

Station Hill Baptist Church

Annual Report and Accounts 2024

Registered Charity number 1132165
2-4 Station Hill, Chippenham SN15 1EG

Annual Report for the year to 31 January 2024

The Trustees here present their report together with the accompanying independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2024.

A) The Charity and its Governance

Station Hill Baptist Church was formed in 1854 and has occupied the site ever since. As part of the process of becoming a charity in 2009, the Church updated its governing document to conform to a standard approved governing document for Baptist Union of Great Britain churches. The Charity is governed with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Church has now completed taking appropriate measures and has become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation following a vote by Members at a Special Church Meeting on 26th November 2023, with decisions being taken with regard to Membership, Church Meetings and Trustees being adopted.

Objectives of the Church

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. Station Hill Baptist Church has a vision to be the visible presence of Christ in Chippenham and North Wiltshire, and together with other churches to be active in society to minister to the whole community. Our task is that, by all means possible, we will bring people into contact with Christ and His good news, to enable them to develop a personal relationship and friendship with God, to be filled with the Holy Spirit and active in sharing their faith with other people.

Trustees

The Church Meeting appoints Charity Trustees from among the church members. These include the Elders and other officers by virtue of their roles within the church. The Church Meeting may appoint other Trustees from time to time by virtue of their qualifications for the role. The Charity Trustees who served during the year are:

Peter Whitby

Todd Nightingale

David Brown

Vicky Hempstead

David Wright

The current Chair is to be decided.

Church Council and Officers

The Church Council collectively takes the role of Managing Trustees. It consists of members, appointed by the Church Meeting, who meet bi-monthly and comprises the officers listed below plus representatives of various aspects of the life and work of the church, including worship and word, mission and evangelism, lifestyle and discipleship, and stewardship of our assets. The Church is governed and regulated by its own members through bi-monthly Church Meetings; this is the ultimate authority for decisions under God. Changes have been made to the definitions of the roles of Elders and the Church Council to free Elders to prioritise the spiritual direction of the church, with the Church Council considering more day to day decisions regarding running the church.

The church officers who served during the year were:

Representing Worship & Word	Erika Farrell
Representing Pastoral Care	Paul Phillips
Representing House Groups	Caroline Hiorns
Representing Seniors	David Thompson
Representing Evangelism & Outreach	Charmaine Elkerton (from 2 nd May 2023)
Elder	Rachel Lambert
Elder	Peter Whitby
Elder	David Brown
Elder	David Wright
Minister	Todd Nightingale
Treasurer	Vicky Hempstead
Administrator	Steve Hardy

Jenny Budgell ACME has been appointed as Independent Examiner of the Financial Statements.

Safe to Grow Policy

The Church is committed to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all, especially children, young people and adults at risk. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected. We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.

The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to providing supervision. The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm* and adopts the principles published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet ***Safe to Grow***, putting alongside these a policy of good practice for youth and children's work.

Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each is given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and good practice guidelines and all are given safeguarding training. As part of our commitment to children and young people, the church has appointed Charmaine Elkerton as the Designated Person for Safeguarding, James Drewett as the Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (until September 2023), Peter Whitby as Safeguarding Trustee, Natascha House as Secretary and Simona Baker as the Safe to Grow Administrator. The Designated Person for Safeguarding's role is regularly explained to children and young people, and contact details are publicly displayed.

Baptist Affiliation

The Church is part of the wider national body, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and is also a member of the West of England Baptist Network (Webnet). The Church pays an annual subscription to the Baptist Union of Great Britain based upon its membership numbers. The Church also made donations to the Baptist Union Home Mission Fund and Baptist Missionary Society during the year.

Church Building Trustees

The Church Building Trustees are the West of England Baptist Network (Webnet).

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B) Church Review 2023/2024

Ministry and leadership

Todd Nightingale was welcomed as Minister in 2019 and has continued in his role through the year. He has also helped at Calne Baptist Church, leading services and advising the deacons in this year during their interregnum period.

