

# OUNDLE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1134043

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Previously excepted

**Registered** 2010-02-03

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

## Contact

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**Address** Oundle Baptist Church  
1 St. Osyths Lane  
Oundle  
Peterborough  
PE8 4BG

**Phone** 01832770010

**Email** [office@oundlebaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@oundlebaptist.org.uk)

**Website** [www.oundlebaptist.org.uk](http://www.oundlebaptist.org.uk)

## Activities

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**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:** Worship GodBible teachingcounsellingmoney advicewalk in community chat & coffeejob clubparents & carers support

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£102,512	£120,573	-	-
2023-12-31	£113,247	£128,558	-	-
2022-12-31	£112,140	£108,060	-	-
2021-12-31	£106,827	£85,388	-	-
2020-12-31	£158,750	£113,097	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Colin Burgess		2025-10-26
David William Gent		2022-10-01
Jane Elizabeth McDonald		2021-01-01
Katharine Jane Simmonds		2025-10-26

**OUNDLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1134043

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# Accounts

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**Oundle Baptist Church  
Accounts and Trustees Report  
Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

## **Introduction**

Oundle Baptist Church is a registered charity, charity number 1134043 which, as stated in the Charities Act 2011, is not required to produce a full annual report, but must submit a Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, the latter of which must be independently checked. The accounts have been compiled using the cash accounting method and the information provided here is for general purposes only. The Trustees Annual Report on the activities of the church fellowship in 2022 is incorporated into the body of this report.

The trustees of the church during this year have changed and the current details are set out below.

## **Minister**

The Rev Martin Hills was called to the pastorate in October 2016

## **The Trustees**

The following trustees were in post at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Rev Martin Hills (Minister)

David Gent as Secretary

Juliet LaMar as Treasurer

Jane McDonald

Served as trustee but retired on 16 | November 2024 after completing 3 years of service

Michael Brookes

Robin Croxon

## **Church Office**

The church office is located at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG in premises which were purchased to serve as a community outreach centre, shared with the church office.

All correspondence from the charity's banks is currently addressed to the treasurer at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG

## **Affiliation**

The church is a full member of The Baptist Union of Great Britain and is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance

## **Bankers**

The church maintains two accounts with Santander plc, Bridle Road, Merseyside, L30 4GB and a deposit account with the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT

### **Independent Examiners**

The church is required to have its accounts independently examined and for this purpose it has appointed Mr Graham Darbourne of TC Group, The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle, PE8 4BA.

### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees are aware that the income of the church is heavily dependent upon voluntary giving which can be variable. The trustees continually monitor the level of giving and expenditure and seek to try to maintain reserves that would equate to approximately two months of known expenditure. The reserves at the end of 2024 are in excess of the amount but the trustees consider it prudent to maintain reserves at a higher level as the regular income of the church is heavily dependent on members who are over 70 years of age

### **Mission Statement**

The mission statement of the church is:

Connecting to: Jesus  
Each other  
Our communities

## Overview of the year

In the year 2024, the church continued meeting in-person as well as providing an online option through Zoom to allow the inclusion of not only church family who were unwell or preferred not to mix with others, but also individuals who had become part of the congregation online. We are grateful to our minister and members and friends who have provided technical support as well as participating in the services. The church also has a very active pastoral care team who assisted the minister in offering and providing pastoral support as needs arose.

Outside of Sunday worship service, OBC continued to offer many opportunities for engagement, corporate prayer, and Bible study as well as outreach to the greater Oundle community.

- The small-group network in the church called 'Connect Groups' continued to meet weekly either online via zoom and/or in-person for Bible study and prayer support.
- In 2024 the monthly 'Beathing Space' event held at Oundle Methodist Church came to an end and we are looking at new ways to involve the church family in prayer and reflection.
- Engage, a twice monthly youth club, continued to run on Friday evenings at Oundle Methodist. We have seen numbers grow from 2 to 14 young people in the year.
- Stitchat, a twice monthly sewing and social gathering, continued to run on Mondays at OBC's No.1 facility.
- A Jigsaw exchange club was also piloted at No.1 during 2024 alongside Stitchat but low levels of support saw the pilot come to an end.
- Between January and March we ran a 'Bereavement Journey Group' with 12 participants. The group was held at St Peter's Church and was run in conjunction with a team from St Peters.
- Walk Through the Bible, a two-day exploration course, was hosted by OBC in mid-March at Oundle Primary School, providing an engaging and fun overview of the Old Testament and was followed by a shared meal and evening entertainment.

Our voluntary Children and Families worker, appointed in 2020, continued to be active in the community, hosting a weekly 'tots' group and term time after school clubs in both Laxton Junior School 'Quest Club' and Oundle Primary School 'Bible Heroes'. She was also heavily involved in the provision of activities for the children attending the church services week by week.

Our Ukrainian outreach effort, started in 2022, continued to provide support and encouragement to a large group of refugees and their sponsor families. As the year progressed it became obvious that the drop-in facility and immediate support needs had changed and the group disbanded but online support is still available as needed.

In-person church members' meetings were held every bi-monthly in 2024, primarily at the Oundle Methodist Church and occasionally immediately following the Sunday worship service, to address matters arising and enable in-person voting in accordance with Baptist Union regulations. Leadership team meetings were held on second Tuesday evenings at No.1 and occasionally on Saturdays to provide longer focus days. The leaders (trustees) also held a prayer meeting for an hour each week on the 1st, 3rd, and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, with the meeting on the 1st also open to the church family.

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Oundle Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of Oundle Baptist Church, charity number 1134043, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Graham Darbourne  
TC Group  
The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4BA

Date: 8/5/2025

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds (Note 1)				3,500
Donations and legacies (Note 1,3)	80,760	6,644	87,404	97,030
Gift Aid (Note 1,3)	13,104	277	13,381	11,937
Other income	1,727	0	1,727	780
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>95,591</b>	<b>6,921</b>	<b>102,512</b>	<b>113,247</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry (Note 4)	49,076	-	49,076	45,056
No 1 building (Note 9)	5,102	-	5,102	6,319
Administration (Note 8)	20,844	-	20,844	17,017
Other Ministries (Note 7)	3,784	-	3,784	2,001
Worship (Note 5)	9,048	-	9,048	7,801
Giving To Others (Note 6)	10,438	-	10,438	9,107
Disaster Fund (Notes 1 & 10)	-	1,000	1,000	1,250
Fellowship Fund (Notes 1 & 11)	-	1,593	1,593	2,400
Buildings Fund (Notes 1 & 12)	-	8,695	8,695	5,540
No. 1 Roof Fund (Notes 1 & 12)	-	0	0	28,332
Ukrainian Refugee Fund (Notes 1 & 14)	-	299	299	3,735
Equipment Fund (Notes 1&14)		8,345	8,345	-
Agency Fund (Notes 1 & 15)		2,350	2,350	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>98,292</b>	<b>22,282</b>	<b>120,573</b>	<b>128,558</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>(2,701)</b>	<b>(15,361)</b>	<b>(18,061)</b>	<b>(15,311)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>				
<b>General fund (note 14)</b>	<b>(9,000)</b>		<b>(9,000)</b>	
<b>Disasters Fund</b>		<b>4,589</b>	<b>4,589</b>	
<b>Ukraine Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,589)</b>	<b>(4,589)</b>	
<b>Equipment Fund</b>		<b>9,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>(9,000)</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Income After Transfer</b>	<b>(11,701)</b>	<b>(6,361)</b>	<b>(18,061)</b>	<b>(15,311)</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>685,067</b>	<b>20,036</b>	<b>705,104</b>	<b>720,415</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>673,336</b>	<b>13,676</b>	<b>687,042</b>	<b>705,104.</b>

## Balance Sheet

		2024	2023	
		£	£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>			
	2	7 Wentworth Drive	340,000	340,000
	2	1 St Osyth's Lane	280,000	280,000
		<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
		Santander current a/c	2,340	30,055
		Santander savings a/c	42,287	33,832
		BU Deposit a/c 1		10,547
		BU Deposit a/c 2		10,548
		BU Deposit 3mth	22,367	
		Cash	48	122
		<b>Total Current assets</b>		<b>85104</b>
		<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>67,042</b>	<b>85,104</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>687,042</b>	<b>705,104</b>	
<b>Represented by</b>				
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
General Fund		673,366	685,067	
<i>Designated</i>				
Building		2,392	11,087	
Disasters		6,001	654	
Equipment Fund		1,655	0	
Fellowship Fund		3,371	3,408	
<i>Restricted</i>				
Ukrainian Refugees		0	4,888	
Agency Fund		257		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>687,042</b>	<b>705104</b>	

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees

Rev. Martin Hills  
Minister and Trustee



Date: 4/5/2025

Ms Juliet Lamar  
Treasurer and Trustee



Date: 8 May 2025

## Fund Balances

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	685,067	95,591	98,292	(9,000)	(11,701)	673,366
<b>Sub-total for Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>685,067</b>	<b>95,591</b>	<b>98,292</b>	<b>(9,000)</b>	<b>(11,701)</b>	<b>673,366</b>
<b>Designated and Restricted funds</b>						
Building	11,087	0	8,695		(8,695)	2,392
Disasters Fund	654	1,758	1,000	4,589	5,348	6,001
Fellowship Fund	3,408	1,556	1,593		(37)	3,371
Ukrainian Refugees	4,888		299	(4,589)	(4,888)	0
Equipment Fund	0	1,000	8345	9,000	1,655	1655
Agency Fund	0	2,606	2,350		256	256
<b>Sub-total designated and restricted funds</b>	<b>20,037</b>	<b>6,920</b>	<b>22,282</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>(6,361)</b>	<b>13,676</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>705,104</b>	<b>102,512</b>	<b>120,574</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(18,062)</b>	<b>687,042</b>

## Report and notes to the Accounts

### 1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS102) and the Charities Acts of 1993 and 2011. They have been based on a historic cost convention.

Incoming and outgoing resources have been recorded on a receipts and payments basis as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The general fund operates to receive the general donations to the church and to meet the normal running expenses.

There are a number of designated funds as follows:

- **Disaster Fund** – this fund enables the church to make a rapid response to provide financial support in cases of national and international emergencies.
- **Fellowship Fund** - this fund has been available for a number of years to allow the Minister to provide funds to individuals for urgent needs within the wider church family.
- **Building Fund** – This fund is available to meet the costs of work on the two buildings owned by the church
- **Ukrainian Refugee Fund** – This fund was established to help finance support work for Ukrainian refugees who had settled in the area. That work has now been concluded and the church members agreed at a meeting on 17 November 2024 that the balance of funds should be transferred to the Disaster Fund to enable the church to respond to other situations.
- **Equipment Fund** – it was agreed that funds should be made available to fund the purchase of new sound equipment to enhance the worship at Oundle Primary School and the trustees therefore set aside £9,000 from the surplus accruing in 2023 for that purpose. In addition to the purchase of sound equipment the fund has also been used to purchase a new printer for the church office.
- **Agency Fund** – from time to time members make donations to the church which are to be passed on to other charities. These pass into a restricted fund in accordance with HMRC guidance on Gift Aid. Where appropriate Gift Aid or GASDs is claimed on the donation and this is also passed on to the recipient charity.

### 2. Property

The church owns two properties – the manse at 7 Wentworth Drive and the community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane. These are both shown in the accounts at historical cost.

### 3. Donations

The church is entirely dependent on voluntary giving to fund its activities. It receives no funding from any external source. A number of members make regular payments by standing order and the Trustees are grateful to them for enabling a core of funding to be available. Many of the regular donors are taxpayers and the church is able to recover tax under the Gift Aid scheme.

Additional funds come from ad hoc donations from members and friends of the church and congregation and from the cash offering that is taken up as a part of weekly worship. A card machine was purchased in this year and this enables contactless payments to be made at Sunday services and other gatherings. The

Government’s Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) has enabled a further sum to be received in respect of both the cash offerings and contactless payments of £30 or less.

The trustees are aware that many of the regular donors are aged over 70 and future income is by no means certain. The trustees are aware that new younger givers will be required by the church to secure financial security.

#### 4. Ministry

Rev Martin Hills who was appointed to the ministry of the church in 2016 has continued to lead the church, and the trustees are grateful for his leadership and for the development of the vision of the church during the year. The Trustees also wish to express their thanks to his wife, Carita, for her support of Martin.

The employer’s NIC payments have been covered by the government’s Employment Allowance.

The church continues to pay pension contributions into the defined contributions scheme with The Baptist Union Pension Fund in respect of Martin, and he also makes contributions each month.

The church provides the Minister with funds to make payments to those who may be in need from the Fellowship Fund.

