodate many of these changes. We've rolled up our sleeves, worked out what we needed to do and then got on with it. We have engaged in our community in ways that we would not have foreseen only a few months ago, in the form of Boxes of Hope; in achieving this we have worked closely with Swindon Borough Council, local schools and a variety of Christian organisations such as the Night Shelter.

We have also continued in our drive to address needs in ways we had already planned. An example of this includes working with CAP to help those suffering debt, particularly in the run-up to Honda closing.

In March 2020 the church agreed to appoint a Children, Youth and Families Worker to support the work we were already doing through our activities at GHBC and in local schools. We recognised this work to be high priority and continued with the recruitment process, despite the uncertainty generated through Covid.



As a result, Jacob Barron joined the team in September, fresh from his work with the Baptist Missionary Society Action Team in Peru. He has already made a significant impact on our children's and young people's work: we now have an online/social media presence, with increasing traffic, as well as a growing ministry in providing recorded assemblies and other Christian Resources to local schools. Jacob has been instrumental in setting up enquiry trails and online craft sessions for children and families; he's also building strong links with other Youth workers across the town, from both church and council settings.

Taking on the future

When we feel we can take no more, when the numbers overwhelm us and when the reality of being where we are for the long haul kicks in, we take encouragement from an earlier motto text for 2019: *I can do everything through him who gives me strength* (Philippians 4:13)

We can overcome today because that is where God is. He's helping us, supporting us, showing us and leading us. When our resources are depleted or exhausted, He's still going – and helps us to do so too as we step, not into an unknown future, but walk hand in hand with a known, caring, ever present Heavenly Father.

During this time, we have endeavoured to remember our commitment to the community around us. Whenever possible we have kept communications going, provided resources for those around us, which you will read about in the pages to follow, and brought in new and exciting things to bless those in need, linking up with other agencies to ensure that we reach the largest number of people in need.

In the service of Christ

Steve Robinson , Minister, Gorse Hill Baptist Church

Organisational Structure

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Charity Trustees, which include the Minister, Church Secretary (currently a vacancy) and Treasurer, who are collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Church's operations, together with the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All Charity Trustees are aware of the specific guidance issued by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission and have confirmed that they will act in accordance with such information and directives.

With the exception of the Minister, all Deacons are elected for an initial period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election for two further terms of three years. They are then required to step down for at least one year, before being eligible for reappointment.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution through a personal profession of faith in Christ and are people:

- whose conduct corresponds with the beliefs and practice of the Church
- who accept the Declaration of Faith
- who have followed the Lord's command and example in Believer's Baptism (unless exceptional circumstances apply)

The Church has a policy of open membership where, at the discretion of the Members' Meeting, a person may be accepted into full membership following public profession of their faith. The list is being reviewed to reflect members who have left but not resigned.

The Church continues to review its organisational structures, processes and activities to deliver its objectives. We meet together on a regular basis, as elected leaders and as a gathering of committed members, to seek guidance and direction from God through prayer.

Matters for consideration by the Members Meeting may be tabled by the Deacons or by members. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furthering of the Charitable Objectives. This is explained to all prospective members in a personal interview.

With the arrival of Covid-19 our plans had to change. Shortly before lockdown 1.0 was announced on 23rd March 2020, much of community life had already shut down. GHBC decided to postpone its AGM, originally due to be held on 19th March 2020, to cease meeting in person and move to services on Zoom. We thought that, within a few months, we would be meeting

again and be able to hold our AGM, but this was not to be. Temporary legislation was brought in, The Corporate Insolvency & Governance Act 2020, which allows for a meeting to be quorate, even if attendance is by remote means. This meant we could legally hold our AGM and other members meetings online. We held one physical meeting and two online meetings, including our belated AGM, conducted over Zoom, with online voting being used for the majority and postal votes for those with no email/internet. The diaconate have held all but one of their monthly meetings via Zoom. As much information as possible has been made available on the church website, with the aim of keeping all online meetings as short as possible.

Charity Trustees

Minister

The Reverend Steve Robinson (*appointed March 2011, commenced Ministry July 2011*)

Secretary vacancy since April 2019

Vacancy since April 2019

Treasurer

Ian Burbidge (*reappointed March 2018*)

Deacons

Lars Relton (*reappointed March 2018*)

Shirley Westall (*reappointed March 2018*)

Kashi Rai (*appointed March 2017 resigned March 2020*)

Tina Clements (*appointed March 2017 resigned March 2020*)

Alison Henderson (*appointed March 2017 term ended September 2020*)

Elizabeth Mildenhall (*appointed April 2019*)

Gary Pricor (*appointed April 2019*)

Julie Harris (*appointed September 2020*)

Vicki Payn (*appointed September 2020*)

Adam Sibley (*appointed September 2020*)

Rebecca Tromans (*appointed September 2020*)

Finance Team

Ian Burbidge - *Treasurer*

Ian Burbidge - *Payroll & Accounts*

Julie Harris - *Gift Aid*

Peter Morris - *Assets and Inventory*

Kathleen Wood - *Income and Banking*

John Wood - *Internal Audit*

Brian Mildenhall - *Utilities Manager*

Property Trustees

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Kingsway

Bristol BS34 6JW

Independent Examiner

S G Fraser

MHA Monahans Chartered Accountants

38 – 42 Newport Street

Swindon SN1 3DR

Banker

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Swindon Branch

5 High Street

Swindon SN1 3EN

Solicitor

Wood Awdry and Ford

3 St Mary Street

Chippenham SN15 3JL

Registered Address: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 1AA

Our Leadership Team

The members elected four new Deacons in 2020, giving a team of eight Deacons, together with the Treasurer and Minister. The role of Secretary continues to be shared among the other Deacons, until the vacancy is filled.

