

South Street Baptist Church
Exeter and Brampford Speke



Annual Report

and

Receipts and Payments

Accounts

for the year to
31 December 2023

Charity Number 1133068



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

1st January 2023

To

31st December 2023

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name South Street Baptist Church Exeter and Brampford Speke

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1133068

Charity's principal address 3, Palace Gate, Exeter.

Postcode EX1 1JA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Revd Ross Maynard	Minister		
2	Elizabeth Vizard	Church Secretary	From 17 July 2023	
3	Mary Ellis	Church Secretary	To 17 July 2023	
4	Peter Jackson	Church Treasurer		
5	Heather Parkinson	Deacon		
6	Lynn Bailey	Deacon		
7	Joanna Ingram	Deacon		
8	David Bulkeley	Deacon		
9	David Stanley	Deacon	From 9 October 2023	
10	Sally Wilcox	Deacon	From 9 October 2023	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(eg. trust deed, constitution)

The Church's Constitution adopts the model Governing Document prepared by the Baptist Union Corporation for use by the denomination. The Church's property assets are held in trust by the Baptist Union Corporation.

How the charity is constituted

(eg. trust association, company)

The Church is an unincorporated association, with Managing Trustees appointed by a meeting of its members.

Trustee selection methods

(eg. appointed by, elected by)

The Managing Trustees are appointed by a meeting of Church Members.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

PURPOSE

Our purpose is defined by our vision, which is.....

“To be one church of diverse gatherings, where all feel safe, grow in wholeness, and express the unconditional love of God, revealed in Jesus”.

We accomplish this in part, by fostering a culture defined by our values:

Hearts moulded by Jesus
Voices sharing stories of God's love
Arms wide to include all
Minds open to explore differences
Hands working in the community
Ears listening to each other's needs
Shoulders bearing one another's burdens
Feet treading lightly in the earth

BELIEFS

As previously mentioned, we are ‘one church of diverse gatherings...’ There are many different theological and political convictions amongst our membership. We are passionate about unity within this diversity, not uniformity.

We believe the guiding principles/values of the Baptist's Together, called the Declaration of Principle, articulates this well:

1. “That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who ‘died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again on the third day’.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world”.

ACTIVITIES

- Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching, experienced through diverse gatherings and in a multitude of ways.
- Baptism, as defined in the paragraph above.
- The Communion of the Lord's Supper on a frequent and regular basis
- Giving and encouraging pastoral care,
- Nurture and growth of Christian disciples
- Mission locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- Service to the local community, particularly through our work in our Palace Gate Centre
- Encouraging and supporting charitable social action locally, in the UK and abroad
- Encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In conducting the affairs of the Church, the Diaconate (the Trustees) consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in relation to the advancement of religion. In particular, we offer to all people with whom we come into contact:

- Worship and prayer – through weekday activities as well as Sunday services.
- Pastoral care – for members and many others, Christian or not, who participate in our many gatherings.
- Provision of spaces – for the those who are lonely, isolated or struggling with their mental health.
- Mission work – spreading the love of Jesus locally and abroad.

The Managing Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance and taken it into account in the running of the Church, and in preparing this Annual Report.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Main Achievements

During 2023, we have continued to meet for worship in the building on South Street each Sunday morning, in the chapel at Bramford Speke on two or three Sundays each month (each venue celebrating Holy Communion once a month), and online through OPEN on most Sunday evenings.

In November and December, we continued to open our premises to all as a Warm Space during regular Dove Cafe and Renew Refresh, though this year there was no extra funding available from the City Council. Prayer times linked with our Dove Cafe and also Renew Refresh (a scheme linked to the Renew Wellbeing organisation) gave further opportunities for quiet reflection, and small groups also meet for prayer and Bible study in a member's home, and at the village chapel. This year we started to develop more focussed small groups to build on these learning opportunities such as a Theological Reflection group, Northumbria group (a meditative approach based on Celtic Christian traditions) and an additional Bible Study in the Palace Gate Centre, as well as a quiet communion service once a month for those who wish to attend on a weekday. Those have been well supported so far.

Our fulltime minister, Rev Ross Maynard, is involved in most of these events, with Rev Simon Taylor (who is part-time) continuing to have particular responsibility for our traditional worship in the church and chapel. Simon is able to bring some of his experience as a part time Free Church Exeter University Chaplain to the Church membership and congregation and three students from the university joined us for worship on Sundays this year.