The church is responsible for the council tax, water rates and building insurance on the manse. During the work further work was done at the manse and this has been dealt with through the Buildings Fund (see note 12)

The expenditure under this head comprised the following:

<b>Ministry Expenditure</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Employment Costs comprising:		
Salary	37,182	34,364
Employer's pension cost	4,479	3,991
Expenses	1,349	
Manse expenditure	4,434	4,424
Training and conferences	1,032	425
Other expenses	600	1,851
<b>MINISTER COST</b>	<b>49,076</b>	<b>45,055</b>

#### 5. Worship and teaching

Being able to meet together for regular worship is an essential part of being a church and is a key part of our mission statement in enabling us to connect to each other and to Jesus. We meet each week at Oundle Primary School and we are grateful to the Head Teacher for making this facility available. Services are mainly conducted by our minister, but other members have been encouraged to take services. The services are usually aimed at all ages but separate activities are held for children on a regular basis.

Sunday worship is in person and also available online through Zoom.

Times of prayer are held before the service each Sunday. With few exceptions, we have been able to have a social time over coffee/tea, usually before the service. Once a month we also have 'soup Sunday' whereby we share some home-made soups and bread to fellowship together.

It is necessary to set up the hall before the service and set down afterwards. We are very grateful for the people who do this.

For some time we have encountered problems in making the PA and av system in the hall work satisfactorily. A decision was taken at the start of the year to make funds available to purchase the equipment necessary to resolve the problems and this has now been done (Note 14). We are grateful to the small team that has put this equipment together and to those who run it each week.

Most members of the church family also meet in 'connect groups' during the week for study, prayer and social times

The main areas of expenditure under this heading were as follows:

<b>Worship and Teaching Expenditure</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Premises hire	6,449	4964
Events	687	821
Equipment	180	424
Licences	840	874
Refreshments	467	450
Resources	425	268
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,048</b>	<b>7801</b>

## 6. Giving to Others

The church is part of the Baptist family and provides support to the two main mission works of UK Baptists at home and overseas.

The church is helping to support The Souster Trust who reach out to young people locally and at school.

The church has continued to provide regular financial support to Bethany Children's Trust for its work in Africa.

The church continues to support the work of the Leprosy Mission of which one of our members is the UK director.

Support was also given to a charity in Myanmar.

In addition to the sums budgeted for giving in 2024 the church made additional payments to the charities to make up for the shortfall in payments in 2023.

<b>Giving to Others</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Baptist World Mission	2,530	1500
Baptist Home Mission	2,630	3600
The Souster Trust	740	601
Bethany Childrens' Trust	1,484	1023
Myanmar	1,570	1360
Leprosy Mission	1,484	1023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,438</b>	<b>9107</b>

## **7. Other Ministries (including children and young people)**

Mrs Carita Hills, our unpaid families and childrens' worker, has been building up contacts with children and families connected with the church and has started a number of initiatives. A thriving Tots group has expanded on Tuesday mornings. Carita is now engaged with two after-schools clubs each week.

During the year, a monthly event called Explore was held on Sunday mornings in the school gym. This has now been discontinued. A family Nativity service was well attended and over 40 Ad vent calendars were distributed to families in December.

A youth group called 'Equip' meets regularly at No 1 on a Tuesday evening for study and discussion. In addition a fortnightly youth club – 'Engage' runs at the Methodist Church premises. Attendances at this event aimed at those in secondary school have been encouraging.

Under the heading of other ministries, we have included pastoral care which is offered to the attendees and their families of the church as well as to the wider community when needed.

<b>Other Ministries</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Youth expenses	1,194	276
Families and Childrens' work	2,300	1,458
Pastoral ministry	290	168
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,784</b>	<b>1,902</b>

## **8. Church administration**

Mrs Judith Brashaw has continued to act as church administrator and manager of No 1 during the year. The Trustees are very grateful to her for all her work and in particular for the assistance she has given to Rev Martin Hills.

A number of members are involved in producing a range of communications though our website, social media and two publications. The Trustees are grateful for all their labours.

During the year the contract for our photocopier was terminated with some additional termination costs and a new printer was purchased (see note 14)

The church continued to rent a storage container during the year but notice has now been given to terminate this rental.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Administration and finance software	1,278	921
Administrator's Salary	8,950	6,208
Computer support	3,275	3,174
Equipment	0	21
Insurance	1,534	1,451
Subscriptions	414	1,032
Telephone	661	615
Professional Fees	582	558
Printing & Stationery	2,695	1,870
Rent	1,354	948
Training	100	219
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,843</b>	<b>16,895</b>

## 9. No 1 Building

No.1 St Osyths Lane provides accommodation for a number of activities of the church and for the community projects as well as providing counselling and office accommodation.

<b>No.1 Building expenses</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Utilities	2,830	3,103
Cleaning	870	867
Repairs	1,145	2,349
Sundries	184	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,029</b>	<b>6,319</b>

## 10. Disaster Fund

This fund exists to enable a rapid response to be made by the church to financial needs arising from major disasters. Members are then encouraged to top up the fund with donations. Wherever possible donations are routed via recognised aid agencies. During the year donations were made in reaction to worldwide disasters through the following agencies.

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>2024</b>
For the One	Myanmar disaster	£500
Leprosy Mission	Nepal landslide	£500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,000</b>

At a church members' meeting on 17 November 2024 it was agreed that the funds remaining in the Ukraine Wraparound project should be transferred to the Disasters Fund.

### **11. Fellowship Fund**

The fellowship Fund has been in existence for many years to provide funds for the minister to help those in the fellowship, or further afield, when in need. Payments are made at the discretion of the Minister and Trustees.

### **12. Buildings Fund**

The Buildings Fund exists to provide funds for significant building work at the two properties owned by the church. During 2024 the boiler at the manse was replaced at a cost of £3,640 and substantial decking work costing £4,572 was done to improve access to the property for the Minister's disabled son. Electrical work at No 1 cost £482

### **13. Ukraine Wraparound Support Fund**

Immediately after the outbreak of the Ukraine war, the church began a project to provide support for Ukrainian refugees who had come to the town and surrounding villages. This has proved to be very successful and a number of families have been helped. Weekly gatherings of the refugees and their hosts were held but these stopped in 2023. During 2024 help has been provided in one situation and those involved in the project felt that the time had come for the project to be closed down. The project still had funds of £4,589.50 and the church agreed at a members' meeting on 17 November 2024 that these funds should be transferred into the Disasters Fund so that they could continue to be available to meet urgent situations where relief was needed.

### **14. Equipment Fund**

For some time the worship experience at Oundle Primary School has been hampered by a lack of adequate sound and AV equipment. Early in 2024 it was decided to use some of the surplus obtained in 2023 to fund the purchase of equipment that would remove the problems that had been encountered. The sum of £9,000 was set aside for this purpose. A small team has researched and resourced the acquisition of the equipment and we are grateful to them for their patient work. The new system is now running and the congregation has noticed the improvement. In total, £7,250 has been spent on this equipment.

Also during the year, it became clear that the deal the church had with DEOS Group for the supply of a photocopier was no longer economic. Following advice from OCS (UK) Ltd our computer advisers, a high quality printer was purchased at a cost of £1,094.34 and this has also been charged to this fund.

### **15. Agency Fund**

For many years the church has operated a restricted fund, known as the Agency Fund through which members can make donations to other charities. This is a restricted fund and operates in accordance with the guidance produced by HMRC and so gift aid can be claimed where appropriate and that gift aid is also passed on to the relevant charity. At the end of the year there was an item which had still to be paid over and so this fund appears in the accounts.

## **16. Reserves**

At 31 December 2024 the total current assets of the church amounted to £67,042 of which £13,676 represents designated and restricted funds. The balance available for the general fund is £53,366 which is higher than would be necessary to meet the reserves policy. The trustees consider it prudent to hold this level of reserves as there is continued concern as to future levels of income give the age profile of the church.

**OUNDLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1134043

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# Accounts

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## **Introduction**

Oundle Baptist Church is a registered charity, charity number 1134043 which, as stated in the Charities Act 2011, is not required to produce a full annual report, but must submit a Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, the latter of which must be independently checked. The accounts have been compiled using the cash accounting method and the information provided here is for general purposes only. The Trustees Annual Report on the activities of the church fellowship in 2022 is incorporated into the body of this report.

The trustees of the church during this year have changed and the current details are set out below.

## **Minister**

The Rev Martin Hills was called to the pastorate in October 2016

## **The Trustees**

The following trustees were in post at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Rev Martin Hills (Minister)

Michael Brookes

Robin Croxon

David Gent as Secretary

Juliet LaMar as Treasurer

Jane McDonald

Served as trustee but resigned in the year

Ankia Clidas (resigned) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Ann Scott as Treasurer until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **Church Office**

The church office is located at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG in premises which were purchased to serve as a community outreach centre, shared with the church office.

All correspondence from the charity's banks is currently addressed to the treasurer at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG

## **Affiliation**

The church is a full member of The Baptist Union of Great Britain and is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance

## **Bankers**

The church maintains two accounts with Santander plc, Bridle Road, Merseyside, L30 4GB and two deposit accounts with the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT

## **Independent Examiners**

The church is required to have its accounts independently examined and for this purpose it has appointed Mr Graham Darbourne of TC Group, 6 North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL

## **Reserves Policy**

The trustees are aware that the income of the church is heavily dependent upon voluntary giving which can be variable. The trustees continually monitor the level of giving and expenditure and seek to try to maintain reserves that would equate to approximately two months of known expenditure. The reserves at the end of 2023 are in excess of the amount but the trustees consider it prudent to maintain reserves at a higher level as the regular income of the church is heavily dependent on members who are over 70 years of age

## **Mission Statement**

The mission statement of the church is:

Connecting to:    Jesus  
                          Each other  
                          Our communities

## Overview of the year

In the year 2023, the church continued meeting in-person as well as providing an online option through Zoom to allow the inclusion of not only church family who were unwell or preferred not to mix with others, but also individuals who had become part of the congregation online. We are grateful to our minister and members and friends who have provided technical support as well as participating in the services. The church also has a very active pastoral care team who assisted the minister in offering and providing pastoral support as needs arose.

Outside of Sunday worship service, OBC continued to offer many opportunities for engagement, corporate prayer, and Bible study as well as outreach to the greater Oundle community.

- The small-group network in the church called 'Connect Groups' continued to meet weekly either online via zoom and/or in-person for Bible study and prayer support.

- Breathing Space, a twice monthly gathering for prayer and reflection, was held on Sunday evenings at Oundle Methodist Church.

- Engage, a twice monthly youth club, was held on Friday evenings at Oundle Methodist.

- Stitchat, a twice monthly sewing and social gathering, was held on Tuesdays at OBC's No.1 facility.

- Walk Through the Bible, a two-day exploration course, was hosted by OBC in late April at Glapthorn Village Hall, and provided an engaging and fun overview of the Old Testament.

Our voluntary Children and Families worker, appointed in 2020, continued to be active in the community, hosting a bi-weekly 'tots' group and monthly 'Explore' children's service as well as a monthly Quest afterschool club at Laxton Junior School and a weekly Bible Heroes afterschool club at Oundle Primary School. While money was initially allocated in the 2023 budget for the hiring of a youth worker, no suitable applicants were found, and the allocation was rescinded by agreement of the charity trustees.

Our Ukrainian outreach effort, started in 2022, continued to provide support and encouragement to a large group of refugees and their sponsor families. The weekly coffee morning for hosts and/or refugees continued to be well attended and quickly outgrew the church's mission centre at No.1. Alternative premises were located in 'The Hub', where a larger room was made available by the town council for a rental of £42 per session. Oundle Cooperative kindly made a community grant of £1500, and Oundle Town Council provided a grant of £3000 for the work. Members and friends of Oundle Baptist Church also provided regular donations. Ten weeks of English lessons, run by a Ukrainian teacher as well as church volunteers, were made available and very keenly attended, with the Oundle School kindly providing the funding to pay the Ukrainian teacher. To address the lack of public transport, especially for those refugees living in rural villages, OBC made a contract with 'Volunteer Action' whose volunteer drivers were available to transport refugees to the English lessons and the weekly coffee morning. Assistance in procuring school places, local work and housing was given by volunteers as well as some professionals, who made themselves available on various Friday mornings.

In-person church members' meetings were held every other month in 2023, primarily at the Oundle Methodist Church and occasionally immediately following the Sunday worship service, to address matters arising and enable in-person voting in accordance with Baptist Union regulations. Leadership team meetings were held on second Tuesday evenings at No.1 and occasionally on Saturdays to provide longer focus days. The leaders (trustees) also held a prayer meeting for an hour each week on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th

Tuesdays, with the meeting on the 1st also open to the church family.

