



WALLINGFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Registered Address

Thames Street, Wallingford, OX10 0BH

Charity Registration Number: 1132946

Trustees

The Revd Simon Hudson [Minister]

Mr David Bright [Treasurer]

Mrs Judith Payne [Secretary]

Mrs Gale Parlett

Mr Nick Gough (until August 23)

Mrs Hilary Mackintosh

Mrs Carol Rhodes

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Peter Willers

Website: www.wallingfordbaptist.co.uk

Annual Report for 2023

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by its Constitution (approved in July 2009 and amended in July 2022) which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on their profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of induction into the Christian faith to renew their commitment by their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The members met together on five occasions during the year and have responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees, who together with the Ministers are responsible 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 objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Trustees are legally responsible for the overall management of Wallingford Baptist Church.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to 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.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am and have also been available on Zoom. During the year there has been a children's and youth programme during the morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of Life Groups for the growth of faith and discipleship both at the Church and in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees, or at the Sunday services of worship. We also have Missional Groups that seek to focus on areas that we can show the love of Christ to others which meet on an occasional basis.

The Church is responsible for a Toddler Group which meets in the Church premises on Tuesday mornings during term time, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. This attracts a good number of parents and carers with their young children.

The Church has established the Thames Street Living Room that usually meets during the daytime every Monday on the Church Premises with the purpose of supporting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. During the time that it is open, tea, coffee and cakes are served together with light lunches.

One Alpha course has been run this year and a post Alpha discipleship course.

The Church runs various events and activities for Children and Young People and for those of retirement age.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service and our Safeguarding Policy.

The Trustees are aware of 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 and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2023, was another positive year in the life of the Church and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2024 with renewed enthusiasm.

The Revd Simon Hudson continued to serve as the pastor, encouraging the Church Members to commit themselves to their faith, and to their service within the community. Under his leadership the Trustees continued to review various aspects of the Church's life in order to set priorities and ensure as far as possible that the Church fully reflects on its calling to be the Baptist part of the people of God in Wallingford.

Suzie Willers is our part time Family Outreach Coordinator and is responsible for helping to support and develop outreach in the community to include Toddler Group and Oasis (OASIS until September 2023).

Rhonda Sparrey is our part time Youth Work Coordinator to help shape and develop our youth ministry centred around young people in our fellowship but also seeking to reach the wider Wallingford Community. This role has now been extended to include running a lunchtime Christian Union, a lunchtime café style drop in and is preparing to run a youth Kintsugi Group at the local Secondary School.

During the year we have had 4 baptisms. At 31 December 2023 the Church Membership was 77

During 2023 we have run events including an inflatables event for primary aged children, Yr6 transition event, a holiday club week, summer trip for Oasis group, weekend family camp, Christmas services, Christmas party for Oasis group, family swim, and light party. Social events for Oasis have been organised by Hilary Macintosh from September 2023.

We have continued with midday prayer (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) on Zoom.

Life Groups and Missional Groups largely meet in person, but some groups have chosen to remain meeting virtually, over zoom.

Youth and Children's work has taken place at Sunday School, during the Sunday morning service, and at the Sunday Evening Youth Hub.

The Thames Street Living Room continues as a drop-in centre for anyone who wishes to meet with others during the day. This has been well supported both by people in the Church and others from the local community

The Church continued to explore the vision of Missional or Geographic Life Groups and has encouraged members to form such groups where they can actively reach out and to seek to meet the needs of neighbours and local communities.

The Church also continues to work with other Churches to provide the Wallingford Foodbank and the Wallingford CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Advice Centre. Two Church members are Trustees of the latter and another member is employed as the Centre Manager and a Church member is a trustee and on the management committee of the Foodbank. We have also run a CAP money course for anyone in the community to gain money management guidance.

We engaged with the Wallingford Churches including a Good Friday Service. We were also involved with organising the act of worship on Sunday morning during the towns annual Bunkfest.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider Church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

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 nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements. The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

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

WALLINGFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT	Note	2023	2022
Receipts			
Weekly/monthly offerings		£92,958	£88,553
Donations and other income	1	£7,825	£5,249
Income tax recovered on gifts		£20,702	£18,824
Interest		£1,368	£681
Hire of premises		£2,761	£1,404
Total Receipts		£125,614	£114,711
Payments			
Ministry	2	£43,623	£46,519
Church running costs	3	£19,463	£17,511
Church Activities	4	£41,904	£32,544
Mission giving	5	£12,220	£11,900
Total Payments		£117,210	£108,474
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£8,404	£6,237
Cash balance at previous year end		£42,990	£44,453
Transfer to Mission Fund		(£5,760)	(£5,700)
Transfer to Capital Fund		£0	£0
Transfer to Pastoral Fund		(£1,500)	(£2,000)
Cash balance at current year end		£44,133	£42,990

MISSION FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	Note	2023	2022
Receipts			
Gift Day income		£9,878	£16,746
Income tax recovered on gifts		£3,267	£2,044
Donations		£667	£0
Total Receipts		£13,812	£18,790
Payments	6		
Gifts to other charitable organisations		£17,840	£22,660
Gifts to support members involved in mission		£825	£3,000
Total Payments		£18,665	£25,660
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		(£4,853)	(£6,870)
Cash balance at previous year end		(£1,270)	(£100)
Transfer from General Fund		£5,760	£5,700
Cash balance at current year end		(£363)	(£1,270)

