

HOPE CHURCH BEACONSFIELD

(formerly Beaconsfield Baptist Church).

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Registration Number: 1132584

**HOPE CHURCH BEACONSFIELD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH)**

Charity registration number 1132584

Registered Address

Hope Church Beaconsfield
32 Baring Road
Beaconsfield
Buckinghamshire HP9 2NE

Charity Trustees

Benjamin D Saunders (Elder)
Paul F Rundell (Elder & Church Secretary) – resigned 25 June 2024
Ian E Johnson (Church Treasurer)
Matt Jones (Pastor) – appointed 25 June 2024
Giles Scott – appointed 25 June 2024

Property Holding Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 6RT

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc, Leicester LE87 2BB.

Independent Examiner

Michael Homer AFA MIPA
MCH Accountants Limited
68 Charlton Road
Andover
SP10 3JN

Annual Report for 2023

The Charity Trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Charitable Purpose

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that the principal purpose of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also within the principal purpose advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The Baptist Union Corporation Limited as Holding Trustees on behalf of the Church in compatibility with the Charitable Purpose.

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Commission association of churches and the Evangelical Alliance.

Staffing Changes

As reported in the 2022 Annual Report, the Church appointed a part-time Operations Manager (initially job name Administrator), Anna Lovell, who took up the post on 1 January 2023.

The Church benefitted from having an intern, Alice Early during 2023. As planned, Alice left at the end of the year

Organisational Structure and Decision Making Processes

Formal Church Members' Meetings take place at least three times a year which have responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Approved Governing Document, the members appoint the Minister, the Elders, the Church Secretary, the Treasurer and the Charity Trustees who have responsibility for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the Charitable Purpose.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Members' Meeting by the Elders or Charity Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members at the Church Members' Meeting for further consideration by the Charity Trustees. Although the Approved Governing Document permits decisions to be made at the Church Members' Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith is expected of all persons prior to reception into membership of the Church. However, persons seeking membership who have not been baptised in this manner may, at the discretion of the Charity Trustees, be received into

membership based on their own public profession of faith (subject to acceptance by the Church Members' Meeting).

Objectives and Activities

In order to fulfil the Charitable Purpose set out above, the Church provides a number of activities both for its membership and for the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

The pastoral team continues to oversee the care of the congregation to try to ensure that people feel supported emotionally, spiritually and practically as necessary.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship, Bible teaching and prayer. The main Sunday service is at 10.00am where the focus is on worship and Bible teaching. A children's programme is provided at the same time as the morning service. Other services are arranged from time to time as appropriate. Groups meet for prayer normally on Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services or meetings.

During the week, life groups meet generally in members' houses with a view to pastoral support, encouraging one another in faith and in working out the practical implications of being a Christian and living in the general community. All regular Church attendees are encouraged to belong to one these life groups.

Other weekly activities include "Hope Toddlers" (formerly called "Little Feet") on Monday mornings (a mother and toddler group), "Options" on Tuesday mornings (mainly for women of all ages), and "Hope Kids and Coffee" (formerly called "Engage") on Friday afternoons (for primary school children and their parents/carers). These meetings are all open to the general public.

Further activities/courses take place as the need arises. These have included "Christianity Explored" or "Alpha" (for those wishing to find out more about the Christian faith), "Freedom in Christ" (understanding who we are as Christians), men's and women's breakfasts/dinners, mentoring children at risk of exclusion (supporting Transforming Lives for Good, a children's charity) and youth weekends. Contacts are maintained with local schools in particular through taking assemblies and classes from time to time.

A major objective is to reach out to the community in social action to show God's generous heart through benefit to the public. To this end, free activities have been organised from time to time such as quizzes, musical evenings, community fun days and pantomimes. We have continued to work with St Thomas' church in Holtspur and One Can Trust, a food bank based in High Wycombe to deliver food parcels to the local community. Demand sharply increased during the

pandemic and still remains at a much higher level than before. The church continues to collect items for the food bank both from within the congregation and from local supermarkets.

The Church has a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy with procedures to ensure that people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately managed and vetted with regard to the government's Disclosure and Barring Service.

The activities of the Church are advertised on the Church's website:
www.hopebeaconsfield.co.uk

The Church does not believe its ministry stops at Beaconsfield and support for other activities is given by providing grants to a range of charitable organisations, both in the UK and overseas, that are involved in furthering the Christian message and social action by providing practical help to those in need. There is participation by the Church in the national programme of filling and sending Christmas Boxes to children in deprived areas overseas.

The Charity Trustees have noted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the Charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, encouragement, spiritual growth and generally providing a positive, beneficial impact in the community. The Charity Trustees recognise that these are not easy to measure but believe that 2023 was a positive year in the life of the Church and that it is well placed to continue pursuing its Charitable Purpose in 2024 and beyond.

Church membership stands at 60. Normal attendance at services is in excess of this number with larger numbers from time to time on special occasions. There are a good number of children who attend church activities over the week.

There are good attendances by members and the general public at most activities. The community events and activities are popular and some very positive feedback has been received from the council, the public and local newspapers.

Financial Review

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

The Church had income of £202,194 and expenditure of £216,010 resulting in a deficit of £13,816.

The year ended in a healthy financial position with £187,767 in free cash. A further £115,384 was on deposit with The Baptist Union Corporation Limited, the use of which funds was initially restricted to buildings projects but which the Baptist Union Trustees have indicated may now be used for more broadly based expenditure (refer note 2). The Church raises the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal for funds was made during the year.


Staff costs are set out in note 10. Some administrative support is provided by volunteers.