Finally, in spring 2023, the church undertook its first church climate survey, which enjoyed a very high level of participation. The survey was undertaken to "take the temperature" of the church on various matters including service format, mission/vision fulfilment, communication, teaching, amongst others. A special church meeting was held in June to present the analysis and results of the survey to the congregation. Further sensing sessions are planned for 2024, and a repeat survey for 2025.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Oundle Baptist Church**

I report on the accounts of Oundle Baptist Church, charity number 1134043, for the year ended 31 December 2023, set out on pages 5 to 12.

### **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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Graham Darbourne  
TC Group  
6 North Street, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4AL

Date: .....

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds (Note 1)		3,500	3,500	3,361
Donations and legacies (Note 1,3)	92,837	4,193	97,030	80,761
Gift Aid (Note 1,3)	11,033	904	11,937	16,746
Other income	366	414	780	11,272
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>104,236</b>	<b>9,012</b>	<b>113,247</b>	<b>106,827</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry (Note 4)	45,056	-	45,056	45,296
No 1 building (Note 9)	6,319	-	6,319	3,506
Administration (Note 8)	17,017	-	17,017	18,553
Other Ministries (Note 7)	2,001	-	2,001	10,294
Worship (Note 5)	7,801	-	7,801	10,581
Giving To Others (Note 6)	9,107	-	9,107	12,733
Disaster Fund (Notes 1 & 10)	-	1,250	1,250	3,750
Fellowship Fund (Notes 1, 11)	-	2,400	2,400	1,512
Buildings Fund	-	5,540	5,540	
No. 1 Roof Fund (Notes 1,12)	-	28,332	28,332	550
Ukrainian Refugee Fund (Note 14)	-	3,735	3,735	5,476
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>87,301</b>	<b>41,257</b>	<b>128,558</b>	<b>85,388</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>16,935</b>	<b>(32,245)</b>	<b>(15,311)</b>	<b>21,439</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>				
<b>General fund (note 9)</b>	<b>2,148</b>		<b>2,148</b>	<b>(20,104)</b>
<b>Building Fund (note 9)</b>		<b>(5,743)</b>	<b>(5,743)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Disasters Fund</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>No.1 Roof Fund (note 9)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>19,729</b>
<b>Agency Fund</b>	<b>-</b>			<b>375</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>(2,148)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Income After Transfer</b>	<b>19,083</b>	<b>(34,393)</b>	<b>(15,311)</b>	<b>4,080</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>665,984</b>	<b>54,431</b>	<b>720,415</b>	<b>716,335</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>685,067</b>	<b>20,037</b>	<b>705,104</b>	<b>720,415</b>

## Balance Sheet

		2023	2022	
		£	£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>			
	2	7 Wentworth Drive	340,000	340,000
	2	1 St Osyth's Lane	280,000	280,000
		<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
		Santander current a/c	30,055	17,857
		Santander savings a/c	33,832	61,798
		BU Deposit a/c 1	10,547	10,341
		BU Deposit a/c 2	10,548	10,341
		Cash	122	78
		<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>85104</b>	<b>100,415</b>
		<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>85,104</b>	<b>100,415</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>705,104</b>	<b>720,415</b>	
<b>Represented by</b>				
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
General Fund		685,067	665,984	
<i>Designated</i>				
Building		11,087	21,574	
No 1 roof		0	22,561	
Disasters		654	1,849	
Fellowship Fund		3,408	3,876	
<i>Restricted</i>				
Ukrainian Refugees		4,888	4,571	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>705104</b>	<b>720,415</b>	

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees

Rev. Martin Hills  
Minister and Trustee

Date:

Ms Juliet Lamar  
Trustee

Date:

## Fund Balances

	Opening £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gains/losses £	Closing £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	665,984	104,236	87,301	2,148	0	685,067
<b>Sub-total for Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>665,984</b>	<b>104,236</b>	<b>87,301</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>685,067</b>
<b>Designated and Restricted funds</b>						
Building	21,575	796	5,540	(5,743)	0	11,087
Disasters Fund	1,848	56	1,250	-	0	654
No 1 roof	22,561	2,175	28,332	<b>3,596</b>	<b>0</b>	0
Fellowship Fund	3,876	1,931	2,400	-	0	3,407
Ukrainian Refugees	4,571	4,052	3,735	-	-	4,888
<b>Sub-total designated and restricted funds</b>	<b>54,431</b>	<b>9,010</b>	<b>43,390</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,036</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>720,415</b>	<b>114,879</b>	<b>130,569</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>705,104</b>

## Report and notes to the Accounts

## 1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS102) and the Charities Acts of 1993 and 2011. They have been based on a historic cost convention.

Incoming and outgoing resources have been recorded on a receipts and payments basis as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The general fund operates to receive the general donations to the church and to meet the normal running expenses.

There are a number of designated funds as follows:

- **Disaster Fund** – this fund enables the church to make a rapid response to provide financial support in cases of national and international emergencies.
- **No 1 roof Fund** - the roof at No 1 was in need of a major repair and because of the listed status of the building this was likely to be an expensive operation. A fund was established in 2017 to help towards this expenditure. The roof has now been repaired so the fund to be closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023
- **Fellowship Fund** - this fund has been available for a number of years to allow the Minister to provide funds to individuals for urgent needs within the wider church family. During the year, because of illness affecting the mobility of a member of the minister's family, the church family donated to the fellowship fund to enable a donation to be made towards mobility aids.
- **Building Fund** - In 2021 the church family decided that we should seek to find either a building to convert or land to build a church on, so the trustees established a building fund to save for such a project. As it is unlikely that we would find suitable land or a building, and upgrades to the manse were required to enable the minister's family members to access washing facilities, it was decided to use some of the funds for that project. The fund was further depleted to cover the shortfall in the roof fund and also to replace a window in the building at no.1 St Osyth's Lane.
- **Ukrainian Refugee Fund** – In 2022 it was decided to offer wraparound support to Ukrainian refugees and their host families. The fund was established by the church family and was contributed to by Oundle School, The Cooperative Community Fund and Oundle Town Council. There is now no longer any need for that service, therefore the fund will no longer be required for that purpose.

## 2. Property

The church owns two properties – the manse at 7 Wentworth Drive and the community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane. These are both shown in the accounts at historical cost.

## 3. Donations

The church is entirely dependent on voluntary giving to fund its activities. It receives no funding from any external source. A number of members make regular payments by standing order and the Trustees are grateful to them for enabling a core of funding to be available. Many of the regular donors are taxpayers and the church is able to recover tax under the Gift Aid scheme.

Additional funds come from ad hoc donations from members and friends of the church and congregation and from the cash offering that is taken up as a part of weekly worship. The Government's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has enabled a further sum to be received in respect of these cash offerings.

The trustees are aware that many of the regular donors are aged over 70 and we have lost a number of those members in 2023. The trustees are aware that new younger givers will be required by the church to secure financial security.

#### 4. Ministry

Rev Martin Hills who was appointed to the ministry of the church in 2016 has continued to lead the church, and the trustees are grateful for his leadership and for the development of the vision of the church during the year. The Trustees also wish to express their thanks to his wife, Carita, for her support of Martin.

The employer's NIC payments have been covered by the government's Employment Allowance.

The church continues to pay pension contributions into the defined contributions scheme with The Baptist Union Pension Fund in respect of Martin, and he also makes contributions each month.

The church provides the Minister with funds to make payments to those who may be in need from the Fellowship Fund.

The church is responsible for the council tax, water rates and building insurance on the manse.

The expenditure under this head comprised the following:

Ministry Expenditure	Column1	Column2
	2023	2022
	£	£
Employment Costs comprising:		
Salary	34,364	32217
Employer's pension cost	3,991	4181
Expenses		726
Manse expenditure	4,424	4307
Training and conferences	425	2004
Other expenses	1,851	600
MINISTER COST	45,055	45296

#### 5. Worship and teaching

Being able to meet together for regular worship is an essential part of being a church and is a key part of our mission statement in enabling us to connect to each other and to Jesus.

Sunday worship is in person and also available online through the zoom code.

Times of prayer were able to be in person before the service each Sunday. With few exceptions, we have been able to have a social time over coffee/tea, usually before the service. Once a month we also have 'soup Sunday' whereby we share some home-made soups and bread to fellowship together.

Most members of the church family also meet in 'connect groups' during the week for study, prayer and social times. As with Sunday services, some groups are continuing on zoom or in person depending on the weather.

The main areas of expenditure under this heading were as follows:

<b>Worship and Teaching Expenditure</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equipment	424	777
Events	821	972
Premises hire	4964	6,424
Licences	874	1,399
Payments to visiting speakers	0	250
Refreshments	450	438
Resources	268	321
Gifts	0	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7801</b>	<b>10,581</b>

## **6. Giving to Others**

The church is part of the Baptist family and provides support to the two main mission works of UK Baptists at home and overseas.

The church is helping to support The Souster Trust who reach out to young people locally and at school.

The church has continued to provide regular financial support to Bethany Children's Trust for its work in Africa.

The church continues to support the work of the Leprosy Mission of which one of our members is the UK director.

Support was also given to a charity in Myanmar.

<b>Giving to Others</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Baptist World Mission	1500	3600
Baptist Home Mission	3600	3600
The Souster Trust	601	1000
Bethany Childrens' Trust	1023	1700
Myanmar	1360	1133
Leprosy Mission	1023	1700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9107</b>	<b>12733</b>

## **7. Other Ministries (including children and young people)**

Mrs Carita Hills, our unpaid families and childrens' worker, has been building up contacts with children and families connected with the church and has started a number of initiatives. A thriving Tots group has expanded on Tuesday mornings. Carita is now engaged with two after-schools clubs each week.

The Sunday activities for children include some teaching and craft on three or four Sundays in the month and 'Explore' is held for primary school age children one Sunday a month in the sports hall of the same school where the church meet and at the same time as the service.

A youth group called 'Equip' meets regularly as well as a drop in youth outreach each week. The intended age group is for those in secondary school.

Under the heading of other ministries, we have included pastoral care which is offered to the attendees and their families of the church as well as to the wider community when needed.

<b>Other Ministries</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Youth expenses	276	206
Families and Childrens' work	1,458	2,255
Outreach		132
Bereavement Care		302
Pastoral ministry	168	106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>3,001</b>

## **8. Church administration**

Mrs Judith Brashaw has continued to act as church administrator and manager of No 1 during the year and had an unpaid break for four months spanning 2022 and 2023. The Trustees are very grateful to her for all her work and in particular for the assistance she has given to Rev Martin Hills. The trustees are also grateful to those who volunteered to carry out Judith's duties in her absence.

A number of members are involved in producing a range of communications though our website, social media and two publications. The Trustees are grateful for all their labours.

Judith and Ankia have been busy setting up Church Suite to update our communications system and Ankia has set up a new website which is much improved over the previous one.

The church continues to rent a storage container.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Administration and finance software	875	856
Administrator's Salary	6,208	7,092
Computer support	3,174	2,743
Equipment	21	730
Insurance	1,451	1,466
Subscriptions	1,032	891
Telephone	615	562
Professional Fees	558	528
Printing & Stationery	1,870	2,306
Rent	948	864
Training	219	270

Website	46	244
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,895</b>	<b>18,553</b>

## 9. No 1 Building

No.1 St Osyth's Lane provides accommodation for a number of activities of the church and for the community projects as well as providing counselling and office accommodation. Apart from part of the roof being replaced this year, a window also needed to be replaced.

<b>No.1 Building expenses</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Utilities	3,103	1,828
Cleaning	867	880
Repairs	2,349	798
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,319</b>	<b>3,506</b>

## 10. Disaster Fund

This fund exists to enable a rapid response to be made by the church to financial needs arising from major disasters. Members are then encouraged to top up the fund with donations. Wherever possible donations are routed via recognised aid agencies. During the year donations were made in reaction to worldwide disasters through the following agencies.

Recipient	Cause	2023
		£
British Red Cross	Earthquake in Morocco	500
Christian Aid	Earthquake in Turkey	500
DEC	Kakhovka dam collapse	250
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,250</b>

## 11. Fellowship Fund

The fellowship Fund has been in existence for many years to provide funds for the minister to help those in the fellowship, or further afield, when in need. The sum of £1931.25, including a special appeal to gift money to a member of the minister's family to purchase mobility aids, was received into this fund during the year and £2,400 for the afore-mentioned cause as well as members of the fellowship in need.

