

Ministers Report 2023/24

If I am completely honest, it only seems like two minutes ago that I was standing here at the last AGM giving a minister's report. We have had such a busy year with the usual mix of things to celebrate and challenges that we have been brought through. There definitely appears to be a parallel track that we walk in the path of the church. The parallel tracks of victory and battles. Our challenge is to focus on the victory's whilst not losing sight of the battles, knowing that the victory belongs to him. Since the last AGM we have launched our new vision – A Unified Community who: Proclaims Jesus, Raises Disciples, Equips the Saints and Sends into all the world. This is very much the direction the Lord has been leading us. The focus of Sunday gatherings and preaching has very much fallen in line with this vision. And I imagine it will continue to do so.

Since our last AGM we have had two baptism services (due to have another one next month) where we had the privilege of baptizing a number of our young people. We also had the joy of holding a joint baptism service with Faith Life Church. It was amazing to come together as two expressions of Gods family as siblings to celebrate what the Lord is doing in the life of different people. We are praying for many more baptisms over the course of the next year.

Outreach

Outreach over the last year has been both encouraging and challenging. We helped once again at the Family Fun Day in Dysart Park, which was a brilliant time. Areas to improve on, but generally went well. It was great to have the return of the puppets and was awesome to see Andy Masters doing what he is so gifted in, retelling the stories of scripture in a real, dramatized and engaging way.

We also had carols in the park, with a walking nativity, however the bad weather had a real impact on that day, and while a few people came and a local school choir sang, it was very limited, but a big thank you to everyone who was willing to get drenched and help. Our Christmas Carol service went well. However, it would have been good if more had attended. The planning for this year's carol service started pretty much the next day. For the events we really need to develop an invite culture.

Our final outreach of the last 12 months was at Finkins. We united with St Anne's church, and it was a brilliant night, with standing room only. Stories of fruit came in the next day. Conversations are being had about what we might be able to do next, and how many times a year we can do different things like this. Look out for different things this year. Please also note Mi7 is consistently going out every week for outreach. It has been disappointing to see the numbers of this group reduce. We are beginning to see fruit from this. Please continue to pray for the team and consider being part of the team in the future.

One Challenge

As well as all the excitement of the outreach stuff that we have done, people will also have been noticing that some people have decided its time to move on. Whilst this can be difficult and upsetting for people, our hearts need to have a posture of blessing and release, we are still siblings. A few years a friend was praying for me as I stepped into a new ministry and he one of the things he prayed was – there are no wrong people in the Kingdom of God, but there are right people at the wrong the time. Bring the right people at the right time.

Let us not get bogged down in those who have left but lift our eyes and let us get excited about the people the Lord is bringing to this expression of His family. Most weeks now we are seeing new people come through those doors, and they are coming back! Let us be excited about what the Lord is doing. Please let us also spend time getting to know the new people who are coming through the door. Build relationships and friendships, invite people over for food.

Pastoral Care

This is something that is massively important, and with all the great outreach we are seeing, we cannot forget about pastoral care. This is anything ranging from crisis situations that people find themselves into ongoing discipleship. Like safeguarding pastoral care is everyone's responsibility. However, our model for pastoral care is done through our LifeGroups. Lifegroup leaders are responsible for the pastoral care of the group they lead, so initially the lifegroup leader is your first port of call. Lifegroup leaders will then collaborate closely with elders and deacons and myself. I would also say that pastoral care must be done relationally.

Looking Forward

We are spending the next few months continuing our series on Acts. This has been a really challenging series I feel. There will need to be a response from us as a church at the end of the series. I am currently praying for what that might look like. But as I started off at the beginning of the series, changes will need to be made as a result of reading Acts so slowly. This is the same at the end of any series (but I'm a bit slow on the uptake) because we are preaching from the living word of God. It's time to make changes. It was these I words that I heard Jesus whisper at the start of 2024.

Moving forward, it is time to build on the prophetic group that was started a number of years ago, I will be working with Susie, Malcolm, Jenny and Moira to figure out what this looks like. We need to be a prophetic church, not just a church that has a prophetic group.

Linked with this is the foundational and fundamental need for us to be a church who prays and fasts together. I have to be honest the number of people coming to times of corporate prayer is largely disappointing. We have a great turn out to the termly Wednesday evening prayer, other than that attendance is disappointing. On the first Sunday of March, we are going to have an evening called 'Equipped to Pray', from that

we will have two Sunday evening gatherings where we come together with the sole purpose of praying. This will take us through the next season for GBC.

This year it is also important that we build on the outreach of the last 12 months. We are slowly beginning to see trickles of fruit; this is the drip before the flood. We need to be thinking in terms of multiplication. Currently we are not set up for multiplication – so over the next few weeks and months we will be seeking Jesus on what this looks like. Please join in as we pray into this.

Also, we are wanting to increase our focus on discipleship. We cannot rely on Sunday morning gatherings and mid-week LifeGroups to be sufficient for our discipleship and growth in Christ. As well our own time reading the bible and praying, we need to be spurring each other on in their faith in a deeper and more open way. We are wanting to launch triplets. So simply put, 3 (4 at stretch) people gathering monthly to go through some thought-provoking questions about our own faith and walk with Jesus and others.

Grantham Baptist Church
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. **Basis of accounts:** These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments' basis and in accordance with (c) 25, Part 8 (1) Charities Act 2011.

