

Annual Report 2023

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The members of the Board of Trustees of the charity at the date the report and accounts were approved were:

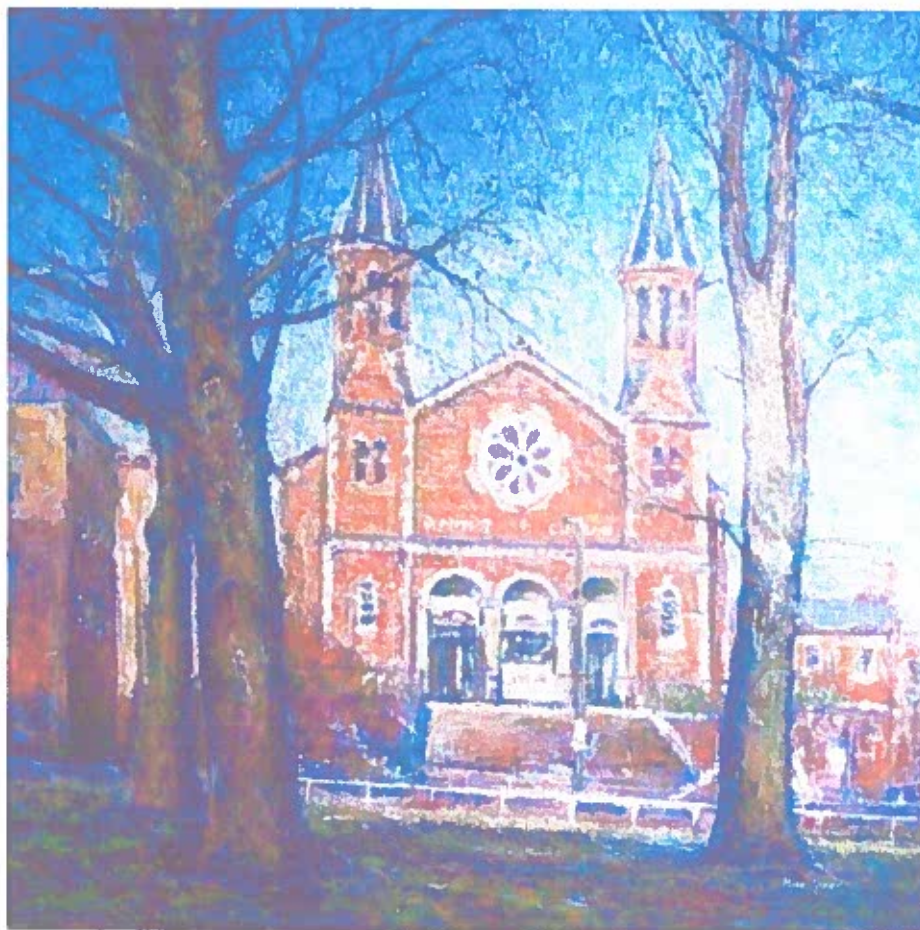
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Cemetery Road Baptist Church

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Trustees' Report for Year Ending 31st December 2023 .

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005).

Name, registered office and constitution of the charity

The full and only name of the charity is Cemetery Road Baptist Church.

The legal registration details are:

<i>Date of formation</i>	1839
<i>The Principal Office is</i>	11, Napier Street, Sheffield S11 8HA
<i>Charity Registration Number</i>	1132964
<i>The telephone number is</i>	0114 272 2179

Cemetery Road Baptist Church (the Church) was formed as an unincorporated charity in 1839. It was excepted from registration with the Charity Commission under section 3 (5) (b) of the Charities Act 1993. This exception was withdrawn when the Charities Act 2006 came into force. During 2009 the Church adopted a new constitution (based on the model provided by the Baptist Union of Great Britain) and applied to the Charity Commission to register. This application was accepted on 25th November 2009.

Objectives and activities of the charity

A summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document

The objectives of the Church are set out in the constitution (adopted on 8th September 2009), as follows:

“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.”

The new constitution also states that the activities of the Church may include, but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle;
- Holy Communion, which will usually be observed at least once a month;
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Summary of the main activities of the charity in relation to its objects

Church's services are held at least once a week and are open to members of the community. Holy Communion is usually observed once a month and baptismal services are held as appropriate. Each service includes prayers of intercession and in 2014, we installed a post box outside the Church for prayer requests from the local community.

Every Sunday during the church service we offer activities for children and young people from 0 to 18 years of age. We offer a warm, welcoming and multicultural Junior Church, with a well-resourced crèche for the little ones and groups offering snacks and age appropriate crafts, games, bible learning and discussion for the older children and young people.

