ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, KENT

England & Wales · Charity number 1130593

Details

Other names	ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Ashford Baptist Church St. Johns Lane Ashford Kent TN23 1PS
Phone	01233 625542
Email	office@ashfordbaptist.org.uk
Website	www.ashfordbaptist.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: Church services, prayer meetings and small group meetings. Youth & children's groups and events, Seniors groups and events. Boys & Girls Brigades. Support for other charities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£145,658	£188,718	-	-
2023-12-31	£154,618	£184,140	-	-
2022-12-31	£140,175	£154,930	-	-
2021-12-31	£145,937	£230,291	-	-
2020-12-31	£173,845	£177,781	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Chau Yuk Liu		2025-01-01
Corrine Hussain		2025-01-01
Jamie Phipps		2025-05-25
Olorunfemi Anu Akinola		2025-01-01
Omole Ayeni		2024-01-01
Peter Mellowship		2025-01-01
Pieter-Hendrik Green		2025-01-01
Stephen Ley		2025-01-01

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130593

Accounts

Ashford Baptist Church

Registered Charity Number: 1130593

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ending 31st December 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Charity Number	1130593
Registered Address	Ashford Baptist Church St John's Lane Ashford Kent TN23 1PS
Ministers	Rev. Rob Sylvester (Resigned 07/07/2024) Rev. Lorna Sylvester (Resigned 07/07/2024)
Secretary	Helen Wilson (Re-Elected 01/01/2024, Resigned 31/12/2024)
Treasurer	Jamie Phipps (Elected 25/05/2025), Vacant Before
Deacons	Joy Butcher (Elected 01/01/2024, Resigned 31/12/2024) Omole Ayeni (Elected 01/01/2024) Quentin Ma (Elected 01/01/2023, Resigned 30/06/2025) Olorunfemi Anu Akinola (Elected 01/01/2025) Corrine Hussain (Elected 01/01/2025) Pieter-Hendrik Green (Elected 01/01/2025) Stephen Ley (Elected 01/01/2025) Chau Yuk Liu (Elected 01/01/2025) Peter Mellowship (Elected 01/01/2025)
Trustees	The Ministers, Secretary, Treasurer and Deacons comprise the Trustees of the Church
Property Trustees	The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. Baptist House 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
Independent Examiner	Katherine Reka FCCA Affinity Associates (AU) Ltd Suite A, First Floor Unit 1 Eurogate Business Park Ashford Kent TN24 8XW

Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 38 High Street Ashford Kent TN24 8TG	Lloyds Bank 81 High Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SS

Annual Report for 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report for 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Ashford Baptist Church is a registered charity, number 1130593, and is governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches. The constitution was adopted on 20th March 2008 and last amended on 6th July 2022. The Church is affiliated with the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) and the South Eastern Baptist Association (SEBA).

The Trustees comprise the Minister(s), Deacons and Officers (Secretary and Treasurer). Ministers, having been appointed by the church Members at a Special Church Members' meeting, are ex-officio trustees and are remunerated by the church. No other Trustees are remunerated. Trustees, with the exception of Ministers, are appointed from within the membership by a vote of the Members, in accordance with the Constitution. Collectively, the Trustees, being the leadership team of the church, are responsible for the day-to-day running of the church, its work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity.

The Deacons' (or Trustees / Leadership Team) meetings are typically held monthly in order to support a range of activities. This may include discerning God's direction for the church, overseeing church activities, discussing pastoral situations, maintaining the church's buildings, appointing staff, points of administration, and financial matters.

Important decisions are referred to church Members' meetings, held at least four times per year. Church Members come together in these meetings to discern the will of God to make decisions on such matters as church membership applications, the appointment of ministers and other trustees, and other significant decisions relating to the church's life and mission. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. 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

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

To achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to 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 living Lord. 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 10:30, There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised through church notices, the website at www.ashfordbaptist.org.uk, and various social media channels.

There is a full children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of 'life 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.

From time to time the Church runs courses and activities often focussing on particular demographics, to support members of the congregation in discipleship or support the local community. In particular, a dynamic and engaging programme of children's, youth and family fellowship activities are provided to help all those involved with the church grow in community and faith.

We are blessed to enjoy the fellowship or a broad range of nationalities who make our congregation richer. Our established Napali community continues to meet on Sunday afternoons for worship as well as meeting regularly with the wider Napali fellowship in Kent. Similarly our congregation at Boughton Chapel continues to meet monthly, comprising a committed and consistent community.

The Church takes the safeguarding of our community serious and operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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 like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2024 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2025 with renewed enthusiasm.

Four people were baptised during the year and we rejoiced in the dedication of two children. Attendance at Sunday morning services and other weekly activities remains strong and comprises a wide range of nationalities and ages.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

Income in 2024 decreased to £145,658 from £154,618 in the previous year, a result of a general reduction in the level of giving. The most significant expenses for the year related to ministerial stipends and the costs of the two staff workers employed by the church. Collectively the ministers and staff workers act as key roles in the coordination and leadership of the Church, providing teaching, practical and pastoral support, as well as equipping and encouraging the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants totalling £24,181 to local, national and international Christian organisations and missionaries 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.

Total expenditure increased from £184,140 to £188,718, primarily due to increases in staff costs. Improvements in buildings and facilities made up a significant further component of expenditure.

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

The Church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension Scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments of £1 per month to cover the costs of past service of its staff within the scheme. The church has no plan to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy to enable the church to function effectively and meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost.

Having considered the relevant risks of changes in income and expenditure, the Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is £30,000. As at 31 December 2024, the church held reserves of £150,642, representing the unrestricted funds available for use.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 14th October 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jamie Phipps, Treasurer
14th October 2025

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income and Endowments From							
Donations and Legacies	3	111,883	-	11,984	-	123,867	142,240
Investments	4	2,663	-	1,936	-	4,599	5,377
Charitable Activities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Trading Activities	5	8,855	-	3,723	-	12,578	7,001
Other	6	3,707	-	907	-	4,613	-
Total Income		**127,108**	**-**	**18,549**	**-**	**145,658**	**154,618**
Expenditure							
Raising Funds	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	8	156,670	-	31,591	-	188,261	183,201
Other	9	456	-	-	-	456	939
Total Expenditure		**157,127**	**-**	**31,591**	**-**	**188,718**	**184,140**
Net Income / (Expenditure) Before Gains and Losses on Investments		**(30,019)**	**-**	**(13,042)**	**-**	**(43,060)**	**(29,522)**
Net Gains / (Losses) on Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the Year		**(30,019)**	**-**	**(13,042)**	**-**	**(43,060)**	**(29,522)**
Transfers Between Funds	14						
Transfers In		-	-	-	-	-	1,141
Transfers Out		-	-	-	-	-	(1,641)
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)							
Gains / (Losses) on Investment Assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Gains on Revaluation of Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial Gains / (Losses) on Defined Benefit Pension Schemes		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		**(30,019)**	**-**	**(13,042)**	**-**	**(43,060)**	**(30,022)**
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total Funds Brought Forward		**181,936**	**-**	**118,219**	**-**	**300,155**	**330,177**
Total Funds Carried Forward		**151,918**	**-**	**105,178**	**-**	**257,095**	**300,155**

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	16		1,277		1,723
Investments			-		-
			1,277		1,723
Current Assets					
Stocks		-		-	
Debtors	17	6,889		7,984	
Investments		-		-	
Cash at Bank and In-Hand	18	249,455		290,499	
		256,343		298,483	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	19	525		50	
		525		50	
Net Current Assets			255,819		298,433
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			257,095		300,155
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year	20		-		-
Net Assets Excluding Pension Liability			257,095		300,155
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme			-		-
Asset or Liability			-		-
Total Net Assets or Liabilities			257,095		300,155
Represented By					
Endowment Funds			-		-
Restricted Funds	21		105,178		118,219
Designated Funds			-		-
Unrestricted Funds			151,918		181,936
Total Charity Funds			**257,095**		**300,155**

The notes on pages 9 to 19 form an integral part of these accounts. These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 14th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Jamie Phipps
Treasurer

Stephen Ley
Deacon

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the, Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

Ashford Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1130593 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a 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.

b Donations

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

c Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be reliably quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church.

d Investment Income

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

e Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognized 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.

f Costs of Raising Funds

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

g Grants Payable

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

h 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 cost. 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. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

i Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt.

The Church owns freehold property at Station Road / St John's Lane, Ashford; the manse at 23 Magazine Road, Ashford; and leasehold land and buildings at Boughton Aluph Chapel. The original value of the buildings and costs of improvements on them until 2024 have not been included in the Balance Sheet because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the costs of professionally valuing these assets to include a value in the accounts outweighs the benefits to the users of the accounts. For reference however, the insurance values of the properties are £3.9m (Station Road), £1.0m (Manse) and £0.3m (Boughton Chapel), totalling £5.2m.

j Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on fixed assets, to write off the cost over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Motor Vehicles	20% Straight-Line Basis
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	15% on Written Down Value
Computers and Equipment	33.3% Straight-Line Basis

The church buildings and manse properties are not subject to depreciation as the intention is to maintain the buildings in such good repair that they continue to have an indeterminate useful life and the residual value of the properties is such that any change would be immaterial.

k Investment Assets

Investments are initially stated at cost. Subsequently they are measured at fair value with changes recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. All other investment assets are shown at cost less impairment.

l 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 specific 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 specific 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. The church currently does not have any endowment funds.

m 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, or was 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. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost and any other change in the measurement of this liability is expensed to the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Donations and Legacies				
Offerings	91,206	10,713	101,919	100,975
Gift Aid	20,677	546	21,224	22,856
Gift Days	-	725	725	18,409
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Total	111,883	11,984	123,867	142,240

4 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	2,663	1,936	4,599	5,377
Rent Received	-	-	-	-
Income from Other Investments	-	-	-	-
Total	2,663	1,936	4,599	5,377

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Income from Other Trading Activities				
Lettings	2,730	1,650	4,380	2,860
Fund-Raising Activities	6,125	2,073	8,198	4,141
Total	8,855	3,723	12,578	7,001

6 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Other Income				
Other Income	3,707	907	4,613	-
Total	3,707	907	4,613	-

7 RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Total	-	-	-	-

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Allocation of Support Costs	2024	2023
Charitable Activities					
Ministry and Mission	84,338	9,670	61,370	155,378	183,201
Other	-	19,896	12,988	32,884	-
Total	84,338	29,566	74,358	188,261	183,201

A breakdown of support Allocation of Support Costs is included in Note 10. This includes £2,025 expenditure of restricted funds. A breakdown between Direct Charitable Activities and grants payable to others is included in Note 11. Detail of the grants payable is provided in Note 12.

Ministry and Mission includes expenditure on the primary charitable activities of the church, Other comprises charitable expenditure relating to associated activities where it is useful to identify expenditure separately.

9 OTHER EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Other Expenditure				
Depreciation	446	-	446	927
Independent Examination	-	-	-	-
Pension Defiiciency	10	-	10	12
Total	456	-	456	939

10 SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Support Costs				
Staff Costs	8,877	-	8,877	5,158
Administration	7,579	-	7,579	9,338
Training	2,585	-	2,585	3,576
Buildings				
Utilities and Services	32,136	1,677	33,813	34,971
Repairs and Maintenance	18,404	278	18,682	20,395
Vehicles	2,387	-	2,387	2,745
Other Costs				
Other Support Costs	364	70	434	1,895
Total	72,332	2,025	74,358	78,078

11 EXPENDITURE

	Direct Charitable	Grants Payable	Allocated Support Costs	Total
Expenditure				
Ministy and Mission	69,827	24,181	61,370	155,378
Other	19,896	-	12,988	32,884
Total	89,722	24,181	74,358	188,261

12 GRANTS PAYABLE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
Grants Payable				
BUGB Home Mission	5,552	-	5,552	6,332
BMS World Mission	5,552	-	5,552	6,332
Frizelle	3,600	5,748	9,348	8,896
Mission Aviation Fellowship	-	1,295	1,295	-
Wilson	-	-	-	3,503
Other (Gifts of £1,000 or less)	200	2,234	2,434	3,745
Total	14,904	9,277	24,181	28,808

13 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

	2024	2023
Net income for the year is stated after charing / (crediting)		
Independent Examiners' Remuneration	-	-
Other Services	-	-
Loss / (Gain) on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	-
Total	-	-

14 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2024	2023
Transfers Between Funds		
RF1 Wilson	-	-
RF2 Frizelle	-	-
RF3 Lite Bite	-	-
RF4 Coffee Morning	-	-
RF5 Luncheon Club	-	-
RF6 Fellowship Fund	-	(500)
RF7 Other Mission Giving	-	-
RF8 Gift Days	-	-
RF10 Boughton Chapel	-	-
RF11 Boys Brigade	-	-
RF13 Youth Camp	-	(1,141)
RF14 Brook Chapel Fund	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	-	1,641
Total	-	-

15 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES EXPENSES

	2024	2023
Staff Costs and Trustees Expenses		
Stipends and Salaries	55,866	61,789
Employer's National Insurance	3,828	4,452
NI Allowance	(3,828)	(4,452)
Pension Costs	6,176	6,955
Council Tax and Utilities	3,518	5,515
Travel Expenses	545	1,482
Total	66,105	75,741

The average number of employees during the year was	3	3

No employee received total emoluments in excess of £60,000 furing the year.

A number of trustees and related parties were reimbursed for expenses incurred wholly and exclusively for the charitable activities of the church. Such expenditure is not disclosed.

The Ministers act as church trustees in accordance with the Constitution and received remuneration of £26,396 and other benefits in respect of their services as Ministers, including the provision of manse accommodation owned by the church.

The Church pays pension contributions for the Ministers to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme. For service up to 2012, the Scheme provided benefits on a defined benefit basis. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme, and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the defined benefit section which are attributed to the church. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

16 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Vehicles	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
Tangible Fixed Assets				
Cost				
01 January 2024	18,991	43,158	7,010	69,159
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(1,324)	(1,324)
31 December 2024	18,991	43,158	5,686	67,835
Depreciation				
01 January 2024	(18,991)	(41,656)	(6,789)	(67,436)
Charge for the Year	-	(225)	(221)	(446)
On Disposals	-	-	1,324	1,324
31 December 2024	(18,991)	(41,881)	(5,686)	(66,558)
Net Book Value				
01 January 2024	-	1,502	221	1,723
31 December 2024	-	1,277	-	1,277

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

17 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
Debtors		
Gift Aid	5,001	4,744
Other Accrued Income	485	-
Prepayments and Other Debtors	1,403	3,240
31 December	6,889	7,984

18 BANK AND CASH BALANCES

	2024	2023
Bank and Cash Balances		
HSBC Current Account	3,513	1,035
HSBC Savings Account	121,265	153,618
Lloyds Savings Account	30,000	30,000
Boughton HSBC Account	7,959	4,588
Boys Brigade Account	1,889	3,304
Girls Brigade Account	-	-
Youth Camp Account	-	-
Brook Chapel Fund	84,788	97,716
Unbanked Donations	-	196
Petty Cash	40	40
Total	249,455	290,499

19 CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		
Loans and Overdrafts	-	-
Other Creditors	-	50
Accruals and Deferred Income	525	-
Total	525	50

20 CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
Creditors Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year		
Loans	-	-
Total	-	-

21 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	01 January 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains and Loses	Transfers	31 December 2024
Restricted Funds						
Wilson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frizelle	-	5,748	(5,748)	-	-	-
Lite Bite	912	-	(52)	-	-	860
Coffee Morning	3,557	110	-	-	-	3,667
Lunch Club	4,013	10	(161)	-	-	3,863
Fellowship Fund	1,543	1,545	(1,813)	-	-	1,276
Other Mission	405	581	(946)	-	-	40
Gift Days	16,939	200	(16,408)	-	-	732
Boughton	4,693	6,346	(2,975)	-	-	8,064
Boys Brigade	3,304	2,073	(3,488)	-	-	1,889
Girls Brigade	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Camp	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brook Chapel Fund	82,853	1,936	-	-	-	84,788
Total	118,219	18,549	(31,591)	-	-	105,178

Purpose of the Restricted Funds

Wilson	Fund to support overseas mission work through individual.
Frizelle	Fund to support overseas mission work through individual.
Lite Bite	Elderly support activity fund.
Coffee Morning	Elderly support activity fund.
Lunch Club	Elderly support activity fund.
Fellowship Fund	Fund to meet ad-hoc pastoral support needs.
Other Mission	Other mission giving activity fund.
Gift Days	Speacialist fundraising, generally for facilities upgrades.
Boughton	Fund for the work of Boughton Chapel.
Boys Brigade	Transactional fund for children and youth work through the Boys Brigade and Girls Association.
Girls Brigade	Former Girls Brigade fund for children and youth work - now closed.
Youth Camp	Fund to support youth work through annual youth camp activity - now closed.
Brook Chapel Fund	Fund held folloing closure of Brook Chapel to support development of church buildings.

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total
Restricted Funds				
Wilson	-	-	-	-
Frizelle	-	-	-	-
Lite Bite	-	-	860	860
Coffee Morning	-	-	3,667	3,667
Lunch Club	-	-	3,863	3,863
Fellowship Fund	-	-	1,276	1,276
Other Mission	-	-	40	40
Gift Days	-	-	732	732
Boughton	-	-	8,064	8,064
Boys Brigade	-	-	1,889	1,889
Girls Brigade	-	-	-	-
Youth Camp	-	-	-	-
Brook Chapel Fund	-	-	84,788	84,788
Total	-	-	105,178	105,178

22 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total
Analysis of Net Assets				
Restricted Funds per Note 21	-	-	105,178	105,178
Unrestricted Funds	1,277	-	150,641	151,918
Total	1,277	-	255,819	257,095

23 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 Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund, started in 1925. At the beginning of the financial year, the scheme comprised of a defined benefits scheme which was closed to future accrual on 31 December 2011 and a defined contribution plan which was opened in January 2012.The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For the current financial year, the pension provision for members of the Scheme is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. 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. Furthermore, members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

In October 2024, the insurance company Just Group completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022 also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just Group from that date.

