

DIDCOT BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2023

Didcot Baptist Church
Charity Number 1128696

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Annual Report for 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity, Didcot Baptist Church, for 2023.

Charitable Object

The Church is an unincorporated association, governed by a constitution which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the Baptist denomination, to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church will determine.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd on trust which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational structure and decision-making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution. Baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith is the normal mode of entry into the membership of a Baptist Church.

Church Membership is open to those who:

- accept the Beliefs of the Church
- meet the Church's qualification on Baptism
- commit themselves to serving Christ within the Church and beyond
- abide by the decisions of the Church Members' Meeting;
- acknowledge their responsibilities as Church Members
- have their membership application accepted by the Church Members' Meeting.

In regard to Baptismal qualification for Church Membership, the Church operates an open membership. It therefore allows that persons who have not been baptised in the manner described in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle may, at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting, be accepted for full membership based on their own public profession of faith.

The members' meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees, who include the Senior Minister (currently vacant), Associate Minister, Children and Youth Director, Administrator and Treasurer, Elders and Deacons and are collectively known as the Leadership Team who are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable object.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for guidance and decision or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both for its membership and for the community generally. 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 Loving Lord. Our vision is "to be a Welcoming Community, following Jesus, and making Him known".

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the church notice board and the website at www.didcotbaptist.org.uk. A varied programme is also provided for children and young people, on Sundays and also throughout the week. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church holds prayer to be of central importance and seeks to incorporate prayer within our regular activities.

The Church runs a series of house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

Whenever possible, the Church makes available its premises, at nominal cost, to community groups. This is done as part of the outworking of our mission statement, and as an acknowledgement of our commitment to serving our community in various ways.

The Church is itself responsible for the following activities with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ:

- A Toddler Group is run by the church on the Church premises on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. A baby group is run on Wednesday afternoons. The church employs a part-time Toddler & Baby Group Leader to facilitate these groups.
- A Coffee Break group was often run on Monday mornings from the Church premises and was well attended by a mix of people from the church membership and members of the public. In 2022 this became Coffee & Co which ran three days a week and then in 2023 ran on a Monday and supported International Cafe on a Thursday (from June 2023).
- An Emergency Foodbank is operated four hours a week from church premises, led by DBC members, but also supported by several other organisations within the town and volunteers. This is a practical, community-based project aimed at providing short term relief by giving food to people in crisis in our local area.
- A weekly meeting point for the older people of the area provides a varied programme of events and speakers. This is known as Welcome Break and attracts up to 35 people each week.
- A monthly games club attracting a wide variety of people from the community interested in board games and social interaction games.
- A Girls' Brigade Group which provides girls and young women with the opportunity to explore faith, develop leadership and life skills, and to engage in social action.
- Occasional men's events.
- A pastoral team who meet regularly to pray for the church family and provide support through difficult situations and life challenges.

In partnership with other Churches in the Greater Didcot area, DBC supports the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust (registered charity 1194345), operating under the name of ECHO. ECHO is focused on helping young people to discover and share life in all its fullness, by developing a range of provisions e.g., a sports outreach (Soul Sport), Youth Café, and ECHO Events (Discipleship Hub).

Also in partnership with other Churches in Didcot and the surrounding area, DBC supports the work of Didcot and Wallingford Area Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre (registered charity 1160343) (CAP). The Didcot branch of CAP have their office on the church premises and use the space also for prayer meetings, some client visits and celebration events.

Our Children and Youth Director and other volunteer church members support faith engagement in local schools e.g. through prayer spaces, serving as Governors, and attending assemblies.

The Church operates a safeguarding system to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service and receive regular safeguarding training.

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Evangelical Alliance and Welcome Churches. It also has a twinning arrangement with a Baptist Church in El Salvador. Over the years, this arrangement has enabled the church to support university students and to provide housing in El Salvador as part of its mission strategy. The Church is a member of an inter-denominational forum in the town, Churches Together in Didcot and District.

The Church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above, clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas. These would include the practical and emotional support of individuals and families within the church and the wider community. Also, through our support of churches, projects and organisations

with a national and international reach, the impact of the church is seen in the spiritual and physical transformation of lives in places far from our church.

2023 has been a year of a lot of change for the church and through it all our God of faithfulness has shone through. It has been good to see many of the covid restrictions reduced and it is wonderful to now see the building being used by many of our own groups and outside users as well.

We undertook a process to seek a new senior minister during the year with the support of Rev Mike Lowe as a moderator, helping us think through as a church where we are now and what our vision going forward will be, and how this relates to looking for a new minister. At this point the search for a new minister is continuing.

