

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134511

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-02-25

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

Contact

Address Hill Cliffe Baptist Church
Red Lane
Appleton
Appleton Thorn
Warrington
WA4 5AD

Phone 01925 264903

Email office@hillcliffe.info

Website <http://www.hillcliffe.info>

Activities

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

Activities: We seek to serve God and the people of Warrington through: worship that experiences God; discipleship that encourages a Christian lifestyle; people equipped to share the relevance and reality of the life that Jesus offers; encouraging people to express their faith in Jesus through believers baptism and commitment to the local church; reaching out in caring ministries that express Christ's love.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£166,289	£167,994	-	-
2023-12-31	£164,636	£150,471	-	-
2022-12-31	£149,628	£151,004	-	-
2021-12-31	£126,878	£136,939	-	-
2020-12-31	£133,566	£145,292	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Deborah Jayne Denmade		2024-11-18
Dr Graham Robert Palmer		2022-01-17
Erica Raggett		2024-11-17
Joseph Martin		2018-11-19
STEPHEN CHARLES GRAY		
Sarah Bethan Harris		2023-03-20
Timothy Grainger		2019-11-18
Timothy Kendrick Appleton		2022-07-18

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134511

Accounts



Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

References and Administrative Details

Registered Address:- Red Lane, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5AL

Registered Charity Number:- 1134511

Trustees:- Timothy Appleton (Treasurer), Deborah Denmade (appointed November 2024), Timothy Grainger, Stephen Gray (Church Secretary), Sarah Harris, Joseph Martin, Graham Palmer, Erica Raggett (appointed November 2024), Rev Stuart McPhail (resigned September 2024), Pamela Lanca-Coelho (resigned September 2024)

Property Trustees:- Baptist Union Corporation Limited, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers:- Santander and Lloyds Bank

Independent Examiner:- Lisa Price

Annual Report for 2024

The trustees present their Annual Report for 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is an unincorporated association governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches. Members of the church are accepted in accordance with the constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ or following other modes of publicly professing their faith in Jesus Christ.

The members Meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members have appointed seven Trustees, who together with the Minister (who left part way through the year), Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in Church Meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service

and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the church shall determine.

To achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.45am and a smaller gathering at 5.30pm. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the church website at <https://www.hillcliffe.info/>. There is a full children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The church runs a series of house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The church runs a café on Friday mornings which is open to all members of the public, with the purpose of providing an inviting place to meet, making links with the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.

From time to time the church runs Alpha courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity.

The church runs various events for Young People, including groups on a Sunday, both a children's club and a youth group on a Thursday and summer camps.

The church runs a children's holiday club "Day Camp" each August for 80+ children which is open to both church families and children from the local area to attend. This involves a significant number of volunteers from the church coming together to run the event.

The church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The church holds regular Men's Breakfasts and regular Women's Ministry events.

Hospitality is a key factor of the church's life, creating a welcoming environment, including many catered events.

The church's A'Capella group has sung at various venues in the community during the year both within the church and the local community.

The church has held numerous funerals throughout the year, both for families associated with the church and for families in the local area. The church graveyard has been well maintained by a contractor along with volunteers and there have been a number of burials during the year.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2024 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2025 with renewed enthusiasm. One baptism was held during the year. At 31 December 2024 the membership stood at 100 members.

In September, we bid farewell to Stuart and Katharine McPhail. Stuart had served as Minister of the church for 12 years and moved on to serve with Katharine as co-pastors of another church in the North West. Throughout 2025 the church will enter into the Settlement process looking to appoint a new Minister. During the period without a Minister, members of the church have been involved in leading of services and preaching and fulfilling various roles and responsibilities.

Average attendance at worship services has increased during the year.

Members also served as volunteers in other local charities and organisations, including Broomfields Youth Project, Active Hope and Warrington Street Pastors. The church linked with Stockton Heath Festival to host a film night and also had a stand on the festival field. The church took part in local initiatives with wider organisations such as Bridgewater Churches Together and Church Warrington.

The church held regular slots during services to develop links with our mission partners based overseas and in the UK.

Financial Review

The church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal beyond the church was made for funds during the year. Income in 2024 was £166,289.

A significant expense related to the upkeep of church premises, in particular repairs and maintenance one-off costs.

During 2024, the church employed a Minister (until September), a part-time youth worker, a part-time office administrator and a part-time youth work intern.

The church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants totalling £32,782 to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

Total expenditure in 2024 was £167,994. The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

During 2024 the church was a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and during 2024 made ongoing deficit payments of £1 per month to cover the costs of past service of its staff within the scheme until this was no longer required.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy to enable the church to function effectively and meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost. Having considered the relevant risks of changes in income and expenditure, the Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is in the range £40,000. As at 31 December 2024, the church held total reserves of £44,280

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	2024	2023
Receipts			
Offerings	2	117,306	126,600
Income tax recovered on offerings		31,162	24,705
Youth and Children events		7,702	6,573
Rents and contributions for use of premises		1,375	880
Café and catered events		3,863	3,304
Graveyard		3,565	885
Other		909	1,172
Legacies		-	-
Interest	3	408	517
Total Receipts		166,289	164,636
Payments			
Ministry	4	71,462	74,345
Mission	5	32,782	31,043
Upkeep of church premises	6	46,401	26,538
Administration	7	4,227	3,918
Children and Youth	8	9,906	9,206
Serving, reaching and discipling	9	3,216	5,419
Total Payments		167,994	150,471
Surplus (Deficit)		(1,705)	14,166
Cash balance at previous year end		45,986	31,820
Cash balance at current year end		44,280	45,986

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		25,970	28,083
BUC deposit account		18,310	17,902
Money received not banked			
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	3,476,969	3,233,685
Total Assets		3,521,249	3,279,671
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	11		
Long Term Loans	12		
Pension Scheme liability	13	-	-
Other liabilities			
Total Liabilities		-	-

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to the year ending 31 December 2024 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Treasurer or other Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

[Date]

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of Accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and other income	2024	2023
Donations	117,306	126,520
Total Donations and Other Income	117,306	126,520

3. Investment income	2024	2023
Savings interest	408	809
Total Investment Income	408	809

4. Ministry	2024	2023
Staff stipends, NI and pension contributions	64,484	67,128
Manse costs	5,034	4,185
Study and conference expenses	1,943	1,066
Total Ministry	71,462	72,379

Stuart McPhail acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Pastor, including the provision of manse accommodation [owned by the church]

5. Mission	2024	2023
Home Mission	7,140	6,665
BMS World Mission	7,140	6,928
Christians Against Poverty	-	300
Warrington Youth For Christ	960	960
Tearfund	223	300
Active Hope	1,020	995
SIM	6,115	6,115
Broomfields Youth Project	3,400	1,700
Warrington Street Pastors	1,020	935
Sponsorship and Other mission	2,344	2,336
Engineering In Mission	2,400	2,400
Langham Partnership	-	300
Prison Fellowship	-	300
Christian Aid	-	300
TEK URA	1,020	510
Total Mission	32,782	30,533

6. Upkeep of church premises	2024	2023
Energy/Telephone	6,175	6,261
Cleaning	1,478	1,598

Insurance	5,900	3,751
Repairs and maintenance	21,214	4,838
Manse Maintenance	2,993	876
Minibus Maintenance	1,146	1,737
Graveyard Contractor	7,495	7,476
Total Upkeep of church premises	46,401	26,538

7. Administration	2024	2023
Printing and stationery	827	847
Subscriptions	3,400	3,071
Total Administration	4,227	3,918

8. Children and Youth	2024	2023
Resources and equipment	2,124	2,257
Day camp	4,935	4,543
Mission and other trips	2,847	2,406
Total children and youth	9,906	9,206

9. Serving, Reaching and discipling	2024	2023
Welcome and Stewarding	100	94
Teaching and Worship	132	391
Pastoral	-	39
Adult/Family outreach	176	2,096
Investing in leaders and discipleship	-	224
Kitchen/catering	2,807	2,575
Total Serving, reaching and discipling	3,216	5,325

10. Assets held for the Church's Own Use

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

Church Premises and Land, (Including Burial Ground), at Red Lane valued in the accounts at £2,724,672 based on insured value

Church Manse at 15A Cobbs Lane valued in the accounts at £570,320 based on insured value. In additions contents are valued at £25,000.

The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £156,977

11. Current Liabilities	2024	2023
Cheques written but not cashed	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	-	-

12. Long Term Liabilities	2024	2023
Long term liabilities	-	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-	-

13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was £255,000.

At the end of June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ('Just') to secure members' pension benefits under the Defined Benefit ('DB') Plan. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan.

The cost of such policies is largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour, particularly over the course of the last few months. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme have agreed that deficit contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Hillcliffe Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no (if any)

1134511

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Lm Price

Date:

10/9/2025

Name:

Lisa Marie Price

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

AAT

Address: 17 Wood Lane
Appleton
Warrington, WA4 3DB

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134511

Accounts

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

Annual Review of Church Ministries 2023/24



You're Welcome Here!

www.hillcliffe.info

May 2024

Introduction

Please enjoy reading this annual review of our church-led ministries at Hill Cliffe covering the period May 2023 - May 2024.

Leadership Ministries – report from Stuart McPhail

Our Leadership Team in May 2024 comprises our deacons Sarah Harris, Pam Lança Coelho, Graham Palmer, Joe Martin, and Tim Grainger - along with Steve Gray (Church Secretary), Tim Appleton (Church Treasurer), John Harper (Church Youth Worker), and Stuart McPhail (Minister). This team is called to serve the church in providing leadership for the various ministries and practical responsibilities of the church. Stuart continues to provide spiritual, pastoral and theological overview and direction for the Leadership Team and the church.

Teaching Ministry

Since May 2023, we have delivered Sunday morning teaching and prepared accompanying weekly Small Group studies on the following series (most recent first):

- Being a Disciple
- Romans 8 Verse by Verse
- The Message of Micah
- What's God Like?
- Easter Series
- Advent Series – Angel Announcements
- The Justice of Jesus
- How to Pray Like Paul
- Learning from Acts 18-21
- Praying the Psalms
- The Prayer Course
- Stand-alone teaching sermons – including Creation Care, Harvest, Mission Partners Sunday, Pentecost Sunday

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

During the Lent season we facilitated the reading together of Romans 8, verse by verse and prepared a schedule of daily prayer ideas. As in previous years we encouraged the sharing of how we sensed God speaking to us personally and corporately in Small Groups and in Church Members' meetings. The Leadership Team then discussed and prayed over the feedback to discern an emphasis for our vision in 2023-24.

Sunday Evening Prayer Gathering

A small group of people from the church have met each Sunday evening 6-7pm for coffee and prayer. It's a powerful time for meeting with God.

Church Communication

Our Private Prayer and Support Facebook page connects 82 adults across our church family for prayer and support – with 44 more receiving the updates via the email News Feeds.

The Public Hill Cliffe Facebook page has 222 friends, many of whom are not part of the church congregation. It shares news of services, events, and messages from the church to this wider community.

Our weekly E-Mail to the church family goes out to 153 adults, and this communication is printed and posted (or delivered by Leah) to those not on email each week.