## 12. No. 1 Roof Fund

This fund was created some years ago to provide for the replacement of the roof at No.1. The roof part was replaced in 2023 at a cost of £28,332 and there is therefore no need to continue with the fund beyond 2023.

### **13. Building Fund**

In 2021 the church family decided that we should seek to find either a building to convert or land to build a church on, so the trustees established a building fund to save for such a project. As it is unlikely that we would find suitable land or a building, and upgrades to the manse were required to enable the minister's family members to access washing facilities, it was decided to use some of the funds for that project. The fund was further depleted to cover the shortfall in the roof fund and also to replace a window in the building at no.1 St Osyth's Lane. A total of £796 was received into this fund and expenditure of £ 5,540 incurred. At a church meeting it was also decided to transfer a further £5,743 to make up the shortfall of £3,596 in the roof fund and £2,148 to the general fund to cover the cost of replacing the window at no.1.

### **14. Ukraine Wraparound Support Fund**

The church family made a decision to support local people who kindly decided to host refugee families from Ukraine and started a fund for this purpose. Many volunteers are involved in meeting the families at our weekly coffee mornings held for that purpose. Transport was also paid in some cases to enable our Ukrainian guests to attend some of the sessions. On some Saturday afternoons, by the courtesy of Oundle library providing the premises, fun sessions were held for the children of refugees as opportunities to progress their learning of the English language. Because of the efforts of mainly Carolyn Gent, funding was successfully sought from Oundle Coop, Oundle School and Oundle Town Council. Gifts were given to hosts and guests where money was needed to settle the guests in to the host accommodation as well as when independent housing was found for the refugees. Many gifts of bicycles, furniture, household items were given by the community as well as from the grants that Carolyn procured. Robin and Janet Croxon have taken responsibility for the Friday coffee mornings where not only do the guests get an opportunity to chat in their own language with each other, but also to receive help with job applications, benefits, housing etc. There appears to be no further need for this service as hosts and guests are now independent due to settling over time, and through information which has been garnered, are aware of rights and privileges available to them. The church extends its thanks to the army of volunteers who made the events possible. A total of £4,052 was donated and £3,735 was spent.

### **15. Reserves**

At 31 December 2023 the total current assets of the church amounted to £85,104 of which £20,037 represents designated and restricted funds. The balance available for the general fund is £65,072 which is higher than would be necessary to meet the reserves policy. The trustees consider it prudent to hold this level of reserves as there is continued concern as to future levels of income give the age profile of the church.

**OUNDLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1134043

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# Accounts

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# Oundle Baptist Church

Accounts and Trustees Report  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

## **Introduction**

Oundle Baptist Church is a registered charity, charity number 1134043 which, as stated in the Charities Act 2011, is not required to produce a full annual report, but must submit a Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, the latter of which must be independently checked. The accounts have been compiled using the cash accounting method and the information provided here is for general purposes only. The Trustees Annual Report on the activities of the church fellowship in 2022 is incorporated into the body of this report.

The trustees of the church during this year have changed and the current details are set out below.

### **Minister**

The Rev Martin Hills was called to the pastorate in October 2016

### **The Trustees**

The following trustees were in post at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Rev Martin Hills (Minister)

Michael Brookes

Ankia Clidas

Robin Croxon

David Gent (from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022)

Juliet LaMar (from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022)

Jane McDonald

Ann Scott (Treasurer)

Served as trustee but resigned in the year

Kelvin Mayes (until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

Christopher Bradley (until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

Andrew Burgess (until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

## **Church Office**

The church office is located at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG in premises which were purchased to serve as a community outreach centre, shared with the church office.

All correspondence from the charity's banks is currently addressed to the treasurer's home at 110 Glapthorn Road, Oundle PE8 4PS

## **Affiliation**

The church is a full member of The Baptist Union of Great Britain and is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance

## **Bankers**

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## **Independent Examiners**

The church is required to have its accounts independently examined and for this purpose it has appointed Mr Graham Darbourne of TC Group, 6 North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL

## **Reserves Policy**

The trustees are aware that the income of the church is heavily dependent upon voluntary giving which can be variable. The trustees continually monitor the level of giving and expenditure and seek to try to maintain reserves that would equate to approximately two months of known expenditure. The extraordinary circumstances due to the Covid-19 Pandemic during 2022 have meant that normal worship has not always been possible, meaning that expenditure on premises hire and other items related to worship has not always been incurred. The reserves at the end of 2022 are in excess of the amount but the trustees consider it prudent to maintain reserves at a higher level as the regular income of the church is heavily dependent on members who are over 70 years of age

## **Mission Statement**

The mission statement of the church is:

Connecting to:    Jesus  
                          Each other  
                          Our communities

## Overview of the year

In the year 2022 the church family has been meeting in-person, but in addition, on requesting the zoom code, our services have also been available online to include not only the church family who were unwell or preferred not to mix with others but also individuals who had become part of the congregation online. We are grateful to our minister and members and friends who have provided technical support as well as participating in the services.

The small-group network in the church called 'connect groups' have continued to meet either online via zoom and/or in-person. Church members' meetings have also been held in this way. We have tended to have in-person meetings where voting is required, either in a week-day evening or immediately following the Sunday worship service. The leadership team meetings have been held in-person with the occasional 'hybrid' meeting in-person and also on zoom. The leaders (trustees), who meet every month, also have a prayer meeting for an hour each week. Once a month, this meeting is also open to the church family, giving the opportunity for corporate prayer as well as praying for individuals.

The church also has a very active pastoral care team who assist the minister in offering and providing pastoral support as needs arise.

Having appointed a voluntary Families and Childrens' worker in 2020, our 'tots' group for pre-school age children has continued meeting in the local scout group hall and the numbers attending have swelled to fill the bigger hall. A monthly 'explore' service is held on Sundays at the same time as the church service. Having allowed, in our budget, to employ a youth worker, there have been no suitable applicants, so the youth have been meeting on Sundays or during the week, the sessions being run by volunteers and the minister.

A new venture started in mid 2022 helping host families in the locality and the refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. There is a weekly coffee morning for hosts and/or refugees which is always well attended. The coffee mornings were so well attended that we soon outgrew the church's mission centre called No. 1. Alternative premises were located in 'The Hub' where a larger room was made available by the town council for a rental of £42 per session. Oundle Cooperative kindly made a community grant of £1500, and Oundle Town Council a grant of £3000 available for the work. Members and friends of Oundle Baptist Church continue to make donations. Ten weeks of English lessons, run by a Ukrainian teacher as well as church volunteers, were made available and very keenly attended by our Ukrainian refugee friends. Oundle School kindly provided the funding to pay the Ukrainian teacher. One of the main problems for the refugees is the lack of public transport especially for those living in rural villages. OBC made a contract with 'Volunteer Action' whose volunteer drivers were available to transport them to the English lessons and the weekly coffee morning. Assistance in procuring school places, local work and housing has been given by volunteers and some professionals who have made themselves available on some Friday mornings.

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Oundle Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of Oundle Baptist Church, charity number 1134043, for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Graham Darbourne  
TC Group  
6 North Street, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4AL

15th June 2023

Statement of Financial Activities  
Year to 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
<b>Income</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds (Note 1)		3361	3361	-
Donations and legacies (Note 1,3)	80,386	375	80,761	95,266
Gift Aid (Note 1,3)	15,952	794	16,746	11,470
Other income	52	11,219	11,272	91
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>96,391</b>	<b>15,749</b>	<b>112,140</b>	<b>106,827</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry (Note 4)	45,296	-	45,296	41,136
No 1 building (Note 9)	3,506	-	3,506	1,410
Administration (Note 8)	18,553	-	18,553	16,232
Other Ministries (Note 7)	3,001	1,817	4,818	554
Worship (Note 5)	10,581	-	10,581	4,639
Giving To Others (Note 6)	12,733	-	12,733	13,850
No 1 Project (Note 15)	-	-	-	650
Training fund (Notes 15)	-	-	-	530
Disaster Fund (Notes 1 & 10)	-	4,100	4,100	3,750
Manse repairs Fund (Note 15)	-	-	-	22
Equipment Fund (Notes 15)	-	-	-	553
Fellowship Fund (Notes 1, 11)	-	1,557	1,557	1,512
No. 1 Roof Fund (Notes 1,12)	-	1439	1439	550
Ukrainian Refugee Fund (Note 14)	-	5476	5476	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>93,671</b>	<b>14,389</b>	<b>108,060</b>	<b>85,388</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>4,080</b>	<b>21,439</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>				
<b>General fund</b>	<b>(20,104)</b>		<b>(20,104)</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	-	-		<b>20,000</b>
<b>Disasters Fund</b>		-		<b>3,000</b>
<b>No.1 Roof Fund</b>		<b>19729</b>	<b>19729</b>	-
<b>Agency Fund</b>		<b>375</b>	<b>375</b>	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>(20,104)</b>	<b>20,104</b>		
<b>Net Income After Transfer</b>	<b>(17,384)</b>	<b>21,464</b>	<b>4080</b>	<b>21,439</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>683,368</b>	<b>32,967</b>	<b>716,335</b>	<b>694,896</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>665,984</b>	<b>54,431</b>	<b>720,415</b>	<b>716,335</b>

**Balance Sheet**

		2022	2021	
		£	£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>			
	2	7 Wentworth Drive	340,000	340,000
	2	1 St Osyth's Lane	280,000	280,000
		<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
		Santander current a/c	17,857	14,292
		Santander savings a/c	61,798	61,995
		BU Deposit a/c 1	10,341	10,000
		BU Deposit a/c 2	10,341	10,000
		Cash	78	47
		<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>100,415</b>	<b>96,335</b>
		<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>100,415</b>	<b>96,335</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>720,415</b>	<b>716,335</b>	
<b>Represented by</b>				
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
General Fund		665,984	683,368	
<i>Designated</i>				
Building		21,574	20,351	
No 1 roof		22,561	3,271	
Disasters		1,849	4,380	
Fellowship Fund		3,876	4,965	
<i>Restricted</i>				
Ukrainian Refugees		4,571	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>720,415</b>	<b>716,335</b>	

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees

Mrs Ann Scott

Treasurer and Trustee



Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Ms Juliet Lamar

Trustee



Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Fund Balances

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	683,368	96,391	93,671	-20,104	0	665,984
<b>Sub-total for Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>683,368</b>	<b>96,391</b>	<b>93,671</b>	<b>-20,104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>665,984</b>
<b>Designated and Restricted funds</b>						
Building	20,351	1,224	0	-	0	21,575
Disasters Fund	4,380	1,568	4,100	-	0	1,848
No 1 roof	3,272	1,000	1,439	<b>19,729</b>	0	22,561
Fellowship Fund	4,965	469	1,557	-	0	3,876
Ukrainian Refugees	0	10,048	5,476	-	-	4,571
Agency	0	1,440	1,815	375	-	0
<b>Sub-total designated and restricted funds</b>	<b>32,967</b>	<b>15,749</b>	<b>14,388</b>	<b>19,729</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54,431</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>716,335</b>	<b>112,140</b>	<b>108,060</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>720,415</b>

## Report and notes to the Accounts

### 1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS102) and the Charities Acts of 1993 and 2011. They have been based on a historic cost convention.

Incoming and outgoing resources have been recorded on a receipts and payments basis as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The general fund operates to receive the general donations to the church and to meet the normal running expenses.

There are a number of designated funds as follows:

- **Disaster Fund** – this fund enables the church to make a rapid response to provide financial support in cases of national and international emergencies.
- **No 1 roof Fund** - the roof at No 1 is in need of a major repair and because of the listed status of the building this is likely to be an expensive operation. A fund was established in 2017 to help towards this expenditure;
- **Fellowship Fund** - this fund has been available for a number of years to allow the Minister to provide funds to individuals for urgent needs within the wider church family.
- **Building Fund** - In 2021 the church family decided that we should seek to find either a building to convert or land to build a church on, so the trustees established a building fund to save for such a project. In 2022 £1,224 was donated and transferred into two accounts with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The church had been investigating acquiring a building in 2022 but those channels have been closed.
- **Ukrainian Refugee Fund** – In 2022 it was decided to offer wraparound support to Ukrainian refugees and their host families. The fund was established by the church family and was contributed to by Oundle School, The Cooperative Community Fund and Oundle Town Council.

## **2. Property**

The church owns two properties – the manse at 7 Wentworth Drive and the community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane. These are both shown in the accounts at historical cost.

## **3. Donations**

The church is entirely dependent on voluntary giving to fund its activities. It receives no funding from any external source. A number of members make regular payments by standing order and the Trustees are grateful to them for enabling a core of funding to be available. Many of the regular donors are taxpayers and the church is able to recover tax under the Gift Aid scheme.