Wayne Lawther, our Community Minister, started a three month sabbatical leave from 1st January 2023 until leaving this Church's employment on 31st March 2023, whilst remaining as a Church Member. A thank you tea for Wayne Lawther and his family was held on Saturday 1st April to mark Wayne's leaving SHBC employment at the end of his sabbatical. He planned to take a year out of ministry while working as a Residential Child Care Officer, and also with the homeless at Unity House in Chippenham.

On 14th January 2024 Wayne accepted an invitation from Calne Baptist Church to be their Minister, starting on 1st March 2024.

Danelle Nightingale continues in her role as 'Growth Coach' for two (?) days per week. As a trained spiritual director with many years experience of working in church ministry, she says; "I get to journey with others in the deep and authentic places of their faith and life with God". Danelle is a

gifted speaker who regularly teaches and leads our Sunday morning gatherings and also heads up the Women's Ministry Team.

Worship

Our worship time is enabled and richly blessed with the musical gifts and talents of many members who lead, play, and sing, supported by those who quietly work to set up, and operate equipment. A multi-voiced style of Sunday morning worship has been encouraged to continue and develop further. Over one weekend in April we welcomed Diane Arthurs, worship leader at Todd's previous church, to meet with our worship team and lead our Sunday morning worship. In January a bring and share lunch, with Communion being taken too, was held after the morning service, this will be repeated in February and other times in the future.

We are grateful to all members who have contributed to the worship, preaching and teaching ministry of the Church. Our monthly *BIG* Family Church service includes games, fun and food; it is growing in popularity and attracting families who do not feel comfortable at the more traditional style of church services. Todd and Danelle have taken over leadership of *BIG* Family Church from Wayne Lawther.

Our 5th Sunday Fellowship continues, whereby when a month has five Sundays the church is open for fellowship but there is no actual service. This gives team members a rest and also allows people an opportunity to fellowship with other local churches at their services or to share a meal, for example, with people from SHBC, giving them a longer time together than the few minutes a usual Sunday morning service allows them afterwards.

A wide variety of social events, some for women, some for men, others open to both and families, were held during the year in various locations. All were well attended and gave opportunities to invite people to church events without them always needing to come into a church to take part.

Prayer

The Church is committed to the importance of prayer as a means to discern the will of God. We hold prayer events as an opportunity for the church to meet for corporate themed prayer and weeks of prayer and fasting to coincide with important periods within the church calendar. 26 hours of prayer were held at the church over 1-2 July, focussing on situations at SHBC, in Chippenham, in our country and around the world.

123Go, which stands for 1 gospel, 2 everyone over 3 days, was led by Charmaine Elkerton in Emery Gate, the Town bridge, and the Buttercross in Chippenham, giving free hugs, chocolate/sweets, and conversation on 7,8, and 9th April. Similar, briefer, outreaches have continued on a regular basis since.

Our Prayer Café continues to be an important established part of our outreach ministry to the Chippenham community. Attendance each Saturday morning by people in the local community,

many coming along on a regular basis for social contact and prayer, continues to grow, and the team is enhanced by members of other local churches helping each week. On 6th May the Coronation of King Charles III was televised live during Prayer Café to allow people to watch together. On 10th June the Prayer Café was held in Monkton Park, attracting over 150 people and being visited by the Chippenham Mayor.

PrayerNet enables and encourages individual prayer for the specific needs of our fellowship and those known to them at all times.

Bible reading and Prayer sessions continue on Zoom two mornings a week. A monthly prayer meeting is also held, focussing on domestic and international humanitarian and political topics.

We were privileged to hold two weddings at the church during the year, and to admit and welcome two people into Membership. Sadly, several people in the church lost close family members during the year, some very suddenly, and the church family drew around them in support.

A Newcomers meal in February was followed by an Exploring Membership course in April. An Alpha course was run in the autumn, with an away day in October and a celebration supper in January. Many people from outside of SHBC completed the Alpha course.

