

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132949

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Taunton Baptist Church
19 Silver Street
Taunton
TA1 3DH

Phone 01823333196

Email administrator@tauntonbaptist.org

Website www.tauntonbaptist.org

Activities

Objects: The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Activities: Normal activities of a Christian Church, including services of worship, activities for different age ranges including children, youth, men, women. Activities for the study of the Christian faith. Activities for the benefit of the community including providing services in care homes, support to schools, and a variety of inter-church activities for the community.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£141,235	£161,355	-	-
2023-12-31	£126,738	£149,261	-	-
2022-12-31	£132,525	£137,222	-	-
2021-12-31	£132,182	£127,472	-	-
2020-12-31	£142,636	£162,842	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Richard Matcham	Chair	2019-09-28
Barbara Ann Wager		2024-03-26
David Jonathan fletcher		2020-09-22
Dr Janet Eveline Gillett		2023-06-29
Mike Wager		2018-03-22
Rev Steven James Reed		2023-04-25
WILLIAM JOHN VENN		2011-05-25

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132949

Accounts



Taunton Baptist Church

2024 Report

Report for Charity

Commission

Taunton Baptist Church Review of 2024

Regular Activities

Being a church means that meeting together with one another for worship and prayer and the study of God's Word is important to us, as is the mandate to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastoral care is also an important part of our life together, providing support for those facing particular challenges and difficulties. With a considerable number of elderly people in our congregation, this is an important area of work. Our Home Groups are at the core of this work and several members are involved in home and hospital visits.

Involvement of children and young people is also an important part of our activities. These are aimed at introducing people to the Christian faith in the context of fun and a variety of activities.

Ministry

Revd Richard Matcham continued to serve as our minister through 2024. During the year, we had 1 baptism and 2 weddings. Richard had a Sabbatical from September to November, and during this time several members of our congregation preached through a series on the parables of Jesus.

Our Families' Worker, Amy Farrar, continued heading up the ministry with under 11s and their families.

ALPHA Course

We started 2024 running the ALPHA Course (January to April) with 12-15 people attending.

Church Weekend

Janet Blake once again organised the Church weekend away, to the Carlton Hotel in Torquay. We had over 100 people attending.

Bereavement Training

With several of our congregation having faced bereavement in the past 12 months we held a bereavement workshop which was led by Rev Ann Fulton, Chaplain at St Margarets Hospice Care. This was to help us understand our own grief responses as well as to equip us to be able to come alongside others to support them in their loss and bereavement.

Visit of incoming BU President, Revd Steve Finamore

We had a special evening service on Sunday 18th February when Revd Steve Finamore, the incoming President of the Baptist Union and Emeritus Principal of Bristol Baptist College, spoke about his hopes for his year as BU President. There was also an opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns about various matters.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

53 shoeboxes were filled and sent to Blythswood for distribution in Ukraine – forming part of well over 7000 other boxes collected in this area.

Church Members' Meetings

There were six Church Members' Meetings in 2024: 23rd January, 26th March, 28th May, 23rd July, 24th September, and 26th November, with the March meeting being the AGM. At the meetings we discussed the ongoing matters relating to the life and ministry of the Church. The minutes and finance report were sent out to the members and are available to read on the members' section of our website.

We also had a Special Church Members' Meeting on 23rd January 2024 to discuss becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Leadership

At our AGM in March, we held the election for the Leadership Team. William Venn was elected to serve as Treasurer and Barbara Wager to serve as Deacon.

Charitable Status

The Church took the decision to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) at a Special Church Meeting on 23rd January 2024. Working with the Baptist Union Legal Department and ACS Solicitors, the process was completed in August 2024. The Treasurer is now undertaking the transfer of the Church's assets in readiness for full incorporation in 2025.

Safeguarding Report – Janet Gillett (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

It is a sad reality that there are people within society who wish to cause harm to children and vulnerable adults. It is our duty to put barriers in the way to make this difficult for them and to prevent harm being done. We do this by making sure all those in contact with children and youth, leading homegroups, leading other church promoted activities, and the Leadership Team are all trained to recognise when there may be a potentially harmful situation. They are also trained to know how what to do. We cannot be too vigilant, and whilst TBC conducts a DBS (police check) on all those noted above, this is a small part of protecting those at risk of harm. TBC hosted a regional training day in November when several TBC people attended. To keep safeguarding in the spotlight it is a regular agenda item at the Leadership Team monthly meetings and at Church Meetings.

TBC continues to subscribe to ThirtyOneEight, a Christian safeguarding organisation, that is available to provide advice. We are also well supported by SWBA safeguarding lead, Kath Needham. Whilst there have been no reportable safeguarding incidents during 2024, that is to a statutory agency, there have been a few occasions when I have been involved in discussions when concerns about possible safeguarding issues have arisen. It is always better to raise a concern than think it's not important.

My thanks to Julian Morant for his help with DBS checking and Karen Maxwell for ongoing vigilance. For a number of years Steve Purches was also a valued member of the safeguarding team at TBC and we are grateful for his support.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Report – Steven Reed (Data Protection Officer)

One of the main purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is to protect individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly their right to protection of their personal data.

At TBC we therefore recognise that a person's personal data (name, address, email address, telephone number, etc) belongs to them and we only use this privileged information with the owner's permission. If we hold a person's personal data on file and use it for communication and administration purposes the owner will have signed a GDPR form agreeing to this. Even then, we must always be prepared to justify the use of their information.

We continue to be registered with the government's body, the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office). Our church policy on GDPR is in date. The BU (Baptist Union) provides us with updates and recommends policy changes where necessary. There have been no reportable data breaches in the year under review.

External Activities

Our ministry goes beyond the church doors with members involved in:

- Taunton Street Pastors which support people on the streets of Taunton at weekends through the evenings into the early morning, helping to make the town safer
- The Hospital Chaplaincy
- Town Centre Chaplaincy - volunteer chaplains are allocated to participating stores, offices and other places of employment and other locations such as a homeless hostel to be available to provide a listening ear or encouragement, etc, to staff and others
- The Taunton Foodbank which provides emergency food for local people in crisis
- Charis which provides accommodation and support to Syrian refugee families and advice to others working with refugee families
- Taunton Area Debt Advice

Room Hire/Outside Groups

We continue to have a good number of outside groups who hire different rooms. This included the following groups:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CareTech – Training for Adult Care• Coffee, Chat & Support Group• First Aid Training• Hampton Trust – Adult Education• Maths & English• Release International• Safe Families• Sewing Classes• Sign Health• Somerset Christian Chinese Church• Slimming World | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society• Somerset Carers NHS group• SWYM Cluster Meeting• Quantock Club Coffee Morning• Taunton Youth Gathering• Taunton Guides• The Big Noise Street Band• West Somerset Singers Christmas Concert• Youth for Christ Focus Day• World Day of Prayer |
|--|--|

Church Membership Statistics

Membership 31st December 2023:	110
<hr/>	
New Members:	4
Chris Harris	
Ray and Louise Evans	
Keziah Cracknell	
Deaths:	-8
Dorothy Robertson	
Ken Norris	
Dave Jones	
Joy Venn	
Vivienne Harkus	
Steve Purches	
Julie Kingett	
Jack Bell	
Resignations:	-4
Satnam Laurd	
Alison Laurd	
Vicky Johnson	
Margaret Adam	
Transfers:	0
<hr/>	
Membership 31st December 2024:	102

Ministry Reports 2024

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

YOUTH

Grace Honer joined us in September 2024 from Washington State, USA, for a one-year placement as a South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) trainee. Grace is undertaking the foundation year of training for youth work. SWYM provides weekly cluster group meetings for trainees in the local area which are usually held in Yeovil, and six conference weeks at Lee Abbey. TBC provides line management (Mike Wager), mentorship (Lauren Jewhurst), hosting (Janet Gillett) and hospitality from the church.

Grace, with help from the Church, has restarted Friday night Lighthouse meetings, participated and led Sparkz and worked with the Taunton Youth Gathering team, organising joint events. She has also been out with Taunton Youth for Christ each week and has ongoing study for her course.

We are enriched by her presence and pray she will flourish during the year that she is with us at TBC. We are also grateful to all those who support these activities, without whom none of this would be possible. We need God's grace and help as we do our best to support these young people, as they navigate their teenage years in an ever-changing society.

Here is her report.

Janet Gillett

Sparkz

Throughout this year we had 5 to 8 young people join us for our 'Sparkz' sessions on Sunday mornings, ranging in age from 11 to 17. We looked at Urban Saints materials and over the summer we learned about 'Christian Characteristics'. We have recently begun to use new material from the Bible Society with a programme titled 'Six Beats One Story' that our Sparkz team takes turns leading. This goes through some key points in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This material provides many different types of learning styles and seems to be engaging. These Sunday morning sessions have been an opportunity for us to dive deeper into the Bible as a group and have times of discussion.

Lighthouse

On Friday, 4th of October we restarted our weekly Friday night youth group where we generally have between 5 and 10 young people attending. The usual Friday night consists of free time where they can make use of the youth suite upstairs, playing games or chatting with their friends whilst having some snacks and drinks. We follow this up with group games usually in the main hall and then gather together upstairs to have a Bible-based discussion followed by an opportunity for prayer. This has been a really great space for young people to be able to build friendships and play games in a safe space – but also to hear about Jesus and how He can uniquely work through all of their lives.

Taunton Youth Gathering

TYG is the gathering of different churches, TBC, Trull Church, Creech St Michael and Vineyard. It is an opportunity for the youth groups to meet more people that live in the area and share fellowship and worship time. Most of the time

this is held at TBC, running once every 1-2 months with a general attendance of 30 young people. On 25th of January, a southwest worship ministry called Movement came and held a worship night for TYG at TBC. This consisted of snacks and drinks, an ice-breaker game, time of worship, and a short teaching session. This was a really great space for young people to come and worship the Lord with other people their age.

Grace Honer

ADULTS

PASTORAL CARE – Steve Reed

As an Elder with responsibility for Pastoral Care, my emphasis is on visiting those who are unable to get to church for whatever reason, bringing them Holy Communion, fellowship and prayer.

If people choose, visits are monthly with Holy Communion. However, a more regular visit might be necessary if the need arises. Importantly, there are others who also visit and fellowship with friends and I am not seeking to interfere with these important links and arrangements. Pastoral care is, after all, a shared responsibility involving the whole church.

It is a real joy for me to visit those who have contributed so much of their lives to TBC and to hear their stories and testimonies. Let us never forget that what we enjoy today is down to those who so faithfully served in the past.

If you know of someone whom you think is missing out on pastoral care, please give me a call.

PRAYER NETWORK – Janet Gillett & Carole Weetman

We get requests for prayer to the Prayer Network from our fellowship either for themselves or for other people. We only ask that the recipient of the prayer request has given their consent for this to be shared and they have an association with TBC in some way. These requests are emailed to more than 65 email addresses, so be assured there are many people praying for any single request. This must encourage your hearts as it does ours!

God calls us to call upon Him and it is so encouraging to see prayers answered. So, be assured the Church family are upholding you in prayer when we receive your requests.

Let us give thanks to God for this ministry and we ask for His blessing to be upon Janet and myself as we seek to serve Him in this way.

Thank you

Carole and Janet.

HOMEGROUPS – Janet Gillett

We are called to be in relationship with God, with ourselves, with one another and with our community. Homegroups provide another space in which we can seek to build on all these areas of relationship when we meet, pray, share Bible study and pastorally support one another within these groups and in our community.

All homegroups meet twice monthly with one group meeting online. Steve Purches skilfully led this online group along with Lauren Jewhurst. Since Steve's unexpected death in December last year the group of 15 has rallied around one another, and as Steve would have wished, not collapsed but found a new way of running the group. This is a demonstration of the safe relationships that are created in homegroups to allow space for spiritual growth and new

leadership. There are 5 other groups meeting in person, including a new group hosted by Steve Reed (and Hazel) with around 70 people attending.

We thank God for His many blessings to us through these groups, and for the years of homegroup leadership that Steve and Clare provided, both in their own home and via Zoom.

RENDEZVOUS – Dorothy Skinner

Rendezvous has continued throughout the year, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Six different leaders lead the sessions in turn and choose their own speakers either from our own fellowship or beyond. Each session includes prayer, singing, Bible reading, celebration of birthdays, and a speaker (topics and testimonies, etc.). At the end of each session, we enjoy tea together (sandwiches, savouries, cakes, etc.) Our numbers are increasing and 55 have met with us over the past year. Our average attendance is 34. Grateful thanks are due to our leaders and speakers, to Janice Moody who organises and prepares our teas, to Mike and Barbara Wager who operate the tech desk with whatever is needed, and to those who provide transport and send cards etc. When Mavis Skeggs can be with us, we have a table selling her beautiful hand-made cards. A very warm welcome awaits you if you would like to join us, and any help with transport would be much appreciated.

Dorothy, Eric and the Team

COFFEE PLUS – Dorothy Skinner

Friday mornings, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Coffee Plus has continued weekly, going from strength to strength. Our members are very loyal, and for some, Friday mornings are the highlight of their week. We also have a number of friends who pop in when they can and just enjoy coffee, biscuits or cake. Since our last report we have had 79 joining us through the year. We have 28 regular members plus 51 who have popped in from time to time (including two physiotherapists). Our average attendance is 24, but we have welcomed 35. The 'plus' part of our name includes card making, scrapbooking, knitting, crochet, embroidery, jewellery making and adult colouring. Our gentlemen enjoy puzzles, word searches etc, and some just enjoy a coffee and chat. Our members know that if they need to talk or need prayer, we are there for them. We give a very warm welcome to all to join us and some practical help would be appreciated.

Dorothy, Hazel and Gail

“GIRLS” TOGETHER – Iris Powell

We had another good year with interesting talks.

We started the year with Martin Ingrams telling about his life as a postman. This was really interesting and amusing accompanied by slides.

We had talks on Easter Customs, Health & Wellbeing, Somerset Sight, a talk by Rita Standford on her book To Paddle my Feet which was a fascinating story of living with disability.

Our Visit to Dartmouth was a great success; some went round the Naval College and some did their own thing. We had a beautiful sunny day, so a great day was had by all.

We went to Vivary to play indoor bowls and had lunch – great fun and much enjoyed.

In a change of programme Ron took us down memory lane with events from the past at Church. We had Christmas Craft and finished the year with Christmas Music & Carols and party food. We have an interesting programme for 2025. Do come & join us; you will be very welcome.
Iris, Janet & Clare

KNIT AND NATTER – Anne Hopkins & Christine Bickerstaff

Thank you all for your support for Knit and Natter. Can't believe we have been going for nearly 12 years now! We have had another busy year with a steady number of about 12 core ladies but a slow drip of new ladies as well, making it about 30 on the books in total. Thankfully, not everyone comes at the same time or we may have a space issue! Most of the ladies that come don't go to any other church, though a few do. They all know that this is a Christian group, though, and remark on how different it is to any other group they go to. The group is very supportive and loving, and we are often asked to pray in the kitchen (or other rooms) as we listen to peoples' issues, or we will offer to if prayer is not requested. As well as being light-hearted, we also do discuss more serious issues and try and bring a Jesus viewpoint to them.