The Ministers and staff workers are eligible to join the Scheme.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The present value of the agreed deficit contributions were immaterial at the beginning of the financial year and were fully extinguished once buy out was completed by Just Group in October 2024.

24 RELATED CHARITIES

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the (state) Baptist Association.

There were no transactions between the church and its related charities during the year.

In October 2024, the insurance company Just Group completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022 also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just Group from that date.

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Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The present value of the agreed deficit contributions were immaterial at the beginning of the financial year and were fully extinguished once buy out was completed by Just Group in October 2024.

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
(Registered Charity No. 1130593)

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Ashford Baptist Church
On the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church'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;
- 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 church 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:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records;
- 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 come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed *Katherine Reka*

Name Katherine Reka FCCA

Address Affinity Associates (AU) Ltd
Suite A, First Floor
Unit 1
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8XW

Date 14th October 2025

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130593

Accounts

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

With a Mission at Boughton Aluph

Ashford Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2023

Legal and Administrative Information

(as at 31 December 2023)

Ministers	Rev Lorna Clark Sylvester and Rev Rob Sylvester (Appointed 01 06 2015)
Secretary	Helen Wilson (Re-Elected 01 01 23 – 4th Year)
Treasurer	Samuel Deans (Elected 17 05 23. Resigned 14 11 23)
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Book Keeper	Lynn Oliver
Youth, Families and Community Worker	Louisa Ley (Appointed 15 05 23)
Children's Worker and Administrator	Rachael Cox (Appointed 30 05 23)
Deacons	Helen Wilson (Elected 01 01 18) Laxmiprasad (Daniel) Rai (Elected 01 01 21) Man Kumar (John) Sunwar (Elected 01 01 21) Rachel Phipps (Elected 01 01 22. Resigned 06 11 23) Jamie Phipps (Elected 01 01 22. Resigned 06 11 23) Quentin Ma (Elected 01 01 23) Stephen Ley (Elected 01 01 23. Resigned 20 11 13) Sammy Deans (Elected 17 05 23. Resigned 14 11 12

The Deacons and Ministers together comprise the Managing Trustees of the Church

Registered Charity Number	1130593
Principal Address	Ashford Baptist Church Saint John's Lane Ashford, Kent TN23 1PS
Governing Document	Church Constitution adopted on 20 03 2008 (amended on 06 07 22)
Independent Examiner	Katherine Reka FCCA Office 43, Cobalt Building 1600 Eureka Park Lower Pemberton Ashford Kent TN25 4BF

Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 39 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8TG	Lloyds Bank 81 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8SS

Ministers' Annual Report 2023

Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3;13-14

The year 2023 was the second full year back in the church building for face-to-face worship.... we thank God for his faithfulness throughout the year, another extraordinary time, in the everyday life of the family of God here at ABC.

The year began as it ended in 2022 with more and more friends from the Home Office being accommodated at the Holiday Inn, Kennington, coming to us for welcome, worship and belonging. Families and individuals from all over the world finding a home, and safety among us. Iranian and Albanian asylum seekers joined us, as well as others. The church response was amazingly generously with time, resources, kindness, welcome and hospitality. We received much from our new friends, in terms of new perspectives on faith, friendship and knowing that as "we did it for one of the least of these, we did it for Jesus" [Matthew 25]. Some of our new friends came to faith others confirmed their faith sharing in baptism and coming into church membership, many too becoming involved in the team and ministry at ABC, sharing moving testimonies of the countries and conditions they had fled from.

We have a permanent reminder of our new friends in the painting in the sanctuary that Maryam did, of Jesus and the Woman at the Well in John 4, the lectern hanging that Negar made for the church and the Iranian Old Testament book that Haleh, Negar, and Zeynab made, by our Iranian believer friends. Also, others contributed to the sharing of Iranian music in worship, with Asma and her son Arsan and Denisa sharing in the worship team - others in welcoming and hospitality, serving in their new home.

During 2023 the other significant movement of families and individuals from the majority world, also came to work in Ashford and brought their faith and experience of God to ABC. Again, brining significant growth and variety to ABC. We are blessed that many in ABC who have been at the church for a long time saw this growth in the church as an answer to their prayers for new people and children to re energise us. Colossians 2;2-4 [MSG] -we want God to weave us together - Paul to *the Colossians I want you woven into a tapestry of love, into a truly multi-cultural community of God.*

For some years we had been exploring the possibility of employing staff workers and had been unable to find the right resource. Because of the increased numbers of families, children, and youth, we felt an urgent need to resource this and appointed two part-time staff workers from within the church, to minister in the area of children's work and admin, youth, community and refugees, on a 3-year contract.

In terms of Sundays, we were enriched by the contribution of many throughout the year - in Sunday groups for children and youth, welcoming, hospitality, worship, and technology. Preaching included the early church, Acts of the apostles, and the Psalms in all their variety - with baptisms, dedications and many coming into church membership.

Our Nepalese Community continued their worship Sunday by Sunday and their regular 2pm Service time, as well as serving within the morning congregation. Boughton Chapel with their community lunches, coffee mornings and outreaches, engaged locally, as well as a monthly communion service on a Sunday. Our Minister Rob continued to chair CTA; having close relationships with the other churches in Ashford, ministering and worshipping together, with an emerging ministry of chaplains to the Outlet shopping centre beginning.

The changes continued in the late summer as we said goodbye to Phil Martin and Jane Martin leader of the music group and worship leader, respectively. They had played a huge part in the life of the church through the music and worship, and technology and now were moving on. Alison O'Donnel has taken on the leadership of the music group.

In terms of the fabric of the church, whilst we still await the completion of the building project, refurb continued with a gift day and generous giving, so that there is now a fund for new lighter chairs and tables and perhaps new flooring too - all helpful with the different type of services we do and the multi-use of the worship space.

We continued to think about our community and remaining safe and to that end, all those working with families, children, and vulnerable adults, continued to train with SEBA to have DBS. We showed the Level 1 Safeguarding Training Video within the Sunday service again for everyone to see. Additionally, we restricted our livestreaming of services to community members only.

So, we look back with wonder and awe, much thankfulness for one another and for Our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, an unchanging loving God, steadfast and active in times of change for all of us at ABC.
Rev Lorna Sylvester-Minister March 2024 [on behalf of Lorna and Rob Sylvester joint ministers

Church Secretary's Report 2023

Reflecting back over our church life this past year, it has been a busy year and has flown by for me. God has continued to bless us with more children and young people. It has been a privilege to welcome many new people from other parts of the country and the world, including refugees and asylum seekers, and to see them settle into the life of the church and become members. We have also experienced others moving away.

We have celebrated 7 baptisms and 2 dedications.

We were pleased to employ a part-time Administrator and Children's Worker and a Family, Youth and Community Worker in May 2023. Handing over the daily administration has been a blessing for me. We have seen our children's and youth work flourish, for which we give thanks.

This year, we have again focused on community and fellowship events to enable us to get to know one another. This has included newcomers' lunches, curry evening, bluebell walk followed by afternoon tea and scones, BBQs, the paddle sport event in Hythe, coffee mornings and afternoons, Tearfund Quiz, and a Christmas Lunch and other events.

Our café church style service has become a regular event.

We enjoyed welcoming Joy Ransom from BMS, in October, as she retired from her work in Nepal and Peter and Andrea Frizelle and family, for an extended stay from mid-December to January. Peter had opportunity to share more about his work in Guatemala.

Our Senior Support Team has provided themed lunches and talks every quarter; the inclusion of communion has been a blessing to many.

The Wednesday Women's Life Group has grown over the past year with a regular attendance of 18. We give thanks to those who have shared in the teaching. Our evening Life Groups have continued.

Our Nepalese Fellowship continue to worship on Sunday afternoons.

We give thanks for the ongoing commitment of the Music Group/Worship Team, and especially for those who have stepped up in helping to lead worship, following Jane and Phil Martin leaving. The church's involvement in the Family, Food and Fun Project (funded by Ashford Together) has continued during the school holidays when able. It has been encouraging to open the church to the community of Ashford. We give thanks for all those involved and pray that funding will continue.

We know there are many people who work in the background of church life, for which we give thanks: - our Sunday School Teachers, our Refreshment and Stewarding Teams, PA and Sound Desk Teams (assisting with livestreaming), communion servers, maintenance, cleaning, and security and others.

I give thanks to those who have supported me. During this past year the leadership team have sought God's continued guidance and presence. As we came to the end of 2023, I look to the verses in Psalm 37: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this".

Helen Wilson 1 March 2024

SAFEGUARDING REPORT for 2023

Safeguarding involves a range of activities aimed at promoting every person's fundamental right to be safe. These include:
- making and maintaining safe environments for all,
- having processes to follow should something go wrong, and
- providing support for everyone involved.

2023 has been a very busy year of highs and lows. March 18th was one of the highs. We had a happy and productive training day here at ABC which was led by the SEBA Safeguarding Lead, Wendy Mann. She visited earlier in the year to give encouragement as we welcomed in the surge of new children including those from the Holiday Inn and was very complimentary on the way the children's and young people's workers had adapted and adjusted. She was impressed with the knowledge she found here on the training day and the team spirit she found among us.

One of the lows came when this wise and warm woman completed her life on earth and was taken quite suddenly. It felt like losing a friend of the church. 2023 ended without a replacement in place which proved tricky when a few complicated matters came along.

As stated in our policy we work with outside agencies when the need arises. This year we have had the support of the police, the probation service, the London Baptist Association Safeguarding Lead; the BU Safeguarding department and our SEBA Regional Minister.

The Code of Behaviour which we began to work on last year was finally agreed by the members and is displayed for us all on the Safeguarding notice board. We note that this is good practice for us all not just our team of workers.

In May the BU had provided some updates to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures which were helpful. Whilst our church statement of intent about Safeguarding is displayed on the notice board, the whole policy is comprehensive and quite lengthy so access via the BU website is accessible to us all. www.baptist.org.uk/safeguarding

In December the Safeguarding Team set to work to review our policy and practice using the BU Safeguarding Audit Tool. This proved to be a big task so completion was planned for the New Year.

The church is blessed to have a strong safeguarding team and we are all very grateful for our conscientious team of workers and helpers.

Margaret Woollven and Quentin Ma

Boughton Chapel Annual Report – 2023

We continue to grow the Lunch Club and we are pleased that 3 new people from the village are now coming. For the Coffee Morning, we have added in a light lunch, and we have an average of 16 people coming along.

We had the wall between the vestry and passageway removed, to make it into a useable room which is a much better use of space and has made it a lot lighter.

Also, a new fire door has been fitted between the kitchen and the new room.

We have continued to have a monthly communion service led by Lorna and once by Dayo which has been a great blessing to us.

We are small in number but have a heart to serve God in this place.

Yours in God's service

Heidi and Alan Law 24 February 2024

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association Annual Report – 2023

The 2022/23 season was the first full year of having Girls in the company, we feel really blessed that the girls can continue in Brigades and it has enriched the company evening.
Numbers steadily grew over the year with two non-church affiliated youth members volunteering to help in the Anchors and Juniors section for their D of E service award.

Numbers in 2022/23
Anchor Boys 3 two church family children and one non-church family
Anchor Girls 3 two church family children and one attending another church with her family
Junior Boys 6 four church family children and one attending another church with her family
Junior Girls 2 one attending another church with her family and one non-church
Company Boys 2 two from a non-church family
Company Girls 2 one church family child and one attending another church with her family
Senior Boys 3 three boys from non-church family
Senior Girls 3 three girls from non-church family
Total Children 24

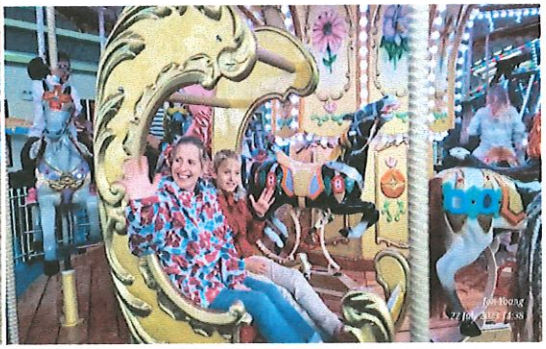
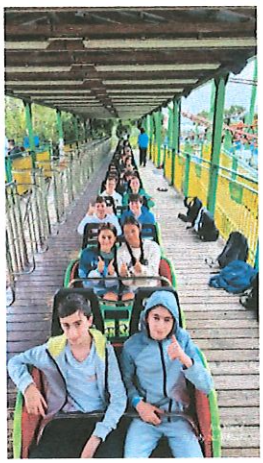
Highlights of the year

Cycle ride for company and seniors

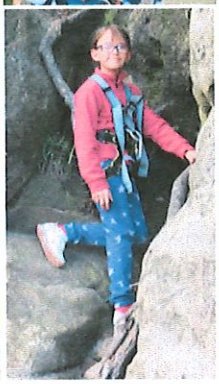
We took a church service

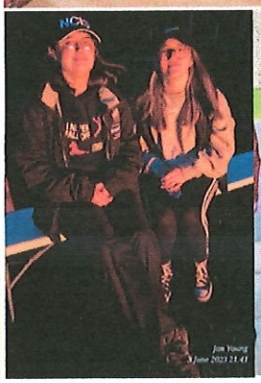
We had a joint Junior, Company and Seniors Camp

Whole company day trip to Adventure Island in Southend

We said goodbye to Ashleigh Cole after 14 years in Brigades





2009 TO 2023
TOTAL OF 14 YEARS

We continued to run our normal classwork throughout the year.
These included arts, crafts, sports, Christian faith and we paid our respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II by laying some thank you messages and flowers at Ashford Memorial Gardens.
We lost 2 leaders during the year, James Wilson took some time out to concentrate on his education and Liz Oliver left due to work commitments.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my BB helpers/Leaders for their support over 2022 and 2023 session.
Mark Humphries, Liz Oliver, Nicola Oliver, Rachael Cox, Tracy Smith, James Wilson, Jon Young, Vicky Cole, Sarah Deans and Sammy Deans.
Finally please pray that through all our activities we will be a witness to the love of God and bring our young people to making a commitment to follow our Lord and saviour.

Regards
Simon White Captain 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association. 6th March 2023

Review – Youth, Community and Families work. May-Dec 2023

YOUTH
The Youth provision has witnessed a significant increase in participation among individuals aged 11-17. This rise can be attributed to both new families joining the church and an influx of refugee youth. Consequently, there has been a notable impact on overall attendance across various programmes such as the Youth Club, Sunday Groups, and events.

From May to December, there has been a noticeable trend of young people attending multiple provisions. For example, the Youth Club has experienced a substantial increase, with attendance rising from an average of 10 to 36 young individuals.

A pivotal moment occurred during the Youth Fireworks Night on November 3rd, which served as a catalyst for unity between church-affiliated and non-affiliated youth. Many young attendees from the church, as well as regulars from the Youth Club—formerly distinct groups—participated alongside numerous refugee youth. This event facilitated significant interaction and the formation of new friendships.

Moreover, the rise in attendance has also led to greater gender diversity, as there was previously a disproportionate number of male attendees. Now, more girls are actively participating in the programmes offered.

A considerable portion of the youth attending the Sunday group identify as Christians and possess a fundamental understanding of the Bible. They are also comfortable openly discussing their faith and engaging in prayer.

As the year draws to a close, a few young individuals have begun serving within the church alongside adults or their parents.
While there has been some interest from new individuals in taking on leadership or helper roles within the youth provision, there remains a requirement for an additional leader in the Sunday Group.

Additionally, it's worth noting that the involvement of young people in serving within the church demonstrates a growing sense of responsibility and commitment to their faith community. This

engagement not only provides them with valuable opportunities for personal growth and development but also strengthens the bond between the youth and the broader church body.

Furthermore, the willingness of new individuals to step forward as leaders or helpers signifies a positive trend towards community engagement and support for youth activities. However, the ongoing need for an additional leader in the Sunday Group highlights the importance of continued recruitment efforts and the nurturing of leadership skills among the youth themselves.

What we have been praying for since May 2023:

- Young individuals would forge friendships with each other, leading to a crossover between various provisions.
- There is an increase in the attendance of girls at the Youth Group.
- Efforts are being made to cultivate more leaders.
- Young people are expected to deepen their faith.
- Young people would feel integrated into the church community, engaging in service activities or shadowing adults in various capacities.

PRAYERS GOING FORWARD into 2024

1. Spiritual Growth and Baptism: Pray that they continue to deepen their relationship with God, grow in their understanding of faith, and experience spiritual maturity. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18

2. Emotional Health: Pray for their emotional resilience, inner peace, and the ability to cope with any challenges or struggles they may face. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7

3. Physical Health: Pray for their physical well-being, safety, and protection from illness or harm. "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings, you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart." - Psalm 91:4

4. Academic Success, Wisdom, and Love for God: Pray for their academic endeavors, that they may excel in their studies, gain wisdom, and develop a love for learning, rooted in their love for God. "For wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul." - Proverbs 2:10. Pray also that they develop a deep love for God and His Word, finding delight in studying and applying Scripture to their lives. "I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word." - Psalm 119:16.

5. Relationships: Pray for healthy friendships and positive influences in their lives, as well as guidance in their interactions with peers, family members, and authority figures. "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." - Proverbs 13:20

6. Discernment: Pray that they have clarity and discernment in making decisions, especially regarding important life choices and peer pressure. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3:5-6

7. Purpose and Calling: Pray that they discover and pursue their God-given talents, passions, and purpose in life, and that they find fulfillment in serving others and making a positive impact in the world. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10

8. Protection from Negative Influences: Pray for protection from negative influences such as substance abuse, unhealthy relationships, and harmful media or social pressures. "The Lord is my

rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." - Psalm 18:2

9. Opportunities for Growth: Pray that they encounter opportunities for personal and spiritual growth, mentorship, and leadership development within the church and community. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." - Hebrews 10:24

10. Boldness and Confidence: Pray that they have the courage and confidence to live out their faith boldly, share their beliefs with others, and be a light in their schools, neighborhoods, and social circles. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." - 2 Timothy 1:7

COMMUNITY

It has been a bustling year for us with a notable influx of new faces joining our church community. Keeping up with the plethora of new names and individuals has presented its challenges. Among these newcomers, there has been a significant presence of individuals from abroad, particularly from North African countries, many of whom work at the local hospital. However, due to the demands of their shift patterns, forging connections with them has proven to be a bit challenging as their attendance at church tends to be irregular.