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (Capital Reserve Fund)	Note	2023	2022
Receipts			
Donations		£7,500	£0
Total Receipts		£7,500	£0
Payments			
Church Insulation		£5,822	£0
Total Payments		£5,822	£0
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£1,678	£0
Cash balance at previous year end		£10,000	£10,000
Transfer from General Fund		£0	£0
Cash balance at current year end		£11,678	£10,000

GIFTS FUND	Note	2023	2022
Receipts			
Total Receipts		£0	£0
Payments			
Total Payments		£0	£1,590
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£0	(£1,590)
Cash balance at previous year end		£0	£1,590
Cash balance at current year end		£0	£0

PASTORAL FUND	Note	2023	2023
Receipts			
Total Receipts		£1,641	£1,245
Payments			
Total Payments		£2,885	£2,157
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		(£1,244)	(£912)
Cash balance at previous year end		£1,088	£0
Transfer from General Fund		£1,500	£2,000
Cash balance at current year end		£1,344	£1,088

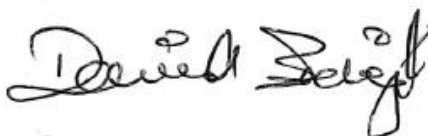
Summary of Funds	Note	2023	2022
General Fund		£44,133	£42,990
Mission Fund		(£363)	(£1,270)
Capital Projects Fund (previously Capital Reserve Fund)		£11,678	£10,000
Gifts Fund		£0	£0
Pastoral Fund		£1,344	£1,088
Total Funds		£56,792	£52,807

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account		£12,873	£5,221
BUC deposit accounts		£43,919	£47,586
Total Current Assets		£56,792	£52,807
Assets Held for Church's own use	7	£2,519,888	£2,218,774
Total Assets		£2,576,680	£2,271,581
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities		£0	£0
Pension Scheme liability	8	£0	£0
Total Liabilities		£0	£0

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 and 2 relating to the year ending 31 December 2023 are as approved by the Trustees.

Signed: (on behalf of all the trustees)



Date:

24 / 09 / 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Basis of accounts: These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and Other Income	2023	2022
General Donations	£2,332	£1,403
From Living Room	£322	£505
From Toddlers	£196	£35
Oasis Big Trip Out	£350	£530
From Rotary Club for Youth Work	£0	£500
Holiday Club	£540	£240
Family Fest/Family Camp	£1,100	£70
Youth Activities	£2,965	£1,629
Miscellaneous Income	£20	£337
Total Ministry	£7,825	£5,249

3. Ministry Costs	2023	2022
Minister's stipend, pension and NI contributions	£37,607	£35,291
Pension Deficiency Contributions (see note 9)	£12	£2,508
Contribution to ministerial college fees	£0	£2,600
Travel and other expenses	£0	£60
Payroll Fees	£444	£417
Conferences and Retreats	£0	£0
Manse costs	£5,560	£5,642
Total Ministry	£43,623	£46,519

The Minister acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Minister, including the provision of manse accommodation owned by the church.

3. Church Running Costs	2023	2022
Electricity costs and Water rates	£5,989	£3,752
Phone, TV and Internet	£613	£838
Insurance	£1,922	£1,757
Repairs and maintenance	£1,601	£1,981
Church Cleaning	£3,085	£2,793
Admin & Comms costs (inc subs, licences & technology)	£4,195	£4,986
Preaching Fees	£375	£60
Sundries (inc kitchen and cleaning supplies)	£1,683	£1,345
Total Church Running Costs	£19,463	£17,511

4. Church Activities	2023	2022
Core Church Activities	£120	£267
Children's Groups and Holiday Club	£770	£1,160
Youth Work	£8,438	£6,418
Outreach and Community Activities	£5,312	£4,511
Youth and Community/Family Co-ordinators	£13,682	£12,981
Wallingford School Project	£3,572	£780
CAP	£7,000	£6,000
Volunteer Training Courses	£220	£0
Church Family Camp	£2,531	£426
Other Activities	£260	£0
Total Church Activities	£41,904	£32,544

5. Mission Giving	2023	2022
BMS World Mission	£5,760	£5,700
Baptist Home Mission	£5,760	£6,200
Individuals	£700	£0
Total Mission Giving	£12,220	£11,900

6. Mission Fund Payments	2023	2022
Gifts to Charitable Organisations		
A2B	£600	£1,200
Africa Inland Mission (John and Zoe Putman)	£500	
A Rocha	£250	
BMS World Mission		£8,815
Christian Aid	£500	
Compassion	£200	
Embrace the Middle East	£500	
Home Mission (Baptist Union)	£3,200	
Kerusso Trust	£1,800	£650
Latin Link	£3,750	
Open Doors	£1,500	
Prison Fellowship (Angel Tree Project)	£840	£300
TearFund	£4,050	£945
TLG		£500
UEACU	£150	
Ukrainian Church		£1,250
Viva		£9,000
Gifts to support members involved in mission		
Matt Godfrey (via 'Teach Beyond')	£500	£3,000
Matt Godfrey	£325	
Total	£18,665	£25,660

7. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

- Church premises at Thames Street, Wallingford,
- Church manse at 1 Newnham Green, Crowmarsh

The value of these in the accounts are the insurance valuations as below

2023	2022
Church - £2,070,095	Church - £1,835,205
Contents - £99,513	Contents - £88,221
Manse - £350,280	Manse - £295,348

8. Pension Scheme

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

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. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a 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. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was undertaken by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m

(equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Wallingford Baptist Church On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church'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 church 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, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed by the Examiner



Date

7/7/24

Name

PETER NEIL WILBERS

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