At Christmas we give out a card made by Christine and a present that is linked to the Church in some way (we did make a manger scene over a few years!) and have recently given a Bible to one of the ladies who didn't have one but wanted one. Several of the ladies have started coming to church and others have been asking questions about it too. Please pray that we can continue in this work of showing God's love and care to these lovely ladies and the best way to move forward as the group continues to grow. Thank you. Any questions, just ask Anne H & Christine B.

MEN'S GROUP – Graham Weetman & Martin Ingrams

The Men's Group has continued to meet at different venues for breakfasts, games of skittles and various other activities. An outing to Haynes Motor Museum was a big success and well attended. Future events planned include a visit to Oakham Treasures, Hollywood Bowl and indoor bowls with a meal at Vivary Park. Our mission is to continue inviting friends and neighbours, and are grateful to all who support and attend. We now try to include a time at each meeting for sharing testimonies to all. Meetings are normally on the 2nd Friday of the month.

CHURCH WEEKEND 2nd - 4th February 2024 - Janet Blake

Late afternoon on Friday 2nd February, 103 of us made the journey by car or coach to the Carlton Hotel in Torquay for our 7th church weekend. We were once again made very welcome by the hotel and after a 1st evening dinner we all gathered together for a short time of fellowship and we welcomed our speakers for the weekend Rev Paul Lynch and his wife Liz.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we met together for a morning of worship and teaching from Paul & Liz Lynch. They spoke of their passion is to bring the heart of God to the heart of the people and also shared aspects of their personal life.

The younger members met together in a nearby room led by Glenda, a staff member at South West Baptist Association and a colleague of hers from Teignmouth Baptist Church.

Saturday afternoon was free for us all to spend as we pleased. After dinner, as had become TBC tradition was our entertainment & talent evening, compared by Tony Shaw. An excellent variety of "acts" performed, ending with a musical finale for everyone to join in... but no marriage proposals this year!

Sunday morning we all joined together for a traditional morning service including communion. After a delicious 2 course lunch, we said our goodbyes and returned to our homes.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES
OF TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Taunton Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2024, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, The Balance Sheet and accompanying Notes to the Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not requirement for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees have requested me to undertake an independent examination and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to; examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matter 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 Commissioner. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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 comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act.have 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.



**Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
141 Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555**

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2	95,699	-	95,699	84,861
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	3	7,811	1,760	9,571	6,510
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	4	31,440	-	31,440	30,862
<i>Income from investments</i>	5	4,525	-	4,525	4,505
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		139,475	1,760	141,235	126,738
RESOURCES USED					
<i>Grants</i>	6	15,500	2,105	17,605	16,115
<i>Activities relating directly to the work of the church</i>	7	102,130	-	102,130	89,772
<i>Church management and administration</i>	8	41,620	-	41,620	43,374
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		159,250	2,105	161,355	149,261
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(19,775)	(345)	(20,120)	(22,523)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(19,775)	(345)	(20,120)	(22,523)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		139,553	196,925	336,478	359,001
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		119,778	196,580	316,358	336,478

**TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2024**

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	9		211,990		211,755
<i>Investments - BU Corporation (Baptists Together)</i>			-		44,903
CURRENT ASSETS					
<i>Debtors</i>		3,384		6,386	
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	10	106,708		85,131	
			<u>110,092</u>		<u>91,517</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
			<u>6,304</u>		<u>11,697</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			103,788		79,820
NET ASSETS					
			<u>315,778</u>		<u>336,478</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			119,778		139,553
Restricted:	11				
<i>Special collections</i>		-		925	
			<u>-</u>		<u>925</u>
Endowment	12		196,000		196,000
			<u>315,778</u>		<u>336,478</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

(a) Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings which are regarded as inalienable from the church buildings.

Improvements to the church buildings are written off in the year expended, Equipment is capitalised at cost.

(b) Depreciation is calculated to write off assets on a straight line over 10 years from the date of purchase.

(c) Incoming Resources: All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(d) Resources expended: Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(e) Funds: Unrestricted funds represent funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to general purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Details are in note 11 to the accounts.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	2024	2023
			£	£
Offerings	72,557	-	72,557	64,851
Tax recoverable	16,457	-	16,457	14,260
Sundry grants and donations	6,685	-	6,685	5,750
	<u>95,699</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,699</u>	<u>84,861</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2024

3 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Donations	607	1,760	2,367	2,040
Linked groups	5,928	-	5,928	4,470
Legacies	1,276	-	1,276	-
	<u>7,811</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>9,571</u>	<u>6,510</u>

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE AND ANCILLARY TRADING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Rents	31,440	-	31,440	30,862
	<u>31,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,440</u>	<u>30,862</u>

5 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Interest	4,525	-	4,525	4,505
	<u>4,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,525</u>	<u>4,505</u>

6 GRANTS - CHARITABLE GIVING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Baptist Missionary Society	6,090	-	6,090	5,490
Home Mission	6,090	-	6,090	5,490
B M S Christmas Appeal	-	-	-	372
B M S Birthday Scheme	-	1,180	1,180	840
BMS Harvest Appeal	-	-	-	771
B M S other	-	-	-	207
Other	3,320	925	4,245	2,945
	<u>15,500</u>	<u>2,105</u>	<u>17,605</u>	<u>16,115</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2024

7 ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Ministry Team	44,899	-	44,899	37,878
Church building maintenance	6,945	-	6,945	6,906
Pulpit supplies	-	-	-	1,963
Insurance	1,607	-	1,607	5,973
Lighting and heating	6,191	-	6,191	4,127
Rates and water	632	-	632	515
Weekend	1,982	-	1,982	1,464
Children and Youth work	31,129	-	31,129	25,744
Training - SWYM	2,625	-	2,625	225
Outreach	449	-	449	396
Depreciation	1,994	-	1,994	1,772
Linked groups	3,677	-	3,677	2,809
	<u>102,130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,130</u>	<u>89,772</u>

8 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Administrator and caretaker	32,008	-	32,008	29,548
Stationery and office expenses	5,139	-	5,139	4,353
Miscellaneous	1,761	-	1,761	3,919
Other property maintenance	2,412	-	2,412	5,194
Accountancy	300	-	300	360
	<u>41,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,620</u>	<u>43,374</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2024

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
Land - purchased	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Manse at valuation	-	196,000	196,000	196,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Equipment and furnishings				
Book value at 1 January 2024	11,755	-	11,755	12,899
Additions	<u>2,227</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,227</u>	<u>628</u>
	13,982	-	13,984	13,527
Depreciation	<u>1,994</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,994</u>	<u>1,772</u>
	11,988	-	11,990	11,755
Total	<u><u>11,988</u></u>	<u><u>200,000</u></u>	<u><u>211,990</u></u>	<u><u>211,755</u></u>

Items of furniture and equipment held since before 1996 are not included in the above.
The church buildings and contents were insured for the following amounts for the year to December 2024:

	£
Buildings	7,043,650
Contents	251,559
Manse	538,701
Manse contents	25,000

10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024 £	2023 £
Lloyds	-	884
Current account	610	96
Baptists Together	86,610	489
CafGold account	19,120	11,212
Linked Groups cash	314	494
Baptists Together 7 day account	-	71,937
Cash in Hand	54	19
	<u>106,708</u>	<u>85,131</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2024

11 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Special Collections Fund		
Balance b/fwd	925	925
Donations	-	2,040
Interest	-	-
	<u>925</u>	<u>2,965</u>
Giving	<u>925</u>	<u>2,040</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>925</u>

12 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Manse		
Valuation b/fwd	196,000	196,000
Revaluation in the year	-	-
	<u>196,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>

The Manse buildings are treated as Endowments because although the income generated from them can be used for general purposes the capital has to remain intact.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132949

Accounts



Taunton Baptist Church
2023 Annual Report
& Accounts

Regular Activities

Being a church means that meeting together with one another for worship and prayer and the study of God's Word is important to us, as is the mandate to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastoral care is also an important part of our life together, providing support for those facing particular challenges and difficulties. With a considerable number of elderly people in our congregation, this is an important area of work. Our Home Groups are at the core of this work and several members are involved in home and hospital visits.

Involvement of children and young people is also an important part of our activities. These are aimed at introducing people to the Christian faith in the context of fun and a variety of activities.

External Activities

Our ministry goes beyond the church doors with members involved in:

- Taunton Street Pastors which support people on the streets of Taunton at weekends through the evenings into the early morning, helping to make the town safer
- The Hospital Chaplaincy
- Town Centre Chaplaincy - volunteer chaplains are allocated to participating stores, offices and other places of employment and other locations such as a homeless hostel to be available to provide a listening ear or encouragement, etc, to staff and others
- The Taunton Foodbank which provides emergency food for local people in crisis
- Charis which provides accommodation and support to Syrian refugee families and advice to others working with refugee families
- Taunton Area Debt Advice

Ministry

Revd Richard Matcham continued to serve as our minister through 2023. During the year, we had 5 baptisms and 2 weddings.

Our new Families' Worker, Amy F, who started in February, headed up the ministry with under 11s and their families.

Leadership

At our AGM in April, we held the elections for deacons. Prior to the AGM the Church Secretary and a number of deacons had resigned and others had come to the end of their term in office. At the meeting, Mike W was elected as Church Secretary and David F as a Deacon. Also, Steve R was affirmed as an Elder, Mike W and Janet G were affirmed as Elders at the June meeting.

Church Members' Meetings

There were five Church Members' Meetings in 2023: 24th January, 25th April, 28th June 26th September, and 28th November with the April meeting being the AGM. At the meetings we discussed the ongoing matters relating to the life and ministry of the Church. The minutes and finance report were sent out to the members and are available to read on the members' section of our website.

Church Weekend

Janet B once again organised the Church weekend away, to a new venue the Carlton Hotel in Torquay. We had over 100 people attending. Revd Jeff J was our guest speaker.

Film Evening

We had one film outreach event in March when we screened the film "Morningstar", a 'docudrama' retelling the life and legacy of medieval philosopher John Wycliffe.

Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday the Sanctuary was set up with the different stations of the cross. This was a family friendly event with activities and crafts for children.

Discipleship Explored

Following on from the Hope Explored and Christianity Explored courses in 2022, we did the Discipleship Explored in the spring term.

BMS World Mission BBQ

In July we held a BMS World Mission BBQ, when our link mission workers, Peter & Louise L shared about their mission work in Bangladesh.

Cafe-style Service

We had four Cafe-style Services (May, August, September & November), informal services, suitable for all the family. No pressure to sing or pray, with coffee, croissant, and cake!

Safeguarding Report – Janet G (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Three people have undergone Level 2 and three Level 3 safeguarding training sessions provided by SWBA (South West Baptist Association) during 2023. All those involved with children and youth, leading home groups and the Leadership Team have attended training required for their particular activity and are up to date with DBS checks.

A BU video emphasising safeguarding as everybody's business has been shared with members at a Church Members' Meeting. Safeguarding is a regular agenda item at the Leadership Team monthly meetings and discussed at Church Members' Meetings.

TBC continues to subscribe to ThirtyOneEight, a Christian safeguarding organisation, that is available to provide advice. We are also well supported by SWBA Safeguarding Lead, Kath Needham. There have been no safeguarding incidents during 2023.

My thanks to Julian M for his help with DBS checking, and to Steve P and Karen M for their vigilance.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Report – Steven R (Data Protection Officer)

One of the main purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is to protect individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly their right to protection of their personal data.

At TBC we therefore recognise that a person's personal data (name, address, email address, telephone number, etc) belongs to them and we only use this privileged information with the owner's permission. If we hold a person's personal data on file and use it for communication and administration purposes the owner will have signed a GDPR form agreeing to this. Even then, we must always be prepared to justify the use of their information.

We continue to be registered with the government's body, the ICO (Information Commissioners Office). Our Church policy on GDPR is in date. The BU (Baptist Union) provides us with updates and recommends policy changes where necessary. There have been no reportable data breaches in the year under review.

Administrator's Report – James M (Administrator)

We continue to have a good number of outside groups who hire different rooms. This included the following groups:

- CareTech – Training for Adult Care
- First Aid Training
- Hampton Trust – Adult Education
- Maths & English
- The Big Noise Street Band
- Release International
- Somerset Christian Chinese Church
- Slimming World
- Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society
- St John Ambulance Fellowship
- St John's Chaplains Meeting
- Quantock Club Coffee Morning
- Taunton Guides
- Youth for Christ Focus Day

Church Membership Statistics

Membership 31 st December 2022:	126
New members added:	+7
Less number of deaths in 2023:	-1
Less number of resignations:	-22
Transfers:	0
Membership 31 st December 2023:	110

Ministry Reports 2023

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' LEADER – Amy F

Year Report

I started on 6th February, and you may remember I came to the weekend away before I was actually in post. It is remarkable that the year has come around so quickly, and it is so good to look back and see all God has done. I do have some facts and figures for you, but obviously everything we do is not about the numbers. It is about that family who felt welcome and safe in our building. That child who got told that God loves them. Or a parent being allowed the luxury during Toddlers to go to the toilet alone! There is so much that is not quantifiable, but I will give you a little low-down on the year that is passed and what I have been up to, although a lot of this feels like a thank you speech, and you will soon see why!

Toddler Group

Weekly averages:

Monday morning 24 children and 21 adults

Monday afternoon 9 children and 8 adults

Tuesday morning 27 children and 25 adults.

There is a bit of cross-over with about 8 families who attend both a Monday and Tuesday morning. So, bearing that in mind we see about 50 children and 27 adults regularly. However, please do bear in mind this is not always the same families each week. In fact since September alone, we have seen 148 families (parent with child) through our doors! Some come very regularly, but others come much more sporadically and some only once or twice.

Our biggest group is a Tuesday morning, and we have on occasion seen up to 45 children plus their parents in the building. We are very popular and do often see new faces.

We do not really advertise but word spreads between parents about our group and a quiet week combining the groups can look like 40 children plus parents in total and a busy week we can see up to 90 children plus parents! At the end of term for Summer, we gave out over 80 books and this Christmas we had about 100 children receiving presents over the three sessions. Thank you to our very own Father Christmas – Graham. But a big thanks to all our team: Yvonne, Barbara, and Audrey who help on Monday afternoons – and a special thanks to Jan, Jane, and Clare who week in week out give their time.

Baby Group

Weekly averages, we see an average of 9 children each week with highs of 15 and lows of 4.

At Christmas we gave 14 children under 18 months gifts.

At our baby group we do often get a number of mums with their support workers attend. We have been told that they find it a safe space and they love that they do not feel judged by us and that we make them feel so welcome. Only this week I was told by a mum who is moving back home after the support she received at Orchard House of how she was really going to miss our group as we are so welcoming and kind. We also have one family who now lives in Weston Super Mare after moving back but have asked their local social worker if they can return to us regularly as they love our group so much!

A big thank you to Leda who every week helps me run this group and sets out all the toys. A special mention to Karen and Lauren for the help they gave on the weeks that I was away this year.

If anyone here would ever like to help with Baby Group on a Thursday or Toddlers by simply making a good cup of tea or talking to parents, please do talk to me. We'd always love to grow our team and even if it's just a one-off every now and then, it would ease the pressure for when some of us are away.