Additionally, there is a core group of refugees who faithfully attend our church, and towards the latter part of the year, we welcomed a new wave of South American refugees who have started participating in activities and occasionally attending church, albeit sporadically.

Spring brought about some exciting outings for our congregation, including a delightful bluebell walk and a visit to the rare breeds centre, both of which were well-attended and enjoyed by all. Easter was a vibrant and bustling time with an Easter egg hunt that attracted new visitors, further enriching our community. The Easter services were well-attended, culminating in a joyous celebration with Big Praise.

Moreover, our prayer day was a notable success, drawing in a good number of participants. It was held within the church premises, featuring various prayer stations that provided individuals with the opportunity to sit, reflect, and find solace in the tranquility of prayer and stillness.

During the summer, we hosted a series of fantastic events, with Paddlesport emerging as the highlight, drawing in a large crowd and leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. The allure of paddlesport attracted many to try their hand at it, while everyone relished in the camaraderie and delicious BBQ fare offered. Another standout event was the Church BBQ, which brought together a vibrant gathering of individuals for an evening of fellowship, conversation, and delectable food.

While weekly opportunities for young people and children to meet didn't garner massive attendance, the church still served as a welcoming space for gatherings when needed. Interestingly, a particularly well-attended day coincided with rainy weather, prompting us to organise arts and crafts activities for the children indoors. It was during this event that we had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with new individuals. Through this initial encounter, they have since become regular attendees, enriching our community with their presence and participation. We orchestrated a couple of delightful picnics in the park, which garnered enthusiastic participation, despite the occasional challenge of enduring scorching hot days. These gatherings provided moments of joy and relaxation for attendees to bask in the beauty of nature while fostering bonds of fellowship and camaraderie.

Throughout the season transition into autumn, our church community remained active and engaged in various uplifting activities.

As autumn unfolded, we ushered in the Love Your Church weekend, a special occasion dedicated to rallying support for our beloved church. People from all walks of life came together to show their love and commitment, participating wholeheartedly in a myriad of activities. The Sunday bring-and-share lunch was a highlight, where laughter and conversation flowed freely, and the atmosphere brimmed with warmth and community spirit. Moreover, our gift day initiative proved to be a resounding success, with the generous contributions of £18,000 raised for the acquisition of new tables and chairs, enhancing our church's facilities for future gatherings and events.
In embracing the season's spirit, we hosted the Light Party as an alternative celebration to Halloween, offering a wholesome and enjoyable experience for children and adults alike. The event saw a delightful turnout, with both church members and visitors joining in the festivities, spreading joy and laughter throughout the evening.

Amidst our regular schedule, Chit Chat continued to be a cherished occasion for our community, providing a relaxed setting for individuals to come together over steaming cups of coffee or tea. Beyond the beverages, attendees relished in the opportunity to engage in friendly banter, share stories, and foster meaningful connections. The availability of games such as pool and table tennis added an extra layer of enjoyment to the gatherings, further enhancing the sense of camaraderie and belonging.

A highlight of our autumn programme was the much-anticipated Bible journaling workshop, where participants delved into the art of creative expression through studying the word. The workshop was full and proved to be immensely enriching for those in attendance, as they learned to intertwine their faith with artistic exploration. Additionally, a dedicated craft table for children provided a platform for parents to engage in the workshop while their little ones were entertained with creative activities.

In our commitment to nurturing spiritual growth and family bonds, we also facilitated the Parenting for Faith course. This invaluable programme empowered parents and caregivers with the tools and insights to openly share their faith with their children, guiding them into a deeper relationship with Jesus and establishing firm spiritual foundations for their journey of faith.
Through these initiatives and events, our church community thrived, fostering a culture of love, unity, and spiritual growth among its members.
We also participated in Tearfund's The Big Quiz night, which proved to be immensely popular among our community. Individuals brought along snacks and drinks, forming teams to compete against each other in a lively quiz session. The event was a great success, raising £140 for Tearfund's charitable efforts.

As we approached the Christmas season, Chit Chat organised a craft session for the children. However, it was disheartening to see that only refugees attended, with no other church members joining in. Despite this, we pressed on with our festive celebrations. We held a Christingle service, symbolising the light of Christ, and followed it up with the ever-popular Carols by Candlelight service. After the services, we enjoyed delicious food and festive fun together, embracing the joy and warmth of the season in fellowship with one another.

Prayers during this season

- Participating in various events and activities fosters fellowship and camaraderie among members of the community.
- Engaging in fellowship encourages the development of lasting friendships as individuals connect with one another in shared experiences and mutual interests.
- These interactions provide opportunities for individuals to deepen their faith through meaningful conversations, shared reflections, and collective worship.
- As we come together in prayer and support one another in our spiritual journeys, we cultivate a strong sense of unity and solidarity, transforming into a vibrant and prayerful community.

Praying for ABC going forward

1. Spiritual Growth: Deepen our relationship with God and experience spiritual transformation.
2. Unity and Harmony: Promote unity, understanding, and love within the church community.
3. Leadership and Guidance: Grant wisdom, discernment, and strength to church leaders and volunteers. Pray for the ministerial position that God would have his hand firmly on this.
4. Healing and Comfort: Provide healing and comfort to the sick, suffering, and grieving.
5. Outreach and Mission: Open doors for sharing the gospel and serving others.
6. Increased Giving: Bless our giving, increase the giving to enable us to sustain and expand ministries and missions.
7. Sustenance During Ministerial Vacancy: Provide guidance and sustenance during this period without ministers.
8. Protection and Safety: Keep the church and its members safe, both physically and spiritually.
9. Families and Relationships: Bless marriages, families, and relationships within the church.
10. Social Justice and Compassion: Advocate for justice, equality, and compassion in society.
11. Gratitude and Thanksgiving: Express gratitude for God's blessings and faithfulness.

Louisa Ley **28th February 2024**

Children's Worker and Administrator's Report (May to December 2023)

I was delighted to be offered the post of Children's Worker and Administrator and I commenced employment at the end of May.

As the church had been without a paid Administrator for some time, initially, my time was spent concentrating on the admin side of the role, tidying up files and emails, and taking over responsibility for the general admin of the church from Helen, including weekly sheets, rotas etc.

As a Children's Worker, it has been wonderful to see an increased number of families with children attending our Sunday services and it is a blessing to welcome families from all over the world, with different cultures and gifts.

Our Sunday Club groups and creche continues to grow in numbers. The team of leaders and helpers has increased and all are dedicated, willing and enthusiastic people who have a desire to support and encourage children as they commence their walk in Faith. There is, however, still a need for additional volunteers, particularly as it has become apparent that the youngest Sunday School group (children aged 3 to 7) now needs to be split into two. Whilst this is a wonderful problem to have, it is a problem, and we would ask the congregation to include this in their prayers.

In addition to Sunday Club and creche, ABC also offers families and children in our community the opportunity to attend Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association and Family, Food and Fun.

In the autumn, Louisa and myself hosted a Parenting for Faith course run by BRF Ministries. The course was helpful and informative and, because it was delivered via Zoom, parents and carers were able to attend without having to organise babysitters.

I have enjoyed assisting Helen and Louisa with the organisation of several church events including the Easter Egg Trail, Paddle Sports, Church Picnic, Church BBQ's, Love your Church weekends, monthly Chit Chats and the Light Party. These events have been well attended and have provided an opportunity for people to get to know one another better. Louisa and I have also led two Café Church services over the summer, and we are pleased to have been given the opportunity to lead some more in 2024.

My ongoing prayer request for the families and children in our church is that they will find a real connection to God and their relationship with Him will deepen. I also pray that our families will unite and support one another, and that new families will come to ABC and feel welcomed.

My prayer for myself is that I will be a true servant of God and that everything I do will be for his glory, and not mine. I pray that people will find me warm and welcoming and that God will give me the confidence to inspire and nurture others. I thank God for the people He has placed around me to help me, to guide me and to prop me up when needed.

It is a blessing to be involved in a church with such a diverse community and I would like to thank you for your advice, prayers and support.

Rachael Cox **15 March 2024**

Trustees Responsibilities

Under the Charities Act 1993 the Trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and the incoming resources and application of resources in the year. In preparing the statement the Trustees are required to:-

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practices have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity at that time and to enable the Trustees to ensure that any statement of account prepared by them complies with the regulations under Section 42(1) of the Charities Act 1992. They are also responsible for safe-guarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval:

This report was approved by the deacons on 10 September 2024 and signed on their behalf.

Signed: Helen M Wilson ..... Signed: .....

Name: HELEN M WILSON ..... Name: Quentin Ma .....

Church Secretary: ..... Deacon: .....

Date: 21.10.24 .....

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, and in carrying out my examininations, 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 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;
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirement concerning the form and content of accounts as 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: Signed by: Katherine Reka E23410F7FFA249E...

Name: Katherine Reka FCCA

Address: Office 43, The Cobalt Building
1600 Eureka Park
Lower Pemberton
Ashford
Kent
TN25 4BF

Date: 10th September 2024

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	2022
			£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
General fund donations			2,824	13,803	16,626	19,558
Special Donations			18,409	0	18,409	902
Covenants & Gift Aid		13,548		93,181	106,729	
		34,781		106,984	141,765	
Activity Income			4,141	0	4,141	1,462
Investment Income			2,798	2,579	5,377	2,335
Legacies, donations and fund raising			0	475	475	792
Other Income			1,575	1,285	2,860	
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities			43,295	111,323	154,618	
Resources Expended						
Direct charitable expenditure	2		38,998	127,902	166,900	144,872

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Management and Administration 38,998	3	0 Total Resources expended	17,240 145,142	17,240 184,140	114,461 134,921
					665 140,175
					10,058 154,930
Net (outgoing)/incoming Resources		4,297	-33,819	-29,522	-14,755
Other recognised gains/losses		0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds		**4,297**	**-33,819**	**-29,522**	**-14,755**
Reconciliation of Funds Fund Balances bought forward as 1 January 2023		115,563	214,614	330,177	344,932
Transfers between funds		-1,641	1,141	-500	0
Fund balances carried forward	7	**£118,219**	**£181,936**	**£299,655**	**£330,177**

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

at 31 December 2023

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

			298,482		327,527
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	6		50		0
			£300,155		£330,177
REPRESENTED BY:					
Restricted Funds			118,219		115,563
	Note		**2023**		**2022**
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4		1,723		2,650
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	3,240		2,838	
Income Tax recoverable	5	4,744		5,227	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	290,498		319,462	
			181,936		214,614
Unrestricted Funds			£300,155		£330,177

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The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 Charities SORP (FRS102) published 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Ashford Baptist Church constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Fund Accounting

General Funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors. The costs 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.

Income

Non-covenanted donations and other income are brought into income in the year during which they are received, with the exception of donations given for a specific purpose which are carried forward as deferred income and matched with the relevant expenditure.
Legacies are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they are received.

Expenditure

Specific items of expenditure that relate to either direct charitable expenditure or other expenditure are attributed to the appropriate category.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of the asset over its estimated useful economic life.

Assets are depreciated at the following rates :

Motor Vehicles	at	20 % on Cost
Fixtures,fittings and equipment	at	15 % on Written Down Value
Computer Equipment	at	33.3 % on Cost

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its useful life.
Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000.

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
(Registered Charity No 1130593)

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2) DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	2022
	£	£	£	£
Ministers (incl Pensions)	0	48,543	48,543	45,176
Youth, Families & Community Worker	0	10,929	10,929	0
Children's Worker	0	5,158	5,158	0
Travel	0	1,482	1,482	938
Mission Giving - HM & BMS	840	11,823	12,663	13,260
Mission Giving - Other	12,644	3,500	16,144	15,404
Mission Activities	0	1,201	1,201	280
Youth & Children's Work	868	1,298	2,167	1,333
Music & PA	0	922	922	1,854
Catering & Hospitality	992	3,048	4,039	3,449
Whole Church Events	0	677	677	0
Other Ministry	0	745	745	1,030
Cleaning	0	9,008	9,008	9,069
Heating & Lighting	5,786	5,747	11,533	5,448
Repairs & Maintenance	2,187	3,345	5,531	4,836
Insurances	511	4,280	4,791	3,841
Water	157	782	939	428
Manse Costs (council tax, water etc)	0	8,700	8,700	4,317
Pension Deficiency Contributions	0	12	12	2,192

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Conferences/Study Weeks	0	1,973	1,973	1,706	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023
Training (incl Safeguarding)	80	808	888	0	
Subscriptions	0	715	715	1,324	
Visiting Speakers	0	458	458	210	
Independent Examiner	0	0	0	0	3) MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY
Sundry	70	254	324	259	4) FIXED ASSETS
Unbudgeted Expenditure	0	1,571	1,571	935	Motor Vehicles / Computer FF&E Equipment / Total
Church Refurbishment	14,864	0	14,864	25,791	
Depreciation	0				
				10,058	

18,991	43,158	7,010	69,159
18,991	41,392	6,127	66,509
0	265	662	927
18,991	41,657	6,789	67,436
0	**1,502**	**221**	**1,723**
0	1,767	883	2,650

	927	927	1,791
38,998	127,902	166,900	144,872
Restricted	Unrestricted		

	Funds	funds	Total	2022
	£	£	£	£
Administrator	0	5,158	5,158	0
Office (incl payroll)	0	5,579	5,579	4,365
IT & Licensing	0	2,026	2,026	2,527
Advertising & Publicity	0	234	234	-12
Resources & Publications	0	1,499	1,499	799
Minibus Costs	0	2,745	2,745	2,379
	0	17,240	17,240	
Total of 2) and 3) above	*38,998*	*145,142*	*184,140*	*154,930*

COST

At 1st January 2023	18,991	43,158	7,010	69,159
Additions	0	0	0	0
As at 31st December 2023				

DEPRECIATION

At 1st January 2023

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023
Charge for the period
As at 31st December 2023

NET BOOK VALUE
As at 31st December 2023

As at 31st December 2022

The Trustees own the following freehold properties: premises at Station Road/St John's Lane, Ashford; the Manse at 23 Magazine Road, Ashford; and leasehold land and buildings at Boughton Aluph Chapel. The original value of the buildings and the costs of improvements to them until 2023 have not been included in the Balance Sheet because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of professionally valuing these assets to include a value in the accounts outweighs the benefits to the users of the accounts. They are insured for £5,056,564 (2022: £4,778,973) which is an estimate of their replacement cost.

5)	DEBTORS	2023	2022
	Prepayments	1,736	1,061
	Other Debtors	1,504	1,776
		3,240	2,838
	Income Tax Recoverable (Gift Aid due for Oct-Dec)	4,744	5,227
		11,224	10,903

6)	CREDITORS 2023	2022
	Creditors	50	0
		50	0

7) MOVEMENTS ON RESTRICTED FUNDS

		Balances at 31/12/2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2023
RF1	L.Wilson	0	3,503	3,503	0	0
RF2	P.Frizelle	0	5,396	5,396	0	0
RF3	Lite Bite	1,121	0	209	0	912
RF4	Coffee Morning	3,517	107	67	0	3,557
RF5	Luncheon Club	4,013	0	0	0	4,013
RF6	Fellowship Fund	2,098	2,625	2,680	-500	1,543
RF7	Other Mission Giving	0	1,470	1,065	0	405
RF8	Gift Days etc	0	16,939	0	0	16,939
RF10	Boughton Chapel	7,878	7,083	10,267	0	4,694
RF11	Boys Brigade	1,789	2,463	948	0	3,304
RF12	Girls Brigade	0	0	0	0	0
RF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	-1,141	0
RF14	Brook Fund	94,006	3,710	14,864	0	82,852
		£115,563	£43,295	£38,998	-£1,641	£118,219

		Balances at			Transfers	Balances at

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

		31/12/2021	Income	Expenditure	between funds	31/12/2022
RF1	L.Wilson	0	6,756	6,756	0	0
RF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,836	3,836	0	0
RF3	Lite Bite	1,121	0	0	0	1,121
RF4	Coffee Morning	3,462	55	0	0	3,517
RF5	Luncheon Club	4,013	0	0	0	4,013
RF6	Fellowship Fund	798	1,800	500	0	2,098
RF7	Other Mission Giving	0	902	902	0	0
RF8	Gift Days etc	0	0	0	0	0
RF10	Boughton Chapel	7,538	4,930	4,590	0	7,878
RF11	Boys Brigade	635	779	1,161	1,536	1,789
RF12	Girls Brigade	1,536	0	0	-1,536	0
RF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
RF14	Brook Fund	136,088	2,031	44,113	0	94,006
		£156,332	£21,089	£61,859	£0	£115,563

8) **REMUNERATION** The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2022: 2)

	2023	2022
Salaries	69,787	45,176
Social Security Costs	0	0
	69,787	45,176

Members of the Diaconate are not employees and received no remuneration during the year.

Some church members received payments for the reimbursement of expenditure incurred in relation to the activities of the Church.

The Church is heavily reliant upon volunteers who give their time and skills, which cannot be valued.

9) **FUTURE COMMITMENTS** There were no contractural commitments at 31st December 2023 (2022: Nil).