My thanks also to those who have served the church in preparing communion and collecting the offering in services.

Baptisms

We were delighted to baptise Eric and Hazel during this year.

Administration Ministries – report from Leah Cross

My job is wonderful. I love dealing with all the lovely people from our church. There are lots of unpredictable one-off things that come up, but here are some of the regular tasks that I do:

- Ensure DBS checks (26 in the last year + 4 I'm currently working on) and Food & Hygiene certificates are up to date
- Maintain a stock list for many of our church consumables and re-order when necessary
- Maintain the 'News Feed' email service
- Compile and post weekly letters to those from our congregation who don't have email
- Weekly tasks of updating our website, reporting songs for our music license and gift aid reporting
- At the end of every tax year, I send letters to our gift aiders. This thanks them, as well as helps keep our records accurate, by asking them to advise us if they're no longer tax payers
- Arrange the annual Fire alarm & PAT testing as well as servicing for our Air conditioner & boiler
- Organise the Communion rota, which currently consists of a number of volunteers

I am in the church office Mon – Thurs, 9:30-2:30 and am always glad of a quick visit or ideas for improvement!

Welcome Team – report from Pam Lança Coelho

The Welcome team is the first point of contact for those attending our Sunday services and other events and demonstrates the vision of Hill Cliffe to be a place of Welcome. Meeting people with a warm smile and friendly approach is the simplest

way we can share Jesus' love with others and positively impact any experience of attending church. This ministry has been faithfully supported during the past year by 5 teams of volunteers, working on a weekly rota, who are responsible for making sure the church is a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for all seeking to encounter God and fellowship with others.

Hill Cliffe is grateful to those who have recently stepped down after a prolonged time of service and to those who have stepped up to join the team and support this ministry.

Connections Team – report from Rhys Chong

The connection team has increased in size to include 6 members now. Eleanor has now left the team.

We have been chatting with new guests as they come into church and plan on partnering them up with a connection team member to provide a contact point for the church and accompany them on their first visit. We have spoken to newcomers and they think approaching guests subtly is the preferred method of approach and no signage is needed. Providing information about the church is an idea to discuss with Stuart and the Leadership team as we have a great opportunity to impact new guests on their first visit to Hill Cliffe.

The church family are doing a great job introducing themselves to guests please keep it up. It is having a positive impact.

Graveyard and Church Grounds Maintenance - report from Peter Hindley

Buildings Maintenance - report from Stuart

Leah continues to arrange our regular compliance and maintenance checks for the church property. I'm grateful to the informal DIY maintenance team led by John Harper who have done a great job with our building upkeep. Thanks also to Keith and Liz who clean the church seats throughout the year. In that last few months we have had a roofing contractor replace our entire flat-roof structure above the church entrance, kitchen and toilets area, and they have replaced dozens of slates to the roof areas. We have some major replastering and repainting works scheduled for Chapel House.

Children's Ministries – reports from Jane Quinn

Sunday Mornings

Numbers at Junior Church have remained steady over the last year with about 30 children on the register. Our structure has remained the same also - on the first, third and fifth Sundays the children are taught all together in a Junior Church service. On the second and fourth Sundays the children are split into groups. Between April and July 2023 we continued using the GoTeach resources looking at Jacob and Joseph (Genesis), the Early Church (Acts) and Jesus beginning his ministry (Gospels).

In September we moved to using an online resource, Energize, produced by Urban Saints. It seems to have been well received and has offered the team a fresh approach to planning and delivering sessions. We have worked through series on Christian Foundations, Prayer (tying in with the whole church focus on prayer), Christmas, Jesus' "I am" statements and Lent/Easter. We are currently looking at a series on Christian commitments.

In September we also went back to splitting the children into three groups. This is ideal as it lets us focus teaching to a narrower age range and the children are in smaller groups. Sadly in April, due to a shortage of teachers, we had to revert to two groups. Hopefully this will be a short term arrangement and we are anticipating returning to three groups in June.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the whole Junior Church team for their ongoing commitment and dedication to the children at Hill Cliffe.

Day Camp 2023

Day Camp 2023 was a great week where we had 112 kids and a great team of all ages. We spent the week crafting, baking, running around, soaking each other, and plenty of silliness but most importantly learning about the life of Jesus and all joining together singing praises. We continue to be thankful for a team that work well together no matter what comes, this is an amazing mission for the whole church either in person or supporting us in prayer. We pray that the seeds and connections planted in Day Camp in both the kids and their families bear fruit; we don't always see people's journey but faithfully continue to show life in all its fullness. This year's Day Camp Core Team (Ruth Hughes, John Harper, Pam Lanca Coelho, Paul Harris and Jane Quinn) have already been meeting to plan this year's Day Camp (19th – 23rd August). Please pray about whether you could be involved this year in this amazing outreach opportunity and for the children that are attending this year.

Light Party 2023

26 children (including children from church, Excite Club and Bridgetots) attended the Light Party in October. Numbers were slightly lower than in previous years, however it was half term. The party was a great success (including a bouncy castle this year) and the talk by Andy Hayes was very well received. We had a small but effective team of adults and youth and it was great to see people of all ages working together to create a successful event.

Excite Club – report from John Harper

We meet every Thurs of the school term, from 3.45-5pm.

We have a fantastic team on Thurs afternoons, with Debbie, Laura, Eileen, Pauline, Judith, Grace (intern), John Harper (very ably assisted by Emilie, Mary, Elijah, Charlie, Luke, Dan, Fin and Zach). It is brilliant to have such a great group of young people offering to regularly serve and connect with our kids in this way. 3 of the lads are not from church backgrounds but have come through our Thurs night youth

club to serve. Pray for them, that they will have a life changing encounter with Jesus and that the other young people would encourage them to step out in faith. Anien started the year in a joint leadership role (with Laura and John) and has stepped down due to her move back to South Africa. Both Anien and her son were a great blessing to Excite Club and are missed.

We need to recruit a new adult leader for Sept 2024, so if you could be part of this, come and have a chat with me.

The numbers have increased and the makeup of the group of children changed after Day Camp last year. Now we have a 50/50 split between children who attend church with their families on Sundays and those who have never done that.

The structure of Excite Club is that the kids start by doing a craft (with Laura) or play an informal game of something else, while toast is served (by Pauline and Eileen). We gather and hear from the kids, about how their week has been and anything big that is coming up for them. Then it's an interactive teaching session and finally we have a game altogether.

We have focussed our teaching programme this year, on a video series called 'What's in the Bible?' which has led the kids through the first 7 books of the Bible so far.

There is a lot to be thankful to God for, around Excite Club, this year.

Youth Work Ministries – report from John Harper

A significant part of our youth work now involves a large number of young people and young adults volunteering and serving in various areas of ministry.

We have 8 volunteering at Excite Club, 6 (growing to 10 in Sept 24) with HC Youth Club and another 6 on a Friday Night at the Shack and on the AstroTurf. We also have 2 who come into school with us on Wednesday for our lunch time drop-ins. It is fantastic to see many of our young people signing up to help or lead at Day Camp this summer.

Grace Savage has joined our youth work (as an intern) in Jan and provided a necessary input into our ability to connect and encourage younger girls at our church. Grace has focussed a good amount of time in meeting (1 to 1) with a number of them and helping them to feel connected together at church. Grace has also made an invaluable input when it comes to getting our Social Media connections going with young people. Grace has started our HCYouth Instagram page, which will be a vital tool in connecting as we go forward.

Sunday Mornings still have 3 age specific groups but, at the request of the young people (following a survey of them in sept 23) we have often combined the 2 younger groups on a Sunday morning. This has come from a desire to be together for large parts of the morning. Therefore, we often take a full minibus down to the Shack and only split the groups (after the teaching section) for a short period, so they can chat about the topic with their peers, in smaller groups. The oldest group continue to follow the main themes of the adult morning service, while the high school age groups have a change in theme, more or less every 4 weeks. The 6th form+ group has struggled to always be viable this year, but this is mostly due to a

large group of 6th formers wanting to stay in the larger group, as they enjoy being at the Shack (altogether) more than sitting in my untidy, boring office! The ideal would be to put a 2nd floor on the Shack and have all the young people there together on a Sun morning and to split them into 3 groups, over 2 floors. As it stands the Shack doesn't have capacity to host 3 group conversations well.

Recently Cathy has stepped down after an incredible 35 years of serving our children and young people. We are so thankful to Cathy for giving her time and gifting so that our children and young people could benefit from her love, faith and hope. Cathy has regularly demonstrated so many of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, during her service and we will miss her input, but are so thankful for everything she has given to point children and young people to Jesus.

Sunday Nights have restarted this year, but with a different focus. We have used Sunday nights as a place where some of our older youth can gather and mix together with young people who wouldn't normally attend church on a Sunday morning. We have got to the point where we have launched a regular Youth Alpha on Sunday Nights at 7pm. This new group make food together, eat together and then watch the 20 min video together (with 3 breaks for questions). Pray for those who are part of this new venture.

HC Youth Club on Thurs evenings regularly has 20-30 young people involved in this weekly ministry (including the young leaders who compliment the 8 adult leaders) We have spent some of this year working our way through the questions that the young people have posed around faith (90% are not part of our church on Sunday Mornings).

45 of the wider church family were involved in attending Limitless Youth festival near Stafford in August. About 20 volunteered to help run a venue (The Hangar) and the other half were able to attend as delegates. This week gives young people a great opportunity to make space to hear from God and respond to Him.

A big word of thanks to all of our youth work volunteers who have continued to volunteer with a servant heart and great gifting.

In Youth Work we want to get back to asking the following 2 questions regularly to our young people and each other:

What is God saying to you/us? And what are you/we doing about it?

Small Group Ministries – report from Joe Martin

Our seven small groups continue to be places of discipleship, prayer, fellowship and pastoral support to our church family at Hill Cliffe. I would like to acknowledge our amazing small group leaders who faithfully serve their groups week after week.

Without their hard work and dedication our small groups would not be possible. I would also like to acknowledge and thank those (primarily Stuart) who prepare our study notes and questions every week. These notes are a real blessing to our small groups.

We have seen many of our new members of the church family engaging with small groups. This is really encouraging. However, our existing groups cannot accommodate unlimited numbers and I am keen to identify potential new leaders

to establish new groups to ensure we have capacity for the entire church family to be part of a group.

At Christmas Sarla stepped back from running the Ladies small group. Thanks to Emily and Sarah who have stepped up to lead that group.

Eleanor's move to Harrogate has left huge gaps in many areas of church ministry including the small group she was leading. I'm glad to report that this group will continue under new leadership. More on that will follow in coming weeks as we formalise the new arrangements.

Please pray for our small groups and their leaders. Small groups are a foundational part of our church structure. They are primary sources of spiritual growth and pastoral care. As such, I would encourage everyone to engage with a group. I firmly believe that God blesses those who prioritise Him in their lives.