The work of the Church involves outreach projects which are planned to honour our commitment to serve God through caring for those in need and, when appropriate, to share the Gospel and introduce the Christian faith. Examples of this include: The Munch Club, participation in community events such as the Sharrow Festival and the Lantern Festival. We have also been glad to continue to host a meal making group who turn donated food from local shops into ready meals to be given to those who need them. They prepare and store these in the church Kitchen and deliver them from there.

Within the fellowship of the church we encourage people to belong to one of the smaller groups for the specific purposes of Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship. This enables closer friendships and fellowship to take place. Approximately 20-30 people belong to one of the 2 Fellowship groups that meet twice a month, one in person and one on line. The meetings usually involve a bible study or topical discussion (with reference to the Bible), a time of sharing and a time of prayer. During lockdown an enterprising member started a highly successful "Click and Connect" group on Thursday mornings which has now become a home study group in addition to the groups which are now able to meet again.

Financially the Church relies on collections and donations from its members and others to support these activities, as detailed in the accounts. We also hold a number of special collections or appeals throughout the year to raise money for causes that the Church particularly wishes to support. Traditionally, the Church also holds an appeal each year at the time of the Church Anniversary.

Summary of the main achievements and performance of the charity during the year

Ministry Review

In the first few months of 2023 the church was run by the trustees and a group of very willing volunteers as we awaited the arrival of our new minister, Revd Andrew Ginn and his wife, Sara, who joined us in February. After a short period of settling in (for all of us) we, the whole church, have spent some times considering what we feel the Lord is calling us to be;

After spending time in prayer and worship, we moved to reflecting on the words that are serving as our self-understanding and calling, before considering our next steps in each... That CRBC is and would increasingly be:

- A **welcoming** community for people of all ages and backgrounds, helping people join in and belong

- A **Spirit-filled** community, praying, worshipping, and growing in the Fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit
- A **connected** community; a church that is more than Sundays, growing in love for one another
- A **learning** community; growing in our knowledge and love of God, from the Bible and one another, as followers of Jesus
- A **sent** community; going into the world to serve and make disciples.

The deacons were pleased to spend an excellent day at the Mayfield Chapel in September where they prayerfully considered those ideas and how the church may move forward to become welcoming, spirit filled, connected, learning and sent in respect of both our building and our people.

Church Growth

Congolese Fellowship

In March 2014, two families of Congolese refugees started worshipping with us on a Sunday and asked if they could use one of our rooms for a prayer meeting on a Sunday afternoon. They were keen to meet and be able to praise God and pray in their native tongue, Swahili. We agreed. Little did we know at the time how it would snowball. The group rapidly grew, with many Congolese families joining the Fellowship on a Sunday morning, and the praise and prayer meetings have become a regular feature of life at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, filling the Church with African music on a Sunday. This has now grown into Cross Cultural work to meet the needs of an ever more diverse group originating from Africa.

The Congolese fellowship has continued to thrive since re-opening the church. We have good links between the main church and the Congolese fellowship. One of the Congolese fellowship is one of the church trustees, Dative Gakuba, who provides excellent support and helps us to interact across the language barrier. The Congolese choir often sing at the main service and we have communion services across both communities as we share bread and wine.

Iranian and Kurdish Fellowship

The Iranian fellowship has become rather reduced in numbers following lockdown and the subsequent re-opening. They continue to meet on Thursday evenings under the leadership of Peter Shepherd, a church member, and of Roo Mahmid, an ex member who is Iranian. They have a regular group of approximately 15 members, mostly in person but some via Zoom. Several of their regular membership also attend the main Sunday service.

Junior Church and Youth Work

The number of children attending the church has been rather reduced as numbers of attendees has remained lower than prior to lockdown. We do still have a significant number and the youth leaders are still running classes every Sunday to accommodate juniors of all ages from creche up to 18.

Several of the older teens help with the church IT including streaming the service for those people who cannot attend in person.

Outreach

The Munch Club takes place on Tuesday mornings lead by a group of church members and has proved as popular as ever. There are approximately 25 regular attenders for lunch and a short talk. One member has started to attend the Sunday Service and has become a very much appreciated "doorman".

The church involvement in the Lansdowne Community Project and Heritage Open Days has resumed.

Pastoral Care

The Visitation Committee has kept in touch with various church members who have been unable to attend, for various reasons. The Zoom services and subsequent streamed services have been well received by those members unable to attend church in person.