10) **REPAIRS, RENEWALS AND EQUIPMENT**

		2023			2022
Church refurbishment - Station Road	14,864	25,791	General church maintenance		2,582
1,536					
General manse maintenance	943	1,536	Manse roof and chimney repair	2,500	0
Boughton Chapel		2,187			1,067
Fire safety		463			404
Pest control		300			293
		23,838			30,627

11) **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS**

Donations and subscriptions > £100

	2023	2022
P Frizelle	8,896	6,836
L Wilson	3,503	7,006
Pastoral Support	2,680	500
Subscriptions	715	737
Harvest Appeal	689	605
Care4Calais (carol service)	366	0
BB Fees	0	587

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	KRAN (carol service)	0	177
	Red Cross	0	160
	Gifts to mission workers	0	150
	Ukraine	0	120
Donations < £100		10	0
		16,849	16,878
Contributions to BMS and Home Mission			
	BMS	6,332	6,630
	Home Mission	6,332	6,630
		12,663	13,260
Total Subscriptions and Donations		29,512	30,138

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

12) **CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

		2023	2022
HSBC Current		1,035	4,970
HSBC Savings		168,482	179,039
Lloyds		30,000	30,000
Boughton		4,588	7,787
BB		3,304	1,790
Youth Camp		0	1,141
Unbanked offerings and activity income		196	657
ABC Petty Cash	40		72
	207,646		225,456
Brook		82,853	94,006
Total		290,498	319,462

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130593

Accounts

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

With a Mission at Boughton Aluph

Ashford Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2022

Legal and Administrative Information
(as at 31 December 2022)

Ministers	Rev Lorna Sylvester and Rev Rob Sylvester (1.6.2015)
Secretary	Helen Wilson (Elected 01 01 21 – 3rd Year)
Treasurer	Finance Team – Lynn Oliver named on ChurchUpdate
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Administrator	Vacant
Deacons	Alison O'Donnell (Re-elected 01 01 20 elected 1.1.17) Helen Wilson (elected 1.1.18) Keith Tam (Elected 01 01 20) Daniel Rai (Elected 01 01 21) John Sunuwar (Elected 01 01 21) Rachel Phipps (Elected 01 01 22) Jamie Phipps (Elected 01 01 22)

The Deacons and Ministers together comprise the Managing Trustees of the Church

Registered Charity Number	1130593
Principal Address	Ashford Baptist Church Saint John's Lane Ashford, Kent TN23 1PS
Governing Document	Church Constitution adopted on 20th March 2008
Independent Examiner	Eloise Fisher, ACCA Accounts Unlocked Limited Repton Manor Repton Avenue Ashford Kent TN23 3GP

Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 39 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8TG	Lloyds Bank 81 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8SS

Ministers' Annual Report 2022

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2: 6 & 7)

The year 2022 was the first full year back in the church building for face-to-face worship since Covid...we thank God for his faithfulness and seeing us through and for helping us navigate 2022 - to reform into a church community that we could scarcely imagine at the beginning of the year. Often, over this past year we didn't know what would happen next, and used the sporting analogy, *play what is in front of you*, meaning work with what is happening immediately now, because God is in it and it's impossible to plan further ahead, we have now! And so, through all the changes this year we did just that, committed it to God, and he directed our paths. We can agree with the letter to the Ephesians ***"that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20&21 Glory to God indeed!***

Covid continued and as a church we carefully laid out the building so that distance and mask wearing areas could facilitate members and friends to return slowly, along with some children, and gradually through the spring term we sensed confidence returning and the joy of being together again - for others with significant health issue there remained the online livestreaming of the service. Our theme for the year and preaching series for the first 5 months or so, was from Colossians 2: 6-7which we explored, looking to be fruitful people of God, rooted, built up in him, and overflowing with thankfulness. Easter 2022 saw Rob and Lorna ill with covid and the leadership team wonderfully, with others, took the services for our face-to-face Easter celebrations.

We are so grateful for everyone who made possible the rerun to face to face Sundays and meetings, as well as livestreaming and for those friends who made a covenant renewal commitment at the beginning of July, based on the renewal of the covenant by the people of God in Nehemiah 9: 38. Those who were committing into God's community at ABC placed signed hands on the tree with roots, like in our verse for the year,; others didn't sign up, some have left the church, and many others from all over the world have joined us and found a home here. As the Rev Lynn Green the Baptist Union General Secretary said of the Baptist Churches of the UK, *God is doing a new thing, its springing up, do you not perceive it, don't dwell on the past. Words from Isaiah 43* … it's been a costly year emotionally and spiritually, but the Joy of the Lord has strengthened us and brought an excitement at all God is doing.

Later in the year through the summer months we looked at the gospel of Matthew, the Sermon on the Mount, the beatitudes, and parables and in the autumn emotional intelligence through the life of Jesus. We rejoiced at baptisms, dedications and new members, church events and hospitality, that glued our reforming church together. We rejoice at the people who moved in from London and other parts of the world, enriching life at ABC. We rejoiced as well, for those who have been faithful members and friends for many years.

The local churches with Churches Together in Ashford have worked closely, supporting one another. Our own Boughton Chapel was able to restart for once-a-month communion on a Sunday and midweek activities. The building renewal at ABC continued at a pace and has provided us with a modern worship space and rooms that have been refurbished, with more work to come. Activities and groups begun again face to face for bible studies, life groups, senior and youth groups and brigades. Just before Christmas we welcomed our first asylum seeker friends that the Home office had moved to the Holiday Inn and we began activities to welcome and provide safe space. There was much joy and wonder at our first full Christmas worship face to face since covid.

So, we look back with wonder and awe, much thankfulness for one another and for Our God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Rev Lorna Sylvester-Minister March 2023 [on behalf of Lorna and Rob Sylvester joint ministers]

Church Secretary's Annual Report - 2022

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2: 6 & 7)

As I look back over 2022, I think the expression "What a difference a year can make" is what comes to mind. In 2020 we were in the middle of Covid wondering what "new thing" God was going to do. Last year (2021) we were being led along a path not trodden before. Then at the beginning of 2022 we began to feel that there was an end in sight following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Attendance on Sundays through the year continued to fluctuate from week to week. The number of children and young people attending at the start of the year was very low but by the beginning of December the church had experienced an influx, partly due to refugees and new families moving into Ashford. We thank God for answered our prayers in bringing in more children, youth and families. There was then a need for more leaders in Sunday School and crèche.

Covenant Sunday at the beginning of July was an encouragement to see who our regular attendees would be as we moved forward. This was followed by a Bring and Share lunch. Most meetings were now being held in person - deacons' meetings, life groups, brigades and youth club resumed meeting in person. The Wednesday Women's Life Group experienced growth. As the church was reforming Café style services were held every 4 – 6 weeks, which have proved popular.

Community events during the year were arranged to bring the different ages and cultures together. Again a highlight was the Canoeing Event on Hythe Canal. A Christmas lunch following the open air service held at the Bandstand was appreciated following the cold Sunday morning. Hospitality grew over the year to meet the changing needs of the church community.

Events for our seniors continued with themed afternoon teas and talks every quarter. These have been really appreciated.

Boughton Chapel resumed meeting on Sundays once a month, supported by our minister Lorna.
Their lunch club resumed on a monthly basis offering lunch to some of those who had previously attended the Luncheon Club at ABC.

We were pleased to welcome Joy Ransome in June while home on furlough from Nepal. We have continued to support Peter and Andrea Frizelle in Guatemala.

We celebrated two baptisms and four dedications during the year. New members were welcomed into membership, although some other members had chosen not to continue their membership.

By the end of the year it became apparent that due to a growth in the numbers of children and youth, a youth worker would be needed, as well as more permanent church administrative support. This would be taken forward into 2023.

Livestreaming of services continued throughout the year with access being restricted to our church community by the end of year.

Our Nepalese Fellowship has continued to worship on Sunday afternoons.

In April the church hosted a tea when the Archbishop of Canterbury came to visit Ashford as part of Ashford Churches Together.

The church (for the first time) was pleased to take part in the Family, Food and Fun Project as part of the Social Action arm of Ashford Churches Together, providing activities and food for Under 11s (along with parents) one day a week, for four weeks in August and again for a day in the October half-term school holidays.

As we move into 2023 we are excited to see what God is calling the church to. The church has seen a growth in people attending from different cultures, along with families coming to Ashford as part of the William Harvey's recruitment drive for new nurses. The town of Ashford and surrounding areas continues to expand.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their ongoing support and ministry of the church, over the past year and a big thank you to everyone who has continued to support me during this past year. It has been appreciated.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless us and make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us and give us his peace.

In His service

Helen

Helen Wilson
Church Secretary
Ashford Baptist Church

6 March 2023

SAFEGUARDING REPORT for 2022

Safeguarding involves a range of activities aimed at promoting every person's fundamental right to be safe. These include:
- making and maintaining safe environments for all,
- having processes to follow should something go wrong, and
- providing support for everyone involved.

As we know, whilst some parts of the safeguarding process are delegated to certain individuals whose names are displayed, safeguarding is a responsibility for every one of us as we keep a caring and watchful eye on one another especially the under 18s and vulnerable adults.

At our AGM I am required to report on any referrals that have been made during the year. Thankfully there were none in 2022.

The other requirement is that the policy is reviewed annually. The safeguarding team of ministers, DPS (Margaret Woollven), Deputy DPS for adults (Helen Wilson), Deputy DPS for children and youth (Louisa Ley) and the safeguarding trustee (Alison O'Donnell) met together in August. One item we reviewed was the wording about adults and agreed that the term "vulnerable adults" is more helpful than "adults at risk" because it encompasses a wider range of situations and includes the recognition that we may all be vulnerable adults at one time or another as we face life's challenges e.g. illness, bereavement, unemployment, etc. Our documents will increasingly reflect this.

Another matter was to revisit the subject of a code of behaviour which we mentioned at last year's AGM. We may feel that behaving in a respectful and sensitive way towards one another is obvious. However it is important for recruitment and relationships within church life and ministry teams so that we are consistent in our treatment of one another. We decided to recommend that the wording from Baptists Together sample policy should be adopted and distributed to every member. This was passed to the diaconate for consideration before publishing more widely.

Our thanks are due to Nikki Wong for her efficient work as our DBS verifier. She concluded her time in this role in 2022 and was replaced by Christine Green with Rebekah Butler as her deputy. Alison O'Donnell concluded her time as Safeguarding Trustee at the end of the year.

Most of us were due for retraining in October but due to there being no SEBA trainer for Kent at the time as well as the backlog built up over the lockdown years this will not take place until 2023.

Thanks to all workers and helpers for the way they have continued to serve our church community through a year of adaptation after the pandemic with all its ups and downs. The year ended with the prospect of growth and great blessing from God which we look forward to in His strength and wisdom.

Margaret Woollven

Sunday School Report - 2022

For the primary school age Sunday school, we started the year with 4 teachers and no helpers. As such, the Sunday school teachers had to pick up the role as helpers. From September, Enoh had joined the team as helper.

We continue to use the teaching material from Energize for Sunday school teaching.

At the start of the year, we had 1-4 children attending Sunday school. As the year progress, the number of children stablised at around 3-5 children per Sunday. Some Sundays we could have 8-10 children!

This Sunday school group is for children with age between 6-11 years old (ie. Year 2-6). It is a very wide age range and with the uncertain number of children each week, it is very challenging for the teachers to prepare activities that would suit all the children. We also have children whose English is not their first language so it was tricky for the teacher to teach them or make them focus in class. Towards the end of December, there was an influx of children but most of them do not understand English, making it even harder for the teacher to teach.

We praise God to have given us so many children to attend Sunday school, but would like the continual prayer from the congregation on more teachers and helpers to come and support Sunday school, so that we will be able to split the class back into 2 groups (Year 2-3 and Year 4-6). This will be easier for the teachers to prepare the teaching material and also easier to control the class.

Keith Tam

Boughton Chapel Report

Lunch Club is going well; we had four new members join just before Christmas. They all seem to enjoy the meals and there is lots of conversation going on. Coffee morning has a small attendance but those who come, enjoy it.

We have started a light lunch, after coffee morning finishes and we hope to have more people come. We have a book and puzzle table, which people can make a donation towards our chapel charity "Orphans in Africa". We were able to send £500 which included a donation from the Lunch Club Christmas dinner this year and we have since had a lovely letter back from them.

From March 2022 we have had a service on the 3rd Sunday in the month, led by one of our ministers which we have been richly blessed by. At Christmas we were invited to St Christopher's for their Carol service, four of us attended. The Parish council used the building for their meeting in January.

Grace Fellowship have used the Chapel every Sunday for their services since 31st July 2022. We continue to take part in a litter pick every month in the village. In December we had new heating put in which has made the building warmer.

We continue to serve our Lord and pleased that the Chapel is being used.
Yours in our Lord's service,
Heidi and Alan Law

6 March 2023

Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

ABC's Aims and Organisation

Ashford Baptist Church has as its primary aim 'To propagate the gospel and teaching of Jesus Christ, and to express that teaching in practical action'.

The church operates in the Borough of Ashford, Kent, and is based in St. John's Lane/Station Road and also at the mission church of Boughton Aluph. In 2022 it employed joint Ministers, Revds Lorna and Rob Sylvester. These were supported by 7 Deacons, including a Church Secretary. The Treasurer's work was undertaken by a Finance Team, which reported directly to the Diaconate.

Review of Financial Activities

The church is financially dependent on the voluntary support of its members. Gross voluntary income for the year (for all purposes), plus other receipts amounted to £140,175. This is a decrease of £5,762 over the previous year, due mainly to a reduction in the size of the congregation in the first part of 2022 following the Covid-19 epidemic, but which was mitigated by significant growth in numbers in the second half of the year.

Total expenditure for 2022 was £154,930, a decrease over the previous year of £75,361. This was largely caused by a reduction in spending on the refurbishment of the building at Station Road (down by £68,272) as phase 1 of the project neared completion. Regular donations were sent to BMS World Mission (£6,630) and Baptist Home Mission (£6,630), part of a total of £28,814 given to these and other causes.

The net financial position of the church at 31st December 2022 therefore showed a deficit of £14,755. This compares to a deficit of £84,354 in the previous year, the difference being explained mainly by the lower costs of refurbishment. Indeed, if these costs are excluded from the figures, a surplus of £11,036 was made in 2022 compared to a surplus of £9,709 in 2021. This is welcome and encouraging news.

All the church's assets are employed directly in pursuing its charitable objectives.

Investment Powers and Bank/Fund Balances

The church constitution authorizes the trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds. At the end of the year there was a current account at HSBC with a balance of £4,970 and an instant savings account with £179,039. There was also a current account at Lloyds bank containing £30,000, which equates to the church's general reserve. In addition, the Baptist Union Corporation holds a fund in trust on behalf of the church following the sale of Brook chapel in 2018. This is only to be used for refurbishment and building work at Station Road. At the end of the year the balance was £94,006. Adding in balances held by groups with their own bank accounts of £11,447 (e.g. Boughton Chapel, BB and GB) total funds at the end of December amounted to £319,462.

Payment to/in respect of Trustees

No expenses were paid to trustees during the year, but they were reimbursed for materials and postage.

Summary and Thanks

The long tail of Covid-19 continued into the early part of 2022 as we realized that a number of members of the congregation would not be returning to Ashford Baptist Church for a variety of reasons. At the same time, however, a steady flow of new individuals and families were arriving in Ashford and began to attend the church. Despite these fluctuations in numbers, the finances of ABC held up well thanks to the ongoing generosity of its members and friends, as well as prudent budgeting and financial management.

The year ended with the church in good heart and many reasons to feel optimistic about its future finances.

In all of this, we are so grateful for the gracious provision of God, not only in financial terms, but also through the many acts of selfless giving and service rendered by his people at ABC for the glory of his name.

20 March 2023

Boys' Brigade Report 2022

Ashford Baptist Church — Simon White

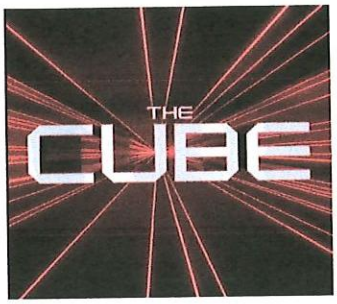
The 2021/22 season was our first full year back after covid. We started off the year running both the Boys' and Girls' Brigade as two separate organisations meeting on the same night carrying out the same activities using the same leaders. Whilst trying to find a member of the church to take on the leadership of Girls Brigade. Sadly no one came forward and after much thought and prayer it was decided to merge the two Brigades into one. In June of 2022 Ashford Girls Brigade merged with the Boys' Brigade and we have become known as 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
>the adventure begins here

We

We were few in numbers at the start of the year with only two girls in the Anchor section (5 to 8 years old) Four Juniors 2 girls and 2 boys (8 to 11 years old) four Company section of 3 boys and 1 girl and Four in the Senior section 3 boys and 1 girl (14 to 18 years old)
making a Total of 14 youth.

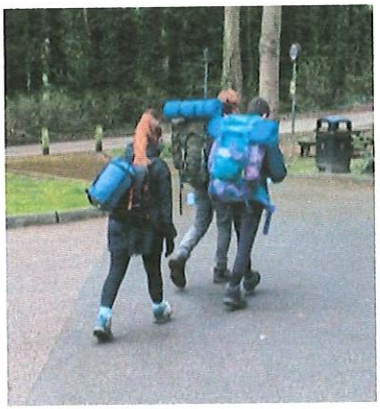
The Boys' Brigade released a new awards programme across all four sections which we adopted and followed throughout the year. Leading up to our awards evening in July.



Sadly some covid restrictions were still hanging around so during the winter month
Both leaders and children wore their coats, hats and scarfs as all windows were open and no heaters were switched on.

Some of the the Senior group took part in a hike to raise money for British Red Cross, they were dropped off in a village outside north Canterbury and hiked back to Molash. Set up Camp for the night. The next day the hike continued back to Ashford and home to a warm bed.

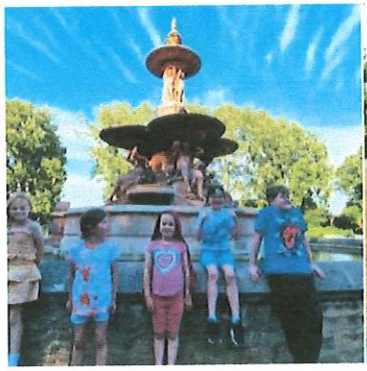
They Raised £ 160 in total.