Pastoral care, teaching and discipleship

House Groups are a first line for pastoral care and teaching in small groups – the studies normally follow the theme of related sermons on preceding Sunday mornings. The church aims to include as many people as possible, providing groups that meet at different times and days throughout the week. One House Group meets in a local Christian Care Home now, and has been joined by some of the residents. Our Pastoral Care team also offer support to those unwell or with needs at home or in hospital.

The Church recognises the importance of discipleship and development at all stages of people's faith journey and this is often best done in small groups. Separate social groups for men and women in the church continue in person and online through WhatsApp, with many bringing non-SHBC friends into the groups too. Further similar WhatsApp groups prove very useful too, both for issuing information quickly and encouraging friendships and conversations to continue outside of their actual sessions, for people outside of the church, such as the Toddlers parents.

Mission, evangelism and community service

Mission, both overseas and within our local community, is core to living out our faith – we support families working in mission organisations in Canada as well as keeping close contact with interests in Senegal. Our local community work's emphasis is on outward and visible community witness. Part of our service to the local community is the provision of food parcels to those in need, from

donations provided by the congregation; we continued to see a growing need for this in the last year as many families are living in hardship.

Many of our members serve and witness individually to the wider community; this includes those supporting the homeless. Once again many shoeboxes full of useful personal items and gifts were made up by members and distributed to homeless people staying at Unity House. New toys were donated for the Salvation Army's annual appeal too. We are also members of the Chippenham Churches Together (CCT) group and encourage our members to support and be involved in the wider church of Chippenham. In May we joined with Sheldon Road Methodist Church for Pentecost worship, and in December sang carols outside the Town Hall, at the hospital and a local care home, as well as at the railway station with CCT, and the church was full for our Carols by Candlelight service.

A Warm Space was opened on Thursday afternoons and Saturday Prayer Cafe in January in conjunction with an initiative with other local venues, continuing until 2nd March.

Children and young people

God has blessed us with a group of children and young people. Teaching, while giving them lifestyle examples of how to grow and to live in faith, is a dynamic work. We teach them in Church and in the "Eden Academy" format on Sundays; we are grateful that the redevelopment of our buildings has provided the suitable accommodation we need for all our work to continue under our own roof. A crèche is also provided during our Sunday morning services.

All age worship has been a growing aspect of our Sunday services, sometimes led by the young people themselves. We look to run clubs and activities during term time where we can that young people from within the church and from the wider community attend. We also participate in a Sunday evening programme run jointly with other local churches, notably St Paul's Church, for young people from all the secondary schools in Chippenham. Happily, 'Open the Book' sessions in local schools, which Susie Spencer coordinates, are as popular as ever. 'Prayer Spaces in Schools', co-ordinated by Angela Thomas, are another means by which the church can encourage staff and pupils alike with prayer spaces in place over a period of days within local schools given them the opportunity to receive prayer and to talk in confidence. We give special thanks to the many members of our fellowship who serve our children and young people.

In the absence of a Children and Families Leader, Vicky Hempstead, Rachel Bowers and Sophie Lambert have continued to lead children and youth work in the church for the 0-11 year old and 11-18 year old age groups. This is a key focus as we want to encourage our young people to commit their lives to God and then grow and develop in their faith. Sadly there has been no progress with appointing a Children and Families Leader, but we continue to seek to fill the role.

Seniors

Work amongst the 'seniors' in our community continues to meet an important and growing need with Sunday Afternoon Fellowship (SAF) being well attended. This ministry seeks to serve people in practical, emotional, social and spiritual ways as they lose friends and loved ones, become less mobile and risk greater isolation. The popular SAF Summer Garden Party was held at Grittleton Hall.

Community organisations

In addition to all our Church activities, our facilities continue to be used by wider community organisations including a counselling support group for young people.

The church has run three very popular Toddler Groups, each with a waiting list for new joiners, and the majority of people attending all of these groups are not church attendees. It is core to our purpose that we should place our buildings and ourselves in service of the needs around us. Sadly, team changes during the year, with some stepping down, have meant that the Wednesday Toddlers Group had to close after July, and leave the future of the Monday and Friday Groups uncertain in 2024.