We have continued to be in touch with all our members and offer prayers and practical help for all those in need, including cooking, transport and other help as required.

CRBC social media

Since the church re-opened in 2021 the Sunday services have been streamed live during the service and are available afterwards for members to watch when they can. This has been very helpful for those members who have difficulty in attending in person and has been very well received by many people.

We have a church WhatsApp group which has been very useful for keeping in touch.

The church also has a website which is under regular review and on which details of services etc can be found. This has been updated as we have been updating our whole IT system to meet our more up to date demands.

Property

PAG, the Property Advisory Group, have continued to look after the buildings throughout the year.

The refurbishing of the church hall and entrance hall is now completed. The windows have been replaced with etched glass designed by artist Sarah Galloway after consultation with the church. The windows are beautiful and have been much remarked upon by the various groups who use the hall, including two local choirs.

PAG have also reviewed the small caretaker's house adjacent to the main church which has been used as a residence throughout. Estimates have been obtained for refurbishments to take place next year.

The church has now completed the purchase of a new manse using the existing funds from the sale of the previous building. This is being let to increase church income.

Supporting Other Organisations

HMF and BMS. The church has resumed its financial support for these organisations within the Baptist Union.

Local Foodbank. The church has made donations to the local food bank including items from our Harvest Festival service.

Street Pastors. Several church members continue to take part in this valuable organisation on the streets of Sheffield. This requires them to be on the streets offering comfort and support as required overnight.

Future Plans

Our plans for 2024 are centred around discerning the will of God as we move to become a more welcoming, spirit filled, connected, learning and sent church - how do we see that in the local community? What best use can we make of our building in achieving those goal

The Property Advisory Group is making progress with the plans to refurbish the Caretaker's House which requires some work on the bathroom and also the kitchen. We plan to do this in 2024.

Several external groups are using our building at various times in the week for activities as diverse as support groups, munch club and other church groups who worship in our building. We continue to house the Food Project and have two local choirs who rehearse in our hall. We are in discussion with a group who teach English as a Foreign Language to see if we could offer a place for this.

Public benefit that is provided by the charity.

The objectives of the Church and the public nature of the activities carried out to fulfil them, coupled with the open and free invitation to members of the public to participate in them, means they are accepted by the Charity Commission as giving rise to a public benefit. So, by working to meet our objectives, we are delivering a recognised public benefit. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the guidance provided by the Charity Commission on public benefit in planning and managing these activities during the year.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

Nature of the Governing Document and constitution of the charity

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BU) and the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA). The Church's current constitution was adopted on 8th September 2009, it was based on the

model for Baptist Churches agreed with the Charity Commission by the BU. This constitution recognises the authority of the “property trusts” created by the original Trust Deed dated 30 December 1860. These governing documents impose no specific restrictions on the Church’s activities, or on its investment powers, other than those imposed by general charity law.

The model constitution for Baptist Churches made provision at various points for local practice to be adopted. Our ‘local practices’ are documented in our standing orders, which were approved by the Church meeting on 8th November 2011.

Important features of our constitution are that all matters are subject to prayer and God's direction, and so decisions are made or ratified at the monthly meetings of Church members. All appointments are made by the members at these meetings, and they also have the power to terminate such appointments. The appointed ministers of the Church retain oversight of all spiritual matters but are answerable to the Church meeting through the Deacons.

Two key responsibilities of the managing trustees are to draw up an annual budget for each financial year, and to identify the major risks to which the charity is exposed when preparing or updating any strategic plans. During 2014 the Finance Advisory Group stood down and was replaced by the Finance Sub-Group of Deacons (a former member of the Finance Advisory Group was invited to join this group as well). The Church is satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate their exposure to those major risks which have been so identified and reviewed.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees.

The constitution allows up to twelve members to be appointed as Deacons. Each such appointment requires approval by a majority of Church members. The Charity’s Managing Trustees are both the Deacons and the Minister(s). The Managing Trustees meet regularly to discuss and plan objectives and the implementation of them. The induction and training of new trustees is overseen by the Minister and longstanding deacons, drawing where appropriate on resources made available by the BU and YBA.

The Church’s custodian trustees are the YBA, which is an incorporated body.

Financial review

CRB Annual Report Financial details for 2023

Transactions and financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities shows that during 2023 there was an overall net surplus, after deduction of restricted funds, of £21990. Unrestricted income remained consistent with 2022, but expenditure on general running expenses was increased, largely as a result of our employment of our minister for a full accounting period. The church continues to rise to the challenge of finding sufficient funds to carry out the declared aims and objectives of the charity, and 2023 saw the church beginning to get to grips with life after our period of interregnum.