Hill Cliffe Women – report from Sarah Harris

This year women's ministry has been relaunched under the umbrella of "Hill Cliffe Women", led by Sarah Harris and Pam Lanca Coelho. The aim is to have a range of events, led by various women within the church community, rather than a one-size-fits all event. So far we have had film trips and an invitation to attend a women's conference, with an open garden event planned later this summer. The hope is that this umbrella model will encourage new ideas and share the load of organisation, whilst simultaneously offering more and varied opportunities for women to connect. Pam and Sarah will continue to be the point of contact for event ideas, with details shared on the website as well as by email and welcome conversations with anyone who has an idea they wish to explore.

Men's Ministry – report from Graham Palmer

This continues with a steady number of around 15-20 men of differing ages and backgrounds on a Saturday morning.

The team consists of Joe, Keith and Graham, helped by the kitchen team of Colin, Dan and this year Parth.

We try to meet monthly but at times has been alternate months due to availability. The format is unchanged. Usually, we start with a time of reflection, often based on Stuart's teaching series. Then we enjoy a time of fellowship and a lovely breakfast, followed up by a period of prayer.

Prayer is a particularly important feature, especially after our focus on developing prayer as a church over the last 12 months, and we will continue to make this central to our time.

We welcome all men of Hill Cliffe to join us from 8 to 9am or longer.

Worship Ministries – report from Tim Grainger

I'm grateful to be able to work with such a helpful team and to have to very able worship leaders, Andy and Laura to work alongside. We have a good amount of folks helping across the teams, however there is always a need for more support on sound, AV and camera as if we have a week when someone is unexpectedly not

available that can stretch those already involved. Please do consider if you are able to get involved.

It is encouraging to see the congregation really engaging with the worship, it is noticeable how in the past year or so there seems to be a growing sense of participation.

Our practice time is generally quite limited, restricted to a Sunday morning. The reason for that is that we cannot find an evening in the week that suits for a practice due often to other church meetings such as home groups and family commitments. In due course we may be able to expand upon our practice time. Prayer would be appreciated for new worship leaders to come through. Whilst I really enjoy leading, Sundays can be very tiring, and it would be good as well to have new people involved bringing a freshness to worship.

Ultimately God is faithful and pours out such grace that it is a privilege to be involved in facilitating worship at church.

Finance Ministries – report from Tim Appleton

Accounts year ending 31 December 2023.

The year ended with an income of £164,636 and with £149,628 of expenditure. This is a Surplus of £14,166 for the year. This is the first time since the Coronavirus Pandemic that we have recorded a surplus. It should be recorded that regular giving from those within the church has increased and additionally during 2023 there were a number of generous one-off gifts from those attending the church. Our expenditure was lower than expected mainly due to the works on the roof not being completed. This work, and its cost has therefore transferred to 2024. Since the budget was set for 2024 a number of additional maintenance needs have been identified, including repairs to the rendering on Chapel House and, work to repair the damage done to the church drive by tree roots. Alongside the additional expense, we will need to continue to balance our accounts in the coming years and rebuild our savings a little. The Pandemic showed us how important it is to be financially resilient.

As a church we want to be good stewards of what God gives us but also to be generous. In 2023 we gave £31,043 to a number of missions, ministries, and charities, locally, nationally, and globally. This equates to 19% of our income. In 2023 we chose to continue to support mission partners to whom we have longstanding commitments. Also, we have restructured the remainder of our regular giving to allow us to be prudent with what we have, and with freedom to react as finances improve.

Without the generous giving of our church members, both regular donations and one-off gifts, we would not have a church. My personal thanks to every one of you. Thank you for the value you place on Hill Cliffe and all the things it is to you, our community, and our mission partners around the World.

Outreach Ministries

Local Mission/ Outreach Partnerships – update from Stuart

We continue to partner with several local outreach ministries – including Bridgewater Churches Together; Walking Day; Church Warrington; BYP; Active Hope; YFC; Street Pastors; The Church at Creamfields - providing volunteer, prayer and (at times) financial assistance from our church to support them.

Stockton Heath Festival – report from Pam Lança Coelho

In July we opened up our Church to the local community as we participated in the Stockton Heath Festival, hosting The Primary Schools Gospel Concert and a community film night. Tickets to the Gospel Concert sold out quickly and saw children from local schools perform a selection of gospel songs to a packed audience, predominantly made up of their relatives, friends and school personnel. This event presented a valuable opportunity to convey the gospel message to the audience with the Christian significance of the selected songs and their contemporary relevance being communicated throughout the evening. All the participating children were presented with a medal for taking part and were invited along with the adults, to enjoy refreshments that had been generously provided by the Hill Cliffe church family.

The Film Night was another ticketed event forming part of the festival program and was equally well attended, with Hill Cliffe providing refreshments to all who came along. Both events showed Hill Cliffe to be a place of Welcome where the Good News of Jesus is lived out and shared with our community.

The Church gazebo was present on the festival field during the weekend and was in a great central location, allowing passers-by to learn of Hill Cliffe's ministries, accept invitations to Church events, ask for prayer or simply chat while their children engaged with the craft table. Prayer requests were shared with the wider church family during the weekend which added valuable support to the work of our church on mission in the community. Hill Cliffe's presence on the festival field is a great opportunity to connect with festival goers, share faith and represent our Church family to the people in our area who are loved immeasurably by our gracious God.

Thanks must be extended to all who helped at these events and supported the vision of Hill Cliffe to be a place of welcome to all.

Stockton Heath Walking Day – report from Pam Lança Coelho

In July Hill Cliffe had the privilege of leading the service in Alexandra Park before the procession began. The theme for the walk was based on Jesus' 'I am' statements from the gospel of John and Stuart provided a short message on this theme to the gathered walkers from the participating local churches accompanied by Hill Cliffe musicians who lead the worship. As the procession made its way through Stockton Heath each church carried a banner powerfully declaring the promises of Jesus to all who lined the streets to watch the walk and we continue to pray for the impact of this witness to bear fruit in our community.

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to be road marshals and help with the staging set-up in the park, without whose help this valuable event could not take place.

Hill Cliffe Café – report from Amy Harper

This year cafe has gone from strength to strength where each Friday morning the church is opened up to the community, offering a warm and vibrant atmosphere, and of course the spectacular range of homemade cakes.

We welcome a mix of people, ages, and backgrounds and were recently treated to a Japanese piano recital!

We are entirely reliant on our committed, faithful team both in person on a Friday and those generously baking.

Pam has understandably stepped down and was taking a lead on the sanctuary space. It would be wonderful to consider how to facilitate next steps for people on their faith journey.

Creation Care – report from Paul Harris

The Creation Care group has a committed group of 7 members, led by Paul, Lynda and Janet. We have continued to meet this year to explore ways we can help look after God's world - as a church, as individuals and using our influence in the wider community. So far we have led a service, run a swapping event and post weekly eco tips in the newsletter, as well as make changes to our recycling system. We have lots more ideas in the pipeline, both big and small! Please keep a look out for what's coming next and get in touch if you would like to get more involved.

World Mission Ministries – report from Mary Evans

Part of our role as disciples of Jesus, individually and corporately is to take up the challenge Jesus gave us to 'go into all the world' to make other disciples, encouraging and enabling them (Matt. 28:19, Acts 1:8). We can't all go, but we all can and maybe must be involved in praying and giving so that the whole global church that we belong to, can be strengthened. . So, looking back over the past year what have we at Hill Cliffe been doing to fulfil the commission that Jesus gave us.

We have supported organizations like Tear Fund, Christian Aid and Fair Trade. But we have had special personal commitments to our own Church members, Stephanie Darling and Nick and Liz Byles, and to BMS World Mission.

Stephanie works with SIM in Malawi. In the last year her role has developed in a new direction. She is no longer working predominantly at the Bible College, although she is still involved there, but is now concentrating more in a new developing, developing and training the churches in helping the healing from the trauma that has been so prevalent in Malawi in recent years, caused amongst other things by a number of ongoing natural and human-caused disasters. She is very good at keeping us informed about what is going on over there and I know many of the church members pray for her and her work on a regular basis. It would be lovely if

some of the newer members who haven't met Stephanie could send her a message introducing themselves!

Nick and Liz who worked for several years in Cambodia, latterly with Engineering Ministries International, are now based in the UK. Nick is involved in project management of a number of EMI projects round the world, supporting and mentoring the teams on the ground. Most of that is done on-line but involves trips at times to different sites – the next one is likely to be to Central America. It has been good that we have had chance to hear from them personally about the work that they have been doing. If you are new to the church do take the time to ask them about it, so you can pray specifically for them.

We are also committed as a church to support BMS World Mission, primarily through supporting specific Mission Partners. In the past we have supported, amongst others, Arthur and Louise Brown who worked in Lebanon, Paul Roach who worked in Asia and later India, and more recently Dan and Annie Dupree in Albania. We are still supporting and praying for the Tek Ura project there that Dan and Annie founded and developed. However as the church in Albania has grown so much in recent years, BMS has withdrawn from sending UK missionaries there and Dan and Annie, though still linked with Tek Ura are no longer with BMS and are based now in the UK.

I have therefore been negotiating with BMS for us to find a new Mission Partner. They have made two suggestions that link in with our previous connections. They are now trying to develop a whole world concept where mission partners might not be from the UK so that we really are partnering with the whole world. The two suggestions are Oksana (not her real name for security reasons) who has recently gone out to Asia and after language learning and orientation will be doing work very similar to that of Paul Roach when he was in Asia. The second suggestion is a Lebanese man who is working with leadership and development in one of the organisations that Arthur and Louise Brown were involved with.

Both countries are very difficult countries to live and work in at the moment. They will probably not be able to visit Hill Cliffe, but in today's world contact via Zoom is so easy that we will be able to learn about them and know their needs for prayer by visual as well as written means. More details about them both will be included for you to look at and pray about before the church meeting so that a decision can be made at that time.

Pastoral Support Ministries – report from Graham Palmer

Stuart and Graham Palmer oversee this ministry.

Following teaching from Stuart we have as a church encouraged an atmosphere whereby, we all try and look out for one another pastorally, so called one-another ministry. House group is an example where this takes place on a weekly basis, through chat and prayer.

Of course, there are occasions where Stuart is involved from the outset, particularly in serious illness, bereavement, or spiritual matters.

Stuart and Graham meet periodically to review the church congregational list to identify if support is needed and how this might be achieved, so that we hope to be proactive and reactive.

Hill Cliffe church website summarises this on the Pastoral Support page, and also has information on trusted professional agencies which can signpost people as appropriate.

Over the last 12 months we have developed a Hill Cliffe Practical Support Group. Currently this has a membership of 19 people, who have volunteered to be available to help in a variety of practical ways. Examples this year include providing lifts to take people to hospital or doctors' appointments. Also providing meals for individuals and families who for whatever various reasons are having difficulties. The baton of looking after Prayer Chain has passed from Eleanor to Deborah. We are grateful to Eleanor for many years of faithful service and to Deborah for taking this forward. After much prayer, Deborah has renewed and refreshed Prayer Chain, now *Praying Hands, Praying Hearts*. We'll be hearing more about this in the coming days. Our grateful thanks to all those who support this ministry.

Funeral and Graveyard Support

We are very grateful to Stephen Kent along with Leah who have taken on the administrative and coordinative responsibilities for this ministry. Stephen also acts as the point of contact for funeral directors, bereaved families, and graveyard enquiries.