The Deacons meet monthly (including August in this exceptional year) to receive reports, act within agreed and delegated guidelines and make recommendations to the membership. Since April these have been conducted via Zoom, apart from one, socially distanced meeting in the large hall. They met on one separate occasion for an online 'away' morning.



Welcome to our New Member of Staff

Jacob Barron joined us in September, as our Children, Youth and Families Worker, after his gap year in South America was cut short by Covid. He hit the ground running and has already built up a variety of links within the church and with the community.



Church Life

Pastoral Care

At the beginning of the year, when the Covid pandemic led to the first lockdown, the Pastoral Care team was concerned about how the church could support everyone through the crisis. A number of measures were set up to address this.

The congregation was divided into those belonging to a home group, or to identifiable existing groups within the church - Music Group, Deacons, Pram Club etc - and congregation members not part of other groups, some of whom we had contact details for and some not. This group provided the biggest challenge when it came to ensuring we could provide help, if needed.

We established 16 Care groups, which are doing a great job of looking out for the majority of



people attached to our church. We are very impressed with the work done by care group leaders, who have some of the more vulnerable people in their groups and who phone regularly and send cards to keep in

touch. We created a set of invitation cards to give to those who were not on the congregational list, to encourage them to join one of these groups.

A Covid database was set up to help people with shopping, medication & to register requests for regular Tuesday meals. This outreach worked well, but has served its purpose. Pastoral drop-in Zoom sessions are provided several times a week to provide a place where people can come together for a chat. Take up for this has been limited.

The Pastoral care group sent out Christmas cards, and sent cards and gifts to those who have been ill or in hospital. We have been able to continue supporting people with specific needs through our prayer email.

We were worried that we would be overwhelmed by the unusual needs created through the pandemic but, with everyone working together, we have been able to demonstrate God's Care to our Church congregation and community.

Children & Young People

Schoolswork

It quickly became clear that going into schools or inviting them to the premises was not going to be an option this year. To ensure we continued to support our local schools in delivering their RE curriculum, we have provided online resources for regular assemblies and to replace our annual Christmas Unwrapped event. This has drawn new people, with a variety of technical skills, into the team and has been warmly welcomed by schools. It has been taken up by schools we formerly had no contact with a possible audience of 350 people. We are continuing to monitor whether this will be needed in 2021.



Kidzone

Crèche has not been needed while we have not been in the building. Our Kidzone originally ran two Zoom meetings on a Sunday afternoon for children and teenagers. It now has its own slot before the morning services, where parents and children can enjoy a time geared especially for the younger age group. The teens group, having paused in the summer due to low numbers, was planned to re-open in the new year for 11-teens.

Discipleship

Sunday services and Home Groups

We value the opportunity to meet together to worship God, receive teaching, study the Bible and socialize on a regular basis. Prevented from meeting in person, except under stringent conditions, we have adapted to online or mainly online methods for both church services and home groups. Both of these have provided vital sources of communication and support – both in prayer and practical - between friends and fellow members. The Sunday services have followed a regular teaching plan, whereas each home group has chosen their own Bible-based material to study. The technology aspect of this is discussed in a later section.

Media

Our technology capability has developed over the year, allowing the church to continue its mission, while staying socially distanced, enabling people to lead services, lead worship and preach, either from their homes or from church. We have had to master online conferencing, use of



video cameras and video recording, managing broadcasts and live streaming.

To allow the church to continue to meet, it took out a subscription to the Zoom Conference service which allowed morning services to continue without interruption as well as enabling Kidzone, Home Groups and committee meetings to continue. This developed with the addition of musicians recording themselves to allow worship during services, giving a full morning service experience for the congregation, while they stayed safe at home.

As lockdown restrictions eased and the church could work from the church building, the technology capability was enhanced with broadcasting software to allow simultaneous broadcasting to Zoom and Facebook. This allowed us to lead a complete service from the sanctuary, with most of the congregation still remaining in their homes and, as conditions allowed, with a limited number of people in the building. Over Christmas we held a Christingle Service, both in person and online, and an online Community Carol Service, which included contributions from local schools and a local councillor.

As not every attendee is able to access the internet, GHBC has returned to producing CDs of the sermons. These are distributed to a number of people across the town and beyond giving a vital link to those unable to access the online GHBC.



Our new video/broadcasting expertise has also been used by the Schools Team and Youth worker. The Schools Team recorded short videos for use in schools and our Christmas Unwrapped lessons, all of which have been gratefully received by teachers managing in strict teaching conditions.



Our Youth worker produced a video advent calendar to help children hear the Christmas story as well as a number of other videos to engage children and young people.

All videos are published on our Facebook, our website, as well as a new YouTube channel. All these methods of distribution have seen increased usage over 2020 compared to previous years. Videos on Facebook and YouTube have reached audiences across the globe, encouraging the church to maintain production even when the Covid crisis is over.

	Facebook	YouTube	Website
No ofViewers	9x	30x	2x
Page Likes	2x	44x	na
Followers	2x	19x	na

The website and emails have become our primary means of communication over the year. Extensive use is made of the website's mass mail system to communicate with attendees and

members, replacing items such as the Weekly Newsletter, among others. However, due to time being spent elsewhere, the website has had little development time over the year.

A voting service was employed to allow secure and confidential voting for members at our AGM. These meant procedures had to adapt, but was well received and used.

Admin

Fabric

Despite the reduced use of the church building, the following works were carried out in 2020:-

Inspection/servicing: boilers, fire alarm system, emergency lighting, and kitchen appliances / canopy, electrical equipment and fire extinguishers.

