

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
(RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS BASIS)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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**ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Trustees	Rev Andrew Perryman Elders: Philip Drake - resigned 28.11.23 Catherine Bates Leslie Waelend - appointed 31.01.23 Deacons: Ian Hynd - Treasurer Pearl Blencowe - Church Secretary Diane Shinn David Waterman Trevor Stickland Jill Goodey - resigned 28.11.23 Janet Riddy James Bromley - resigned 01.10.23 Christine Douglas Lorant Padar Matthew Kisler - appointed 28.11.23 Christine Wraight - appointed 28.11.23 Gregory Rogers - appointed 28.11.23
Governing Document	Constitution dated 18 July 2019 Amended 31st March 2022
Charity Registration Number	1132840
Correspondence Address	3 Lower Ashley Road Ashley New Milton Hampshire BH25 5AA
Independent Examiner	Hope Jones Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Dunlop House 23a Spencer Road New Milton Hampshire BH25 6BZ
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited, West Malling, Kent Lloyds Bank PLC, New Milton, Hampshire



Lower Ashley Road, Ashley, New Milton, Hants, BH25 5AA

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Purpose

The church is a charity and its principal purpose is the advancement of the Christian Faith.

Mission

To Know Christ – To Make Christ Known

Vision

Our Community Discovering Church

Government

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who regularly meet to monitor the activities of the charity.

Review of Activities

Our activities continue to reflect our mission statement: "To Know Christ –To Make Christ Known"

We have been able to meet together for worship throughout 2023. Our main service is at 10.30 and is well attended and the prayer meeting at 6.00pm is led by different people each week and has various topics for prayer. We continue to live stream the main service each week.

The twice weekly prayer meetings continue to be held on Zoom. The monthly Deacons Meetings are held in person and we now hold hybrid Church Meetings which allow those with young children, or who are unable to come out to attend the meetings.

A Church Camp, which was well attended, was held over the Summer Bank Holiday Weekend at Headlands near Ringwood. On the Sunday around 50 people from the church who weren't camping attended the morning service and stayed to eat their picnics sitting around the lake, some even stayed for the afternoon activities. It was great to all meet together to worship in the beautiful surroundings. For those that couldn't get to the camp a more traditional service was held at Ashley.

At Christmas we joined with local churches for a Nativity Trail and Carols on the local recreation ground, around 60 children and their families attended. We held our Annual Carols by Candlelight, a Nativity Service on the Saturday before Christmas and Christmas Morning Worship, all three services were well attended.

Connect Groups

Our Connect groups meet regularly and an annual review was held at the end of July this year. This meant that some people changed groups and a couple of extra groups have been formed.

The focus of the groups is connecting with one another for spiritual growth.

Youth and Children's Work

Leader – Kate Perryman, Youth, Children's and Schools Worker

The Ark, a parent and toddler group goes from strength to strength and we regularly get 35 and 40 families through the door. The 4 weeks leading up to Christmas were spent looking at different parts of the Christmas story and theming the craft to the story.

The Light Party in October was a big success. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed the crafts, party games and a talk about how Jesus is our light.

Sunday groups have been going well. The creche has returned to its own room and has received a positive reaction from the parents. Ignite for the teenagers runs 3 times a month. This is to allow the young people to take a more active role in our services and give them the opportunity to use their gifts.

Core Group, for the young people providing them with Bible based teaching to continue their Christian Journey continue to meet on a Monday Evening. This has been positive with up to 10 young people attending each week.

Rooted, for youngsters in school years 3-6, is a new group started this year, it has good attendance and is aimed at bringing on these younger people into a deeper understanding of the Christian faith.

Kate has been going into the infant school regularly as part of the Open the Book team which meet fortnightly. She continues to meet fortnightly with a group of children in a mentoring capacity. They talk about life, concerns etc while playing a game/doing a craft and it has been really positive.