Messy Church

On average we get about 50 people through our door for a Messy Church with just over half of those being children. At our biggest, though, we have seen up to 70.

We have seen about 8 families from Toddlers and Baby Group attend Messy Church. Most of these have become regulars at our Messy Church events.

It is amazing that we are also able to offer food at Messy Church and does once again give us a great opportunity to talk to families and get to know them even better.

I may end up sounding like a broken record, but once again this event would not happen without the Messy Church team. Now there's a fair few of you who help with this in many different ways so to avoid missing out names, which I am terrified I would do, if you helped in any way from doing crafts with the kids to signing people in to making food or even just cutting out, you are incredible, thank you for all you pour into this ministry. Messy Church is a success because you are a part of it.

Easter

Last year on Good Friday we ran an activity trail through the Church. We set up stations across the church which were interactive to help children engage as well as adults with Jesus' last day and what that meant.

We had a number of people through our doors about 40 in total. A steady flow between 1pm-4pm. A number of our Church family and a few of our Messy Church families too. I am hopeful that we could again do something similar with prayer-like stations around the church with interactive elements to be able to include children and families within this.

I really hope we are able to do this again this year, or something like it, and invite more families from Toddlers and Messy Church that we have come to know and gained contact with.

Summer Holiday Club

We ran our holiday club from 16th to 18th August 9:30am - 12:30pm, Wednesday to Friday. We welcomed 33 children from various backgrounds into our building to learn about Jesus and have fun in our church. We had roughly 20 volunteers from the Church who gave up their time over the course of those 3 days and with this in mind there is the potential that we could increase our capacity.

It is worth noting that the planning of the event was considered by many to be of high quality. I created the booklets and content for each session from scratch. We had a beach theme and so this meant we focused on stories from the Bible that were focused on the beach and water.

We were incredibly fortunate that Creech Baptist had a similar theme and that we were able to borrow, free of charge, a large amount of their décor and some equipment to run our club.

Of course, there is also plenty to improve on and we will be learning from our 2023 holiday club to improve the next one.

Once again, this event could not be run without the incredible team that got behind me and helped make this event run. From being group leaders, to puppeteers, and doing the actions to each and every song, it was our leaders that made these 3 days so special for the children that attended.

Christmas

Fun Day – over 100 people through our doors. A number of our Toddler and Baby group families were seen and it was a fantastic opportunity to talk with many of the families who were incredibly thankful for the event. Some said it was a bit of a lifeline during the holidays before Christmas and a great chance to get out of the house.

We also had some great services where we saw a number of children and families.

Sunday Stars

Sunday Stars continues to go on strong. Since I started, we changed a few things just to help with the children we were getting but also trying our best to get the balance between fun and learning. After all the children learn all

week, and we want them to enjoy church and for it to be a safe place they love coming to. We have recently changed the group slightly and reintroduced a parent-led creche. This is mainly because it became difficult with such a wide age group to cater for all. So, we have now made our Sunday Stars for those of primary age. This has made a difference, and it is now a lot easier to cater for those in the group.

But again, although I prepare all the content in advance and lead the majority of sessions, there are a number of people whom I could not run this group without! First Lauren and Karen. These two are fantastic leaders and are always willing to step in when I am away or when we try to give me a week in the service! Thank you!

We also have some other amazing helpers who are great with our kids: Liz, Anna, Leda, Lil, and our junior helpers Sophia and Joy. And thank you Carole for when you have stepped in occasionally. There have also been a few others who have given up time to step into this group on short notice, so thank you.

I could not run this group without our helpers. The group can at times be challenging, but it is a joy to spend time with these children doing crafts and playing games, or making Lego, or reading books together. If anyone is interested in joining our Sunday team, I try to ensure helpers are only rotated on once a month.

Café Services

I took over these services with Richard after experiencing my first one in March 2023 which Lauren lead. For those that have attended these services, they can vary and at times be a little chaotic and disruptive in nature. However, they are still a great opportunity to invite those for whom “normal” church services may be a bit scary or hard to step into.

We are continuing to work with these services and aim to discover what works best for these to be successful as they are of high value and a great opportunity for outreach. It should be noted that we are not saying that any of the previous services were bad in any way or not successful as we have seen a return in a number of families from Messy Church particularly for these services. We do however wish to continue to modify them so that they can be the best that we can deliver in the style that so many love.

A big thank you to Jane and Julian for always providing the breakfast for this service, it definitely is one of the things that set it apart and makes it so well loved.

We do not aim to do another until after Easter as we want to ensure it is crafted well and is given the attention it deserves.

Schools

This year I have made several visits to Blackbrook for assemblies. They particularly enjoyed when I brought in the harp to show them. Whilst doing this, I talked about gifts God gives us and how he made us all unique and the importance of diversity in his world.

I also went in July to see the Year 6s for an ‘It is Your Move’ session to help with their transition to secondary school. We very generously bought them some special ‘It is Your Move’ books to help with this transition. I ensured each book had a note inside to remind them who had given them this gift. These books have lots in them that can help children talk openly about what it means to leave primary and move up to secondary school.

My hope this year is to connect with more schools, although I am aware that there may be schools who already have connections with their local church and so we will need to be sensitive to this.

Network Meetings

I regularly attend the local Network Meeting that occurs once a month. It is a great opportunity to meet with other church leaders and ministries in the Taunton area.

I also meet with two other groups of children and youth workers. One is through the South West Baptist Association, and this is often on Zoom due to it pulling in a number of churches from further afield! The other is for those in the local area and is organised by the Diocese GO Team advisers. This group has met a few times now in our youth space upstairs. Out of this group has started the Taunton Youth Gatherings. There has only been one so far, and it was held here at TBC where we saw about 25 young people from three local churches. It was a joy to see our own youth

realise they knew others from their school that went to other churches and in a way gaining allies that they could have at school!

The hope is for this to grow! There is a plan to put another date in the diary for this term, but we are currently working out the details. This time there will be other local small churches invited.

The point of this gathering is mainly to bring the local church young people together to socialise but also to give input and disciple them further.

It is exciting to think of how this could develop and grow, with the hope of the young people maybe even leading worship or guiding the session in its entirety.

Connections made by the Diocese GO Team

As mentioned, I have made some great connections this year and, through the Diocese GO Team, have been invited to be involved in the Year 6 Moving Up celebrations at the Minster this coming June. They do these celebration services across the diocese for the local church schools. Last year they had two services in Taunton, and over 300 students at each. It looks to be a fantastic event and a great opportunity for us to connect with more schools in the local area.

Helping with Kids' Work

Once again a huge thank you to everyone who makes our kids' work run.

I may be the only one employed but I cannot do this alone, so thank you!

If anyone is ever interested in helping in any capacity, making cups of tea and talking to parents with little ones, helping on a Sunday, or doing craft with our Sunday Stars, please do come and talk to me. I would very happily invite you to a taster session for whatever you were interested in where you could determine whether you think this would be a right fit.

I think sometimes the expectations of what is required can be off-putting to join the kids' team. But please be rest assured, I am employed so carry the majority of the weight especially with preparing sessions and planning things. Often with children's work the only qualification you really need is to love God and love children. Then if you are a fan of crafts, or playing, or just making tea and coffee that is a nice bonus!

YOUTH

SPARKZ – Janet G

During the year between 4 and 8 young people attend the group during the morning service. We have continued to use Urban Saints' materials and topics have been diverse such as bullying, dealing with exam stress and peer pressure, to looking at the key messages in the New Testament letters. For example, 'Jesus is our only boat'. The sessions are interactive, and we hope to awaken an interest in finding out more about Jesus. This year 3 Sparkz attendees are attending an Alpha course at TBC.

During the Church weekend away in 2023 the Sparkz group created and presented a short drama 'Let my people go!' They were encouraged by the response and this year independently wrote and presented another drama at the weekend away about the Good Samaritan. We plan to channel their enthusiasm into café church services during this year.

A new development has been linking up with the youth and their leaders from Creech St Michael and Trull Church which was facilitated by Amy. Games, food, worship songs and a short talk contributed to a successful, lively evening with about 20 young people attending. There are plans for further joint evenings with invitations to other churches.

It would not have been possible during the past year to provide Sparkz without Julian, Rachael, Kevin and Hazel. Thank you to you all, and we continue to give thanks to Jesus for his encouragement and for the young people that He brings to this group.

ADULTS

PASTORAL CARE – Steve R

As an Elder recently given responsibility for Pastoral Care, my emphasis has been on visiting those who are unable to get to church for whatever reason, bringing them Holy Communion, fellowship and prayer and practical support.

If people choose, visits will be monthly with Holy Communion. However, a more regular visit might be necessary if the need arises. Importantly, there are others who also visit and fellowship with friends and I am not seeking to interfere with these important links and arrangements. Pastoral care is, after all, a shared responsibility involving the whole church.

At this early stage in the role, I am uncovering simple, practical needs. For example, the need for a printed Church Directory, a car pass, help to link someone to Zoom on Sunday mornings, and arranging delivery of the weekly bulletin. If you know of someone whom you think is missing out on pastoral care, please give me a call.

There is obviously an important link between pastoral care and what appears on the Prayer Network which is led by Carole and Janet.

PRAYER NETWORK – Janet G & Carole W

Requests for prayer to the Prayer Network come from our fellowship for themselves, and often for other people. We only ask that the recipient of the prayer has given consent for this to be shared and that they have an association with TBC in some way. These requests are emailed to more than 80 people via 59 email addresses, so there are many people praying for any single request. This is truly remarkable and powerful. Prayers are answered, so be encouraged and bold to ask for prayer if there is a need or if you wish to give thanks to our gracious Lord. Carole and Janet are here to serve you in this ministry. Please continue to send your prayer requests via the website 'prayer request' or phone if you do not have email.

HOME GROUPS – Janet G

In the autumn, following a meeting with home group leaders there was a reorganisation of the home groups. This was as a result of some of the leaders moving away from TBC. Whilst most groups continued unchanged, some accommodated other people who either preferred face to face meeting or others who transferred from one of the non-TBC-led groups to an online group. Additionally, a new group was formed.

There are now 8 home groups that meet every two weeks either at TBC, or in homes – and one group meets in a community hall. There is a group that meets on Zoom, which works best for those in this group. In total, there are 89 people attending when they are able. The groups study and pray together and share fellowship. The study materials are usually chosen by the group and have been 'how to study the Bible', individual books of the Bible, The Bible Society 'Bible Course', or other topical studies.

The value of home groups cannot be overestimated, as they offer a place where people can build relationships with one another and in a safe place explore God's Word and strengthen their relationship with Him.

RENDEZVOUS – Dorothy S

As of September last year, Rendezvous became 'New Rendezvous'. Instead of meeting weekly, we now meet monthly, on the first Tuesday of each month. Six couples now lead the sessions in turn, and choose their own speakers, either from our own Fellowship, or beyond. The format has changed somewhat and at the conclusion of our sessions, we share tea together, sandwiches, savouries and cakes, etc.

Our numbers have increased over the past year, and we now have 30+ most months. Grateful thanks to our leaders and speakers, and to all who contribute each month. Special thanks to Janice who organises and prepares our teas, and to Mike who mans the sound desk with whatever is required. We miss Chrissie and Gerry from our afternoons since their move to Ilminster and are grateful for all their past help with organising transport. There is now a vacancy here.

A very warm welcome awaits you if you would like to join us.

COFFEE PLUS – Dorothy S

Coffee Plus has continued weekly, going from strength to strength. Our members are very loyal, and Friday mornings seem to be the highlight of their week. We also have friends who pop in when they can and just enjoy coffee and biscuits or cake. The 'Plus' part of our name includes, during the year, card making, scrap-booking, knitting, crochet, embroidery, jewellery making, and adult colouring, while some of our gentlemen play games and do puzzles, word searches, etc. Our members know that if they need to talk or need prayer, we are there for them. We give a very warm welcome to all to join us, and some practical help would be very much appreciated.

“GIRLS” TOGETHER – Iris P

2023 was another good year for our “Girls” Together Group.

We had a varied programme of speakers which included talks from Rachael, Ron, Phil, and Lauren which were enjoyed by all attending.

One of the highlights of the year was our trip to Oakham Treasures where our menfolk and several friends joined with us. Another trip enjoyed was Indoor Bowls followed by lunch at Vivary Park. So enjoyable, we are going again in 2024.

We also had a talk on the Story of Nursery Rhymes which was good fun.

To end the year, we had Christmas Music & Carols with Mike which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

We have a good programme for 2024. Why not join us if you can?

KNIT AND NATTER – Anne H & Christine N

In 2023, we found ourselves immersed in the bustling activities of our group, for which we are truly grateful to God. Welcoming new members has added a fresh dynamic to our gatherings. It's remarkable to reflect on the fact that our group has now been thriving for 11 years, steadfast in its original purpose: to exemplify God's love through friendship and to alleviate the solitude often felt over weekends.

Within our circle, we freely share the highs and lows of our weeks, offering prayers to those who seek them, lending a compassionate ear, or simply indulging in lighthearted banter and shared laughter, punctuated by warm embraces for those who would like them. Guided by God, we try to foster an environment of love and support, nurturing each other as best we can.

We've recently welcomed a new group member and her visiting son into our church community. It's heartening to see some of our members reconnecting with their faith, finding their way back to God after periods of distance. One of our group has even embarked on a journey of prayer, wandering through her neighbourhood during Lent.

As Christine and I continue to lead this group, we humbly seek your prayers for wisdom in our words and actions. May our guidance reflect God's grace, leading all our members to a profound understanding of the vastness and depth of His love.

Please join us in lifting up prayers for each woman in our group, that they may be enveloped by the boundless love of our incredible God.

Thank you dear friends.

MEN'S GROUP – Graham W & Martin I

The Men's Group activities have so far concentrated on meeting for games of skittles at local pubs and clubs.

We have alternated between daytime and evening games, where the daytime events have included a meal after each match.

We have a shared meeting for breakfast as well.

A total of 36 men have taken part since starting in October 2023.

At the time of writing, a trip to Haynes Motor Museum has been planned. A group of 16 will be attending, with four non-church men going.

The mission of the group is to bring men to faith in Jesus Christ, by providing friendship and fellowship outside of the Church building. Our aim to invite “unchurched men” is slowly beginning to grow, with a small number joining us on a regular basis.

We plan to take small steps forward, eventually with invitations to hear a time of sharing the Gospel, testimonials, and food!

CHURCH WEEKEND – Janet B

3rd – 5th February 2023

Late afternoon on Friday 3rd February, just over 100 of us made the journey by car or coach to the Carlton Hotel in Torquay for our 6th Church weekend. After a 1st evening dinner, we all gathered together for a short time of worship and an introduction.

Our speaker for the weekend was Jeff, Minister of West Leigh Baptist Church in Essex but originally from Canada. He came with his wife Antonia and their three children.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we met together for a morning of worship, prayer, and teaching from Jeff. The younger members also met together in a nearby room. Saturday afternoon was free for us all to spend as we please with some making good use of the hotel swimming pool.

After dinner, as had become TBC tradition was our entertainment & talent evening, compered by Tony. An excellent variety of “acts” performed, ending with a musical finale of ABBA songs for everyone to join in... But that night that wasn't quite all that happened! Malcolm & Janice had just finished their Pam Ayres poem and as the applause was finishing, Malcolm got down on bended knee and asked Janice to marry him! To say Janice was a little surprised would be an understatement! Thankfully she said yes and the rest as they say, is history!