Highlights of the year

- The provision of a Mission Placement for a student at Cliff College who was studying for a BA (Hons) Theology and Ministry degree
- A community fun day to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with over 400 members of the community coming to celebrate with us
- Established an English conversation class in response to refugees in our community, both from Ukraine and other countries, and an international cafe which meets on the same day.
- Hosted a Ukrainian Independence Day party
- Hosted a coffee lounge where people could come free of charge to keep warm, in a welcoming environment
- Soul Sport run by ECHO continued to meet at our premises in order to reduce costs and be able to offer the sessions for children for free as a response to the cost of living crisis. In June they were able to return to St Birinus School.
- We hosted the ECHO Youth Café in the Hub at our premises, visible to young people walking by. Engagement has been continually high, with one week seeing 72 secondary / sixth form students visit after school.
- Supporting the five ECHO events providing the opportunity for young people (and their friends) from different churches to gather together for food, games, and worship. These events have also seen the development of an 'ECHO Young People's Worship Group'.
- Hosting the 'ECHO EXPLORERS - Summer Activity Sessions' for primary school youngsters, building on the great summer work that has taken place in the past (with, for example, things like 'Treasure Times').

Working alongside other churches in Didcot, the church has participated in:

- Didcot and Wallingford Area Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre (registered charity 1160343)
- Didcot Churches Refugee Welcome group

During 2023 four new members were welcomed into membership, two sadly died, and four members resigned, usually due to moving away. The membership on 31 December 2023 stood at 127.

Typical attendances at Sunday worship are difficult to gauge owing to being a mix of live and online throughout the year but attendances have stayed strong with numbers mostly ranging from 120-150 including children.

Through its regular activities the church is in contact with approximately 180 children and young people (0-18 years).

Other activities, including house groups have continued to function, online and in-person at different times of the year.

The church runs Didcot Foodbank which distributed food for 8,590 adults and children during the year (2022: 6,779). This figure includes some repeat visits. Didcot Foodbank is supported by other agencies and churches in the area. In addition, a number of hampers were distributed to families at Christmas identified through working with another charity active in the town, Christians Against Poverty debt centre (registered charity 1160343). In addition to donations of food and other supplies, the Foodbank received financial donations in the year of £55,475 (2022: £52,471).

Financial Review

The church continues to raise the majority of the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, except in the case of the Foodbank where a majority of the income is given by the general public, alongside food donations.

General fund donation income grew by almost 10% or £16,284 to £186,200. During the year two large one-off donations were received totalling £27,000 and these have been designated for future capital projects. Underlying

regular giving fell by 3%, but one-off giving (which includes Sunday offerings) more than offset that fall. Further gifts towards the tithe fund were received (£7,500) but these will not be repeated in future years. Income from the rental of the premises has reduced slightly to £6,720, partly due to the increase in church activities at the premises. Other income rose due to two grants received for both the provision of a new toddler playhouse, and a defibrillator which has been made available to the community. In addition, interest income on cash balances increased by almost £3,000 following the increases in interest rates.

Restricted income fell by 4% following the completion of donations for the Redevelopment fund in the previous year. The majority of restricted income relates to the Foodbank which increased by £3,004 compared with the previous year, a 5.7% increase.

General Fund expenditure fell by £28,834 compared with the previous year, about 17%. This was largely due to a full year with a ministerial vacancy. The church continues to seek a new senior minister. Restricted expenditure largely reflects the cost of running the Foodbank, which has increased since the previous year, partly due to the increased administrative support put in place at the end of the previous year.

The most significant of our general fund expenses relates to the payment of staff to lead and co-ordinate the church's activities including the Sunday Services, to provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and to equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service. In addition to the Associate Minister and the vacancy for a Senior Minister, the church employs (part-time) an Operations Manager and a Toddler Group Leader. We pay Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust for our part-time Children and Youth Director.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants (19% of unrestricted donations) to local, national and international organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

As a result of changes in market conditions and the recovery plan which was put in place, the church no longer holds a defined benefit pension scheme liability. Deficit repayments were ceased part way through 2022 as a result.

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

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy that requires a minimum of three months' expenditure be held in General Reserves at any time. The balance held at the end of the year represented eight months' expenditure (£118k). The Trustees are satisfied they have more than sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with on-going income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year. Given the current level of economic uncertainty, the Trustees consider it prudent to hold a higher level of reserves for the time being, particularly in anticipation of the appointment of a new minister. Although the reserves for the Foodbank are currently high, demand outstripped both food and monetary donations in 2023 and the balance is expected to fall as we meet the needs of the community in the coming year.