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

2. Receipts:	Note	2023	2022
Offerings (weekly & monthly)	3.	65,348	60,454
Donations and other income	4.	21,980	4,247
Income tax recovered on gifts		12,884	10,858
Contributions for use of premises		1,758	1,107
Transfers (from Dep.a/c)		-	40,000
Interest		-	-
Receipts total --		101,970	116,665

Payments:	Note	2023	2022
Ministry	5.	34,023	78,513
Mission	6.	20,060	19,672
Maintenance	7.	17,764	10,762
Administration	8.	10,468	11,813
Transfers (to Dep. a/c)		-	-
Payments total --		82,315	120,760

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Assets:	Note:	2023	2022
Bank and other balances:	9.	17,656	14,342
Other church accounts:	10.	26,457	10,172
		44,112	24,514
Other monetary assets:			-
Non monetary assets:	11.		
Held for Churches own use		3,635,507	2,981,258

3. **Offerings:-**

Weekly offerings including envelopes	6,738
Standing orders	58,609
	65,348

4. **Donations and other income:-**

Church work:	18,493
	18,493
Other charitable causes:-	2,500
Other church reasons:-	987
	21,980

5. **Ministry:**

Pastorate - Rob McGibbon

Stipend	20,915.92
National insurance & tax	2,984.20
Representation duty	200.00
	24,100

Manse

Council tax/ Water rates	2,697
Insurance	461
Repairs	2,870
	6,028

Teaching

Teaching

Training	1,173.80			
JAM	593.04			
Pulpit	150.00			
Community outreach	1,977.40			
	<u>3,894</u>			
	<u>34,023</u>			
6. Mission:				
Other causes-Baptist				
BMS Specific - B Francis	4,500.00			
BMS General	2,200.00			
	<u>6,700</u>			
Other causes-Other				
Compassion Fund	863.00			
Passage donation	2,500.00			
Other	575.10			
	<u>3,938</u>			
	<u>10,638</u>			
Support				
Moldovan Ministry (M McCormick)	3,000.00			
Wycliffe Bible Translators (M Pearce)	5,600.04			
Schools Ministry - Jennie Fytche	750.00			
bible society	72.00			
	<u>9,422</u>			
	<u>20,060</u>			
7. Maintenance				
Utilities	7,629			
Cleaning/ toiletries	316			
Insurance	3,125			
PA/AV	2,176			
Refurbishment	354			
Servicing	644			
Caretaking	1,358			
Catering/ kitchen supplies	812			
Copyright CCLI	1,350			
	<u>17,764</u>			
8. Administration:				
Stationary/printing	500.52			
Office supplies	400.54			
Telephone/internet/computers	490.68			
Advertising	-			
Subscriptions	968.62			
Worship	38.93			
Finance system	25.00			
Office Admin support	8,044.12			
	<u>10,468</u>			
9. Current Account reconciliation				
	Credit	Debit	Balance	
Balance as per Deposit book 01 Jan 2023			14,342	
Receipts in 2023	101,970			
Transfers to Current a/c				
Payments in 2023		82,315		
Transfers to Deposit a/c		16,204		
	<u>101,970</u>	<u>98,519</u>		
			17,793	
Receipts in 2024 belonging to 2023 (500034)	137			
Payments in 2024 belonging to 2023				
Calculated Current account balance at 31 Dec 2023			17,656	
Actual current account* balances 31 Dec 2023			<u>17,656</u>	

*Main & Credit Card account

10. Other Church accounts

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Savings accounts - Lloyds Bank			
Balance at 01 Jan 2023			10,172
Receipts in 2023	16,204		
Interest received	82		
Payments in 2023		-	
Transfer from current account			
Calculated deposit account balance at 31 Dec 2023			<u>26,457</u>
Actual deposit account balance 31 Dec 2023			<u>26,457</u>

11. Non monetary assets

(a) Held for investment purposes: -

(b) Held for Church's own use:

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

Church premises (insured value March 2024) 3,057,569

Church Manse 405,000

The church also owns fixtures, furniture and

equipment (insured value March 2024) 172,938

3,635,507

Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by Abimbola Durodola, March 2024


Independently Examined by Nicci Whittaker and corrections made, April 2024

The accounts and statements of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1&2 relating to the year ending 31 Dec. 2023 are approved by the Deacons. Signed: Abimbola Durodola Treasurer April 2024

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE DEACONS AND MEMBERS OF
GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (including Wharf Road)**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the receipts and payments accounts and statement of asset and liabilities of Grantham Baptist Church set out on pages 1 & 2 relating to the year ended 31 December 1997. This independent examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed:



Date: 10/07/2024

Nicci Whittaker

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church
Registered Charity no: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grantham Baptist Church for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 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 in connection with the examination giving 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.

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

Signed:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 10th July 2024

**Independent Examiners recommendations to the
Trustees of Grantham Baptist Church**

As per my independent examiners report states I have no concerns with the accounts prepared for your financial year ending 31st December 2023

However, I do have a recommendation that I suggest you seriously consider implementing to ensure more fluidity in how your accounting systems and processes run.

The full transition to an accounting package will ensure that accounts continue to be maintained to a high standard thus reducing risk going forward and enabling better reporting for your Leadership & Trustees.

That all expense paperwork is correctly labelled with the relevant payee details.

If you would like any more information on the above recommendation, then do get in touch.

Nicci Whittaker



10/07/2024