The church is also actively engaged with the Christians Against Poverty group run by Trinity Church in Chippenham, with CAP training courses, team meetings and confidential counselling sessions being held at the church. A CAP Café was run at the church on Tuesday mornings during the school summer holidays and it has continued every Wednesday morning since September in the absence of the Wednesday Toddlers.

We continue to look to attract usage by more such community groups where we have the capacity to.

Our Building

The redevelopment of the church building completed in March 2019 continues to pay dividends in terms of the extra use made of it by us and outside groups.

Work still progresses with installing audio and video links in the Lounge so that people there can still join in with services in the main hall, for example. Zoom coverage of services is provided using two camera positions in the hall.

The notice board outside the church is enlarged and is being developed to advertise services and activities more clearly.

Thanks

We particularly wish to note the hard work of many people, the many hours of service freely and willingly given, all the offerings brought to God for the work of his Kingdom, and the time people have given to prayer and working with others. Thank you. We are grateful to God.



C) Church Financial Report

Financial Summary

Our accounts for 2023/2024 show that the church remains in a good financial position. We are grateful to many members who give generously to the work of the church during the period which has allowed us to carry-on the activities noted above.

Whilst the accounts show a profit for the financial year, after factoring in loan repayments we have, however experienced a cash deficit in the year and we need to be mindful of the need to pay off the loans that we entered into to complete the church building work. Changes in staffing levels in the 2023/24 financial year mean that we expect to have a surplus on a cash basis in future years.

Principal Funding Sources

The main source of funding for the Church Revenue Account is offerings given by members of the congregation.

Reserves Policy

The Church has adopted a formal reserving policy in line with Charity Commission guidance.

General reserve: Liquid funds will be held to ensure that the committed running costs of the church (salary and manse costs plus essential church utility and insurance payments and loan repayments) could be met for 3 months in the unforeseen event of the need to wind up the charity. This would enable the Trustees to take appropriate action to stem the costs by giving notice to employees of the church and/or to liquidate other assets to meet liabilities.

Restricted funds: We will continue the practice of holding funds for mission work in restricted funds set apart from our general funds. The restricted mission funds include our mission tenth (10% of our general giving that is set aside for mission work including training people for mission), donations collected for missionaries that the church regularly supports, and our Fellowship Fund to meet the needs of those in our Church fellowship.

Signature and Declaration

I declare, in my capacity as a Trustee, that:

- The Trustees have approved the report above; and
- Have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Peter Whitby

21/10/2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Whitby', written in a cursive style.

STATION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH (Registered Charity 1132165)
Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 January 2024.

STATION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH (Registered Charity 1132165)
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Station Hill Baptist Church
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ending 31 January 2024

**Respective responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The 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. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

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

**Independent examiner's
statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Jenny Budgell, ACMA

Dated: 15/10/2024

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Statement of Financial Activities as at 31/01/2024

			Mission		
	Note	Unrestricted	Funds	2024	2023
		Funds	(restricted)		
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Donations and legacies		141,381	41,760	183,141	176,335
Gift aid		27,327	8,416	35,743	33,777
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Rental income/other		1,375	-	1,375	-
Total		170,083	50,176	220,259	210,112
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3,4	107,494	46,751	154,245	195,275
Refurbishment		-	-	-	-
Total		107,494	46,751	154,245	195,275
Transfer		4,454	(4,454)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		67,043	(1,029)	66,014	14,837
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	5	304,093	9,828	313,921	299,084
Total funds carried forward	5	371,136	8,799	379,935	313,921

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Balance Sheet as at 31/01/2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	391,352	393,228
Total fixed assets		<u>391,352</u>	<u>393,228</u>
Current assets			
Debtors & Prepayments	7	9,570	9,732
Cash at bank and in hand		80,942	51,201
Total current assets		<u>90,512</u>	<u>60,933</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(20,929)	(23,491)
Net assets less current liabilities		<u>460,935</u>	<u>430,671</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due in greater than one year	8	(81,000)	(116,750)
Total net assets		<u>379,935</u>	<u>313,921</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds	5	8,799	304,093
Restricted funds	5	371,136	9,828
Total charity funds		<u>379,935</u>	<u>313,921</u>

Signed by one or more trustees:

Name: Peter Whitby

Date 21/10/2024



Note 1: Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015)
- and with Section 1A “Small Entities” of Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102)
- and with the Charities Act.