Additional funds come from ad hoc donations from members and friends of the church and congregation and from the cash offering that is taken up as a part of weekly worship. The Government's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has enabled a further sum to be received in respect of these cash offerings. Our income from the Government's Gift Aid and GASDS was greater than in 2021 because a claim was not processed on time to be recorded on 2021. (£15,952 in 2022 compared to income in 2021 of £11,295).

Overall, the total general fund donations decreased by £12,080 which represents 13.06% of that received in 2021.

The trustees are aware that many of the regular donors are aged over 70 and we have lost a number of those members in 2022. The trustees are aware that new younger givers will be required by the church to secure financial security.

## **4. Ministry**

Rev Martin Hills who was appointed to the ministry of the church in 2016 has continued to lead the church, and the trustees are grateful for his leadership and for the development of the vision of the church during the year. The Trustees also wish to express their thanks to his wife, Carita, for her support of Martin.

The employer's NIC payments have been covered by the government's Employment Allowance.

The church continues to pay pension contributions into the defined contributions scheme with The Baptist Union Pension Fund in respect of Martin, and he also makes contributions each month.

In 2022, Martin took a sabbatical break for three months to rest and spend time in prayer, reflection and listening to God.

The church provides the Minister with funds to make payments to those who may be in need from the Fellowship Fund.

The church is responsible for the council tax, water rates and building insurance on the manse.

The expenditure under this head comprised the following:

Ministry Expenditure	Column1	Column2
	2022	2021
	£	£
Employment Costs comprising:		
<i>Salary</i>	32217	31799
<i>Employer's pension cost</i>	4181	3788
<i>Expenses</i>	726	658
<i>Manse expenditure</i>	4307	3566
<i>Training and conferences</i>	2004	520
<i>Sabbatical Expenses</i>	1261	0
<i>Other expenses</i>	600	804
<b>MINISTER COST</b>	45296	41135

## 5. Worship and teaching

Being able to meet together for regular worship is an essential part of being a church and is a key part of our mission statement in enabling us to connect to each other and to Jesus.

Being allowed, post-pandemic restrictions, to meet every Sunday at Oundle Primary School, the cost of hiring premises has increased over 2021 when some restrictions were still in place.

Sunday worship is in person and also available online through the zoom code.

Times of prayer were able to be in person before the service each Sunday. With few exceptions, we have been able to have a social time over coffee/tea, usually before the service.

Most members of the church family also meet in 'connect groups' during the week for study, prayer and social times. As with Sunday services, some groups are continuing on zoom or in person depending on the weather.

We were able to open up our carol service to anyone without having to book as we did in the pandemic years. The disadvantage was that we did not know how many we were catering for, but it was refreshing to open up the doors to all-comers.

The main areas of expenditure under this heading were as follows:

Worship and Teaching Expenditure	2022	2021
	£	£
Equipment	777	
Events	972	681
Premises hire	6,424	2,732
Licences	1,399	883
Payments to visiting speakers	250	0
Refreshments	438	98

Resources	321	170
Gifts		75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,581</b>	<b>4,639</b>

## 6. Giving to Others

The church is part of the Baptist family and provides support to the two main mission works of UK Baptists at home and overseas.

The church is helping to support The Souster Trust who reach out to young people locally and at school.

The church has continued to provide regular financial support to Bethany Children's Trust for its work in Africa.

The church continues to support the work of the Leprosy Mission of which one of our members is the UK director.

Support was also given to a charity in Myanmar

<b>Giving to Others</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Baptist World Mission	3600	3600
Baptist Home Mission	3600	3600
The Souster Trust	1000	0
CROPS	0	1000
Bethany Childrens' Trust	1700	1700
Myanmar	1133	1700
Leprosy Mission	1700	1950
Oundle Foodbank		300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12733</b>	<b>13850</b>

## 7. Other Ministries (including children and young people)

Mrs Carita Hills, our unpaid families and childrens' worker, has been building up contacts with children and families connected with the church and has started a number of initiatives. A thriving Tots group has expanded on Tuesday mornings. 'Muddy Church' took place on some Saturday afternoons but has now been disbanded through lack of interest. Carita is now engaged with an after-schools club each Thursday.

The Sunday activities for children include some teaching and craft on three or four Sundays in the month and 'Explore' is held for primary school age children one Sunday a month in the sports hall of the same school where the church meet and at the same time as the service.

A youth group called 'Equip' was started in September. It was held on Sunday evenings at No.1 then merged onto Tuesday evening instead. The intended age group is for those in secondary school.

The church had decided to seek to appoint a part-time or trainee paid youth worker but following a prolonged advertisement campaign, no appointment has been made.

Judith Brashaw, who is our paid administrator is, with a small team of volunteers, pioneering support to enable us to be recognized as a 'bereavement friendly church'. A small budget was set aside to help fund this work. As well as volunteering online, she has started a grief talk café which is held occasionally throughout the year using free premises kindly offered by Oundle Library.

Under the heading of other ministries, we have included pastoral care which is offered to the attendees and their families of the church as well as to the wider community when needed.

<b>Other Ministries</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Youth expenses	206	195
Families and Childrens' work	2,255	307
Outreach	132	
Bereavement Care	302	0
Pastoral ministry	106	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>555</b>

## 8. Church administration

Mrs Judith Brashaw has continued to act as church administrator and manager of No 1 during the year and had an unpaid break for four months spanning 2022 and 2023. The Trustees are very grateful to her for all her work and in particular for the assistance she has given to Rev Martin Hills. The trustees are also grateful to those who volunteered to carry out Judith's duties in her absence.

A number of members are involved in producing a range of communications though our website, social media and two publications. The Trustees are grateful for all their labours.

Judith and Ankia have been busy setting up Church Suite to update our communications system and Ankia has set up a new website which is much improved over the previous one.

The church continues to rent a storage container.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Administration and finance software	856	
Administrator's Salary	7,092	7,810
Computer support	2,743	2,991
Equipment	730	
Insurance	1,466	1,410
Subscriptions	891	376
Telephone	562	340
Professional Fees	528	500
Printing & Stationery	2,306	1,900

Rent	864	905
Training	270	0
Website	244	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,553</b>	<b>16,232</b>

## 9. No 1 Building

No.1 St Osyth's Lane provides accommodation for a number of activities of the church and for the community projects as well as providing counselling and office accommodation.

No.1 Building expenses	2022	2021
	£	£
Utilities	1,828	500
Cleaning	880	560
Repairs	798	350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,506</b>	<b>1,410</b>

## 10. Disaster Fund

This fund exists to enable a rapid response to be made by the church to financial needs arising from major disasters. Members are then encouraged to top up the fund with donations. Wherever possible donations are routed via recognised aid agencies. Two donations from this fund were made to assist with the war in Ukraine. During the year donations were made in reaction to worldwide disasters through the following agencies.

Recipient	Cause	2022
		£
DEC	Crisis in Afghanistan	500
DEC	Ukraine Disaster	1,600
Tearfund	General work in Africa	1,000
UNHCR	Ukrainian refugees	500
UNICEF	Pakistan floods	500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,100</b>

## 11. Fellowship Fund

The fellowship Fund has been in existence for many years to provide funds for the minister to help those in the fellowship, or further afield, when in need. The sum of £469 was received into this fund during the year and £1557 was paid out to members of the fellowship.

## **12. No. 1 Roof Fund**

This fund was created some years ago to provide for the replacement of the roof at No.1. The only expenditure was two separate bat reports in April and August to determine whether bats were in residence in the roof space. Thankfully there were none, but the two reports cost £1,439. We had a donation of £1,000 towards the cost. Another appeal was made to the council to allow the roof replacement to be done using concrete tiles, as are present at the front of the building, but as Collyweston stone tiles are on the roof now, the appeal failed. The trustees plan to carry out the work in early 2023.

## **13. Building Fund**

The fund was started to allow for savings to accumulate as the church was considering buying or building its own premises in the future. Bank accounts with the Baptist Union were opened to set aside the money and the BU were giving a higher rate of interest than that available at the banks. During the year donations of £920 were made, which also attracted gift aid. Along with the interest earned, the fund was increased by £ 1223.

## **14. Ukraine Wraparound Support Fund**

The church family made a decision to support local people who kindly decided to host refugee families from Ukraine and started a fund for this purpose. Many volunteers are involved in meeting the families at our weekly coffee mornings held for that purpose, providing transport to some and assisting with English lessons for adults. Some volunteers who had been teachers are helping the Ukrainian children at the local primary schools. Because of the efforts of mainly Carolyn Gent, funding was successfully sought from Oundle Coop, Oundle School and Oundle Town Council. Gifts were given to hosts and guests where money was needed to settle the guests in to the host accommodation as well as when independent housing was found for the refugees. Many gifts of bicycles, furniture, household items were given by the community as well as from the grants that Carolyn procured. Robin and Janet Croxon have taken responsibility for the Friday coffee mornings where not only do the guests get an opportunity to chat in their own language with each other, but also to receive help with job applications, benefits, housing etc. Further programs are planned for 2023. The church extends its thanks to the army of volunteers who make the events possible. A total of £10,048 was donated and £5,476 was spent.

## **15. No.1 Project, Training, Equipment and Manse Repairs Funds**

were all closed at the end of 2021

## **16. Reserves**

At 31 December 2022 the total current assets of the church amounted to £100,415 of which £54,430 represents designated and restricted funds. The balance available for the general fund is £45,984 which is higher than would be necessary to meet the reserves policy. The trustees consider it prudent to hold this level of reserves as there is continued concern as to future levels of income give the age profile of the church.

**OUNDLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1134043

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# Accounts

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# **Oundle Baptist Church**

**Accounts and Trustees report**

**Year ended 31 December 2021**

## **Introduction**

Oundle Baptist Church is a registered charity, charity number 1134043 which, as stated in the Charities Act 2011, is not required to produce a full annual report, but must submit a Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, the latter of which must be independently checked. The accounts have been compiled using the cash accounting method and the information provided here is for general purposes only. The Trustees Annual Report on the activities of the church fellowship in 2021 is incorporated into the body of this report.

The trustees of the church during this year have changed and the current details are set out below.

## **Minister**

The Rev Martin Hills was called to the pastorate in October 2016

## **The Trustees**

The following trustees were in post at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Rev Martin Hills (Minister)

Christopher Bradley

Michael Brookes (from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021)

Andrew Burgess (Secretary)

Ankia Clidas

Robin Croxon (from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021)

Kelvin Mayes

Jane McDonald

Ann Scott (Treasurer)

Served as trustee but resigned in the year

Geoffrey Walls (until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

## **Church Office**

The church office is located at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle PE8 4BG in premises which were purchased to serve as a community outreach centre, shared with the church office.

All correspondence from the charity's banks is currently addressed to the treasurer's home at 110 Glaphorn Road, Oundle PE8 4PS

## **Affiliation**

The church is a full member of The Baptist Union of Great Britain and is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance

## **Bankers**

The church maintains two accounts with Santander plc, Bridle Road, Merseyside, L30 4GB and two deposit accounts with the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RT

## **Independent Examiners**

The church is required to have its accounts independently examined and for this purpose it has appointed Mr Graham Darbourne of TC Group, 6 North Street, Oundle, PE8 4AL

## **Reserves Policy**

The trustees are aware that the income of the church is heavily dependent upon voluntary giving which can be variable. The trustees continually monitor the level of giving and expenditure and seek to try to maintain reserves that would equate to approximately two months of known expenditure. The extraordinary circumstances due to the Covid-19 Pandemic during 2021 have meant that normal worship has not always been possible, meaning that expenditure on premises hire and other items related to worship has not always been incurred. The reserves at the end of 2021 are in excess of the amount but the trustees consider it prudent to maintain reserves at a higher level for three reasons

- The regular income of the church is heavily dependent on members who are over 70 years of age
- The church is planning to recruit a full-time youth worker in 2022
- The church is currently reviewing its options to possibly acquire a building in the town.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission statement of the church is:

Connecting to: Jesus  
Each other  
Our communities

## Overview of the year

The year 2021 was impacted by the continuation of the Covid-19 Pandemic. For the first half of the year we were unable to meet together at Oundle Primary School and the church community outreach centre (known as No. 1) was also closed.

Since June 2021, we have been able to open No.1 in a limited capacity and have been able to worship at the Primary School under the socially distanced rules imposed by the UK government and being mindful of the guidelines laid down by the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB).