The total reserves at the year end, after accounting for unrealised losses and after revaluing investments, stands at £2323598 compared with £2406613 at the end of 2022. Of these figures the value of our land and buildings has increased to £2149959 representing the estimated value of the church buildings, including the Caretakers Cottage at 11 Napier Street Sheffield, and includes the purchase of a new manse at 181 Hemsworth Road, Sheffield. The value of our current assets has reduced which reflects our spending of restricted funds on maintenance of the Caretakers cottage and The Warmer Welcome Project, to improve the foyer, staircase and corridor along the ground floor at the rear of the church property. Overall, these activities have resulted in the reported decrease of our assets in the Balance Sheet of £83415.

Financial performance and achievements

The performance of the church in terms of maintaining its ongoing work and developing its activities have already been described. In spiritual terms and in terms of delivering public benefit they represent a huge and vital part of the work of the church, though in financial terms many of them only account for relatively small sums. By contrast, much larger sums must be spent on running and maintaining the church buildings, to provide the base where these activities can take place and also the provision of staff to ensure that the charities aims and objectives are met. The church has again been blessed with excellent loyal and faithful financial support of our members, and on removing restricted grant income, it can be seen that almost every head of income has increased compared to 2022. As the majority of our income is a mixture of planned giving, donations and legacies, a huge thank you is due to our members. Some of our costs increased during the year, such as our utilities and insurance, and we were able to carry out essential repairs and maintenance to the Caretakers Cottage at 11 Napier Street Sheffield. We were, again, also able to support the work of Baptist World Mission and the Home Mission Fund, which we were unable to do in previous years. The church will continue to seek further grant income where appropriate, and accept the challenge of finding more financial support to ensure that our outreach and mission work can continue.

Related Parties and transactions with related parties

As detailed in the notes to the accounts, the church holds a special exemption granted by the Charity Commission to employ a trustee's spouse as Office Administrator. Mrs Jenny Cowling retired at the end of June 2014.

The members of the Board of Trustees of the charity at the date the report and accounts were approved were:

Secretary:	Miss Lois McGrath
Treasurer:	Mr David Timms

Deacons: Mr. Niall Finn, Mrs Olusola McKenzie, Mr. Paul Riley, Mr. Tony Cowling, Mr. David Timms, Miss Lois McGrath, Mrs Yvonne Timms and Miss Dative Mukamusoni.

Trustees' responsibilities statement - unincorporated charity

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 15th October 2024



Miss Lois McGrath
Church Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Cemetery Road Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 10, 11, 12 and 14 of this Report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Cemetery Road Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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- 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 accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have been met.

Yours sincerely,

Umar Janjua- ACCA

umarjanjua

Tyas Shaw & Co Ltd
3-5 Redlands Business Centre,
Tapton House Road,
Sheffield. S10 5BY

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
I001 - Offerings & planned giving	75,614	—	—	—	75,614	71,537
I004 - Gift aid recovered	16,740	—	—	—	16,740	17,162
I005 - Donations & Appeals	1,451	—	1,672	—	3,124	28,929
I018 - Grants	—	—	35,656	—	35,656	58,874
Donations and legacies Totals	93,806	—	37,328	—	131,134	176,504
Income from charitable activities						
I008 - Room hire (Objects related)	3,480	—	—	—	3,480	2,160
I009 - Church activities	1,519	—	—	—	1,519	600
Income from charitable activities Totals	4,999	—	—	—	4,999	2,760
Other trading activities						
I006 - Fundraising Events	—	—	—	—	—	—
I007 - Lunch club & flowers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other trading activities Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investments						
I010 - Rent of 11NS	7,864	—	—	—	7,864	5,933
I013 - Income - listed fixed asset investments	—	—	—	—	—	—
I014 - Income - unlisted fixed asset investment	52	250	—	—	303	131
I015 - Other bank deposit interest received	5,366	72	—	—	5,439	124
I016 - Other Investment Income	—	—	—	—	—	—
I020 - Sale of Manse 305 Cemetery Road, Sheffield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investments Totals	13,283	323	—	—	13,606	6,189
Other income						
I011 - Sharrow festival	—	—	—	—	—	—
I012 - Room hire (not objects related)	13,130	—	—	—	13,130	3,669
I017 - Minister in Training Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—
I019 - Refunds	12,431	—	22,920	—	35,352	1,718
I121 - Insurance claims	2,540	—	—	—	2,540	—
I122 - rent of manse	8,186	—	—	—	8,186	—
Other income Totals	36,288	—	22,920	—	59,208	5,387
Income and endowments Grand totals	148,377	323	60,249	—	208,949	190,840