Church Membership at Hill Cliffe:

There are 3 key elements to how we describe Membership at Hill Cliffe.

Church Members are:

COMMITTED – to our Church Family, our Church Covenant (Values), our shared Vision Emphasis and our Leadership.

INVOLVED – in our Church Family Gatherings, Ministries and Vision

INVESTING – in our Church Family Resources and Vision Emphasis

If you would like to explore becoming a member at Hill Cliffe please contact Stuart

Annual Church Covenant:

The Church Members at Hill Cliffe have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. Please see *Appendix 1* below for the Annual Covenant.

This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family.

What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly. The Church Members are requested to make a fresh commitment to this Covenant each year at our AGM.

Appendix 1: Annual Church Covenant

Annual Church Covenant

As a Church Membership we have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family. What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly.

We will make our new covenant at our AGM Church Meeting. Because we take this joint-commitment seriously, If you are not able to make it to that meeting, please indicate the renewal of your covenant via email to Steve Gray, steve.gray@hillcliffe.info or in writing a brief note.

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church's Church Values

1. We are a Worshipping Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Maintaining a close relationship with God through regular Bible reading, prayer and spiritual disciplines.
- Striving to live a life that glorifies Jesus with my whole life, submitting to the authority of God's Word as the final arbiter on all issues.
- Honouring God in all my relationships – in private, in public, in the home, in the workplace, or in the church – in my words and my actions.
- Worshipping God together in the gathering of our church family on Sundays and in the various other family gatherings for prayer, ministry and fellowship.
- Worshipping God in actively participating in obeying His missionary call.

John 4:23,24; 1 Corinth 12:11-13; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15,16; 1 Thess 2:8; Psalm 119:2

2. We are a Missionary Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Actively participating in God's missionary call to 'go and make disciples of all nations', in my family, my neighbourhood and my workplace.
- Sharing my hope in the One who is the way, the truth and the life.
- Actively supporting our missionaries and mission partners across the world in prayer and financial support.

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:13-16; Phil 2:12-18

3. We are a Holy Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Walking in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ who has saved me that I can live a new life in the Holy Spirit.
- Striving to live with integrity, honesty and faithfulness in all my relationships, loving and forgiving others as I have been loved and forgiven by God.
- Striving to maintain the unity in Christ amongst God's family at Hill Cliffe, refusing to gossip and back-bite, but rather honouring one another in the Lord.

- Striving to honour Jesus by avoiding involvement in anything we know contradicts God's Word and ideals.
- Seeking to put off the old nature and the sins against the body, such as sexual immorality, adultery, sex outside of marriage, pornography, gluttony, drunkenness, etc.
- Seeking to honour, preserve and protect the gift of marriage and God's ideals for marriage in our church family.
- Submitting to the loving discipline of the Holy Spirit and God's Word in confession, repentance and restoration when we sin.

Ephesians 5:1-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 1 Peter 1:13- 2:2; Romans 6:12

4. We are a Sacrificial Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Sacrificing my time and comfort in serving our family at Hill Cliffe – in prayer, encouragement, care for the needy, in hospitality and in love.
- Sacrificing my money, time, gifts and talents in actively participating in the growth of the Kingdom of God.
- Sacrificing myself in identifying with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless.
- Sacrificing my time and comfort in purposefully serving the needs of the aliens and strangers, the vulnerable and the needy in our society in the love of Christ.

Romans 12:1; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinth 9:7; 1 John 2:2

5. We are a Prophetic Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Seeking to encourage and bless my church family in speaking and acting prophetically as I am led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and guided by God's Word and our Church leaders.
- Seeking to speak and act prophetically in our wider society in tune with godly wisdom, justice and grace – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly concepts of power, wealth, status and security.

Romans 16:25-27; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 2:17-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 13:1-3; Phil 2:12-18

6. We are an Inclusive Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Helping ensure that the gospel and the church transcend the barriers of language, race, class, age, gender and culture in the Christ-like love of God.

John 3:16-21; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9,10

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	2023	2022
Receipts			
Offerings	2	126,600	115,423
Income tax recovered on offerings		24,705	22,595
Youth and Children events		6,573	6,916
Rents and contributions for use of premises		880	660
Café and catered events		3,304	-
Graveyard		885	1,360
Other		1,172	2,382
Legacies		-	-
Interest	3	517	292
Total Receipts		164,636	149,628
Payments			
Ministry	4	74,345	72,379
Mission	5	31,043	32,695
Upkeep of church premises	6	26,538	29,511
Administration	7	3,918	3,500
Children and Youth	8	9,206	9,516
Serving, reaching and discipling	9	5,419	3,403
Total Payments		150,471	151,004
Surplus (Deficit)		14,166	(1,376)
Cash balance at previous year end		31,820	33,196
Cash balance at current year end		45,986	31,820

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		28,083	14,435
BUC deposit account		17,902	17,093
Money received not banked			
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	3,233,685	1,540,142
Total Assets		3,279,671	1,571,670
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	11		
Long Term Loans	12		
Pension Scheme liability	13	-	-
Other liabilities			
Total Liabilities		-	-

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to the year ending 31 December 2023 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Treasurer or other Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

[Date]

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of Accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and other income	2023	2022
Donations	126,520	115,423
Total Donations and Other Income	126,520	115,423

3. Investment income	2023	2022
Savings interest	809	292
Total Investment Income	809	292

4. Ministry	2023	2022
Staff stipends, NI and pension contributions	67,713	67,128
Manse costs	4,131	4,185
Study and conference expenses	2,502	1,066
Total Ministry	74,345	72,379

Stuart McPhail acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Pastor, including the provision of manse accommodation [owned by the church]

5. Mission	2023	2022
Home Mission	6,665	6,000
BMS World Mission	6,928	6,000
Christians Against Poverty	300	720
Warrington Youth For Christ	960	960
Tearfund	300	720
Active Hope	995	960
SIM	6,115	6,115
Broomfields Youth Project	1,700	1,700
Message Trust	-	60
Warrington Street Pastors	935	960
Mission Aviation Fund	-	60
Open Doors	-	60
Sponsorship and Other mission	2,336	4,000
Engineering In Mission	2,400	2,400
Langham Partnership	300	660
Prison Fellowship	300	660
Christian Aid	300	660
TEK URA	510	-
Total Mission	31,043	32,695

6. Upkeep of church premises	2023	2022
Energy/Telephone	6,261	8,661
Cleaning	1,598	1,178
Insurance	3,751	3,605
Repairs and maintenance	4,838	8,345
Equipment		
Manse Maintenance	876	198
Minibus Maintenance	1,737	295
Graveyard Contractor	7,476	7,230
Total Upkeep of church premises	26,538	29,511

7. Administration	2023	2022
Printing and stationery	847	970
Subscriptions	3,071	2,531
Total Administration	3,918	3,500

8. Children and Youth	2023	2022
Resources and equipment	2,257	1,221
Day camp	4,543	4,402
Mission and other trips	2,406	3,893
Total children and youth	9,206	9,516

9. Serving, Reaching and discipling	2023	2022
Welcome and Stewarding	94	131
Teaching and Worship	391	25
Pastoral	39	124
Adult/Family outreach	2,096	966
Investing in leaders and discipleship	224	
Kitchen/catering	2,575	2,158
Total Serving, reaching and discipling	5,419	3,272

10. Assets held for the Church's Own Use

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

Church Premises and Land, (Including Burial Ground), at Red Lane valued in the accounts at £2,632,505 based on insured value

Church Manse at 15A Cobbs Lane valued in the accounts at £449,520 based on insured value

The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £151,660

11. Current Liabilities	2023	2022
Cheques written but not cashed		
Total Current Liabilities	-	-

12. Long Term Liabilities	2023	2022
Long term liabilities	-	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-	-

13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was £255,000.

At the end of June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ('Just') to secure members' pension benefits under the Defined Benefit ('DB') Plan. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan.

The cost of such policies is largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour, particularly over the course of the last few months. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme have agreed that deficit contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Hillcliffe Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023 Charity no
(if any) 1134511

Set out on pages

1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Lisa Marie Price

Date: 23/09/2024

Name: Lisa Marie Price

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT

Address: 17 Wood Lane
Appleton
Warrington, WA4 3DB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

[Empty box for disclosure details]

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134511

Accounts

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

Annual Review of Church Ministries 2022/23



You're Welcome Here!

www.hillcliffe.info

May 2023

Introduction

Please enjoy reading this annual review of our church-led ministries at Hill Cliffe covering the period May 2022 - May 2023.

Leadership Ministries – report from Stuart McPhail

We were delighted to add Tim Appleton (Treasurer) and Sarah Harris (deacon) to our Leadership Team this year, and have Pam and Tim Grainger re-elected as deacons. Our Leadership Team in May 2023 comprises our deacons Sarah, Pam, Graham, Joe, and Tim G - along with Steve (Church Secretary), Tim A (Church Treasurer), John (Church Youth Worker), and Stuart (Minister). This team is called to serve the church in providing leadership for the various ministries and practical responsibilities of the church. Stuart continues to provide spiritual, pastoral and theological overview and direction for the Leadership Team and the church.

During the course of the past review year, Bryan Hancock decided to step back from the Leadership Team in readiness for his and Jackie's relocation to Devon, and Anne Hall stepped back from the team to give opportunity for her health to recover. We are very grateful to Bryan and Anne for their faithful service to the church as part of the Leadership Team.

The Church members commended Katharine McPhail to the Baptist Ministry Ordination interview process with the NWBA. Following her successful interview, the church members agreed to support Katharine financially towards the funding of her Baptist Leadership Programme for the duration of her 3-years as a Minister in Training. She is currently on placement with Hoole Baptist Church in Chester.

From a personal and family point of view, the need for Katharine to relocate to Chester to conduct her Minister in Training placement has, as you can imagine, had a significant impact on us after leading together in Hill Cliffe for most of the last 10 years, and always worshipping together in church as a family.

Teaching Ministry

Since May 2022, we have delivered Sunday morning teaching and prepared complementary weekly Small Group studies on the following series (most recent first):

- Enjoying God
- Jesus on Trial (From each of the 4 Gospels)
- Called to be Different – Studies in 1 Peter
- Advent - Introducing Jesus (From each of the 4 Gospels)
- Faith for Uncertain Times
- Creation Care

- The Story of Jonah
- Summer Psalms
- The Book of Acts - Following God's Lead
- Stand-alone teaching sermons

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

During the Lent season we facilitated the reading together of Mark's Gospel and prepared a schedule of daily prayer ideas. As in previous years we encouraged the sharing of how we sensed God speaking to us personally and corporately in Small Groups and in Church Members' meetings. The Leadership Team then discussed and prayed over the feedback to discern an emphasis for our vision in 2023-24.

Sunday Evening Prayer Gathering

A small group of people from the church have met each Sunday evening 6-7pm for coffee and prayer. It's a powerful time for meeting with God.

Church Communication

Our Private Prayer and Support Facebook page connects 78 adults across our church family for prayer and support – with around 45 more receiving the updates via the email News Feeds.