The life of the church continues to be strengthened by the pastoral care offered by a Pastoral Care Team under the leadership of our Pastoral Associate, Rev Peter Woolway. This keeps us in touch with members who are no longer able to attend events; such people also value receiving our recordings of Sunday morning services on CD or online through YouTube. This year again two long-standing members died and one asked to be removed. Three members joined so we ended the year with 61 on the membership roll.

The church continues to run the Palace Gate Centre on our premises. We let to a local charity with strong connections to the Centre, and much redecoration and adjustment for them was completed. However, by the end of the year that charity's financial position worsened due to loss of major funding, so they vacated our Upper Rooms Suite.

Demand for meeting spaces continues, with many different 'anonymous' groups who follow the twelve-step programmes using our rooms, as well as community groups such as the Male Voice Choir and Jigsaw Library. The St Leonard's Preschool uses our upper hall through the week and includes the children of some refugees who currently live in a near-by hotel, during the year many of these have finally been properly housed in the Exeter area and further afield.

We try to maintain links with other churches in the City Centre; this year we followed up our Eco Church Bronze award by developing the limited outside space shared with neighbours in shop premises with flats above. This has been welcomed by them, as the appearance of the area has been improved and the Pre-School, who use it for some outdoor activities, have enjoyed helping us and seeing bird boxes and a bug box appear out there, as well as planting indoors, thanks to some members' work. We had a successful celebration of this work and sharing of Eco ideas with other Eco Church groups from three different denominations in Exeter, and two local Councillors joined us.

We continue to support missionaries in West Africa and in Chad with prayer and finance, as well as a young woman on a short-term teaching project (Teach Beyond) in Bangladesh supported by individuals. Members give generous support to special appeals for money from Christian Aid, BMS and DEC when these are issued.

Financial Performance

After the financial difficulties of 2022 reported in our last Annual Report, it is good to be able to record a more satisfactory outturn for 2023.

Late last year, we lost several generous members of the Church Family, which prompted us to adopt a reduced offerings budget for 2023. This is the largest source of regular Church income - so it is good to be able to report that in 2023 the offerings budget was exceeded by over 7% - by an additional £3,855. This increase was due to growth in the congregation during the year, some people able to increase their giving to the Church as their income increases, and others starting to do give a little more each week or month. The Church is very grateful to all those who worship with us regularly, and for all who take their stewardship very seriously.

Again in 2023, the Church benefitted from several legacies and gifts made in memory of long-standing members who have died. Anticipation of such gifts when budgets are set, is clearly not possible.

Another major quarterly source of regular income comes from the Church's investments in specialist charity unit trusts. The income from these in 2023 increased over the depressed level experienced in 2022, though their valuation at 31/12/23 was slightly lower than it had been a year before.

The Church operates 7 days per week, 52 weeks of the year through its Palace Gate Centre, which is an integral part of the Church, serving the local city centre community. Much of the income from the Centre comes from rents from office accommodation from local charities, from the Exeter Chinese Church that uses our sanctuary and other facilities, and from about 50 different organisations hiring rooms for their anonymous support groups and other community-based local activities.

In 2023 there was increased demand for room hire, resulting in a growth of the income from this type of activity. (The Palace Gate Centre website provides information about room availability). The Chinese Church extended its use of the Centre facilities, with increased receipts from this thriving church community. After several months, when two of the office were vacant, a local community enterprise charity moved into these office suites, resulting in a renewed source of income from them. Regrettably, one of the office suites booked a few months earlier proved not to be needed, with a consequent reduction in the expected 2023 income.

The Church has operated Dove Cafe for many years - 2023 was another good year, with many appreciating its welcoming characteristics for anyone to drop in, as well as its regular patrons. Turnover increased during 2023, generating more net income.

During 2023, a new staffing structure for the Centre was approved - and the £6,800 budget to employ a replacement evening receptionist was not spent (with volunteers being used to cover weekday evenings when several organisations hire rooms). The new approved structure includes a Church and Centre Administrator working the weekday evenings - this post has been filled early in 2024, and other aspects of the structure also now put in place.

In November 2022 an agreed new 3 year gas contract was due to start - but the supplier failed to get it operational until the second week in January 2023. Our previous supplier maintained our gas supplies during this almost 2 month period - but charged the very high default tariff applying at that time. The accounts show the excess monthly charges payments made in 2023 to the former supplier, which by agreement were made whilst our claim for compensation was settled by the new contractor. This amount is included in section B2 Debtors of the accounts, and has been met in full during 2024.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Restricted Funds and Earmarked Reserves are held in trust to be spent in accordance with their donors wishes – several of them cannot be used in the year in which the funds have been received, and are retained until they can be used for their intended purpose.

