

Balham Baptist Church

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1131915**

Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the Year Ended  
31 December 2023  
for  
Balham Baptist Church

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## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS**

**Charity name**

Balham Baptist Church

**Registered Charity number**

1131915

**Principal address**

21 Ramsden Road  
Balham  
London  
SW12 8QX

**Trustees**

Rev Steve Rouse, Chair – Minister, Fellowship Leader  
Ms Maria Brown – Ministry Leader/Light Team member  
Mrs Christine Julian-Huxley – Light Team member

Rev Jim Sutton – Minister (Resigned – September 2023)  
Mr Ogemdi Ekwegh – Light Team member (Resigned – August 2023)

**Independent Examiner**

Jackie Wellington  
13 Lancing Road  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 0QS

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity. Trustees are elected from membership.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Balham Baptist Church's core values:

we are **L**ed by God and seek to point others towards him;

we **I**nvest in one another;

we are a diverse **F**amily;

we **E**quip each other for our frontlines.

### **Main activities and achievements**

Our theme for 2023 has been based around the words of Isaiah 55:3, *"Come to me with your ears wide open. Pay attention and you will find life"*. This is a passage that finds deep resonance with our church's Core Values, as we seek to be a community that both knows, experiences *and* shares the fullness of life that God offers this world.

One way in which we sought to embed this theme within the life of our church family life across the year, was to create an online music playlist ('Ears Wide Open'), which comprised tracks, hymns and songs chosen by members from right across our church family. The intention was to help us all better connect with God throughout the year, and has proved a wonderful opportunity for us to listen and learn from how God might have spoken to each of us.

Overall, 2023 presented a year of continued rebuilding and growth as a church community and our ongoing ministry, following the different challenges brought about by Covid in recent, previous years. 2023 also represented a year of significant change in the life of Balham Baptist Church, particularly in relation to our leadership.

Throughout 2023 our building was once again the source of much life as we hosted and partnered with a large number of external groups and organisations, alongside those ministries and activities that formed part of the worship and ministry of the church community itself. As in previous years we continued to work hard to blend boundaries between these different aspects of Balham Baptist Church life, build relationships between the different parts of our community, and create space for those who use our building from Monday-Saturday to connect with those who primarily gather on a Sunday morning. It was encouraging to see not only the continued growth in use of our spaces, particularly the Hub and Hangout, but also the integration and connection between various groups and communities using the different spaces.

Whilst there was no significant work carried out on the church buildings through 2023, we did continue to pursue ways to make our spaces a place of welcome for all who use them, and remain encouraged by the positive feedback that so many provide about their use of our church.

As a church we have continued to support a number of causes through the year as part of our wider vision and purpose. As in previous years the charity Ella's continued to be a key partner, and focus of our support, with our coffee hub donating 50p from every hot drink sold, once again raising a significant amount during the year, along with the opportunity to raise awareness and support. We also continued to provide some financial support to BMS World Mission, Baptist Union Home Mission and Way4Ward, and Street Pastors.

Across the year, as part of our Sunday Gatherings, we sought to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, as well as be equipped to serve God's World by journeying through a number of series together, including those shaped around various books of the Bible (such as Philippians and Ephesians), as well as more thematically based series, such as 'FAITH', 'Time To Rest' and 'Confidence'. Sunday Gatherings also provided opportunities to mark and celebrate significant moments in the life of our growing church family including dedications, and baptisms which offered cause for celebration. As one example of this we were delighted to host three baptisms towards the end of 2023 which serve as a reminder of God's ongoing work in and through our community.

As mentioned above 2023 has also represented a year of significant change for Balham Baptist Church, particularly in the area of leadership. In June we were delighted to celebrate the Ordination of Ogemdi Ekwegh (ND) as a newly accredited Baptist minister, following his three years training with Spurgeon's College and serving as a Minister in Training with BBC. Having come to faith as part of our church community, followed by a later calling into accredited ministry, it was with a mixture of sadness but also great joy that we were able to support and bless ND, his wife Emma and their two sons, as they followed God's calling to leave Balham in September as ND took up the post of minister with Olton Baptist Church. Alongside this, 2023 also brought a farewell to our full-time minister Jim Sutton, along with his wife Sarah, and their two children moved to Australia in the early Autumn in order to be closer to family living there. Again, having welcomed Jim and Sarah into the church over a decade ago, and journeying with Jim through ministry training and accreditation as a Baptist minister, it is with a sense of deep thankfulness to God that we remember the legacy of his ministry and the fellowship of both families as part of our church story.

Following the departure of both Nd and Jim as leaders (and as trustees) respectively, the church drew together to discuss, pray and discern God's leading for the appointment of a new, full-time minister to serve alongside Steve and wider staff and leadership team. Following this season of discernment as a church community in November we were delighted to offer the invitation for newly accredited Baptist minister Pete Herbert-James to serve in this post, and join our church family along with his wife Jo. Pete offered a familiar face for some of the church having previously served in London with both King's Cross Baptist Church and London Baptists. This appointment marks another exciting chapter in the life of Balham Baptist Church and an opportunity to give thanks to God for His continued faithfulness to us as a church.

