STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, (MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST UNION)

England & Wales · Charity number 1131785

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-09-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Stony Stratford Community Church Horsefair Green Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JW
Phone	01908567168
Email	office@stonystratfordcommunitychurch.co.uk
Website	www.stonystratfordcommunitychurch.co.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 SERVICESCOMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR ELDERLY, PARENTS AND TODDLERS, YOUNG PEOPLETEACHING AND TRAINING IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITHMISSION ACITIVITIES IN THE UK AND OVERSEASACTIVITIES RELATED TO POVERTY AND INJUSTICE IN UK AND OVERSEAS

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Buckinghamshire
- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£171,092	£157,733	-	-
2024-03-31	£148,404	£111,855	-	-
2023-03-31	£178,228	£190,372	-	-
2022-03-31	£176,846	£173,659	-	-
2021-03-31	£208,537	£179,529	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Stuart Earl	Chair	2016-06-28
Barry Howson		2023-12-12
Christine Laughlan		2024-02-13
Dr Neil Hughes		2016-04-19
Ian Leslie Turvey		2026-02-24
JUDITH MARY HOWSON		2023-09-26
Julie Anne Halsey		2024-10-01
Peter Alec Whybray		2023-12-12
RUTH MARY BOWDEN		2024-10-01
Stephen Anthony Summerfield		2023-12-12

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STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, (MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST UNION)

England & Wales - Charity number 1131785

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

STONY STRATFORD
COMMUNITY CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1131785

Stony Stratford Community Church

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Stony Stratford Community Church

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2024
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2025
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE	The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
MINISTER (TEAM LEAD)	Reverend Stuart Earl
ELDERS	Judy Howson (Appointed Sep 2023) Zara Lee (Appointed 06/2021) (Resigned 11/2024)) Steve Summerfield (Appointed Dec 2023) Christine Laughlan (Appointed Feb 2024) Ruth Bowden (Appointed Oct 2024) Kenneth Beaton (Appointed Jan 2019)
SAFEGUARDING TRUSTEE	Gillian Clarke (Appointed Sep 2023)(Resigned Mar 2024)
CHURCH SECRETARY	Barry Howson (Appointed Dec 2023)
TREASURER	Neil Hughes (Appointed Apr 2016)
ADMINISTRATIVE TRUSTEES	Peter Whybray (Appointed Dec 2023) Julie Halsey (Appointed Oct 2024)
MANAGING TRUSTEES	Ministers Elders Church Secretary Treasurer Administrative Trustees Safeguarding Lead
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	The Church is governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church members' meeting.
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1131785
OBJECTS	The Church exists to proclaim the Christian faith and to serve the local community through its work and witness. Its purpose is to turn people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ADDRESS	PO Box 44 129, Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
REGISTERED ADDRESS	Stony Stratford Community Church Horsefair Green Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JW

Stony Stratford Community Church

PRIMARY BANK	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Castle View Accounting Ltd Ground Floor Offices 53 High Street Arundel West Sussex BN18 9AJ

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Stony Stratford Community Church is an unincorporated association, governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church Members' Meeting. The constitution is based upon the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches provided by the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

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

The Minister Rev Stuart Earl (Team Leader) is accredited by the Baptist Union. He works with a team of Elders to enable the church to fulfil its commission - namely to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Decisions are made according to Baptist practice by the Church Membership which meets at least four times a year. The Minister, Church Secretary, Treasurer, Elders, and individuals with responsibility for Safeguarding, Buildings and IT are Trustees of the church with responsibility for general decisions. They are accountable to the Church Members for decisions they make, and important decisions, including finances, are discussed and voted upon at the Church Members' Meeting. The constitution sets out procedures and thresholds for decision making, though the aim is for decisions to be made by consensus.

Trustees are appointed according to rules set out in our constitution. Nominations are made from the church membership, considered by the Elders, and appointed by the members of the church through a vote at a Church Members' meeting. Trustees are provided with guidance for their role using documents supplied by the Baptist Union, which also sign-posts the Charity Commission guidance they are required to be familiar with.

During the course of the year the Trustee team expanded by two to 12 – one Elder and a much-needed appointment to focus on building maintenance issues. Unfortunately, one of the Trustees with an Eldership role resigned for personal reasons and near the end of this year we lost our Safeguarding Trustee who was advised not to perform the dual role of Designated Person for Safeguarding and Safeguarding Trustee. She subsequently resigned from the Trustee aspect of her role. This has taken us back to 10 Trustees. We remain active in seeking additional people to take the team to the full complement of 14, but most approaches are unsuccessful reflecting the challenge of finding suitable people willing to take on the responsibilities that being a Trustee entails.

The full Trustees group met eight times during the year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Mission Statement:
"To know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to make Him known."

Vision:
"God wants to continue to build us together into a loving family, anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, reaching out in Jesus' name to the surrounding community and to all nations."

Values:
G- enerosity
R- adical Living
A- cceptance
C- ommunity Focus
E- ngaging in Prayer and Worship

Stony Stratford Community Church registered as a charity in 2009. We changed our name to help us become more accessible to the local community but remain a member of the Baptist Union and operate according to Baptist principles.

The church conducts public worship services which are open and advertised to those in the locality, as well as conducting regular activities to advance the Christian Faith and serve the community held in our building and in other locations. The Trustees regularly consider ways to maximise effectiveness and have regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities listed in our rules of particular relevance to this public benefit are:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month;
- evangelism and mission;
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Our buildings and systems are important resources for this to happen, and the Trustees oversee their upkeep and maintenance.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Sunday Worship & Prayer

A public worship service is held each Sunday morning, including sung worship, Bible reading and prayer. First, third and fifth Sundays incorporate a sermon – themes covered throughout the year include the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus (continuing from the previous year), Jesus' approach to acceptance of others, Advent/Christmas, and thinking about the nature of church and the challenges of the future. Second Sundays are our "Sundays Out" weeks where we meet together for a shorter time before heading out to share with our local community through activities (see the section on Mission below). On fourth Sundays, instead of a sermon we recount stories of God at work in and through our lives as an encouragement to one another to demonstrate God's goodness and love to those around us. This is followed by a shared lunch together and some training in sharing our faith with others in order to make Jesus known to those beyond our church community. Groups for youth and children usually meet each Sunday apart from Sundays Out weeks when all participate in the community activities. During this year we have held all age Café Church services when there has been a fifth Sunday in a month.

Each month there is a Prayer and Worship evening on one Sunday which provides more time to engage with key practices of the Christian faith.

We have also continued offering regular Messy Church services, which give a hands-on approach to worship for all ages. These take place on Sunday afternoons and are often attended by families from the area who are not involved in church at other times. We have held four of these events through the year, plus a mini version at the town's Riverside Fair.

We were very pleased to record our first Believers' Baptisms for several years in 2024. One of our young people and one of our older people were both baptised, as a testimony to the work of Jesus in their lives and their desire to follow him and belong to the church.

Church Family

A membership review has been underway for some time, including seeking to communicate with those we have lost contact with over many years. The conclusion of this has led to a significant reduction in our membership list, though we are confident that it is now a much more accurate representation.

In the time covered by this report 25 members resigned or were removed as part of our membership list review, and there was one other resignation. A further two members, Isaac Nyamweda and Maura Parsons, were promoted to glory. However, we also gained five new members giving a total of 99.

Pastoral care is overseen by a volunteer acting as Pastoral Co-ordinator who liaises with individuals/groups and the Team Leader. We now have an Elder who is actively working with the Family Fund (a fund for pastoral needs) group to make sure this is administered effectively.

Youth and Children

As well as the Sunday morning groups, we offer a fortnightly club for children that is open to the wider community on Friday evenings in our building. These sessions include a variety of fun activities and opportunity for socialising, but also for learning and support. Occasional additional youth activities have been arranged such as social events and joining in with gatherings for young people across Milton Keynes.

One of our young people took a gap year following leaving school, gaining experience of Christian ministry at a residential centre in Sheffield working with young people and travelling to Brazil to work with children for a project there. The church was able to contribute to the costs of this.

We had hoped to be able to run a gap year scheme with trainees to support our youth and community work starting in September 2024, but our partner organisation (DNA) was unable to recruit enough trainees. Sadly, shortly afterwards, DNA took a decision to cease operating.

Life Groups

The church has six mid-week "Life Groups" which meet in people's homes, using the church building, or online. These provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship, as well as providing pastoral care for the group members. Information regarding these groups is available on our website.

Mission

We have engaged in a wide range of activities as means by which we seek to advance the Christian faith in ways which also demonstrate clear public benefit. More details below.

Our review of our community engagement continued using the 5D Framework from Share Jesus International. This included holding a stakeholder event to explore issues with relevant community groups including other churches, community groups, charities, and the Town Council. It was a very positive event, and we hope to build on it in future. A number of areas to explore further have emerged, including improving co-operation with other community groups/agencies, improving communication of all that we offer generally, a new group for the visually impaired (see below) and investigations into the possibility of running student mentoring in local schools.

There is more to do with the 5D process, but the urgent response to the needs of Asylum Seekers in a local hotel has taken a lot of time and become a priority (again, see below).

Activities with a mission focus include:

Sundays Out

Sundays Out is our monthly service where we get out of the building to serve the community, share with people and speak the Good News of Jesus to them. The activities include a service in Magdalen House (supported living for older people), litter picking in partnership with the Residents' Associations of Galley Hill and Fullers Slade, community football, Operation Blessing (usually giving away flowers) and other opportunities to engage people in conversation on the street and pray for them.

Missional Communities

The three groups seek to balance worship and care for one another, with work in evangelism and service to the community. Details of these groups are publicly available on our website.

The Hope Group continues to develop the Hygiene Bank for Milton Keynes, providing personal care items to those who need them through community partnerships.

The Thursday Group runs our Messy Church events (see the section on Sunday Worship & Prayer) and continues to provide regular cake drops for the staff of three local schools to encourage them. The community football events that run as part of Sundays Out are also a project of this group.

The "CONNECT" group ran the Souper Saturday events which ended in April 2024 due to staffing issues. Their focus is now running monthly pop-up café events at a local park giving away free drinks and treats, as well as listening to people and praying for their needs.

Community Outreach

We provide a variety of regular sessions to reach out and serve a wide cross-section of our community:

Weekly: Mini Blessings (our parent/carer and toddler group) and Drop In (providing a meal and social contact – mainly attended by older people).

Fortnightly: Memory Club (dementia friendly social time), Creative Threads (needlecraft-based group).

Monthly: Fellowship Tea (social event for older people). A new Visual Impairment Group offering support and social time to those with visual impairments began in November 2024 in partnership with Bucks Vision.

Winter Months: Winter Night Shelter (homeless provision fortnightly from December to March - providing venue, co-ordinator and some team).

Annually: Folk on the Green concert town event (we gave away approximately 2000 bottles of water), and Christmas Lights switch on town event (we gave away around 1000 cups of hot chocolate).

Asylum Seekers

In November 2024 we received a call asking for help from West Northants Council due to a local hotel coming into use as accommodation for Asylum Seekers. The contact came as we are part of the Welcome Churches Network, though had never been involved in anything at this scale.

Around 60 men had been placed in the hotel awaiting their asylum applications to be processed. The isolated location on a main road with a small village nearby, meant there was little for them to do and there were concerns about problems that could be caused and the mental health impact on the men. We have responded in the following ways:

- **Clothing** – the MK: Storehouse was approached about providing clothes and agreed to help. We supported their efforts, collecting clothes from our church community and delivering them to the Storehouse. We also raised money for them as the local emphasis of our Christmas appeal.

- **Games** – we gathered donations of games and jigsaws and took several boxes to the hotel, as well as purchasing a table football set, playing cards and dominoes.

- **Toiletries** – The hotel provides shampoo, shower gel, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. SSCC members founded the Hygiene Bank MK. Working with them, we have been supplying deodorant, razors, shaving foam, body lotion, combs and nail clippers for all the men.

- **Sports Equipment** – we provided 2 free-standing basketball hoops and basketballs, plus a set of badminton equipment (net with stand, racquets, shuttlecocks).

- **Bicycles** – we were asked to provide bikes from the start by hotel management and the hotel residents. Working with The Bike Project (which provides bikes for refugees) we were able to supply 20 bikes for the men to use. We also provided bike racks, helmets, locks, lights and puncture repair kits. This was made possible with a grant from the Central Baptist Association.

- **Open Door** – we ran sessions in our church building every couple of weeks. For two hours on a Monday afternoon, we welcomed groups of the men. Pool, table tennis, games, painting, basic English teaching and refreshments are part of this.

- **Mental Health** – the mental health of the residents is a huge issue. We had hoped to run Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing courses but have not managed this so far. Our trained facilitators are willing to run it, but as they are all women they need some male volunteers to join them. In the meantime, we have provided the hotel with links to videos in various languages covering basic mental health and well-being. We recognise that there is a desperate need for in depth professional mental health support, but that is beyond our resources to provide.

- **Other support** – as Christmas approached, we collected donations of chocolate that were given to all the men and hotel staff as a small gift.

World Mission

During this year we have been pleased to welcome missionaries visiting home who we support and are members of our church working in Asia, and the Destiny Africa Children's Choir from Uganda who we have had connections with for many years. The latter group performed a concert which was attended by church members/attendees and people from the local community.

Buildings/Facilities

The appointment of a Trustee with responsibility for building issues has meant that routine maintenance is now being effectively planned for and other remedial works are underway. Repairs have included drains, plumbing, doors, and lights. The extent of roof repairs required is currently being investigated but may be significant.

Unfortunately, a severe storm in September 2024 combined with a blocked drainage gully led to one of our rooms flooding. This has required an insurance claim and extensive drying out. Although the original estimate was that all works would be complete by February 2025, unexplained delays from contractors acting on behalf of the insurance company mean we are still waiting for the work to be finished. The loss of this space has had an impact on several of our activities as we have had to make adjustments.

Office

Since the last annual report, the office has continued to develop as a resource for the smooth running of the church thanks to the work of our Church Support Facilitator. We are now working on recruiting a second office worker to provide PA support to the Team Leader and Trustees.

Accessibility

With support from our Accessibility Co-ordinator, we have continued to consolidate our Growing Hope Silver Accessibility Award with an accessibility training day, extra resources and provision, and signs/information using the Widgit visual language.

Safeguarding

The Church has necessary policy and procedures in place and operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

CONCLUSION

The Trustees are satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public with regard to the Charity Commission guidance.

This year has been one of building on the changes of the previous year, and lots of work to ensure the effectiveness of structures and resources to meet our charitable objectives. Developing team is crucial in this regard, and progress in recruitment for one aspect is often, frustratingly, matched by losses in another. We are determined to be the best possible stewards of our resources and to continue to develop our work for the public benefit. All this is following God's call on our lives and seeks to bring glory to him.

Rev Stuart Earl, Minister (Team Leader)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Charities Act 2011 require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the surplus of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on: 16/12/25

Signed on their behalf by Trustees: S. A. Earl

Printed Name: STUART ALLAN EARL

Stony Stratford Community Church

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Incoming resources					
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources	**3a/3c**	143,283	12,864	156,147	142,318
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	**4b**	2,650	0	2,650	2,318
Investment income	**3b**	10,786	996	11,782	3,399
Other incoming resources	**3d**	512	0	512	369
Total income		**157,231**	**13,860**	**171,092**	**148,404**
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	**4e**	3,062	70	3,132	2,482
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects	**4a**	2,286	24,958	27,243	11,588
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects		76,279	956	77,235	70,705
Support costs	**4c**	45,584	0	45,584	20,466
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	**4d**	4,538	0	4,538	6,614
Total expenditure		**131,749**	**25,984**	**157,733**	**111,855**
Net income / expenditure resources before transfer		**25,482**	**(12,123)**	**13,359**	**36,549**
Transfers	**5**				
Gross transfers between funds - in		3,339	11,316	14,655	10,754
Gross transfers between funds - out		(14,655)	0	(14,655)	(10,754)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds		**14,166**	**(807)**	**13,359**	**36,549**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		**197,505**	**1,334,068**	**1,531,572**	**1,495,023**
Total funds carried forward		**211,671**	**1,333,260**	**1,544,931**	**1,531,572**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Stony Stratford Community Church

BALANCE SHEET

Stony Stratford Community Church

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 March 2025

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	As At 31/03/2025	As At 31/03/2024
Fixed assets	2					
Tangible assets		0	1,294	220,200	221,494	220,730
Heritage assets		0	0	1,032,979	1,032,979	1,032,979
Total Fixed assets		**0**	**1,294**	**1,253,179**	**1,254,473**	**1,253,709**
Current assets						
Debtors	7	20,071	1,536	1,667	23,273	25,727
Cash at bank and in hand	6	160,586	28,988	78,316	267,890	252,958
Total Current assets		**180,657**	**30,524**	**79,983**	**291,163**	**278,685**
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	804	0	(98)	705	822
Net current assets or liabilities	8	**179,853**	**30,524**	**80,081**	**290,458**	**277,863**
Total assets less current liabilities		**179,853**	**31,818**	**1,333,260**	**1,544,931**	**1,531,572**
Total net assets or liabilities		**179,853**	**31,818**	**1,333,260**	**1,544,931**	**1,531,572**
Represented by	5					
Unrestricted		179,853	0	0	179,853	171,296
Designated		0	31,819	0	31,819	26,209
Restricted		0	0	1,333,262	1,333,262	1,334,068
Funds of the church		**179,853**	**31,818**	**1,333,260**	**1,544,931**	**1,531,572**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Approved by the Trustees on: 16/12/25

Signed on their behalf by Trustees: S. A. Earl

Printed Name: STUART ALLAN EARL

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

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. 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Donated Services and Facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Investment Income
This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses
This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs
Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions
Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions
These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Pensions
The Charity is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme (“The Scheme”). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The pension contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Pensions
Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

Assets
Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity, these are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Investments
Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of all tangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis over an assumed useful life of four years. The rates applied per annum are thus 25% across all tangible fixed assets.

No depreciation is charged to freehold property as the properties are maintained to such a standard it is considered the residual value will not be less than cost.