Until we started meeting in June, our pre-recorded services were available on Youtube, which was available for anyone to see. People were encouraged to watch the service at the normal time of 10.30am then join the minister and congregation for a virtual coffee and chat on zoom at 11.30am. Since then, we have been meeting in-person, but in addition, on requesting the zoom code, our services have also been available online to include not only the church family who were unwell, or preferred not to mix with others during the pandemic, but also individuals who had become part of the congregation when the services were on Youtube. We are grateful to our minister and members and friends who have provided technical support as well as participating in the services.

The small-group network in the church called 'connect groups' have continued to meet either online or in-person as the rules have permitted and zoom continues to be used where it is more convenient to meet in this way. Church members' meetings have also been held in this way. We have tended to have in-person meetings where voting is required, immediately following the Sunday worship service. Other church meetings, known as church information meetings are held virtually on zoom. Similarly, most of the leadership team meetings have been held on zoom with the occasional 'hybrid' meeting being held in-person and also on zoom. The leaders (trustees), who meet every month, also have a prayer meeting for an hour each week. Once a month, this meeting is also open to the church family, giving the opportunity for corporate prayer as well as praying for individuals.

The church also has a very active pastoral care team who assist the minister in offering and providing pastoral support as needs arise.

Having appointed a voluntary Families and Childrens' worker in 2020, our tots' group for pre-school age children has been given a new home in the local scout group hall and the numbers attending have swelled to fill the bigger hall. A monthly 'muddy church' service is held on Saturday afternoons in the grounds of the Primary School and attendance is growing.

Although the church saved money on premises hire in the first part of the year, the cost of hiring premises has increased due to having to pay for deep cleaning of the school hall after the Sunday services. We have been unable to use the classrooms on a Sunday to house the childrens' work so we have had to provide worship for all ages (intergenerational) in the hall.

The surplus at the end of the year is roughly the same as in 2020

# Report of Independent Examiner

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Oundle Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of Oundle Baptist Church, charity number 1134043, for the year ended 31 December 2021, set out on pages 5 to 12.

### 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Graham Darbourne FCA  
TC Group  
6 North Street, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4AL

XX March 2022

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
<b>Income</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations and legacies (Note3)	92,466	2,800	95,266	103,826
Gift Aid (Note 3)	11,295	175	11,470	17,107
Other income	90	1	91	172
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>103,851</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>106,827</b>	<b>121,105</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry (Note 4)	41,135		41,135	44,123
No 1 building (Note 9)	1,410		1,410	4,443
Administration (Note 8)	16,232		16,232	18,626
Other Ministries (Note 7)	554		554	591
Worship (Note 5)	4,639		4,639	6,611
Giving To Others (Note 6)	13,850		13,850	13,800
No 1 Project (Notes 1 & 10)		650	650	150
Training fund (Notes 1 & 12)		530	530	614
Disaster Fund (Notes 1 & 11)		3,750	3,750	2,850
Manse repairs Fund (Notes 1,2,4)		22	22	510
Equipment Fund (Notes 1)		553	553	747
Fellowship Fund (Notes 1 & 13)		1,512	1,512	600
No 1 roof (Note 1,14)		550	550	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>77,821</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>85,388</b>	<b>93,665</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>26,030</b>	<b>(4,591)</b>	<b>21,439</b>	<b>27,440</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>				
<b>General fund</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>		<b>(23,000)</b>	
<b>Building Fund</b>		<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	
<b>Disasters Fund</b>		<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net income after transfer</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>18,409</b>	<b>21,439</b>	<b>27,440</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>680,338</b>	<b>14,558</b>	<b>694,896</b>	<b>667,456</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>683,368</b>	<b>32,967</b>	<b>716,335</b>	<b>694,896</b>

## Balance Sheet

		2021	2020
		£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>		
	1,2 7 Wentworth Drive	340,000	340,000
	1,2 1 St Osyth's Lane	280,000	280,000
	<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
	Santander current a/c	14,292	32,543
	Santander savings a/c	61,995	46,990
	BU Deposit a/c 1	10,000	-
	BU Deposit a/c 2	10,000	-
	Cash	47	12
	Accounts receivable	-	3,763
	<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>96,335</b>	<b>83,308</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
	Accruals		1,500
	Agency collections		4,996
	Accounts payable		1,916
	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,412</b>
	<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>96,335</b>	<b>74,896</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>716,335</b>	<b>694,896</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
<i>Unrestricted</i>			
General Fund		683,368	680,338
<i>Designated</i>			
Building		20,351	-
No 1 Project		-	650
No 1 roof		3,271	3,272
Disasters		4,380	3,054
Training		-	531
Manse repair		-	22
Equipment		-	552
Fellowship Fund		4,965	6,477
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>716,335</b>	<b>694,896</b>

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees

Mrs Ann Scott  
Treasurer

Date:

Mr Andrew Burgess  
Secretary

Date:

**Fund Balances**

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	680,338	103,851	77,821	(23,000)	-	683,368
<b>Sub-total for Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>680,338</b>	<b>103,851</b>	<b>77,821</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>	-	<b>683,368</b>
<b>Designated and Restricted funds</b>						
Building	-	351	-	20,000	-	20,351
Project No.1	650	-	650	-	-	-
Disasters Fund	3,054	2,075	3,750	3,000	-	4,379
Training fund	531	-	531	-	-	-
No 1 roof	3,272	550	550	-	-	3,272
Equipment	552	-	552	-	-	-
Manse repairs	22	-	22	-	-	-
Fellowship Fund	6,477	-	1,512	-	-	4,965
<b>Sub-total designated and restricted funds</b>	<b>14,558</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>23,000</b>	-	<b>32,967</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>694,896</b>	<b>106,827</b>	<b>85,388</b>	-	-	<b>716,335</b>

## Report and notes to the Accounts

### 1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS102) and the Charities Acts of 1993 and 2011. They have been based on a historic cost convention.

Incoming and outgoing resources have been recognised on a receipts and payments basis as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Previously the accounts were prepared on an accruals basis.

The general fund operates to receive the general donations to the church and to meet the normal running expenses.

There are a number of designated funds as follows:

- Disaster Fund – this fund enables the church to make a rapid response to provide financial support in cases of national and international emergencies. As there was great demand for the church to respond to appeals by recognized agencies to assist with worldwide disasters, it was decided by the Trustees to transfer a further £3000 from the General Fund to the Disasters Fund.
- No 1 roof Fund – the roof at No 1 is in need of a major repair and because of the listed status of the building this is likely to be an expensive operation. A fund was established in 2017 to help towards this expenditure;
- Fellowship Fund- this fund has been available for a number of years to allow the Minister to provide funds for urgent needs within the wider church family.
- In 2021 the church family decided that we should seek to find either a building to convert or land to build a church on, so the trustees established a building fund to save for such a project. In 2021 £20000 was transferred into two accounts with the Baptist Union of Great Britain with a view to establishing dedicated savings accounts for this purpose. A new designated fund was established to set aside specific contributions for such an occasion when the church would be in a position to proceed with attempting to acquire land or an existing building. Although limited, contributions have started to be received into this fund.

In 2021 the following funds were exhausted and the trustees decided that there was no need to continue with these funds by transferring any more revenue into them as they were no longer required by the church. Such income and expenditure would now be transacted through the general fund.

- Training Fund – this fund was established to help fund specific training for volunteers particularly but not exclusively in the area of children's and youth work;

Manse repairs fund – a donation was received in 2018 to be specifically used for repair work on the church manse at 7 Wentworth Drive;

- Equipment Fund – this fund was established out of part of the proceeds of the gift day in 2018, its purpose is to enable the church to purchase equipment for use in worship at Oundle Primary School

No 1 Project Fund – this is used to help specific projects being run out of the church's community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane;

## **2. Property**

The church owns two properties – the manse at 7 Wentworth Drive and the community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane. These are both shown in the accounts at historical cost.

## **3. Donations**

The church is entirely dependent on voluntary giving to fund its activities. It receives no funding from any external source. A number of members make regular payments by standing order and the Trustees are grateful to them for enabling a core of funding to be available. Many of the regular donors are taxpayers and the church is able to recover tax under the Gift Aid scheme.

Additional funds come from ad hoc donations from members of the church and congregation and from the cash offering that is taken up as a part of weekly worship. The government's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has enabled a further sum to be received in respect of these cash offerings. As already noted, the church did not meet in person for the first half of the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We re-started taking regular offerings at our worship service on Sundays in October. Our income from this source was greater than in 2020 (£5190 in 2021 compared to income was £1192 in 2020).

Overall, the total general donations decreased by £14300 which represents 11.8% of that received in 2020.

The trustees are aware that many of the regular donors are aged over 60 and we have lost a number of those members in 2021. The trustees are aware that new younger givers will be required by the church to secure financial security.

## **4. Ministry**

Rev Martin Hills who was appointed to the ministry of the church in 2016 has continued to lead the church and the trustees are grateful for his leadership and for the development of the vision of the church during the year. The Trustees also wish to express their thanks to his wife Carita for her support of Martin.

The employer's NIC payments have been covered by the government's Employment Allowance.

The church continues to pay pension contributions into the defined contributions scheme in respect of Martin and he also makes contributions each month.

The church provides the Minister with funds to make payments to those who may be in need.

The church is responsible for the council tax, water rates and building insurance on the manse.

The expenditure under this head comprised the following:

	2021	2020
Employment costs comprising	36245	35,232
<i>Salary</i>	<i>31799</i>	<i>30960</i>
<i>Employer's NIC</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Employer's pension costs</i>	<i>3788</i>	<i>3721</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>658</i>	<i>551</i>
Manse expenditure	3566	4321
Expenses relating to intern	0	1800
Training	520	0
Other expenses	804	2770
TOTAL	41135	44123

## 5. Worship and teaching

Being able to meet together for regular worship is an essential part of being a church and is a key part of our mission statement in enabling us to connect to each other and to Jesus. During 2021 the physical meeting together as a church has been impeded because of the restrictions imposed to combat the pandemic. Members have been able to meet in small groups where regulations have permitted such gatherings but we missed meeting weekly at Oundle Primary School for the first six months of the year.

Sunday worship was achieved by a recorded service which was streamed via Facebook and YouTube. From 26<sup>th</sup> June, we were able to meet, albeit socially distanced and with masks, at the school for worship, and at the same time live-streamed the service to some individuals who had previously been watching our services online.

Times of prayer which had been held via Zoom before the Sunday worship, were able to be resumed in person. Unfortunately, with few exceptions, we have been unable to have the normal social time together over coffee at the end of the services.

Most members of the church family also meet in 'connect groups' during the week for study, prayer and social times. As with Sunday services, these connections were done on zoom in the first part of the year, with some continuing to meet in that way and some in person.

We were able to have a Christmas party and a carol service in December. Because of the need to be socially distanced and be covid aware, entry to these events was by ticket only.

Although we have met less often and therefore did not need to hire premises so often, the cost of using the Primary School weekly is greater than before as we have to pay for deep cleaning of the space we have been using. It wasn't made possible to hire additional classrooms for childrens' work.

The main areas of expenditure under this heading were as follows:

	2021	2020
Premises hire	2732	2687
Licences	883	823
Payments to visiting speakers	0	0
Refreshments	98	195
Resources	170	474
Events	681	2277
Gifts	75	155
TOTAL	4639	6611

## 6. Giving to Others

The church is part of the Baptist family and provides support to the two main mission works of UK Baptists at home and overseas.

The church has continued to support the work of CROPS reaching out in Schools in Peterborough.

The church has continued to provide regular financial support to Bethany Children's Trust for its work in Africa.

The church continues to support the work of the Leprosy Mission of which one of our members is the UK director.

Support was also given to a charity- 'For the One' which has been established by the daughter of one of our members and funds work in Myanmar.

	2021	2020
Baptist World Mission	3600	3600
Baptist Home Mission	3600	3600
CROPS	1000	1000
Bethany Children's Trust	1700	1700
Myanmar	1700	1700
Leprosy Mission	1950	1700
Oundle Foodbank	300	0
Gunton Baptist Church	0	500
TOTAL	13850	13800

## 7. Other Ministries (including children and young people)

Mrs Carita Hills, our unpaid families and childrens' worker, has been building up contacts with children and families connected with the church and has started a number of initiatives albeit in the somewhat restricted opportunities available. A thriving tots group has expanded since the decision was taken to hire bigger premises for this work on a Tuesday morning. She has also started 'Muddy Church' on a Saturday afternoon once a month. Although attendance was thin in the beginning, this initiative has been growing.

The Sunday activities for children and young people were held on line at the beginning of 2021, but the childrens' work has not re-started on Sunday mornings.