Decorating/refurbishment: Florence Room upstairs - including decorating, new carpet, lighting, meeting room furniture; ground floor office; Cricklade Hall; entrance doors and timber handrails, external front fascia and canopy soffit; old basement plant room - removal of asbestos and redundant materials, including removal of the old boiler with pipe lagging renewed; notice boards/signs replaced/upgraded where necessary.

New: set of security lockers installed in main entrance foyer; new children's library trolley, external water tap in garden, TMV blending valves to the toilet wash hand basins; new hand dryer installed in the upstairs toilet; underground drain survey completed, with remedial works done to the front combined manhole chamber.

Health & Safety

To meet new and growing areas of need within the community and ensure we stayed compliant with the ever changing Covid regulations/best practice guidance from Government and other relevant bodies, over 100 different risk assessments were produced, supporting 18 ministries/areas of work as they adapted. We radically overhauled and scaled up our general H&S framework to support growth over the medium-long term and meet the coming wave of challenges facing the local community. We successfully passed 3 separate external audits, allowing volunteers, members and partner organisations to have confidence in us as a safe place of volunteering and work, as we seek to meet these challenges alongside our community, as we wish to do in a hands-on, practical manner.

Safeguarding report

Safeguarding has continued for GHBC throughout the pandemic, even though face to face meetings have been very limited. There have been no major issues requiring reports to other agencies. A few people have had their DBS applications approved or updated. This is an

ongoing process and will probably increase as restrictions are lifted and more people become involved in physical contact with others.

Community

Stepping Stones

Boxes of Hope

HOPE – *'Let Your unfailing love surround us Lord, for our Hope is in You alone.'* Psalm 33:22

We started the Boxes of Hope project in June 2020, with a start-up of £200 from the national charity, Transforming Lives for Good, to deliver food parcels to families struggling due to the Coronavirus crisis. We have been working since with many agencies town wide, taking referrals from all agencies and any individual that is struggling to feed themselves or their families due to circumstances, such as being furloughed, redundancies, reduction in working hours, waiting for benefits, children being at home more often, relationship breakdowns, illnesses, shielding etc.



Over the months to the end of 2020, and continuing into 2021, the team packed and delivered a growing total of 1,000+ Boxes of Hope to Swindon residents feeding, in total, 1,700+ adults and 2,500+ children, some on a regular basis. It is about more than meeting a physical need. The boxes include age appropriate activities for the children, toiletries for the family, as well as some exciting treats. We include information about our current Zoom services and some adults'/children's leaflets, giving information about the Christian faith.

We have been privileged to build strong relationships with other professionals with whom we have been working and have got to know some of the families that we have been helping. We are working closely with professionals within the borough. In addition, church attendees have supported with money, shopping and prayer.

The team have been really encouraged to receive a number of requests for prayer and to know that some recipients have joined our Zoom services. We have had several visitors from around the town, including the Mayor of Swindon, many of whom have donated either food items or money. We have also applied for and benefited from a number of grants including Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation, Tesco's, Asda and money from the DEFRA budget, as well as receiving donations of supplies from a variety of local supermarkets such as Asda and Morrisons and Asda .

As a team, we have been overwhelmed by seeing God work in so many ways and are excited to find out what He has in store for Boxes of Hope next.

We have received many thank yous and encouraging messages from many individuals and organisations. Here is a selection of extracts, including some from volunteers involved in the project:

'... a big THANK YOU for the support you showed our school and their families over the year and during the Christmas period. The Bags ... have been amazing and very gratefully received. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful and caring community which is something we value very highly.' LE, primary school Principal

'I just wanted to let you know that I've spoken to both families after your box of hope delivery. They were very grateful and couldn't believe that someone went out of their way for them. We (as a service and our families) really appreciate all your support. It's lovely to see a community come together and look after our most vulnerable children. Thank you very much!' A Family Intervention Worker

"We are really pleased to be supporting work like this because it is meeting a real need.' Fiona Oliver, Wiltshire Community Foundation's Coronavirus Response Fund

'...when [she] asked me to help deliver the bags I could not refuse...although not wealthy, I never had to go without... However, this is 2020, this is Swindon, the UK is a wealthy country and I was shocked to learn how many people were relying on the good will of organisations such as Gorse Hill Baptist Church to meet their daily needs.

When I delivered the bags, I made sure that I took the time to speak to the people receiving them. I was humbled by the look of joy on their faces and the thanks that I received; after all I was just delivering them!

... On one occasion I received a thank you text from a woman with a photograph of her son holding one of the toy planes that was included in the "Bag of Hope", my heart melted.

swindonadvertiser.co.uk

£5,000 cash boost will help Gorse Hill church group support families in need

2:1115-1802

Church group gets £5,000 to help fund its vital work

By Neil Beck
Audience & Content Editor



Gorse Hill Baptist Church volunteers Julie Harris, left, and Debs Burbidge packing Bags of Hope. Their work is being funded by the Wiltshire Community Foundation

f t in 0 comment

A CHURCH that has been supporting low-income families with food bags during the pandemic is gearing up to continue its work as more people are plunged into poverty at the end of furlough.

I'm sure that prior to Covid 19 none of these people thought that they would become reliant on "handouts" and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather and her team and all the people who have donated so generously.

Delivering the bags of hope is a really rewarding and humbling experience. Seeing people's reactions is amazing. People are so humble and grateful and it's especially humbling to see the children's faces light up when they see all the treats in the bag for them too.'

Above quotes from volunteers 'C' and 'R'.

Friends and Fun, Badminton+, Recreate, Pram Club, Luncheon Club, Flourish, Band of Brothers, the Fun Day – We have been unable to run these regular events on the premises, due to Covid 19 restrictions. However:

F&F are keeping in touch with a personalised letter every month with a quiz and have had phone calls from attendees. F&F are still supporting Mary's Meals with small, donated gifts.



Pram Club has maintained contact with and supported the families by distributing 'Toddler Group in a Bag' and holding song/story time sessions online.