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Expenditure						
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>						
E001 - Salaries (Gross)	45,037	—	—	—	45,037	32,190
E002 - National Insurance (Employer)	4,478	—	—	—	4,478	1,835
E003 - Pension Contributions (Employer)	6,183	—	—	—	6,183	3,294
E004 - Working expenses & allowances	8,739	—	—	—	8,739	244
E005 - Staff training & study weeks	22	—	—	—	22	—
E006 - MiT Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—
E007 - Manse Gas & Electric	—	—	—	—	—	359
E008 - Manse Insurance	1,267	—	—	—	1,267	255
E009 - Manse upkeep & maintenance	—	5,683	—	—	5,683	—
E010 - Manse Water Rates	—	—	—	—	—	—
E011 - Manse Council Tax	—	—	—	—	—	—
E012 - Lease cost of second Manse	—	—	—	—	—	—
E013 - Visiting Speakers/Pulpit Supply	216	—	—	—	216	2,054
E014 - Presentations	50	—	—	—	50	250
E015 - Worship	1,258	—	—	—	1,258	1,423
E016 - Fellowship training & mission	—	—	—	—	—	493
E017 - Church Insurance	5,377	—	—	—	5,377	5,426
E018 - Church Telephones & Internet	2,351	—	—	—	2,351	1,954
E019 - Church upkeep & maintenance	—	129,250	26,754	—	156,005	12,357
E020 - Church Gas & Electric	21,697	—	—	—	21,697	10,276
E021 - Church Water (metered)	1,318	—	—	—	1,318	869
E022 - Cleaning	1,052	—	—	—	1,052	283
E023 - Printing, postage & stationery	2,069	—	—	—	2,069	1,558
E024 - Equipment Expenses	2,537	—	—	—	2,537	3,329
E025 - Other Church running expenses	4,686	—	—	—	4,686	5,048
E026 - 11NS Gas & Electric	—	—	—	—	—	—
E027 - 11NS Upkeep & Maintenance	—	14,157	—	—	14,157	1,065
E028 - Church Interior & Exterior Decorating	—	—	—	—	—	—
E029 - Denominational Outreach	—	—	—	—	—	—
E030 - Subs & giving to support wider Mission	6,793	—	—	—	6,793	7,020
E031 - Giving to other charities	—	—	—	—	—	—
E032 - International Outreach	—	—	—	—	—	—
E033 - Independent Examiner's fees	—	—	—	—	—	360
E034 - Other fees to Independent Examiner	—	—	—	—	—	—
E035 - Costs of Deacons/Church Meetings	—	—	—	—	—	—
E036 - Junior Church	84	—	—	—	84	—
E037 - Flowers	96	—	—	—	96	—
E038 - Legal Expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities Totals</i>	115,318	149,091	26,754	—	291,164	91,951
<i>Other expenditure</i>						
E039 - Purchase of new manse	1,200	—	—	—	1,200	—
E039 - new manse purchase	—	—	—	—	—	500
E040 - Contribution to access grants	—	—	—	—	—	7,500
<i>Other expenditure Totals</i>	1,200	—	—	—	1,200	8,000
Expenditure Grand totals	116,518	149,091	26,754	—	292,364	99,951

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Cemetery Road Baptist Church - 1132964

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets			
	FA001: NSB Income Bonds	11,000.00	11,000.00
	FA002: War Stock	—	—
	FA003: Unlisted investments	1,561.80	1,162.00
	FA004: Deposit at YBA	39,973.38	409,845.60
	FA007: Land & buildings	2,149,959.77	1,784,342.00
	FA008: Equipment & fittings	—	—
	Total Fixed assets	2,202,494.95	2,206,349.60
Current assets			
	CA004: Deposit at YBA	—	—
	CA006: HSBC Community Account (81098454)	52,855.70	26,571.96
	CA007: HSBC Business Money Manager (21145134)	32,897.91	59,244.17
	CA008: National Savings Account	5,285.69	5,280.55
	CA009: Cash in hand (Cash)	—	—
	CA010: Petty Cash	335.00	335.00
	CA011: Barclays Community Account (63781151)	7,986.27	94,592.20
	CA012: Stock	1,000.00	1,000.00
	CA013: Cash Floats Lunch Club	91.00	91.00
	CA014: Lunch Club	—	—
	CA015: Flower account	624.55	624.55
	CA016: Youth Work	—	—
	CA017: Funds held by others	493.00	493.00
	Z05: Accounts Receivable	10,802.56	3,299.98
	Total Current assets	112,371.68	191,532.41
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	(8,731.79)	(8,731.79)
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	(8,731.79)	(8,731.79)
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	2,323,598.42	2,406,613.80