A youth group called 'Equip' was started in September. It is held on Sunday evenings at No.1. The age group for which it is intended is for those in secondary school.

The church had decided to seek to appoint a full-time paid youth worker but following a prolonged advertisement campaign, no appointment has yet been made.

In 2020, just before the first lock-down due to the pandemic, the church started a bereavement ministry which had to be curtailed when the Government closed down meeting indoors with other people. Some of our members, however, continued to volunteer in this capacity with ataLoss.Org who offer the same program (The Bereavement Journey) online to any part of the UK in conjunction with Holy Trinity Brompton in London. Judith Brashaw, who is our paid administrator is, with a small team of volunteers, pioneering support to enable us to be recognized as a 'bereavement friendly church'. A small budget has been set aside to help fund this work. As well as volunteering online, she has started a grief talk café which is held occasionally throughout the year using free premises kindly offered by Oundle Library.

Under the heading of other ministries, we have included pastoral care which is offered to the attendees and their families of the church as well as to the wider community when needed.

	2021	2020
Youth expenses	195	334
Children's work	307	257
Pastoral ministry	53	0
TOTAL	555	591

## 8. Church administration

Mrs Judith Brashaw has continued to act as church administrator and manager of No 1 during the year. The Trustees are very grateful to her for all her work and in particular for the assistance she has given to Rev Martin Hills.

A number of members are involved in producing a range of communications through our website, social media and two publications. The Trustees are grateful for all their labours.

The computer facilities at No 1 were upgraded during 2020. The Judith and Anka have been busy setting up Church Suite to update our communications system.

The church continues to rent a storage container.

	2021	2020
Administrator's salary	7810	7500
Insurance	1410	1410
Subscriptions	376	545
Telephone	340	467
Professional fees	500	500
Printing and stationery	1900	2162
Computer support	2991	5248
Rent	905	864
TOTAL	16231	18696

## 9. No 1 Building

No1 St Osyths Lane provides accommodation for a number of activities of the church and for the community projects. The building has been closed for most of the period since March 2020 although it was possible to have some activity on a limited basis when regulations permitted.

The opportunity was taken to redecorate the building whilst it was closed and we thank Ali Dean for organizing this work.

It was decided to split the utilities expenses between the No.1 building category in the general fund with the No.1 project fund therefore the expenses linked to the building are reduced.

	2021	2020
Utilities	500	2041
Cleaning	560	589
Repairs	350	1813
TOTAL	1410	4443

## 10. No 1 Project

The expenditure in this fund was £650 which depleted the balance brought forward in this fund.

## 11. Disaster Fund

This fund exists to enable a rapid response to be made by the church to financial needs arising from major disasters. Member are then encouraged to top up the fund with donations. Wherever possible donations are routed via recognised aid agencies. The sum of £3000 was re-directed from the General Fund to the Disasters Fund as the Trustees deemed that there was a great need to respond to some disasters worldwide. During the year donations were made in reaction to worldwide disasters through the following agencies.

react to worldwide disasters:

Leprosy Mission	500
Bethany Children's Trust	500
For The One	1500
Christian Aid	750
Afghan Refugees resettlement	500

## 12. Training Fund

This fund existed to provide training for volunteers. It has been decided by the Trustees to account for training from the General Fund so the fund was allowed to be depleted during the year without any further allocation of new money.

### **13. Fellowship Fund**

The fellowship Fund has been in existence for many years to provide funds for the minister to help those in the fellowship, or further afield, when in need. No donations were received into this fund during the year and £1512 was paid out to members of the fellowship.

### **14. No. 1 Roof Fund**

This fund was created some years ago to provide for the replacement of the No. 1 roof. The only expenditure was for an architect to appeal on our behalf for the roof to be allowed to be replaced with man-made tiles instead of Collyweston tiles as it is at present. A gift was made to cover this cost. Sadly, we have heard that the planning authority have refused our request and the Trustees hope to carry out the work to replace the roof at the rear of the building in 2022.

### **15. Reserves**

At 31 December 2021 the net current assets of the church amounted to £96335 of which £32967 represents restricted funds. The balance available for the general fund is £683368 which is higher than would be necessary to meet the reserves policy. The trustees consider it prudent to hold this level of reserves for three reasons. Firstly, there is likely to be significant expenditure on a youth worker in 2022 which on the budgeted projections will lead to a significant overspend in that year. Secondly there is continued concern as to future levels of income give the age profile of the church. Finally, the Covid pandemic has thrown into sharp focus the church's lack of its own substantial premises and consideration is being given to possible options which might be available and the need to consider building up reserves may become a necessity.

**OUNDLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1134043

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# Accounts

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# **Oundle Baptist Church**

## **Accounts and Trustees report**

**Year ended 31 December 2020**

## **Introduction**

Oundle Baptist Church is a registered charity, charity no 1134043 which, as stated in the Charities Act 2011, is not required to produce a full annual report, but must submit a Trustees Annual Report and Accounts the latter of which must have been independently checked. The accounts have been compiled using the accruals method and the information provided here is for general purposes only. The Trustees Annual Report on the activities of the church fellowship in 2020 is incorporated into the body of this report.

The trustees of the church during the year have changed and the current details are set out below.

## **Minister**

The Rev Martin Hills was called to the pastorate in October 2016.

## **The Trustees**

The following trustees were in post at 31 December 2020

Rev Martin Hills (Minister)

Christopher Bradley

Andrew Burgess (Secretary) co-opted December 2020

Ankia Clidas

Kelly Mayes (Treasurer during 2020)

Jane McDonald co-opted December 2020

Ann Scott (Treasurer from 1 January 2021) co-opted in December 2020

Geoffrey Walls co-opted in December 2020

Because of the extraordinary situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to hold formal church members' meetings after March 2020. The existing trustees took a decision to consult church members on co-option of trustees. Nominations were invited as per the church constitution and members were asked to indicate their views in a written consultation in November 2020.

Following that consultation and in accordance with the spirit of the constitution which requires an 80% acceptance of those voting, four candidates were invited to accept co-option to the trustees. It is the intention of the trustees that this consultation decision will be ratified as soon as it is possible to hold an in-person church members meeting.

Alison Dean, David Gent and Janet King all retired from the leadership on 31 December 2020. The church is grateful to them for their service.

## **Church office**

The church office is located at 1, St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, PE8 4BG in premises which were purchased to serve as a community outreach centre, shared with church office.

All correspondence from the charity's bank is currently addressed to the previous treasurer's home address at 36 Kings Road, Oundle, PE8 4AX

## **Affiliation**

The church is a full member of The Baptist Union of Great Britain and is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

## **Bankers**

The church maintains two accounts with Santander plc, Bridle Road, Merseyside, L30 4GB

## **Independent Examiners**

The church is required to have its accounts independently examined and for this purpose it has appointed Mr Graham Darbourne of Bulley Davey, 6 North St, Oundle, PE8 4AL.

## **Reserves policy**

The trustees are aware that the income of the church is very heavily dependent upon voluntary giving which can be extremely variable. The trustees continually monitor the level of giving and expenditure and would seek to try to maintain reserves that would equate to approximately two months of known expenditure. The extraordinary circumstances of 2020 have meant that normal worship has not been possible meaning that expenditure on premises hire and other related expenditure has not been incurred. The reserves at the end of 2020 are in excess of that amount but the trustees consider it prudent to maintain reserves at a higher level for three reasons:

- ❖ The regular income of the church is heavily dependent on members who are over 70 years of age.
- ❖ The church is planning to recruit a fulltime youth worker in 2021
- ❖ The church is currently reviewing all its options on the possibility of acquiring its own building in the town

## **Mission statement**

The Mission Statement of the church is:

Connecting to:

Jesus

Each Other

Our Communities

## **Overview of the year**

The year 2020 was dominated by the impact of the Covid 19 virus. The church congregation has not been able to meet together at Oundle Primary school since the initial lockdown was imposed in March 2020. In addition it was necessary to close No 1 St Osyth's Lane although it was possible to open it for a short period in the autumn under the social distancing rules.

The Sunday morning service quickly moved 'on-line' with a recorded worship being transmitted via Facebook and You Tube at 10.30 each Sunday. The service was generally led by our minister and his wife and we are grateful to them for all their work. We are also grateful to Dan Ward for the technical work in producing the services, to Annie and Pete Welton for providing the music and to all the members and friends who have contributed readings and prayers each week.

A number of the Connect groups have been able to hold meetings via Zoom and maintain contact in both real and virtual ways. It has not been possible to hold church members meetings but regular information evenings have been held during the year. Leadership meetings have been held via Zoom each month and regular contact has been maintained between members of the Leadership Team.

An undoubted highlight of the year was the drive-in Carol Service held on the Sunday before Christmas. We are grateful to the local Waitrose store for allowing us use of their car park and the team of people who organised and took part in the event. The service ran three times in the evening with around 40 car-loads of people present on each occasion.

Financially the church has saved money by not paying out rent for the use of the primary school but the absence of services has meant that weekly cash offerings have not been received and the consequent small donations contribution from the government has not been received. Regular giving to the church has actually increased during the year and the overall surplus on the general fund is the highest for many years.

# Report of Independent Examiner

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Oundle Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of Oundle Baptist Church, charity number 1134043, for the year ended 31 December 2020, set out on pages 5 to 12.

### 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Graham Darbourne FCA  
Bulley Davey Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
6 North Street, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4AL

Date: 30/6/21.....

## Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
<b>Income</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations and legacies (Note 3)	95956	7940	103896	85520
Gift Aid (Note 3)	15905	1202	17107	17696
Other income	172		172	355
Write off pension scheme deficit				55179
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>112033</b>	<b>9142</b>	<b>121175</b>	<b>158750</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry (Note 4)	44123		44123	44812
No 1 building (Note 9)	4443		4443	3758
Administration (Note 8)	18696		18696	16554
Youth (Note 7)	591		591	1880
Worship (Note 5)	6611		6611	13523
Giving (Note 6)	13800		13800	13900
No 1 Project (Notes 1 & 10)		150	100	1074
Training fund (Notes 1 & 13)		614	614	1388
Disaster Fund (Notes 1 & 12)		2850	2850	1500
Manse repairs Fund (Notes 1 & 2)		510	510	1585
Equipment Fund (Notes 1 & 5)		747	747	816
Fellowship Fund (Notes 1 & 14)		600	600	2678
No 1 roof (Note 1)		0	0	9629
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>88264</b>	<b>5471</b>	<b>93685</b>	<b>113097</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>23769</b>	<b>3671</b>	<b>27440</b>	<b>45653</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>				
Transfers between funds				
<b>Net income after transfer</b>	<b>23769</b>	<b>3671</b>	<b>27440</b>	<b>45653</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>656569</b>	<b>10887</b>	<b>667456</b>	<b>621803</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>680338</b>	<b>14558</b>	<b>694896</b>	<b>667456</b>

## Balance Sheet

		2020	2019	
		£	£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>			
	<b>1 &amp; 2</b>	7 Wentworth Drive	340,000	340,000
	<b>1</b>	1 St Osyth's Lane	280,000	280,000
		<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>620,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
		Santander current a/c	32543	1684
		Santander savings a/c	46990	46819
		Cash	12	48
		Prepayments	0	955
	<b>15</b>	Accounts receivable	3763	7274
		<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>83208</b>	<b>56780</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
	<b>17</b>	Accruals	1500	3250
	<b>11</b>	Agency collections	4996	500
	<b>16</b>	Accounts payable	1916	3074
		<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>8412</b>	<b>6824</b>
		<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>74896</b>	<b>49956</b>
<b>Long term liabilities</b>				
	<b>18</b>	Pension scheme liability	0	2500
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>694896</b>	<b>667456</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
<i>Unrestricted</i>				
General Fund			680338	656,569
<i>Restricted</i>				
No 1 Project			650	535
No 1 roof			3272	3,272
Disasters			3054	4,179
Training			531	1,070
Manse repair			22	532
Equipment			552	1,299
Fellowship Fund			6,477	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>694896</b>	<b>667,456</b>

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees

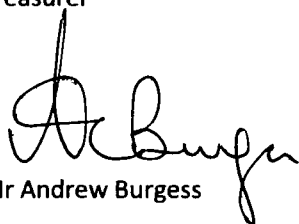


Mrs Ann Scott

Date:

25/6/2021.