The Ministry Fund is invested to generate income to help finance the Church's ministry.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None are materially in deficit.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

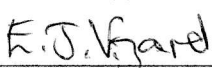
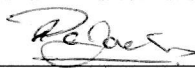
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Elizabeth Jean Vizard	Peter Croft Jackson
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Church Secretary	Church Treasurer
Date	3 RD JUNE 2024	

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH EXETER AND BRAMPFORD SPEKE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Number 1133068

SECTION A

A1 RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Offerings	54,834			54,834	58,071
Annual Thankoffering	4,554	4,311		8,865	6,367
Gift Aid Tax Rebates	11,852			11,852	14,825
Miscellaneous Donations	566			566	1,947
Legacies & Gifts In Memoriam	6,987			6,987	15,649
Investment & Deposit Income	677	16,985		17,662	17,123
Donations for External Mission		3,372		3,372	4,069
Donations to support member working abroad		2,477		2,477	2,637
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,660			2,660	4,027
Office Rents	21,912			21,912	18,217
Chinese Church Charges	6,189			6,189	
Charges to Centre Users	28,107			28,107	32,248
Dove Café Net Takings	1,960			1,960	1,616
Manse Rent	9,451			9,451	9,451
Donations to Palace Gate Centre	78			78	576
Free Church Chaplaincy contribution	22,488			22,488	21,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	172,315	27,145		199,460	207,823
TOTAL PAYMENTS (below)				191,776	241,458
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW)				7,684	-33,635
Net movement in cash funds in year (below)				7,684	-33,635

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH EXETER AND BRAMPFORD SPEKE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

A3 PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Ministerial Remuneration	50,064	16,985		67,049	67,504
Preaching Fees	754			754	1,022
Worship Materials/Flowers & Fees	1,707			1,707	2,132
Youth Services	0			0	208
Miscellaneous Ministry	1,515			1,515	1,105
Administration Expenses	2,897			2,897	4,533
New Equipment Purchases	0			0	1,890
Donations to Other Mission Organisations	13,560	2,876		16,436	18,317
Church Member in West Africa		2,808		2,808	2,691
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,272			2,272	2,134
Palace Gate Centre Staff Pay	29,674			29,674	36,096
Dove Café Running Costs	493			493	455
Miscellaneous Mission Expenses	371			371	394
Rents for the Manses	19,901			19,901	21,180
Council Tax	2,816			2,816	3,186
Repairs & Maintenance of Buildings	11,309			11,309	54,781
Service Contracts	2,114			2,114	1,270
Lighting, and Heating	13,041			13,041	11,143
Payments in Advance to EON Next	3,290			3,290	0
Water Charges	3,377			3,377	3,204
Cleaning Materials & Domestic Equipment	2,384			2,384	1,669
Insurance	5,438			5,438	4,868
Telephone, Internet and Postage	2,130			2,130	1,676
TOTAL PAYMENTS	169,107	22,669		191,776	241,458

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH EXETER AND BRAMPFORD SPEKE

LIST OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
B1. CASH FUNDS		
Cash	160	160
CAF Current Accounts	24,267	17,217
Baptist Union Corporation Deposit Accounts	21,955	21,321
	46,382	38,698
Net movement in cash funds in year (inflow)	7,684	-33,635
B2. OTHER MONETARY ASSETS		
Debtors - Church (unrestricted)	3,649	2,479
(restricted)		
- Centre (unrestricted)	15,197	8,460
(restricted)		
	18,846	10,939
B3. INVESTMENT ASSETS		
Charity Sector Unit Trusts at cost		
Ministry Fund	348,894	348,894
Franklin M Sleeman Fund	17,000	17,000
	365,894	365,894
B4. ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE		
Church Property - Insured value at 24/6/2023	4,670,295	4,476,848
B5. LIABILITIES		
Creditors due in the short term		
Church (unrestricted)	3,196	3,263
(restricted)		
Centre	7,246	10,630
	10,442	13,893
Contingent Liabilities	0	0

South Street Baptist Church Exeter and Brampford Speke

Registered charity number – 1133068

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

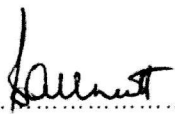
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s.145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts as set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed..... ..... (Name & qualifications) Brian ALLNUTT Date..... 22nd January 2025
Address..... 2 CHAPEL DOWNS DRIVE, CREDITON, DEVON EX17 2ED