Sunday morning, we all joined together for a traditional morning service including communion. After a delicious two course lunch, we said our goodbyes and returned to our homes.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES
OF TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Taunton Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, The Balance Sheet and accompanying Notes to the Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not requirement for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees have requested me to undertake an independent examination and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to; examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matter 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 Commissioner. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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 comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act.have 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.

**Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
141 Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555**

26th March 2024

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2	84,861	-	84,861	98,806
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	3	4,470	2,040	6,510	8,774
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	4	30,862	-	30,862	22,950
<i>Income from investments</i>	5	4,505	-	4,505	1,995
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		124,698	2,040	126,738	132,525
RESOURCES USED					
<i>Grants</i>	6	14,075	2,040	16,115	23,840
<i>Activities relating directly to the work of the church</i>	7	89,772	-	89,772	69,049
<i>Church management and administration</i>	8	43,374	-	43,374	44,333
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		147,221	2,040	149,261	137,222
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(22,523)	-	(22,523)	(4,697)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(22,523)	-	(22,523)	(4,697)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		162,076	196,925	359,001	363,698
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		139,553	196,925	336,478	359,001

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	9		211,755		212,899
<i>Investments - Redwood Bank</i>			44,903		89,084
CURRENT ASSETS					
<i>Debtors</i>		6,386		5,588	
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	10	85,131		59,118	
			<u>91,517</u>		<u>64,706</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
			<u>11,697</u>		<u>7,688</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			79,820		57,018
NET ASSETS			<u>336,478</u>		<u>359,001</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			139,553		162,076
Restricted:	11				
<i>Special collections</i>		925		925	
			<u>925</u>		<u>925</u>
Endowment	12		196,000		196,000
			<u>336,478</u>		<u>359,001</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

(a) Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings which are regarded as inalienable from the church buildings.

Improvements to the church buildings are written off in the year expended, Equipment is capitalised at cost.

(b) Depreciation is calculated to write off assets on a straight line over 10 years from the date of purchase.

(c) Incoming Resources: All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(d) Resources expended: Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(e) Funds: Unrestricted funds represent funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to general purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Details are in note 11 to the accounts.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Offerings	64,851	-	64,851	73,585
Tax recoverable	14,260	-	14,260	15,211
Sundry grants and donations	5,750	-	5,750	10,010
	<u>84,861</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,861</u>	<u>98,806</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Donations	-	2,040	2,040	5,736
Linked groups	4,470	-	4,470	3,038
Legacies	-	-	-	-
	<u>4,470</u>	<u>2,040</u>	<u>6,510</u>	<u>8,774</u>

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE AND ANCILLARY TRADING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Rents	30,862	-	30,862	22,950
	<u>30,862</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,862</u>	<u>22,950</u>

5 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Interest	4,505	-	4,505	1,995
	<u>4,505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,505</u>	<u>1,995</u>

6 GRANTS - CHARITABLE GIVING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Baptist Missionary Society	5,490	-	5,490	6,252
Home Mission	5,490	-	5,490	6,660
B M S Christmas Appeal	-	372	372	338
B M S Birthday Scheme	-	840	840	1,167
BMS Harvest Appeal		771	771	
B M S other	150	57	207	445
Other	2,945	-	2,945	8,978
	<u>14,075</u>	<u>2,040</u>	<u>16,115</u>	<u>23,840</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

7 ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Ministry Team	37,878	-	37,878	38,167
Church building maintenance	6,906	-	6,906	5,379
Pulpit supplies	1,963	-	1,963	2,908
Insurance	5,973	-	5,973	5,805
Lighting and heating	4,127	-	4,127	4,530
Rates and water	515	-	515	372
Weekend	1,464	-	1,464	723
Children and Youth work	25,744	-	25,744	6,997
Training - SWYM	225	-	225	869
Outreach	396	-	396	200
Depreciation	1,772	-	1,772	1,709
Linked groups	2,809	-	2,809	1,390
	<u>89,772</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,772</u>	<u>69,049</u>

8 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Administrator and caretaker	29,548	-	29,548	28,882
Stationery and office expenses	4,353	-	4,353	4,562
Miscellaneous	3,919	-	3,919	2,946
Other property maintenance	5,194	-	5,194	7,643
Accountancy	360	-	360	300
	<u>43,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,374</u>	<u>44,333</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
Land - purchased	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Manse at valuation	-	196,000	196,000	196,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Equipment and furnishings				
Book value at 1 January 2023	12,899	-	12,899	10,620
Additions	628	-	628	3,988
	<u>13,527</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,527</u>	<u>14,608</u>
Depreciation	1,772	-	1,772	1,709
	<u>11,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,755</u>	<u>12,899</u>
Total	<u><u>11,755</u></u>	<u><u>200,000</u></u>	<u><u>211,755</u></u>	<u><u>212,899</u></u>

Items of furniture and equipment held since before 1996 are not included in the above.
The church buildings and contents were insured for the following amounts for the year to December 2018:

	£
Buildings	5,836,457
Contents	208,445
Manse	339,122
Manse contents	5,782

10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2023 £	2022 £
Lloyds	884	1
CafCash	96	149
Baptists Together	489	8,349
CafGold account	11,212	12,670
Linked Groups cash	494	362
Baptists Together 7 day account	71,937	37,587
Cash in Hand	19	-
	<u>85,131</u>	<u>59,118</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

11 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Special Collections Fund		
Balance b/fwd	925	925
Donations	2,040	5,736
Interest	-	-
	<u>2,965</u>	<u>6,661</u>
Giving	<u>2,040</u>	<u>5,736</u>
	<u>925</u>	<u>925</u>

12 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2021	2022
	£	£
Manse		
Valuation b/fwd	196,000	196,000
Revaluation in the year	-	-
	<u>196,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>

The Manse buildings are treated as Endowments because although the income generated from them can be used for general purposes the capital has to remain intact.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132949

Accounts



**Taunton
Baptist
Church**

19 Silver Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3DH
administrator@tauntonbaptist.org
www.tauntonbaptist.org
Tel: 01823 333196

Taunton Baptist Church

2022 Annual Report

Regular Activities

With the end of COVID 19 restrictions in May we were able to resume our normal activities. Having used the Zoom platform over the last couple of years we continued to make it available for those who were not able to join us in person. In the autumn our tech team made our Sunday service available on YouTube also.

Being a church means that meeting together with one another for worship and prayer and the study of God's Word is important to us, as is the mandate to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastoral care is also an important part of our life together, providing support for those facing particular challenges and difficulties. With a considerable number of elderly people in our congregation, this is an important area of work. Our Home Groups are at the core of this work and several members are involved in home and hospital visits.

Involvement of children and young people is also an important part of our activities. These are aimed at introducing people to the Christian faith in the context of fun and a variety of activities.

External Activities

Our ministry goes beyond the church doors with members involved in:

- Taunton Street Pastors which supports people on the streets of Taunton at weekends through the evenings into the early morning, helping to make the town safer;
- The Hospital Chaplaincy;
- Open Door which provides practical support for rough sleepers in Taunton;
- Town Centre Chaplaincy - volunteer chaplains are allocated to participating stores, offices and other places of employment and other locations such as a homeless hostel to be available to provide a listening ear or encouragement, etc. to staff and others;
- The Taunton Foodbank which provides emergency food for local people in crisis;
- Charis which has successfully provided accommodation and support to Syrian refugee families and advice to others working with refugee families;
- Taunton Area Debt Advice.

Ministry

Revd Richard Matcham continued to serve as our minister through 2022.

Our Families' Worker, Lauren Jewhurst, headed up the ministry with under 11s and their families until May when she took up a post with Safe Families.

Following the departure of Lauren we re-evaluated our staff needs. This led us to advertise for an assistant pastor and also a families' worker. We interviewed a number of candidates in the autumn resulting in us inviting Amy Farrar to join the staff as families' worker.

Leadership

Our annual church meeting took place in March 2022. We held the elections for three deacons. Andy Harewood was re-elected, Mike Newberry and James McKee were elected, in each case for three years.

Church Weekend

Janet Blake once again organised the church weekend away, to a new venue the Carlton Hotel in Torquay. We had over 100 people attending. Revd. Charles (Chas) Deakin was our guest speaker, we were also joined by our BMS Link Mission workers, Peter and Louise, who are working with BMS in Bangladesh.

Film Evenings

We had two film outreach evenings. In March we screened a film about the life of C.S. Lewis, entitled “The Most Reluctant Convert” – a phrase Lewis used to describe himself and his early Christian experience. In November “The Case for Christ” an investigative journalist and self-proclaimed atheist, Lee Strobel, sets out to disprove the existence of God with unexpected, life-altering results.

Stations of the Cross

During the week leading up to Easter the sanctuary was set up with the different stations of the cross. This gave an opportunity for a time of Prayer & Reflection as we prepared for Easter.

Easter Monday Walk

A small group from the church gathered in Vivary Park to walk together, past Sherford Bridge Farm, over Cotlake Hill to Kibbear, skirting around Amberd House and back along Sherford Stream through Trull and Sherford back to Vivary Park for a picnic together.

Bike Pilgrimage 2022

In May we hosted the 2022 Bike Pilgrimage for an evening as they passed through Taunton. Organised by a retired vicar, Robert de Berry and friends undertook a sponsored bike ride from North Foreland Point Lighthouse in Kent to Land’s End, Cornwall – and back between 14 May and 25 June 2022. They cycled in aid of the work of Release International and CSW supporting persecuted Christians across the world.

Hope & Christianity Explored

In June we ran the Hope Explored course which looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel. This three-session series shows that Christianity is about real hope: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.

In the Autumn we ran Christianity Explored. Over several sessions exploring Mark’s gospel, considering three questions that cut right to the heart of Christianity: Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond?

Home Mission BBQ

In August we held a Home Mission BBQ when Carl Smethurst, SWBA regional minister shared stories about churches and individuals in the south west reaching out with missional activities and bringing the love of God to their communities.

Cafe-style Service

We had 3 Cafe-style Services (August, October & December), informal services, suitable for all the family. No pressure to sing or pray, with coffee, croissant, and cake!

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding is everyone’s business and with 42 people at TBC providing activities requiring a DBS check and safeguarding training, there is an awareness of the risks of ignoring this. Checking and training is a rolling process with repeat DBS checks every 5 years (at present) and safeguarding training every 4 years. The BU pays for all the DBS checks and TBC funds the safeguarding training that South West Baptist Association provides. Training to level 2 is needed for everyone and to level 3 for the church trustees (deacons/elders).

I am pleased to report that there have been no reported safeguarding incidents in the past year.

I continue to be grateful for the support of the Trustees and the deputy safeguarding team: Julian, Steve and Karen.

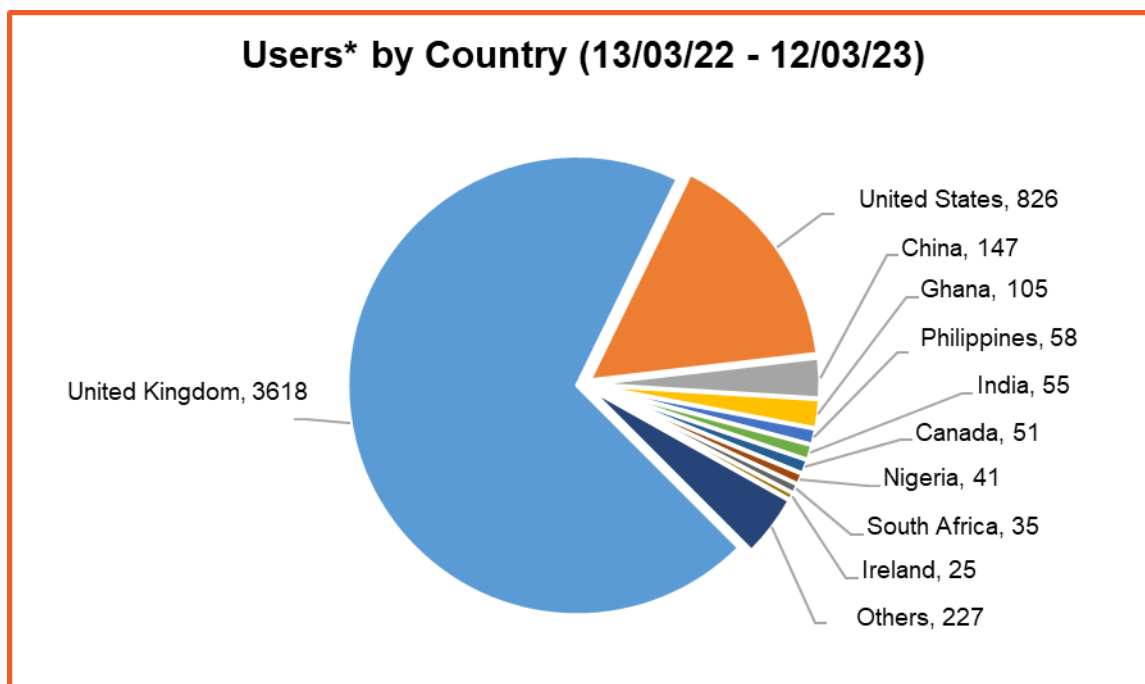
Janet G (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Website Report

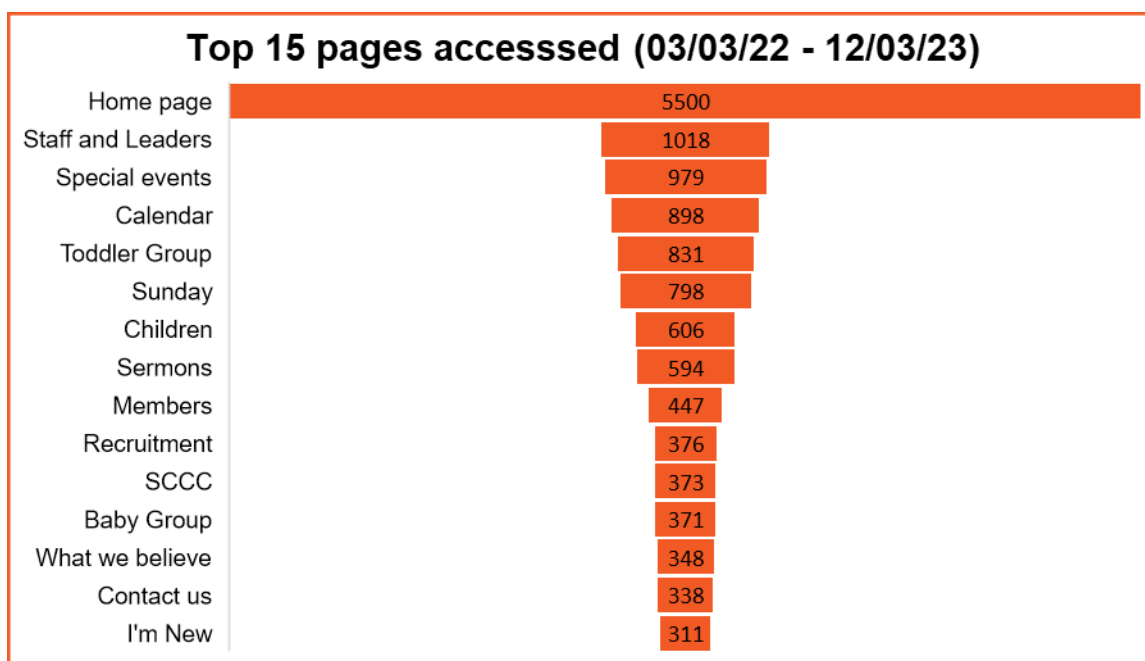
Taunton Baptist Church website (www.tauntonbaptist.org), launched on 1 November 2021, continues to provide a valuable resource for enquirers, members and attenders. Here are a few highlights/reminders:

- The home page includes an 'Upcoming events' section which automatically displays the next date of selected events and a link to the relevant page, and this can include special events when applicable <https://tauntonbaptist.org/special-events/>.
- The Somerset Chinese Christian Church do not have their own website, so we have devoted a page of our website for them to advertise their services: <https://tauntonbaptist.org/sccc/> (in both English and Mandarin).
- You will have seen the 'Welcome card' available at the back of the Sanctuary and in the Foyer, and this can also be completed online within the 'I'm New page: <https://tauntonbaptist.org/new/>, which also answers many of the questions that newcomers typically have.
- The 'Sermons' page <https://tauntonbaptist.org/whats-on/sunday/sermons/> enables recordings of previous sermons to be watched, listened to or downloaded and you can also watch recordings of the whole service <https://tauntonbaptist.org/service-recordings/> (although for copyright reasons this is restricted to members and regular attenders only).
- In the 'Members' area there are pages that can only be accessed with an individual password by members and regular attenders and pages that can only be accessed by members only. (If you don't have access, go to <https://tauntonbaptist.org/contact/> and select enquiry: 'Request Member/Attender Access').
- Amy has been given access to edit the children's pages and has made some welcome improvements and plans to do more!
- Rather than advertising email addresses (which are vulnerable to 'spamming'), the site makes use of various contact forms to provide a secure way of people making contact with various members of staff and coordinators within the church including prayer, children's work, admin matters and room hire. This facility has been used 96 times in the last year (13 March 2022 – 12 March 2023).
- If you have any photographs of church events/activities (taken with the permission of anyone identifiable on the photo), please email them to me: webmaster@tauntonbaptist.org.
- If you have any suggestions to improve the website, to add new content or to correct existing content, please don't hesitate to contact me via the website (<https://tauntonbaptist.org/contact/> and select enquiry: 'Website Correction') or via email: webmaster@tauntonbaptist.org

The following analytics for a full year from 13 March 2022 to 12 March 2023 may be of interest:



Total users* 5,200 (cf. 1,550 in Nov 21 – Mar 22) with an average engagement time of 1m 38s (cf. 2m 35s in Nov21 – Mar 22)



Total page views 21,209 (10,214 in Nov 21 – Mar 22) with an average of 4.04 pages per user* (6.5 pages per user* in Nov 21 – Mar 22)

* Number of users determined by individual cookie management

[Andy H](#) (Webmaster)

Administrator's Report

With all Covid restrictions coming to an end in April 2022, outside groups hiring different rooms has returned to near pre-pandemic numbers. This included the following groups:

- Amicus Law Legal Surgery Support Group
- Two different Band Groups Practice
- Big Noise Street Band
- Two Beaver Group Visits
- Castle School Visit
- First Aid Training
- Maths & English Classes
- Quantock Club Coffee Morning
- Safe Families Training
- Sewing Classes
- Slimming World
- Somerset Chinese Church
- Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society
- St. John's Ambulance Fellowship
- SWBA Safeguarding Training
- Taunton Area Debt Advice
- Taunton Guides

Throughout the year there were approximately 190 different activities, including church activities. In 2022 over 1700 activities/appointments were entered in the administrator's calendar.

Church Membership Statistics

Membership 31st December 2021:	137
New members added:	0
Less number of deaths in 2022:	4
Less number of resignations:	3
Transfers:	4
Membership 31st December 2022:	126

James McKee

Church Administrator

Taunton Baptist Church 2022 Ministry Reports

Sunday Stars

Sunday stars has seen growth in 2022 and we regularly have 6 - 8 children and even 12 plus on occasions with visitors. From September we were again without a Children & Families Worker and we were very sad to see Lauren leave this role but wished her all the very best in her new venture with Safe Families. In the beginning of December Pam, Sue, Hannah and Lis stepped down from helping in this ministry and a big thank you for all their help and support during this time, especially Pam, as she held the team together by preparing rotas and has supported this ministry for a great number of years. Barbara is having a break due to ongoing medical treatment and we will be keeping her in our prayers. In December the Sunday Stars met together with the youth and we looked at a back to front Christmas starting with wise men, shepherds and Jesus.

Many thanks to all who support this very important ministry.

Karen M

Sparkz Youth Group

We have been blessed with a core group and some new young people attending Sunday Sparkz where we have explored a diverse programme in the past year. This included prayer, the Bible, worship and characteristics such as hope, courage and living God's best. In the autumn we looked at societal influences on our behaviour such as friendships, TV, media, advertising, music, computer games. The latter was an education for the group leaders!

The sessions are a mixture of games, Bible discussions and lively debate. Towards Christmas we joined with Sunday Stars and the young people helped and also enjoyed the PopBox resources on advent and Christmas.

It would not be possible to provide Sparkz without the commitment to preparation and delivery of the sessions by Julian, Rachael, Kevin and Hazel. Thank you to you all, and we continue to give thanks to Jesus for his encouragement and for the young people that he brings to this group.

Janet G

Baby Group

At present we have an average of 15+ mums and babies attending. Since June last year we have welcomed over 64 babies, Mums, sometimes Dads too and family social workers. Things do fluctuate as Mum's return to work and babies start to walk. September 2023 saw Lauren having to step down with her new role with Safe Families. Leda and I have been welcoming and singing nursery rhymes to all who come to baby group. It is a test of the memory to see if you can remember all the names and best to concentrate on baby names first before their parents. We sporadically have parent/s and babies who attend with a family social worker, and they comment on what a nice group we are. We had one session when unusually we only had two mums and babies and after the singing time, they shared Japanese and Chinese nurse rhymes with us. We also have a supply of donated clothes from outgrown baby grows, outfits and nappies and also donations from toddler group which are put out for any who are in need. One mum has kindly donated a swing chair to toddlers. There are some wonderful friendships blossoming and a few mums also have lunch together after baby group. In one session recently there were two new mums who came together – I thought they were friends but they had just met on the bus journey. I asked the mums' what they liked about the group and was told they can share experiences and like that the babies can meet up together. It is a lovely feeling when you are able to see that all present are happily talking and that no-one is left out or on their own.

A big thank you to Leda who is always setting up when I arrive and is so good with a warm welcome, supplying refreshments and making sure we have clean furnishings and equipment. It is such a privilege to be able to sing our goodbye song together at the end of the session when every baby is named asking God to bless them and keep them safe and that God loves them.

Karen M

Toddler Group

Toddler group meets 3 times a week during term time and is open to children from birth to 4 years, together with their parents, grandparents and carers. Over the last year, each session has continued to thrive, with an average of about 40 families attending each week.

We aim to provide a safe place for children to play and for adults to meet, get to know one another and make new friends.

At the end of the summer term each child was given a small Christian storybook.

In December the children took part in nativity plays in the church during each session, dressing up, acting out and listening to the Christmas story. Family members were also invited to come and watch. The following week there were 3 Christmas parties, where there was fun, food and a gift for each child.

We have a fantastic group of dedicated helpers who run each session. Our aim is to build relationships with those who attend and share God's love in whatever way we can.

It has been great to see families bringing their toddlers and older children to other church events, especially Messy Church.

We look forward to continue building relationships and sharing God's love in the future.

Clare P

Messy Church

Messy Church runs every second Saturday of the month and is aimed at families with children under 11.

Every month there is a different theme from which we base our activities and crafts. This theme is Bible based and will have a story or memory verse with it. Doors open at 4:00pm when families arrive and sign in at the front door and we eat together at the end finishing about 6:00pm. There are about 45mins when they arrive to do all the activities and crafts found in the Albermarle and Trull/Corfe Room. We then encourage them all to come into the Sanctuary for the main session. This runs for about 15-20mins and includes showing off the crafts the children have made, singing some worship songs, telling/watching the bible story and some teaching on this. We end in prayer and then eat together in the hall.

When the children arrived they were given a bag to hold their crafts but this bag also held in it some flyers for future events as well as an activity sheet to do at home in the hope the learning will continue there.

It is fantastic that we are able to give a meal to those that attend Messy Church and bless them in this way. This time is also a wonderful moment to get to know the families better and really build connections and friendships with them.

It varies in number with those who attend but on average about 50 people attend but this can easily hit 80 on a busy week.

We also have an incredible team of helpers and those who cook for us and Messy Church would not happen without them.

Home Group Report

A total of 8 home groups met regularly through 2022 with a regular attendance of about 70 people. In the early part of the year all the groups studied the 'A Passion for Life course', and then went on to choose their own themes. Two of these groups have met weekly with other groups meeting twice each month. Most of the groups meet in person but a couple continue to be held on Zoom.

"Girls" Together

We had another good year with interesting speakers and visits.

Most of our speakers are from the church family including Janet, Mike & Mavis.

We had a very interesting talk on the Leprosy Mission, sadly Dan was ill and could not come but his wife who was coming with him did the talk for us.

We had a visit to the Somerset Museum and were fortunate to have a wonderful Guide.

In July we went to Linda & Tony's garden for Afternoon Tea and in September we had Tea at Bishops Lydeard Mill, on both these occasions our men folk joined us.

Our Planning meeting was a month later than planned and we ended the year with Chris demonstrating how to make Christmas Angels from paperback books.

Please look on the "Girls" Together page on the Church Website where you will find photographs of some of our activities and also our New Programme for 2023.

Printed copies of the Programme are on the table in the Welcome Area.

We give a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:15 am.

Iris P

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter has had a great 9th year with the friendships and lovely encouraging atmosphere in the group really a delight to see. We usually have about 15 people attending a week now, with several new members (one as young as 8 which definitely brought our average age down!) starting recently – some of whom are starting to knit/crochet and some experts. Most of us knit for family and friends, but also make blankets, hats, gloves and scarves for the homeless and for shoe boxes, and baby essentials for a new mums' charity for mums that don't have anything. Lynda is a whizz at making scarves and hats as winter draws in!

Most of the ladies that come to the group do not go to Church, although one of them has recently restarted after many years, and we aim (with a lot of help from God) to provide a safe, loving group where God's love and care is shown and all feel seen and heard.

Please pray for Christine and I as we go about this, and for all of our ladies that they would feel God's love and come to know Him.

Anne H

Rendezvous

Our thanks must go to the Rendezvous leaders for the excellent speakers and continuation of the Rendezvous meetings. We have been well blessed with speakers and functions in 2022 and continuing now into 2023.

- Over the year we have had 49 people attend a meeting with 5 of those being visitors
- The most attending on any one date was 37 and the least (during poor weather) was 21
- We have two new members
- We are sad to have lost some members who have been called 'home'

We have been fortunate to have speakers from our own congregation, all of whom had interesting stories or testimonies to tell. What a talented set of people we have in our church! As well as a number of speakers from outside, including from Somerset Gospel Outreach and St Margaret's Hospice.

As well as weekly meetings we have been fortunate to have a 'Summer meal' prepared for us by Jane & Julian, a trip to Weymouth, courtesy of Blakes Coaches and a Cream Tea arranged by Tim & Pam, and lastly our lovely Christmas tea... all of which were well attended and well enjoyed so our thanks go to those who made these events possible.

The members of Rendezvous are very thankful to the leadership team that make the weekly arrangements and for those behind the scenes that ensure there are biscuits and teas each week and monitor the sound desk and video screen when needed... with special thanks to Mike for all he has done and for Hazel & Glenda for playing for us each week.

If you fancy a good afternoon among friends from the church and elsewhere...why not join us on a Tuesday afternoon from 2:30-4:30pm!

Yvonne B

COFFEE PLUS

Coffee Plus began in 2019 as a coffee morning for all to enjoy coffee/tea, biscuits, cakes and chat, plus an opportunity to craft and this has continued with crafts including card making, scrap booking, knitting, crochet, puzzles, adult colouring, games etc. (We have two experienced crafters attending). During 2022 the numbers attending have increased and we now have 20+ busily chatting and enjoying coffee and crafts.

We have members attending with Carers and the Carers enjoy joining in, too. Word has circulated and we have been approached by organisations working with adults needing more social contact.

As we continue through school holidays it is a joy to welcome children and young people who enjoy crafting, too. Our aim is to provide a warm, friendly welcoming space where everyone is valued, and we pray that this will be a stepping stone to our members wanting to join our Church family, and come to know and love our Lord. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. For further details please contact Dorothy or Mavis.

We previously met in the Trull/Corfe room, but as our membership has increased to 28, we now meet in the big hall.

Schools Work

The early part of 2022 saw lots of opportunities to support local schools through assemblies and Bible Storytelling sessions. I did regular assemblies at Blackbrook Primary school, and it was wonderful to be there in person having had to do them online for most of 2021. It was also an honour to present the Year 6s with an "It's Your Move" book, kindly donated by the church, to help them with the adjustment to secondary school. We were able to talk about changes and how we navigate them, and I shared how God has always been there for me in times of change. The relationship between the church and school is something Barney Rycroft (Head Teacher) wants to continue when Amy settles into her new role at the church.

My storytelling sessions with the Nursery and Foundation children at St James' Church school were also a time of encouragement and blessing. The children respond so well to the stories and especially like it when they can join in! We had great fun doing our own Palm Sunday parade and learning the Creation story from Genesis using the parachute and lots of noisy sound effects! They too are keen to welcome Amy in to continue this work.

In addition to the schools work we also welcomed two Beaver packs to the church in the Autumn as part of their faith badge. They did a photo treasure hunt around the church, and we spoke about the different things they spotted, from the stained glass windows to the large cross on the wall. The organ was also of particular interest! We had the baptistry open and explained what happened at a baptism and what it meant to the person getting baptised, which presented a wonderful opportunity to talk about the death and resurrection of Jesus, and what faith means to us. The children of Trinity Scout Group wrote some beautiful prayers which they shared as we sat in the balcony overlooking the church worship area.

Lauren J

Church Weekend 4 – 6 February 2022

Late afternoon on Friday 4th February, 94 of us made the journey by car or coach to the Clifton Hotel in Torquay for our 5th church weekend. Sadly, a small number were unable to go due to illness, including Richard, Rachael & Laura who had tested positive for Covid. We were made very welcome by the hotel and after a 1st evening dinner we all gathered together for a short time. We were delighted that our link missionaries Peter & Louise were with us and they shared some of their life and work in Bangladesh.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we once again met together for a morning of worship, prayer and teaching from Charles Deakin. The younger members also met together in a nearby room. Saturday afternoon was free for us all to spend as we pleased and many took advantage of the beautiful sunshine to stroll down to the seafront ... although there was a bit of a bracing wind!!