Treasurer



Mr Andrew Burgess

Date:

25.6.2021

Secretary

## Fund Balances

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	656569	112033	88264			680338
<b>Sub-total for Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>656569</b>	<b>112033</b>	<b>88264</b>			<b>680338</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Project No.1	535	265	150			650
Disasters Fund	4179	1725	2850			3054
Training fund	1070	75	614			531
No 1 roof	3272	0	0			3272
Equipment	1299	0	747			552
Manse repairs	532	0	510			22
Fellowship Fund	0	7077	600			6477
<b>Sub-total restricted funds</b>	<b>10887</b>	<b>9142</b>	<b>5421</b>			<b>14558</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>667456</b>	<b>121175</b>	<b>93685</b>			<b>694896</b>

## **Report and notes to the Accounts**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS102) and the Charities Acts of 1993 and 2011. They have been based on a historic cost convention.

Incoming and outgoing resources have been recognised on an accruals basis as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The general fund operates to receive the general donations to the church and to meet the normal running expenses.

There are a number of restricted funds as follows:

- No 1 Project Fund – this is used to help specific projects being run out of the church’s community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane;
- Training Fund – this fund was established to help fund specific training for volunteers particularly but not exclusively in the area of children’s and youth work;
- Disaster Fund – this fund enables the church to make a rapid response to provide financial support in cases of national and international emergencies;
- Manse repairs fund – a donation was received in 2018 to be specifically used for repair work on the church manse at 7 Wentworth Drive;
- Equipment Fund – this fund was established out of part of the proceeds of the gift day in 2018, its purpose is to enable the church to purchase equipment for use in worship at Oundle Primary School;
- No 1 roof Fund – the roof at No 1 is in need of a major repair and because of the listed status of the building this is likely to be an expensive operation. A fund was established in 2017 to help towards this expenditure;
- Fellowship Fund- this fund has been available for a number of years to allow the Minister to provide funds for urgent needs within the wider church family. In 2020 it was decided to encourage giving to this Fund so that anyone within the church family who was affected financially by the Covid pandemic could be assisted.

We are pleased to report that the exposure of the church to the deficit in the Baptist Ministers’ Pension Fund ended during the year.

The church owns two properties – the manse at 7 Wentworth Drive and the community building at No 1 St Osyths Lane. These are both shown in the accounts at historical cost.

### **2. Manse**

The church owns the manse at 7 Wentworth Drive which is occupied by the Minister and his family. A fund was established in 2018 to help for ongoing repair work at the property. Expenditure in 2020 was mainly on the landscaping the garden and reflects the cost of materials. Thanks are due to Michael McDonald and his team of volunteer labourers who completed the hard work involved.

The expenditure under this head comprised the following:

	2020	2019
Employment costs comprising	35,232	33,512
<i>Salary</i>	<i>30960</i>	<i>29781</i>
<i>Employer's NIC</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Employer's pension costs</i>	<i>3,721</i>	<i>3,592</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>139</i>
Manse expenditure	4,321	3,206
Expenses relating to intern	1,800	7,244
Other expenses	2,770	850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,123</b>	<b>44,812</b>

## 5. Worship and teaching

Being able to meet together for regular worship is an essential part of being a church and is a key part of our mission statement in enabling us to connect to each other and to Jesus. Since March 2020 the physical meeting together as a church has been impossible because of the restrictions imposed to combat the pandemic. Members have been able to meet in small groups where regulations have permitted such gatherings but everyone has missed the weekly gathering at Oundle Primary School.

Sunday worship since March 2020 has been achieved by a recorded service which is streamed via Facebook and You Tube. The service has usually been prepared by Martin and Carita Hills and we are grateful to them for all the extra work that this has involved. We are also grateful to those who have stepped in to give them a break. The music used has been recorded by Annie and Pete Welton using the I-sing package and we appreciate the hard work that has gone into these recordings. Putting together the different parts of each service has been the responsibility of Dan Ward who has done a tremendous job. Small gifts were made to those who had been regularly involved. We are also grateful to many members and friends who have contributed Bible readings and prayers into the service. The overall quality of the services has been very high and it is worth noting that each service has been viewed on line by significantly more people than would normally attend worship at the school.

To assist with the quality of the presentation a new camera has been purchased and charged to the Equipment Fund.

Times of prayer have been held via Zoom before the Sunday worship and at 5pm on a Sunday afternoon. There has also been an opportunity for folk to join together on Zoom for a chat over coffee after the morning service on a Sunday.

In addition to the weekly services, the church has joined with St Peter's to produce a regular time of live reflection during the week. At the start of the pandemic this was done on a daily basis but has more recently settled down to a twice weekly format.

As was noted in the overview, a real highlight of the year was the 'Carols by Carlight' event on the Sunday before Christmas. We were able to use the car park at the Waitrose store by kind permission of the management and the store also provided boxes of mince pies for those attending. The pre-recorded service was shown on a large screen in the car park and up to 50 cars were permitted at each of three showings. The logistics of staging the event under the pandemic regulations required a

### **3. Giving**

The church is entirely dependent on voluntary giving to fund its activities. It receives no funding from any external source. A number of members make regular payments by standing order and the Trustees are grateful to these folk for enabling a core of funding to be available. Many of the regular donors are taxpayers and the church is able to recover tax under the Gift Aid scheme.

Additional funds come from ad hoc donations from members of the church and congregation and from the cash offering that is taken up as a part of weekly worship. The government's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has enabled a further sum to be received in respect of these cash offerings. As already noted the inability to hold weekly services in person meant that this source of income was significantly reduced during the year. (£1192 in 2020 compared to £6631 in 2019).

Overall, however, the total general donations increased by 20% in 2020 compared to 2019 and the trustees are grateful to all who have contributed in this way.

The trustees are aware that many of the regular donors are aged over 60 (62% of regular standing orders) and unless younger donors begin to increase their donations there is a long term risk to the financial viability of the funds of the church.

### **4. Ministry**

Rev Martin Hills who was appointed to the ministry of the church in 2016 has continued to lead the church and the trustees are grateful for his leadership and for the development of the vision of the church during the year. The Trustees also wish to express their thanks to his wife Carita for her support of Martin.

The employer's NIC payments have been largely covered by the government's Enterprise Allowance.

In previous years' reports mention has been made of the impact on the church of the deficit on the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund. The Trustees are pleased to report that during the year the church was able to enter into a formal agreement with the Pension Fund Trustees which brought the exposure of the church to the deficit to an end.

The church continues to pay contributions into the defined contributions scheme in respect of Martin and he also makes contributions each month.

The church provides the Minister with funds to make payments to those who may be in need.

The church is responsible for the council tax, water rates and building insurance on the manse.

The role of Mr Geoff Walls as a part time intern at the church came to an end in February 2020 following Geoff's decision not to continue. The Trustees are grateful to Geoff for the work that he contributed.

significant amount of detailed planning in the weeks before and large resources of on-site assistance on the night. We express our thanks to Stephen Illingworth who led the team and all those who worked tirelessly on the event to make it such a success.

The pandemic also meant that the regular Connect Group meetings which take place during the week could not function in people's homes. Most of the groups have been able to adapt to some form of on-line gathering as well as meeting personally where regulations allowed.

The main areas of expenditure under this heading were as follows:

	2020	2019
Premises hire	2,687	8,689
Licences	823	681
Payments to visiting speakers	0	810
Refreshments	195	786
Resources	474	627
Events	2,277	1930
Gifts	155	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,611</b>	<b>13,523</b>

## 6. Outreach and mission

The church is part of the Baptist family and provides support to the two main mission works of UK Baptists at home and overseas.

The church has continued to support the work of CROPS reaching out in Schools in Peterborough.

The church has continued to provide regular financial support to Bethany Children's Trust for its work in Africa.

The church continues to support the work of the Leprosy Mission of which one of our members is the UK director.

Support was also given to a charity- 'For the One' which has been established by the daughter of one of our members and funds work in Myanmar.

A donation of £500 was made to Gunton Baptist Church, Lowestoft where two of our former members are working in ministry. In addition we were able to take over to Lowestoft four car loads of clothing donated for use in their project to support those in need.

	2020	2019
Baptist World Mission	3,600	3,600
Baptist Home Mission	3,600	3,600
CROPS	1,000	1,000
Bethany Children's Trust	1,700	1,700
Myanmar	1,700	1,700
Leprosy Mission	1,700	1,700
Gunton Baptist Church	500	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>13,900</b>

## 7. Children and young people

During 2020 the church decided to appoint an unpaid 'children and families worker' and Mrs Carita Hills was appointed to the role in September. She has been building up contacts with children and families connected with the church and has started a number of initiatives albeit in the somewhat restricted opportunities available.

The regular activities at No 1 have been suspended since March 2020.

The Sunday morning activities for children and young people have been restarted on line at the beginning of 2021.

The church has take a decision to seek to appoint a full-time paid youth worker and it is hoped that the role will be operational from the autumn of 2021

	2020	2019
Youth expenses	334	686
Children's work	257	239
Youth weekend	0	955
TOTAL	591	1,880

## 8. Church administration

Mrs Judith Brashaw has continued to act as church administrator and manager of No 1 during the year. The Trustees are very grateful to her for all her work and in particular for the assistance she has given to Rev Martin Hills.

A number of members are involved in producing a range of communications though a website, social media and two publications. The Trustees are grateful for all their labours.

The computer facilities at No 1 were upgraded during the year

The church continues to rent a storage container.

	2020	2019
Administrator's salary	7,500	7,500
Insurance	1,410	1,390
Subscriptions	545	524
Telephone	467	330
Professional fees	500	550
Printing and stationery	2,162	2,799
Computer support	5,248	2,743
Rent	864	718
TOTAL	18,696	16,554

## 9. No 1 Building

No1 St Osyth's Lane provides accommodation for a number of activities of the church and for the community projects. The building has been closed for most of the period since March 2020 although it was possible to have some activity on a limited basis when regulations permitted.

The opportunity was taken to redecorate the building whilst it was closed and we thank Ali Dean for organizing this work.

	2020	2019
Utilities	2,041	2,112
Cleaning	589	1,291
Repairs	1813	355
TOTAL	4.443	3,758

## 10. No 1 Project

As already noted much of the work at No 1 had to be suspended for most of the year.

## 11. External donations

A restricted fund (referred to Agency) is retained to hold donations received for specific causes outside the church and where appropriate Gift Aid is reclaimed and added to this fund for onward payment.

## 12. Disaster Fund

This fund exists to enable a rapid response to be made by the church to financial needs arising from major disasters. Member are then encouraged to top up the fund with donations. Wherever possible donations are routed via recognised aid agencies. During the year donations were made as follows:

Leprosy Mission (Covid fund)	£500
Bethany Children's Trust (Covid fund)	£500
BMS World Mission (Covid fund)	£500
Trustbridge Global (Beirut explosion)	£1,000
Bethany Children's Trust to replace stolen computer	£350

## 13. Training Fund

This fund exists to help fund training for those involved in church activities primarily dealing with work among children and young people. The main item of expenditure in 2020 was for training in Makaton.

#### **14. Fellowship Fund**

The fellowship Fund has been in existence for many years to provide funds for the minister to help those in the fellowship in particular need. When the Covid pandemic developed the trustees decided to invite members to make donations to the fund to support those in the fellowship who might be hit financially by the impact of the restrictions. Donations , including Gift Aid totaled £7,077.

#### **15. Debtors and accrued income**

The accrued income represents the Gift Aid which had accrued on donations made in the final quarter of the year.

#### **16. Creditors**

Creditors outstanding at 31 December 2020 are all under one year old.

#### **17. Accrued expenses**

The fees payable to the Independent Accountants have been estimated and accrued. In 2017 accrual was made in respect of sums due for the catering for the Families Breakfast for the second half of that year. Despite repeated requests, no invoice has been received for that provision and so the accrual has been carried forward.

#### **18. Pension disclosure**

In the 2019 report it was noted that following the death of Mrs Valerie Jones, widow of our former minister the church had no continuing liability in respect of the deficit on the Baptist Minister's Pension Fund other than formally clearing the debt and paying an administration charge of £2,500.

We are pleased to report that a formal agreement was signed with the pension fund trustees during the year and the payment of £2,500 was made to clear the outstanding liability.

#### **19. Reserves**

At 31 December 2020 the net current assets of the church amounted to £74,896 of which £14,608 represents restricted funds. The cash balance available for the general fund is £60,258 which is higher than would be necessary to meet the reserves policy. The trustees consider it prudent to hold this level of reserves for three reasons. Firstly there is likely to be significant expenditure on a youth worker in 2021 which on the budgeted projections will lead to a significant overspend in that year. Secondly there is continued concern as to future levels of income give the age profile of the church. Finally the Covid pandemic has thrown into sharp focus the church's lack of its own substantial premises and consideration is being given to possible options which might be available and the need to consider building up reserves may become a necessity.