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Tangible Fixed Assets

Financial Year 2024-25

		Restricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	
		Freehold Property	Purchased Equipment	Purchased Equipment	Total
Gross Block					
Costs As At	01/04/2024	1,253,179	16,968	92,125	1,362,272
Additions				1,726	1,726
Revaluations					0
Disposals					0
Costs As At	31/03/2025	1,253,179	16,968	93,851	1,363,998
Depreciation					
As At	01/04/2024	0	16,968	91,630	108,598
Charge					
	Equipment Y/E 2025	0	0	431	431
	Equipment Y/E 2024	0	0	0	0
	Equipment Y/E 2023	0	0	0	0
	Equipment Y/E 2022	0	0	530	530
As At	31/03/2025	0	16,968	92,591	109,559
Net Book					
As At	**31/03/2025**	**1,253,179**	**0**	**1,260**	**1,254,439**
As At	31/03/2024	1,253,179	0	495	1,253,674

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2025 : None

31st March 2024 : None

Notes

A comparison to the previous year's Note 2 will show an inconsistency when comparing the closing accumulated asset values and depreciations, as compared to the opening figures for this financial year. This has been traced to some minor, non-material errors in the historic submissions which have now been corrected here.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Incoming Resources

Selected period: 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
3a) Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources						
Bank Transfer Donations	**5**	61,725	113	4,436	66,273	64,333
Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS	**5**	19,641	1,536	1,315	22,491	24,846
Offerings at services		4,210	0	0	4,210	4,597
Other regular donations	**5**	27,526	0	140	27,666	27,790
Non regular donations		17,443	419	0	17,862	7,246
Communion offering	**5**	0	0	1,016	1,016	881
On trust giving	**5**	0	0	1,790	1,790	1,846
Memory Club	**5**	0	0	459	459	369
Online donations	**5**	4,109	317	2,708	7,135	3,844
Legacies		0	66	0	66	500
Building Maintenance & Development		0	6,179	0	6,179	6,065
CBA Grant For Asylum Seeker Outreach	**5**	0	0	1,000	1,000	0
Sub Total		**134,654**	**8,630**	**12,864**	**156,147**	**142,317**
3b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
DropIn Donations		2,650	0	0	2,650	2,318
Sub Total		**2,650**	**0**	**0**	**2,650**	**2,318**
3c) Investment income						
Interest on bank accounts	**5**	2,944	0	996	3,940	3,399
Property Lettings		0	7,842	0	7,842	0
Sub Total		**2,944**	**7,842**	**996**	**11,782**	**3,399**
3d) Other incoming resources						
Hire of premises		12	0	0	12	0
Weddings & Funerals		0	500	0	500	369
Sub Total		**12**	**500**	**0**	**512**	**369**
Incoming resources Grand totals		**140,259**	**16,972**	**13,860**	**171,092**	**148,404**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

4. RESOURCES USED

Stony Stratford Community Church

Resources Used

Selected period: 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
4a) Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects						
Family fund	**5**	0	0	4,288	4,288	0
MSG	**5**	0	0	17,973	17,973	8,561
On trust payments	**5**	1,000	1,286	2,697	4,982	3,027
Sub Total		**1,000**	**1,286**	**24,958**	**27,243**	**11,588**
4b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
Books		305	0	0	305	297
Conferences		1,253	0	0	1,253	1,032
Evangelism		913	0	0	913	2,384
General pastoral		364	0	0	364	516
Leadership training		999	0	0	999	108
Manse Costs		2,645	0	0	2,645	2,682
Office		195	0	0	195	93
Telephone		801	0	0	801	744
Photocopying		490	0	0	490	454
Public address system		1,742	0	0	1,742	75
Salary Pensions NI Accommodation		64,574	0	0	64,574	58,916
Special events		(416)	0	0	(416)	1,321
Transport		830	0	0	830	1,173
Children & Youth		815	0	0	815	878
Community Care		37	0	641	678	31
Asylum Seeker Outreach		0	730	315	1,045	0
Sub Total		**75,547**	**730**	**956**	**77,233**	**70,704**
4c) Support costs						
Building & Maintenance		8,627	2,065	0	10,692	5,125
Cleaning Services		664	0	0	664	446
Church Kitchen Supplies		1,187	0	0	1,187	729
Insurance		3,258	0	0	3,258	2,763
Miscellaneous payments		309	0	0	309	168
Utilities		18,929	0	0	18,929	7,399
Property Letting		455	7,306	0	7,761	2,219
Property Letting Insurance		0	279	0	279	65
Internet Based Services		1,874	0	0	1,874	1,504
Safe Guarding		0	0	0	0	48
Garden Costs		280	0	0	280	0
Health & Safety		350	0	0	350	0
Sub Total		**35,933**	**9,650**	**0**	**45,583**	**20,466**
4d) Expenditure on managing-administering the charity						
Comms General		54	0	0	54	54
Bank charges		62	0	0	62	60
Professional fees		1,662	0	0	1,662	1,502
Computing		104	409	0	513	167
Subscriptions		265	0	0	265	1,250
Resource Copyright		1,020	0	0	1,020	972
Depreciation (Designated)		153	809	0	961	2,609
Sub Total		**3,320**	**1,218**	**0**	**4,537**	**6,614**
4e) Costs of generating funds						
Fund raising expenses		2,946	0	0	2,946	2,374
Bank charges (fund raising)	**5**	111	5	70	186	108
Sub Total		**3,057**	**5**	**70**	**3,132**	**2,482**
Resources used Grand totals		**118,861**	**12,888**	**25,984**	**157,733**	**111,855**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Restricted Funds

Selected period: 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Transfers	Gains And Losses	Carried Forward
On trust - MSG	18,575	1,279	17,354	11,316	0	13,816
On trust - Funds	3,931	2,003	2,573	0	0	3,360
On trust - Family Fund	9,406	7,330	4,357	0	0	12,379
Sanctuary Buildings	1,032,979	0	0	0	0	1,032,979
Manse Purchase Fund	267,409	996	0	0	0	268,406
Building Development Funds	746	0	0	0	0	746
Building Development Funds Phase 2	97	0	0	0	0	97
Memory Club Fund	693	559	341	0	0	912
Missional Development Fund	(600)	0	300	0	0	(900)
Manse Refugee Fund	782	0	0	0	0	782
Pakistan Flood Fund	50	0	50	0	0	0
World Vision Gaza Appeal	0	45	45	0	0	0
ABCD Bethlehem Christmas Appeal	0	10	10	0	0	0
Asylum Seeker Outreach	0	1,000	315	0	0	685
ABCD & MK Storehouse Christmas Appeal	0	639	639	0	0	0
Totals	**1,334,068**	**13,861**	**25,984**	**11,316**	**0**	**1,333,262**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Restricted funds in deficit are considered to be on-going activities and are replenished during the coming financial period, except where noted below.

The restricted funds held are represented by the Charity's cash reserves and fixed assets investments and are to be expended as specified above.

Mission Support Group (MSG) – this is categorised as a restricted fund in these accounts. The MSG fund currently receives funds from the general fund and is administered by a team appointed by the church.

On Trust Funds - these are donations made for specific causes (notably but not exclusively, personal support of some of our missionaries). Income for these purposes are held in & disbursed from cause specific on trust funds, summarised here.

On Trust Family Fund - this fund operates in a similar fashion to the Mission Support Group. Funds are provided via a communion offering plus personal specific donations. The fund is used to assist those within the congregation experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

Manse - In buying the new manse (75 Boundary Crescent) it was deemed necessary to raise additional finances since the existing fund would be insufficient. This was achieved by a special appeal to the congregation.

When this was agreed at the church meeting it was also agreed that any funds remaining after the completion of the purchase would be used for the future development of the Church premises on the Horsefair Green site.

It should also be noted that the fund value reflects the recorded value for the tangible asset that is the property at 75 Boundary Crescent.

Building Development Funds – This fund reflects the consolidation of all previous funds related to the financing of phase one of the building development programme, the repayment of which was completed during 2020/2021.

Building Development Funds Phase 2 - This fund reflects the donations received and funds raised for a possible Phase 2 of the building redevelopment programme.

Memory Club Fund – This fund holds income received for the purposes of operating a support group for those afflicted with dementia and other memory related diseases. There are two primary sources of income: a local authority grant to assist with operational expenses; donations received at each event.

Missional Development Fund – this fund holds donations received by our missional groups specific for the work of these groups, and as such represents a restricted fund. Expenditure from this fund is backed by a church designated fund from which this reserve fund is replenished annually should its expenditure outstrip its income.

Manse Refugee Fund – this fund was setup to receive donations towards the cost of upgrading the décor of the church Manse in anticipation of hosting a refugee family from Ukraine. During this reporting period a family from Ukraine were our guests in the Manse for a period of time, however they have now moved on.

Pakistan Flood Fund – this fund was set up to receive donations towards the Pakistan Flood appeal. These donations have now been fully distributed and hence this will be removed in future reports.

The remaining funds list (except the Asylum Seeker Outreach) were set up to receive donations made by individuals in the church, to the church, in the expectation of those funds being forwarded to the relevant organisations. These funds were forwarded to the relevant organisations during this accounting period. As such, these funds are now classed as closed.

Asylum Seeker Outreach – this fund was set up to receive a grant from the Central Baptist Association for assisting the church work with asylum seekers. This work has now ended, and we are in communication with the Central Baptist Association to determine what should now happen to the remaining grant funds.

6. CASH AT BANK & IN HAND

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Cash At Bank & In Hand

As at: 31 March 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
BB_CURR : Barclays - Current Account	26,371	500	(495)	26,376	13,270
BB_FF : Barclays - No 2 Account	0	0	1	1	1,782
CAFCURR : CafCash Current Account	21,282	13,402	27,704	62,388	165,366
CAFPLAT : Caf Platinum	0	0	0	0	21,254
BU Corp: Manse Account Funds	0	0	50,700	50,700	49,704
Online Stripe Payments Account	0	0	0	0	716
PC-ALPHA : Petty Cash - Alpha catering	83	0	0	83	83
PCDROPIN : Petty Cash - Drop In	86	0	0	86	380
PCTREASURY : Petty Cash - Treasury	20	0	0	20	20
PC_OFFICE : Petty Cash - Office	5	0	0	5	5
PCMEMORY : Petty Cash - Memory Club	0	0	407	407	379
PAYPAL : Virtual Bank	0	0	0	0	0
PCBELVOIR : Petty Cash - Belvoir Float	0	5,086	0	5,086	0
Charity Bank 1 Year Fixed	31,353	0	0	31,353	0
Charity Bank 3 Year Fixed	20,000	10,000	0	30,000	0
United Trust Bank 100 Day Notice	61,385	0	0	61,385	0
Totals	**160,585**	**28,988**	**78,317**	**267,890**	**252,959**

BU Corp: Manse Account Funds – These funds are held on trust by the Baptist Union Corporation for SSCC and represent the remainder of the proceeds from the sale of a former Manse, following the clearing of the mortgage on SSCC's remaining manse property at 75 Boundary Crescent, in accordance with the agreement of the Baptist Union Corporation.

PAYPAL: Virtual Bank – This account arises from our attempt to donate funds direct to a missionary operating abroad. Unfortunately, this approach failed and alternative methods were employed. Whilst the account still exists, it is not currently used.

7. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Debtors & Prepayments

As at: 31 March 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Accounts Receivable	430	0	352	782	1,054
HMRC Gift Aid Recovery Year End Accrual	19,641	1,536	1,315	22,491	24,674
Totals	**20,071**	**1,536**	**1,667**	**23,273**	**25,728**

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due Within One Year

As at: 31 March 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Agency Collections	0	0	(98)	(98)	(98)
Accounts Payable	1,020	0	0	1,020	996
HMRC Gift Aid On Negative Costs	(216)	0	0	(216)	(75)
Totals	**804**	**0**	**(98)**	**706**	**823**

HMRC Gift Aid On Negative Costs – This is an anticipated negative liability (i.e. an amount we expect to receive) due to gift aid on donations that we intend to offset against incurred costs (hence the classification as a liability).

8a. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due After One Year

As at: 31 March 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Totals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

9. STAFF COSTS & NUMBERS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Staff Costs & Numbers

Financial Year 2024-25

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Costs		
Gross Wages & Salaries	47801	41695
Employer's National Insurance	0	0
Employer's Pension	5373	4871
Total	53174	46566

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Numbers		
Engaged in activities in furtherance of Charity's Objectives	2	3
Total	2	3

Gross Wages & Salaries – As recorded in our previous accounts, there is in place a manse agreement between the church and each of its ministers whereby the church leases each minister's property in order to fulfil its obligation to provide accommodation for each minister. As a lease arrangement this falls outside the scope of PAYE and is borne as a cost to the church.

Employer's Pension – These contributions may include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

10. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Payments To Custodian Trustees And Affiliated Groups

Financial Year 2024-25

	This Year	Last Year
Nominal Account		
Baptist Home Mission	3,840	0
Baptist World Mission	3,840	0
Total	7,680	0

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The difference in payments made in this financial period compared to Last Year is on account of an oversight in donations not being paid to the respective organisations last year. This was rectified during this period, and included an additional gift to bless the work of these organisations.

No other payments were made to the custodian Trustees or any persons/organisations connected with them during this financial period. No other material transaction took place between the charity and the custodian Trustees or any person/organisation connected with them.

Ministers:

Payments made to Ministers as Salaries and Pensions are shown in Note 9, and in Note 4a under Staff Costs, Transport Costs and Manse. Any other expenses paid to them or any person connected to them were reimbursements of expenses incurred whilst carrying out their activities for the Church.

11. RELATED PARTIES

The custodian trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is a registered 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.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

13. RESERVES POLICY

During this period the Trustees adopted a more formalised reserves policy that seeks to quantify the targeted level for the reserve fund, that the Trustees wish to hold so as to mitigate any financial risks to the charity in uncertain times. The figure agreed is to be assessed annually at the end of each financial year.

For the forthcoming financial year the targeted reserves figure agreed by the Trustees is set at £98k. This is to be held as cash reserves spread across the charity's bank accounts.

14. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees acknowledge the requirement to demonstrate clearly that the Church must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Church has achieved this are provided in the Church Annual Report located at the start of this report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Stony Stratford Community Church

PENSIONS COMMUNICATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

The following communication was received on 1st May 2024, regarding the Baptist Pension Scheme. For further information on the history behind this communication please consult prior year account reports.

The Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") – Defined Benefit ("DB") Plan Further update on securing the DB Plan and removing future risk exposure

To all employers participating in the Scheme's DB Plan

As a follow-on to our March 2024 email, we can now confirm that the Trustee and the Baptist Union have triggered the wind-up of the DB Plan as at 31st March 2024, as expected. The attached letter has been sent to members along with the attached timeline graphic (or a simplified version is the members pension is already in payment).

We expect to write to you again with a further update in August 2024. At that time we hope to provide a firmer timeline as the financial position of the Scheme becomes clearer.

Yours sincerely

Chris Maggs	Christopher Jones
Moderator of the Scheme's Trustee Board	Baptist Union Support Services Team Leader

Issued for and on behalf of the Baptist Pension Scheme

Subsequent to this we then received the following communication on the 19th November 2024

This email has been issued by a bulk email tool. Please do not reply to this email as the mail box is not monitored.

The Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") – Defined Benefit ("DB") Plan
Further update on winding-up the DB Plan and removing future risk exposure

To all employers participating in the Scheme's DB Plan,

This email is being sent to you jointly from the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme as a participating employer in the DB Plan. It follows on from our March 2024 email on steps being taken to fully secure the Scheme's DB Plan benefits with the insurance company Just Retirement Limited ("Just"). As you are aware, those steps helped to improve the security of members' benefits in the Scheme and allowed us to reduce the contributions from employers towards the DB Plan to £1 per month. This letter is a further update on the process to fully transition the DB Plan to Just which will shortly be completed. Just will make the first direct pension payment to DB Plan members who are receiving a pension on 29 November 2024.

In summary, we are delighted to report that we estimate the Scheme's DB Plan has a surplus. As a result, your £1 per month contributions to the DB Plan will cease after the October contribution and your organisation no longer has any further responsibility towards the DB Plan. We are very pleased that this has been possible to achieve much earlier, and at a much lower cost, than we had anticipated.

What has happened since March 2024?

In our March email we highlighted that the Scheme's Trustee and its advisers were working to fully transition the responsibility for the DB Plan benefits to the insurance company Just. This has involved extensive work to transfer data to Just, to finalise the benefits payable to members and to make the final premium payments.

We are pleased to confirm that the DB Plan benefits will shortly be transferred over to Just and members will shortly be provided with welcome packs and individual policies from them. This part of the process is known as moving to "buy-out". From that point Just will be responsible for the administration and payment of the DB Plan members' pensions.

Just will be legally responsible for paying the DB Plan benefits and the Scheme's Trustee will be discharged from any further responsibility in relation to the DB benefits of members and their beneficiaries.

The Trustee and the Baptist Union formally triggered the wind-up of the DB Plan with effect from 31 March 2024 and there are a number of tasks to complete before the DB Plan can be wound-up. We currently expect the wind-up of the DB Plan to be completed in the first half of 2025.

Surplus Assets

At the completion of the buy-out the Trustee's advisers estimate that the DB Plan will have around £7m of surplus assets. It was agreed between BUGB and the Scheme's Trustee that up to 50% of the surplus assets would be used to enhance members' benefits and the remainder would be transferred to the Scheme's Defined Contribution ('DC') Plan.

To enhance members' benefits, an additional increase estimated to be around 2.7% will be applied to all pensions that were in payment on 1 January 2023. Those pensions received an increase on 1 January 2023 that was lower than the high levels of inflation seen in the UK at the time.

The additional increase goes some way to address this. Members will receive this additional increase in December 2024 and it will be subject to annual increases as appropriate in the usual way.

DB Plan finances

As explained in our March email, one objective of the buy-out is to remove permanently the employers' risk exposure to future deficit contributions. Now that the buy-out has nearly been completed and we estimate the DB Plan is in surplus, we are pleased to say that the Trustee will cease the collection of £1 per month from each employer after the October contribution, and that your organisation will have no further obligation to the Scheme's DB Plan.

You do not need to take any action as a result. The cessation of contributions will be dealt with automatically by our administrators who will update your direct debit mandates.

What about cessation events?

For many years, employers in the DB Plan have needed to inform the Baptist Pensions Team if they were expecting to experience a "cessation event" (broadly, when an employer ceases to have active members in the Scheme's DC Plan). We are very pleased that these complexities have now fallen away.

After wind-up was triggered in March 2024, the previous cessation event regime fell away. Whilst at that stage employers remained potentially liable should any shortfall arise, we can confirm as above your organisation is now released from this commitment with effect from 31 October 2024.

As a result, DB Plan employers no longer need to tell the pensions team about potential cessation events, for example on conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Similarly, there is no longer any requirement to apply for a "period of grace", or take other action to manage a cessation event, if your organisation ceases to have any active members in the Scheme's DC Plan. Employers previously in an existing period of grace have been contacted by the Pensions Team.

If you have any questions about the DB Plan

If you have any questions about the DB Plan please contact the Baptist Pensions Team using this email address pensionshared@baptist.org.uk

What about the Defined Contribution ("DC") Plan?

Although the DB Plan is transitioning to Just, the Scheme's DC Plan will continue to be run as the Baptist Pension Scheme. If you and your minister/employees are currently contributing to the DC Plan, then this will continue as before. None of the DC Plan funds are being transferred to Just.

If members have not yet retired, there is an option to combine both their DB and DC pension benefits at retirement. This can be helpful if they wish to take part of their pension benefits as a tax-free cash lump sum. We have an agreement in place with Just to continue to offer this option.

If you have any questions about the DC Plan and your contributions to it, or about the DC Plan's insurances (life cover and income protection), please contact Broadstone (the Trustee's administrators):

Telephone: 0117 937 8700

Email: baptistpensions@broadstone.co.uk

Address: Broadstone Consultants & Actuaries Limited

Broadstone House

23-25 St George's Road

Bristol BS1 5UU

Next steps

Following the transfer to Just, the Trustee will be working to complete the final tasks to formally wind-up the DB Plan. Please note that, now all the DB Plan benefits have been secured with Just, once the winding up of the DB Plan has been completed, there will be no further assets remaining in the DB Plan and the DB Plan will cease to exist.

Yours sincerely

Chris Maggs — Moderator of the Scheme's Trustee Board

Christopher Jones — Baptist Union Support Services Team Leader

Issued for and on behalf of the Baptist Pension Scheme

This email has been issued by a bulk email tool. Please do not reply to this email as the mail box is not monitored.

Stony Stratford Community Church

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Stony Stratford Community Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on pages 13 to 28.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Collaku MAAT
Castle View Accounting Ltd
Ground Floor Offices
53 High Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AJ

Dated: 19th December 2025

STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, (MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST UNION)

England & Wales - Charity number 1131785

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1131785

Stony Stratford Community Church

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Stony Stratford Community Church

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2023
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2024
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE	The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
MINISTER (TEAM LEAD)	Reverend Stuart Earl
ELDERS	Judy Howson (Appointed Sep 2023) Zara Lee (Appointed June 2021) Steve Summerfield (Appointed Dec 2023) Christine Laughlan (Appointed Feb 2024) Ruth Bowden (Appointed Oct 2024) Kenneth Beaton (Appointed Jan 2019)
SAFEGUARDING LEAD	Gillian Clarke (Appointed Sep 2023)
CHURCH SECRETARY	Barry Howson (Appointed Dec 2023)
TREASURER	Neil Hughes (Appointed Apr 2016)
ADMINISTRATIVE TRUSTEES	Peter Whybray (Appointed Dec 2023) Julie Halsey (Appointed Oct 2024)
MANAGING TRUSTEES	Ministers Elders Church Secretary Treasurer Administrative Trustees Safeguarding Lead
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	The Church is governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church members' meeting.
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1131785
OBJECTS	The Church exists to proclaim the Christian faith and to serve the local community through its work and witness. Its purpose is to turn people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ADDRESS	PO Box 44 129, Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
REGISTERED ADDRESS	Stony Stratford Community Church Horsefair Green Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JW

Stony Stratford Community Church

PRIMARY BANK	Barclays Bank Plc Stony Stratford The Milton Keynes Group 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Castle View Accounting Ltd Ground Floor Offices 53 High Street Arundel West Sussex BN18 9AJ

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Stony Stratford Community Church is an unincorporated association, governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church Members' Meeting. The constitution is based upon the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches provided by the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

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

The Minister Rev Stuart Earl (Team Leader) is accredited by the Baptist Union. He works with a team of Elders to enable the church to fulfil its commission - namely to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Decisions are made according to Baptist practice by the Church Membership which meets at least four times a year. The Minister, Church Secretary, Treasurer, Elders, and individuals with responsibility for Safeguarding and IT are Trustees of the church with responsibility for general decisions. They are accountable to the Church Members for decisions they make, and important decisions, including finances, are discussed and voted upon at the Church Members' Meeting. The constitution sets out procedures and thresholds for decision making, though the aim is for decisions to be made by consensus.

Trustees are appointed according to rules set out in our constitution. Nominations are made from the church membership, considered by the Elders, and appointed by the members of the church through a vote at a Church Members' meeting. Trustees are provided with guidance for their role using documents supplied by the Baptist Union, which also sign-posts the Charity Commission guidance Trustees are required to be familiar with.

Following the retirement of Rev Jacqui Green at the start of this year (April 2023), Rev Stuart Earl's role was changed from "Associate Minister" to "Minister (Team Leader)" (July 2023) with unanimous support from the Church Members' Meeting. Since then, we have expanded our Trustee group to ten. The Church Members have agreed to a team of fourteen and we are continuing to work on recruitment for these positions to increase capacity to meet the various demands faced.