This year Kate has run two events for the local Junior School. "Easter Cracked" which saw 90 year 6 children and their staff explore the events of the Easter Story and "Christmas Unwrapped" investigated the real meaning of Christmas with year 4 and their staff. Both events were well received by the school and the intention is to repeat them again in 2024.

At the end of the summer term a holiday club was held in the church and garden. Over the week 80 children attended. This culminated with a service on the Sunday when the whole congregation could join in the fun and activities of the week.

Following this event Kate took some of the young people to Satellites, a Christian Youth Event held at the Bath and West Showground over 5 days.

Accessible Groups

The Ten10 group meet regularly in the Sports Hall and provides games and refreshments for those with learning difficulties. The Discipleship group continues to provide bible study and prayer; this meets once a month. The Accessible services continue to be well supported and are run in conjunction with other churches in the area.

Care and Support

Christian love and care throughout the week continues to be demonstrated regularly through the connect groups and pastoral support. A Coffee Morning is held regularly and this year a short Carol Service was organised for those attending the coffee morning.

Community Café

This is a new venture for the church and meets on a Wednesday afternoon. It provides a warm space, tea, coffee and light refreshments for anyone in the community. This has been used by the mums and carers when they collect their children from school as well as other members of the community. There are plans to run a similar café on a Tuesday morning when people come to visit the Food Larder.

The Ashley Hub

The Hub continued on a Tuesday morning with staff from the Infants school facilitating a friendly welcoming place for families to meet, chat and get advice. Their vision is to support families with children from 0 to 19 to build a brighter future. This has tried a different approach for the autumn term with more outside input but has now decided to stop at the end of 2023. There are plans for a monthly group to support parents of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) to be run by the church. The free Baby Massage group will continue to be offered by the church.

Ministry

The Church continues to reach beyond the surrounding area of Ashley by assisting, on a regular basis, other smaller Churches in the area. We continue to support financially Baptist Home Mission and the Baptist Missionary Society, Operation Mobilisation (OM), Hope Now. Further afield, Ashley Baptist Church has maintained strong links with Churches in Bulgaria, Moldova and the Ukraine.

Clubs

We continue to offer activities during the week for church folk and for members of the community. These include a Sewing Group, Badminton and Basketball.

Other Community Activities

The Food Rescue Kitchen are using our premises to prepare cakes and meals for those in need with food that the supermarkets are disposing of due to reaching their sell by date. As well as these items of repurposed food going to the local food bank the Coffee Morning and The Ark have been able to make use of the cakes at their activities.

Our Church car park continues to be available during the week for the parents of a local school during term time and some other local businesses, relieving congestion on the local roads.

The Car Park is also used by a Mobile Food Larder. This visits each week with both fresh and dried food provided by Fareshare. This is open to any local residents who require additional food but whose budget currently does not allow it. This also runs during the School Holidays.

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

We report to the Trustees on our examination of the accounts of the Ashley Baptist Church Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023 on pages 7 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

We report in respect of our examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

We have no concerns and 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.

Hope Jones

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Dunlop House

23a Spencer Road

New Milton

Hampshire

BH25 6BZ

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Receipts					
Donations	149,161			149,161	118,196
Gift aid tax	31,818	949	8	32,775	30,051
Legacies	250			250	0
Special Gifts	0		30	30	2,196
Youth activities	1,997			1,997	1,508
Other church activities	3,854	8,245		12,099	5,678
Rental income	1,063			1,063	8,299
Investment income	2,192			2,192	394
Other income	4,833	541		5,374	19,277
Total Receipts	195,168	9,735	38	204,941	185,599
Payments					
Ministry costs	42,197	130		42,327	53,910
Mission costs	4	1,924	115	2,043	3,136
Establishment costs	62,478	10,404	3,736	76,618	66,732
Grants paid	21,844	5,818		27,662	32,010
Office expenses	44,931	540		45,471	48,183
Accountancy	2,160			2,160	2,400
Church equipment	143			143	4,753
Total Payments	173,757	18,816	3,851	196,424	211,124
Net Receipts/(Payments) before transfers	21,411	-9,081	-3,813	8,517	-25,525
Transfers between funds	75	0	-75	0	0
Net movement in funds	21,486	-9,081	-3,888	8,517	-25,525
Balances 1 January 2023	53,956	16,188	3,926	74,070	99,595
Balances 31 December 2023	75,442	7,107	38	82,587	74,070

The notes on pages 9 to 10 form part of these accounts.