The Public Hill Cliffe Facebook page has 201 friends, many of whom are not part of the church congregation. It shares news of services, events, and messages from the church to this wider community.

Our weekly E-Mail to the church family goes out to 145 adults, and this communication is printed and posted (or delivered by Leah) to those not on email each week.

Welcome Team and Connection Team at Church Services

Under Pam's (Welcome Team) and Rhys' (Connection Team) leadership these teams have welcomed and connected many new people and many returning people to the church family during this last year – most of whom have become part of the church community.

My thanks also to those who have served the church in preparing communion and collecting the offering in services.

New Members

We were delighted to welcome the following 9 new members this year (May '22-23):

Graveyard and Church Grounds Maintenance - report from Peter Hindley

This year has been a little bit of ups and downs with Graham and myself having radiotherapy for cancer and also me having a date cancelled for an operation. Many thanks to Graham Palmer for taking over the work around the church until I recover from my operation - God willing it won't be cancelled again. Once again, we have sown more windflower seeds around the graves and also in front of the church entrance.

[In t](#)he area opposite the church entrance Bridgetots have planted 3 trees in memory of the Queen's Jubilee, although late planting due to a problem finding the trees that Stan advised them to buy.

Over the last 12 months Stan and myself have recovered more graves so that Stan can complete a new survey of the graves that are not on the original plans. Stan once again provides his machines for me to cut the field free of any charge to the church. The retaining wall that we started to repair is proving more work than first thought so with this in mind we plan to have a work party later this year. The work will be carried out on a Saturday so if you're free on a Saturday in Autumn to help for a few hours or even all day please let me know so this can be planned.

After Bryan finished volunteering as he is moving to Devon, Euan Hall is now working with the team on Tuesdays. Many thanks to everyone on the team for all their hard work over the last twelve months. I say this every year, but it is important for the church know how much Stan works hard keeping the grave yard well maintained and keeping the car park clean and tidy.

Children's Ministries – report by Jane Quinn

Sunday Mornings

June 2022 finally saw Junior Church returning to something similar to pre-Covid arrangements. On the first, third and fifth Sundays the children are taught altogether in a Junior Church service. On the second and fourth Sundays the children are split into two groups (Excite Infants and Excite Juniors). We have continued to use the GoTeach resources and over the course of the year have covered themes including Daniel, Genesis, parables, Christmas, Abraham, the early life of Jesus and Easter.

We have 30 children on the register and overall numbers attending Junior Church each week have increased since Covid. The children's enthusiasm and participation levels remain high. We continue to be blessed with an excellent team of ever faithful teachers and helpers however we are operating on a 'just enough' model and would benefit from new volunteers to join the team. The biggest change to the Junior Church team this year was Bryan Hancock stepping down and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his immense and invaluable contribution and dedication to Junior Church over many years.

Day Camp 2022

It was fabulous to once again be able to run Day Camp after two years missing due to Covid. The week was absolutely fabulous! The team was made up of young and old, new to Day Camp and those with many years of experience and they all pulled together to facilitate a fantastic experience for over 100 children. We had baking, crafts, gardening, engineering and water games to name just a few and spread through the whole week we shared the good news of Jesus through our words and actions. Day Camp is a great week not just for the children but for the team who also deepened relationships with each other and with Jesus.

This year's Day Camp Core Team (Ruth Hughes, Laura Chong, Pam Lanca Coelho, John Harper and Jane Quinn) have already been meeting to plan this year's Day Camp (21st – 25th August). Please pray about whether you could be involved this year in this amazing outreach opportunity and the children you could invite to come along.

Light Party 2022

33 children (including children from church, Excite Club and Bridgetots) attended the Light Party in October. Despite being let down by the bouncy castle at the last minute, the party was a great success and the talk by Andy Hayes was very well received. It was also fantastic to see so many of the Youth serving at the event.

Excite Club (report by John Harper)

A fantastic team has developed since sept 2022 when we brought back Excite Club on a [Thursday](#) afternoons. We meet every [Thursday](#) of the school term, from 3.45-5pm.

Bryan Hancock started the year in a joint leadership role and has stepped down due to his upcoming relocation. While we miss Bryan's leadership, gifting, character and commitment, it has been a blessing to see how the team has developed to ensure there isn't a void in his absence.

We have had a consistent group of largely churched primary school aged pupils attend (about 80%) and while there is room to grow in size, this year has partly been about laying down good foundations for next year.

We have focussed our teaching programme on the alphabet of Jesus and every week we have covered a letter which highlights something of who Jesus is.

Youth Work Ministries – report from John Harper

Sunday Mornings 3 age specific groups are functioning well and well attended. The oldest group continue to follow the main themes of the adult morning service, while the high school age groups have a change in theme, more or less every 4 weeks.

Bible Study on Friday Evening has changed. It is now largely hosted at church and sometimes at the Shack. Young people attend after school, sharing a meal together. This really helps young people to get to know one another as family and to get to know God's word. We see this as an important part of discipleship for young people in the same way that we see small groups fulfilling a key role for adults at our church. Worship n' Wait has moved and is now part of our [Friday](#) Night. Its purpose is to offer space for young people to worship and spend time with God, listening to His prompting and being encouraged to respond.

HC Youth Club on Thurs evenings regularly has 20-30 young people involved in this weekly ministry (including the young leaders who compliment the 8 adult leaders) We have spent some of this year working our way through the rest of Matthew's gospel as we want to introduce the young people (90%+ are not part of our church in any other ministry) to Jesus. This term we are now attempting to address their questions to God in our talks.

In Oct 22 we ran a Residential at Quinta (Shropshire), where we partnered with NWBA and targeted our younger half of youth. This was a fantastic weekend where a number of young people from [Thurs](#)day nights, who don't regularly attend on Sundays, were exposed to worship (and responded in a really positive way) and were given opportunities to hear the [G](#)ospel and have time afterwards to consider its call on their lives. We are planning to run this residential again in 2023. 48 of the wider church family were involved in attending the first ever Limitless Youth festival near Stafford. About 20 volunteered to help run a venue and the other half were able to attend as delegates. This week gives young people a great opportunity to make space to hear from God and respond to Him.

It is fantastic to see many of our young people signing up to help or lead at Day Camp this summer and we now have 4 year 8 and [year](#) 9 boys helping to run Excite Club on [Thurs](#)day afternoons.

A big word of thanks to all of our youth work volunteers who have continued to volunteer with a servant heart and great gifting.

In Youth Work we continue to try to ask the following 2 questions regularly to our young people and each other:

What is God saying to you/us? And what are you/we doing about it?

Small Group Ministries – report from Joe Martin

We currently have 8 small groups at Hill Cliffe. All our groups successfully continue to be places of discipleship, prayer, fellowship and pastoral support. It's great knowing that we've got such fantastic leaders that are willing to work so hard to serve and support their groups. I'm frequently encouraged when I hear how valued our small groups are by our church family.

Over recent months there has been an effort to encourage more of the church family to attend small groups. This has been done through ministry focus on Sunday mornings and by personal invitation by group leaders. This has seen a measure of success to the extent that we now have very limited spaces in existing groups with several groups at capacity.

For very practical reasons, the long-established group coordinated by Bryan, Jackie and Joy is no longer meeting. The group lead by Tim and Jenny has re-launched on Wednesday nights and this will create some extra spaces. However, as the church continues to grow, it is likely we will need yet more capacity. We really don't want to get into a position where we have people wanting to join a group but can't due to the lack of space. Please pray into this issue specifically.

Small groups are an important and integral part of church life at Hill Cliffe. They provide a fantastic opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and with others within his church. They are places where we can learn and grow in our faith. Small groups are a place of trust and support and form the primary pastoral support system within the church. If you're not already part of a small group, I would really encourage you join one. Please speak to me, or any of our small group leaders who would be happy to help you.

Men's Ministry – report from Graham Palmer

We continue mostly monthly to meet for breakfast early on a Saturday morning. Joe Martin, Keith Curtis and Graham Palmer help to plan depending on availability, ably assisted by Colin Webb and Dan Whitehead working hard in the kitchen. Numbers have been around 15-20 and a fairly consistent group have enjoyed a time of food, fellowship and prayer in the presence of God.

Sometimes a reflection has been shared at the start. And recently God has laid on Joe's heart that we should be encouraging our men to pray more, for ourselves our families and church. We will be continuing this theme during the year, aiming to enable all of us to be more comfortable in praying in this setting and also in church. Feedback from those attending is always good.

We invite and welcome men of Hill Cliffe to join us at any of our meetings. Just have a word with one of us!

Worship Ministries – report from Tim Grainger

I'm grateful to be able to work with such a helpful team and to have to very able worship leaders, Andy and Laura to work alongside. We have good depth in terms of numbers across most aspects of the worship ministry and week on week we are able to facilitate the congregation in worship. We were sorry to see Katharine stand down from her role as worship leader as she is now a Baptist Minister in Training in

Hoole Baptist Church, but she remains in our thoughts and prayers and has left a good and meaningful legacy.

One of the great encouragements is that the congregation really seem to enjoy the worship, and whilst we can encourage even more freedom in this regard, it's great to be able to hear people's voices on a Sunday morning.

It is important to say that a great deal [of](#) work goes on behind the scenes to make sure that a Sunday morning service happens and so please do continue to pray for and pass your encouragement on to all members of the worship team, which very much includes the AV, sound and camera teams. We are all part of the team.

It had been a real encouragement to hear that some of the new folks attending recently initially watched the livestream and then decided to attend in person. The livestream therefore continues for the moment to have a helpful place in the worship ministry.

Please pray for protection for our worship team members. We are on the 'front line' when we lead worship or are involved in the tech teams, and often Sunday afternoons or Mondays can be a time of feeling a little low. Please also pray for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as we lead the congregation, that God would be glorified and be completely central in all we do.

Finance Ministries – report from Tim Appleton

Accounts year ending 31 December 2022.

The year ended with an income of £149,628 and with £151,004 of expenditure. This is a deficit of £1,376 for the year, much lower than the previous 2 years which were heavily impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic. At the end of December 2022 we held £31,820 in our current and savings accounts combined.

We will need to look to balance our accounts in the coming years and rebuild our savings a little. The Pandemic showed us how important it is to be financially resilient.

As a church we want to be good stewards of what God gives us but also to be generous. In 2022 we gave £32,695 to a number of missions, ministries, and charities, locally, nationally, and globally. This equates to 22% of our income. In 2023 we have chosen to continue to support mission partners to whom we have longstanding commitments. Also, we have restructured the remainder of our regular giving to allow us to be prudent with what we have, and with freedom to react as finances improve.

In September 2022 Ruth Hughes, after many years as treasurer began handing over the role to myself. She has been super supportive during the hand-over period. She has been diligent, hardworking, faithful, and selfless throughout her time as treasurer and is an extremely tough act to follow.

Without the generous giving of our church members, both regular donations and one-off gifts, we would not have a church. My personal thanks to every one of you.

Thank you for the value you place on Hill Cliffe and all the things it is to you, our community, and our mission partners around the World.