Grants were made to national and international organisations with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's Charitable Purpose. The main details of such grants are set out in note 8.

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

The Charity Trustees have established a Reserves Policy and are satisfied that there are sufficient reserves at the balance sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Charity Trustees have made an assessment of major risks facing the Church and are satisfied that there are measures in place to minimise these risks.


29/8/24
I E JOHNSON

HOPE CHURCH BEACONSFIELD

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to Hope Church Beaconsfield

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the pages following.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the church's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and to follow the procedures specified in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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



Date 29/08/2024

Michael Homer AFA MIPA
MCH Accountants Ltd
68 Charlton Road
Andover
SP10 3JN

Hope Church Beaconsfield
Statement of Financial activities
for the year to 31 December 2023

General Receipts and Payment Account

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Capital Fund 2023 £	Total Funds	
				2023 £	2022 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Income	3	180,808	-	180,808	199,295
Investment Income	4	-	3,577	3,577	2,236
Legacy	5	8,055	-	8,055	-
Other Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	6	9,754	-	9,754	14,410
Total incoming resources from Charitable Activities		198,617	3,577	202,194	215,941
Other Incoming resources - sale of property		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		198,617	3,577	202,194	215,941
Payments					
Cost of generating funds		-	-	-	-
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	8	215,495	-	215,495	217,026
Governance costs	9	515	-	515	480
Other resources expended		-	-	-	-
Total resources expended on Charitable Activities		216,010	-	216,010	217,506
Other resources expended - property acquired		-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		216,010	-	216,010	217,506
Net incoming resources		(17,393)	3,577	(13,816)	(1,565)
Fund balances brought forward		170,334	146,633	316,967	318,532
Gross transfers between funds		34,826	(34,826)	-	-
Total Funds carried forward		187,767	115,384	303,151	316,967

Hope Church Beaconsfield
Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2023

Current Assets

Investments - Deposit with Baptist Union
 Bank and cash

Notes

2023
£

2022
£

115,384 146,633
 187,767 170,334

303,151 316,967

Current Liabilities

Sundry Creditors

- -

Net Assets

303,151 316,967

Representing Balances on the following accounts

Charitable Funds

Unrestricted income funds
 Capital Fund

2 187,767 170,334
 2 115,384 146,633

Total Funds

303,151 316,967

Other assets held for the churches own use:

Church building and housing

7 2,198,085 2,028,727

Total non-monetary assets

2,198,085 2,028,727

The notes on page 5-7 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on
 And signed on their behalf by

Approved



I.E. Johnson
Treasurer



MG Jones
Trustee

29/8/24

Hope Church Beaconsfield
Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounting regulations set out under the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Gifts and donations

Gifts, donations and tax rebates are accounted for when received.

(c) Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when received

(d) Grants payable

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid.

(e) Governance costs

This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. Consequently there is little direct expenditure on governance.

2. Reserves

Funds in the unrestricted income fund can be applied against any expenditure.

The Capital Fund represents funds allocated by the trustees, to be used for strategic purposes or property transactions. All these funds are deposited with the Baptist Union. Funds can be accessed upon approval in a church meeting and with the consent of the Baptist Union Corporation trustees. The Fund was initially restricted to property related matters but given the church's ownership of a church building and a manse, the Baptist Union Trustees have indicated they would give consent to more broadly based expenditure.

3. Voluntary Income

	2023 £	2022 £
Offerings	150,735	165,368
Tax Refunds	30,073	33,927
Total Voluntary Income	180,808	199,295

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Capital Fund 2023 £	Total Funds	
			2023 £	2022 £
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
Income from other investments	-	3,577	3,577	2,236
Total	-	3577	3,577	2,236

5. Legacy

The church received a generous legacy of £120,000 during 2021. When estate accounts were finalised, a residual amount of £8055 was distributed in March 2023. This was recorded on receipt in 2023 accounts.

6. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Church weekend	165	5,541
Other income	9,589	8,869
Total	9,754	14,410

This reflects income on events to further the objects of the church.

7. Property related transactions

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by the church's custodian trustee (the Baptist Union Corporation Limited). The Church building is recorded at its insured value. The manse is recorded at cost.

	2023 £	2022 £
Church building	1,558,085	1,388,727
Manse (16 Holtspur Top Lane)	640,000	640,000
Total non-monetary assets	2,198,085	2,028,727

8. Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Ministry	17,150	21,712
Mission	85,816	65,504
Establishment (including staff costs)	112,529	129,810
Total	215,495	217,026

2023 grants towards mission to other registered charities have included the following:

	£
CAP Christians Against Poverty)	2,000
Commission Apostolic Trust	7,400
Bucks Baptist Association	1,200
Wycliffe Bible Translators	9,700
WEC International	10,600
Food for the Hungry UK	12,600
New Day	5,000
Catholic Workers Farm	5,000
Embrace the Middle East	1,850
Great Lakes Outreach	5,000
Lighthouse	1,500
Ekklesia Mozambique	15,310
Total	77,160
Other mission expenditure	8,656
Grand Total	85,816

9. Governance costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Governance	515	480

2023 fees towards independent examination of £515 were due in 2023 (2022 fees paid in 2023 were £515).

10. Staff costs and Trustee Expenses

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries	67,212	58,672
Social security costs	-	1,022
Pension costs	3,550	3,277
Other expenses	718	1,838
Total (included within establishment costs above)	71,480	64,809

The average number of employees during the year was	3	2
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The Trustees receive no remuneration or expenses for acting as trustees (2022 none).

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2022 none).