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
1. Fixed Assets		
The insurance re-instatement values of the assets owned by the church were:		
Church Building - endowment fund	3,298,738	3,218,281
Church Contents	281,162	274,841
High Ridge Crescent property - endowment fund	600,000	461,547
Wilowdene Close property - endowment fund	350,000	244,288
	<u>4,529,900</u>	<u>4,198,957</u>
The church buildings at 3 Lower Ashley Road, Ashley, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 5AA and the manses at High Ridge Crescent and Willowdene Close are held by the Baptist Union on behalf of the Baptist Church congregation at Ashley and are within an endowment fund.		
2. Debtors		
Tax recoverable - unrestricted fund	2,817	2,451
Tax recoverable - restricted funds	2	0
Total tax recoverable under HMRC gift aid scheme	<u>2,819</u>	<u>2,451</u>
Prepayments	347	227
	<u>3,166</u>	<u>2,678</u>
3. Bank Balances		
Bank operating accounts	2,942	3,327
Bank deposits	79,645	70,745
Petty cash	-	-
	<u>82,587</u>	<u>74,072</u>
Of which relating to restricted funds	<u>7,107</u>	<u>16,192</u>
4. Liabilities		
Share of Baptist pension scheme deficit. See note 4	20,100	23,300
HMRC PAYE	0	0
Other creditors	59	1,378
Accruals	4,201	1,727
	<u>24,360</u>	<u>26,405</u>

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on _____ by _____

P Blencowe
Secretary

The notes on pages 10 to 11 form part of these accounts

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Funds

The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes.
Movements in the year across all cash funds were as follows:

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Restricted Funds					
Youth minister	0				0
Evangelism	4,274	625	2,231		2,668
Plovdiv	75	3,243	3,279		39
Birthday Scheme	0	282	282		0
Grants	0	3,900	1,900		2,000
Building fund	10,145	259	10,404		0
Pastoral and benevolent fund	1,694	1,426	720		2,400
	<u>16,188</u>	<u>9,735</u>	<u>18,816</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,107</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Funds					
Specials	75	38		-75	38
NISA	1,000		1,000		0
Manse maintenance	2,851		2,851		0
	<u>3,926</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>3,851</u>	<u>-75</u>	<u>38</u>
General Funds	<u>53,956</u>	<u>195,168</u>	<u>173,757</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>75,442</u>
Total Funds	<u>74,070</u>	<u>204,941</u>	<u>196,424</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>82,587</u>

2. Agency Funds

The church holds £13,416 that has been excluded from income within the Receipts and Payments account, and from the bank balance on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, as these are agency funds held on behalf of the Bailey Trust. This has arisen as a bequest to be administered by the Bailey Trust during the lifetime of the remaining legatee before reverting to the church. There is an additional £200 held for the Earthquake Appeal which was paid in January 2024.

ASHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3. Related Parties

Ministry costs include the stipends paid to the minister and assistant minister as permitted by the governing document. Travel and training costs paid to ministers who were Trustees is included in ministry costs. Heating allowance paid to ministers who were Trustees is included in establishment costs as were moving expenses.

Donations from Trustees and related parties amounted to £35,946.

4. Pension Scheme

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).

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.

The Baptist Pension Scheme have provided an estimate of the debt of the church at the year end on the assumption that the church ceased to make contributions towards the liability arising. This amount is shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.