After dinner, as had become TBC tradition was our entertainment & talent evening, compered by Tony. An excellent variety of "acts" performed, ending with a musical finale for everyone to join in to.

Sunday morning we all joined together for a traditional morning service including communion and the children joined us at the end to show what they had been doing in their groups. After a delicious 2 course lunch, we said our goodbyes and returned to our homes.

Janet B

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is central to everything we do at Taunton Baptist Church, and we believe that we are called to minister to one another in prayer. We believe that praying about situations brings God into those situations – and that He can and will help us through even the hardest times.

The **Prayer Network** continues to be an effective way of circulating prayer needs on a confidential basis. We are grateful for Sue and Richard for looking after this.

From our website: <https://tauntonbaptist.org/whats-on/prayer/> people can submit prayer requests and this has been used on a few occasions.

Prayer Cells. These small groups meet regularly, some on Zoom others in person, an opportunity to pray for each other in a more personal way.

Prayer Evening. On the second Tuesday of each month, we meet together to pray for the various ministries of the church and those who are in need of prayer who are connected to our congregation.

Praying for one another is such an important way in which we can show our love and care for each other and share needs with our Father in heaven. May we thank you all for your prayers and encourage you in your continuing faithful prayer ministry.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES
OF TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Taunton Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, The Balance Sheet and accompanying Notes to the Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not requirement for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees have requested me to undertake an independent examination and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to; examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matter 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 Commissioner. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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 comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act.have 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.

**Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
Bridge House
14 Bridge Street
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555**

14th April 2023

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2022 £	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2	98,806	-	98,806	106,079
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	3	3,038	5,736	8,774	5,144
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	4	22,950	-	22,950	19,810
<i>Income from investments</i>	5	1,995	-	1,995	1,149
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		126,789	5,736	132,525	132,182
RESOURCES USED					
<i>Grants</i>	6	18,104	5,736	23,840	20,987
<i>Activities relating directly to the work of the church</i>	7	69,049	-	69,049	66,223
<i>Church management and administration</i>	8	44,333	-	44,333	40,262
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		131,486	5,736	137,222	127,472
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(4,697)	-	(4,697)	4,710
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(4,697)	-	(4,697)	4,710
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		166,773	196,925	363,698	358,988
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		162,076	196,925	359,001	363,698

**TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2022**

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	9		212,899		210,620
<i>Investments - Redwood Bank</i>			89,084		87,945
CURRENT ASSETS					
<i>Debtors</i>		5,588		6,880	
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	10	59,118		66,843	
		<u>64,706</u>		<u>73,723</u>	
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
		<u>7,688</u>		<u>8,590</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			57,018		65,133
NET ASSETS					
			<u>359,001</u>		<u>363,698</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			162,076		166,773
Restricted:	11				
<i>Special collections</i>		925		925	
		<u>925</u>		<u>925</u>	
Endowment	12		196,000		196,000
			<u>359,001</u>		<u>363,698</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

(a) Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings which are regarded as inalienable from the church buildings.

Improvements to the church buildings are written off in the year expended, Equipment is capitalised at cost.

(b) Depreciation is calculated to write off assets on a straight line over 10 years from the date of purchase.

(c) Incoming Resources: All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(d) Resources expended: Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(e) Funds: Unrestricted funds represent funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to general purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Details are in note 11 to the accounts.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	2022	2021
			£	£
Offerings	73,585	-	73,585	71,427
Tax recoverable	15,211	-	15,211	15,794
Sundry grants and donations	10,010	-	10,010	18,858
	<u>98,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,806</u>	<u>106,079</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2022

3 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Donations	-	5,736	5,736	3,587
Linked groups	3,038	-	3,038	1,557
Legacies	-	-	-	-
	<u>3,038</u>	<u>5,736</u>	<u>8,774</u>	<u>5,144</u>

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE AND ANCILLARY TRADING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Rents	22,950	-	22,950	19,810
	<u>22,950</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,950</u>	<u>19,810</u>

5 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Interest	1,995	-	1,995	1,149
	<u>1,995</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,995</u>	<u>1,149</u>

6 GRANTS - CHARITABLE GIVING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Baptist Missionary Society	6,252	-	6,252	6,252
Home Mission	6,252	408	6,660	6,252
B M S Christmas Appeal	-	338	338	811
B M S Birthday Scheme	-	1,167	1,167	1,048
B M S other	-	445	445	250
Other	5,600	3,378	8,978	6,374
	<u>18,104</u>	<u>5,736</u>	<u>23,840</u>	<u>20,987</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2022

7 ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Ministry Team	38,167	-	38,167	38,746
Church building maintenance	5,379	-	5,379	225
Pulpit supplies	2,908	-	2,908	2,055
Insurance	5,805	-	5,805	6,312
Lighting and heating	4,530	-	4,530	3,247
Rates and water	372	-	372	423
Weekend	723	-	723	-
Children and Youth work	6,997	-	6,997	12,130
Training - SWYM	869	-	869	-
Outreach	200	-	200	218
Depreciation	1,709	-	1,709	864
Linked groups	1,390	-	1,390	2,003
	<u>69,049</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,049</u>	<u>66,223</u>

8 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Administrator and caretaker	28,882	-	28,882	27,624
Stationery and office expenses	4,562	-	4,562	6,989
Miscellaneous	2,946	-	2,946	865
Other property maintenance	7,643	-	7,643	4,784
Accountancy	300	-	300	-
	<u>44,333</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,333</u>	<u>40,262</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2022

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022 £	2021 £
Land - purchased	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Manse at valuation	-	196,000	196,000	196,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Equipment and furnishings				
Book value at 1 January 2022	10,620	-	10,620	7,021
Additions	3,988	-	3,988	4,463
	<u>14,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,608</u>	<u>11,484</u>
Depreciation	1,709	-	1,709	864
	<u>12,899</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,899</u>	<u>10,620</u>
Total	<u><u>12,899</u></u>	<u><u>200,000</u></u>	<u><u>212,899</u></u>	<u><u>210,620</u></u>

Items of furniture and equipment held since before 1996 are not included in the above.
The church buildings and contents were insured for the following amounts for the year to December 2018:

	£
Buildings	5,836,457
Contents	208,445
Manse	339,122
Manse contents	5,782

10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2022 £	2021 £
Lloyds	1	1
CafCash	149	2,927
Baptists Together	8,349	16,203
CafGold account	12,670	10,327
Linked Groups cash	362	296
Baptists Together 7 day account	37,587	36,922
Cash in Hand	-	167
	<u>59,118</u>	<u>66,843</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2022

11 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Special Collections Fund		
Balance b/fwd	925	925
Donations	5,736	3,533
Interest	-	-
	<u>6,661</u>	<u>4,458</u>
Giving	<u>5,736</u>	<u>3,533</u>
	<u>925</u>	<u>925</u>

12 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Manse		
Valuation b/fwd	196,000	196,000
Revaluation in the year	-	-
	<u>196,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>

The Manse buildings are treated as Endowments because although the income generated from them can be used for general purposes the capital has to remain intact.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132949

Accounts

Taunton Baptist Church

2021 Annual Report



Taunton Baptist Church Review of 2021

Regular Activities

The regular activities of the Church continued disrupted during the year by when COVID 19 restrictions. During the lockdown periods we used the Zoom platform. When we were unable to sing due to the restrictions, we used songs provided from You Tube videos. During the summer we concluded our Sunday worship by singing a hymn in the open air. We continued to provide the opportunity for those who were at risk for health reasons to attend by Zoom and telephone. Total numbers worshipping were generally about 90 to 100 people.

The following activities were also held on Zoom during the lockdown period but resumed live in September 2021.

- Sunday Stars and Sparkz (Sunday activities for children and young people).
- “Girls Together” - a monthly meeting for ladies which moved to a Thursday morning from a Monday evening during the year.
- Messy Church, a monthly event for children and their parents and carers, providing opportunities for worship and creativity and including a meal.
- Home Groups.
- A monthly prayer meeting and prayer cells.

Being a church means that meeting together with one another for worship and prayer and the study of God’s Word is important to us, as is the mandate to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastoral care is also an important part of our life together, providing support for those facing particular problems and difficulties. With a considerable number of elderly people in our congregation, this is an important area of work. Our Home Groups are at the core of this work and several members are involved in home and hospital visits. These activities were limited by Covid but many contacts with those in need continued by phone calls and Zoom meetings.

Involvement of children and young people is also an important part of our activities. These are aimed at introducing people to the Christian faith in the context of fun and a variety of activities.

External Activities

After the Covid lockdown ended with other churches we have continued to support, and have members involved in:-

- Taunton Street Pastors which supports people on the streets of Taunton at weekends through the evenings into the early morning, helping to make the town safer;
- The Hospital Chaplaincy;
- Open Door which provides practical support for rough sleepers in Taunton;
- Town Centre Chaplaincy - volunteer chaplains are allocated to participating stores, offices and other places of employment and other locations such as a homeless hostel to be available to provide a listening ear or encouragement, etc. to staff and others;
- The Taunton Foodbank which provides emergency food for local people in crisis;
- Charis which has successfully provided accommodation and support to Syrian refugee families and advice to others working with refugee families;
- Taunton Area Debt Advice.

Ministry

Revd Richard Matcham continued to serve as our minister through 2021.

Our Families Worker, Lauren Jewhurst, also kept in contact with families using Zoom meetings until September when we were able to meet live again.

Proposals for employing an outreach worker to work amongst those aged 14 to 30, an age range which is significantly under-represented within our church were approved by the Church meeting in September 2020. Work on the search continued in 2021 but despite extensive advertising from October onwards no suitable candidate could be found.

Leadership

Our annual church meeting took place in March 2021. We held the elections for deacons and officers. Eric Skinner was re-elected as Elder. Janet Gillett, Viv Axford, and Mike Wager were each re-elected as deacons and William Venn as treasurer and Tim Walker as secretary, in each case for a further three years.

Church Weekend

WE were unable to hold our church weekend away due to Covid restrictions.

Church Membership

We welcomed 2 new members in 2021. 3 members died during the year (Jean Bell, Hazel Curl and Tony Hearn). Numbers attending and contributing to the life of the church fellowship remained stable.

Membership Statistics:

Membership as at 31st December 2019: 139

New members added: + 2

Less number of deaths in 2020: - 3

Membership as at 31st December 2021: 138

In August / September 2021, 5 members moved away to live closer to children – Revd Mike Vidler (who supported the Halcon fellowship for several years), Sue and David Corry (who had held various roles in the life of the church for nearly 20 years) and Jill and Keith Wilkie.

Tim Walker

Church Secretary

Home Group Report

A total of 8 home groups met regularly through 2021. One group divided into 2 at the end of the year. Regular attendance was about 70 people in total.

Each group chose its own materials throughout the year but at the end of the year plans were put in place for a shared course.

Two of these groups have met weekly with other groups meeting twice each month.

Most meetings were held on Zoom but some groups did manage to have some live meetings

In September we said farewell to Sue and David Corry who had hosted a group for many years. David had acted as coordinator of home groups for several years and we are very grateful to him for carrying this out so diligently.

Tim Walker

Families' Worker General Update

The 2021/2022 year has been interesting as we've flitted in and out of various Covid restrictions and now finally back to some sense of normality! I am pleased that with the exception of the lockdown in early 2021, we have been able to continue our Baby and Toddler Groups in person, and had the joy of being able to do a Holiday Bible Club as well.

I have really been able to get stuck in to the "family" side of the role by helping out families in need that I meet through Toddlers and Baby Group. Mary Hart very kindly arranged for me to become a referral agent for the Foodbank and I have already helped a family in this way. In addition I was able to access our Pastoral Support Fund on 2 occasions to help a family who were struggling to make ends meet, and another parent who is currently in Manchester Children's Hospital with her little boy as he undergoes treatment and a bone marrow transplant for a genetic disorder.

I have been wonderfully supported, as always, by my core team of volunteers but as is often the case it is the same people who step up each time. This consistency is good in many ways as familiar faces help children and families feel connected to the church, but it would always be good to have additional folk on the team as sadly a few of our groups and sessions have had to stop due to lack of helpers.

Holiday Bible Club

In August 2021 we had our “Wonder Zone” Holiday Club. It was brilliant to be able to run this again even with restrictions on numbers and activities, we still had around 36 children across the whole week and lots of fun was had! Our theme focused on the different ways science can help us understand more about God – whether that is through His creation, our own God-given sense of wonder, our free will, our purpose, and how Jesus brings light to the world.

We decided to run a 4 day club this year, with a Praise Party bringing things to a close on the Thursday evening. We had around 16 families join us for a café-style service, and were encouraged by support from church members as well.

We were also thrilled to have Harvey join us for the week and the children and young people really enjoyed seeing him again!

HBC for 2022 is provisionally booked for week beginning 22nd August. More details to follow!

Toddlers

We had to really rethink our Toddler group in a big way during 2020 and into 2021, but thankfully we were well supported by our families and helpers. Sadly we had to close our Wednesday session due to helpers standing down but our other sessions are well attended, and we have now stopped our pre-booking system so can accommodate more numbers. We have on average around 15-20 families at the Monday and Tuesday morning sessions, and around 6 families regularly attending the Monday afternoon session.

We welcomed Jo onto the Monday morning team – she used to attend with her children and is a fantastic help to us, serving drinks and chatting to parents.

We have also recently welcomed Sumi Hossain to the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning team. Sumi’s children used to attend our KidZone and Holiday Bible Club around 10-12 years ago and I was really touched that she knew she could approach us to ask if she could volunteer and build up her confidence in speaking English and gain experience she may be able to use elsewhere in the future.

Baby Group

Our Baby group is a lovely group where parents (mostly mums but the occasional dad!) bring babies under 1 or not yet walking to a safe and fun space. I am assisted by Leda who helps to welcome the parents and provide them with much needed hot drinks and biscuits! During the Covid restrictions we moved the group from the Albemarle Room to the Hall where we had more space for the families to social distance. This has been so successful we have decided to stay in the Hall permanently. It’s a good job too as on some weeks we have had between 15 and 20 families attending!

The session tends to follow the same pattern of welcoming the families, singing time, then a time to chat and catch up with each other. Now that Covid restrictions have lifted we are hoping to ask Lorraine from FABT to do some basic paediatric first aid for us, and also possibly asking Kate from the local Sling and Nappy Library to come and chat to the parents about slings and cloth nappy options. We had a Christmas party at the end of the year with a little nativity play/singing and a gift for each baby as well as a craft that parents could do and take home.

Some of our families have attended Messy Church, and some have “graduated” to our toddler groups when their baby is too old to come or when mum goes back to work. Baby Group is special because it is not just a social group or play group for the babies – we offer a listening ear for mums as well, a shoulder to cry on if necessary, and some have contacted me outside of group to ask for prayer support. It genuinely brings me joy when I see parents encouraging and supporting each other – when a mum with a newborn comes in struggling to cope and is supported by a mum with an older baby, for that mum to hear someone say “It will get better!” really makes a difference and I can often see the transformation as the weeks go on and then witness that mum support someone else. I am also really proud of the way we welcome and support families from the local family assessment units who attend with a support worker. It is lovely to treat them as a “normal” parent with no judging or scrutiny. Leda and I feel really privileged to work with this lovely group.