Tuesday Meals - home deliveries of approximately 40 hot meals and 20 frozen meals have been made to the elderly and vulnerable each week, to replace Luncheon Club.

'The Big Takeaway' our usual August Bank Holiday Fun Day was replaced with Covid-secure handing out of activity packs and hot dogs from outside the

church building. Four different packs were given out for under 11s, over 11s, men and women. As well as containing fun activities, each pack contained material relating to the Christian faith and updates about our current church activities.

Giveaways: we gave away 120 goodie bags to people in the community in October, for an alternative Halloween, and 165 Christmas bags in December. Both worked well and had super teams behind them.

Children, Youth and Family Work

Between September and Christmas, Jacob became fully involved in the community aspects of our work, taking part in events such as our Covid-secure Christmas Unwrapped online and video assemblies for local schools.



The following is a brief overview of the things he set up in the lead up to Christmas:

Youthnite This youth service was the first service to be held back in the church since before lockdown. The evening ran well, but was not attended well. This was not continued under current conditions.

Noah YouTube Series This series introduced 'Maker Jake'. It followed the story of Noah and demonstrated some related crafts for children to make.

The content had a consistent viewership, and worked as a very successful test run for the Advent series.

CFC Online CFC returned with its new Zoom format. The numbers have been slowly growing since the start in November and it continues to be great fun for primary school children.

Advent YouTube Calendar Doors. Maker Jake returned to build a Nativity Scene and we followed the Christmas story, read by people from the church. It is anticipated that we will produce more series in the future, some focussed on children and families, some on youth.

Ignite, for Secondary School ages, was planned to replace FNF, in the new year.

Mission Support

As has been the case around the globe, the pandemic has caused lockdowns, closure of schools, cessation in the tourist trade, reduced overseas giving and employment. This has particularly hit the poorest in every country and we have seen this in the charities we support town-, nation- and world-wide. Time and time again we see people in our projects suffering from no, or much reduced, income, lack of computers to access online education and disruption in food supplies. In some areas we have been able to support these people, as can be seen in the reports below.



'We are all looking forward to the end of the COVID 19 pandemic, but until then we must be the people of hope...God is always bigger than our problems, fears and anxieties.' **Paul & Sarah Brown, BMS World Mission in Thailand**

This is a selection of the charities we support.

Educación Plus, Costa Rica

As the children missed out on months of schooling and didn't have books or internet connection Ed Plus was able to employ a teacher to support groups of children in each of the three shanty towns. However this is only for a few hours a week with all age groups needing to be taught. Our continued support has contributed to this.

Melon Mission School

Two years ago GHBC raised money through the Christmas Project for toilets and hand basins. When the team went to Melon in February 2019 we were able to set up a rain water collection system for hand washing before meals/ after

using the toilet. We did not know then just how important all this would be one year later. To quote: 'It is your help and God's planning that has put this in place.' It enabled hygiene measures to be carried out during the brief times the children were in class in 2020.

Angel's Orphanage, Nepal

Fortunately, we were able to assist in installing broadband into the house (costing only £11 a month) so have more reliable online schooling, with the added bonus of twice weekly zoom meetings with the children.

Three girls (age 16/17) have started Nursing College - a three year course leading to a professional qualification, including practical placements at good hospitals - a wonderful achievement, considering the children's background, and will give them real opportunity. Getting them into college was a huge "team effort" including our two long time doctor friends



and several established nurses who guided us through a complex, baffling, constantly changing application process.

Juniper (in class 12) has recently been asked by his college principal to teach IT to younger children in classes 6 & 7. What a surprise and compliment (forget the "shouldn't he get teacher training first?" question). Who knows, this may lead him to a particular career path.

Autumn 2021 is probably the earliest we can go to Nepal again. Meanwhile, we are thankful for Zoom enabling us to stay in touch. The next few years are so important for these children, as they

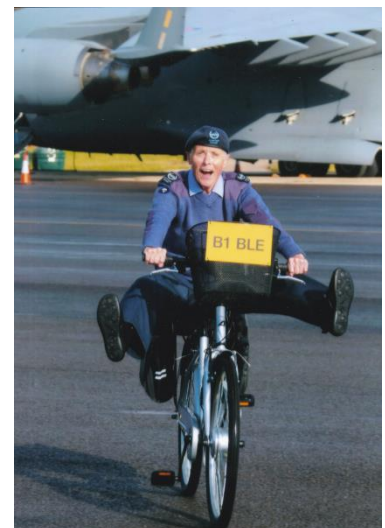
begin to think about careers and life choices. Not easy in any setting. Our support is needed now more than ever.

Soldiers and Airmen Scripture Readers Association

For the SASRA rep we support, Meg Atkinson, 2020 has been a frustrating year, during which she was very reluctantly furloughed for much of the time. Despite this, she has managed to keep in contact with the troops she has faithfully served over many years.



Due to a willing contact within the Brize Norton base, she has regularly supplied morale-boosting 'Meg's Mixes' bags of sweets, with the optional Christian literature that she would normally hand out personally. These have been delivered to the troops, with some being forwarded to troops serving in Cyprus. She has maintained contact with the



Chaplaincy team at Brize, including assisting a newly qualified chaplain to familiarise herself with her new place of employment.

To show their continued appreciation of her support, when her bicycle was stolen from the base, the personnel at Brize held a collection to replace it, raising enough to provide an electric bike, industrial lock, plus a cash gift, which she donated to the Army and Airforce Children's Charity. This is a definite vote of confidence in the relationship and work that Meg has built up.

Despite the inevitable cancellation of the Annual Nijmegen 100-mile march, Meg has supported AACC by carrying out a sponsored walk over the O2 in London, in aid of children whose parents are absent on duty during significant events, such as Christmas and birthdays.