Note 2: Accounting policies

Recognition of incoming resources

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

Grants and donations (including gift aid)

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA. Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Donated services and facilities

These would only be included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees’ annual report.

Liability recognition

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by 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 a reasonable value on receipt.

Note 3: Expenditure on charitable activity (Church Revenue Fund)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Administration expenses	5,302	3,984
Equipment	4,125	3,648
Fabric	9,009	9,327
Insurance	2,386	2,244
Manse	3,697	4,042
Staff costs	70,012	103,948
Sundries	12,161	11,461
Visiting speakers	180	275
Youth work	622	1,326
	107,494	140,256

Note 3b: Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salary	51,990	70,320
Social security	10,882	19,300
Pensions – defined benefit	1,002	2,610
Pensions – defined contribution	6,138	11,718
	70,012	103,948

The defined benefit pension payment in the year relates to a final payment made by the Church to the Baptist Pension Scheme (“the scheme”), to end any future liabilities for deficit payments to the scheme. In 2023 amounts related to pension deficit payments on the scheme. These costs related to three past ministers who are retired pensioners and two past ministers who have dependent pensioners in the scheme.

Note 4: Details of certain items of expenditure

Trustee expenses

	2024	2023
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	None	None
Nature of the expenses		
Total amount paid	£nil	£nil

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from Station Hill Baptist Church.

Fee for examination of the accounts

	2024	2023
Independent examiner’s fees	£nil	£nil

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Note 5: Movement in funds

	Balance 31 January 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/(out) £	Balance 31 January 2024 £
Church Revenue fund	304,093	170,083	(107,494)	4,454	371,136
Mission Funds (restricted)					
ARM	915	8,325	(8,632)	-	608
Collected funds	4,992	10,333	(12,447)	-	2,878
Fellowship fund	3,921	2,900	(2,333)	-	4,488
Provis Fund	-	12,145	(10,260)	(1,250)	635
Mission tenth	-	16,473	(13,079)	(3,204)	190
	9,828	50,176	(46,751)	(4,454)	8,799
Total	313,921	220,259	(154,245)	-	379,935

Note 6: Fixed Assets

	2024		2023	
Cost	Property £	Equipment £	Property £	Equipment £
At 1 February	390,000	10,007	390,000	6,836
Additions		-		3,171
Disposals		-		-
At 31 January	390,000	10,007	390,000	10,007
Depreciation				
At 1 February	-	6,779	-	3,963
Depreciation	-	1,876	-	2,816
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 January	-	8,655	-	6,779
Opening net book value as at 1 February	390,000	3,228	390,000	2,873
Closing net book value as at 31 January	390,000	1,352	390,000	3,228

Equipment is depreciated over 3 years on a straight-line basis.

SHBC additionally owns the Baptist Church on Station Hill. This is not recognised on the balance sheet as there is no reliable valuation for the building available.

Note 7: Debtors and prepayments

The debtors and prepayments balance of £9,570 (2023: £9,732) includes £7,936 (2023: £8,190) relating to gift-aid receivable from HMRC. This is expected to be received within one year.

Note 8: Loans

During the year ended 31 January 2024, SHBC paid £8,000 (2023: £3,000) of the outstanding congregational loans leaving a balance of £30,000 outstanding (2023: £38,000). This is a long term loan which has no fixed date for settlement.

During the year, SHBC paid £27,750 (2023: £20,250) off the £180,000 10 year interest free loan leaving a balance of £69,000 outstanding (2023: £96,750). £18,000 of loan repayments are due to be paid within the next 12 months.

Note 9: Related party transactions

There has been no related party transactions during 2024 (2023: none).