For both Toddlers and Baby Group we occasionally get verbal feedback from the parents and support workers who tell us how welcoming and friendly the group is. Parents in the “Mums of Taunton” Facebook Group also recommend us on a regular basis when someone is asking for groups in the local area.

Messy Church

I was thrilled to be able to restart Messy Church in April 2021, at first with limited numbers and no meal, but then opening up to more families and providing a hot meal again from September. We are still operating a pre-booking system as this helps us with numbers, and also helps us get to know families who book in regularly. We have around 60-65 people attending, usually 15 or so families.

The meals over the past few months have been provided for by Richard and Rachael, or Jane and Julian and we are so grateful to them for providing it. The families really appreciate it especially as it's one less meal for them to cook at home!

Sunday Stars

We continued with our online sessions throughout most of 2021 and these were really encouraging. Despite missing seeing the children face to face, I was really encouraged by how much they engaged with the sessions. We met again in person in September 2021 but sadly one or 2 families, for whom the online sessions were easier to attend, have not been able to join us. We are in contact with them in other ways e.g. through Messy Church and regular emails.

In September I also took the decision to change the name of our group to Sunday Stars, with each age group having their own name to reflect faith and spiritual development stages – Little Stars (creche), Shooting Stars (3-5s), Shining Stars (6-11s) and Sparkz (11-16s). Unfortunately on coming back from Covid restrictions I lost quite a few of my helpers from the creche team and while I have a good number of helpers in the other groups I am low on those who are happy to plan and lead a session. We are managing ok at the moment but any new volunteers to this important area of ministry would be very welcome, in order to free up those who are missing out on regular worship because of their commitment to leading the group.

Schools Work

I am undertaking regular assemblies at Blackbrook Primary School – up until this month these were taking place over Zoom and while I'm grateful to be able to keep that contact going, I am very excited to be back in the school in person again! I was able to get in to see the Year 6s at the end of the summer term in 2021 and give out the Scripture Union "It's Your Move" books ready for their transition to secondary school.

In September 2021 I stepped down from the Governing Board at St James' School after 9 years there. It was a difficult decision but I felt it was necessary as I was struggling to give them the time they needed for monitoring, assessing and supporting staff. However, I am still able to go in to the Nursery and Reception Classes fortnightly to do reflective Bible Storytelling with them and I am grateful that I can keep that relationship going for now.

Lauren Jewhurst

Families' Worker

Sparkz Youth Group

The Sparkz youth group continued to meet on zoom every Sunday afternoon throughout the Covid lockdown. As soon as church reopened we recommenced face to face sessions. We have continued to use materials created by Urban Saints and followed courses on Bible Characters and Apologetics. From January 2022 we have been looking at Christian Living. The group presented a drama at the Church weekend away in February this year based on the parable of the talents which they wrote and directed. It was good to see how well they worked together and learnt more about Jesus's teaching about Christian living. The modern-day version included a master going on a round the world trip and servants who either traded in Bitcoin, ran a party planning business or hid their money under a beanie to keep it safe. The latter servant was 'fired' at the end of the drama. We have lively discussions and continue to explore the place of Jesus in their lives as they navigate their secular school world. Between 3-6 young people attend each week and we now have five leaders without whom none of this would be possible.

Janet Gillett

Safeguarding Report for AGM

Covid lockdown has presented a new set of challenges from a safeguarding perspective when the ongoing training schedule was disrupted and our contact with the children and youth was all via zoom. At all times guidance for zoom meetings from the BU was followed and there were always 2 adults in each session. SWBA provided some online safeguarding refresher materials that all those DBS checked and with online access viewed. A short video about safeguarding was also shown at a Church Meeting in May 2021. The safeguarding policy was updated in June 2021 to include more details about social media and cyberspace safeguarding.

There are now 45 people involved in Church activities requiring a DBS check and these are all up to date. SWBA delivered level 2 safeguarding training on February 26th 2022, and 39 people were able to attend this face to face. I anticipate that there will be level 3 training for the Trustees, pastor and Children's and Family worker later this summer.

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents in the past year.

I am grateful for the support of the Trustees and the deputy safeguarding team: Julian Morant, Steve Purches and Karen Maxwell.

Janet Gillett

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Rendezvous

After the lengthy Covid lockdown period we had a grand re opening on June 15th.. Not having met since March 2020 it was so good to meet up with everyone again, instead of relying on phone calls and doorstep visits. On this afternoon, David Corry showed pictures on the screen that he had used through the year on his regular very welcome letters that he sent out. In July we met for a cream tea by kind invitation of Liz and David in their lovely garden, all undercover in case of rain. Jane and Julian kindly waited on us and we enjoyed a lovely afternoon together. We met again in August for a summer meal at the church where again Jane helped Janice and myself with all the preparations.

It was great to resume our regular meetings in September with Eric joining me as co-leader. We now meet in the sanctuary every Tuesday afternoon during term time from 2.30 – 3.45. We begin with tea and biscuits/cakes, seated around small tables and end with another cuppa etc. Our programme varies, but generally includes some singing, prayers, sharing time, readings and a speaker. Our speakers cover devotional talks, testimonies, representatives from charities, plus topics on our general well being. Since September, our minister, Richard, shared some of his own poetry; Mary Hart spoke about the food bank in the lockdown. Graham Weetman shared his life as a dairy farmer. We had an afternoon with a representative from the Missionary Aviation Fellowship, with pictures. Michael Matcham shared his story. Ann Thomas, a vicar's wife, shared her bank robber grandad's story, From Black Sheep to Christ. Steve Reed and Hazel Hare shared devotional talks. We enjoyed a musical afternoon arranged by Hazel Reed, and finished in December with a Christmas afternoon:- Carols, readings and a tea enjoyed by all. At all our meetings Mavis Skeggs has a table filled with cards for all occasions both bought and her beautiful hand made ones. These are much appreciated by all our members.

Eric and I would like to record our grateful thanks to Janusz for arranging the room each week; Mike Wager and Ron Powell for all their help at the sound desk; Hazel Reed, our pianist; our hard working committee, and all who contribute to our weekly meetings. At present we have over 40 members with an average attendance of over thirty. We welcomed some new members in September and we would love to welcome more. A very warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us.

Dorothy Skinner

"Girls" Together

"Girls" Together resumed meeting in April 2021. Our first meeting was coffee & chat. In May Richard our Minister came to talk to us, in June Rachael spoke to us followed in July by Michael Richard's dad. All talks enjoyed by us all. We did not meet in August.

- September Mike Wager spoke on Recollections of a French Master.

- October was our Programme Planning Meeting.
- November Janel Gillett talk was Janet's Journey.
- December Bring and share afternoon tea with Christmas Carols.
- Our meetings were well attended and we look forward to another successful year.

Iris Powell

COFFEE PLUS 2021

Coffee Plus is now well established. We began again, after lockdown on the 21st May. And numbers gradually built up again. We meet every Friday morning, from 10.00 – 12.30 and welcome all who would like to attend for the whole morning or just part of it. Our highest number has been 18 and we regularly welcome over 10. As we keep going through the school holidays it has been great to welcome Carl Regan's lovely girls who have joined Carl and Jonathan Wager in the group. Our members enjoy coffee and biscuits (and sometimes doughnuts and cakes) and it is great to hear the happy chatter, exchange of ideas and the making of new friendships. At present the group includes church members and friends, also 12 regulars who have no church connection with us. Two of these joined us on the recent church weekend, which is great. We are delighted that members with carers attend and it has been so rewarding to see them change from shy and uneasy, to arriving with big smiles and greetings, and are really enjoying the crafts and board games.

Our activities at present include paper craft, card making, and memory albums (scrap booking), knitting, crochet, cross stitch, sketching, colouring, games, puzzles and crosswords. We would be happy to include other crafts, and welcome anyone who would just like to enjoy coffee and chat, or help with the serving of the refreshments.

Mavis and I would like to thank Janusz for arranging the room each week, and also James as we sometimes need more chairs or an extra table. We also appreciate his encouragement. We are also very grateful to Gail Macrow who founded and managed the craft centre at Monkton Elms until she retired. Gail has been with us from the start and has been a great help with equipment and practical help etc. She can turn her hand to anything 'crafty'. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us.

Dorothy Skinner & Mavis Skeggs

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is central to everything we do at Taunton Baptist Church, and we believe that we are called to minister to one another in prayer. We believe that praying about situations brings God into those situations – and that He can and will help us through even the hardest times.

A new [Prayer leaflet](#) has been developed and is available in the leaflet racks at church and also on the website. It reminds us that we can ask for prayer:

- After the Sunday morning service (especially if God has spoken to you during the service)
- Within a small group (homegroup or prayer cell)
- Via the 'Prayer Network' (prayer@tauntonbaptist.org)
- Request a Prayer Ministry Appointment

The Prayer Network continues to be an effective way of circulating prayer needs on a confidential basis. During the year coordination of this passed from Sue & David Corry to Sue & Richard Brown (with Bob and Mary Hart deputising), and the email distribution is now managed through a secure 'Mailchimp' system. In addition, the option to submit prayer requests via the website has been introduced so that people outside the church can ask us to pray for them: <https://tauntonbaptist.org/whats-on/prayer/> and this has been used on a few occasions.

Praying for one another is such an important way in which we can show our love and care for each other and share needs with our Father in heaven. May we thank you all for your prayers and encourage you in your continuing faithful prayer ministry.

Andy Harewood

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter has managed to keep going throughout all of the Covid times, doing the best we can to keep in touch with everyone through zoom, our WhatsApp group, a few emails and other social media outlets. It was lovely to meet back up again in early summer last year and our numbers have been slowly creeping back up as people felt more comfortable meeting face to face, with 10-12 being a normal number again now, although we can have up to 15 or so and may do this weekend for our 8th birthday!

We still get new people joining the group – 3 new faces in the last 3 weeks, though that is unusual- and most of the ladies who come are not associated with any Church, although a small number do come to TBC.

We would ask that you pray for Christine and I that we can keep on showing God's love to them and talking about Him and for all of the ladies that attend that they will draw closer to God, whatever has happened in their past, feel His healing and come to know Him. Thank you.

Anne Hopkins

Church Weekend 4 – 6 February 2022

Late afternoon on Friday 4th February, 94 of us made the journey by car or coach to the Clifton Hotel in Torquay for our 5th church weekend. Sadly a small number were unable to go due to illness, including Richard, Rachael & Laura who had tested positive for Covid. We were made very welcome by the hotel and after a 1st evening dinner we all gathered together for a short time. We were delighted that our link missionaries Peter & Louise Lynch were with us and they shared some of their life and work in Bangladesh.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we once again met together for a morning of worship, prayer and teaching from Charles Deakin. The younger members also met together in a nearby room. Saturday afternoon was free for us all to spend as we pleased and many took advantage of the beautiful sunshine to stroll down to the seafront ... although there was a bit of a bracing wind!!

After dinner, as had become TBC tradition was our entertainment & talent evening, compered by Tony Shaw. An excellent variety of "acts" performed, ending with a musical finale for everyone to join in to.

Sunday morning we all joined together for a traditional morning service including communion and the children joined us at the end to show what they had been doing in their groups. After a delicious 2 course lunch, we said our goodbyes and returned to our homes.

Janet Blake

Website Report

Following the development of a new church logo/corporate image, Taunton Baptist Church developed a new website www.tauntonbaptist.org which was launched on 1 November 2021.

The new website provides a home page that is both visually appealing and provides a dynamic content: a welcome video; an 'Upcoming events' section which automatically displays the next date of selected events; links to TBC's social media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Podcast); and numerous hyperlinks which direct the user to other web pages.

The menu structure has been redesigned around 4 main headings: 'About', 'Sunday' 'What's on', 'Members' plus a page in both English and Cantonese providing details of the Somerset Chinese Christian Church. In the 'Members' area there are pages that can only be accessed with an individual password by members and regular attenders and pages that can only be accessed by members only. (If you don't have access, go to <https://tauntonbaptist.org/contact/> and select enquiry: 'Request Member/Attender Access')

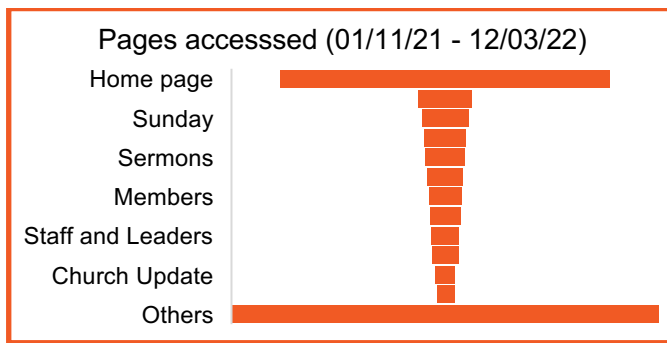
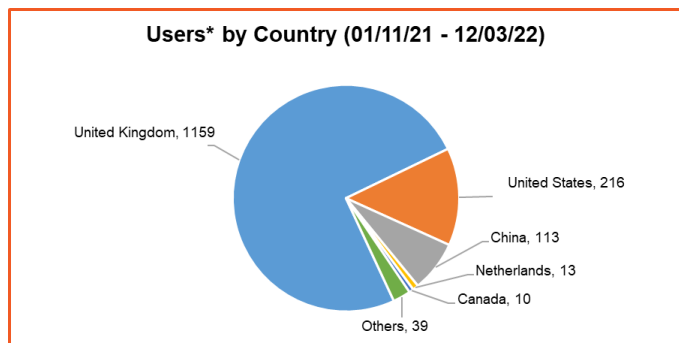
The 'Sermons' page enables recordings of previous sermons to be watched, listened to or downloaded.

Rather than advertising email addresses (which are vulnerable to 'spamming'), the site makes use of various contact forms to provide a secure way of people making contact with various members of staff and coordinators within the

church including prayer, children's work, admin matters and room hire. In the four and a half months since launching these have been used 31 times.

In addition to the Webmaster and Administrator, it is planned that group leaders/coordinators will have access to edit their own pages.

The following analytics (01/11/21 – 12/03/22) may be of interest:



Total users* 1550 with an average engagement time of 2m 35s

Total page views 10,214, with an average of 6.5 pages per user*

** Number of users determined by individual cookie management*

Andy Harewood

Webmaster

Administrator's Report

Most of 2021 James was able to be back working in the church office as we moved from one set of Covid restrictions to another. From April many of the restrictions were lifted and outside groups were able to start coming back to hire rooms for their activities. Outside group bookings included:

- Amicus Law Legal Surgery Support Group
- Band Practice
- Big Noise Street Band
- Castle School Visit
- Memory Clinic
- Family First Service Training
- First Aid Training
- Hiding Place (Oddments Theatre)
- Wednesday Night Orchestra
- Quantock Club Coffee Morning
- School of Dance
- Sewing Classes
- Slimming World
- Somerset Chinese Church
- Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society
- St. John's Ambulance Fellowship
- Taunton Area Debt Advice
- Taunton Guides

Throughout the year there were approximately 190 different activities, including church activities. A total of over 1300 activities/appointments entered in the administrator's calendar.