Our Christmas Appeal raised £7,644 to support a variety of charities worldwide – see table below. An example of reports we have had is: 'The money was badly needed at Guinebor 2 hospital in Chad. Although Covid cases have been relatively low, Government hospitals have suffered from strikes over pay. As our BMS rep fed back "...the hospital is currently extremely busy...patients naturally gravitate to those non-government hospitals like G2, who continue to function normally. The workload...has massively increased.'"

Country and Charity	Amount £	Benefit
Guinebor 2 Hospital, Chad, BMS	1,911	130 patients, 10 operations, 13 deliveries
Leprosy Mission Nepal	1,146	Find and cure 50 people with Leprosy
TearFund Honduras	1,146	Clean water, food and mattresses for those in shelter
Mary's Meals, Ecuador	764	Feed 100 children for a year
Educación Plus, Costa Rica	764	2 ^{1/2} month's tuition for 120 children
Centre Mokili, DRC	600	300 courses of medicines
Spurgeons, UK	1313	Support families and support men to become better dads
Total	7,644	

Regular Giving to Charities we Support

Organisation	Amount £
BMS World Mission	5,150
Educación Plus	2,060
Home Mission (WEBA)	5,150
The Leprosy Mission	1,802
SASRA	3,133
Swindon Youth For Christ	4,455
TEAR Fund	1,802
Friends of Centre Mokili, Congo	1,030
Angel's Orphanage, Nepal	515
Swindon Night Shelter	1,000
Swindon Food Collective	1,000
Total	27,097

Lettings

Our lettings have been severely affected by Covid 19. However a couple of regular hirers which have returned when they were able and a new group joined us when lockdown eased. All appropriate new measures were easily adopted by these groups and they were very pleased to be allowed back into the building.

We lost one of our long standing hirers, Weightwatchers, which closed when the franchisee gave up. A number of ad hoc bookings were cancelled, due to social distancing requirements. We expect that many of these bookings would resume once we are able to meet more freely, including a children's party organiser who had set up on Cricklade Hall.

Finance Report

In accordance with the Charity Constitution, an annual budget is compiled for both income and expenditure and approved by members in January, along with a plan for the following four years to enable effective financial planning.

The Church raises the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The annual income dropped significantly because of the pandemic, with general giving and gift aid recovery dropping by £22,752, with letting income also dropping by £8,516. This reduction in income has been highlighted to members as part of the AGM and budget setting process. The church has received a grant of £1,000 from Swindon Borough Council as part of the Government's Covid response.

Our principal expenditure continues to be related to employing a full time minister and, from September, a full time youth worker.

Material areas of expenditure (net) during the year includes local ministry of £4,871 and a running expenses account for £43,796.

Whilst the income dropped because of the pandemic, the running costs for the church were still being incurred. Possible spend was reviewed and reduced.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by donating to national and international organisations and charities with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. The Church budgets for this activity principally through its Missionary Committee and Missionary Fund. The Committee continues to work closely with a number of supported organisations, which are listed in the notes to the accounts, and communicates the activities of these organisations to the fellowship.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of its activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but contribute substantially to the achievement of its objectives. There were no significant 'gifts in kind', although some members cover minor costs personally.

The Boxes of Hope project has received funding of £22,660, including grant funding of £17,300. As noted above, this is in addition to numerous gifts of food and other supplies from the congregation and local supermarkets. There were approximately 3,250 hours of volunteer time, in buying, packing and delivering the bags to the local

community. The project spent £9,200 in year on the provision of food and supplies to the residents of Swindon.

The Stepping Stones project has also received grant funding of £13,000 in year. The grants received in support of these projects cannot be used to support the general running costs of the church; these are still met from the general funds of the church.

Both projects are in receipt of additional funding in 2021 to enable these activities to continue and assist Swindon residents recover from the effects of the pandemic.

The Church maintains levels of reserves to meet its immediate needs, in particular stipends for the employees and the running costs of the premises. Sums are accumulated to facilitate specific projects and future strategic development, as agreed by members.

The Church is supported by a steady stream of income from the congregation, albeit this has significantly reduced in year as noted above

The Deacons have noted the General Fund balance of £130,396, have assessed this against the level of potential commitments from 2021 to 2025, and have concluded that there is a need to bolster these reserves given the current uncertainty around future income. In response a fund raising campaign has been launched with the aim of increasing income by £30,000 in 2021, thus replacing the funding lost during 2020.

In addition, the Deacons have undertaken a significant review of church activities and, with the assistance of two former treasurers, have set a 5-year budget that will keep the Church in the black. This has meant that there have been significant cuts to some of the activities that have been historically undertaken. The funding is reviewed at the monthly deacons meetings and all spend requires the approval of the treasurer before being incurred. The members and wider congregation are updated regularly about the church's finances.

Given the current uncertainty, the Deacons have increased their minimum level of reserves to equate to 6 months of unavoidable spend, this is approximately £65,000. Certain items of discretionary spend have been delayed to the end of 2021, which will ensure that they are still affordable, based on how the church finances have recovered. This policy is reviewed annually by the Diaconate.

The Deacons have assessed the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies and insurance in place to mitigate these risks. These policies include internal financial controls with advance approval thresholds set at Treasurer and Diaconate levels; items costing in excess of £750 require members' approval.

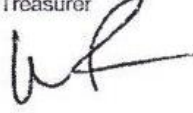
The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying Financial Statement.