Signed by Rev Louise Brown on behalf of the Trustees:

Louise Brown

Date: 4 June 2024

LEGAL INFORMATION

The church is a registered charity number 1128696.

CHURCH ADDRESS

Didcot Baptist Church
43 Wantage Road
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 0BS
Tel: 01235 813187

TRUSTEES

George Ferguson
Joanna Schüder
Martin Clegg
Tayo Adeyemi (until Nov 2023)
Julie Excell
Karen Marriott
Bevan Marchand
Sebastian Campanella
Sara Green (from Nov 2023)

CHURCH TREASURER (also Trustee)

Kate Andrews

CHURCH MINISTER (also Trustee)

Rev Louise Brown

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIRECTOR (also Trustee)

Hannah Field

BANKERS

Charities Aid Foundation
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Richard Wilson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF DIDCOT BAPTIST CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 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:

Richard Wilson

Date 3 June 2024

Richard Wilson, FCMA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	186,200	50,975	-	237,175	228,603
Income from investments	3	13,299	-	-	13,299	10,179
Income from charitable activities	4	334	6,904	-	7,238	8,295
Other trading income	5	6,720	-	-	6,720	8,346
Other income	6	3,654	5,700	-	9,354	-
Total Income		210,207	63,579	-	273,786	255,423
Expenditure						
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	136,867	75,515	-	212,382	226,077
Other expenditure	8	-	-	-	-	720
Total expenditure		136,867	75,515	-	212,382	226,797
Net income/(expenditure)		73,340	(11,936)	-	61,404	28,626
Transfers between funds						
		-	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of property	12	17,660	-	-	17,660	(1,066,173)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	21	-	-	-	-	34,280
Net movement in funds		91,000	(11,936)	-	79,064	(1,003,267)
Fund balances at 1 January						
		478,700	64,569	1,585,000	2,128,269	3,131,536
Fund balances at 31 December						
		569,700	52,633	1,585,000	2,207,333	2,128,269

All the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above. The notes on pages 10 to 18 also form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	1,983,516	1,968,429
Current assets			
Debtors	14	14,879	12,011
Cash at bank and in hand	15	217,156	155,303
Total current assets		232,035	167,314
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(8,218)	(7,474)
Net current assets		223,817	159,840
	20		
Net assets excluding pension liability		2,207,333	2,128,269
Defined benefit pension scheme liability		-	-
Total net assets		2,207,333	2,128,269
 Funds			
Endowed funds	17	1,585,000	1,585,000
Restricted funds	18	52,633	64,569
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	19	451,218	398,795
General fund		118,482	79,905
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve		569,700	478,700
Pension reserve	21	-	-
Total unrestricted funds		569,700	478,700
Total funds		2,207,333	2,128,269

The financial statements on pages 8 to 18 were approved by the Trustees at a meeting of Elders and Deacons and signed on their behalf by:

Kate Andrews, Treasurer

Date: 4 June 2024

The notes on pages 10 to 18 also form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2021), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of properties. The Trustees have reviewed the church's forecasts and projections, and consider that the church is well placed to manage the risks it faces, with an appropriate level of reserves and cash balances. The Trustees therefore have reasonable expectation that the church has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and believe there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the ability of the church to continue as a going concern. Therefore, the going concern basis has been adopted in preparing the financial statements.

Didcot Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1128696 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value.

Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when notified of entitlement, providing the amount can be accurately measured and receipt is probable.

Investment income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs of raising funds

The church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

Grants Payable

This Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objectives complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

Support Costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance costs. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. These intangible costs are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, as a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt.

There is no reliable information available for the cost of the church premises or the manse and so on first time adoption of FRS102, the insurance value used previously was adopted as deemed cost. The manse is revalued each year based upon the insurance valuation as reliable cost information is not available. The church has been valued by a RICS qualified surveyor as at 31 December 2022.

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Freehold land	Nil
Furniture and fittings	4 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Depreciation has not been charged on the church premises and the manse as they are revalued each year.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church premises reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on revaluation of the property form part of the fund.

Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan.

Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and grants	159,286	43,845	203,131	188,754
Legacies	-	-	-	5,000
Tax refunds	26,914	7,130	34,044	34,849
Total	186,200	50,975	237,175	228,603

In 2022 £58,787 of the donations and legacies income was attributable to restricted funds, with the remaining £169,816 being attributable to unrestricted funds.