James McKee

Administrator

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES
OF TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Taunton Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2021, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, The Balance Sheet and accompanying Notes to the Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not requirement for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees have requested me to undertake an independent examination and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to; examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matter 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 Commissioner. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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 comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act.have 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.

**Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
Bridge House
14 Bridge Street
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555**

4th May 2022

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2021 £	2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2	106,079	-	106,079	104,407
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	3	1,611	3,533	5,144	21,196
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	4	19,810	-	19,810	15,499
<i>Income from investments</i>	5	1,149	-	1,149	1,534
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>128,649</u>	<u>3,533</u>	<u>132,182</u>	<u>142,636</u>
RESOURCES USED					
<i>Grants</i>	6	17,454	3,533	20,987	20,965
<i>Activities relating directly to the work of the church</i>	7	66,223	-	66,223	102,667
<i>Church management and administration</i>	8	40,262	-	40,262	39,210
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		<u>123,939</u>	<u>3,533</u>	<u>127,472</u>	<u>162,842</u>
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES		4,710	-	4,710	(20,206)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>4,710</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,710</u>	<u>(20,206)</u>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		162,063	196,925	358,988	379,194
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>166,773</u></u>	<u><u>196,925</u></u>	<u><u>363,698</u></u>	<u><u>358,988</u></u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	9		210,620		207,021
<i>Investments - Redwood Bank</i>			87,945		87,009
CURRENT ASSETS					
<i>Debtors</i>		6,880		3,834	
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	10	66,843		67,120	
		<u>73,723</u>		<u>70,954</u>	
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
		<u>8,590</u>		<u>5,996</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			65,133		64,958
NET ASSETS					
			<u>363,698</u>		<u>358,988</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			166,773		162,063
Restricted:	11				
<i>Special collections</i>		925		925	
		<u>925</u>		<u>925</u>	
Endowment	12		196,000		196,000
			<u>363,698</u>		<u>358,988</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

(a) Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings which are regarded as inalienable from the church buildings.

Improvements to the church buildings are written off in the year expended, Equipment is capitalised at cost.

(b) Depreciation is calculated to write off assets on a straight line over 10 years from the date of purchase.

(c) Incoming Resources: All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(d) Resources expended: Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(e) Funds: Unrestricted funds represent funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to general purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Details are in note 11 to the accounts.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	2021	2020
			£	£
Offerings	71,427	-	71,427	79,726
Tax recoverable	15,794	-	15,794	15,136
Sundry grants and donations	18,858	-	18,858	9,545
	<u>106,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,079</u>	<u>104,407</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 20121

3 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Donations	54	3,533	3,587	3,573
Linked groups	1,557	-	1,557	1,334
Legacies	-	-	-	16,289
	<u>1,611</u>	<u>3,533</u>	<u>5,144</u>	<u>21,196</u>

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE AND ANCILLARY TRADING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Rents	19,810	-	19,810	15,499
	<u>19,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,810</u>	<u>15,499</u>

5 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Interest	<u>1,149</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,149</u>	<u>1,534</u>

6 GRANTS - CHARITABLE GIVING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Baptist Missionary Society	6,252	-	6,252	6,471
Home Mission	6,252	-	6,252	6,246
B M S Christmas Appeal	-	811	811	1,538
B M S Birthday Scheme	-	1,048	1,048	1,110
B M S other	250	-	250	1,000
Other	4,700	1,674	6,374	4,600
	<u>17,454</u>	<u>3,533</u>	<u>20,987</u>	<u>20,965</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2021

7 ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Ministry Team	38,746	-	38,746	36,882
Church building maintenance	225	-	225	36,641
Pulpit supplies	2,055	-	2,055	1,905
Insurance	6,312	-	6,312	6,502
Lighting and heating	3,247	-	3,247	3,972
Rates and water	423	-	423	744
Weekend	-	-	-	1,060
Children and Youth work	12,130	-	12,130	11,083
Training - SWYM	-	-	-	1,600
Outreach	218	-	218	200
Depreciation	864	-	864	1,431
Linked groups	2,003	-	2,003	647
	<u>66,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,223</u>	<u>102,667</u>

8 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Administrator and caretaker	27,624	-	27,624	24,520
Stationery and office expenses	6,989	-	6,989	7,404
Miscellaneous	865	-	865	350
Other property maintenance	4,784	-	4,784	6,756
Accountancy	-	-	-	180
	<u>40,262</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,262</u>	<u>39,210</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2021

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2021 £	2020 £
Land - purchased	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Manse at valuation	-	196,000	196,000	196,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Equipment and furnishings				
Book value at 1 January 2020	7,021	-	7,021	3,488
Additions	<u>4,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,463</u>	<u>4,964</u>
	11,484	-	11,484	8,452
Depreciation	<u>864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>864</u>	<u>1,431</u>
	<u>10,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,620</u>	<u>7,021</u>
Total	<u>10,620</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>210,620</u>	<u>207,021</u>

Items of furniture and equipment held since before 1996 are not included in the above.

The church buildings and contents were insured for the following amounts for the year to December 2021:

	£
Buildings	5,836,457
Contents	208,445
Manse	339,122
Manse contents	5,782

10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2021 £	2020 £
Lloyds	1	1
CafCash	2,927	2,142
Baptists Together	16,203	51,741
CafGold account	10,327	725
Linked Groups cash	296	338
Baptists Together 7 day account	36,922	12,173
Cash in Hand	167	-
	<u>66,843</u>	<u>67,120</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2021

11 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Special Collections Fund		
Balance b/fwd	925	-
Donations	3,533	3,573
Interest	-	-
	<u>4,458</u>	<u>3,573</u>
Giving	<u>3,533</u>	<u>2,648</u>
	<u>925</u>	<u>925</u>

12 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Manse		
Valuation b/fwd	196,000	196,000
Revaluation in the year	-	-
	<u>196,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>

The Manse buildings are treated as Endowments because although the income generated from them can be used for general purposes the capital has to remain intact.

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1132949

Accounts

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH REVIEW OF 2020
for Charity Commission
REVIEW OF THE YEAR

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

The regular activities of the Church continued until March 2020 when COVID 19 lockdown prevented us meeting in person.

During the early part of lockdown our minister prepared morning services which were made available on You Tube. In August 2020 we moved these services to the Zoom platform so that more people could participate and the services could be held live. In September and October 2020 we were again able to resume live services with limited numbers socially distanced and wearing masks in the church sanctuary and with many others continuing to join in by Zoom. Some also joined to listen on the telephone. Total numbers worshipping in this way were generally about 90 to 100 people.

During the second lockdown in November and throughout December 2020 attendance in the sanctuary was halted again and services were held exclusively on Zoom.

The following activities were also held on Zoom during the lockdown period.

- **Club Sunday and Sparkz** (Sunday activities for children and young people).
- **Men at TBC** – meeting by Zoom made it possible to have speakers who would not have been able to attend live meetings due to distance.
- **“Girls Together”** - a monthly meeting for ladies on a Monday evening.
- **Messy Church**, a monthly event for children and their parents and carers, providing opportunities for worship and creativity.
- **Home Groups**
- **Knit & Natter**
- A monthly **prayer meeting** and **prayer cells**.

Being a church means that meeting together with one another for worship and prayer and the study of God’s Word is important to us, as is the mandate to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastoral care is also an important part of our life together, providing support for those facing particular problems and difficulties. With a considerable number of elderly people in our congregation, this is an important area of work. Our Home Groups are at the core of this work and several members are involved in home and hospital visits. These activities were limited by Covid but many contacts with those in need continued by phone calls and Zoom meetings.

Involvement of children and young people is also an important part of our activities and we run children and youth clubs and other events for children and young people from the locality. These are aimed at introducing people to the Christian faith in the context of fun and a variety of activities.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

These were limited due to COVID but to the extent possible with other churches we have continued to support, and have members involved in:-

Taunton Street Pastors which supports people on the streets of Taunton at weekends through the evenings into the early morning, helping to make the town safer;

The Hospital Chaplaincy;

Open Door which provides practical support for rough sleepers in Taunton;

A **Town Centre Chaplaincy** project whereby volunteer chaplains are allocated to participating stores, offices and other places of employment and other locations such as a homeless hostel to be available to provide a listening ear or encouragement, etc. to staff and others;

The **Taunton Foodbank** which provides emergency food for local people in crisis;

Charis which has successfully provided accommodation and support to Syrian refugee families and advice to others working with refugee families;

Taunton Area Debt Advice

MINISTRY AND FAMILIES WORK

Revd Richard Matcham who had commenced his ministry on 28 September 2019 continued to serve as our minister through 2020 adapting his ministry to be mainly online during the year.

Our Families Worker, Lauren Jewhurst, also kept in contact with families by use of Zoom meetings and limited activities when possible.

Harvey Gollins continued as a trainee children's worker until August 2020, when he went to Moorlands College for further study.

During the early part of 2020 we discussed proposals for employing an outreach worker to work amongst those aged 14 to 30, an age range which is significantly under-represented within our church. These proposals were accepted by the Church meeting in September 2020 and we are presently seeking to make an appointment.

LEADERSHIP

Our annual church meeting could not be held in March 2020 but took place in September 2020 with some members present and others attending by Zoom. We held the elections for deacons and officers electronically and elected Janet Blake and David Fletcher as new deacons.

CHURCH WEEKEND

Our church weekend away was held in Paignton (31st January – 2nd February) and was attended by just over 100 people.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We welcome 3 new members in January 2020. 6 members died during the year. None of these was caused by Covid 19. Numbers attending and contributing to the life of the church fellowship were disrupted by Covid 19.

Membership Statistics:

Membership as at 31st December 2019:	146
New members added	+ 3
Less number of deaths in 2020:	- 6
Less resignations/removals	- 6
Membership as at 31st December 2020:	137

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2020

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES
OF TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of Taunton Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2020, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, The Balance Sheet and accompanying Notes to the Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not requirement for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. The charity's trustees have requested me to undertake an independent examination and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to; examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act; to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matter 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 Commissioner. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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 comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act.have 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.

**Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
141 Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555**

21 March 2021

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2020 £	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2	104,407	-	104,407	101,425
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	3	17,623	3,573	21,196	7,865
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	4	15,499	-	15,499	29,110
<i>Income from investments</i>	5	1,534	-	1,534	2,543
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		139,063	3,573	142,636	140,943
RESOURCES USED					
<i>Grants</i>	6	18,317	2,648	20,965	24,312
<i>Activities relating directly to the work of the church</i>	7	102,667	-	102,667	76,600
<i>Church management and administration</i>	8	39,210	-	39,210	32,101
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		160,194	2,648	162,842	133,013
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES		(21,131)	925	(20,206)	7,930
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(21,131)	925	(20,206)	7,930
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		183,194	196,000	379,194	371,264
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		162,063	196,925	358,988	379,194

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	9		207,021		203,488
<i>Investments - Redwood Bank</i>			87,009		85,916
CURRENT ASSETS					
<i>Debtors</i>		3,834		4,375	
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	10	67,120		95,473	
		<u>70,954</u>		<u>99,848</u>	
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
		<u>5,996</u>		<u>10,058</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			64,958		89,790
NET ASSETS			<u>358,988</u>		<u>379,194</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			162,063		183,194
Restricted:	11				
<i>Special collections</i>		925		-	
		<u>925</u>		<u>-</u>	
Endowment	12		196,000		196,000
			<u>358,988</u>		<u>379,194</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

(a) Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings which are regarded as inalienable from the church buildings.

Improvements to the church buildings are written off in the year expended, Equipment is capitalised at cost.

(b) Depreciation is calculated to write off assets on a straight line over 10 years from the date of purchase.

(c) Incoming Resources: All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(d) Resources expended: Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(e) Funds: Unrestricted funds represent funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to general purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Details are in note 11 to the accounts.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Offerings	79,726	-	79,726	76,230
Tax recoverable	15,136	-	15,136	16,455
Sundry grants and donations	9,545	-	9,545	8,740
	<u>104,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,407</u>	<u>101,425</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2020

3 OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Donations	-	3,573	3,573	2,289
Linked groups	1,334	-	1,334	5,576
Legacies	16,289	-	16,289	-
	<u>17,623</u>	<u>3,573</u>	<u>21,196</u>	<u>7,865</u>

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE AND ANCILLARY TRADING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Rents	15,499	-	15,499	29,110
	<u>15,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,499</u>	<u>29,110</u>

5 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Interest	<u>1,534</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,534</u>	<u>2,543</u>

6 GRANTS - CHARITABLE GIVING

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Baptist Missionary Society	6,471	-	6,471	8,231
Home Mission	6,246	-	6,246	9,273
B M S Christmas Appeal	-	1,538	1,538	884
B M S Birthday Scheme		1,110	1,110	1,013
B M S other	1,000	-	1,000	392
Other	4,600	-	4,600	4,519
	<u>18,317</u>	<u>2,648</u>	<u>20,965</u>	<u>24,312</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2020

7 ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Ministry Team	36,882	-	36,882	13,118
Church building maintenance	36,641	-	36,641	19,006
Pulpit supplies	1,905	-	1,905	10,249
Insurance	6,502	-	6,502	6,025
Lighting and heating	3,972	-	3,972	5,117
Rates and water	744	-	744	1,182
Weekend	1,060	-	1,060	1,590
Children and Youth work	11,083	-	11,083	11,505
Music and books	-	-	-	959
Training - SWYM	1,600	-	1,600	3,175
Outreach	200	-	200	700
Depreciation	1,431	-	1,431	936
Linked groups	647	-	647	3,038
	<u>102,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,667</u>	<u>76,600</u>

8 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Administrator and caretaker	24,520	-	24,520	24,626
Stationery and office expenses	7,404	-	7,404	5,204
Miscellaneous	350	-	350	1,990
Other property maintenance	6,756	-	6,756	65
Accountancy	180	-	180	216
	<u>39,210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,210</u>	<u>32,101</u>

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2020

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
Land - purchased	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Manse at valuation	-	196,000	196,000	196,000
	-	200,000	200,000	200,000
Equipment and furnishings				
Book value at 1 January 2020	3,488	-	3,488	2,886
Additions	4,964	-	4,964	1,538
	8,452	-	8,452	4,424
Depreciation	1,431	-	1,431	936
	7,021	-	7,021	3,488
Total	7,021	200,000	207,021	203,488

Items of furniture and equipment held since before 1996 are not included in the above.
The church buildings and contents were insured for the following amounts for the year to December 2018:

	£
Buildings	5,078,052
Contents	181,359
Manse	278,148

10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2020 £	2019 £
Lloyds	1	-
CafCash	2,142	5,743
Baptists Together	51,741	71,358
CafGold account	725	5,916
Linked Groups cash	338	312
Baptists Together 7 day account	12,173	12,124
Cash in Hand	-	20
	67,120	95,473

TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2020

11 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Special Collections Fund		
Balance b/fwd	-	-
Donations	3,573	2,289
Interest	-	-
	<u>3,573</u>	<u>2,289</u>
Giving	<u>2,648</u>	<u>2,289</u>
	<u>925</u>	<u>-</u>

12 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Manse		
Valuation b/fwd	196,000	196,000
Revaluation in the year	-	-
	<u>196,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>

The Manse buildings are treated as Endowments because although the income generated from them can be used for general purposes the capital has to remain intact.