The full Trustees group met seven times during the year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Mission Statement:
"To know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to make Him known."

Vision:
"God wants to continue to build us together into a loving family, anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, reaching out in Jesus' name to the surrounding community and to all nations."

Values:
G- enerosity
R- adical Living
A- cceptance
C- ommunity Focus
E- ngaging in Prayer and Worship

Stony Stratford Community Church registered as a charity in 2009. We changed our name to help us become more accessible to the local community but remain a member of the Baptist Union and operate according to Baptist principles.

The church conducts public worship services which are open and advertised to those in the locality, as well as conducting regular activities to advance the Christian Faith and serve the community held in our building and in other locations. The Trustees regularly consider ways to maximise effectiveness and have regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities listed in our rules of particular relevance to this public benefit are:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month;
- evangelism and mission;
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Our buildings and systems are important resources for this to happen, and the Trustees oversee their upkeep and maintenance.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Sunday Worship & Prayer

A public worship service is held each Sunday morning, including sung worship, Bible reading and prayer. First, third and fifth Sundays incorporate a sermon – themes covered throughout the year include mission, our values, the Bible book of Exodus and the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Second Sundays are our "Sundays Out" weeks where we meet together for a shorter time before heading out to share with our local community through activities (see the section on Mission below). On fourth Sundays, instead of a sermon we recount stories of God at work in and through our lives as an encouragement to one another to demonstrate God's goodness and love to those around us. This is followed by a shared lunch together and some training in sharing our faith with others in order to make Jesus known to those beyond our church community. Groups for youth and children usually meet each Sunday apart from Sundays Out weeks when all participate in the community activities. We also held our first Café Style service on the fifth Sunday in December which was well received, and we plan to make this a regular event when there is a fifth Sunday in a month.

We have also continued offering regular Messy Church services, which give a hands-on approach to worship for all ages. These take place on Sunday afternoons and are often attended by families from the area who are not involved in church at other times. We have held six of these events through the year.

Each month there is a Prayer and Worship evening on one Sunday which provides more time to engage with key practices of the Christian faith. In addition, a small, but faithful, group meets for daily prayer on Zoom, 5 days a week.

Church Family

This year has required the church "family" to come to terms with notable change, especially relating to leadership. We gave thanks and celebrated the ministry of Rev Jacqui Green's role as Senior Minister for 39 years in April and following the change of role of Rev Stuart Earl from Associate Minister to "Minister (Team Leader)", there has been a significant expansion of the leadership team (details above) which has been an encouragement to many in the church.

In the time covered by this report our membership figure has decreased by two. One member resigned and two, Doug Rixon and Doreen Stockton, were promoted to glory. However, we also gained one new member. A review of our membership list is underway, and we expect that this will lead to a significant reduction for the next Annual Report.

The change to one minister has also required a review of how pastoral care is overseen. We now have a volunteer acting as Pastoral Co-ordinator who liaises with individuals/groups and the Team Leader.

Youth and Children

As well as the Sunday morning groups, we offer a fortnightly club for children that is open to the wider community on Friday evenings in our building. These sessions include a variety of fun activities and opportunity for socialising, but also for learning and support.

Volunteer changes meant that the Friday night youth club has had to stop, and the youth team is considering alternative options.

Mission

We have engaged in a wide range of activities as means by which we seek to advance the Christian faith in ways which also demonstrate clear public benefit.

We have also begun a wide-ranging review of our community engagement using the 5D Framework from Share Jesus International. The first phase of this is an exploration of needs, resources and possibilities and has involved a group of around twenty church members in discussion and research, with wider input from stakeholders inside and outside the church. It is hoped that this will allow us to identify changes needed to what we do in order to respond better to the needs of the local community.

Sundays Out

Sundays Out is our monthly service where we get out of the building to serve the community, share with people and speak the Good News of Jesus to them. The activities include a service in Magdalen House (supported living for older people), litter picking in partnership with the Residents' Associations of Galley Hill and Fullers Slade, community football, Operation Blessing (usually giving away flowers) and other opportunities to engage people in conversation on the street and pray for them.

Missional Communities

The three groups seek to balance worship and care for one another, with work in evangelism and service to the community. Details of these groups are publicly available on our website.

The Hope Group continues to develop the Hygiene Bank for Milton Keynes, providing personal care items to those who need them through community partnerships. They are also working with partners to expand Kintsugi Hope wellbeing sessions in the area, including provision for young people. A pilot project was run this year with Loughton Baptist Church to trial running the course with this age group.

The Thursday Group runs our Messy Church events (see the section on Sunday Worship & Prayer) and continues to provide regular cake drops for the staff of three local schools to encourage them. The community football events that run as part of Sundays Out are also a project of this group.

The "CONNECT" group runs the monthly Souper Saturday events and has continued work with Parks Trust members to establish a community orchard.

Life Groups

The church has six mid-week "Life Groups" which meet in people's homes or using the church building. These provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship, as well as providing pastoral care for the group members. Information regarding these groups is also available on our website.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Community Outreach
We provide a variety of regular sessions to reach out and serve a wide cross-section of our community:

Weekly: Mini Blessings (our parent/carer and toddler group) and Drop In (providing a meal and social contact – mainly attended by older people).

Fortnightly: Memory Club (dementia friendly social time).

Monthly: Fellowship Tea (social event for older people). Souper Saturday (Soup and social time).

Winter Months: Winter Night Shelter (homeless provision fortnightly from December to March - providing venue, co-ordinator and some team)

Annually: Folk on the Green concert town event (we gave away 1600 bottles of water on a very hot day), and Christmas Lights switch on town event (we gave away around 900 cups of hot chocolate). In August we ran a free treasure hunt activity for families utilising QR code technology, video clips, and activities. In 2023 we decided to take our Easter Sunday celebration outside onto the Green which went very well, and this was also repeated for 2024.

Buildings/Facilities
2023 was the 200th anniversary of the main part of our building – built on the site of the previous chapel. An event to celebrate was held, including food historical photos. Our neighbours were invited to attend.

Much of the work conducted this year on the building has been routine maintenance, rectifying problems, and ensuring safety (e.g. through PAT testing). There is plenty more to do and we need to appoint a Trustee with specific responsibility for building issues.

Office
The office has not had regular open hours since before the pandemic in 2020. With the appointment of a new office worker in January 2024, the office has once again been open regularly (Monday-Friday mornings) to deal with enquiries and the administration carried out by the new employee is helping us towards greater efficiency.

Accessibility
The Church has appointed a volunteer to work as Accessibility Co-ordinator, and we engaged the Growing Hope organisation to help us review and improve our accessibility to better achieve our objectives. We are pleased to say that we were given a Silver Accessibility Award based on their criteria. The Trustees are committed to consolidating what is already in place and hope, in time to move to the Gold Award status.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Safeguarding
The Church has necessary policy and procedures in place and operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

CONCLUSION
The Trustees are satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public with regard to the Charity Commission guidance.

This year has been one of significant change in the life of the church. The Trustees wish to record their thanks here for the faithful service of Rev Jacqui Green who was a minister of the church since 1984, and Senior Minister for 29 years. We have navigated the changes and are now engaged in a new season of building capacity for the future to allow us to meet our charitable objectives, and most importantly to be faithful to what God is calling us to do together.

Rev Stuart Earl, Minister (Team Leader)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
The Charities Act 2011 require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the surplus of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on: 20/10/2024

Signed on their behalf by Trustees: S. A. Earl

Printed Name: STUART ALLAN EARL

Stony Stratford Community Church

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Incoming resources					
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources	**3a/3c**	132,435	9,883	142,318	174,246
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	**4b**	2,318	0	2,318	0
Investment income	**3b**	734	2,664	3,399	3,430
Other incoming resources	**3d**	369	0	369	552
Total income		**135,857**	**12,548**	**148,404**	**178,228**
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	**4e**	2,454	28	2,482	34
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects	**4a**	423	11,165	11,588	23,304
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects		70,705	0	70,705	110,297
Support costs	**4c**	20,466	0	20,466	51,831
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	**4d**	6,614	0	6,614	4,906
Total expenditure		**100,662**	**11,193**	**111,855**	**190,372**
Net income / expenditure resources before transfer		**35,194**	**1,355**	**36,549**	**(12,144)**
Transfers	**5**				
Gross transfers between funds - in		1,342	9,412	10,754	19,996
Gross transfers between funds - out		(10,715)	(40)	(10,754)	(19,996)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds		**25,822**	**10,727**	**36,549**	**(12,144)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		**171,683**	**1,323,340**	**1,495,023**	**1,507,167**
Total funds carried forward		**197,505**	**1,334,068**	**1,531,572**	**1,495,023**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Stony Stratford Community Church

BALANCE SHEET

Stony Stratford Community Church

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 March 2024

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	As At 31/03/2024	As At 31/03/2023
Fixed assets	2					
Tangible assets		153	377	220,200	220,730	223,338
Heritage assets		0	0	1,032,979	1,032,979	1,032,979
Total Fixed assets		**153**	**377**	**1,253,179**	**1,253,709**	**1,256,317**
Current assets						
Stocks and work in progress		0	0	0	0	349
Debtors	7	21,975	1,922	1,830	25,727	26,306
Cash at bank and in hand	6	150,088	23,909	78,961	252,958	212,852
Total Current assets		**172,063**	**25,832**	**80,790**	**278,685**	**239,507**
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	920	0	(98)	822	802
Net current assets or liabilities	8	**171,143**	**25,832**	**80,889**	**277,863**	**238,705**
Total assets less current liabilities		**171,296**	**26,209**	**1,334,068**	**1,531,572**	**1,495,023**
Total net assets or liabilities		**171,296**	**26,209**	**1,334,068**	**1,531,572**	**1,495,023**
Represented by	5					
Unrestricted		171,296	0	0	171,296	150,742
Designated		0	26,209	0	26,209	20,941
Restricted		0	0	1,334,068	1,334,068	1,323,342
Funds of the church		**171,296**	**26,209**	**1,334,068**	**1,531,572**	**1,495,023**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Approved by the Trustees on: 20/10/2024.

Signed on their behalf by Trustees: Neil Hughes

Printed Name: NEIL HUGHES

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern
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 note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern
Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Recognition of Incoming Resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure
Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Grants and Donations
Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts
Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants
This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind
Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Donated Services and Facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Investment Income
This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses
This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs
Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions
Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions
These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Pensions
The Charity is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme (“The Scheme”). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The pension contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Pensions
Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

Assets
Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity, these are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Investments
Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of all tangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis over an assumed useful life of four years. The rates applied per annum are thus 25% across all tangible fixed assets.

No depreciation is charged to freehold property as the properties are maintained to such a standard it is considered the residual value will not be less than cost.

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Tangible Fixed Assets

Financial Year 2023-24

		Restricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	
		Freehold Property	Purchased Equipment	Purchased Equipment	Total
Gross Block					
Costs As At	01/04/2023	1,253,179	16,968	89,397	1,359,544
Additions		0		0	0
Revaluations				0	0
Disposals		0		0	0
Costs As At	31/03/2024	1,253,179	16,968	89,397	1,359,544
Depreciation					
As At	01/04/2023	0	16,968	86,258	105,989
Charge					
	Equipment Y/E 2024	0	0	0	0
	Equipment Y/E 2023	0	0	0	0
	Equipment Y/E 2022	0	0	530	530
	Equipment Y/E 2021	0	0	2,079	2,079
As At	31/03/2024	0	16,968	88,867	108,598
Net Book					
As At	**31/03/2024**	**1,253,179**	**0**	**530**	**1,253,709**
As At	31/03/2023	1,253,179	0	3,139	1,256,318

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2024 : None

31st March 2023 : None

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Incoming Resources

Selected period: 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
3a) Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources						
Bank Transfer Donations	**5**	59,798	0	4,535	64,333	66,162
Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS	**5**	21,553	1,631	1,663	24,846	52,865
Offerings at services	**5**	4,547	0	50	4,597	5,232
Other regular donations	**5**	27,680	0	110	27,790	29,814
Non regular donations	**5**	7,146	0	100	7,246	6,086
Communion offering	**5**	0	0	881	881	781
On trust giving	**5**	0	619	1,227	1,846	4,875
Memory Club	**5**	0	0	369	369	458
Online donations	**5**	2,781	115	948	3,844	1,000
Legacies		0	500	0	500	0
Building Maintenance & Development		0	6,065	0	6,065	6,974
Sub Total		**123,505**	**8,930**	**9,883**	**142,317**	**174,247**
3b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
DropIn Donations		2,318	0	0	2,318	0
Sub Total		**2,318**	**0**	**0**	**2,318**	**0**
3c) Investment income						
Interest on bank accounts	**5**	734	0	2,664	3,399	317
Property Lettings		0	0	0	0	3,113
Sub Total		**734**	**0**	**2,664**	**3,399**	**3,430**
3d) Other incoming resources						
Hire of premises		0	0	0	0	90
Weddings & Funerals		0	369	0	369	462
Sub Total		**0**	**369**	**0**	**369**	**552**
Incoming resources Grand totals		**126,557**	**9,299**	**12,548**	**148,404**	**178,228**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

NB. Whilst the income line related to “Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS” has almost halved compared to the figure recorded last year, this is due to a change in accounting practices implemented in last year’s accounts. The figure this year reflects the actual income to be received for Gift Aid claimed on donations received in this reported financial period.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

4. RESOURCES USED

Stony Stratford Community Church

Resources Used

Selected period: 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
4a) Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects						
Family fund		0	0	0	0	5,850
MSG	**5**	0	0	8,561	8,561	11,136
On trust payments	**5**	0	423	2,604	3,027	6,318
Sub Total		**0**	**423**	**11,165**	**11,588**	**23,304**
4b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
Books		297	0	0	297	489
Conferences		1,032	0	0	1,032	1,258
Evangelism		2,384	0	0	2,384	1,441
General pastoral		516	0	0	516	341
Leadership training		108	0	0	108	63
Manse Costs		2,682	0	0	2,682	4,572
Office		93	0	0	93	321
Telephone		744	0	0	744	655
Photocopying		454	0	0	454	262
Public address system		75	0	0	75	584
Salary Pensions NI Accommodation		58,916	0	0	58,916	96,929
Special events		1,321	0	0	1,321	171
Transport		1,173	0	0	1,173	1,603
Children & Youth		878	0	0	878	507
Community Care		31	0	0	31	848
Sabbatical Costs		0	0	0	0	250
Service Costs		0	0	0	0	5
Sub Total		**70,704**	**0**	**0**	**70,704**	**110,299**
4c) Support costs						
Building & Maintenance		5,125	0	0	5,125	29,086
Cleaning Services		446	0	0	446	699
Church Kitchen Supplies		729	0	0	729	1,023
Insurance		2,763	0	0	2,763	2,647
Miscellaneous payments		168	0	0	168	0
Utilities		7,399	0	0	7,399	2,225
Property letting		0	2,219	0	2,219	14,137
		0	65	0	65	0
Internet Based Services		1,504	0	0	1,504	2,006
Safe Guarding		48	0	0	48	10
Sub Total		**18,182**	**2,284**	**0**	**20,466**	**51,833**
4d) Expenditure on managing-administering the charity						
Comms General		54	0	0	54	48
Bank charges		60	0	0	60	72
Professional fees		1,502	0	0	1,502	1,417
Computing		0	167	0	167	0
Subscriptions		1,250	0	0	1,250	428
Resource Copyright		972	0	0	972	904
Depreciation (Designated)		153	2,456	0	2,609	2,037
Sub Total		**3,991**	**2,623**	**0**	**6,614**	**4,906**
4e) Costs of generating funds						
Fund raising expenses		2,374	0	0	2,374	0
Bank charges (fund raising)	**5**	76	4	28	108	34
Sub Total		**2,450**	**4**	**28**	**2,482**	**34**
Resources used Grand totals		**95,328**	**5,334**	**11,193**	**111,855**	**190,372**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Restricted Funds

Selected period: 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Transfers	Gains And Losses	Carried Forward
On trust - MSG	15,969	1,132	7,886	9,360	0	18,575
On trust - Funds	3,838	2,204	2,111	0	0	3,931
On trust - Family Fund	3,885	5,540	19	0	0	9,406
Sanctuary Buildings	1,032,979	0	0	0	0	1,032,979
Manse Purchase Fund	264,745	2,664	0	0	0	267,409
Building Development Funds	746	0	0	0	0	746
Building Development Funds Phase 2	97	0	0	0	0	97
Memory Club Fund	654	511	471	0	0	693
Missional Development Fund	(600)	0	0	0	0	(600)
Manse Refugee Fund	770	13	0	0	0	782
Pakistan Flood Fund	50	38	38	0	0	50
DNIPRO Hope Fund	21	49	70	0	0	0
St. Marks Meals Fund	21	49	70	0	0	0
Retirement Gift Fund	180	310	490	0	0	0
East Africa Famine Fund	(13)	38	38	13	0	0
World Vision Gaza Appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**1,323,342**	**12,548**	**11,193**	**9,373**	**0**	**1,334,068**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Restricted funds in deficit are considered to be on-going activities and are replenished during the coming financial period, except where noted below.

The restricted funds held are represented by the Charity's cash reserves and fixed assets investments and are to be expended as specified above.

Mission Support Group (MSG) – this is categorised as a restricted fund in these accounts. The MSG fund currently receives funds from the general fund and is administered by a team appointed by the church.

On Trust Funds - these are donations made for specific causes (notably but not exclusively, personal support of some of our missionaries). Income for these purposes are held in & disbursed from cause specific on trust funds, summarised here.

On Trust Family Fund - this fund operates in a similar fashion to the Mission Support Group. Funds are provided via a communion offering plus personal specific donations. The fund is used to assist those within the congregation experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

Manse - In buying the new manse (75 Boundary Crescent) it was deemed necessary to raise additional finances since the existing fund would be insufficient. This was achieved by a special appeal to the congregation. When this was agreed at the church meeting it was also agreed that any funds remaining after the completion of the purchase would be used for the future development of the Church premises on the Horsefair Green site.

It should also be noted that the fund value reflects the recorded value for the tangible asset that is the property at 75 Boundary Crescent.

Building Development Funds – This fund reflects the consolidation of all previous funds related to the financing of phase one of the building development programme, the repayment of which was completed during 2020/2021.

Building Development Funds Phase 2 - This fund reflects the donations received and funds raised for a possible Phase 2 of the building redevelopment programme.

Memory Club Fund – This fund holds income received for the purposes of operating a support group for those afflicted with dementia and other memory related diseases. There are two primary sources of income: a local authority grant to assist with operational expenses; donations received at each event.

Missional Development Fund – this fund holds donations received by our missional groups specific for the work of these groups, and as such represents a restricted fund. Expenditure from this fund is backed by a church designated fund from which this reserve fund is replenished annually should its expenditure outstrip its income.

Manse Refugee Fund – this fund was setup to receive donations towards the cost of upgrading the décor of the church Manse in anticipation of hosting a refugee family from Ukraine. During this reporting period a family from Ukraine have been our guests in the Manse.

Pakistan Flood Fund – this fund was setup to receive donations towards the Pakistan Flood appeal. These donations have been distributed in the following financial period not recorded here.

The remaining funds listed were set up to receive donations made by individuals in the church, to the church, in the expectation of those funds being forwarded to the relevant organisations. These funds were forwarded to the relevant organisations during this accounting period. As such, these funds are now classed as closed.

6. CASH AT BANK & IN HAND

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Cash At Bank & In Hand

As at: 31 March 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
BB_CURR : Barclays - Current Account	12,644	419	207	13,270	16,694
BB_FF : Barclays - No 2 Account	0	0	1,782	1,782	1,782
CAFCURR : CafCash Current Account	125,257	13,489	26,620	165,366	125,945
CAFPLAT : Caf Platinum	11,254	10,000	0	21,254	20,787
BU Corp: Manse Account Funds	0	0	49,704	49,704	47,039
Online Stripe Payments Account	446	1	269	716	0
PC-ALPHA : Petty Cash - Alpha catering	83	0	0	83	83
PCDROPIN : Petty Cash - Drop In	380	0	0	380	235
PCTREASURY : Petty Cash - Treasury	20	0	0	20	20
PC_OFFICE : Petty Cash - Office	5	0	0	5	44
PCMEMORY : Petty Cash - Memory Club	0	0	379	379	222
PAYPAL : Virtual Bank	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**150,089**	**23,909**	**78,961**	**252,959**	**212,851**

BU Corp: Manse Account Funds – These funds are held on trust by the Baptist Union Corporation for SSCC, and represent the remainder of the proceeds from the sale of a former Manse, following the clearing of the mortgage on SSCC's remaining manse property at 75 Boundary Crescent, in accordance with the agreement of the Baptist Union Corporation.

