

West Malling Baptist Church

2023 Report for Charity Commission

Statutory Information

Registered Address

61 Swan Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6LW

Charity Registration Number 1130977

Trustees

Name	Date appointed
Rev D.Baxter (Minister)	January 2017
Mr. C.Cornwall (Treasurer)	April 2019
Miss J.Webb (Secretary)	March 2023
Mr J Davis	September 2021
Dr. Mathew Saddler	November 2023

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
718 London Road
Larkfield
Aylesford
Kent ME20 6AN

Independent Examiner

Precision Accountancy LLP
Suite 48/49 Bradbourne House
New Road
East Malling
Kent ME19 6DZ

Annual Report for 2023

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2023.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that 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 education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

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

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptized or by profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The members Meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to ten Trustees (including the Church Secretary and Treasurer) and collectively known as the Deacons, who together with the Minister (when in office), are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

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

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both 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 both 10:45 a.m. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board and the website (www.wmbc.org.uk). 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 house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The Church runs a number of groups that meet on the church premises. These include:

- Monthly Messy Church for families
- Monthly coffee morning (second & fourth Wednesday in the month)
- CAP Money Course and CAP Life Course

All of these have the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. From time to time the Church runs courses in parenting, marriage preparation, and courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity. Some of these courses are run in partnership with other local churches.

The church also provided a Warm Space as part of a national Scheme known as Popin through the winter to support those who might appreciate being in the warmth during the cost of living crisis. It extended this to continue to open weekly though the year as there was an awareness for a need to support a social gathering. The church worked in partnership with our two local churches.

It has also continued to support the local community, for example: giving food to the local foodbank. We offered our premises to support the local Men's Retirement group to enable them continue to meet every fortnight.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and adults at risk are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service. We have an appointed Safeguarding Trustee and policy.

The Church Trustees 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 programs 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 2023 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it is able to pursue its mission purposes in 2023 with confidence.

Trustees & Membership in 2023

There are appointed Trustees for Safeguarding and General Data Protection.

The overall church membership total at 31st December 2023 was 72.

Financial Review 2023

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.

Total income fell by £33,868 in 2023 mainly due to the closure of the Pre-School in July 2022 (£37,430 in 2022). Offerings increased by £5,249 (8.4%), but other income tax fell by £1,687

Total expenditure fell by £72,252 again mainly due to the closure of the Pre-School (£46,355 in 2022 plus redundancy payments of £23,131).

Bank and Cash Balances increased by £11,770 during 2023 to a total of £53,035 at 31 December 2023 which is adequate to fully continue the work of the Church in 2024 and beyond.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

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

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

The reserves policy of West Malling Baptist Church is to hold two months of all expenditure to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the church plus a further £10,000 to allow for emergency repairs to one or more of the three buildings it owns.

The trustees currently believe this amount to be £23,325, compared to £53,035 in free cash reserves held on 31 December 2023. The Trustees recognise that this high level of cash reserves is necessary because of the significant expenditure on the buildings planned in 2024.

WEST MALLING BAPTIST CHURCH

INCLUDING SWAN STREET PRE-SCHOOL

CHARITY NUMBER 1130977

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2023

WEST MALLING BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUNDS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Receipts	Note	2023	2022
Weekly offerings		£67,582	£62,333
Donations	2	£1,902	£4,712
Income tax recovered on gifts		£16,768	£15,924
Investment income	3	£695	£276
Rents and contributions for use of premises		£780	£137
Raised for other causes	4	£3,744	£4,857
Reimbursement of Pre-School Support		£0	£7,072
Total Receipts		£91,471	£95,311
Payments			
Ministry	5	£50,907	£42,902
Mission	6	£16,168	£27,016
Upkeep of premises	7	£19,727	£22,305
Administration and other costs	8	£6,399	£7,512
Total Payments		£93,201	£99,735
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		£(1,730)	£(4,424)
Balance brought forward		£21,417	£25,841
Balance carried forward		£19,687	£21,417