3 Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Bank interest	3,394	-	3,394	400
Manse rental	9,905	-	9,905	9,779
Total	13,299	-	13,299	10,179

In 2022, all of the investment income was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Income from church activities	334	6,904	7,238	8,295
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-
Total	334	6,904	7,238	8,295

In 2022, all £7,643 was attributable to restricted funds.

5 Other Trading income

Other trading income arises from the rental of the premises to community organisations when not in use for church activities. All income is unrestricted.

6 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Government grants	3,654	5,000	8,654	-
Other grants	-	700	700	-
	3,654	5,700	9,354	-

In 2022, all amounts were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Ministry	54,182	-	54,182	86,964
Mission	32,984	66,132	99,116	78,016
Establishment and Premises	49,701	9,383	59,084	61,097
	136,867	75,515	212,382	226,077

In 2022, £51,280 mission costs and £9,816 establishment and premises costs were attributable to restricted funds.

Ministry includes the costs of those employed to carry out the ministry of the church, including ministers and youth workers. Mission represents grants made and outreach activities including the provision of food supplies at the Foodbank (restricted funds). Establishment and premises includes support costs for the church, premises costs and the fellowship activities of the church including the costs of services, children and youth groups, other fellowship groups and an employed toddler group leader.

7 Charitable Activities (continued)

Support costs are included in Establishment and premises and the amounts included within these figures are broken down as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Administration	11,003	5,494	16,497	13,864
IT	5,609	-	5,609	4,992
Subscriptions	874	-	874	842
Bank charges	135	730	865	728
	<u>17,621</u>	<u>6,224</u>	<u>23,845</u>	<u>20,426</u>

In 2022 all support costs other than £1,700 administration and £624 bank charges were attributable to unrestricted funds.

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest charge on pension liability	-	-	-	720

In 2022, all other expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds.

9 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
Home Mission – core grant	10,718	-	10,718	9,961
BMS World Mission – core grant	10,718	1,086	11,804	9,081
El Salvador	-	-	-	1,272
ECHO	3,000	-	3,000	-
Christians against Poverty	6,500	-	6,500	5,500
Other grants and special gifts	1,250	-	1,250	1,700
	<u>32,186</u>	<u>1,086</u>	<u>33,272</u>	<u>27,514</u>

In 2022, £1,772 grants payable were attributable to restricted funds.

10 Net income for the year

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Independent examiners' remuneration	Nil	Nil

11 Staff costs and Trustees' expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	49,971	66,275
Social security costs	-	1,313
Pension costs	3,788	5,632
Redundancy payments	-	4,356
Other remuneration	-	8,533
	<u>53,759</u>	<u>86,109</u>

The average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year was 2 (2022: 4). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2022: none).

The Senior Minister and the Associate Minister act as the church's trustees in accordance with the constitution and with formal assent from the Charity Commission.

In 2022, Rev O'Brien received remuneration and benefits of £33,829 in respect of his services as Minister up to his date of leaving in September 2022, including the provision of manse accommodation rented by the church from the Minister. Rev Brown received remuneration of £37,559 (2022: £34,353) in respect of her services as Minister.

£14,951 was paid to the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust (2022: £13,735) for the services of Hannah Field as the Children and Youth Director.

£nil in total was reimbursed to the Trustees in respect of expenses incurred as Trustees (2022: £nil). Those with ministerial office, who are also Trustees, are deemed to have incurred expenses in discharging their duties as ministers, rather than as Trustees. During the year, the church received donations of £41,197 from the Trustees (2022: £37,197). All donations were received for general funds.

The church pays pension contributions for its Associate Minister to the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan of the Baptist Ministers Pension. Further details are set out in note 21. Pension contributions under auto-enrolment obligations for other staff are made to NEST pensions.

Total aggregate remuneration paid to key management personnel during the year was £37,559 (2020: £68,182).

12 Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets held for the charity's own use

Gains and losses on property assets were recognised during the year. The manse value is based on the revised insurance valuations received from the Baptist Insurance Company PLC. The church value is based upon a valuation carried out by David Parlett, MRICS at 31 March 2022.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Church premises	-	(1,124,298)
Manse	17,660	58,125
	<u>17,660</u>	<u>(1,066,173)</u>

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Church Premises £	Manse £	Furniture and Fittings £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<i>Cost</i>					
At 1 January 2023	1,980,357	250,000	55,950	2,996	2,289,303
Additions	-	-	1,057	-	1,057
At 31 December 2023	1,980,357	250,000	57,007	2,996	2,290,360
<i>Depreciation</i>					
At 1 January 2023	-	-	48,844	2,408	51,252
Depreciation charge	-	-	3,273	357	3,630
At 31 December 2023	-	-	52,117	2,765	54,882
<i>Gain/loss on revaluation</i>					
At 1 January 2023	(395,357)	125,735	-	-	(269,622)
Gain/(loss) for the year	-	17,660	-	-	17,660
At 31 December 2023	(395,357)	143,395	-	-	(251,962)
<i>Net book value</i>					
31 December 2023	1,585,000	393,395	4,890	231	1,983,516
31 December 2022	1,585,000	375,735	7,106	588	1,968,429

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the church premises and the adjacent manse.