PAYPAL: Virtual Bank – This account arises from our attempt to donate funds direct to a missionary operating abroad. Unfortunately, this approach failed and alternative methods were employed. Whilst the account still exists, it is not currently used.

7. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Debtors & Prepayments

As at: 31 March 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Accounts Receivable	423	279	352	1,054	967
HMRC Gift Aid Recovery Year End Accrual	21,553	1,643	1,478	24,674	25,166
HMRC Gift Aid Recovery Pre Payments	0	0	0	0	173
Totals	**21,976**	**1,922**	**1,830**	**25,728**	**26,306**

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due Within One Year

As at: 31 March 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Agency Collections	0	0	(98)	(98)	(98)
Accounts Payable	996	0	0	996	900
HMRC Gift Aid On Negative Costs	(75)	0	0	(75)	0
Totals	**921**	**0**	**(98)**	**823**	**802**

HMRC Gift Aid On Negative Costs – This is an anticipated negative liability (i.e. an amount we expect to receive) due to gift aid on donations that we intend to offset against incurred costs (hence the classification as a liability).

8a. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due After One Year

As at: 31 March 2024

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Totals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

9. STAFF COSTS & NUMBERS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Staff Costs & Numbers

Financial Year 2023-24

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Costs		
Gross Wages & Salaries	41695	62057
Employer's National Insurance	0	1017
Employer's Pension	4871	11055
Total	46566	74129

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Numbers		
Engaged in activities in furtherance of Charity's Objectives	3	2
Total	3	2

Gross Wages & Salaries – As recorded in our previous accounts, there is in place a manse agreement between the church and each of its ministers whereby the church leases each minister's property in order to fulfil its obligation to provide accommodation for each minister. As a lease arrangement this falls outside the scope of PAYE and is borne as a cost to the church.

Employer's Pension – These contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

Staff Numbers – This report indicates three members of staff were employed during the period of accounting. Whilst this is technically true, as noted earlier in the Church Annual Report, Rev. Jacqui Green retired during this period. Also during this period the church employed office support staff to assist with the running of the church office. Thus, the church currently employs two members of staff, one of whom is the current church minister.

10. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Stony Stratford Community Church
Payments To Custodian Trustees And Affiliated Groups
Financial Year 2023-24

	This Year	Last Year
Nominal Account		
Baptist Home Mission	0	1,200
Baptist World Mission	0	1,200
Total	0	2,400

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

The difference in payments made in this financial period compared to Last Year is on account of an oversight in donations not being paid to the respective organisations. This has been rectified and will be accounted for in the next accounting period.

No other payments were made to the custodian trustees or any persons/organisations connected with them during this financial period. No other material transaction took place between the charity and the custodian trustees or any person/organisation connected with them.

Ministers:

Payments made to Ministers as Salaries and Pensions are shown in Note 9, and in Note 4a under Staff Costs, Transport Costs and Manse. Any other expenses paid to them or any person connected to them were reimbursements of expenses incurred whilst carrying out their activities for the Church.

11. RELATED PARTIES

The custodian trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is a registered 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.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

13. RESERVES POLICY

During this period the Trustees adopted a more formalised reserves policy that seeks to quantify the targeted level for the reserve fund, that the Trustees wish to hold so as to mitigate any financial risks to the charity in uncertain times. The figure agreed is to be assessed annually at the end of each financial year.

For the forth coming financial year the targeted reserves figure agreed by the Trustees is set at £98k. This is to be held as cash reserves spread across the charity's bank accounts.

14. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees acknowledge the requirement to demonstrate clearly that the Church must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Church has achieved this are provided in the Church Annual Report located at the start of this report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Stony Stratford Community Church

PENSIONS COMMUNICATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The following communication was received on 13th September 2023 regarding the Baptist Pension Scheme. For further information on the history behind this communication please consult prior year account reports.

The Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") – Defined Benefit ("DB") Plan
Update on securing the DB Plan and removing future risk exposure

To all employers participating in the Scheme's DB Plan,

This email is being sent to you jointly from the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme as a participating employer in the DB Plan. It follows on from our 26 July 2022 email on steps being taken to fully secure the Scheme's DB Plan benefits with the insurance company Just Group ("Just"). Those steps helped to improve the security of members' benefits in the Scheme and allowed us to reduce the contributions from employers towards the DB Plan to £1 per month.

What has happened since July 2022?

Broadstone have continued to administer the Scheme, working closely with Just to make sure we have accurate data to pass over to them in due course. We are planning to fully transition the responsibility for DB Plan benefits to Just during 2024. This is known as a buy-out and involves the following steps.

- Just will issue all DB Plan members with an individual contract setting out their entitlements.
- Just will take over administration of the DB entitlements from Broadstone.
- When the buy-out completes, DB entitlements will no longer be part of the Scheme.
- Your commitments as a participating employer in the DB Plan will come to an end.

Making this transition means that the benefits and options of some non-retired members will need to change slightly. The Trustee and the Baptist Union have been working to consider these changes and to look at how any negative impacts can be compensated or mitigated.

Member consultation

Our current expectation is that members who are affected by any of these changes will be contacted by the Baptist Union later this year. That communication will set out the changes and the proposed mitigations. This will be a formal consultation by the Baptist Union on behalf of employers under the Scheme.

There are no changes for members whose pensions are already in payment. When Just take over the arrangements they will continue to receive their pension on the same terms as now.

What about the Defined Contribution ("DC") Plan?

When the DB Plan transitions to Just, the DC Plan will continue to be run as the Baptist Pension Scheme. If you are currently contributing to the DC Plan then this will continue as before.

DB Plan finances and risk exposure

The objective of the buy-out is to remove permanently the employers' risk exposure to future deficit contributions. However, we are not there yet as risks remain at this stage. In the process of buy-out there are still a number of factors being discussed between the Baptist Union and the Trustee with

regard to mitigating benefit changes for members. The terms on which these can then be secured with Just will depend on financial markets at the time. Further, the Trustee continues to dispose of its remaining assets, and the amount it will receive remains uncertain.

There are also substantial costs in the buy-out process as well as ongoing operational costs. These are all being closely monitored as the project develops.

As things currently stand, we are expecting the existing DB Plan funds to be adequate and a relatively small surplus may emerge. Discussions over the use of surplus are ongoing but we cannot rule out the possibility of a shortfall.

Deficit Recovery Contributions (DRCs)

In light of the above uncertainties, the Trustee will continue to collect £1 per month from each employer so that the direct debit facility remains open should there be a significant change in circumstances. If there is a significant detrimental change, employers may be asked to increase their contributions. This requirement will cease when the buy-out completes and we move towards wind-up of the DB Plan.

What about cessation events?

Until buy-out is complete, the Scheme still operates under a legislative regime that has strict rules about cessation events (triggered when an employer stops having any active members participating in the DC Plan). The processes set out on the Scheme website (Baptist Pensions | Cessation Events, Baptist Pensions | Periods of Grace and Interim Ministers) should still be followed. Employers should continue to contact the Scheme administrator promptly if they expect to experience a cessation event.

Any cessation events that took place prior to 1 July 2022 still have to be processed on the basis of the shortfall position that applied prior to the buy-in transaction being completed. There are a small number of debts which have been notified to employers and these are being addressed with the Pensions Team.

Periods of grace

We have received legal advice which confirms that the Trustee will not be able to offer new period of grace facilities as we approach buy-out. Employers will have other options that will be explained by the Pensions Team when required.

Employers in an existing period of grace will currently be unaffected. However, where that period of grace relates to a cessation event before 1 July 2022 it is still possible that a debt might arise. The Pension Team will be in touch with employers in this situation to discuss their options.

If you are in a period of grace with a cessation event after 30 June 2022, when buy-out completes we anticipate there will be no charge as all employers will leave the DB Plan at that point.

Next steps

When the member consultation takes place we will be in touch with employers as well to keep you in the picture and provide a further update.

Yours sincerely

Chris Maggs
Moderator of the Scheme's Trustee Board

Tim Jackson
Moderator for the Baptist Union's Employers' Group

Issued for and on behalf of the Baptist Pension Scheme

Stony Stratford Community Church

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Stony Stratford Community Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 set out on pages 11 to 25.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Collaku MAAT
Castle View Accounting Ltd
Ground Floor Offices
53 High Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AJ

Dated: 14th November 2024

STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, (MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST UNION)

England & Wales - Charity number 1131785

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STONY STRATFORD
COMMUNITY CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1131785

Stony Stratford Community Church

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Stony Stratford Community Church

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2022
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2023
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE	The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
MINISTER	Reverend Jacqui Green
ASSOCIATE MINISTER	Reverend Stuart Earl
ELDERS	Kenny Beaton (Reappointed April 2022) Zara Lee (Appointed 15th June 2021)
SAFEGUARDING LEAD	Herman Marais (Retired Jan 2023)
TREASURER	Neil Hughes (Reappointed Nov 2022)
MANAGING TRUSTEES	Ministers Elders Treasurer Safeguarding Lead
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	The Church is governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church members' meeting.
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1131785
OBJECTS	The Church exists to proclaim the Christian faith and to serve the local community through its work and witness. Its purpose is to turn people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ADDRESS	PO Box 44 129, Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
REGISTERED ADDRESS	Stony Stratford Community Church Horsefair Green Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JW
PRIMARY BANK	Barclays Bank Plc Stony Stratford The Milton Keynes Group 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Castle View Accounting Ltd New Barn Mudberry Lane Bosham Chichester West Sussex PO19 8TS

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Stony Stratford Community Church is an unincorporated association, governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church Members' Meeting. The constitution is based upon the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches provided by the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

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

The Ministers, Rev Jacqui Green (Senior) and Rev Stuart Earl (Associate) are both accredited by the Baptist Union. They work with a team of Elders to enable the church to fulfil its commission - namely to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Decisions are made according to Baptist practice by the Church Membership which meets at least 4 times a year. The ministers, Treasurer, Elders and Safeguarding Lead are Trustees of the church with responsibility for general decisions. They are accountable to the Church Members for decisions they make, and important decisions, including budget setting, are discussed and voted upon at the Church Members' Meeting. The constitution sets out procedures and thresholds for decision making, though the aim is for decisions to be made by consensus.

Trustees are appointed according to rules set out in our constitution. Nominations are made from the church membership, considered by the Elders, and appointed by the members of the church through a vote at a Church Members' meeting. Trustees are provided with guidance for their role using documents supplied by the Baptist Union, which also sign-posts the Charity Commission guidance Trustees are required to be familiar with.

We have had a group of 6 Trustees through 2022, but Herman Marais our Safeguarding Trustee stepped down in January 2023. Our team already felt stretched with the various demands upon it, and there is an urgent need to recruit new trustees – especially given the upcoming retirement of Rev Jacqui Green.

The full Trustees group met 6 times during the year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Mission Statement:
"To know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to make Him known."

Vision:
"God wants to continue to build us together into a loving family, anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, reaching out in Jesus' name to the surrounding community and to all nations."

Values:
G- enerosity
R- adical Living
A- cceptance
C- ommunity Focus
E- ngaging in Prayer and Worship

Stony Stratford Community Church registered as a charity in 2009. We changed our name to help us become more accessible to the local community but remain a member of the Baptist Union and operate according to Baptist principles.

The church conducts public worship services which are open and advertised to those in the locality, as well as carrying out regular activities to advance the Christian Faith and serve the community held in our building and in other locations. The Trustees regularly consider ways to maximise effectiveness and have regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities listed in our rules of particular relevance to this public benefit are:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month;
- evangelism and mission
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Our buildings and systems are important resources for this to happen, and the Trustees oversee their upkeep and maintenance.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Sunday Worship & Prayer

A public worship service is held each Sunday morning, including sung worship, Bible reading and prayer. First, third and fifth Sundays incorporate a sermon – themes covered throughout the year include the "…one another" Bible verses and spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer, fasting, serving, celebration). Second Sundays are our "Sundays Out" weeks where we meet together for a shorter time before heading out to share with our local community through activities (see the section on Mission below). On fourth Sundays, instead of a sermon we recount stories of God at work in and through our lives as an encouragement to one another to demonstrate God's goodness and love to those around us. This is followed by a shared lunch together and some training in sharing our faith with others in order to make Jesus known to those beyond our church community. Groups for youth and children meet each Sunday apart from Sundays Out weeks when all are involved in the community activities.

Each month there is a Prayer and Worship evening on one Sunday which provides more time to engage with key practices of the Christian faith.

We have also continued offering regular Messy Church services, which give a firsthand approach to worship for all ages. These take place on Sunday afternoons and are often attended by families from the area who are not involved in church at other times. In 2023 we have increased from 3 of these services a year to bimonthly.

Church Family

As a church "family" we have our share of ups and downs and have had to face some disagreements together. We have worked through a process of resolving some lingering concerns among some members about the direction of the church, making space for honest and frank listening and discussion. We are pleased to say that we were able to come to a place of drawing a line under these matters at a members' meeting in January 2023, resolving to move forward together and recommitting to one another.

In the time covered by this report our membership figure has stayed the same. One member resigned and one, Ann Outten, was promoted to glory. However, we also gained two new members.

Rev Stuart Earl, our Associate Minister, was able to take a three-month sabbatical for rest and refreshment during the summer of 2022. Baptist Ministers are entitled to this break once every 7 years.

Youth and Children

As well as the Sunday morning groups, we offer clubs that are open to the wider community on Friday evenings in our building. There is a fortnightly event for children called 635 Club, and a youth club that was running fortnightly but has become monthly. Both of these include a variety of fun activities and opportunity for socialising, but also for learning and support.

Stony Stratford Community Church

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Mission

We have engaged in a wide range of activities as means by which we seek to advance the Christian faith in ways which also demonstrate clear public benefit.

Sundays Out

Sundays Out is our monthly service where we get out of the building to serve the community, share with people and speak the Good News of Jesus to them. The activities include a service in Magdalen House (supported living for older people), litter picking in partnership with the Residents' Associations of Galley Hill and Fullers Slade, community football, Operation Blessing (usually giving away flowers) and other opportunities to engage people in conversation on the street and pray for them.

Missional Communities

The three groups seek to balance worship and care for one another, with work in evangelism and service to the community. Details of these groups are publicly available on our website.

The Sunday Group continues to be the driving force behind the Hygiene Bank for Milton Keynes, providing personal care items to those who need them through community partnerships. They are also working with partners to expand Kintsugi Hope wellbeing sessions in the area, including provision for young people.

The Thursday Group has increased the frequency of Messy Church events (see the section on Sunday Worship & Prayer) and provided regular cake drops for the staff of 3 local schools to encourage them. The community football events that run as part of Sundays Out are also a project of this group.

The "CONNECT" group runs the monthly Souper Saturday events and has continued work with Parks Trust members to establishing a community orchard.

Life Groups

The church has 6 mid-week "Life Groups" which meet in people's homes or using the church building. These provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship, as well as providing pastoral care for the group members. Information regarding these groups is also available on our website.

Community Outreach

We provide a variety of regular sessions to reach out and serve a wide cross-section of our community:

Weekly: Mini Blessings (our parent/carer and toddler group) and Drop In (providing a meal and social contact – mainly attended by older people).

Fortnightly: Memory Club (dementia friendly social time).

Monthly: Fellowship Tea (social event for older people). Souper Saturday (Soup and social time).

Winter Months: Winter Night Shelter (homeless provision fortnightly from December to March - providing venue, co-ordinator and some team)

Annually: Folk on the Green concert town event (we gave away 1000 bottles of water), and Christmas Lights switch on town event (we gave away around 800 cups of hot chocolate). In August we ran a free treasure hunt activity for families utilising QR code technology, video clips, and activities.

One-off: Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – we offered resources and encouragement to church members to organise their own street events (including a booklet to give away about the Queen's faith) and organised a cream-tea of our own. Death of Elizabeth II: we opened a book of condolence and made our building available to the community for quiet prayer/reflection.

Buildings/Facilities

The youth team asked on behalf of the young people whether they could enhance the room where they hold most of their sessions. The space was completely refurbished and refreshed during the autumn of 2022 in consultation with the young people and youth team.

The access ramp path was refurbished, and a handrail installed to improve accessibility to our building for those in our church and the wider community.

We also commissioned a Quinquennial Review which was carried out to identify building issues which require consideration or action. Urgent items have been given priority, with some longer-term issues requiring attention also.

Safeguarding

The Church has necessary policy and procedures in place and operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

CONCLUSION

The Trustees are satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public with regard to the Charity Commission guidance.

This year has been full of activity, but also a time for reflection and consideration following the announcement that our Senior Minister, Rev Jacqui Green was to retire in April 2023. Rev Green has been a minister of the church since 1984, and Senior Minister for 29 years. Although this announcement was not a shock, it is a significant change and planning for the future has been a large emphasis for the Elder/Trustees and wider church during the time covered in this report. There are many questions and uncertainties to face, but this is accompanied by hopeful anticipation for what is to come.

Rev Stuart Earl, Minister (Team Leader)

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the surplus of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. The are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on: 21/11/23

Signed on their behalf by Trustees: S T Earl

Printed Name: STUART EARL

Stony Stratford Community Church

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Incoming resources					
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources	**3a/3c**	158,971	15,276	174,246	165,172
Investment income	**3b**	3,430	0	3,430	10,805
Other incoming resources	**3d**	552	0	552	870
Total income		**162,952**	**15,276**	**178,228**	**176,846**
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	**4e**	18	16	34	801
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects	**4a**	530	22,774	23,304	24,440
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	**4b**	109,507	791	110,297	109,611
Support costs	**4c**	51,831	0	51,831	27,486
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	**4d**	4,906	0	4,906	11,320
Total expenditure		**166,792**	**23,580**	**190,372**	**173,659**
Net income / expenditure resources before transfer		**(3,840)**	**(8,305)**	**(12,144)**	**3,188**
Transfers	**5**				
Gross transfers between funds - in		10,636	9,360	19,996	10,165
Gross transfers between funds - out		(10,916)	(9,080)	(19,996)	(10,165)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds		**(4,120)**	**(8,024)**	**(12,144)**	**3,188**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		**175,803**	**1,331,365**	**1,507,167**	**1,503,979**
Total funds carried forward		**171,683**	**1,323,340**	**1,495,023**	**1,507,167**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Stony Stratford Community Church

BALANCE SHEET

Stony Stratford Community Church

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 March 2023

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	As At 31/03/2023	As At 31/03/2022
Fixed assets	**2**					
Tangible assets		305	2,833	220,200	223,338	225,376
Heritage assets		0	0	1,032,979	1,032,979	1,032,979
Total Fixed assets		**305**	**2,833**	**1,253,179**	**1,256,317**	**1,258,355**
Current assets						
Stocks and w ork in progress		349	0	0	349	349
Debtors	**7**	21,999	1,959	2,349	26,306	572
Cash at bank and in hand	**6**	128,989	16,149	67,714	212,852	250,100
Total Current assets		**151,336**	**18,108**	**70,063**	**239,507**	**251,021**
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	**8**	900	0	(98)	802	2,208
Net current assets or liabilities	**8**	**150,436**	**18,108**	**70,161**	**238,705**	**248,812**
Total assets less current liabilities		**150,742**	**20,941**	**1,323,340**	**1,495,023**	**1,507,167**
Total net assets or liabilities		**150,742**	**20,941**	**1,323,340**	**1,495,023**	**1,507,167**
Represented by	**5**					
Unrestricted		150,742	0	0	150,742	138,235
Designated		0	20,941	0	20,941	37,567
Restricted		0	0	1,323,342	1,323,342	1,331,366
Funds of the church		**150,742**	**20,941**	**1,323,340**	**1,495,023**	**1,507,167**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Approved by the Trustees on: 21/11/2023

Signed on their behalf by Trustees: .....

Printed Name: NEIL HUGHES

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern
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 note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern
Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Recognition of Incoming Resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure
Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Grants and Donations
Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts
Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants
This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind
Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Donated Services and Facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Investment Income
This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses
This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs
Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions
Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions
These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Pensions
The Charity is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme (“The Scheme”). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The pension contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity, these are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of all tangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis over an assumed useful life of four years. The rates applied per annum are thus 25% across all tangible fixed assets.

No depreciation is charged to freehold property as the properties are maintained to such a standard it is considered the residual value will not be less than cost.