As we continue with our calling and focus on bringing life to all those we are excited to enter into 2024 in which Balham Baptist Church will enter its 150th year of life. This brings the wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness and provision for us as a church over many years, and the reminder that we serve God's bigger story of restoration and renewal in His world.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The trustees do not have a reserves policy.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires 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 incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

## **DECLARATION**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SR', is written over a horizontal line.

Steve Rouse  
Minister  
May 2024

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BALHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 8 to 14.

### **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 Acthave 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.

Signed



Jackie Wellington  
Chartered Accountant  
13 Lancing Road  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 0QS

15 May 2024

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		293,007	-	293,007	271,444
Investment income		1,879	-	1,879	208
		<u>294,886</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>294,886</u>	<u>271,652</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Resources Expended on Charitable Activities		199,205	-	199,205	199,878
Support costs		111,435	-	111,435	95,105
Governance costs		7,592	-	7,592	7,134
		<u>318,232</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,232</u>	<u>302,117</u>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>			-	(23,346)	(30,645)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,866,087</u>	<u>73,023</u>	<u>1,939,110</u>	<u>1,962,456</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>1,866,087</u></u>	<u><u>73,023</u></u>	<u><u>1,939,110</u></u>	<u><u>1,992,456</u></u>



# **BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets		<u>1,583,767</u>	<u>73,023</u>	<u>1,656,790</u>	<u>1,675,782</u>
		1,583,767	73,023	1,656,790	1,675,782
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash in hand		283,070	-	283,070	287,424
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year 6		<u>(750)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(750)</u>	<u>(750)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>282,320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>282,320</u>	<u>286,674</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>					
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>1,866,087</u>	<u>73,023</u>	<u>1,939,110</u>	<u>1,962,456</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>1,866,087</u>	<u>73,023</u>	<u>1,939,110</u>	<u>1,962,456</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
	7				
Unrestricted funds				1,866,087	1,889,433
Restricted fund				<u>73,023</u>	<u>73,023</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>1,939,110</u>	<u>1,962,456</u>

The financial statements are approved by the Board of Trustees and are signed on its behalf by:



Steve Rouse  
Minister  
May 2024

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

### **1. BASIS OF PREPARATION**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

#### **Resources expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property - 2% on cost

#### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

### **3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### **Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**4. STAFF COSTS**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	139,437	133,839
Employer's National Insurance costs	2,439	2,881
Employer's contribution to pension schemes	7,642	11,593
	<u>149,518</u>	<u>148,313</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2023	2022
8	8
<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 January 2023	2,142,408
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,118,552</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 January 2013	33,500
At 1 January 2014	39,747
At 1 January 2015	39,747
At 1 January 2016	40,013
At 1 January 2017	40,013
At 1 January 2018	40,934
At 1 January 2019	41,170
At 1 January 2020	41,395
At 1 January 2021	41,940
At 1 January 2022	41,940
At January 2023	42,371
Charge for year	<u>42,848</u>
At 31 December 2023	485,618
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,656,790</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>1,675,782</u>

## 6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
The Turtle Trust/ The John Bradford Trust	750	750
	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>

## 7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/1/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	1,889,433	(23,346)	1,866,087
	<u>1,889,433</u>		<u>1,866,087</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	73,023	-	73,023
	<u>73,023</u>		<u>73,023</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,962,456</u>		<u>1,939,110</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	294,886	318,232	(23,346)
	<u>294,886</u>	<u>318,232</u>	<u>(23,346)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>294,886</u>	<u>318,232</u>	<u>(23,346)</u>

# **DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Weekly Offerings	62,853	67,118
Gift aid	418	10,992
Lettings Income	213,089	186,004
Legacies/Gifts	5,000	-
Donations to Church Activities	11,647	7,329
	<u>293,007</u>	<u>271,444</u>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest on savings	1,879	208
	<u>1,879</u>	<u>208</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>294,886</b>	<b>271,652</b>
 <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Ministers' Stipends (incl Housing allowance)	74,976	84,403
Other Staff Salaries	64,461	49,436
Employer's NI and Pensions (incl Deficit contribution)	10,081	14,474
Ministers' expenses	2,512	1,976
Manse running cost	4,292	2,615
Purpose Areas	6,295	4,962
Youth work	943	835
Seniors work	174	587
Equipment Purchases	10,613	13,303
BMS World Mission	7,000	7,000
Home Mission	7,000	7,000
Street Pastors	2,100	2,100
Ella's Home	3,500	3,500
Way4ward	2,250	3,500
Other Donations	250	-
Fees, Subscriptions & Licences	2,758	4,187
	<u>199,205</u>	<u>199,878</u>

Balham Baptist Church

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Governance</b>		
Accountancy fee	250	250
Other professional fees	7,342	6,884
	<u>7,592</u>	<u>7,134</u>
 <b>Support costs - Management</b>		
Rates and water	1,208	337
Insurance	7,986	7,601
Light and heat	15,815	12,471
Telephone & Broadband	924	1,088
Office and General Expenses	8,279	6,055
Refuse collection	2,618	2,723
Repairs, maintenance, cleaning	26,595	21,398
Manse repairs and maintenance	5,162	1,061
Depreciation – Freehold property	42,848	42,371
	<u>111,435</u>	<u>95,105</u>
 <b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>318,232</u>	<u>302,117</u>
 <b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<u>(23,346)</u>	<u>(30,465)</u>