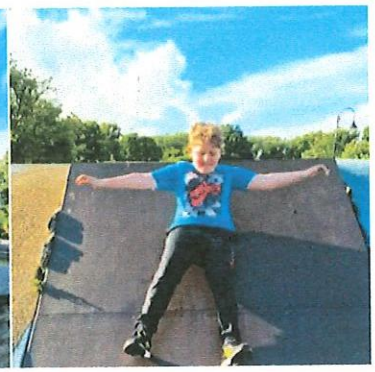


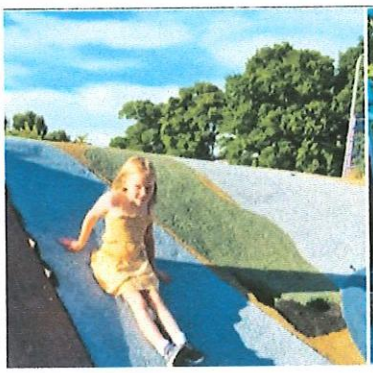
Normal classwork took place throughout the year, Arts, Crafts, Sports, devotions, Easter egg Hunts, Christmas shoebox appeal and so much more, with summer activities outside

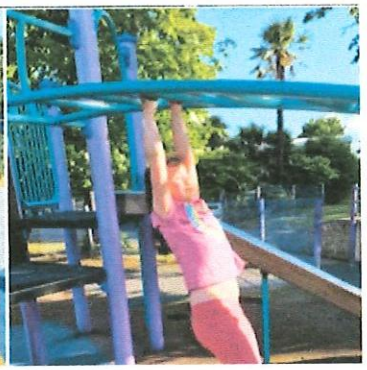
We also celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party with a party and two Juniors and four leaders attended Battalion Junior camp.

We had our annual awards evening with two of the seniors boys turning 18







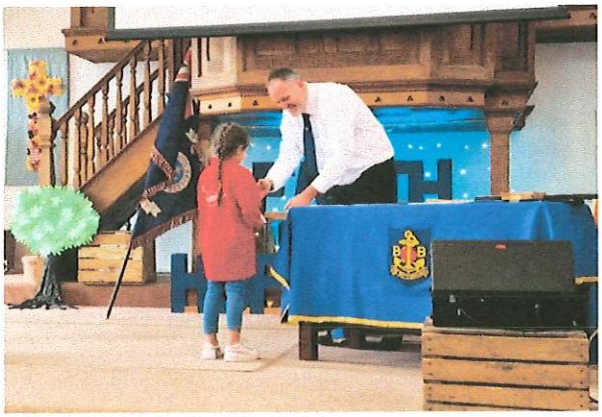


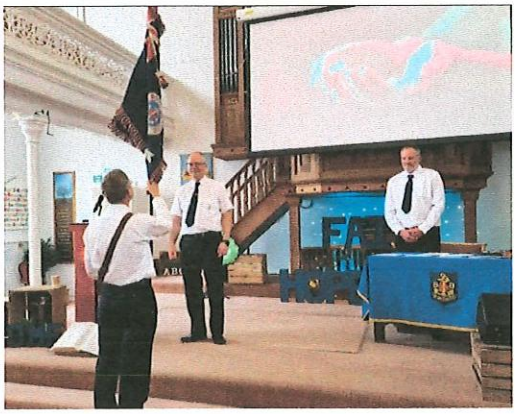
throughout the year, receiving their discharge certificate for 11 years' service and also received a momentum of their time in the Boys' Brigade.

It goes without saying that none of this would be possible without the leaders that give up their time to prepare, teach and bring the good news to some young people of Ashford.

After 35 years of service as a boy and then a leader Sam Oliver has retired, we

thank him for his time and work for us and all who have passed his way during that time at Boys' Brigade. We wish him well in whatever he decides to do on Thursday evenings in the future.





From Simon White Captain 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

14 March 2023

Trustees Responsibilities

Under the Charities Act 1993 the Trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and the incoming resources and application of resources in the year. In preparing the statement the Trustees are required to:-

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practices have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity at that time and to enable the Trustees to ensure that any statement of account prepared by them complies with the regulations under Section 42(1) of the Charities Act 1992. They are also responsible for safe-guarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval:

This report was approved by the deacons on ..... and signed on their behalf.

Signed: ..... Signed: Helen M. Wilson

Name: QUENTIN C H MA Name: HELEN WILSON.

Minister: R.A. Syle Treasurer: Church Secretary

Name: REVD ROBERT SYLVESTER Name:

Date: 11th June 2023

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, and in carrying out my examinination, 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 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;
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirement concerning the form and content of accounts as 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: DocuSigned by: Katherine Reka E23410F7FFA249E...

Name: Katherine Reka ACCA

Address: Office 43, The Cobalt Building
1600 Eureka Park
Lower Pemberton
Ashford
Kent
TN25 4BF

Date: 22nd March 2023

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	2021 £
Incoming Resources					
General fund donations		1,277	18,281	19,558	21,070
Special Donations		902	0	902	1,455
Covenants & Gift Aid		14,492	99,969	114,461	122,590
		16,671	118,251	134,921	145,115
Activity Income		1,462	0	1,462	381
Investment Income		2,031	303	2,335	442
Legacies, donations and fund raising		260	532	792	0
Other Income		665	0	665	0
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities		21,089	119,086	140,175	145,937
Resources Expended					
Direct charitable expenditure	2	43,536	101,336	144,872	218,131
Management and Administration	3	0	10,058	10,058	12,160
Total Resources expended		43,536	111,394	154,930	230,291
Net (outgoing)/Incoming Resources		-22,447	7,692	-14,755	-84,354
Other recognised gains/losses		0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds		**-22,447**	**7,692**	**-14,755**	**-84,354**
Reconciliation of Funds					
Fund Balances bought forward as 1 January 2022		156,332	188,600	344,932	429,286
Transfers between funds	7	-18,322	18,322	0	0
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		**£115,563**	**£214,614**	**£330,177**	**£344,932**

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4		2,650		4,441
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	2,838		1,382	
Income Tax recoverable	5	5,227		5,618	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	319,462		333,490	
			327,527		340,490
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	6		0		0
			£330,177		£344,932
REPRESENTED BY:					
Restricted Funds			115,563		156,332
Unrestricted Funds			214,614		188,600
			£330,177		£344,932

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 Charities SORP (FRS102) published 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Ashford Baptist Church constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Fund Accounting

General Funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors. The costs 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.

Income

Non-covenanted donations and other income are brought into income in the year during which they are received, with the exception of donations given for a specific purpose which are carried forward as deferred income and matched with the relevant expenditure.
Legacies are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they are received.

Expenditure

Specific items of expenditure that relate to either direct charitable expenditure or other expenditure are attributed to the appropriate category.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of the asset over its estimated useful economic life.

Assets are depreciated at the following rates :

Motor Vehicles	at	20 % on Cost
Fixtures,fittings and equipment	at	15 % on Written Down Value
Computer Equipment	at	33.3 % on Cost

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its useful life.
Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000.

2) DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	2021 £
Stipends (gross) & Pensions	0	45,176	45,176	44,584
Ministry Assistant	0	0	0	0
Intern	0	0	0	0
Travel	0	938	938	657
Mission Giving - HM & BMS	840	12,420	13,260	16,172
Mission Giving - Other	12,404	3,000	15,404	18,767
Mission Activities	0	280	280	0
Youth & Children's Work	414	919	1,333	799
Music & PA	0	1,854	1,854	826
Catering & Hospitality	543	2,906	3,449	708
Other Ministry	0	1,030	1,030	1,230
Cleaning	0	9,069	9,069	4,486
Heating & Lighting	1,364	4,084	5,448	6,490
Repairs & Maintenance	1,067	3,768	4,836	7,921
Insurances	343	3,498	3,841	3,564
Water	116	312	428	2,223
Manse Costs (council tax, water etc)	0	4,317	4,317	4,450
Pension Deficiency Contributions	0	2,192	2,192	3,695
Conferences/Study Weeks	0	1,706	1,706	972
Training (Incl Safeguarding)	0	0	0	60
Subscriptions	587	737	1,324	1,314
Visiting Speakers	0	210	210	50
Independent Examiner	0	0	0	0
Sundry	66	193	259	5
Unbudgeted Expenditure	0	935	935	2,611
Church Refurbishment	25,791	0	25,791	94,063
Depreciation	0	1,791	1,791	2,483
	43,536	101,336	144,872	218,131

3) MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total £	2021 £
Administrator	0	0	0	0
Office (Incl payroll)	0	4,365	4,365	6,174
IT & Licensing	0	2,527	2,527	2,108
Advertising & Publicity	0	-12	-12	270
Resources & Publications	0	799	799	607
Minibus Costs	0	2,379	2,379	3,001
	0	10,058	10,058	12,160
Total of 2) and 3) above	*43,536*	*111,394*	*154,930*	*230,291*

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

4) **FIXED ASSETS**

	Motor Vehicles	FF&E	Computer Equipment	Total
COST				
At 1st January 2022	18,991	43,158	7,010	69,159
Additions	0	0	0	0
As at 31st December 2022	18,991	43,158	7,010	69,159
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st January 2022	18,991	41,080	4,647	64,718
Charge for the period	0	312	1,480	1,791
As at 31st December 2022	18,991	41,392	6,127	66,509
NET BOOK VALUE				
As at 31st December 2022	**0**	**1,767**	**883**	**2,650**
As at 31st December 2021	0	2,078	2,363	4,441

The Trustees own the following freehold properties: premises at Station Road/St John's Lane, Ashford; the Manse at 23 Magazine Road, Ashford; and leasehold land and buildings at Boughton Aluph Chapel. The original value of the buildings and the costs of improvements to them until 2022 have not been included in the Balance Sheet because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of professionally valuing these assets to include a value in the accounts outweighs the benefits to the users of the accounts. They are insured for £4,778,973 (2021: £4,404,480) which is an estimate of their replacement cost.

5) **DEBTORS**

	2022	2021
Prepayments	1,061	1,182
Other Debtors	1,776	200
Income Tax Recoverable	5,227	5,618
	8,065	7,000

6) **CREDITORS**

	2022	2021
Creditors	0	0
	0	0

7) MOVEMENTS ON RESTRICTED FUNDS

		Balances at 31/12/2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2022
RF1	L.Wilson	0	6,756	6,756	0	0
RF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,836	3,836	0	0
RF3	Lite Bite	1,121	0	0	0	1,121
RF4	Coffee Morning	3,462	55	0	0	3,517
RF5	Luncheon Club	4,013	0	0	0	4,013
RF6	Fellowship Fund	798	1,800	500	0	2,098
RF7	Other Mission Giving	0	902	902	0	0
RF8	Building Fund	0	0	0	0	0
RF10	Boughton Chapel	7,538	4,930	4,590	0	7,878
RF11	Boys Brigade	635	779	1,161	1,536	1,790
RF12	Girls Brigade	1,536	0	0	-1,536	0
RF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
RF14	Brook Fund	136,088	2,031	44,113	0	94,006
**	Craft Club	0	0	0	0	0
**	Toddlers	0	0	0	0	0
**	Youth Club	0	0	0	0	0
		£156,332	£21,089	£61,859	£0	£115,563

** *dormant accounts*

		Balances at 31/12/2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2021
RF1	L.Wilson	0	6,875	6,875	0	0
RF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,657	3,657	0	0
RF3	Lite Bite	1,121	0	0	0	1,121
RF4	Coffee Morning	3,462	0	0	0	3,462
RF5	Luncheon Club	4,231	0	218	0	4,013
RF6	Fellowship Fund	1,991	2,747	3,940	0	798
RF7	Other Mission Giving	0	1,455	1,455	0	0
RF8	Building Fund	240	20	0	-260	0
RF10	Boughton Chapel	6,723	4,675	3,860	0	7,538
RF11	Boys Brigade	832	57	490	236	635
RF12	Girls Brigade	1,296	5	0	236	1,536
RF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
RF14	Brook Fund	229,613	428	93,953	0	136,088
**	Craft Club	27	0	0	-27	0
**	Toddlers	471	0	0	-471	0
**	Youth Club	350	0	0	-350	0
		£251,498	£19,918	£114,447	-£637	£156,332

** *dormant accounts*

8) **REMUNERATION**

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2021: 2)

	2022	2021
Salaries	45,176	44,584
Social Security Costs	0	0
	45,176	44,584

Members of the Diaconate are not employees and received no remuneration during the year.
Some church members received payments for repair work carried out at the Church and the Manse,
for lay preaching and the reimbursement of expenditure incurred in relation to the activities of the Church.

The Church is heavily reliant upon volunteers who give their time, which cannot be valued.

9) **FUTURE COMMITMENTS**

There were no contractural commitments at 31st December 2022 (2021: Nil).

10) **REPAIRS, RENEWALS AND EQUIPMENT**

	2022	2021
Church refurbishment - Station Road	25,791	94,063
General church maintenance	1,536	1,408
General manse maintenance	1,536	-
Boughton Chapel	1,067	378
Fire safety	404	797
Pest control	293	-
Damp proofing kitchen and removing plinth	-	3,035
Roof repairs and gutter clearing	-	885
Renewing emergency lighting	-	776
Building safety platform above basement	-	642
	30,627	101,984

11) **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS**

		2022	2021
Donations and subscriptions > £100			
	L Wilson	7,006	7,075
	P Frizelle	6,836	7,568
	Subscriptions	737	945
	Harvest Appeal	605	170
	BB Fees	587	370
	Pastoral Support	500	3,940
	KRAN (carol service)	177	-
	Red Cross	160	-
	Gifts to mission workers	150	-
	Ukraine	120	-
	Nepalese Church covid support	-	1,285
	South Ashford Baptist Church	-	1,100
	Orphans in Africa	-	240
Donations < £100		0	0
		16,878	22,692
Contributions to BMS and Home Mission			
	BMS	6,630	8,086
	Home Mission	6,630	8,086
		13,260	16,172
Total Subscriptions and Donations		30,138	38,864

12) CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2022	2021
HSBC Current	4,970	4,992
HSBC Savings	179,039	148,551
Lloyds	30,000	32,421
Boughton	7,787	7,462
BB	1,790	1,536
GB	0	635
Youth Camp	1,141	1,141
Unbanked offerings and activity income	657	591
ABC Petty Cash	72	72
	225,456	197,402
Brook	94,006	136,088
Total	319,462	333,490

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130593

Accounts

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

With a Mission at Boughton Aluph

Ashford Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2021

Ashford Baptist Church

St John's Lane ▪ Ashford ▪ Kent ▪ TN23 1PS
Tel:01233 625542 ▪ **Website:**www.ashfordbaptist.org.uk ▪ **Email:** office@ashfordbaptist.org.uk
Ministers: Rev Lorna and Rev Rob Sylvester

Legal and Administrative Information
(as at 31 December 2019)

Ministers	Rev Lorna Sylvester and Rev Rob Sylvester (1.6.2015)
Secretary	Helen Wilson (Elected 01 01 20 – 2nd Year)
Treasurer	Finance Team – Lynn Oliver named on ChurchUpdate
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Administrator	Vacant
Deacons	Alison O'Donnell (Re-elected 01 01 20 elected 1.1.17) Helen Wilson (elected 1.1.18) Keith Tam (Elected 01 01 20) Daniel Rai (Elected 01 01 21) John Sunuwar (Elected 01 01 21)

The Deacons and Ministers together comprise the Managing Trustees of the Church

Registered Charity Number	1130593
Principal Address	Ashford Baptist Church Saint John's Lane Ashford, Kent TN23 1PS
Governing Document	Church Constitution adopted on 20th March 2008
Independent Examiner	Eloise Fisher, ACCA Accounts Unlocked Limited Repton Manor Repton Avenue Ashford Kent TN23 3GP

Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 39 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8TG	Lloyds Bank 81 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8SS

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Ministers' Report 2021

As New Year 2021 arrived, we had not met together in the church building for either Sunday worship or any other activities for over 9 months, since the start of the Covid lockdowns. Services continued to be broadcast from musicians and ministers' homes until Easter, when a change in government regulations allowed a team of musicians, technicians and ministers to move back to Station Road and livestream from there. To make this possible, cameras and other equipment had been installed and tested, and operators trained - the church owes all those involved a great debt of gratitude.

By May, restrictions lifted so that a congregation could also return to the building - a real blessing to all concerned. A range of measures were put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible, but these didn't prevent us worshipping the Lord together once again. Many people continued to stay away at this stage, either shielding by law or else just uncertain and preferring to watch online as the situation developed. Refreshments couldn't be served indoors, and so we moved outside to the memorial gardens, which proved to be a lovely setting.
A couple of excellent fellowship/social events took place outdoors over the summer, providing a much-needed opportunity to spend time together and re-connect. The first was a watersports and barbeque event at the Seapoint Centre in Hythe; the second a barbeque at the home of Geoff and Helen Wilson.

In September, with the beginning of a new school year, we felt it was time to relaunch the Sunday School groups in person, which would encourage our families with children to return. The junior age group had continued to meet online throughout the pandemic, for which we are so grateful to those who served them faithfully. However, we soon discovered that many of the older teenagers did not come back to church, along with the fact that a number of their leaders had decided to set down their responsibilities (and in a few cases move away to other churches). This obviously left us stretched to provide as many groups as we would have liked, and also the groups themselves were smaller. But huge thanks to those leaders who did continue to teach and also to some who took up the challenge to get involved more fully than before.

Also during the autumn the Boys' Brigade began meeting in person once again. They too had continued online during the lockdowns, but getting back together presented much greater opportunities for activities and building relationships. Unfortunately, Girls' Brigade was unable to find enough leaders to staff the various age-groups, and so did not re-form. Instead, the girls joined with the boys on a Thursday evening, which seemed a good solution. General youthwork also geared up at this time, offering a variety of social activities to gather the teenagers once more, which was especially important as many were not around on a Sunday morning. Thanks again are due to all who helped organise these events.

During the summer and autumn, we noticed that a significant number of new people were visiting the church for Sunday services. Many of these were from overseas, moving to Ashford to take up jobs at the William Harvey Hospital. Often they brought young children with them. Some came once or twice before moving on elsewhere in search of a spiritual home, but a good number stayed with us, becoming regular attenders and beginning to serve in the limited number of ways available at the time (e.g. stewarding).

In October we celebrated the dedications of Abigail, Hannah and Ezra Green, along with Nina Onyedikatchi. As well as being a precious occasion in its own right, it reminded us of the important life-events that are so integral to a church fellowship and which we had all missed so much.