ADDITIONAL MISSIONARY FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Receipts		
<u>Donations received</u>	<u>£2,160</u>	<u>£2,080</u>
Payments		
BMS World Mission - Link Missionaries	£480	£0
Mission with a Vision (Kenya)	£480	£0
The Family Trust (Maidstone)	£355	£0
World Vision	£355	£0
Tearfund	£240	£240
Blythswood Care	£250	£250
Barnabus Aid	£0	£230
South Eastern Baptist Association - Home Mission	£0	£465
Local Food Banks	£0	£450
General Fund for "Known & Loved"	£0	£445
Total Payments	£2,160	£2,080
Surplus for the year	£0	£0
Balance brought forward	£0	£0
Balance carried forward	£0	£0

SWAN STREET PRE-SCHOOL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

During the 2022/23 academic year it became clear that Swan Street Pre-School was no longer financially viable and the decision was taken to close the Pre-School at the end of the academic year on 20th July 2022. The Managers and all remaining staff were made redundant on that day, with all due redundancy payments being met from Church funds.

	Note	2023	2022
Receipts			
Kent County Council funding		£0	£35,053
Other fees		£0	£1,686
Disposal of Equipment		£0	£650
Other income		£0	£41
Total Receipts		£0	£37,430
Payments			
Wages and training costs		£0	£32,014
Pre-Schools Collaboration		£0	£162
Craft items		£0	£82
Equipment		£0	£1,032
Uniforms		£0	£125
Refreshments		£0	£210
Administration		£0	£384
Insurance		£0	£483
Upkeep of premises		£0	£190
Closure costs		£0	£684
Refund of financial support to Church funds		£0	£7,072
Total Payments		£0	£42,438
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		£0	£(5,008)
Balance brought forward		£0	£5,008
Balance carried forward		£0	£0

BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE FUND

Receipts			
Transfer from General Fund	7	£6,000	£2,500
Payments			
Transfer to General Fund		£0	£0
Surplus for the year		£6,000	£2,500
Balance brought forward		£9,848	£7,348
Balance carried forward		£15,848	£9,848

MANSE DEVELOPMENT FUND**2023****2022****Receipts**

Transfer from General Fund

5

£6,500£1,500**Payments**

Pre-School Redundancy Payments

£0£1,500**Surplus/(Deficit) for the year**

£6,500

£0

Balance brought forward

£10,000

£10,000

Balance carried forward£16,500£10,000**MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FUND****Receipts**£0£0**Payments**

Pre-School Redundancy Payments

£0£19,682**Surplus(Deficit) for the year**

£0

£(19,682)

Balance brought forward

£19,682

Balance carried forward£0£0**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023	2022
ASSETS:			
Bank and Deposit Account Balances	9	<u>£53,035</u>	<u>£41,265</u>
REPRESENTING BALANCES ON THE FOLLOWING FUNDS			
General Funds (unrestricted fund)		£19,687	£21,417
Buildings Maintenance Fund (designated fund)		£15,848	£9,848
Manse Development Fund (designated fund)		£16,500	£10,000
Ministerial Support Fund (designated fund)		£0	£0
Additional Missionary Fund (restricted fund)		£0	£0
Swan Street Pre-School (restricted fund)		£0	£0
Pastoral Fund		£1,000	£0
		<u>£53,035</u>	<u>£41,265</u>
Assets held for the Church's own use	10	<u>£3,102,527</u>	<u>£2,937,477</u>
CREDITORS:			
Pension Scheme liability	11	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of accounts: These accounts have been prepared on a "receipts and payments" basis and accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

	2023	2022
2 Donations and other income:		
Donations	£1,612	£3,421
Legacies	£0	£1,000
Other income	£290	£291
Total Donations and Other Income	<u>£1,902</u>	<u>£4,712</u>

3 Investment Income:		
Bank interest	£57	£10
Interest on deposit with the Baptist Union of Great Britain	£638	£266
Total Investment Income	<u>£695</u>	<u>£276</u>