Financial Statement

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	£	2020 £	Restated 2019 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		1,850,000.00	2,747,909.00
Current Assets				
Receivables	13	9,525.44		8,780.40
Bank and cash	14	190,069.86		195,751.05
		<u>199,595.30</u>		<u>204,531.45</u>
Current Liabilities				
Payables amounts falling due within one year	15	(6,477.51)		(5,211.53)
Net Current Assets			193,117.79	199,319.92
Payables amounts falling due after one year	16	(20,631.00)	(20,631.00)	(31,509.00)
Net Assets			<u>2,022,486.79</u>	<u>2,915,719.92</u>
Charitable Funds				
Unrestricted	17		1,980,355.21	2,907,123.36
Restricted	18		40,455.23	8,396.08
Designated	19		1,676.35	200.48
			<u>2,022,486.79</u>	<u>2,915,719.92</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 8th April 2021	and signed on their behalf by
	
	Mr I Burbidge ACCA MAAT Treasurer
	
	Mr L Relton Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements.

•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 by section 130 of the 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 accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

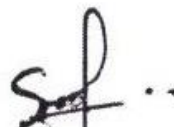
Signed:

Date:

Name:

Address:

Qualifications: Chartered Accountant


23rd April 2021

S G Fraser

MHA Monahans, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 3DR

Statement of Financial Activities

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Registered charity no: 1127294

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Income and endowments from:										
Donations and legacies	2	97,673.33	-	369.19	9,423.89	35,660.50	205.27	-	143,332.18	185,742.61
Investments	3	306.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	306.39	900.96
Other trading activities	4	1,958.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,958.35	10,503.56
Total		99,938.07	-	369.19	9,423.89	35,660.50	205.27	-	145,596.92	197,147.13
Expenditure on										
Charitable activities	5	102,723.22	25,098.13	891.40	2,803.04	9,200.92	204.34	-	140,921.05	160,400.18
Total	7	102,723.22	25,098.13	891.40	2,803.04	9,200.92	204.34	-	140,921.05	160,400.18
Net income/ (expenditure)		(2,785.15)	(25,098.13)	(522.21)	6,620.85	26,459.58	0.93	-	4,675.87	36,746.95
Transfers between funds		(26,074.00)	26,574.00	-	-	(500.00)	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals		(28,859.15)	1,475.87	(522.21)	6,620.85	26,459.58	(499.07)	-	4,675.87	36,746.95
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	9							(897,909.00)	(897,909.00)	91,658.00
Net movement in Funds		(28,859.15)	1,475.87	(522.21)	6,620.85	26,459.58	(499.07)	(897,909.00)	(893,233.13)	128,404.95
Total Funds brought forward		159,214.36	200.48	7,334.53	197.50	-	864.05	2,747,909.00	2,915,719.92	2,787,314.97
Total Funds carried forward		130,355.21	1,676.35	6,812.32	6,818.35	26,459.58	364.98	1,850,000.00	2,022,486.79	2,915,719.92

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value except for assets included at revalued amounts.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

b) Going Concern

COVID 19 has impacted the charity through the numerous lockdowns closing the church doors. Donation income has fallen in the year and continues to be below pre COVID levels into 2021. The trustees acknowledge the deficit made on unrestricted funds this year of £40,054. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist.

c) Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a trust deed.

The address of the registered office and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the trustees' report.'

d) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Tax refunded under Gift Aid is accounted for on an accruals basis.

The charges for the use of church premises are included in the accounts in the year in which they are receivable.

Investment Income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

All of the management is carried out without charge, by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

e) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities.

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on fundraising and publicity costs is therefore not material.

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid.

f) Receivables

Receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

g) Bank and cash

Bank and cash comprise cash at bank and on hand, and demand deposits with other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

h) Payables

Payables are stated at cost.

i) Fixed Asset

The church and manse premises are included in the balance sheet at market value determined by the trustees opinion based on insurance value and other available information.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises are capitalised if over £1,000 and depreciated as detailed in note j.

j) Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the church or manse premises, because in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the original cost price.

Depreciation of other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Furniture and fittings	10%
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Computers and equipment	33.3%
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Full year depreciation charged in year of acquisition; no depreciation charged in year of disposal.

k) Investment Assets

The Church has no quoted investments.

l) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Members and Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes. The establishment of a restricted fund must be agreed by members.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in notes 17 and 18 in notes to the accounts.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Offerings	77,435.58		369.19					77,804.77	96,747.51
Tax refunds	15,858.75		-	1,656.25				17,515.00	21,324.96
Church departments						205.27		205.27	857.76
Income for Other charities				7,767.64				7,767.64	6,059.51
Other	4,379.00				35,660.50			40,039.50	60,752.87
Totals	97,673.33	-	369.19	9,423.89	35,660.50	205.27	-	143,332.18	185,742.61

3 Investments

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Bank interest	306.39							306.39	900.96
Totals	306.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	306.39	900.96

4 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Use of premises	1,899.64							1,899.64	10,415.89
Other	58.71							58.71	87.67
Totals	1,958.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,958.35	10,503.56

5 Charitable activities costs

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Projects £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Ministers	42,829.84							42,829.84	35,930.82
Other Ministry	4,842.52		891.40		9,200.92		-	14,934.84	9,100.14
Mission	9,965.24	25,098.13		2,803.04	-	41.10		37,907.51	63,191.80
Establishment	43,824.87							43,824.87	50,475.50
Church departments	-					163.24		163.24	619.67
Furniture/furnishings	-							-	-
Other	1,260.75					0.00		1,260.75	1,082.25
Governance Costs (note 6)									
Totals	102,723.22	25,098.13	891.40	2,803.04	9,200.92	204.34	-	140,921.05	160,400.18

6 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Departments £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Independent examination	1,260.75							1,260.75	1,082.25
Totals	1,260.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,260.75	1,082.25