Outreach Ministries

Local Mission/ Outreach Partnerships – update from Stuart

We continue to partner with several local outreach ministries – including Bridgewater Churches Together; Walking Day; Church Warrington; BYP; Active Hope; YFC; Street Pastors; The Church at Creamfields - providing volunteer, prayer and (at times) financial assistance from our church to support them.

Stockton Heath Festival – report from Pam

In July we once again opened up our Church to the local community as we participated in the Stockton Heath Festival. The Primary Schools Gospel Concert saw children from local schools perform a selection of gospel songs to a packed audience, predominantly made up of their relatives, friends and school personnel, with many being welcomed into the Church building for the first time. The Film Night was another ticketed event forming part of the Festival program and was equally well attended, with Hill Cliffe providing refreshments to all who came along. Both events showed Hill Cliffe to be a place of Welcome where the Good News of Jesus is lived out and shared with our community.

The Church gazebo on the Festival field was in a great location allowing passers-by to learn of Hill Cliffe's ministries, accept invitations to Church events, ask for prayer or simply chat while their children engaged with the craft table. The gazebo provided further opportunity to connect with festival goers, share faith and represent our Church family to people of all ages, backgrounds and interests from our local community, something we look forward to replicating this coming year.

Thanks must be extended to all who helped at these events and supported the vision of Hill Cliffe to be a place of welcome to all.

Hill Cliffe Café – report from Amy Harper

This time last year Cafe was still a dream being awakened amongst the core team. After easing back in ahead of the Summer break we are now very much back in full swing each Friday, with a faithful team and regular visitors; many of whom tend to stay for the full morning. We're always grateful for cake contributions and appreciate the support the wider church lends to Cafe. As Tim A will attest, the card reader has been a great addition too!

We have been seeking opportunities to use the Sanctuary space to share more of what our faith means. The lead up to Christmas and Easter provided natural openings for this and we have been encouraged by glimpses of God at work in people's lives. We have enjoyed guest appearances from Lisa Hutt with her art work and A Cappella too.

Please keep praying that Cafe remains a warm and encouraging place where people can engage with their journey of faith, whatever stage of it they may be on.

Creation Care – report from Stuart

A small group from the church have begun to meet to consider how we might encourage and facilitate the church in creation care-related issues. To find out more or to get involved please contact Stuart.

World Mission Ministries – report from Mary Evans

This missions report is a little different - partly because I am writing in Australia without my usual resources and with the internet where I stay being out. But partly because of how God was challenging me! You might say this is a 'fill in the blanks report'.

Our contributions 'as a church' to international mission remain much the same. We support Stephanie, serving with SIM in Malawi, BMS and in particular the Duprees in Albania, and the Byles who were in Cambodia and have now returned to the UK as Nick's work with EMI has taken on an increasingly international focus. We also support development and relief work through Tear Fund and Christian Aid and groups supporting refugees as those from Ukraine.

However, as we sometimes sing in services 'We are the church'! And the question I think God is asking us each, individually, as members of Hill Cliffe church, is 'As you look back over the past year, how have you contributed this year to the challenge I gave to all Christians to reach out to all nations.' I have had to ask myself, have I given and prayed for the work we are committed to supporting? Have I read carefully the information provided over the weeks? Have I written letters indicating interest and support? Have I listened to God as he might have given me a call to take an interest and pray for another world-facing organisation or another country? The 'mission report' of the church is really the summary of all our answers to these and other such questions. This is how Hill Cliffe has responded to God's challenge to world mission during 2022-2023. Of course, only God will read that report! I have to confess that my own answers to such questions is often 'sometimes, partly, and not as much or so often as I should'. But it is also 'Thank you so much for letting me be a part, however small, of the work you are continuing to do throughout your world!' We are all challenged as to how we, corporately and individually, will respond over the next year to the commission God has given to each one of us. Maybe if you are willing to let me know how you have responded to that challenge, then in next year's we can fill in the gaps!

Pastoral Care – report by Stuart

Anne Hall and Bryan Hancock have recently stepped back from involvement in the group for reasons mentioned above. We are grateful for their faithful ministry in this

service to the church. Graham and Stuart have continued to meet to assess our congregation's pastoral needs.

We continue to work on –

1. **Reviewing** the Church Congregation List to assess where particular pastoral support is needed, and how best to help (if required).
2. **Preparing** a set of Signposting Resources (to be posted on Noticeboards, on church emails, Facebook Page, and on our Website) to help people identify where they can get expert help or support across a range of pastoral issues and disciplines.
3. **Identifying** people to help with practical support needs in the church family.

Funeral and Graveyard Support

We are very grateful to Chris Hudson who has served in this ministry for many years with excellence and great pastoral care. As Chris recovers from ill health, she has decided to step back from this area of ministry. She does so with our grateful thanks. We are currently reviewing this ministry area, but Leah will take on much of the administrative role for the graveyard and funerals work.

Church Membership at Hill Cliffe:

There are 3 key elements to how we describe Membership at Hill Cliffe.
Church Members are:

COMMITTED – to our Church Family, our Church Covenant (Values), our shared Vision Emphasis and our Leadership.

INVOLVED – in our Church Family Gatherings, Ministries and Vision

INVESTING – in our Church Family Resources and Vision Emphasis

If you would like to explore becoming a member at Hill Cliffe please contact Stuart

Annual Church Covenant:

The Church Members at Hill Cliffe have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. Please see *Appendix 1* below for the Annual Covenant.

This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family.

What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly. The Church Members are requested to make a fresh commitment to this Covenant each year at our AGM.

Appendix 1: Annual Church Covenant

Annual Church Covenant

As a Church Membership we have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family. What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly.

We will make our new covenant at our AGM Church Meeting. Because we take this joint-commitment seriously, if you are not able to make it to that meeting, please indicate the renewal of your covenant via email to Steve Gray, steve.gray@hillcliffe.info or in writing a brief note.

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church's Church Values

1. We are a Worshipping Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Maintaining a close relationship with God through regular Bible reading, prayer and spiritual disciplines.
- Striving to live a life that glorifies Jesus with my whole life, submitting to the authority of God's Word as the final arbiter on all issues.
- Honouring God in all my relationships – in private, in public, in the home, in the workplace, or in the church – in my words and my actions.
- Worshipping God together in the gathering of our church family on Sundays and in the various other family gatherings for prayer, ministry and fellowship.
- Worshipping God in actively participating in obeying His missionary call.

John 4:23,24; 1 Corinth 12:11-13; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15,16; 1 Thess 2:8; Psalm 119:2

2. We are a Missionary Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Actively participating in God's missionary call to 'go and make disciples of all nations', in my family, my neighbourhood and my workplace.
- Sharing my hope in the One who is the way, the truth and the life.
- Actively supporting our missionaries and mission partners across the world in prayer and financial support.

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:13-16; Phil 2:12-18

3. We are a Holy Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Walking in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ who has saved me that I can live a new life in the Holy Spirit.
- Striving to live with integrity, honesty and faithfulness in all my relationships, loving and forgiving others as I have been loved and forgiven by God.
- Striving to maintain the unity in Christ amongst God's family at Hill Cliffe, refusing to gossip and back-bite, but rather honouring one another in the Lord.
- Striving to honour Jesus by avoiding involvement in anything we know contradicts God's Word and ideals.
- Seeking to put off the old nature and the sins against the body, such as sexual immorality, adultery, sex outside of marriage, pornography, gluttony, drunkenness, etc.
- Seeking to honour, preserve and protect the gift of marriage and God's ideals for marriage in our church family.
- Submitting to the loving discipline of the Holy Spirit and God's Word in confession, repentance and restoration when we sin.

Ephesians 5:1-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 1 Peter 1:13- 2:2; Romans 6:12

4. We are a Sacrificial Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Sacrificing my time and comfort in serving our family at Hill Cliffe – in prayer, encouragement, care for the needy, in hospitality and in love.
- Sacrificing my money, time, gifts and talents in actively participating in the growth of the Kingdom of God.
- Sacrificing myself in identifying with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless.
- Sacrificing my time and comfort in purposefully serving the needs of the aliens and strangers, the vulnerable and the needy in our society in the love of Christ.

Romans 12:1; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinth 9:7; 1 John 2:2

5. We are a Prophetic Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Seeking to encourage and bless my church family in speaking and acting prophetically as I am led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and guided by God's Word and our Church leaders.
- Seeking to speak and act prophetically in our wider society in tune with godly wisdom, justice and grace – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly concepts of power, wealth, status and security.

Romans 16:25-27; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 2:17-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 13:1-3; Phil 2:12-18

6. We are an Inclusive Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Helping ensure that the gospel and the church transcend the barriers of language, race, class, age, gender and culture in the Christ-like love of God.
John 3:16-21; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9,10

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	2022	2021
Receipts			
Offerings	2	115,423	101,180
Income tax recovered on offerings		22,595	16,679
Youth and Children events		6,916	2,061
Rents and contributions for use of premises		660	1,025
Café and catered events		-	-
Graveyard		1,360	785
Other		2,382	303
Flood donation		-	4,284
Legacies		-	500
Interest	3	292	62
Total Receipts		149,628	126,878
Payments			
Ministry	4	72,379	73,610
Mission	5	32,695	34,300
Upkeep of church premises	6	29,511	19,864
Administration	7	3,500	3,161
Children and Youth	8	9,516	4,894
Serving, reaching and discipling	9	3,403	1,110
Total Payments		151,004	136,939
Surplus (Deficit)		(1,376)	(10,061)
Cash balance at previous year end		33,196	43,257
Cash balance at current year end		31,820	33,196

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022	2021
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		14,435	
BUC deposit account		17,093	32,032
Money received not banked			
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	1,540,142	1,540,142
Total Assets		1,571,670	1,572,174
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	11		
Long Term Loans	12		
Pension Scheme liability	13	-	32,500
Other liabilities			
Total Liabilities		-	32,500

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to the year ending 31 December 2022 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Treasurer or other Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

[Date]

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of Accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and other income	2022	2021
Donations	115,423	101,180
Total Donations and Other Income	115,423	101,180

3. Investment income	2022	2021
Savings interest	292	
Total Investment Income	292	0

4. Ministry	2022	2021
Staff stipends, NI and pension contributions	67,128	67,923
Manse costs	4,185	4,082
Study and conference expenses	1,066	1,605
Total Ministry	72,379	73,610

Stuart McPhail acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Pastor, including the provision of manse accommodation [owned by the church]

5. Mission	2022	2021
Home Mission	6,000	6,000
BMS World Mission	6,000	6,000
Christians Against Poverty	720	720
Warrington Youth For Christ	960	960
Tearfund	720	720
Active Hope	960	960
SIM	6,115	6,115
Broomfields Youth Project	1,700	1,700
Message Trust	60	720
Warrington Street Pastors	960	960
Mission Aviation Fund	60	720
Open Doors	60	720
Flood donations		5,685
Sponsorship and Other mission	4,000	2,320
Engineering In Mission	2,400	
Langham Partnership	660	
Prison Fellowship	660	
Christian Aid	660	
Total Mission	32,695	34,300

6. Upkeep of church premises	2022	2021
Energy/Telephone	8,661	5,241
Cleaning	1,178	918
Insurance	3,605	3,269
Repairs and maintenance	8,345	2,398
Equipment		
Manse Maintenance	198	548
Minibus Maintenance	295	686
Graveyard Contractor	7,230	6,804
Total Upkeep of church premises	29,511	19,864

7. Administration	2022	2021
Printing and stationery	970	525
Subscriptions	2,531	2,636
Total Administration	3,500	3,161

8. Children and Youth	2022	2021
Resources and equipment	1,221	1,958
Day camp	4,402	2,936
Mission and other trips	3,893	
Total children and youth	9,516	4,894

9. Serving, Reaching and discipling	2022	2021
Welcome and Stewarding	131	
Teaching and Worship	25	-
Pastoral	124	-
Adult/Family outreach	966	180
Investing in leaders and discipleship		25
Kitchen/catering	2,158	905
Total Serving, reaching and discipling	3,403	1,110

10. Assets held for the Church's Own Use

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

Church Premises and Land, (Including Burial Ground), at Red Lane valued in the accounts at £1,200,000 based on insured value

Church Manse at 15A Cobbs Lane valued in the accounts at £255,142 based on insured value

The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £85,000

11. Current Liabilities	2022	2021
Cheques written but not cashed		
Total Current Liabilities	-	-

12. Long Term Liabilities	2022	2021
Long term liabilities	-	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-	-

13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was £255,000.