Our Bible text for the year came from Luke chapter 10 verse 27: *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.*

Having focused our thoughts on the household of God during the previous year, it was an obvious development now to look outwards at the needs of those around us – in our neighbourhoods and communities, as well as further afield. The pandemic had given rise to many opportunities to help, get to know or strengthen our existing relationships with others as a means of bringing God's love and blessing into their lives. At the same time there were bigger issues to consider, including racial justice and the increasing challenge of Climate Change. With the COP-26 conference coming to the UK in November, we offered teaching and practical ideas for the church community to think through and then respond to in whatever ways they could, in order to reduce their carbon footprint, make changes to more sustainable lifestyles, and advocate on behalf of those most affected by global warming. A small group was set up to research and promote this issue, and a special Climate Sunday service took place in July, with a follow up in November via the 24/7 Prayer movement as the international summit took place. In the autumn we preached through the book of Exodus under the heading 'Meeting God in the story of Moses', focussing on the many and varied experiences that he and the people of Israel had of the presence, power and glory of God from their liberation in Egypt to their arrival in the Promised Land. What could we learn and how could we grow in our own sense of encounter with God?

As Christmas approached we held our first 'café-style' service in the church. The sanctuary was re-arranged from rows of seats into about a dozen tables with chairs around them. Refreshments were served before proceedings began, which led to a relaxed and informal atmosphere. The theme was Christingle, with everyone making their own from the materials provided, as a reminder of the Christmas story. The ground floor of the church was full, and much positive feedback received.

Fabric

Throughout 2021 the refurbishment project which had begun the previous autumn with the decorating of the sanctuary, continued apace with a small but dedicated professional team working throughout the building – all the other rooms and corridors were decorated; the loft above the sports hall was boarded out fully, fitted with lighting and an electric winch, and then filled with all manner of equipment that had been stored in the church balcony, stairwells etc. The two stairwells in the sanctuary needed replacing with fireproof materials; the church office was moved into the former minister's office; and a new and extended kitchen was installed, offering much more space as well as modern fittings and appliances. Finally, just before Christmas, the new front entrance doors and glass arch arrived. Taken together, a dramatic transformation to the building has taken place, putting us in the best possible position to meet the future opportunities for ministry and mission.

Mission

Speaking of mission, a couple of possibilities to witness to the local community in Ashford emerged during the year. The first concerned retail chaplaincy to the staff, management and customers of the Designer Outlet (which had recently expanded its number of stores), as well as a very different challenge in the town centre whose fortunes had worsened in recent years with the loss of some major shops. Churches Together in Ashford (CTA) was in the process of exploring both these situations, to see if establishing a regular Christian presence was possible. The second opportunity concerned an empty shop unit on the Bockhanger estate, one of the most socially and economically deprived areas in the county. A lot of practical work was required to bring the building to a useable standard, and details of the lease proved complicated. With only a handful of church members expressing an interest in getting involved in the project, and the leaseholder wanting us to make a quick decision, we realised that it was not the right thing to pursue at this time.

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Life Groups

Throughout 2021 our midweek Life Groups continued meeting – online and then as restrictions eased, in person. They have been a great support and encouragement in the face of the many challenges that Covid has brought, in addition to the general ups and downs of daily life that would have existed anyway. The chance to study Scripture, pray and share fellowship and support has been as important as ever. The ongoing commitment of all those leading and hosting our Life Groups has been invaluable and is much appreciated.

A brief report such as this can only touch upon the life and activities of a church like ABC, but it is important to highlight a few final things. Ray Davis stepped down as leader of Boughton Chapel after many years in the role, having organised services, administering the finances, maintained the building, and together with his wife Joan, given pastoral support to the congregation. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to them both. The Nepalese Fellowship has continued to meet during the year, online rather than in person, and has had its share of illnesses to contend with. But God has sustained them, and the group have continued to grow in faith and love. Church prayer meetings have taken place regularly in the year, providing much needed opportunities both to speak with and hear from our Lord on matters both great and small. Churches Together in Ashford held prayer & praise meetings on 3 occasions, which were really well attended by Christians across the town, and a great encouragement. An extended visit to the UK from the Frizelle family took place at the end of the year, and the Frizelles rejoiced in the birth of a new son Liam, and the Wilsons their daughter Sage. The Risk Assessment Team did a fabulous job in keeping us appraised of the complex and ever-changing situation regarding Covid rules and regulations, and provided vital guidance to the deacons on how we as a church should respond at each stage. Last but not least, a new Finance Team formed and took on the essential role of managing the day-to-day receipts and payments, monitoring contracts for utilities etc, providing reports to the deacons and church members, and completing the annual returns to the Charity Commission. One more big 'Thank you' to those involved.

In conclusion, 2021 was another extra-ordinary year in which so much that we had always considered 'normal' was disrupted, shaken up and reshaped. How things settle for us as individuals and a church fellowship will take time to work out, but one thing is certain: that the God who created, redeemed and established a covenant of love with his people has remained faithful throughout, and will be present to lead and guide us into the future. As Jesus commanded Peter on the shores of Lake Galilee after the earth-shattering events of Easter: 'Follow me!' (John 21:19).

Rob Sylvester
23 March 2022

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Church Secretary's Annual Report – 2021

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...strength and ...mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27)

Looking back over 2021 it was again a year of many ups and downs in church life. At the start of the year we continued in lockdown with church services continuing on Youtube each Sunday. We are thankful for the commitment and knowledge of our PA team for enabling this to happen.

Many meetings continued to be conducted over zoom for most of the year. During the summer we experienced a lifting of some restrictions.

We were pleased to be able to open our doors again at the end of May, with those wishing to attend booking a place on a Sunday, our ministers preaching again in person each Sunday, with services also continuing on Youtube. Initially refreshments were had in the Memorial Gardens (weather permitting) and then for a few weeks meeting at a coffee shop in town. The Risk Assessment Team continued to work hard to keep us safe during this transition period and for the remainder of the year we continued mask wearing and social distancing.

Since the opening up for church services, we were encouraged by new people attending on most Sundays during the year, especially nurses coming from abroad to work at the local hospital.

Gradually some activities resumed and the young people enjoyed meeting in people's homes and participating in outdoor events. In particular, a highlight was the canoeing event held down at Hythe on a hot Sunday afternoon in July, which was well attended by many young people and families. It was felt to be a very special time of fellowship for children, youth and parents to reconnect after such a long break away from shared activities with church. We give thanks to Louisa, and her team of parents and helpers for their continued input into our youth activities.

A bring and share lunch in August in a member's garden was an important time for the new people coming to church. During the autumn our Brigades returned to meeting in person.

The first major refurbishment of the kitchen (and extension into the old office), in 25 years was completed in time for our first Café Church in December. We give thanks to all those who were part of the Refurbishment Team. We pray this will last for another 25 years. During the year our BMS Link Missionary Annie Tanner stepped down and was replaced by Joy Ransome. The Wilsons involvement with IFES/UFM came to an end at the end of January 2021. The Frizelles continued to keep us updated on their lives and projects in Guatemala, covid permitting. They returned to Ashford on furlough at the end of

November until the following January, allowing an opportunity for sharing and fellowship. Daniel and Regiane Clark continue in Peru, who also returned to the UK on furlough.

During September two families requested dedication of their children.

Work among our seniors continued with a harvest tea held at Boughton Chapel in October. Our meals on wheels ministry continued through the year, as and when needed.

Our Christmas carol service was held in person and on Youtube.

Looking back over the year we give thanks for God's blessings to us as a church. Last year we were reminded that we needed to look to see "what new thing" God was going to do in our midst. We acknowledge that our church community has changed. We have seen our numbers for Sunday School reduced to a handful, with fluctuating youth numbers on a Sunday. However, we give thanks for the toddlers and young children in our crèche and the ongoing commitment of our leaders. We give thanks for the new people who have continued to worship with us.

We continued to seek the way forward as a church praying for wisdom and guidance through the prolonged covid pandemic. Like Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, in Joshua 3 we read how God would lead the people guided by Joshua along "a path they had never been on before". Likewise as a church we are walking an unknown path but in the knowledge that God is with us each step of the way.

During 2021 we gave thanks for opportunities to see family and friends again after the lockdown, being able to enjoy more freedom. I pray that this will also give us freedom as a church to continue to see the new things that will spring up, after our time of covid and lockdown.

I would like to thank everyone who has given of their time inputting into the life of the church over the past year and for also continuing to support me during this time.

With every blessing

Helen Wilson
Church Secretary 23 March 2022

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SAFEGUARDING REPORT for 2021

Our thanks go to everyone who continued to maintain contact with our young people and our senior members throughout a second year of the pandemic. Care was taken throughout to ensure appropriate levels of DBS checked adults were present online with the children just as is needed in person. Nikki Wong, our Verifier, ensured that DBS checking continued efficiently regardless of the pandemic. Helen Wilson and members of the Senior Support Team sought to maintain contact with our vulnerable older members.

Safeguarding involves a range of activities aimed at promoting every person's fundamental right to be safe. These include:
- making and maintaining safe environments for all,
- having processes to follow should something go wrong, and
- providing support for everyone involved.

Safeguarding is a positive and proactive process that allows everyone to feel safe and maintains standards of best practice for the benefit of everyone in the church. (*Safeguarding training introduction page 3)*
So our thanks are also due this year to the Risk Assessment team for enabling us to comply with the first principle listed above during the years of the hazards of the Coronavirus.

Thankfully no referrals were needed during the past year. There was no contact with any of the statutory services.

No changes were made to the policy but we have yet to consider the challenge of whether we need a separate Code of Behaviour, or whether we consider this to be covered within the existing Safe to Grow procedures.

During my time of needing to shield it became more necessary to have a more accessible deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) to replace Mark Povey. I am very grateful to Louisa Ley for agreeing to be ready should the need arise. This is a role which we hope will not be needed but Louisa has the experience to cope if necessary because, as you know, if a disclosure is made action should be taken as swiftly as possible including the absence of the DPS..

Going forward let us all be part of safeguarding as we pray for our children and young people, our seniors and vulnerable adults and all the workers involved in their activities.

Margaret Woollven

DPS and Safeguarding Coordinator

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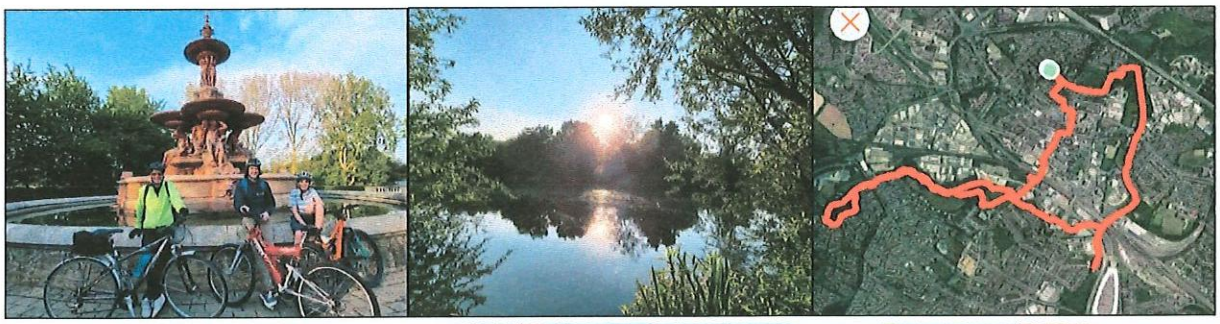
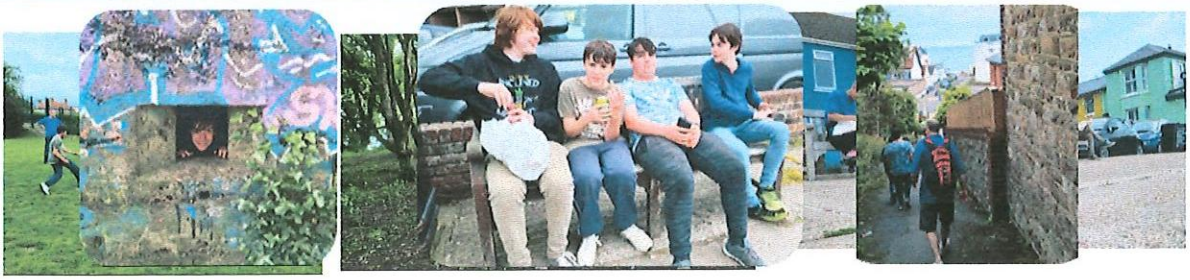
Boys' Brigade Report 2021

Ashford Baptist Church — Simon White

During the very long lockdown Boys Brigade met every Thursday night online, we offered this service to all ages but only the company Boys (11 to 18) wished to join us.
The Boys Brigade organisation provided us with tons of online material which we used in full, quizzes, online activities, famous buildings made from biscuits, flags of the word, etc.

As the summer of 2021 approached we were able to meet up face to face taking part in a cycle ride around Ashford, a friendly but competitive game of football Leaders v Boys, yes the leaders won, we explored Sandgate, ending the evening with fish and chips on the sea front. We took the boys to Tonbridge water activity centre for an evening of kayaking and our final evening before the summer break was paddle boarding in the sea at Folkestone.





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Sadly during this time the Girls' Brigade weren't able to run anything online and lost contact with their Girls.

Speaking with Holly Cripps during the summer holidays it became clear that she no longer wished to lead the Girls' Brigade and has stood down from this role, at the same time all but two of the GB leaders also have decided not to return to this youth work and have stood down.

To enable the Girls' Brigade to continue to run, we at Brigades decided to join both organisations up, to run on the evening (Thursday) we would run as one group, doing the same classwork , activities and sports but keep our separate identifications. We put an advert out to Ashford Baptist Church weekly sheet looking for someone to lead the Girls' Brigade.

During this time we looked into the possibility of ending the Girls' Brigade and invited them to join us at BB with a title change of 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Association.

Sadly no one has come forward to lead the girls so we are going to join the two groups together having one captain, with the support of the leaders.

This has been approved by the church and we are in the process of making this happen.

We finally started back at the Brigades in Oct 2021, following all the protocols required of us by Ashford Baptist Church. It's an interesting time - for once we have plenty of leaders but a lack of children/young people. On a good night we have 15 young people and on a bad night that can go down to 9.

God Bless
Simon White
Boys' Brigade Captain
28 February 2022

Ashford Baptist Church

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Boughton Chapel Annual Report

Dear all,
2021 was a year of mixed blessings. We have met once a month for prayer in the home of Rose and Richard.

We restarted the Lunch Club at Boughton in August, initially doing it twice in the month, to accommodate all those on the list. The people who attended seemed to have enjoyed the meal and chatting to each other in accordance with rules on social distancing due to covid. In October we went back to just once a month, currently we have 21 on the list and they all come regularly. We all feel blessed to be able to serve God in this way and to see people enjoying themselves again. We have short talk before the meal and pray for anybody who has asked for prayer.

Coffee morning is also up and running with the average of 11 coming. On one occasion we had a lot fun folding paper to make boats to be displayed at Cop 26. There is a lovely atmosphere, a real sense of growing friendships with each other. We also meet once a month at Rose and Richard's for a time of fellowship where we read the Bible, sing, pray, have a short talk using resources from Our Daily Bread, we take communion using the Baptist Union notes for small groups and learn about MAF and TEARFUND. This has been a great blessing to us, we have seen s to prayer and look forward to God's plans for us.

In September a group of 6 pilgrims walked from Rochester to Canterbury and stopped overnight at the chapel. Alan and myself provided breakfast in the morning which they seemed to really appreciate and we enjoyed doing it for them.

In December we joined with St Christopher's at Boughton for a carol service which was lovely. Once a month we join in with the village litter picking and are slowly getting to know more people there.

Looking forward to the future in 2022 and what that might hold.

Yours in God's service

Heidi Law

Ashford Baptist Church
St John's Lane ▪ Ashford ▪ Kent ▪ TN23 1PS
Tel:01233 625542 ▪ **Website**:www.ashfordbaptist.org.uk ▪ **Email**: office@ashfordbaptist.org.uk
Ministers: Rev Lorna and Rev Rob Sylvester

STATISTICS

Total number of church members as at 31 December 2021: 108

Total number of baptisms in 2021: 0

Number of children/young people with whom the church has regular contact through organised church activities:

Up to 11 years: Face to face Closed from March 2020 – December 2020. Zoom sessions only. Less than 10
12-18 years: No face to face from March 2020 – December 2020. Zoom sessions only. 10 – 15.

Dedications: 2 Families and 4 Children.

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Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021

ABC's Aims and Organisation
Ashford Baptist Church has as its primary aim 'To propagate the gospel and teaching of Jesus Christ, and to express that teaching in practical action'.

The church operates in the Borough of Ashford, Kent, and is based at St. John's Lane/Station Road and in the mission church of Boughton Aluph. In 2021 it employed joint Ministers, Revds Lorna and Rob Sylvester. These were supported by 5 Deacons, including a Church Secretary. The Treasurer's work is undertaken by a Finance Team, which reports directly to the Diaconate.

Review of Financial Activities
The church is financially dependent on the voluntary support of its members. Gross voluntary income for the year (for all purposes), plus other receipts (including legacies) amounted to £145,937. This is a decrease of £27,908 over the previous year, due mainly to the continued effects of Covid-19 in terms of the closure of the building until May 2021 (and therefore the suspension of all in-person worship services and other activities), and the gradual return of the congregation in the months that followed.

Total expenditure for the year was £230,291, an increase over the previous year of £52,510. This consisted of decreased monthly costs due to the lack of activities on site for much of the year, offset by significant expenditure on the refurbishment of the building at Station Road during the period (£94,063). Regular donations were sent to BMS World Mission (£8,086) and Baptist Home Mission (£8,086), part of a total of £37,549 given to these and other causes. The net financial position of the church at 31st December 2021 therefore showed a deficit of £84,354. This compares to a deficit of £5,694 in the previous year, the difference being explained mainly by the additional costs of refurbishment. All the church's assets are employed directly in pursuing its charitable objectives.

Investment Powers and Bank/Fund Balances
The church constitution authorizes the trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds. At the end of the year there was a current account at HSBC with a balance of £4,992 and an instant savings account with £148,551. There was also a current account at Lloyds bank containing £32,421. In addition, the Baptist Union Corporation holds a fund in trust on behalf of the church following the sale of Brook chapel in 2018. This is only to be used for refurbishment and building work at Station Road. At the end of the year the balance was £136,088. Adding in balances held by groups with their own bank accounts of £11,438 (e.g. Boughton Chapel, BB and GB) total funds amounted to £333,490.