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Tangible Fixed Assets

Financial Year 2022-23

		Restricted Freehold Property	Restricted Purchased Equipment	Unrestricted Purchased Equipment	Total
Gross Block					
Costs As At	01/04/2022	1,253,179	16,968	89,397	1,359,544
Additions		0		0	0
Revaluations				0	0
Disposals		0		0	0
Costs As At	31/03/2023	1,253,179	16,968	89,397	1,359,544
Depreciation					
As At	01/04/2022	0	16,968	84,221	103,952
Charge					
	Equipment Y/E 2023	0	0	0	0
	Equipment Y/E 2022	0	0	530	530
	Equipment Y/E 2021	0	0	827	827
	Equipment Y/E 2020	0	0	680	680
As At	31/03/2023	0	16,968	86,258	105,989
Net Book					
As At	**31/03/2023**	**1,253,179**	**0**	**3,139**	**1,256,318**
As At	31/03/2022	1,253,179	0	5,176	1,258,355

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2023 : None

31st March 2022 : None

Notes

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Incoming Resources

Selected period: 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
3a) Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources						
Bank Transfer Donations	**5**	61,666	0	4,496	66,162	75,369
Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS		45,539	3,679	3,647	52,865	29,301
Offerings at services	**5**	5,152	0	80	5,232	3,451
Other regular donations	**5**	29,704	0	110	29,814	34,518
Non regular donations	**5**	4,986	550	550	6,086	5,585
Communion offering	**5**	0	0	781	781	1,286
On trust giving	**5**	0	100	4,775	4,875	4,735
Memory Club		0	0	458	458	284
Online donations		621	0	379	1,000	1,233
Legacies		0	0	0	0	542
Building Maintenance & Development		0	6,974	0	6,974	8,869
Sub Total		**147,668**	**11,303**	**15,276**	**174,247**	**165,173**
3b) Investment income						
Interest on bank accounts	**5**	317	0	0	317	120
Property Lettings	**5**	0	3,113	0	3,113	10,685
Sub Total		**317**	**3,113**	**0**	**3,430**	**10,805**
3c) Other incoming resources						
Hire of premises		90	0	0	90	0
Weddings & Funerals		0	462	0	462	870
Sub Total		**90**	**462**	**0**	**552**	**870**
Incoming resources Grand totals		**148,075**	**14,877**	**15,276**	**178,228**	**176,846**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

NB. Whilst the income line related to “Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS” has almost doubled compared to last year, this is due to a required change in how Gift Aid is recorded in our accounts, with the anticipated Gift Aid now being recorded in the period during which the donation was received.

The impact of this change means that, for this reported financial period, this entry records both the income we have received on donations received in the previous year (our previous practice), plus the income we anticipate receiving on donations received during this reported financial year. With the change in Gift Aid recording practice, this anomaly should not arise in future years.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

4. RESOURCES USED

Stony Stratford Community Church

Resources Used

Selected period: 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
4a) Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects						
Family fund		0	0	5,850	5,850	6,660
MSG		0	0	11,136	11,136	11,212
On trust payments		0	530	5,788	6,318	6,569
Sub Total		**0**	**530**	**22,774**	**23,304**	**24,441**
4b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
Books		400	90	0	489	292
Conferences		1,090	168	0	1,258	995
Evangelism		1,441	0	0	1,441	916
General pastoral		341	0	0	341	116
Leadership training		63	0	0	63	659
Manse Costs		4,572	0	0	4,572	3,479
Office		321	0	0	321	79
Telephone		655	0	0	655	560
Photocopying		262	0	0	262	102
Public address system		584	0	0	584	496
Salary Pensions NI Accommodation		96,454	475	0	96,929	98,655
Sanctuary site development		0	0	0	0	119
Special events		171	0	0	171	113
Transport		1,090	512	0	1,603	686
Children & Youth		507	0	0	507	558
Community Care		57	0	791	848	581
Sabbatical Costs		0	250	0	250	0
Service Costs		5	0	0	5	18
Church At Home Related Costs		0	0	0	0	1,186
Sub Total		**108,013**	**1,495**	**791**	**110,299**	**109,610**
4c) Support costs						
Building & Maintenance		5,351	23,735	0	29,086	13,297
Cleaning Services		699	0	0	699	0
Church Kitchen Supplies		1,023	0	0	1,023	2,426
Insurance		2,647	0	0	2,647	1,885
Utilities		2,225	0	0	2,225	4,104
Property letting		3	14,134	0	14,137	2,142
Internet Based Services		2,006	0	0	2,006	3,424
Covid 19 Related Costs		0	0	0	0	209
Safe Guarding		10	0	0	10	0
Sub Total		**13,964**	**37,869**	**0**	**51,833**	**27,487**
4d) Expenditure on managing-administering the charity						
Comms General		48	0	0	48	46
Bank charges		72	0	0	72	98
Professional fees		1,417	0	0	1,417	3,058
Subscriptions		428	0	0	428	1,390
Resource Copyright		904	0	0	904	1,415
Depreciation (Designated)		729	1,309	0	2,037	5,314
Sub Total		**3,598**	**1,309**	**0**	**4,906**	**11,321**
4e) Costs of generating funds						
Fund raising expenses		0	0	0	0	767
Bank charges (fund raising)		18	0	16	34	34
Sub Total		**18**	**0**	**16**	**34**	**801**
Resources used Grand totals		**125,590**	**41,202**	**23,580**	**190,372**	**173,659**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Restricted Funds

Selected period: 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resource	Outgoing Resource	Transfers	Gains And Losses	Carried Forward
On trust - MSG	15,602	1,467	10,461	9,360	0	15,969
On trust - Funds	3,236	4,583	3,982	0	0	3,838
On trust - Family Fund	4,226	5,513	5,854	0	0	3,885
Sanctuary Buildings	1,032,979	0	0	0	0	1,032,979
Manse Purchase Fund	273,825	0	0	(9,080)	0	264,745
Building Development Funds	746	0	0	0	0	746
Building Development Funds Phase 2	97	0	0	0	0	97
Memory Club Fund	915	458	719	0	0	654
Missional Development Fund	(300)	0	300	0	0	(600)
Manse Refugee Fund	0	775	5	0	0	770
Ukraine Appeal Fund	40	10	50	0	0	0
Pakistan Flood Fund	0	614	564	0	0	50
DNIPRO Hope Fund	0	490	469	0	0	21
St. Marks Meals Fund	0	490	469	0	0	21
Retirement Gift Fund	0	186	6	0	0	180
East Africa Famine Fund	0	689	702	0	0	(13)
Totals	**1,331,366**	**15,275**	**23,581**	**280**	**0**	**1,323,342**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Restricted funds in deficit are considered to be on-going activities and are replenished during the coming financial period, except where noted below.

The restricted funds held are represented by the Charity's cash reserves and fixed assets investments and are to be expended as specified above.

Mission Support Group (MSG) – this is categorised as a restricted fund in these accounts. The MSG fund currently receives funds from the general fund and is administered by a team appointed by the church.

On Trust Funds - these are donations made for specific causes (notably but not exclusively, personal support of some of our missionaries). Income for these purposes are held in & disbursed from cause specific on trust funds, summarised here.

On Trust Family Fund - this fund operates in a similar fashion to the Mission Support Group. Funds are provided via a communion offering plus personal specific donations. The fund is used to assist those within the congregation experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

Manse - In buying the new manse (75 Boundary Crescent) it was deemed necessary to raise additional finances since the existing fund would be insufficient. This was achieved by a special appeal to the congregation. When this was agreed at the church meeting it was also agreed that any funds remaining after the completion of the purchase would be used for the future development of the Church premises on the Horsefair Green site.

It should also be noted that the fund value reflects the recorded value for the tangible asset that is the property at 75 Boundary Crescent.

Building Development Funds – This fund reflects the consolidation of all previous funds related to the financing of phase one of the building development programme, the repayment of which was completed during 2020/2021.

Building Development Funds Phase 2 - This fund reflects the donations received and funds raised for a possible Phase 2 of the building redevelopment programme.

Memory Club Fund – This fund holds income received for the purposes of operating a support group for those afflicted with dementia and other memory related diseases. There are two primary sources of income: a local authority grant to assist with operational expenses; donations received at each event.

Missional Development Fund – this fund holds donations received by our missional groups specific for the work of these groups, and as such represents a restricted fund. Expenditure from this fund is backed by a church designated fund from which this reserve fund is replenished annually should its expenditure outstrip its income.

Manse Refugee Fund – this fund was setup to receive donations towards the cost of upgrading the décor of the church Manse in anticipation of hosting a refugee family from Ukraine. A family from Ukraine are now our guests in the Manse.

Retirement Gift Fund – this fund was setup to receive donations towards a gift for Rev. J. Green who will retire early FY2023.

Ukraine Appeal Fund – This was a little used fund that received donations from one individual toward the Ukraine appeal fund. These funds have been forwarded to the appeal on behalf of the church.

The remaining funds listed were set up to receive donations made by individuals in the church, to the church, in the expectation of those funds being forwarded to the relevant organisations. These funds were forwarded, and included an amount calculated to represent the anticipated Gift Aid that would be received on these donations. However, in calculating the Gift Aid we failed to include an element for the cash based GASDS donations. The small positive balances in these funds reflect the anticipated accrued GASDS element on these donations, and these will be forwarded to the relevant organisations during FY 2023/2024.

6. CASH AT BANK & IN HAND

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Cash At Bank & In Hand

As at: 31 March 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
BB_CURR : Barclays - Current Account	11,639	4,058	997	16,694	50,682
BB_FF : Barclays - No 2 Account	0	0	1,782	1,782	4,182
CAFCURR : CafCash Current Account	106,141	2,091	17,714	125,945	117,880
CAFPLAT : Caf Platinum	10,787	10,000	0	20,787	20,645
BU Corp: Manse Account Funds	0	0	47,039	47,039	56,119
PC-ALPHA : Petty Cash - Alpha catering	83	0	0	83	83
PCDROPIN : Petty Cash - Drop In	235	0	0	235	235
PCTREASURY : Petty Cash - Treasury	48	0	(28)	20	(130)
PC_OFFICE : Petty Cash - Office	55	0	(12)	44	44
PCMEMORY : Petty Cash - Memory Club	0	0	222	222	160
PAYPAL : Virtual Bank	0	0	0	0	0
PCBELVOIR : Petty Cash - Belvoir Float	0	0	0	0	200
Totals	**128,988**	**16,149**	**67,714**	**212,851**	**250,100**

BU Corp: Manse Account Funds – These funds are held on trust by the Baptist Union Corporation for SSCC, and represent the remainder of the proceeds from the sale of a former Manse, following the clearing of the mortgage on SSCC's remaining manse property at 75 Boundary Crescent, in accordance with the agreement of the Baptist Union Corporation.

We have had cause to call on some of these funds during this year to help fund building renovations to the Manse.

PAYPAL: Virtual Bank – This account arises from our attempt to donate funds direct to a missionary operating abroad. Unfortunately, this approach failed and alternative methods were employed. Whilst the account still exists, it is not currently used.

7. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Debtors & Prepayments

As at: 31 March 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Accounts Receivable	278	338	352	967	572
HMRC Gift Aid Recovery Year End Accrual	21,721	1,621	1,825	25,166	0
HMRC Gift Aid Recovery Pre Payments	0	0	173	173	0
Totals	**21,999**	**1,959**	**2,350**	**26,306**	**572**

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due Within One Year

As at: 31 March 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Agency Collections	0	0	(98)	(98)	(98)
Accounts Payable	900	0	0	900	2,307
Totals	**900**	**0**	**(98)**	**802**	**2,209**

8a. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due After One Year

As at: 31 March 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Totals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

9. STAFF COSTS & NUMBERS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Staff Costs & Numbers

Financial Year 2022-23

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Costs		
Gross Wages & Salaries	62057	60625
Employer's National Insurance	1017	1594
Employer's Pension	11055	13636
Total	74129	75855

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Numbers		
Engaged in activities in furtherance of Charity's Objectives	2	2
Total	2	2

Gross Wages & Salaries –

As recorded in our previous accounts, there is in place a manse agreement between the church and each of its ministers whereby the church leases each minister's property in order to fulfil its obligation to provide accommodation for each minister. As a lease arrangement this falls outside the scope of PAYE and is borne as a cost to the church.

Employer's Pension – These contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

10. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Payments To Custodian Trustees And Affiliated Groups

Financial Year 2022-23

	This Year	Last Year
Nominal Account		
Baptist Home Mission	1,200	1,200
Baptist World Mission	1,200	1,200
Total	2,400	2,400

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

No other payments were made to the custodian trustees or any persons/organisations connected with them during this financial period. No other material transaction took place between the charity and the custodian trustee or any person/organisation connected with them.

Ministers:

Payments made to Ministers as Salaries and Pensions are shown in Note 9, and in Note 4a under Staff Costs, Transport Costs and Manse. Any other expenses paid to them or any person connected to them were reimbursements of expenses incurred whilst carrying out their activities for the Church.

11. RELATED PARTIES

The custodian trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is a registered 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.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

13. RESERVES POLICY

During this period the Trustees adopted a more formalised reserves policy that seeks to quantify the targeted level for the reserve fund, that the Trustees wish to hold so as to mitigate any financial risks to the charity in uncertain times. The figure agreed is to be assessed annually at the end of each financial year.

For the forth coming financial year the targeted reserves figure agreed by the Trustees is set at £98k. This is to be held as cash reserves spread across the charity's bank accounts.

14. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees acknowledge the requirement to demonstrate clearly that the Church must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Church has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Stony Stratford Community Church

PENSIONS COMMUNICATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The following communication was received on 29th July 2022 regarding the Baptist Pension Scheme. For further information on the history behind this communication please consult prior year account reports.

The Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") – Defined Benefit ("DB") Plan

Update on risk reduction and future employer Deficit Recovery Contributions

To all employers participating in the Baptist Pension Scheme's DB Plan,

This email is being sent to you jointly from the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme as a participating employer in the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension Scheme. It sets out some very positive news on the future of the Scheme's DB Plan and your contributions to it.

Buy-in policy

We are very pleased to announce that we have signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan.

Deficit Recovery Contributions (DRCs)

The costs of such policies are largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour, particularly over the course of the last few months. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee have agreed that deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022.

We are sure you will be pleased to hear this news. We have set out more information below and answered some immediate questions you might have but we appreciate there are more questions that will arise. The Trustee and the Baptist Union are considering the implications for the future management of the Scheme and will provide further information in the next few months.

How does this affect benefits to members of the DB Plan?

We want to reassure you that the purchase of this new buy-in policy does not change the benefits members or their dependants are currently entitled to receive from the DB Plan. The Trustee continues to be responsible for the DB Plan and the benefits members receive will continue to be paid from the Scheme for the time being. The Trustee has written to every DB Plan member to explain the agreement and reassure them on this point.

Who are Just?

Just is a well-established publicly listed UK Insurance Company who specialise in taking over pension scheme liabilities and all the risks associated with them. The Trustee is already familiar with Just, following the similar transaction in 2019.

Just is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and the Trustee obtained advice about the finances of Just as part of reaching agreement. In the extremely unlikely event of Just becoming insolvent, member benefits will be protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

How does a buy-in work?

Under the Trustee's two buy-in policies with Just (the new one and the one from 2019), the Trustee has paid a premium to Just in exchange for which Just has taken responsibility for meeting the cost of pension benefits due from the DB Plan in the future. Securing benefits in this way reduces the risk that the DB Plan is adversely affected by movements in financial markets, changes in life expectancy or other external factors beyond the Trustee's control.

The 'buy-in' is an important step towards setting up individual pension arrangements (or "annuities") for each member of the DB Plan. This is known as a 'buy-out.' Once this exercise is complete it will be Just, and not the Trustee, who is responsible for looking after the DB Plan pension benefits. This process is anticipated to complete in the next couple of years and we will keep you updated on progress.

Before the buy-out can be completed there is a lot of work to be done on behalf of the Scheme to ensure members are treated fairly, residual investments are managed down, expenses are controlled, risks are removed and the Scheme continues to meet regulatory requirements. The Trustee and the Baptist Union are working collaboratively in these areas. Until the buy-out and wind-up are complete not all risks relating to the DB Plan are removed, for instance the Trustee is currently working through a process of confirming all benefits due post wind-up which may result in additional costs.

How does this affect the finances of the DB Plan?

The Trustee has sold most of the DB Plan's investment assets and used the proceeds to pay the initial premium for the insurance policy from Just. Unfortunately, there are some investment assets remaining that could not be sold immediately, and these will be disposed of over the coming months. A portion of the premium for the insurance policy was deferred to account for the anticipated timeline for these disposals.

Because the Just policies cover the overwhelming majority of the DB Plan's liabilities the risks to employers are substantially reduced. However, there remain elements of the DB Plan's finances that are uncertain prior to the completion of the buy-out process. The uncertainties include:

- the sale values that will be achieved in disposal of the residual investment assets;
- the costs of operating the DB Plan until the completion of the buy-out process;
- the costs of the buy-out process itself; and
- the cost of making any amendments to the DB Plan to enable the buy-out to proceed.

At the current time, we expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain. However, it is possible that if things turn out worse than anticipated that further funds will be needed from employers.

What does this mean for future contributions?

The Trustee and the Baptist Union have agreed that DRCs will reduce to £1 per month for each employer from the August 2022 payment until June 2026. Currently, we do not anticipate reinstating the requirement to pay full DRCs in the future but we cannot rule that out at this stage. Participating employers remain responsible for providing a share of any additional funds that the DB Plan may require in future. That is why we are maintaining the direct debit deductions at £1 per month for the time being.

As part of the agreement to reduce contributions in this way, the Baptist Union has agreed to put £3m aside in an escrow account which could be used to provide additional funds to meet the liabilities of the Scheme if required. This additional money helps to provide further security to the Scheme.

The monthly contributions will continue to be publicised via 4MyStaff on or around the 10th of every month, you will therefore be able to view the new reduced contribution rate on 10th August 2022.

Does this affect the Defined Contribution ("DC") Plan within the Scheme?

The DC Plan continues to operate as normal. Employer and member contributions to the DC Plan will be collected in full each month as before and funds will continue to accrue for active members. The 'buy-in' agreement with Just relates only to the DB Plan.

What about cessation events?

Despite the change in shortfall position, the Scheme still operates under a legislative regime that has strict rules about cessation events (triggered when an employer does not have any active members participating in the DC Plan). The processes set out on the Scheme website (Baptist Pensions | Cessation Events, Baptist Pensions | Periods of Grace and Interim Ministers) should still be followed in terms of notifications, periods of grace, interim members etc. We will provide further information on this area in due course.

Any cessation events that took place prior to 1 July 2022 still have to be processed on the basis of the shortfall position that applied prior to the buy-in transaction being completed. Debts which have been notified to you as being due remain payable.

What else do I need to know?

This is a major step forward in the journey to removing any risk of employer debts arising for DB Plan employers and we are thankful that we are able to remove the employer contribution burden at this point. However, we are not fully there yet. Please be patient as we work through the process and provide more information in the next few weeks and months.

Yours sincerely

Chris Maggs
Moderator of the Scheme's Trustee Board

Tim Jackson
Moderator for the Baptist Union's Employers' Group

Issued for and on behalf of the Baptist Pension Scheme

Stony Stratford Community Church

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Stony Stratford Community Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 set out on pages 10 to 25.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Collaku MAAT
Castle View Accounting Ltd
New Barn
Mudberry Lane
Bosham
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 8TS

Dated: 27th November 2023

STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, (MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST UNION)

England & Wales - Charity number 1131785

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

STONY STRATFORD
COMMUNITY CHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1131785

Stony Stratford Community Church

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Stony Stratford Community Church

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2021
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2022
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE	The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
MINISTER	Reverend Jacqui Green
ASSOCIATE MINISTER	Reverend Stuart Earl
ELDERS	Kenny Beaton (Appointed Jan 2019) Zara Lee (Appointed 15th June 2021)
TRUSTEES	Herman Marais (Appointed Nov 2019)
TREASURER	Neil Hughes (Reappointed Nov 2019)
MANAGING TRUSTEES	Ministers Elders Treasurer
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	The Church is governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church members' meeting.
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1131785
OBJECTS	The Church exists to proclaim the Christian faith and to serve the local community through its work and witness. Its purpose is to turn people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ADDRESS	PO Box 44 129, Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
REGISTERED ADDRESS	Stony Stratford Community Church Horsefair Green Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JW
PRIMARY BANK	Barclays Bank Plc Stony Stratford The Milton Keynes Group 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Castle View Accounting Ltd New Barn Mudberry Lane Bosham Chichester West Sussex PO19 8TS

Stony Stratford Community Church

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Church Annual Report April 2021 -March 2022

Introductory Note
Stony Stratford Community Church registered as a charity in 2009. We changed our name to help us become more accessible to the local community but remain a member of the Baptist Union and operate according to Baptist principles. The Ministers, Rev Jacqui Green (Senior) and Rev Stuart Earl (Associate) are both accredited by the Baptist Union. They work with a team of elders to enable the church to fulfil its commission - namely to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Decisions are made according to Baptist practice by the Church Membership which meets 4 times a year. The ministers, Treasurer, Elders and Safeguarding Lead are Trustees of the church and accountable to the church in decisions they make.