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) to date	(83,415.18)	90,889.38
Z01: Starting balances	2,406,613.80	2,312,015.02
Z02: Other gains/(losses)	399.80	3,709.40
Total Reserves	2,323,598.42	2,406,613.80

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	216,227.94	183,969.33
Designated	1,684,295.61	1,833,064.01
Restricted	423,074.87	389,580.46
Endowment	—	—
Total	2,323,598.42	2,406,613.80

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable accounting standards, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, (revised June 2008). The accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement.

The particular accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of fixed asset investments.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are accounted for on a receivable basis.

Investment Income

Investment income is included in the income and expenditure account on a received basis. Interest received from the bank and other deposits is also included on a receipts basis.

Deferred Income

In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting (revised June 2008), issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, grants received in advance and specified by the donor as relating to specific accounting periods, or alternatively which are subject to conditions which are still to be met, and which are outside the control of the charity, or where it is uncertain whether the conditions can or will be met, are deferred on an accruals basis to the period to which they relate. Such deferrals are shown in the notes to the accounts and the sums involved are shown as creditors in the accounts.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised on the accruals basis in accordance with normal accounting principles, modified where necessary in accordance with the guidance given in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting (revised June 2008), issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales.

Resources Expended

The policy for including items within the relevant activity categories of resources expended is as follows:

Costs of generating funds

The costs of generating funds are inherent in operating as a church and are not considered capable of being separately identified.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly and indirectly related to the objects of the charity.

Governance costs

Governance costs include all expenditure directly related to compliance with charitable and statutory requirements.

Unrealised and realised gains

Unrealised gains and losses are computed by reference to the market value of the investments at the balance sheet date, compared to the brought forward cost or valuation, with gains and losses arising on similar categories of investments being netted off.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Investments held by the charity

The policy for including investments in the accounts is as follows:

Listed investments have been included in the balance sheet at their mid-market value at the year end.

Unlisted investments comprise holdings in unit funds, these have been included in the balance sheet at the redemption values prevailing at the year end.

Fixed assets and depreciation

All tangible fixed assets, except freehold land and buildings, are stated at cost less depreciation.

Freehold land and buildings were included at their estimated fair value in 2003. In the opinion of the Deacons their estimated residual values will not be materially different from their book values, hence depreciation has not been charged.

Immaterial items of less than £500 are not capitalised.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets (less their estimated residual value) over their estimated useful economic lives.

Fittings and equipment - 15% reducing balance

A regular review of the likelihood of asset impairment is undertaken.

Capital grants

The managing trustees consider that, in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales (revised June 2008), gifts of tangible fixed assets or grants of a capital nature given for specific purposes and fully utilised in the furtherance of the objects of the charity should be credited to the relevant fixed asset fund after the sums have been properly expended on the restricted purpose. The related asset is shown in the balance sheet at the full cost of acquisition or subsequent revaluation.

Taxation

As a registered charity, the organisation is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable in respect of operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Funds structure policy

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the managing trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

A Designated Fixed Asset fund is maintained which represents the written down value of tangible fixed assets.

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds, other than that described above.

Any other proposed transfer between funds would be considered on the particular circumstances.

Accounting for Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when in the opinion of the Deacons such receipts are reasonably certain and can be readily quantified.

Recognition of pension costs and pension assets and liabilities

The church contributes to the Baptist Ministers' Pension Scheme, a final salary (ie defined benefit) scheme, which at its last actuarial valuation was underfunded as at 31 December 2007. To try to rectify this, contributions were increased by a third from 1 January 2009, but despite this the situation of the fund was not improving as much as it needed to do, and during 2011 the Baptist Union decided, reluctantly, that it would need to close the scheme and replace it by a new defined contribution scheme. The old scheme was therefore frozen with effect from 31 December 2011, with the liabilities to members that had already been accumulated in it being preserved. The new scheme came into operation on 1 January 2012, and so members and churches are now contributing to this new scheme, and also continuing to contribute to the old scheme in order to reduce its shortfall of assets compared with liabilities.

2 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.....