Payment to/in respect of Trustees
No expenses were paid to trustees during the year, but they were reimbursed for materials and postage.

Summary and Thanks
2021 witnessed the continued effect of Covid-19 on the world, with ongoing impacts being felt by church communities in many significant ways. Despite all the challenges, however, the finances of ABC held up well thanks to the ongoing generosity of its members and friends, as well as prudent budgeting and financial management. We were also able to utilize the time the church stood empty/underused to carry on with redecorating and refurbishing the whole premises to set it up for future ministry and mission.

In all this, we remain thankful for the gracious provision of God, not only in financial terms, but also through the many acts of selfless giving and service rendered by His people at Ashford Baptist Church for the glory of His name.

Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021

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1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practices have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity at that time and to enable the Trustees to ensure that any statement of account prepared by them complies with the regulations under Section 42(1) of the Charities Act 1992. They are also responsible for safe-guarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval:

This report was approved by the deacons on ..... and signed on their behalf.

Signed: ..... Signed: .....

Name: ..... Name: .....

Minister: ..... Treasurer: .....

Date: .....

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, and in carrying out my examininations, 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 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;
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirement concerning the form and content of accounts as 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: DocuSigned by: Eloise Fisher 4354711E689F498...

Name: Eloise Fisher ACCA

Address: Office 43, The Cobalt Building
1600 Eureka Park
Lower Pemberton
Ashford
Kent
TN25 4BF

Date: 3rd October 2022

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	2020 £
Incoming Resources					
General fund donations		398	20,673	21,070	8,455
Special Donations		1,455	0	1,455	1,400
Covenants & Gift Aid		16,657	105,933	122,590	158,592
		18,509	126,606	145,115	168,447
Activity Income		381	0	381	1,833
Investment Income		428	13	442	897
Legacies, donations and fund raising		0	0	0	2,353
Other Income		0	0	0	315
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities		19,318	126,619	145,937	173,845
Resources Expended					
Direct charitable expenditure	2	19,894	198,237	218,131	161,790
Management and Administration	3	0	12,160	12,160	15,991
Total Resources expended		19,894	210,397	230,291	177,781
Net (outgoing)/Incoming Resources		-576	-83,778	-84,354	-3,936
Other recognised gains/losses		0	0	0	-1,758
Net Movement in Funds		**-576**	**-83,778**	**-84,354**	**-5,694**
Reconciliation of Funds					
Fund Balances bought forward as 1 January 2021		250,694	178,592	429,286	434,979
Transfers between funds	7	-94,590	94,590	0	0
Previous years adjustment		804	-804	0	0
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		**£156,332**	**£188,600**	**£344,932**	**£429,286**

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4		4,441		4,939
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	1,382		5,209	
Income Tax recoverable	5	5,618		6,057	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	333,490		416,430	
			340,490		427,696
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	6		0		3,348
			£344,932		£429,286
REPRESENTED BY:					
Restricted Funds			156,332		250,694
Unrestricted Funds			188,600		178,592
			£344,932		£429,286

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Treasurer _____ Date _____

Deacon _____ Date _____

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

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1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 Charities SORP (FRS102) published 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Ashford Baptist Church constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Fund Accounting

General Funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors. The costs 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.

Income

Non-covenanted donations and other income are brought into income in the year during which they are received, with the exception of donations given for a specific purpose which are carried forward as deferred income and matched with the relevant expenditure.
Legacies are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they are received.

Expenditure

Specific items of expenditure that relate to either direct charitable expenditure or other expenditure are attributed to the appropriate category.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of the asset over its estimated useful economic life.

Assets are depreciated at the following rates :

Motor Vehicles	at	20 % on Cost
Fixtures,fittings and equipment	at	15 % on Written Down Value
Computer Equipment	at	33.3 % on Cost

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its useful life. Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £750.

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ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

2) DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	2020 £
Stipends (gross) & Pensions	0	44,584	44,584	45,897
Ministry Assistant (half-time)	0	0	0	6,233
Intern	0	0	0	840
Travel	0	657	657	534
Mission Giving - HM & BMS	1,172	15,000	16,172	15,940
Mission Giving - Other	16,167	5,211	21,378	24,963
Mission Activities	0	0	0	133
Youth & Children's Work	120	679	799	601
Music & PA	0	826	826	3,622
Catering & Hospitality	440	268	708	1,149
Other Ministry	0	1,230	1,230	1,213
Cleaning	250	4,236	4,486	7,943
Heating & Lighting	726	5,764	6,490	5,475
Repairs & Maintenance	321	7,600	7,921	9,062
Insurances	318	3,246	3,564	3,457
Water	5	2,218	2,223	1,102
Manse Costs (council tax, water etc)	0	4,450	4,450	4,836
Pension Deficiency Contributions	0	3,695	3,695	2,724
Conferences/Study Weeks	0	972	972	522
Training (incl Safeguarding)	0	60	60	272
Subscriptions	370	945	1,314	2,454
Visiting Speakers	0	50	50	385
Independent Examiner	0	0	0	500
Sundry	5	0	5	0
Church Refurbishment	0	94,063	94,063	18,213
Depreciation	0	2,483	2,483	3,721
	19,894	198,237	218,131	161,790

3) MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total £	2020 £
Administrator (half-time)	0	0	0	6,132
Office	0	6,174	6,174	5,189
IT & Licensing	0	2,108	2,108	1,755
Advertising & Publicity	0	270	270	294
Resources & Publications	0	607	607	702
Minibus Costs	0	3,001	3,001	1,919
	0	12,160	12,160	15,991
Total of 2) and 3) above	*19,894*	*210,397*	*230,291*	*177,781*

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4) **FIXED ASSETS**

	Motor Vehicles	FF&E	Computer Equipment	Total
COST				
At 1st January 2021	18,991	48,182	0	67,173
Reallocation of assets	0	-5,024	5,024	0
Additions	0	0	1,986	1,986
As at 31st December 2021	18,991	43,158	7,010	69,159
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st January 2021	18,991	43,244	0	62,235
Reallocation of assets	0	-2,531	2,531	0
Charge for the period	0	367	2,116	2,483
As at 31st December 2021	18,991	41,080	4,647	64,718
NET BOOK VALUE				
As at 31st December 2021	**0**	**2,078**	**2,363**	**4,441**
As at 31st December 2020	0	4,939	0	4,939

The Trustees own the following freehold properties: premises at Station Road/St John's Lane, Ashford; the Manse at 23 Magazine Road, Ashford; and leasehold land and buildings at Boughton Aluph Chapel. The original value of the buildings and the costs of improvements to them until 2021 have not been included in the Balance Sheet because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of professionally valuing these assets to include a value in the accounts outweighs the benefits to the users of the accounts. They are insured for £4,404,480 (2020: £4,276,689) which is an estimate of their replacement cost.

5) **DEBTORS**

	2021	2020
Prepayments	1,182	3,585
Other Debtors	200	1,624
Income Tax Recoverable	5,618	6,057
	7,000	11,266

6) **CREDITORS**

	2021	2020
Creditors	0	3,348
	0	3,348

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7) **MOVEMENTS ON RESTRICTED FUNDS**

		Balances at 31/12/2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2021
RF1	L.Wilson	0	6,275	6,275	0	0
RF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,657	3,657	0	0
RF3	Lite Bite	1,121	0	0	0	1,121
RF4	Coffee Morning	3,462	0	0	0	3,462
RF5	Luncheon Club	4,231	0	218	0	4,013
RF6	Fellowship Fund	1,991	2,747	3,940	0	798
RF7	Other Mission Giving	0	1,455	1,455	0	0
RF8	Building Fund	240	20	0	-260	0
RF10	Boughton Chapel	6,723	4,675	3,860	0	7,538
RF11	Boys Brigade	832	57	490	236	635
RF12	Girls Brigade	1,296	5	0	236	1,536
RF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
RF14	Brook Fund	229,613	428	0	-93,953	136,088
**	Craft Club	27	0	0	-27	0
**	Toddlers	471	0	0	-471	0
**	Youth Club	350	0	0	-350	0
		£251,498	£19,318	£19,894	-£94,590	£156,332

** *dormant accounts*

		Balances at 31/12/2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2020
RF1	L.Wilson	0	5,344	5,344	0	0
RF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,532	3,532	0	0
RF3	Lite Bite	1,093	260	232	0	1,121
RF4	Coffee Morning	3,343	119	0	0	3,462
RF5	Luncheon Club	4,099	357	225	0	4,231
RF6	Fellowship Fund	727	8,975	7,711	0	1,991
RF7	Other Mission Giving	0	900	900	0	0
RF8	Building Fund	0	240	0	0	240
RF10	Boughton Chapel	4,049	6,927	4,253	0	6,723
RF11	Boys Brigade	1,032	235	435	0	832
RF12	Girls Brigade	1,866	512	1,082	0	1,296
RF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
RF14	Brook Fund	228,857	756	0	0	229,613
**	Craft Club	27	0	0	0	27
**	Toddlers	471	0	0	0	471
**	Youth Club	350	0	0	0	350
		£247,055	£28,157	£23,714	£0	£251,498

** *dormant accounts*

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8) REMUNERATION

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2020: 3)

	2021	2020
Salaries	44,584	59,102
Social Security Costs	0	0
	44,584	59,102

Members of the Diaconate are not employees and received no remuneration during the year.
Some church members received payments for repair work carried out at the Church and the Manse, for lay preaching and the reimbursement of expenditure incurred in relation to the activities of the Church.

The Church is heavily reliant upon volunteers who give their time, which cannot be valued.

9) FUTURE COMMITMENTS

There were no contractural commitments at 31st December 2021 (2020: Nil).

10) REPAIRS, RENEWALS AND EQUIPMENT

	£
Church refurbishment - Station Road	94,063
Damp proofing kitchen and removing plinth	3,035
Roof repairs and gutter clearing	885
Fire safety	797
Renewing emergency lighting	776
Building safety platform above basement	642
Boughton Chapel	378
General church maintenance	1,408
	101,984

11) SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

		£
Donations and subscriptions > £100		
	P Frizelle	7,568
	L Wilson	7,075
	Pastoral Support	3,940
	Nepalese Church covid support	1,285
	South Ashford Baptist Church	1,100
	Subscriptions	945
	BB Fees	370
	Orphans in Africa	240
	BMS World Mission Harvest Appeal	170
Donations < £100		0
		22,692
Contributions to BMS and Home Mission		
	BMS	8,086
	Home Mission	8,086
		16,172
Total Subscriptions and Donations		38,864

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12) CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2021
Lloyds	32,421
HSBC Current	4,992
HSBC Savings	148,551
Boughton	7,462
GB	635
BB	1,536
Youth Camp	1,141
Unbanked offerings and activity income	591
ABC Petty Cash	72
	197,402
Brook	136,088
Total	333,490

Trustees Responsibilities

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Approval:

This report was approved by the deacons on 30 March 2022 and signed on their behalf.

Signed: R.A. Sylv Signed: Helen M. Wilson

Name: Revd Rob Sylvester Name: Helen M Wilson

Minister: ..... Secretary: .....

Date: 19th October 2022

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130593

Accounts

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

With a Mission at Boughton Aluph

Ashford Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2020

Ashford Baptist Church

St John's Lane ▪ Ashford ▪ Kent ▪ TN23 1PS
Tel:01233 625542 ▪ **Website**:www.ashfordbaptist.org.uk ▪ **Email**: office@ashfordbaptist.org.uk
Ministers: Rev Lorna and Rev Rob Sylvester

Legal and Administrative Information
(as at 31 December 2019)

Ministers	Rev Lorna Sylvester and Rev Rob Sylvester (1.6.2015)
Secretary	Helen Wilson (Elected 01 01 20 – 2nd Year)
Treasurer	Anssi Oinaala (Elected 01 01 20) – resigned 31 01 20)
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Administrator	Natalie Torchia Fernandez (appointed 3.11.18 – resigned 15 07 20)
Deacons	Jane Martin (elected 1.1.18) Alison O'Donnell (Re-elected 01 01 20 elected 1.1.17) Helen Wilson (elected 1.1.18) David Cripps (elected 1.1.18) Keith Tam (Elected 01 01 20)

The Deacons and Ministers together comprise the Managing Trustees of the Church

Registered Charity Number	1130593
Principal Address	Ashford Baptist Church Saint John's Lane Ashford, Kent TN23 1PS
Governing Document	Church Constitution adopted on 20th March 2008
Independent Examiner	Eloise Fisher, ACCA Accounts Unlocked Limited Repton Manor Repton Avenue Ashford Kent TN23 3GP

Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 39 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8TG	Lloyds Bank 81 High Street Ashford, Kent TN24 8SS

Ashford Baptist Church
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Tel:01233 625542 ▪ **Website**:www.ashfordbaptist.org.uk ▪ **Email**: office@ashfordbaptist.org.uk
Ministers: Rev Lorna and Rev Rob Sylvester

Ministers' AGM Report 2020 – Picture a Year like no other!!

A journey through the Bible in 100 episodes – 1 per day from Genesis to Revelation. Readings, comment, application, and prayer.

Livestream Sunday services and pre-recorded services

Ashford Baptist Church
St John's Lane ▪ Ashford ▪ Kent ▪ TN23 1PS
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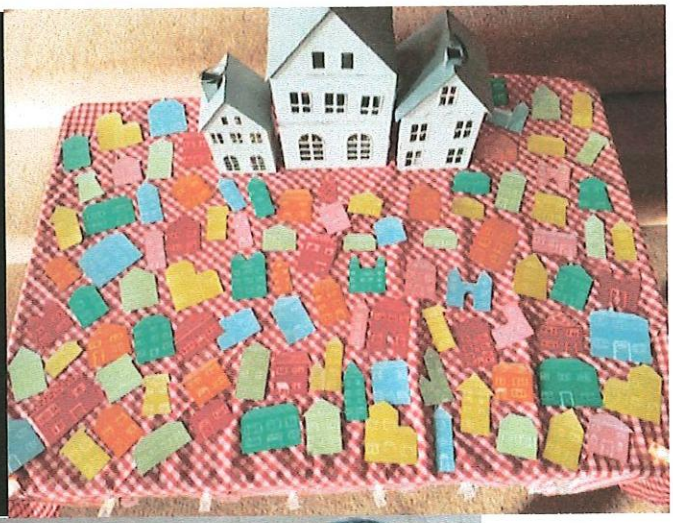
Ministers: Rev Lorna and Rev Rob Sylvester

Christmas Windows of light and verse for the year from Joshua 24;15



Well, 2020 was a year like none of us have ever seen, although many have lived through other emergencies - but none viral-based. We began the year with the verse given to the people of God, as they settled in the promised land asked to choose this day who they will serve, they said **"As for me and my household we will serve the Lord".** We had a preaching series about the various households in our church, large, small, extended and temporary, seeking to build on who God has given to ABC in the makeup of his church….we begun plans for a community breakfast on a Sunday morning in the town centre, some went on a local retreat at St Mary's week of accompanied prayer, Rob and Lorna went on holiday and came home early as it became clear a national emergency was

happening and a national lockdown began on the 26th March, and we were all told to stay at home because of the spread of the coronavirus.

Rob preached on the first Sunday of lockdown on "God our Rock" unmovable, trustworthy, safe, that we depend on and we met online for the first time.... a frantic scramble to get up to speed on recording and live streaming, technical requirements and our grateful thanks goes particularly to Mike O'Donnell who in such a short time equipped and sorted out ministers and leaders of worship with the ability to get online...it was a steep learning curve for us, and we give thanks to Alison and Mike for the livestreaming from their living room and all that is involved in being live, to Jane and Phil for recording services and bringing us the virtual choirs.

We are grateful too for the amazing Bible 100 series where Rob went through the whole Bible in a hundred podcasts to give us a focus for lockdown strengthen and encouraged. We remained online for services and gatherings through the various lockdowns of 2020.Those who were not online received CDs that Tracy Smith made of the services and delivered to those not online as well as service sheets which were posted of sermons and songs. We thank God for the team who enabled this to happen, including Lynda Rand's bookmark of the verse of the year, again delivered to those not online. There was much care and support throughout the year for our community with small groups and meetings outdoors or walks and gardens, as well as meeting in The Coffee Pot in town. We all rediscovered what it is to be outdoor people, where it is much safer to meet at this time of coronavirus.

We thank God for our leaders during this difficult year - our deacons, church secretary and treasurer. We celebrated Easter and Christmas all online and were able to join together with Churches Together in Ashford for the Christmas Windows of Light and the life of the church continued in a virtual way through phones, WhatsApp, Facebook and Zoom!

We said goodbye to Natalie our Administrator and youth worker who remained in Spain with her family due to the coronavirus, we miss her!

These are just a few of the everyday things we remember about 2020, but most of all how we appreciated being in community, looked out for one another in the household of God, serving one another and to God our Father for God's continue overflowing love.

Rev Lorna Sylvester 29th September 2021

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Church Secretary's Annual Report – 2020

Joshua 24:15 - …"then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord".

2020 has been an interesting year for all of us, especially for myself taking up the role of Church Secretary for the first time. I was certainly not expecting a lockdown! This year has not been a "typical year" in the life of the church, as we saw the doors close at the end of March 2020 due to Covid. However, God continued to work amongst us in our weekly services via Youtube, lifegroups and prayer meetings on Zoom. We were still able to continue to have fellowship, for which we give thanks. We give thanks to those who arranged Sunday School, Youth and BB Zooms to stay in touch with our children and youth. We say thank you to Rob and Lorna, our PA team and others who assisted with helping the church to livestream services so quickly.

At the start of the year, we saw Sola and Dayo step down as deacons. We welcomed Keith as a new deacon and Anssi as Treasurer. Deacons' meetings after March, continued on Zoom.

We were pleased to celebrate Greta's 90th birthday with cake after a service in February, along with Stephen's 60th. Although we saw 3 babies born during 2020, we were only able to have one dedication service.

Refurbishment plans for the church sanctuary progressed slower than had been expected.