Mission Statement:
"To know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to make Him known"

Vision:
"God wants to continue to build us together into a loving family, anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, reaching out in Jesus name to the surrounding community and to all nations"

Values
G-enerosity (Sacrificial)
R-adical Living (Prophetic)
A- cceptance (Inclusive)
C- ommunity Focus (Missionary)
E- ngaging in prayer and Worship (Worship)

This year began as the last one had ended with lots of uncertainty as to when, if ever, we would revert to normality after Covid 19. It was not until September 2021 that we had live worship and preaching in the building rather than it being recorded and watched online. Some people were eager to return at the earliest opportunity while others remained nervous of catching Covid and continued to watch online. Church is not the same as it was numbers are lower (although much better than they were), people do not attend as frequently as they once did, and services are generally shorter than they used to be. We know that we are not alone, and all churches are exploring what a post Covid church looks like. At the time of writing this report the leadership are encouraged by the commitment of those who come to accepting the change and seeing what God will do in us and through us.

The Leadership Team
In June 2021, the church appointed Zara Lee to become an Elder. She is serving the church as Children's Ministries Leader and is a welcome addition to the team representing the younger age group (just into her 30's) and bringing new gifts to our work with Children and Families. We are still open to adding new Elders and Trustees as our team is too small for all the work that needs to be done.

We are very conscious of having a big heart to do more for God and yet not having enough people to match the needs that we see around us. In March 2022 we held an "Opportunities Fair" to showcase the opportunities to serve across the life of the church whether behind the scenes or up front, or within the church or in mission. We asked people to prayerfully consider whether they were serving in the right place or whether God was calling them to change roles or add something to their commitments. It was an encouraging morning which we will repeat at some point but has not changed the numbers involved -yet!

Church Family
Our membership numbers have declined for a number of reasons – the pandemic, people moving away in retirement and four people leaving as they were unhappy with the direction of the church.

Stony Stratford Community Church

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

We have also sadly had a number of deaths during the year Bob Green, the husband of the Senior Minister, died after a long battle with Alzheimer's. I wish to put on record my gratitude to the Church for their incredible support as I sought to care for Bob and lead the church. He was able to remain at home much longer because of their willingness to support him and look out for him. Ernie Bowden, a previous associate pastor(lay) who was much loved and respected by the congregation also died in February 2022. He served God wholeheartedly and to the end - preaching the day before he had a stroke. He died about a week later and is greatly missed. Also, among those promoted to glory were two of our oldest members Beryl Holbrook and Christina Bowles. We also held a number of funerals for other friends of the church, including Peter Brazell, a former church Treasurer and for some people in our community.

Preaching
During the year we looked at what the Bible had to say about Hospitality, Generosity, Justice, Peace-making etc – some of the subjects which speak to the big issues in our world, a world which God loves and calls His church to serve. We also did a series on Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and considered what it had to say to us as we sought to rebuild the Church post Covid.

Youth
Activities for young people ran online throughout the Covid pandemic, providing opportunities for support, learning and socialising. Friday evening youth club sessions and Sunday evening youth sessions were each held fortnightly on Zoom.

From July 2021, some in-person activities resumed with Friday evening youth club sessions meeting outdoors. From September, the youth club resumed meeting indoors in the church building. Sometimes the challenges of Covid meant the sessions took place online, but usually they were face-to-face sessions run with appropriate Covid secure measures in place. The Sunday Youth sessions also returned to the building during the morning services, exploring the Parables of Jesus.

The youth team facilitated Youth Takeover services on Sunday mornings in July, November, and February, which have allowed the young people to lead and shape Sunday services for the whole church community. The fun and creativity of these times has been well received and it is encouraging to see the young people using their gifts and growing in this way.

Mission
Difficulties with gathering together due to Covid posed challenges to running activities safely. During the time covered by this report we have gradually returned to a normal programme.

Sundays Out
Sundays Out is our monthly service where we get out of the building to serve the community, share with people and speak the Good News to them. May was our first attempt at reintroducing some of our Sundays Out projects with organised outside activities taking place and ideas/resources to allow participants to get involved without the need to gather with others. Sundays Out returned fully in September with activities including a service in Magdalen House (supported living for older people), litter picking in partnership with the Residents' Associations of Galley Hill and Fullers Slade, community football, Operation Blessing (leaving posies of flowers for people to find and take), and other opportunities to engage people in conversation on the street and pray for them.

Missional Communities
The Sunday Group completed running an online Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing course in April and offered a second one beginning in January. They also set up a Hygiene Bank for Milton Keynes which officially launched in May 21, providing personal care items to those who need them through community partnerships.

The Thursday Group ran Messy Church events (see below) and provided fortnightly cake drops for the staff of 3 local schools to encourage them in the challenging circumstances they were working in. The community football events that run as part of Sundays Out are also a project of this group.

Stony Stratford Community Church

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

A new missional community began in May, called "CONNECT." This group has taken on running the monthly Souper Saturday events, put on an Alpha course for those interested in exploring faith, and partnered with the town council to work on establishing a community orchard.

Community Outreach

Most of our regular community events restarted in September 2022 with appropriate Covid secure measures in place. These include weekly sessions of Mini Blessings (our parent/carer and toddler group) and Drop In (providing a meal and social contact – mainly attended by older people). Fortnightly 635 club (activities for children) and Memory Club (dementia friendly social time). Once a month there is a Fellowship Tea (for older people). Souper Saturday (Soup and social time) events restarted monthly from October.

We have also been involved in annual events that go on in the life of the town as they have returned. We had a presence at Classic Stony, an event that attracts thousands to view classic cars and motorcycles - we provided free activities for families and the opportunity to meet members of the local Christian Motorcyclist's Association who kindly support us with time and their motorbikes. Although some of the activities for the switch on of the Christmas lights were limited, we were able to return to giving away free hot chocolate – around 500 cups.

In August and December, we ran free treasure hunt activities for families utilising QR code technology and video clips. We also restarted physical Messy Church services for any who would like a hands-on activity-based service, but especially aimed at families. These events ran for Harvest and Christmas (we also do Easter but not covered by this report due to how Easter weekends fell in 2021/22).

Conclusion

The impact of Covid has been far reaching and its effects are still being experienced. We continue to learn the ways that individuals have been affected and to understand the difference between the short term and long-term effects on the Church. We are aware that emotionally some people are still struggling with the aftereffects of Covid, and we see that in tensions that are evident among us more so than in the past. We need to give each other space to recover and be vigilant in our own lives so that we do not remain in the place that Covid has left us.

We do not forget that we also have much to be grateful for – no-one has died as a direct result of Covid, the majority of people have returned to church and confidence in working together has returned. Our church finances, while less than they were, have been sufficient for our needs. You will see from the range of activities commented on above that we are doing much to address the needs beyond the church doors, and we do receive messages of appreciation.

I am writing this, my final Church Report in October 2022, having just told the Church of my intention to retire in April 2023. By that time, I will have been a Minister of the Church since 1984; the first 10 years as Associate minister and 29 years as Senior Minister. It has been a privilege to serve the Church for such a long time. It has had times of real pain and challenge and many moments of Joy and inspiration. The over-riding awareness that I have is of God's relentless faithfulness to His Church. Every year we have been able to testify that God is faithful; there is no challenge that He cannot enable us to overcome. We still declare with conviction the hymn

"Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father there is no shadow of turning with Thee
All I have needed Thy hand has provided, great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me"

Stony Stratford Community Church

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

As I lay down my ministry in 6 months' time, I have absolute confidence that the God who has led us this far will continue to sustain and grow **His** church, here in Stony Stratford, in the future. To Him be all the praise and glory

Rev Jacqui Green, Senior Minister

(Sections on Youth, Mission, Missional Communities, Community Outreach contributed by Rev Stuart Earl, Associate Minister)

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Chairty's and of the surplus of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 8th November 2022

Signed on their behalf by Trustees Jacqueline Green (Revd)

Printed Name: JACQUELINE GREEN

Stony Stratford Community Church

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Incoming resources					
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources	**3a/3c**	153,443	11,729	165,172	193,957
Investment income	**3b**	10,688	117	10,805	12,793
Other incoming resources	**3d**	870	0	870	1,787
Total income		**165,001**	**11,845**	**176,846**	**208,537**
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	**4e**	800	1	801	72
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects	**4a**	2,007	22,433	24,440	25,079
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	**4b**	109,109	502	109,611	116,218
Support costs	**4c**	27,486	0	27,486	28,344
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	**4d**	11,320	0	11,320	9,817
Total expenditure		**150,722**	**22,937**	**173,659**	**179,529**
Net income / expenditure resources before transfer		**14,279**	**(11,092)**	**3,188**	**29,008**
Transfers	**5**				
Gross transfers between funds - in		805	9,360	10,165	22,500
Gross transfers between funds - out		(10,165)	0	(10,165)	(22,500)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds		**4,919**	**(1,732)**	**3,188**	**29,008**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		**170,883**	**1,333,096**	**1,503,979**	**1,474,971**
Total funds carried forward		**175,803**	**1,331,365**	**1,507,167**	**1,503,979**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 10 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Stony Stratford Community Church

BALANCE SHEET

Stony Stratford Community Church

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 March 2022

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	As At 31/03/2022	As At 31/03/2021
Fixed assets	2					
Tangible assets		1,034	4,142	220,200	225,376	228,570
Heritage assets		0	0	1,032,979	1,032,979	1,032,979
Total Fixed assets		**1,034**	**4,142**	**1,253,179**	**1,258,355**	**1,261,549**
Current assets						
Stocks and work in progress		349	0	0	349	349
Debtors	7	220	0	352	572	750
Cash at bank and in hand	6	138,849	33,515	77,735	250,100	242,183
Total Current assets		**139,418**	**33,515**	**78,087**	**251,021**	**243,281**
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	2,307	0	(98)	2,208	(98)
Provision for liabilities and charges due within one year	8	(48)	48	0	0	949
Net current assets or liabilities		**137,160**	**33,466**	**78,186**	**248,812**	**242,431**
Total assets less current liabilities		**138,194**	**37,608**	**1,331,365**	**1,507,167**	**1,503,979**
Total net assets or liabilities		**138,194**	**37,608**	**1,331,365**	**1,507,167**	**1,503,979**
Represented by	5					
Unrestricted		138,195	0	0	138,195	136,163
Designated		0	37,607	0	37,607	34,720
Restricted		0	0	1,331,366	1,331,366	1,333,097
Funds of the church		**138,194**	**37,608**	**1,331,365**	**1,507,167**	**1,503,979**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Approved by the Trustees on 8th November 2022.

Signed on their behalf by Trustees .....

Printed Name: NEIL HUGHES

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

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. 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Pensions

The Charity is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme (“The Scheme”). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The pension contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity, these are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of all tangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis over an assumed useful life of four years. The rates applied per annum are thus 25% across all tangible fixed assets.

No depreciation is charged to freehold property as the properties are maintained to such a standard it is considered the residual value will not be less than cost.

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Tangible Fixed Assets

Financial Year 2021-22

		Restricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	
		Freehold Property	Purchased Equipment	Purchased Equipment	Total
Gross Block					
Costs As At	01/04/2021	1,253,179	16,968	87,277	1,357,424
Additions		0	0	2,120	2,120
Revaluations		0	0	0	0
Disposals		0	0	0	0
Costs As At	31/03/2022	1,253,179	16,968	89,397	1,359,544
Depreciation					
As At	01/04/2021	0	16,968	78,907	98,638
Charge					
	Equipment Y/E 2022	0	0	2,551	2,551
	Equipment Y/E 2021	0	0	1,310	1,310
	Equipment Y/E 2020	0	0	682	682
	Equipment Y/E 2019	0	0	771	771
As At	31/03/2022	0	16,968	84,221	103,952
Net Book					
As At	**31/03/2022**	**1,253,179**	**0**	**5,176**	**1,258,355**
As At	31/03/2021	1,253,179	0	5,607	1,258,786

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2022 : None

31st March 2021 : None

Notes

1. In preparing these accounts a £33 discrepancy was noted between the reported closing net book value for 31/03/2022 and the actual value held in our accounts package. We note that there appears to have been a discrepancy dating back a number of years. We will continue to attempt to identify the cause of this discrepancy, and should we succeed, we will correct this in future reports.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Incoming Resources

Selected period: 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
3a) Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources						
Bank Transfer Donations	**5**	70,849	0	4,520	75,369	78,027
Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS		24,661	2,607	2,033	29,301	38,732
Offerings at services	**5**	3,451	0	0	3,451	0
Other regular donations	**5**	34,115	0	403	34,518	38,521
Non regular donations	**5**	5,365	0	220	5,585	8,624
Communion offering	**5**	0	0	1,286	1,286	0
On trust giving	**5**	0	1,804	2,931	4,735	3,045
Building Development	**5**	0	0	0	0	3,672
Memory Club		0	0	284	284	0
Online donations		975	206	51	1,233	2,760
Legacies		0	542	0	542	9,230
Building Maintenance & Development		0	8,869	0	8,869	11,346
Sub Total		**139,416**	**14,028**	**11,728**	**165,173**	**193,957**
3b) Investment income						
Interest on bank accounts	**5**	3	0	117	120	199
Property Lettings	**5**	0	10,685	0	10,685	12,594
Sub Total		**3**	**10,685**	**117**	**10,805**	**12,793**
3c) Other incoming resources						
Hire of premises		0	0	0	0	27
Weddings & Funerals		0	870	0	870	1,760
Sub Total		**0**	**870**	**0**	**870**	**1,787**
Incoming resources Grand totals		**139,418**	**25,583**	**11,845**	**176,846**	**208,537**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

4. RESOURCES USED

Stony Stratford Community Church

Resources Used

Selected period: 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
4a) Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects						
Family fund		0	0	6,660	6,660	4,143
MSG		0	0	11,212	11,212	15,764
On trust payments		500	1,507	4,562	6,569	5,173
Sub Total		**500**	**1,507**	**22,434**	**24,441**	**25,080**
4b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
Books		292	0	0	292	171
Conferences		995	0	0	995	645
Evangelism		916	0	0	916	518
General pastoral		116	0	0	116	135
Leadership training		659	0	0	659	(20)
Manse Costs		3,479	0	0	3,479	3,517
Office		79	0	0	79	18
Telephone		560	0	0	560	268
Photocopying		102	0	0	102	216
Public address system		496	0	0	496	69
Salary Pensions NI Accommodation		92,955	5,700	0	98,655	105,598
Sanctuary site development		0	119	0	119	0
Special events		113	0	0	113	275
Transport		686	0	0	686	673
Children & Youth		558	0	0	558	560
Community Care		79	0	502	581	250
Service Costs		18	0	0	18	14
Church At Home Related Costs		1,186	0	0	1,186	3,311
Sub Total		**103,289**	**5,819**	**502**	**109,610**	**116,218**
4c) Support costs						
Building & Maintenance		3,854	9,443	0	13,297	7,877
Church Kitchen Supplies		2,426	0	0	2,426	625
Insurance		1,885	0	0	1,885	3,056
Miscellaneous payments		0	0	0	0	243
Utilities		4,104	0	0	4,104	5,353
Property letting		0	2,142	0	2,142	8,623
Internet Based Services		3,424	0	0	3,424	1,948
Covid 19 Related Costs		209	0	0	209	618
Sub Total		**15,902**	**11,585**	**0**	**27,487**	**28,343**
4e) Expenditure on managing-administering the charity						
Comms General		46	0	0	46	0
Bank charges		98	0	0	98	314
Professional fees		3,058	0	0	3,058	76
Subscriptions		1,390	0	0	1,390	368
Resource Copyright		1,415	0	0	1,415	1,286
Depreciation (Designated)		731	4,582	0	5,314	7,774
Sub Total		**6,738**	**4,582**	**0**	**11,321**	**9,818**
4f) Costs of generating funds						
Fund raising expenses		767	0	0	767	0
Bank charges (fund raising)		27	6	1	34	72
Sub Total		**794**	**6**	**1**	**801**	**72**
Resources used Grand totals		**127,222**	**23,500**	**22,937**	**173,659**	**179,529**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Restricted Funds

Selected period: 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains And Losses	Carried Forward
On trust - MSG	15,349	1,429	10,536	9,360	0	15,602
Missional Development Fund	0	0	300	0	0	(300)
Ukraine Appeal Fund	0	40	0	0	0	40
On trust - Funds	3,636	4,838	5,238	0	0	3,236
On trust - Family Fund	5,878	5,009	6,660	0	0	4,226
Sanctuary Buildings	1,032,979	0	0	0	0	1,032,979
Manse Purchase Fund	273,708	117	0	0	0	273,825
Building Development Funds	617	129	0	0	0	746
Building Development Funds Phase 2	97	0	0	0	0	97
Memory Club Fund	833	284	202	0	0	915
Totals	**1,333,097**	**11,846**	**22,936**	**9,360**	**0**	**1,331,366**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Restricted funds in deficit are considered to be on-going activities and are replenished during the coming financial period, except where noted below.

The restricted funds held are represented by the Charity's cash reserves and fixed assets investments and are to be expended as specified above.

Mission Support Group (MSG) – this is categorised as a restricted fund in these accounts. The MSG fund currently receives funds from the general fund, however the amount allocated is no longer governed by a fixed rate and is instead weighed against other calls on the income of the Church. The fund is administered by a team appointed by the church.

Missional Development Fund – this fund holds donations received by our missional groups specific for the work of these groups, and as such represents a restricted fund. Expenditure from this fund is backed by a church designated fund from which this reserve fund is replenished annually should its expenditure outstrip its income.

Ukraine Appeal Fund – Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia at the end of February 2022, we directed church members to existing appeals for Ukraine. However, one individual donated money to the church on trust for Ukraine. At the time of writing this report these funds have now been distributed, however their distribution will appear in the accounts for our next financial year.

On Trust Funds - these are donations made for specific causes (notably but not exclusively, personal support of some of our missionaries). Income for these purposes are held in & disbursed from cause specific on trust funds, summarised here.

On Trust Family Fund - this fund operates in a similar fashion to the Mission Support Group. Funds are provided via a communion offering plus personal specific donations. The fund is used to assist those within the congregation experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Manse - In buying the new manse (75 Boundary Crescent) it was deemed necessary to raise additional finances since the existing fund would be insufficient. This was achieved by a special appeal to the congregation. When this was agreed at the church meeting it was also agreed that any funds remaining after the completion of the purchase would be used for the future development of the Church premises on the Horsefair Green site.

It should also be noted that the fund value reflects the recorded value for the tangible asset that is the property at 75 Boundary Crescent.

Building Development Funds – This fund reflects the consolidation of all previous funds related to the financing of phase one of the building development programme, the repayment of which was completed during 2020/2021.

Building Development Funds Phase 2 - This fund reflects the donations received and funds raised for a possible Phase 2 of the building redevelopment programme.

Memory Club Fund – This fund holds income received for the purposes of operating a support group for those afflicted with dementia and other memory related diseases. There are two primary sources of income: a local authority grant to assist with operational expenses; donations received at each event.

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

6. CASH AT BANK & IN HAND

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Cash At Bank & In Hand

As at: 31 March 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
BB_CURR : Barclays - Current Account	42,004	3,901	4,777	50,682	6,653
PAYPAL : Virtual Bank	0	0	0	0	0
PCBELVOIR : Petty Cash - Belvoir Float	0	200	0	200	0
BB_FF : Barclays - No 2 Account	0	0	4,182	4,182	6,182
CAFCURR : CafCash Current Account	85,779	19,564	12,537	117,880	152,365
CAFPLAT : Caf Platinum	10,645	10,000	0	20,645	20,642
BU Corp: Manse Account Funds	0	0	56,119	56,119	56,002
PC-ALPHA : Petty Cash - Alpha catering	83	0	0	83	83
PCDROPIN : Petty Cash - Drop In	235	0	0	235	114
PCTREASURY : Petty Cash - Treasury	48	(150)	(28)	(130)	20
PC_OFFICE : Petty Cash - Office	55	0	(12)	44	44
PCMEMORY : Petty Cash - Memory Club	0	0	160	160	78
Totals	**138,849**	**33,515**	**77,735**	**250,100**	**242,183**

BU Corp: Manse Account Funds – These funds are held on trust by the Baptist Union Corporation for SSCC, and arise from some of the proceeds of the historic sale to Rev. J. Green of SSCC's share in her manse property at 7 Breton, Stony Stratford. The remainder of the proceeds were used to clear the mortgage on SSCC's remaining manse property at 75 Boundary Crescent, in accordance with the agreement of the Baptist Union Corporation.

PAYPAL: Virtual Bank – This account arises from our attempt to donate funds direct to a missionary operating abroad. Unfortunately, this approach failed and alternative methods were employed.

7. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Debtors & Prepayments

As at: 31 March 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Accounts Receivable	220	0	352	572	750
Totals	**220**	**0**	**352**	**572**	**750**

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due Within One Year

As at: 31 March 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Agency Collections	0	0	(98)	(98)	(98)
Uncleared cheques at year end	(48)	48	0	0	949
Accounts Payable	2,307	0	0	2,307	0
Totals	**2,259**	**48**	**(98)**	**2,209**	**851**

8a. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due After One Year

As at: 31 March 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Totals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

9. STAFF COSTS & NUMBERS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Staff Costs & Numbers

Financial Year 2021-22

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Costs		
Gross Wages & Salaries	60625	67997
Employer's National Insurance	1594	2022
Employer's Pension	13636	12779
Total	75855	82798

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Numbers		
Engaged in activities in furtherance of Charity's Objectives	2	3
Total	2	3

Gross Wages & Salaries – The reduction in recorded costs for this year reflects the departure of one member of staff.

As recorded in our previous accounts, there is in place a manse agreement between the church and each of its ministers whereby the church leases each minister's property in order to fulfil its obligation to provide accommodation for each minister. As a lease arrangement this falls outside the scope of PAYE and is borne as a cost to the church.

Employer's Pension – These contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

10. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Payments To Custodian Trustees And Affiliated Groups

Financial Year 2021-22

	This Year	Last Year
Nominal Account		
Baptist Home Mission	1,200	1,200
Baptist World Mission	1,200	1,200
Total	2,400	2,400

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

No other payments were made to the custodian trustees or any persons/organisations connected with them during this financial period. No other material transaction took place between the charity and the custodian trustee or any person/organisation connected with them.

Ministers:

Payments made to Ministers as Salaries and Pensions are shown in Note 9, and in Note 4a under Staff Costs, Transport Costs and Manse. Any other expenses paid to them or any person connected to them were reimbursements of expenses incurred whilst carrying out their activities for the Church.

11. RELATED PARTIES

The custodian trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is a registered 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.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

13. RESERVES POLICY

During this period the Trustees adopted a more formalised reserves policy that seeks to quantify the targeted level for the reserve fund, that the Trustees wish to hold so as to mitigate any financial risks to the charity in uncertain times. The figure agreed is to be assessed annually at the end of each financial year.

For the forth coming financial year the targeted reserves figure agreed by the Trustees is set at £98k. This is to be held as cash reserves spread across the charity's bank accounts.

14. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees acknowledge the requirement to demonstrate clearly that the Church must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Church has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Stony Stratford Community Church

PENSIONS NOTE

A draft form of the following note has been provided by the Baptist Union Great Britain (BUGB) and the Pension Trustee. Its content has been modified to reflect the specific circumstances for Stony Stratford Community Church.

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme").

The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited).

The Minister(s) and some members of the church staff are eligible to join the Scheme.
From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited.

In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income (or 3% if the employer is in the segregated DC section) to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva. Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

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

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2016 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £219 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £93 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 70%). As a result of the valuation, in addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, it was agreed that the standard rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan will remain at previously agreed levels, increasing each year in line with increases in the Minimum Pensionable Income. The deficiency contributions are broadly based on 12% of Pensionable Income / Minimum Pensionable Income, reflecting each employer's contributions in March 2015. Some employers that were involved in the DB Plan for a short period pay lower contributions.

In addition, the Baptist Union of Great Britain is expected to make a number of one-off contributions totalling £33.5m by 31 December 2023, including a lump sum of £30m in 2018. The Recovery Plan envisages deficiency contributions continuing until 31 December 2028.The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

RPI price inflation assumption	3.50
CPI price inflation assumption	2.75
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 1.0% pa)	3.50
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	3.50
- Post retirement	2.25
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.50
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension Pre April 2006	2.70
- Main Scheme pension Post April 2006	2.00

As there is a large number of contributing employers participating in the Scheme, the Church is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme.

Accordingly, due to the nature of the Scheme, the profit and loss charge for the period represents the employer contributions payable. The total pension cost for the Church is £13,142 (2018 £14,379).

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due as at 31 December 2019.

Stony Stratford Community Church

PENSIONS NOTE ADDENDUM 2020/2021

The pension notes detailed above were first recorded in our accounts for the financial year 2017/2018. As recorded in our previous accounts, the following communication was received from the Baptist Pension Scheme during July 2020.

BAPTISTS TOGETHER
BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME

3 July 2020

To all churches and other employers paying contributions to the DB Plan within the Baptist Pension Scheme (BPS)

Outcome of the Actuarial Valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, the Trustee of BPS has been working with the Employers' Group set up by BUGB to complete the latest formal actuarial valuation. We continue to pursue full funding of the DB Plan and are pleased to report that we are ahead of schedule in terms of bringing down the deficit. Figures are shown in the Appendix but the main consequences of this for you are that:

- there will be no increase in employers' deficit recovery contributions (other than the annual uplift for inflation);
- our expectation for when those contributions might cease is brought forward by two and a half years to June 2026; and
- we are applying a temporary reduction of 50% to the deficit recovery contributions for the remainder of this year to alleviate some of the additional financial pressure employers are under at this time.

In essence we have reflected the improvements already achieved, made allowance for the current uncertain climate, provided some help for churches/employers during the next six months and still been able to shorten the time we expect deficiency recovery contributions to be needed. More detail of each aspect follows in this letter.

Changes since the last valuation

A full valuation of the DB Plan takes place every three years. The estimated deficit as at 31 December 2019 was £18m. The deficit identified at the previous valuation, as at 31 December 2016, was £93m. There have been some positive developments over the three-year period which have led to this significant reduction in the deficit.

- Regular deficit recovery contributions from churches and employers in the DB Plan over three years amounted to around £14m.
- BUGB made a contribution of £33m in December 2018 as part of the Family Solution agreed under the previous valuation.
- We have continued to collect additional payments (employer debts) from employers who leave the DB Plan.
- Investment experience has been good, although this is largely offset by the continuing low levels of expected returns for the future.
- The purchase of a bulk annuity contract in December 2019 was at a favourable price.

Movements in the deficit in 2020

There are two substantial developments coming into play since December 2019 that have an impact on DB Plan funding:

- Although mitigated to some extent by the Trustee's relatively low-risk investment strategy, the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted financial markets and led to a reduction in the value of some DB Plan investments.
- The Government is currently consulting on how and when to change how the Retail Prices Index (RPI) is calculated to bring it more into line with the, generally lower, Consumer Prices Index (CPI) We anticipate that this change will lead to a lower value for some of the RPI-linked assets held by the DB Plan. This impact is partially offset by an assumed reduction in the cost of providing deferred benefits which are revalued up to retirement in line with RPI.

The DB Plan's actual financial position moves daily with changes in financial market conditions. However, in the agreed deficit recovery contributions we have made an allowance for a £10m deterioration in the deficit since 31 December 2019 to take account of the current impact of the two items above.

Financial pressures on employers

BUGB recognised very early that some churches and employers would suffer significant financial loss because of being unable to meet or to rent out their premises during the Coronavirus lockdown. BPS circulated a survey to all employers in April to ascertain how extensive this was. Although the proportion of employers expecting to struggle over the short term was fairly low, BUGB and the Employers' Group were eager to offer some reduction since the effects are continuing.

We are not able to treat individual employers differently depending on their circumstances, so we have had to balance both the immediate needs of those churches under financial pressure and the longer term need to fully fund the DB Plan. We believe a 50% reduction for the six months from July to December 2020 achieves this balance.

The reduction will happen automatically, you do not need to take any action. Deficit recovery contributions from January 2021 will then return to the full level, including the normal inflationary increase for 2021. Please note that your contributions to the DC Plan for any ongoing members of BPS will continue at their full rate. This reduction only applies to the DB Plan deficit recovery contributions.

BUGB's Coronavirus financial support scheme remains open for applications from employers in particular need. Details are on the BUGB website at www.baptist.org.uk/corona .

To support the DB Plan's reduced income over 2020, BUGB has agreed to bring forward a payment of £0.5m that it was due to make by the end of 2023. It will now be paid by the end of 2020.

How long will deficit recovery contributions be required for?

Our forecast at this time is that contributions will need to continue until June 2026. This is two and a half years earlier than the expectation at the previous valuation.

In practice, nobody can say for certain how long contributions will need to continue. To give a sense of the scale, a swing of just 1% in the value of the liabilities changes the deficit by around £3m, which equates to around 8 months of deficit contributions. The next full actuarial valuation will take place as at 31 December 2022, but the Trustee and the Employers' Group are continuing to look at ways to manage down the DB Plan's deficit and risk exposure.

Looking ahead

Our long-term objective is to reach a position where the DB Plan no longer requires contributions from the employers and there are no exit debts when employers leave. That involves more than just clearing the valuation deficit as it requires enough assets to cover full solvency (the cost of buying-out all the benefits with an insurer) and the removal of the risk of bad experience causing a deficit to come back. We are not there yet, but it is good that we are moving in the right direction.

Finally, during the volatile market conditions earlier in the year we suspended calculation of the monthly employer debt estimates on the 4mystaff portal. These will be resumed from July 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Maggs
Moderator for the Baptist Pension Scheme Trustee

John Levick
BUGB Treasurer

Tim Jackson
Moderator for the Employers' Group

Stony Stratford Community Church

BAPTISTS TOGETHER
BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME

Appendix: Comparison of results with the previous valuation

	31 December 2019	31 December 2016
Value of assets	£300m	£219m
Value of liabilities	£318m	£312m
Deficit	£18m	£93m
Adjusted deficit	£28m (after allowance for 2020 movements)	£60m (after £33m one-off payment from BUGB)
Length of recovery plan from valuation date	6 ½ years (with 50% reduction for the rest of 2020)	12 years
Anticipated end date of employer contributions under recovery plan	30 June 2026	31 December 2028

Solvency

The valuation figures provided above do not affect the size of an employer's debt which needs to be settled if an employer leaves the DB Plan. These debt figures are provided regularly to employers on the 4mystaff portal and are calculated as the employer's share of the overall solvency deficit, which means the deficit compared with the estimated cost of insuring all the DB Plan liabilities with an insurer. The overall solvency deficit estimates are shown below.

	31 December 2019	31 December 2016
Value of assets	£301m*	£219m
Value of liabilities	£349m	£382m
Solvency deficit	£48m	£162m

*The total value of the assets is slightly different from the table above as the value of the bulk annuity contract is slightly different when we are looking at the solvency deficit

Stony Stratford Community Church

PENSIONS NOTE ADDENDUM 2021/2022

Throughout this period, as an employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme, we continue to make deficit contributions to the recovery plan as outlined above. The BPS manager provides monthly updates as to the **potential liability** we would incur were our actions to give rise to a cessation event. The Trustees will continue to monitor this to ensure that such an event does not occur.

Stony Stratford Community Church

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Stony Stratford Community Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 set out on pages 8 to 21.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Collaku MAAT
Castle View Accounting Ltd
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Date: 17th November 2022

STONY STRATFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, (MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST UNION)

England & Wales - Charity number 1131785

Accounts

Stony Stratford Community Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST MARCH 2021

Stony Stratford Community Church

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Stony Stratford Community Church

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2020
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2021
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE	The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd
MINISTER	Reverend Jacqui Green
ASSOCIATE MINISTER	Reverend Stuart Earl
ELDERS	Kenny Beaton (Appointed Jan 2019)
TRUSTEES	Herman Marais (Appointed Nov 2019)
TREASURER	Neil Hughes (Reappointed Nov 2019)
MANAGING TRUSTEES	Ministers Elders Treasurer
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	The Church is governed by its own constitution and rules as approved at the Church members' meeting.
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1131785
OBJECTS	The Church exists to proclaim the Christian faith and to serve the local community through its work and witness. Its purpose is to turn people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ADDRESS	PO Box 44 129, Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT
REGISTERED ADDRESS	Stony Stratford Community Church Horsefair Green Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1JW
PRIMARY BANK	Barclays Bank Plc Stony Stratford The Milton Keynes Group 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Castle View Accounting Old Printing House Square Unit 16, Tarrant Street, Arundel West Sussex BN18 9JF

Stony Stratford Community Church

TRUSTEES REPORT

Church Annual Report April 2020 -March 2021 – the year of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Introductory Note

Stony Stratford Community Church registered as a charity in 2009. We changed our name to help us become more accessible to the local community but remain a member of the Baptist Union and operate according to Baptist principles. The Ministers, Rev Jacqui Green (Senior) and Rev Stuart Earl (Associate) are both accredited by the Baptist Union. They work with a team of elders to enable the church to fulfil its commission - namely to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Decisions are made according to Baptist practice by the Church Membership which meets 4 times a year. The ministers, Treasurer, Elders and Safeguarding Lead are Trustees of the church and accountable to the church in decisions they make.

Mission Statement:

"To know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to make Him known"

Vision:

"God wants to continue to build us together into a loving family, anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit, reaching out in Jesus name to the surrounding community and to all nations"

Values

G-enerosity (Sacrificial)
R-adical Living (Prophetic)
A- cceptance (Inclusive)
C- ommunity Focus (Missionary)
E- ngaging in prayer and Worship (Worship)

I have been writing annual reports for almost 30 years and it has always been encouraging to see what God has enabled us to accomplish as a church community. Each year there are challenges that have been overcome and accomplishments to celebrate. This year has been different as the nation has been in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic and we have had to navigate a year of deep uncertainty.

We are grateful for the following:

- Although some members of the Church had Covid no-one has died as a direct result of it.
- The leadership team have worked closely together to provide Church Services online and support for the Church members and attenders. It has not been easy but we have offered the best that we could given the challenges faced.
- Our Church Facilitator, Sebastian Brazell, who left to get married in July 2020 was able to work for the church one day a week to provide recorded content thereby enabling us to provide weekly services online. He was helped in the delivery of the services by Andrew Pitts. A wide range of gifted people gave their time to enable us to sustain this for the duration of lockdown -no mean achievement

Stony Stratford Community Church

- Our ministers were able to take Funeral services and offer support to members of the local community facing the pain of bereavement while not being able to have all the members of their family in attendance. These were always appreciated.
- While there was no need for the church to Co-ordinate care in the community there were many situations where members of the church helped those who were in need of shopping, collecting prescriptions etc
- Our Children's and Young People's leaders did a wonderful job in keeping in contact with all of our children and young people and providing online opportunities for chat, fun and teaching.
- Our finances have kept pace with the needs during the year even though we have seen some people leave the church or drift from previous commitments.

God is always faithful, and we have seen it again this year

The challenges we face:

- The pandemic has had an impact on church membership although we do not yet know the full picture. The opportunity to watch worship on screen has led to some questioning the need to come to a building to worship, left some of the younger people asking more questions about the way we do church in the 21st century but left some longing to be back at church in person. It is a mixed picture and we will not know until we re-commence services in church in September 2021 what the full impact has been
- Finance – there will undoubtedly be some impact on our finances as people decide whether to stay or go but we are praying that God will add to our numbers in the coming year.
- We have seen some key members of the congregation leave – some for new jobs or to be nearer to family - as well as those who have lost interest in church. The challenge is seeing the roles they undertook being filled by others. Many of our volunteers are over 65 and some are in their 80's. We need to attract more families to join us and share in all that we try to offer to our community. There is heart to do more but we need more labourers.

The Leadership Team has remained the same this year apart from the departure of the Church Facilitator mentioned above. We continue to look for additional elders and are in conversation with a potential candidate as this year comes to an end.

Church Family

I will not attempt to give membership numbers this year. We need to be back in the Church Building before we really know how numbers have been affected by the pandemic.

In June 2020 Steve Chilcraft, a valued member of the church, died following a recurrence of melanoma cancer. This was a shock to his children Andrew & Rachel and the church family after the death of Steve's wife Ruth in 2017. Steve will be much missed for his friendship but also his Bible teaching through a local Bible school and Mission organisations such as Teach Beyond and PCM (Uganda).

Activities

The pandemic meant most of our usual activities were not able to take place in the usual way, however a great deal of creativity went into finding alternative ways to continue things. Our clubs for children and young people ran fortnightly using Zoom, small groups continued by meeting online or in line with social distancing guidelines, gifts were delivered to parents and carers connected to

our Parent and Toddler Group for Fathers and Mothers Days, Messy Church at Home events ran online for Easter and Christmas with deliveries of resource packages in advance for the participants, a group sang carols outside a supported care home where we normally do monthly services. In addition we had social events online – a quiz and virtual Burns Night, and emotional and spiritual support online through a Kintsugi Hope course (for emotional wellbeing) and a positivity evening for women. We will consider what to resume of our usual activities once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Conclusion

We end the year with a lot of unknowns – how many will continue to worship at the church? Will the finances be sufficient? How will we find enough people to serve in the various teams in church? How will church change as we return? And more questions! But I am reminded of the poem, known as The Gate of the Year, written by Minnie Louise Haskins and famously delivered by HM King George VI as part of his 1939 Christmas broadcast:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

We know that God is faithful. As this difficult church year ends and a new one begins, with the end of lockdown in sight, we trust that God, who has kept and guided us since 1657, will continue to do so. We put our hand in His, we choose to trust Him for good things to happen in the coming year. Our prayer is that we will remain faithful and fulfil all that He is calling us to do.

Rev Jacqui Green, Senior Minister

Approved by the Trustees on ....24th October 2021.... and

Signed on their behalf by Trustees....Jacqueline Green....(Rev J.Green), Trustee

Stony Stratford Community Church

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
Incoming resources					
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources	**3a/3c**	167,719	26,238	193,957	223,274
Investment income	**3b**	12,609	185	12,793	13,124
Other incoming resources	**3d**	1,252	535	1,787	2,502
Total income		**181,579**	**26,958**	**208,537**	**238,901**
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	**4e**	55	17	72	2,897
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects	**4a**	1,890	23,189	25,079	29,181
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	**4b**	115,968	250	116,218	136,971
Support costs	**4c**	28,344	0	28,344	16,755
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	**4d**	5,350	4,467	9,817	12,084
Total expenditure		**151,607**	**27,922**	**179,529**	**197,888**
Net income / expenditure resources before transfer		**29,972**	**(964)**	**29,008**	**41,012**
Transfers	**5**				
Gross transfers between funds - in		5,337	17,163	22,500	21,619
Gross transfers between funds - out		(21,118)	(1,381)	(22,500)	(21,619)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds		**14,191**	**14,817**	**29,008**	**41,012**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		**156,692**	**1,318,279**	**1,474,971**	**1,433,959**
Total funds carried forward		**170,883**	**1,333,096**	**1,503,979**	**1,474,971**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Stony Stratford Community Church

BALANCE SHEET

Stony Stratford Community Church

Balance Sheet

As at: 31 March 2021

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	As At 31/03/2021	As At 31/03/2020
Fixed assets	2					
Tangible assets		1,154	7,216	220,200	228,570	228,029
Heritage assets		0	0	1,032,979	1,032,979	1,032,979
Total Fixed assets		**1,154**	**7,216**	**1,253,179**	**1,261,549**	**1,261,008**
Current assets						
Stocks and work in progress		349	0	0	349	349
Debtors	7	398	0	352	750	2,004
Cash at bank and in hand	6	135,163	27,553	79,467	242,183	243,887
Total Current assets		**135,909**	**27,553**	**79,819**	**243,281**	**246,239**
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	8	0	0	(98)	(98)	652
Provision for liabilities and charges due within one year	8	901	48	0	949	0
Net current assets or liabilities		**135,009**	**27,505**	**79,917**	**242,431**	**245,588**
Total assets less current liabilities		**136,163**	**34,720**	**1,333,096**	**1,503,979**	**1,506,596**
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	8a	0	0	0	0	31,624
Total net assets or liabilities		**136,163**	**34,720**	**1,333,096**	**1,503,979**	**1,474,971**
Represented by	5					
Unrestricted		136,163	0	0	136,163	132,064
Designated		0	34,720	0	34,720	24,629
Restricted		0	0	1,333,097	1,333,097	1,318,279
Funds of the church		**136,163**	**34,720**	**1,333,096**	**1,503,979**	**1,474,971**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Approved by the Trustees on 24th October 2021 and

Signed on their behalf by Trustees N Hughes (N. Hughes - Treasurer) Trustee

Stony Stratford Community Church

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

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. 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Stony Stratford Community Church

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Pensions

The Charity is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("The Scheme"). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The pension contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity, these are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of all tangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis over an assumed useful life of four years. The rates applied per annum are thus 25% across all tangible fixed assets.

No depreciation is charged to freehold property as the properties are maintained to such a standard it is considered the residual value will not be less than cost.