At the end of June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ('Just') to secure members' pension benefits under the Defined Benefit ('DB') Plan. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan.

The cost of such policies is largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour, particularly over the course of the last few months. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme have agreed that deficit contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Hillcliffe Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2022

Charity no (if any)

1134511

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Lisa Price

Date:

19/10/2022

Name:

Lisa Marie Price

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134511

Accounts

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

Annual Review of Church Ministries 2021/22



You're Welcome Here!

www.hillcliffe.info

May 2022

Introduction and Thanks

Please enjoy reading this annual review of our church-led ministries at Hill Cliffe covering the period May 2021 - May 2022.

Leadership – for the period March 2020- March 2021

We were delighted to add Anne Hall and Graham Palmer to our diaconate this year – both long-term members of the church yet serving on the Leadership Team for the first time. Our Leadership Team, comprising our Deacons – Anne, Graham, Pam, Bryan, Joe, and Tim - along with Steve (Church Secretary), Ruth (Church Treasurer), John (Church Youth Worker), and Stuart, served the church in providing leadership for the various ministries and practical responsibilities of the church. Stuart continued to provide spiritual, pastoral and theological overview and direction for the Leadership Team and the church during this period.

In March, Ruth Hughes decided to step back from the Leadership Team. We are very grateful to Ruth for the many years of faithful and excellent service she has given to the church as part of the Leadership Team in the role of Treasurer. Ruth is continuing to fulfil the responsibilities and tasks of the treasurer until the church appoints a suitable replacement in due course.

Teaching Ministry

Since May 2021, we have undertaken Sunday morning teaching and have prepared weekly Small Group studies on the following series (most recent first):

- The Holy Spirit – Described by Jesus in the Gospels
- Easter and Resurrection Series
- 4 Psalms for Life – Praise, Thanks, Trust, Lament
- Advent and Christmas Series
- Book of Philippians
- Coping With Change

- Summer Services
- The Book of Acts – Acts 1-9

Sunday Evening Prayer Gathering

We have been alternating between meeting in-person and meeting on Zoom throughout this year.

Facebook Pages, Weekly News Update Email, and News Feed

Our Private Prayer and Support Facebook page connects around 70 adults across our church family for prayer and support – with around 45 more receiving the updates via the email News Feeds.

The Public Hill Cliffe Facebook page has 185 friends, many of whom are not part of the church congregation. It shares news of services, events and messages from the church to this wider community.

Host Team and Connections Team for Church Services

Since returning to the church for Sunday Services we have continued and expanded the Host Teams to include the coffee team and general stewarding, under Pam's coordination. We have also reintroduced the Connections Team under Rhys' leadership to ensure that newcomers in particular receive a warm welcome and are connected with others in the church. Many thanks to these wonderful teams and each of the team members.

Graveyard and Church Grounds Maintenance - report from Peter Hindley

The work on the graveyard has continued with most of the area made safe now so that most of the grass can be cut with the John Deere. All the Gorse and Brambles have been taken out.

Most of the Japanese knotweed has been removed but this is an on-going problem to solve. Stan and myself erected a new fence along the field boundary to make it safer for the children playing on the field and help stop litter coming through from Fox Covert Graveyard and thankfully this has worked.

The grounds around church take a lot of effort to keep it looking good and without the help of Graham Newton, Graham Palmer and Bryan Hancock this would be very difficult. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thanks to these guys for their help.

On behalf of the church I would like to say thank you to Stan for all his work and expertise on the graveyard and around the church grounds.

Children's Ministries – report by Bryan Hancock and Jane Quinn

The early part of the year was a challenge as Government guidelines for meeting evolved into more “consistent normality”.

Junior Church continued to meet together, in the church hall, each Sunday morning following a series called Luke Street looking at the life of Jesus and how that has a relevance for us. Sessions were led by Bryan, Jane and Ruth Hughes. Numbers were usually between 10 and 15 children although occasionally numbers crept over 20.

We continued to publish the lessons online until the end of August when we withdrew this resource.

Moving into 2022, numbers have continued to average around 15 children each week although we have had 30 different children attending. We are very grateful to June Newton, Jackie Hancock, Emily Palmer and Amy Harper for their help with this class.

As restrictions have reduced, we have considered how we can move to more specific age group classes. We have been blessed by several volunteers coming forward as teachers and helpers and we believe we can move to a new trial format for June and July 2022. This will involve Jane and Bryan running weeks 1, 3 and 5 All Together sessions and Amy Harper, Jennie Gray, Lynda Battarbee and Fiona Lofthouse running weeks 2 and 4 Age group classes. If this format works, then we propose to continue with it in September.

In August we plan to relaunch Day Camp, Monday 22nd to Friday 26th. Currently we have 80+ plus children registered and would be very grateful for staff team volunteers.

Youth Work Ministries – report from John Harper

It has been so good to meet with our young people, without many or any restrictions, for the majority of the last 12 months.

Sunday Mornings have returned to a form of normality in as much as we are able to have 3 age specific groups functioning for our young people. The oldest group continue to follow the main themes of the adult morning service, while the high school age groups have a change in theme every 4 weeks.

Worship 'n Wait has returned, once a month on a Sunday night, in 2022. Its purpose is to offer space for young people to worship at length and spend time with God, listening to His prompting and being encouraged to respond.

Bible Study on Friday Afternoon continues to happen in 2 homes as young people attend after school, sharing a meal and then opening the Word and praying together. This really helps young people to get to know one another as family and to get to know God's word. We see this as an important part of discipleship for young people in the same way that we see small groups fulfilling a key role for adults at our church.

HC Youth Club (formerly Impact) returned weekly and in person in September and quickly reached our capacity in that we regularly have 40 young people involved in this weekly ministry (35 places for years 6-9 and 6 young leaders to compliment the 8 adults leaders) We have spent this year working our way through Matthew's Gospel as we want to introduce the young people (80%+ are not part of our church in any other ministry) to Jesus.

In October 21 we ran a residential at Quinta (Shropshire), where we partnered with NWBA and targeted our younger half of youth. This was a fantastic weekend, where a number of young people from Thursdays who don't regularly attend on Sundays, were exposed to worship (and responded in a really positive way) and were given opportunities to hear the Gospel and have time afterwards to consider its call on their lives. We are planning to run this residential again in 2022.

We continue to partner in a number of areas with various organisations from BYP on a Friday night at the leisure centre, Limitless Youth Festival (where many of our young adults are running a venue this summer) or

sending a small group of young people on a mission to Northern Ireland each summer, working with Larne Christian Fellowship (LCF).

It is also exciting to see many of our young people signing up to help or lead at Day Camp this summer.

A big word of thanks to all of our youth work volunteers who have been so up for rolling with any and all of the changes during the last 24 months and who have continued to volunteer with a servant heart and great gifting.

In Youth Work we continue to try to ask the following 2 questions regularly to our young people and each other:

- What is God saying to you/us?
- What are you/we doing about it?

These 2 questions are central to youth work at Hill Cliffe as we move towards a vision of 'Disciples Making Disciples.'

Small Group Ministries – report from Joe Martin

Small groups continue to facilitate a deeper, applied understanding of the themes explored on Sundays as well as an opportunity for group members to build deep, trusting and mutually supportive relationships with one another and with God.

I would like to express thanks to Jennie and Steve Gray who have stepped back from leading and hosting their group. Their hard work has been appreciated by so many who have been part of that group over many years. Tim and Dawn Appleton have stepped up to lead the group and I'm sure it'll flourish under their leadership. I'd also like to thank Kirsten Laird who has stepped back from leading the Monday night house group. That group continues to run under the leadership of Sarla Martin.

All small group leaders recently met together. Leaders report that the Study notes are helpful and pastoral care within small groups is working well. It was noted that many in our church fellowship still aren't part of a small group. We are now looking at ways to promote small groups at church. The church web site remains a great source of information regarding our small groups.

During the last Alpha course small groups were invited to pray intentionally for specific Alpha guests. This was a successful way of small groups engaging with another ministry within the church. Small groups will now be actively looking for ways to partner with other ministries. Initially this will most likely be through a commitment to pray but other opportunities may present themselves.

Men's Ministry – report from Joe Martin

Men's ministry is focused around the Men's breakfast on a Saturday morning most months. The planning team consists of Joe Martin, Keith Curtis and Graham Palmer. Dan Whitehead and Colin Webb serve faithfully as chefs in the Kitchen.

The breakfasts continue to successfully provide a relaxed time and place where men can meet in the presence of God to share food, fellowship, prayer and encouragement.

Worship Ministries – report from Tim Grainger

Thanks to our various teams for their continued contribution to the worship ministry at church. We have three strong bands, and I'm grateful to Andy and Katharine for their leadership. It has also been great to see folks step up to join the sound, AV and camera teams. We are always recruiting but it is good that we now have enough people in the teams to make these crucial aspects of the worship ministry viable.

I would like to especially thank Adrian for his hugely valuable contribution to the sound ministry for a number of months. Adrian went above and beyond and brought stability when we really needed it.

Please do pray for the worship ministry and all the teams involved. Worship on a Sunday doesn't just "happen", it involves a lot of time and planning and we can't do any of it on our own strength, so your prayers are very much valued and appreciated.

Finance Ministries – report from Ruth Hughes

Accounts year ending 31/12/21

The year ended with an income of £126,878 and with £136,939 of expenditure. Like the previous year the finances continued to be affected by the restrictions and so we ended the year with a deficit of £10,061. We ended the year with £43,257 in the current and savings accounts, which has helped support us during the pandemic but we will need to look to a more balanced accounts in the coming years. Despite our reduced income we were still able to be generous with what God has given us. In 2021 we gave away a total of £34,300, 27% of income. This included £5685 of gifts that were given to support those affected by the floods in Warrington, the church family really rallied around the call to support those in need. It is a privilege to be able to partner with other churches in Warrington and support those in need. It is my prayer that whatever our income we continue to be generous in supporting others, may our measure that we give, be a good measure, pressed down and pouring over.