	2023		2022	
4 Other Causes:	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
Restricted Funds				
BMS World Mission	£656	£656	£1,450	£1,450
Tearfund	£1,163	£1,163	£20	£80
World Vision	£674	£699	£0	£0
Project Possible (formerly Rope Charitable Trust)	£696	£696	£760	£760
Tools with a Mission	£340	£340	£0	£0
Assistance to Church Family	£100	£100	£100	£100
Churches Together in Malling	£0	£0	£1,500	£1,500
Barnabus Fund	£0	£0	£487	£572
Other items	£115	£0	£540	£540
	<u>£3,744</u>	<u>£3,654</u>	<u>£4,857</u>	<u>£5,002</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
BMS World Mission	£0	£3,940	£0	£4,290
Home Mission	£0	£3,875	£0	£3,600
Evangelical Alliance	£0	£200	£0	£200
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£8,015</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£8,090</u>
Total Other Causes	<u>£3,744</u>	<u>£11,669</u>	<u>£4,857</u>	<u>£13,092</u>

	2023	2022
5 Ministry:		
Minister's stipend	£26,707	£24,854
Pension contribution	£3,746	£5,548
National Insurance less Employment Allowance	£0	£153
Minister's expenses	£1,327	£1,004
Pulpit supplies	£1,195	£640
Manse upkeep	£9,959	£9,031
Transfer to Manse Development Fund	£6,500	£1,500
Other ministry costs	£1,473	£172
	<u>£50,907</u>	<u>£42,902</u>

The Minister acts as one of the Church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Minister, including the provision of manse accommodation owned by the Church.

	2023	2022
6 Mission:		
Given to other causes (per note 4)	£11,669	£13,092
Local evangelism & social action	£3,749	£2,935
Transfer to Pastoral Fund	£750	£0
Pre-School Support	£0	£10,989
	<u>£16,168</u>	<u>£27,016</u>
7 Upkeep of Church and Abbey View House premises:		
Utilities	£3,773	£3,343
Cleaning	£1,845	£1,874
Insurances	£2,981	£2,709
Gardening	£1,188	£0
Repairs and maintenance	£2,246	£10,741
Transfers to Buildings Maintenance Fund	£6,000	£2,500
Purchase and replacement of equipment	£999	£551
Other items	£695	£587
	<u>£19,727</u>	<u>£22,305</u>
8 Administration:		
Printing and stationery	£1,781	£1,981
Telephone, broadband and postage	£911	£995
Subscriptions	£492	£454
Bank charges	£363	£396
Television and copyright licences	£999	£983
Professional fees	£288	£288
Other items	£1,565	£2,415
	<u>£6,399</u>	<u>£7,512</u>
9 Bank and deposit balances		
National Westminster Bank accounts	£25,744	£29,612
Baptist Union Corporation deposit account	£27,291	£11,653
	<u>£53,035</u>	<u>£41,265</u>
10 Assets held for the Church's own use		
The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:		
They are shown at insured value.		
Church premises, 63 Swan Street, West Malling	£1,264,710	£1,206,786
Abbey View House, 61 Swan Street, West Malling	£1,264,710	£1,206,786
The Manse, 86 Offham Road, West Malling	£469,442	£424,988
	<u>£2,998,862</u>	<u>£2,838,560</u>
The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of:	£103,665	£98,917
	<u>£3,102,527</u>	<u>£2,937,477</u>

11 Pension Scheme Liabilities

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

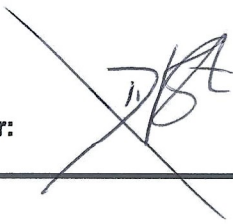
The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was made by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316 million, giving a deficit of £18 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

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

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 to 6 relating to the year ending 31 December 2023 are as approved by the Trustees on 9th May 2024, and are signed on their behalf by:


Minister:



Treasurer:



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the Trustees/members of	WEST MALLING BAPTIST CHURCH	
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2023	Charity number 1130977
Set out on pages	1 to 6	
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); andto state whether particular matters have come to my attention.	
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>	
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention</p> <p>(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and(b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or <p>(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached</p>	
Signed		Date 19TH JULY 2024
Name	PRECISION ACCOUNTANCY LLP	
Address	SUITE 48/49 BRADBOURNE HOUSE NEW ROAD EAST MALLING KENT ME19 6DZ	