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Tangible Fixed Assets

Financial Year 2020-21

		Restricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	
		Freehold Property	Purchased Equipment	Purchased Equipment	Total
Gross Block					
Costs As At	01/04/2020	1,253,179	16,968	78,962	1,349,109
Additions		0		8,315	8,315
Revaluations				0	0
Disposals		0		0	0
Costs As At	31/03/2021	1,253,179	16,968	87,277	1,357,424
Depreciation					
As At	01/04/2020	0	12,726	78,138	90,864
Charge					
	Equipment Y/E 2021	0	0	2,079	2,079
	Equipment Y/E 2020	0	0	682	682
	Equipment Y/E 2019	0	0	771	771
	Equipment Y/E 2018	0	4,242	0	4,242
As At	31/03/2021	0	16,968	81,670	98,638
Net Book					
As At	**31/03/2021**	**1,253,179**	**0**	**5,607**	**1,258,786**
As At	31/03/2020	1,253,179	4,242	3,552	1,260,973

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2021 : None
31st March 2020 : None

Notes

1. In preparing these accounts a £33 discrepancy was noted between the reported closing net book value for 31/03/2021 and the actual value held in our accounts package. We note that there appears to have been a discrepancy dating back a number of years. We will continue to attempt to identify the cause of this discrepancy, and should we succeed, we will correct this in future reports.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Incoming Resources

Selected period: 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
3a) Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources						
Bank Transfer Donations	**5**	71,988	0	6,039	78,027	93,023
Recovered Gift Aid & GASDS		27,358	485	10,890	38,732	39,768
Offerings at services	**5**	0	0	0	0	13,635
Other regular donations	**5**	36,221	0	2,300	38,521	40,691
Non regular donations	**5**	7,846	0	778	8,624	10,472
Communion offering	**5**	0	0	0	0	1,058
On trust giving	**5**	0	1,175	1,870	3,045	5,346
Building Development	**5**	0	0	3,672	3,672	18,414
Memory Club		0	0	0	0	367
Online donations		1,936	134	690	2,760	1
Legacies		0	9,230	0	9,230	500
Building Maintenance & Development		0	11,346	0	11,346	0
Sub Total		**145,349**	**22,370**	**26,239**	**193,957**	**223,275**
3b) Investment income						
Interest on bank accounts	**5**	15	0	185	199	524
Property Lettings	**5**	0	12,594	0	12,594	12,600
Sub Total		**15**	**12,594**	**185**	**12,793**	**13,124**
3c) Other incoming resources						
Hire of premises		27	0	0	27	2,237
Weddings & Funerals		0	1,225	535	1,760	265
Sub Total		**27**	**1,225**	**535**	**1,787**	**2,502**
Incoming resources Grand totals		**145,391**	**36,188**	**26,958**	**208,537**	**238,901**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

4. RESOURCES USED

Stony Stratford Community Church

Resources Used

Selected period: 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This Year	Last Year
4a) Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects						
Family fund		0	0	4,143	4,143	5,200
MSG		0	0	15,764	15,764	18,496
On trust payments		0	1,890	3,283	5,173	5,486
Sub Total		**0**	**1,890**	**23,190**	**25,080**	**29,182**
4b) Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects						
Books		171	0	0	171	613
Conferences		645	0	0	645	918
Evangelism		518	0	0	518	2,256
General pastoral		135	0	0	135	610
Leadership training		(20)	0	0	(20)	537
Manse Costs		3,517	0	0	3,517	3,808
Office		18	0	0	18	262
Telephone		268	0	0	268	461
Photocopying		216	0	0	216	552
Public address system		69	0	0	69	1,068
Salary Pensions NI Accommodation		95,148	10,450	0	105,598	110,242
Sanctuary site development		0	0	0	0	10,976
Special events		275	0	0	275	310
Transport		673	0	0	673	1,376
Children & Youth		560	0	0	560	2,216
Community Care		0	0	250	250	653
MaMites - Mum's & Toddlers Outreach		0	0	0	0	(24)
Service Costs		14	0	0	14	137
Church At Home Related Costs		1,496	1,815	0	3,311	0
Sub Total		**103,703**	**12,265**	**250**	**116,218**	**136,971**
4c) Support costs						
Building & Maintenance		4,243	3,634	0	7,877	2,978
Cleaning Services		0	0	0	0	420
Church Kitchen Supplies		625	0	0	625	973
Insurance		3,056	0	0	3,056	2,402
Miscellaneous payments		243	0	0	243	138
Utilities		5,353	0	0	5,353	5,839
Property letting		0	8,623	0	8,623	1,842
Internet Based Services		1,948	0	0	1,948	2,164
Covid 19 Related Costs		618	0	0	618	0
Sub Total		**16,086**	**12,257**	**0**	**28,343**	**16,756**
4e) Expenditure on managing-administering the charity						
Comms General		0	0	0	0	185
Bank charges		69	20	225	314	2,015
Professional fees		76	0	0	76	1,856
Subscriptions		368	0	0	368	1,226
Resource Copyright		1,286	0	0	1,286	978
Depreciation (Designated)		578	2,954	4,242	7,774	5,825
Sub Total		**2,377**	**2,974**	**4,467**	**9,818**	**12,085**
4f) Costs of generating funds						
Fund raising expenses		0	0	0	0	2,885
Bank charges (fund raising)		52	4	17	72	0
Building Development Communications		0	0	0	0	11
Sub Total		**52**	**4**	**17**	**72**	**2,896**
Resources used Grand totals		**122,218**	**29,389**	**27,922**	**179,529**	**197,888**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Restricted Funds

Selected period: 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains And Losses	Carried Forward
On trust - MSG	13,321	2,269	15,617	15,376	0	15,349
Missional Development Fund	0	0	250	250	0	0
On trust - Funds	4,108	3,083	3,445	(109)	0	3,636
On trust - Family Fund	4,055	5,966	4,143	0	0	5,878
Sanctuary Buildings	1,032,979	0	0	0	0	1,032,979
Manse Purchase Fund	273,523	185	0	0	0	273,708
Building Development Funds	(10,540)	15,359	4,467	265	0	617
Building Development Funds Phase 2	0	97	0	0	0	97
Memory Club Fund	833	0	0	0	0	833
Totals	**1,318,279**	**26,959**	**27,922**	**15,782**	**0**	**1,333,097**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Restricted funds in deficit are considered to be on-going activities and are replenished during the coming financial period, except where noted below.

The restricted funds held are represented by the Charity's cash reserves and fixed assets investments and are to be expended as specified above.

Mission Support Group (MSG) – this is categorised as a restricted fund in these accounts. The MSG fund currently receives funds from the general fund, however the amount allocated is no longer governed by a fixed rate and is instead weighed against other calls on the income of the Church. The fund is administered by a team appointed by the church.

Missional Development Fund – this fund holds donations received by our missional groups specific for the work of these groups, and as such represents a restricted fund. Expenditure from this fund is backed by a church designated fund from which this reserve fund is replenished annually should its expenditure outstrip its income.

On Trust Funds - these are donations made for specific causes (notably but not exclusively, personal support of some of our missionaries). Income for these purposes are held in & disbursed from cause specific on trust funds, summarised here.

On Trust Family Fund - this fund operates in a similar fashion to the Mission Support Group. Funds are provided via a communion offering plus personal specific donations. The fund is used to assist those within the congregation experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

Manse - In buying the new manse (75 Boundary Crescent) it was deemed necessary to raise additional finances since the existing fund would be insufficient. This was achieved by a special appeal to the congregation. When this was agreed at the church meeting it was also agreed that any funds remaining after the completion of the purchase would be used for the future development of the Church premises on the Horsefair Green site.

It should also be noted that the fund value reflects the recorded value for the tangible asset that is the property at 75 Boundary Crescent.

Building Development Funds – This fund reflects the consolidation of all previous funds related to the financing of the building development programme. The fund value reflects the cash reserves that have yet to be spent on the project; tangible fixed assets purchased as part of the project; and the liability that is the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC) loan documented in Note 8A.

Building Development Funds Phase 2 - This fund reflects the donations received and funds raised for a possible Phase 2 of the building redevelopment programme.

Memory Club Fund – This fund holds income received for the purposes of operating a support group for those afflicted with dementia and other memory related diseases. There are two primary sources of income: a local authority grant to assist with operational expenses; donations received at each event.

6. CASH AT BANK & IN HAND

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Cash At Bank & In Hand

As at: 31 March 2021

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
BB_CURR : Barclays - Current Account	6,445	0	208	6,653	31,052
BB_FF : Barclays - No 2 Account	0	0	6,182	6,182	3,667
BB_MSG : Barclays - No 3 Account	0	0	0	0	1,107
CAFCURR : CafCash Current Account	117,776	17,553	17,036	152,365	131,276
CAFPLAT : Caf Platinum	10,642	10,000	0	20,642	20,627
BU Corp: Manse Account Funds	0	0	56,002	56,002	55,817
Online Stripe Payments Account	0	0	0	0	1
PC-ALPHA : Petty Cash - Alpha catering	83	0	0	83	83
PCDROPIN : Petty Cash - Drop In	114	0	0	114	114
PCTREASURY : Petty Cash - Treasury	48	0	(28)	20	20
PC_OFFICE : Petty Cash - Office	55	0	(12)	44	44
PCMEMORY : Petty Cash - Memory Club	0	0	78	78	78
Totals	**135,163**	**27,553**	**79,466**	**242,183**	**243,886**

BB_MSG: Barclays – No 3 Account – During this period this account was closed and its funds transferred to the CafCash Current Account for ease of day-to-day management of funds.

BU Corp: Manse Account Funds – These funds are held on trust by the Baptist Union Corporation for SSCC, and arise from some of the proceeds of the historic sale to Rev. J. Green of SSCC's share in her manse property at 7 Breton, Stony Stratford. The remainder of the proceeds were used to clear the mortgage on SSCC's remaining manse property at 75 Boundary Crescent, in accordance with the agreement of the Baptist Union Corporation.

Online Stripe Payments Account – These are donation funds received via the Stripe online payment process. These are automated to transfer to our CAF account on a monthly basis.

7. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Debtors & Prepayments

As at: 31 March 2021

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Accounts Receivable	398	0	352	750	604
Belvoir Letting Agency Repairs Rention Fund	0	0	0	0	1,400
Totals	**398**	**0**	**352**	**750**	**2,004**

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due Within One Year

As at: 31 March 2021

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
Agency Collections	0	0	(98)	(98)	(98)
Uncleared cheques at year end	901	48	0	949	0
Accounts Payable	0	0	0	0	750
Totals	**901**	**48**	**(98)**	**851**	**652**

8a. CREDITORS: AMOUNT DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Stony Stratford Baptist Church

Creditors: Amounts Due After One Year

As at: 31 March 2021

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last Year
BU Corp Building	0	0	0	0	31,624
Totals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**31,624**

N.B. The BU Corp Building creditor loan is recorded here as a restricted loan. This loan, managed by the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC), was for the sole purpose of facilitating, in part, the redevelopment of SSCC's church building. The BUC retained control of these funds and no BUC monies related to this loan were received by any SSCC bank account. In managing the loan, the BUC were responsible for drawing down the loan to make direct payments to SSCC's building contractors.

SSCC were responsible for repayment of the loan to the BUC. These repayments were recorded as restricted expenditure from funds raised by SSCC for the express purpose of the redevelopment of the church building and site.

During this period this loan was fully repaid to the BUC.

9. STAFF COSTS & NUMBERS

Stony Stratford Community Church

Staff Costs & Numbers

Financial Year 2020-21

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Costs		
Gross Wages & Salaries	67997	70686
Employer's National Insurance	2022	3129
Employer's Pension	12779	13627
Total	82798	87442

	This Year	Last Year
Staff Numbers		
Engaged in activities in furtherance of Charity's Objectives	3	4
Total	3	4

Gross Wages & Salaries – The reduction in recorded costs for this year reflects the departure of one member of staff.

As recorded in our previous accounts, there is in place a manse agreement between the church and each of its ministers where by the church leases each minister's property in order to fulfil its obligation to provide accommodation for each minister. As a lease arrangement this falls outside the scope of PAYE and is borne as a cost to the church.

Employer's Pension – These contributions include additional payments related to the current deficit recovery plan for the Defined Benefits branch of the Baptist Pension Scheme. Further details related to this matter can be found in the last section of this report.

Staff Numbers – Whilst we have technically employed three people during the reporting period, one of these individuals left during the reporting period and has yet to be replaced.

10. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Stony Stratford Community Church

Payments To Custodian Trustees And Affiliated Groups

Financial Year 2020-21

	This Year	Last Year
Nominal Account		
Baptist Home Mission	1,200	2,125
Baptist World Mission	1,200	2,125
Total	2,400	4,250

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

No other payments were made to the custodian trustees or any persons/organisations connected with them during this financial period. No other material transaction took place between the charity and the custodian trustee or any person/organisation connected with them.

Ministers:

Payments made to Ministers as Salaries and Pensions are shown in Note 9, and in Note 4a under Staff Costs, Transport Costs and Manse. Any other expenses paid to them or any person connected to them were reimbursements of expenses incurred whilst carrying out their activities for the Church.

11. RELATED PARTIES

The custodian trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is a registered 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.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

13. RESERVES POLICY

During this period the Trustees adopted a more formalised reserves policy that seeks to quantify the targeted level for the reserve fund, that the Trustees wish to hold so as to mitigate any financial risks to the charity in uncertain times. The figure agreed is to be assessed annually at the end of each financial year.

For the forth coming financial year the targeted reserves figure agreed by the Trustees is set at £98k. This is to be held as cash reserves spread across the charity's bank accounts.

14. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees acknowledge the requirement to demonstrate clearly that the Church must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Church has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

PENSIONS NOTE

A draft form of the following note has been provided by the Baptist Union Great Britain (BUGB) and the Pension Trustee. Its content has been modified to reflect the specific circumstances for Stony Stratford Community Church.

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme").

The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited).

The Minister(s) and some members of the church staff are eligible to join the Scheme.

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

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

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2016 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £219 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £93 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 70%). As a result of the valuation, in addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, it was agreed that the standard rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan will remain at previously agreed levels, increasing each year in line with increases in the Minimum Pensionable Income. The deficiency contributions are broadly based on 12% of Pensionable Income / Minimum Pensionable Income, reflecting each employer's contributions in March 2015. Some employers that were involved in the DB Plan for a short period pay lower contributions.

In addition, the Baptist Union of Great Britain is expected to make a number of one-off contributions totalling £33.5m by 31 December 2023, including a lump sum of £30m in 2018. The Recovery Plan envisages deficiency contributions continuing until 31 December 2028.The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

RPI price inflation assumption	3.50
CPI price inflation assumption	2.75
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 1.0% pa)	3.50
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	3.50
- Post retirement	2.25
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.50
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension Pre April 2006	2.70
- Main Scheme pension Post April 2006	2.00

As there is a large number of contributing employers participating in the Scheme, the Church is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, due to the nature of the Scheme, the profit and loss charge for the period represents the employer contributions payable. The total pension cost for the Church is £13,142 (2018 £14,379).

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due as at 31 December 2019.

PENSIONS NOTE ADDENDUM 2020/2021

The pension notes detailed above were first recorded in our accounts for the financial year 2017/2018. As recorded in our previous accounts, the following communication was received from the Baptist Pension Scheme during July 2020.

BAPTISTS TOGETHER
BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME

3 July 2020

To all churches and other employers paying contributions to the DB Plan within the Baptist Pension Scheme (BPS)

Outcome of the Actuarial Valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, the Trustee of BPS has been working with the Employers' Group set up by BUGB to complete the latest formal actuarial valuation. We continue to pursue full funding of the DB Plan and are pleased to report that we are ahead of schedule in terms of bringing down the deficit. Figures are shown in the Appendix but the main consequences of this for you are that:

- there will be no increase in employers' deficit recovery contributions (other than the annual uplift for inflation);
- our expectation for when those contributions might cease is brought forward by two and a half years to June 2026; and
- we are applying a temporary reduction of 50% to the deficit recovery contributions for the remainder of this year to alleviate some of the additional financial pressure employers are under at this time.

In essence we have reflected the improvements already achieved, made allowance for the current uncertain climate, provided some help for churches/employers during the next six months and still been able to shorten the time we expect deficiency recovery contributions to be needed. More detail of each aspect follows in this letter.

Changes since the last valuation

A full valuation of the DB Plan takes place every three years. The estimated deficit as at 31 December 2019 was £18m. The deficit identified at the previous valuation, as at 31 December 2016, was £93m. There have been some positive developments over the three-year period which have led to this significant reduction in the deficit.

- Regular deficit recovery contributions from churches and employers in the DB Plan over three years amounted to around £14m.
- BUGB made a contribution of £33m in December 2018 as part of the Family Solution agreed under the previous valuation.
- We have continued to collect additional payments (employer debts) from employers who leave the DB Plan.
- Investment experience has been good, although this is largely offset by the continuing low levels of expected returns for the future.
- The purchase of a bulk annuity contract in December 2019 was at a favourable price.

Movements in the deficit in 2020

There are two substantial developments coming into play since December 2019 that have an impact on DB Plan funding:

- Although mitigated to some extent by the Trustee's relatively low-risk investment strategy, the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted financial markets and led to a reduction in the value of some DB Plan investments.
- The Government is currently consulting on how and when to change how the Retail Prices Index (RPI) is calculated to bring it more into line with the, generally lower, Consumer Prices Index (CPI) We anticipate that this change will lead to a lower value for some of the RPI-linked assets held by the DB Plan. This impact is partially offset by an assumed reduction in the cost of providing deferred benefits which are revalued up to retirement in line with RPI.

The DB Plan's actual financial position moves daily with changes in financial market conditions. However, in the agreed deficit recovery contributions we have made an allowance for a £10m deterioration in the deficit since 31 December 2019 to take account of the current impact of the two items above.

Financial pressures on employers

BUGB recognised very early that some churches and employers would suffer significant financial loss because of being unable to meet or to rent out their premises during the Coronavirus lockdown. BPS circulated a survey to all employers in April to ascertain how extensive this was. Although the proportion of employers expecting to struggle over the short term was fairly low, BUGB and the Employers' Group were eager to offer some reduction since the effects are continuing.

We are not able to treat individual employers differently depending on their circumstances, so we have had to balance both the immediate needs of those churches under financial pressure and the longer term need to fully fund the DB Plan. We believe a 50% reduction for the six months from July to December 2020 achieves this balance.

The reduction will happen automatically, you do not need to take any action. Deficit recovery contributions from January 2021 will then return to the full level, including the normal inflationary increase for 2021. Please note that your contributions to the DC Plan for any ongoing members of BPS will continue at their full rate. This reduction only applies to the DB Plan deficit recovery contributions.

BUGB's Coronavirus financial support scheme remains open for applications from employers in particular need. Details are on the BUGB website at www.baptist.org.uk/corona .

BAPTISTS TOGETHER
BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME

To support the DB Plan's reduced income over 2020, BUGB has agreed to bring forward a payment of £0.5m that it was due to make by the end of 2023. It will now be paid by the end of 2020.

How long will deficit recovery contributions be required for?

Our forecast at this time is that contributions will need to continue until June 2026. This is two and a half years earlier than the expectation at the previous valuation.

In practice, nobody can say for certain how long contributions will need to continue. To give a sense of the scale, a swing of just 1% in the value of the liabilities changes the deficit by around £3m, which equates to around 8 months of deficit contributions. The next full actuarial valuation will take place as at 31 December 2022, but the Trustee and the Employers' Group are continuing to look at ways to manage down the DB Plan's deficit and risk exposure.

Looking ahead

Our long-term objective is to reach a position where the DB Plan no longer requires contributions from the employers and there are no exit debts when employers leave. That involves more than just clearing the valuation deficit as it requires enough assets to cover full solvency (the cost of buying-out all the benefits with an insurer) and the removal of the risk of bad experience causing a deficit to come back. We are not there yet, but it is good that we are moving in the right direction.

Finally, during the volatile market conditions earlier in the year we suspended calculation of the monthly employer debt estimates on the 4mystaff portal. These will be resumed from July 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Maggs
Moderator for the Baptist Pension Scheme Trustee

John Levick
BUGB Treasurer

Tim Jackson
Moderator for the Employers' Group

Appendix: Comparison of results with the previous valuation

	31 December 2019	31 December 2016
Value of assets	£300m	£219m
Value of liabilities	£318m	£312m
Deficit	£18m	£93m
Adjusted deficit	£28m (after allowance for 2020 movements)	£60m (after £33m one-off payment from BUGB)
Length of recovery plan from valuation date	6 ½ years (with 50% reduction for the rest of 2020)	12 years
Anticipated end date of employer contributions under recovery plan	30 June 2026	31 December 2028

Solvency

The valuation figures provided above do not affect the size of an employer's debt which needs to be settled if an employer leaves the DB Plan. These debt figures are provided regularly to employers on the 4mystaff portal and are calculated as the employer's share of the overall solvency deficit, which means the deficit compared with the estimated cost of insuring all the DB Plan liabilities with an insurer. The overall solvency deficit estimates are shown below.

	31 December 2019	31 December 2016
Value of assets	£301m*	£219m
Value of liabilities	£349m	£382m
Solvency deficit	£48m	£162m

*The total value of the assets is slightly different from the table above as the value of the bulk annuity contract is slightly different when we are looking at the solvency deficit

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Stony Stratford Community Church on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages 7 to 26.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

W.M Hall LLB
Castle View Accounting Ltd
Old Printing House Square
Unit 16, Tarrant Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9JF

Date: 29th October 2021