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	270	-
Accrued income	10,648	5,657
Prepayments and other debtors	3,962	6,354
	14,879	12,011

15 Bank and cash balances

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	212,931	149,883
Other (organisation accounts)	4,225	5,420
	217,156	155,303

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	7,571	6,576
Deferred income	300	598
Other creditors	347	300
	8,218	7,474

17 Endowment Funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Gains/(losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
Church Premises reserve	1,585,000	-	1,585,000

The Church Premises reserve represents the value attributed to the Church premises, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.

18 Restricted funds

	1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	31 December 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Foodbank	54,686	55,475	(65,385)	-	44,776
Other restricted funds under £3,000	4,463	1,200	(2,036)	-	3,627
Church organisations	5,420	6,904	(8,094)	-	4,230
	64,569	63,579	(75,515)	-	52,633

The Foodbank fund represents funds received to support the local foodbank in Didcot which is an activity of the church.

	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
Restricted funds			
Foodbank	1,548	43,228	44,776
Other restricted funds under £3,000	-	3,627	3,627
Church organisations	-	4,230	4,230
	1,548	51,085	52,633

19 Designated funds

	1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Transfers £	31 December 2023 £
Designated funds						
Fixed assets reserve	380,333	-	-	17,660	(1,025)	396,968
Tithe	18,462	7,538	-	-	-	26,000
Capital projects	-	-	-	-	27,000	27,000
Defibrillator maintenance	-	-	-	-	1,250	1,250
	398,795	7,538	-	17,660	27,225	451,218

The fixed assets reserve represents amounts set aside equivalent to the net book value of property and equipment used by the church and purchased from unrestricted funds. The tithe represents amounts given which have been set aside to bless other charities as a thanksgiving for the funds raised for the redevelopment project. Following receipt of two large one-off donations during 2023, the church decided to set the funds aside for future capital projects, including the updating of the sound system during 2024. A gift was made to the church to make available a defibrillator – subsequent grant funding was received which covered the entire cost, so the original gift has been designated to cover maintenance of the defibrillator in subsequent years.

	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Total £
Designated funds			
Fixed assets reserve	396,968	-	380,333
Tithe	-	26,000	18,462
Capital projects	-	27,000	27,000
Defibrillator maintenance	-	1,250	1,250
	396,968	54,250	451,218

Movements on the pension reserve are set out in note 21.

20 Analysis of net assets

	Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long term liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£
Analysis of net assets				
Endowment funds	1,585,000	-	-	1,585,000
Restricted funds	1,548	51,085	-	52,633
Designated funds	396,968	54,250	-	451,218
Unrestricted funds	-	118,482	-	118,482
Pension reserve	-	-	-	-
	1,983,516	223,817	-	2,207,333

21 Pensions

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

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. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a 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.

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 Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. 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 if 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 Limited.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

The Ministers are eligible to join the Scheme.

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, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increase adjustment (above CPI)	0.50
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	2.70

Mortality is assumed in accordance with 80% of the S3NA standard mortality table. Future improvements projected from 2013 in line with the "CMI 2019" projection with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.75% for males

21 Pensions (continued)

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 of 31 December 2022 and is currently in progress.

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 were 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 30 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.

Movement in Balance Sheet liability

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance sheet liability at year start	-	38,500
Minus deficiency contributions paid	-	(4,940)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	-	720
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	-	(34,280)
Balance sheet liability at year end	-	-

* 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:

	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2020
Discount rate	n/a%	5.7%	2.0%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	n/a%	3.3%	4.1%

22 Related Charities and Related Party Transactions

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Registered Charity No. 249635) which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association.

Rev L Brown, is a trustee of the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust (Registered Charity No. 1194345) who run ECHO. The church made a grant of £3,000 to the charity (2022: nil). The church also paid the charity £14,951 (2022: £13,735) for the services of Hannah Field as Children and Youth Director.