From March onwards, no activities were held in the church due to Covid. Opportunities were therefore taken to undertake various outstanding maintenance. It soon became apparent that the lockdown would go on for some months and though it had been planned to re-open in December this did not happen.

In July, Natalie our administrator returned from Spain for a short visit to enable us to say farewell.

We continued to receive regular news from our missionaries:- The Frizelles in Guatemala, The Wilsons in Turkey, and our BMS Link Missionaries Annie Tanner in Nepal and Daniel and Regiane Clark in Peru, who also experienced lockdowns due to Covid.

A risk assessment team was convened and we give thanks to Quentin for his help and support in assisting with producing our risk assessment documentation.

We know many of our seniors missed meeting together for coffee mornings and luncheon club, who found being at home very difficult.

A "Meals on Wheels" ministry was formed to meet the needs of those who needed a helping hand following times of illness or having a baby. The church was encouraged to give to the Food Bank to help with those struggling, due to loss of jobs and income.

A games evening and a Tearfund quiz evening via zoom provided an opportunity for some fun, during the lockdown in October and November.

However, at the beginning of Covid we heard from Lynn Green, General Secretary for the BU, who asked us to think about Isaiah 43.

"'forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland'.

We were challenged to use this time to pray and listen to God, to see what God was saying to us as a church and individuals during this time of lockdown.

2020 will also be remembered for "The Blessing", a song which was recorded by many church communities across the country, around the world and even in Ashford; asking God to bless us and keep us. An uplifting song during this time.

I pray that as we look back on 2020 you will be able to recall how God has blessed you, during a year when many of our hopes and expectations were not met, and many were unable to see their families for many months.

I especially give thanks for all those who have enabled us to stay in touch with one another over this past year. Thank you to everyone who has supported me during this past year.

Helen Wilson
September 2021

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SAFEGUARDING REPORT for 2020

On 29th February Lorna and Rob Sylvester, Helen Wilson and I attended a Safeguarding training day at Abingdon Baptist Church on a subject not yet covered in SEBA Safeguarding training about Spiritual Abuse. Entitled Abuse of Power, it covered behaviour within teams: adult to adult. We heard about how to guard against bullying and to build respect.

Then our church life changed to comply with the Covid Safety restrictions and our leaders needed to apply their Safeguarding knowledge when organising Zoom sessions for our children and young people. We are very grateful to these leaders for what they have been doing throughout this time.

SEBA's new Safeguarding Officer was appointed around this time: Wendy Mann. I have found her extremely helpful and very thorough. Her work seeks to ensure consistency across Baptist churches.

In October we also got to know the national BB Safeguarding Officer via a BB Audit. It was helpful to learn about the BB expectations around recruitment that need to go in tandem with our church requirements. This was timely as Nikki Wong was just getting to grips with the DBS administration.

Following the reading of the Safeguarding Policy at the Annual Meeting on 25 October 2020 it was suggested that the list of Safeguarding responsibilities on display on the notice board near the crèche should include the Verifier for the DBS checks. So Nikki Wong has been added following her appointment to the role, replacing Lynda Povey.

Two issues arose during 2020 which were a new challenge. The learning from the Abuse of Power course needed to be applied to a sensitive situation on Face Book. It is so important that all of us speak on social media only those words that we would not mind being displayed on a prominent advertising hoarding. This is a lesson for adults as well as teenagers.

Secondly, as widely reported, the elderly have been vulnerable to more scams and financial exploitation during the past year. It is not in the nature of our senior folk to be suspicious of people who sound friendly on the telephone. It would be helpful if we all help to keep our seniors safe from financial loss just as we would with our own elderly family members. Financial abuse of vulnerable adults can also happen within families and acquaintances. One phrase in the BU guidance, "Safe to Belong", happens more frequently than we would like to think: "the abuse of influence, power or friendship to persuade a person to make gifts . . . ." Let's resolve to guard our vulnerable adults as valued and loved members of our community.

Thanks to all involved in caring for our young people and adults during this past challenging year. Going in to the future it will help us to apply Safeguarding principles as we begin to welcome people in to the church building again.

Margaret Woollven
(Designated Person for Safeguarding)

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BOUGHTON REPORT FOR 2020

The year began as usual with weekly afternoon services and monthly lunch club, coffee break and prayer meeting. We were grateful for the usual friends leading the services. As for other churches the last service or meeting was on 22nd March.

Since that time the old toilet has been replaced thanks to the generosity of one of our members. It is a great improvement, looks bright and new but remains to be brought into use. In addition frequent visits have been made to keep the front looking tidy, removing weeds and clearing the stones and soil that is kicked up by passing traffic. As the road provides a cut through from Canterbury Road to Junction 9 of the M20 or other places on that side of the town it is extremely busy and the majority of vehicles seem to be in a hurry, hence the amount of stones and soil deposited in front of the steps at the front. Weeds also grow readily on the carpark and so are dealt with as well.

Several of the chapel congregation have been able to follow the online services from ABC and we are very grateful to Tracy Smith who has delivered hard copies to those who have not had access to the online versions.

As the congregation is quite small it has been possible to keep in touch by phone on a regular basis and on the whole it has been an uneventful year.

Ray Davis

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Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020

ABC's Aims and Organisation

Ashford Baptist Church has as its primary aim 'To propagate the gospel and teaching of Jesus Christ, and to express that teaching in practical action'.

The church operates in the Borough of Ashford, Kent, and is based at St. John's Lane/Station Road and in the mission church of Boughton Aluph. In 2020 it employed joint Ministers, Revds Lorna and Rob Sylvester, and also a Ministry Assistant who helps co-ordinate the life of the church as well as working part-time as Administrator in the church office. These were supported by 5 Deacons, including a Church Secretary and Treasurer.

Review of Financial Activities

The church is financially dependent on the voluntary support of its members. Gross voluntary income for the year (for all purposes), plus other receipts (including legacies) amounted to £173,845. This is a decrease of £44,459 over the previous year, due mainly to the closure of the building from mid-March to December 2020 (and therefore the suspension of all in-person worship services and other activities), following the outbreak of Covid-19 and as required by UK government legislation.

Total expenditure for the year was £177,781, a reduction over the previous year of £20,162. Again, this was mainly due to the lack of activities for 9 months of the year. Nevertheless, regular donations were sent to BMS World Mission (£7,970) and Baptist Home Mission (£7,970), part of a total of £40,903 given to these and other causes. We also spent £18,213 on phase 1 of the refurbishment of the church.

The net financial position of the church at 31st December 2020 therefore showed a deficit of £5,694 (this includes writing off a small historic debtor of £1,758). This compares to a surplus of £20,361 in the previous year, the difference being explained in the comments above.

All the church's assets are employed directly in pursuing its charitable objectives.

Investment Powers and Bank/Fund Balances

The church constitution authorizes the trustees to make and hold investments using the general funds. At the end of the year there was a current account at HSBC with a balance of £7,608 and an instant savings account with £136,985. There was also a current account at Lloyds bank containing £32,411. In addition, the Baptist Union Corporation holds a fund in trust on behalf of the church following the sale of Brook chapel in 2018. This is only to be used for refurbishment and building work at Station Road. At the end of the year the balance was £229,613. Adding in balances held by groups with their own bank accounts of £9,813 (e.g. Boughton Chapel, BB and GB) total funds amounted to £416,430.

Payment to/in respect of Trustees

No expenses were paid to trustees during the year, but they were reimbursed for materials and postage.

Summary and Thanks

2020 will be remembered as the year the Covid-19 pandemic dramatically affected the world, and its impact was felt by church communities in many significant ways. Despite all the challenges, however, the finances of ABC held up well thanks to the ongoing generosity of its members and friends, as well as prudent budgeting and

financial management. We were also able to make use of the time the church stood empty to begin work on the redecoration and refurbishment of the whole premises.

In all this, we remain thankful for the gracious provision of God, not only in financial terms, but also through the many acts of selfless giving and service rendered by His people at Ashford Baptist Church for the glory of His name.

STATISTICS

Total number of church members as at 31 December 2020: 124

Total number of baptisms in 2020: 0

Number of children/young people with whom the church has regular contact through organised church activities:

Up to 11 years: Face to face Closed from March 2020 – December 2020. Zoom sessions only. Less than 10
12-18 years: No face to face from March 2020 – December 2020. Zoom sessions only. 10 – 15.

Dedications: 1

Trustees Responsibilities

Under the Charities Act 1993 the Trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and the incoming resources and application of resources in the year. In preparing the statement the Trustees are required to:-

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practices have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity at that time and to enable the Trustees to ensure that any statement of account prepared by them complies with the regulations under Section 42(1) of the Charities Act 1992. They are also responsible for safe-guarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval:

This report was approved by the deacons on 24/10/2021 and signed on their behalf.

Signed: R.A.Sylv Signed: AJ'Donnell

Name: Revd Rob Sylvester Name: Alison O'Donnell

Minister: ..... ~~Treasurer:~~ Trustee

Date: 24th October 2021

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, and in carrying out my examininations, 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 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;
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirement concerning the form and content of accounts as 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:

Name: Eloise Fisher, ACCA

Address: Accounts Unlocked Limited
Repton Manor
Repton Avenue
Ashford
Kent
TN23 3GP

Date: 20 October 2021

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	2019 £
Incoming Resources					
General fund donations		498	7,957	8,455	22,935
Special Donations		900	500	1,400	1,964
Covenants & Gift Aid		23,885	134,708	158,592	158,551
		25,283	143,164	168,447	183,450
Activity Income		1,833	0	1,833	18,970
Investment Income		756	142	897	2,185
Legacies, donations and fund raising		0	2,353	2,353	13,699
Other Income		285	30	315	0
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities		28,156	145,689	173,845	218,304
Resources Expended					
Direct charitable expenditure	2	23,713	138,077	161,790	188,707
Management and Administration	3	0	15,991	15,991	9,236
Total Resources expended		23,713	154,068	177,781	197,943
Net (outgoing)/Incoming Resources		4,443	-8,379	-3,936	20,361
Other recognised gains/losses		0	-1,758	-1,758	0
Net Movement in Funds		4,443	-10,137	-5,694	20,361
Reconciliation of Funds					
Fund Balances bought forward as 1 January 2020		246,250	188,729	434,979	414,618
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2020		£250,694	£178,592	£429,286	£434,979

The notes on pages 4 to 8 form part of these Financial Statements

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4		4,939		8,659
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	5,209		5,235	
Income Tax recoverable	5	6,057		6,800	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	416,430		414,715	
			427,696		426,750
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	6		3,348		430
			£429,286		£434,979
REPRESENTED BY:					
Restricted Funds			250,694		246,250
Unrestricted Funds			178,592		188,729
			£429,286		£434,979

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Trustee ~~Treasurer~~ A O'Donnell Date 24/10/21

Deacon Keith Tam Date 24/10/2021

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these Financial Statements

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

(Registered Charity No 1130593)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 Charities SORP (FRS102) published 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Ashford Baptist Church constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Fund Accounting

General Funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors. The costs 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.

Income

Non-covenanted donations and other income are brought into income in the year during which they are received, with the exception of donations given for a specific purpose which are carried forward as deferred income and matched with the relevant expenditure.
Legacies are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they are received.

Expenditure

Specific items of expenditure that relate to either direct charitable expenditure or other expenditure are attributed to the appropriate category.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of the asset over its estimated useful economic life.

Assets are depreciated at the following rates :

Fixtures,fittings and equipment	at	15 % on Written Down Value
Motor Vehicles	at	20 % on Cost

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its useful life.
Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £750.

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
(Registered Charity No 1130593)

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

2) DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	2019 £
Stipends (gross) plus pensions	0	56,227	56,227	51,461
Pulpit supplies and visiting speakers	35	350	385	687
Training	0	794	794	2,348
Church rates	169	933	1,102	1,195
Insurances (church, manse, Boughton chapel)	309	3,148	3,457	6,483
Heat & Light	888	4,587	5,475	6,284
Repairs, renewals and equipment Note 10	871	26,584	27,454	31,863
Music & PA	0	3,622	3,622	1,256
Manse Costs (excl insurance)	0	4,836	4,836	2,769
Caretaking & Cleaning	180	7,763	7,943	8,838
BMS & HM Mission Giving Note 11	940	15,000	15,940	19,507
Other giving & subscriptions Note 11	19,732	7,685	27,417	27,369
Professional fees	0	500	500	290
General expenses	0	1,033	1,033	505
Catering expenses	578	571	1,149	1,675
Activities	11	723	734	8,591
Bank Charges	0	0	0	52
Depreciation	0	3,721	3,721	5,979
	23,713	138,077	161,790	177,152

3) MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total £	2019 £
Administrator salary	0	6,132	6,132	13,035
Office costs (including IT & licensing)	0	7,940	7,940	5,991
Motor & Travelling Expenses	0	1,919	1,919	1,765
	0	15,991	15,991	20,791
Total of 2) and 3) above for 2020	*23,713*	*154,068*	*177,781*	*197,943*

4) **FIXED ASSETS**

	Motor Vehicles	FF&E	Total
COST			
At 1st January 2020	18,991	48,182	67,173
Additions	0	0	0
As at 31st December 2020	18,991	48,182	67,173
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2020	16,142	42,372	58,514
Charge for the period	2,849	872	3,721
As at 31st December 2020	18,991	43,244	62,235
NET BOOK VALUE			
As at 31st December 2020	0	4,939	4,939
As at 31st December 2019	2,849	5,810	8,659

The Trustees own the following freehold properties: premises at Station Road/St John's Lane, Ashford; the Manse at 23 Magazine Road, Ashford; and leasehold land and buildings at Boughton Aluph Chapel. The original value of the buildings and the costs of improvements to them until 2020 have not been included in the Balance Sheet because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of professionally valuing these assets to include a value in the accounts outweighs the benefits to the users of the accounts. They are insured for £4,276,689 (2019: £4,120,656) which is an estimate of their replacement cost.

5) **DEBTORS**

	2020	2019
Prepayments	3,585	3,477
Other Debtors	1,624	1,758
Income Tax Recoverable	6,057	6,800
	11,266	12,035

6) **CREDITORS**

	2020	2019
Creditors	3,348	430
	3,348	430

ASHFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

DETAILED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

7) **MOVEMENTS ON RESTRICTED FUNDS**

		Balances at 31/12/2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2020
DF1	L.Wilson	0	5,944	5,944	0	0
DF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,532	3,532	0	0
DF3	Lite Bite	1,093	260	232	0	1,121
DF4	Coffee Morning	3,343	119	0	0	3,462
DF5	Luncheon Club	4,099	357	225	0	4,231
DF6	Fellowship Fund	727	8,975	7,711	0	1,991
DF7	Other Mission Giving	0	900	900	0	0
DF8	Building Fund	0	240	0	0	240
DF10	Boughton Chapel - General	4,049	6,927	4,253	0	6,722
DF11	Boys Brigade - General	1,032	235	435	0	833
DF12	Girls Brigade	1,866	512	1,082	0	1,296
DF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
DF14	Brook Fund	228,857	756	0	0	229,613
**	Craft Club	27	0	0	0	27
**	Toddlers	471	0	0	0	471
**	Youth Club	350	0	0	0	350
		247,055	28,756	24,313	0	251,498

** *dormant accounts*

		Balances at 31/12/2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balances at 31/12/2019
DF1	L.Wilson	0	6,815	6,815	0	0
DF2	P.Frizelle	0	3,246	3,246	0	0
DF3	Lite Bite	976	1,043	927	0	1,093
DF4	Coffee Morning	2,871	472	0	0	3,343
DF5	Luncheon Club	3,817	1,578	1,295	0	4,099
DF6	Fellowship Fund	1,053	1,519	1,845	0	727
DF7	Other Mission Giving	0	721	721	0	0
DF8	Building Fund	0	0	0	0	0
DF10	Boughton Chapel - General	1,801	9,390	6,948	-194	4,049
DF11	Boys Brigade - General	1,395	3,329	3,692	0	1,032
DF12	Girls Brigade	2,070	2,306	2,588	0	1,788
DF13	Youth Camp	1,141	0	0	0	1,141
DF14	Brook Fund	230,565	1,940	3,648	0	228,857
**	Craft Club	27	0	0	0	27
**	Toddlers	471	0	0	0	471
**	Youth Club	350	0	0	0	350
		£246,537	£32,359	£31,725	-£194	£246,977

** *dormant accounts*

Note: the b/fwd balance of the Girls Brigade account in 2020 was £78 less than the c/fwd balance in 2019. The reason for this is unknown.

8) **REMUNERATION**

The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2019: 4)

	2020	2019
Salaries	59,636	64,496
Social Security Costs	0	0
	59,636	64,496

Members of the Diaconate are not employees and received no remuneration during the year.
Some church members received payments for repair work carried out at the Church and the Manse,
for lay preaching and the reimbursement of expenditure incurred in relation to the activities of the Church.

The Church is heavily reliant upon volunteers who give their time, which cannot be valued.

9) **FUTURE COMMITMENTS**

There were no contractural commitments at 31st December 2020. (2019 - Nil)

10) **REPAIRS, RENEWALS AND EQUIPMENT**

	£
Church refurbishment - Station Road	18,213
Church general maintenance	744
Boughton Painting and fire extingt Refurbishment	871
Boughton Toilets	2,654
PA Desk	1,884
Roof & Gutter repairs	1,460
Cooker	180
Sundry repairs and equipment	1,448
	27,454

11) **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS**

		£
Donations and subscriptions > £100		
	L Wilson	8,344
	P Frizelle	5,932
	Pastoral Support	7,711
	Nepalese Church covid support	1,000
	GB Fees	1,071
	Subscriptions	949
	Tanzania Water Project	700
	BMS Anna Clark	500
	Spurgeons Childcare	436
	BB Fees	435
	Orphans in Africa	140
Donations < £100		200
		27,417
Contributions to BMS and Home Mission		
	BMS	7,970
	Home Mission	7,970
		15,940
Total Subscriptions and Donations		43,357

12) CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2020
Lloyds	32,411
HSBC Current	7,608
HSBC Savings	136,985
Boughton	5,790
GB	1,296
BB	833
Youth Camp	1,141
Unbanked offerings and activity income	682
ABC Petty Cash	72
	186,817
Brook	229,613
Total	416,430