7 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities	Grants paid (Mission)	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Dec-20	Dec-19
	£	£	£	£	£
Minister	42,829.84			42,829.84	35,930.82
Other Ministry	14,934.84		0.00	14,934.84	9,100.14
Mission		37,907.51		37,907.51	63,191.80
Establishment	43,824.87			43,824.87	50,475.50
Church departments	163.24			163.24	619.67
Furniture/furnishings	-			-	-
Other	0.00			0.00	-
Governance Costs	1,260.75			1,260.75	1,082.25
Totals	103,013.54	37,907.51	-	140,921.05	160,400.18

8 Grants paid (Mission)

	Unrestricted General Fund	Designated Missionary	Restricted Fellowship	Restricted Other charities	Restricted Departments	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Dec-20	Dec-19
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Outreach/youth work	7,804.24						7,804.24	16,874.43
Subscriptions	848.00						848.00	1,043.40
Amesbury Baptist Church	0.00						-	-
Bible Society							-	-
BMS World Mission		5,150.04		398.75			5,548.79	6,276.89
Brighter Futures (GWH)							-	82.50
Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	63.00						63.00	500.00
Discovery Church							-	200.00
Education Plus		2,060.04					2,060.04	2,376.50
Empower the Gambia							-	-
Forging Connections	(500.00)						(500.00)	1,000.00
Freedom Kit bags - Nepal							-	-
Friends of Angel's Orphanage		515.00		0.00			515.00	515.00
Friends of Centre Mokili		1,029.96		200.00			1,229.96	1,030.00
Harbour Project	0.00						-	1,000.00
Leprosy Mission		1,802.52		480.16			2,282.68	2,478.05
Mary's Meals				160.00			160.00	920.04
Macmillan					41.10		41.10	-
Open Door Swindon							-	-
Operation Agri							-	-
SASRA		3,133.00					-	-
Spurgeons				687.50			3,133.00	4,544.50
Swindon Food Collective	1,000.00						687.50	1,357.15
Swindon Night Shelter	1,000.00						1,000.00	1,000.00
Swindon Youth For Christ		4,455.01		0.00			1,000.00	1,000.00
Synergie	(500.00)						4,455.01	4,642.00
Tear Fund	250.00	1,802.52		625.00			(500.00)	1,000.00
Toilet Twining				9.13			2,677.52	3,493.35
Vision for China				180.00			9.13	111.27
WEBA Home Mission		5,150.04		62.50			180.00	130.00
Yountie Foundation							5,212.54	5,225.00
							-	6,391.72
Totals	9,965.24	25,098.13	-	2,803.04	41.10	-	37,907.51	63,191.80

9 Gains and losses on revaluations of fixed assets for the charity's own use

	Church premises £	Manse £	Furniture and fittings £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Revaluation		141,508.00			141,508.00
Impairment	(1,039,417.00)		-	-	(1,039,417.00)
Totals	(1,039,417.00)	141,508.00	-	-	(897,909.00)

10 Staff costs and Trustees expenses and Trustees remuneration

	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Salaries	32,170.68	26,958.96
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	374.88	-
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	7,477.42	7,290.60
Minister in Training Leaseback	-	-
Other costs	5,474.86	5,651.26
Totals	45,497.84	39,900.82

Average number of employees during the year was 1.3, 2019 was 1

Employer pension contributions are included for the full-time Minister and the Youth Worker

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year 2020 nor for 2019

Minister, Revd S Robinson, is also a trustee. He received remuneration of gross salary £27,486 (2019: £26,958) and employers pension contributions of £7,477 (2019: £7,291).

Trustees do receive reimbursement of expenses during the year

The church pays pension contributions for its employees to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

11 Comparative Statement of financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Income and endowments from:

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Restricted Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Restricted Departments £	Unrestricted Asset Fund	Total £
Donations and legacies	171,548.51	-	1,336.37	11,999.97	857.76	-	185,742.61
Investments	900.96	-	-	-	-	-	900.96
Other trading activities	10,503.56	-	-	-	-	-	10,503.56

Total

	182,953.03	-	1,336.37	11,999.97	857.76	-	197,147.13
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Expenditure on

Charitable activities

	120,219.21	26,574.00	987.33	11,999.97	619.67	-	160,400.18
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Total

	120,219.21	26,574.00	987.33	11,999.97	619.67	-	160,400.18
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Net Income/ (expenditure)

Transfers between funds

	62,733.82	-	26,574.00	349.04	-	238.09	36,746.95
	(26,574.00)	26,574.00			-	-	-

Net incoming resources before
revaluations and investment asset
disposals

	36,159.82	-	349.04	-	238.09	-	36,746.95
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Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of
fixed assets

						91,658.00	91,658.00
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Net movement in Funds

Total Funds brought forward

	36,159.82	-	349.04	-	238.09	91,658.00	128,404.95
	123,054.54	200.48	6,985.49	197.50	625.96	2,656,251.00	2,787,314.97

Total Funds carried forward

	159,214.36	200.48	7,334.53	197.50	864.05	2,747,909.00	2,915,719.92
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12 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church premises £	Manse £	Furniture and fittings £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
01 January 2020	2,539,417.00	208,492.00	-	16,631.65	2,764,540.65
Additions				-	-
Disposals				-	-
Impairment	- 1,039,417.00			-	- 1,039,417.00
Revaluation		141,508.00	-		141,508.00
					-
31 December 2020	1,500,000.00	350,000.00	-	16,631.65	1,866,631.65
Depreciation					
01 January 2020				(16,631.65)	(16,631.65)
Charge for the year					-
On Disposals				-	-
					-
31 December 2020	-	-	-	(16,631.65)	(16,631.65)
Net Book Value					
31 December 2019	2,525,004.00	222,905.00	-	-	2,747,909.00
31 December 2020	1,500,000.00	350,000.00	-	-	1,850,000.00

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes

The church premises and the manse and revalued to the estimated market value at 31 December 2020 as determined by the trustees.

13 Receivables

	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Accrued income	6,835.00	6,146.79
Prepayments and other receivables	2,690.44	2,633.61
Totals	9,525.44	8,780.40

14 Bank and cash balances

	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	147,276.94	152,598.15
Principality	-	-
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd	42,427.94	42,288.85
Departments	364.98	864.05
Totals	190,069.86	195,751.05

15 Payables : amounts falling due within one year

	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Other creditors	2,890.00	3,248.00
Accruals	3,587.51	1,963.53
Totals	6,477.51	5,211.53

16 Payables : amounts falling due after more than one year

	Dec-20 £	Dec-19 £
Other creditors	20,631.00	31,509.00
Totals	20,631.00	31,509.00

17 Unrestricted Funds

	01-Jan-20	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31-Dec-20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	159,214.36	99,938.07	(102,723.22)		(26,074.00)	130,355.21
Asset Fund	2,747,909.00		-	(897,909.00)	-	1,850,000.00
Totals	2,907,123.36	99,938.07	(102,723.22)	(897,909.00)	(26,074.00)	1,980,355.21

The balance of this fund includes elements which are represented by fixed and current assets

	01-Jan-19	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31-Dec-19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	123,054.54	182,953.03	- 120,219.21	-	26,574.00	159,214.36
Asset Fund	2,656,251.00	-	-	91,658.00	-	2,747,909.00
Totals	2,779,305.54	182,953.03	-120,219.21	91,658.00	-26,574.00	2,907,123.36

18 Restricted Funds

	01-Jan-20	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31-Dec-20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	7,334.53	369.19	(891.40)			6,812.32
Other charities	197.50	9,423.89	(2,803.04)		-	6,818.35
Boxes of Hope		22,660.50	(9,200.92)			13,459.58
Stepping Stones		13,000.00	-			13,000.00
Church departments	864.05	205.27	(204.34)		(500.00)	364.98
Totals	8,396.08	45,658.85	(13,099.70)	-	(500.00)	40,455.23

Transfers - a transfer of £500 was made from the restricted fund to the general fund to recognise the clubs' contribution of their surplus towards the church's running costs.

	01-Jan-19	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31-Dec-19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	6,985.49	1,336.37	(987.33)			7,334.53
Other charities	197.50	11,999.97	(11,999.97)		-	197.50
Church departments	625.96	857.76	(619.67)		-	864.05
Totals	7,808.95	14,194.10	- 13,606.97	-	-	8,396.08

Fellowship Fund

this fund is available at the discretion of the Minister and Care Co-ordinators to provide financial assistance to those in specific need

Other charities

this represents gifts which the donor has restricted to other parties in furtherance of the charity's objectives

Church departments

this represents funds related to clubs and groups run by the Church; Luncheon Club, Badminton and Pram Club

19 Designated Funds

	01-Jan-20	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31-Dec-20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	200.48	-	(25,098.13)	-	26,574.00	1,676.35
Totals	200.48	-	(25,098.13)	-	26,574.00	1,676.35

	01-Jan-19	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Transfers	31-Dec-19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	200.48	-	(26,574.00)	-	26,574.00	200.48
Totals	200.48	-	- 26,574.00	-	26,574.00	200.48

Missionary Fund

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to facilitate annually agreed support in the furtherance of the church's charitable objectives

20 Analysis of net assets

	31-Dec-20			
		Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
		£	£	£
General Fund		1,850,000.00	130,355.21	1,980,355.21
Missionary Fund		-	1,676.35	1,676.35
Fellowship Fund		-	6,812.32	6,812.32
Other charities		-	6,818.35	6,818.35
Church departments		-	364.98	364.98
Restricted Projects		-	26,459.58	26,459.58
Totals		1,850,000.00	172,486.79	2,022,486.79

	31-Dec-19			
		Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
		£	£	£
General Fund		2,747,909.00	159,214.36	2,907,123.36
Missionary Fund		-	200.48	200.48
Fellowship Fund		-	7,334.53	7,334.53
Other charities		-	197.50	197.50
Church departments		-	864.05	864.05
Totals		2,747,909.00	167,810.92	2,915,719.92

21 Pensions

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers. For any month, each participating employer in the Scheme pays contributions as set out in the Schedule of Contributions in force at that time. The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, plus any impact of deficiency contributions (see below).

The Minister(s) [and some members of the church staff] is / are eligible to join the Scheme. From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva plc. [Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.] The further 4% contribution rate is reduced to 3% for Employer contributions made to the Segregated DC Arrangement.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £18 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

The key assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of financial assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (RPI)	3.20
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	2.95
- Post retirement	1.70
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension	2.70

- Post-retirement mortality in accordance with 80% of the S3NFA and S3NMA tables, with allowance for future improvements in mortality rates from 2013 in line with the CMI 2019 core projections, with a long term annual rate of improvement of 1.75% for males and 1.5% for females, with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Recovery Plan

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Under the current Recovery Plan dated 30 September 2020, deficiency contributions are

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
	£	£
Balance sheet liability at year start	34,757	31,754
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(2,978)	(3,970)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	615	835
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	(8,873)	6,138
Balance sheet liability at year end	23,521	34,757

* Comprises any change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the

Accounting date	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	31/12/2018
Discount rate	0.4%	1.7%	2.4%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2020 was approximately £226,000 (31 December 2019: £227,000).

22 Related parties

The custodian Trustee of the church is The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Limited. The church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the West of England Baptist Association. The church does not receive any grant funding from either party.

The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 8

The church made a donation to the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission (charity no 233782) as set out in note 8

The church paid a subscription to the Baptist Union of Great Britain amounting to £705 which is included in note 8

Total donations of £13,720 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

Gorse Hill Baptist Church

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