Pension deficit – The pension deficit at the end of December stood at £32,800 and deficit payments are set to continue until June 2026.

Outreach Ministries

Local Mission/ Outreach Partnerships – update from Stuart

We continue to partner with several local outreach ministries, providing volunteer, prayer and (at times) financial assistance from our church to support them.

Alpha and Christianity Explored – report from Pam

Alpha

Despite the shadow of Covid restrictions still looming, we were very pleased to be able to run Alpha again this year and immediately

acknowledge God's provision with new committed team members, delicious refreshments and versatile use of the Church building. All the attending guests quickly committed to the course and formed a comfortable group as they explored the themes of Christianity together. The away day was a pivotal opportunity that really impressed our guests as they experienced generous Christian hospitality and explored their understanding of the Holy Spirit. It is a privilege to share the news that all the Alpha guests are continuing in their journey of faith and are regularly attending places of worship and fellowship. We are very grateful to the Church family for their involvement with Alpha; for the many invites that were made, for the encouragement that was given and for the prayers that were offered up to support the team and the Alpha guests.

Christianity Explored

The response to this new group, which provides an opportunity for people to get to know Jesus better through studying the Bible, has been overwhelming! The group very quickly became larger than anticipated thanks to the glorious work of the Holy Spirit bringing conviction to those who signed up. All the guests who attended Alpha are now attending this course, along with many others who are eager to learn new knowledge of Jesus.

The group meets weekly, to study the Bible, watch a video and engage in discussion, as well as taking further reading and studying home to complete before the next session. The course runs for 10 weeks so please continue to pray for revelation and transformation in the lives of all who are attending.

World Mission Ministries – report from Mary Evans

Like all churches we are called to be concerned for the whole of God's world. At Hill Cliffe we seek to fulfil the commission to 'Make disciples of all nations' in various ways.

We have made a number of commitments to specific people who are part of our Church. At the moment this is to Stephanie Darling working in Malawi and Liz and Nick Byles working in Cambodia. Stephanie is

with SIM and involved in teaching in a Bible College and also working with the denomination closely linked with SIM. Nick works with EMI supporting building projects for Christian mission work and Liz works mainly with World Renew on health promotion.

We also have a commitment to support BMS (the Baptist Missionary Society) and as part of that we have agreed a special interest in Dan and Annie Dupree working in a church and community project in Albania.

Support clearly includes financial backing, some of which comes from church funds and some extra from gifts from individuals within the church. But it also and very significantly includes prayer. This happens through prayers in church and home groups, in a small group which meets once a month to pray for Stephanie, but again very significantly also the individual prayers of church members. Information for prayer is provided regularly through the church news emails, and on the Facebook pages.

Outside of these direct commitments, the church also provides ongoing support for Christian Aid, Tear Fund, and Fair Trade plus a number of other organisations and individual members support a range of different missions or people that they know.

Pastoral Care – report by Bryan Hancock

Anne, Graham, Bryan and Stuart have been meeting recently to assess our congregational pastoral needs. We believe that following scriptural examples, the church is a body of believers called to support one another and pastoral support is a whole church function. The pastoral team have assessed the congregational list using involvement in small group and ministry roles as indicators of potential pastoral support networks. Using this assessment has revealed some fellowship members who have struggled to return to church, and we will be looking at ways to re-engage with them. The assessment has also shown up those who are housebound, and we will be looking for ways to involve the fellowship in their pastoral support. There are others who have decided to move away from the fellowship and whilst this will pose more of a problem in re-engaging, we will continue to pray for them and where

appropriate look for opportunities to invite them back into the fellowship.

The team are currently working on -

1. **Reviewing** the Church Congregation List to assess how best to help the church family connect with one another, or reconnect with one another. We are also assessing where particular pastoral support is needed, and how best to help (if required).
2. **Preparing** a set of Signposting Resources (to be posted on Noticeboards, on church emails, Facebook Page, and on our Website) to help people identify where they can get expert help or support across a range of pastoral issues and disciplines.
3. **Identifying** those leaders who will act as 'go-to' people for anyone looking for pastoral support in the church. These people will then help signpost to, or arrange for, the most relevant support available.

Church Membership at Hill Cliffe:

There are 3 key elements to how we describe Membership at Hill Cliffe. Church Members are:

COMMITTED – to our Church Family, our Church Covenant (Values), our shared Vision Emphasis and our Leadership

INVOLVED – in our Church Family Gatherings, Ministries and Vision

INVESTING – in our Church Family Resources and Vision Emphasis

If you would like to explore becoming a member at Hill Cliffe please contact Stuart

Annual Church Covenant:

The Church Members at Hill Cliffe have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. Please see *Appendix 1* below for the Annual Covenant.

This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family.

What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly. The Church Members are requested to make a fresh commitment to this Covenant each year at our AGM.

Appendix 1: Annual Church Covenant

Annual Church Covenant

As a Church Membership we have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family. What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly.

We will make our new covenant at our AGM Church Meeting. Because we take this joint-commitment seriously, If you are not able to make it to that meeting, please indicate the renewal of your covenant via email to Steve Gray, steve.gray@hillcliffe.info or in writing a brief note.

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church's Church Values

1. We are a Worshipping Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Maintaining a close relationship with God through regular Bible reading, prayer and spiritual disciplines.
- Striving to live a life that glorifies Jesus with my whole life, submitting to the authority of God's Word as the final arbiter on all issues.
- Honouring God in all my relationships – in private, in public, in the home, in the workplace, or in the church – in my words and my actions.
- Worshipping God together in the gathering of our church family on Sundays and in the various other family gatherings for prayer, ministry and fellowship.

- Worshipping God in actively participating in obeying His missionary call.

John 4:23,24; 1 Corinth 12:11-13; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15,16; 1 Thess 2:8; Psalm 119:2

2. We are a Missionary Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Actively participating in God's missionary call to 'go and make disciples of all nations', in my family, my neighbourhood and my workplace.
- Sharing my hope in the One who is the way, the truth and the life.
- Actively supporting our missionaries and mission partners across the world in prayer and financial support.

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:13-16; Phil 2:12-18

3. We are a Holy Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Walking in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ who has saved me that I can live a new life in the Holy Spirit.
- Striving to live with integrity, honesty and faithfulness in all my relationships, loving and forgiving others as I have been loved and forgiven by God.
- Striving to maintain the unity in Christ amongst God's family at Hill Cliffe, refusing to gossip and back-bite, but rather honouring one another in the Lord.
- Striving to honour Jesus by avoiding involvement in anything we know contradicts God's Word and ideals.
- Seeking to put off the old nature and the sins against the body, such as sexual immorality, adultery, sex outside of marriage, pornography, gluttony, drunkenness, etc.
- Seeking to honour, preserve and protect the gift of marriage and God's ideals for marriage in our church family.
- Submitting to the loving discipline of the Holy Spirit and God's Word in confession, repentance and restoration when we sin.

Ephesians 5:1-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 1 Peter 1:13- 2:2; Romans 6:12

4. We are a Sacrificial Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Sacrificing my time and comfort in serving our family at Hill Cliffe – in prayer, encouragement, care for the needy, in hospitality and in love.
- Sacrificing my money, time, gifts and talents in actively participating in the growth of the Kingdom of God.
- Sacrificing myself in identifying with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless.
- Sacrificing my time and comfort in purposefully serving the needs of the aliens and strangers, the vulnerable and the needy in our society in the love of Christ.

Romans 12:1; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinth 9:7; 1 John 2:2

5. We are a Prophetic Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Seeking to encourage and bless my church family in speaking and acting prophetically as I am led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and guided by God's Word and our Church leaders.
- Seeking to speak and act prophetically in our wider society in tune with godly wisdom, justice and grace – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly concepts of power, wealth, status and security.

Romans 16:25-27; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 2:17-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 13:1-3; Phil 2:12-18

6. We are an Inclusive Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Helping ensure that the gospel and the church transcend the barriers of language, race, class, age, gender and culture in the Christ-like love of God.

John 3:16-21; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9,10

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	2021	2020
Receipts			
Offerings	2	101,180	99,718
Income tax recovered on offerings		16,679	26,750
Youth and Children events		2,061	605
Rents and contributions for use of premises		1,025	745
Café and catered events		-	646
Graveyard		785	1,531
Other		303	3,454
Flood donation		4,284	-
Legacies		500	-
Interest	3	62	119
Total Receipts		126,878	133,566
Payments			
Ministry	4	73,610	74,602
Mission	5	34,300	33,896
Upkeep of church premises	6	19,864	26,892
Administration	7	3,161	3,442
Children and Youth	8	4,894	4,596
Serving, reaching and discipling	9	1,110	1,865
Total Payments		136,939	145,292
Surplus (Deficit)		(10,061)	(11,726)
Transfers (to) / from general fund			
Cash balance at previous year end		43,257	54,981
Cash balance at current year end		33,196	43,257

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Note	2021	2020
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		6,103	11,225
BUC deposit account		27,093	32,032
Money received not banked			
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	1,540,142	1,540,142
Total Assets		1,573,338	1,583,399
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	11		
Long Term Loans	12		
Pension Scheme liability	13	32,500	49,500
Other liabilities			
Total Liabilities		32,500	49,500

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to the year ending 31 December 2021 are

as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Treasurer or other Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

[Date]

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and other income

	2021	2020
Donations	101,180	99,718
Total Donations and Other Income	101,180	99,718

3. Investment income

	2021	2020
Savings interest		
Total Investment Income	0	0

4. Ministry

	2021	2020
Staff stipends, NI and pension contributions	67,923	64,438
Manse costs	4,082	3,952
Other ministry [<i>detail if material</i>]	-	1,361
Study and conference expenses	1,605	4,850
Total Ministry	73,610	74,602

Stuart McPhail acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Pastor, including the provision of manse accommodation [owned by the church]

5. Mission

	2021	2020
Home Mission	6,000	7,128
BMS World Mission	6,000	7,128
Christians Against Poverty	720	936
Warrington Youth For Christ	960	980
Tearfund	720	738
Active Hope	960	980
SIM	6,115	6,115
Broomfields Youth Project	1,700	3,400
Message Trust	720	738
Warrington Street Pastors	960	980
Mission Aviation Fund	720	738
Open Doors	720	738
Flood donations	5,685	
Sponsorship and Other mission	2,320	3,300
Total Mission	34,300	33,896

6. Upkeep of church premises

	2021	2020
Energy/Telephone	5,241	6,279
Cleaning	918	1,019
Insurance	3,269	3,189

Repairs and maintenance	2,398	8,216
Equipment		
Manse Maintenance	548	1,217
Minibus Maintenance	686	888
Graveyard Contractor	6,804	6,084
Total Upkeep of church premises	19,864	26,892

7. Administration

	2021	2020
Printing and stationery	525	1,350
Subscriptions	2,636	2,092
Total Administration	3,161	3,442

8. Children and Youth

	2021	2020
Resources and equipment	1,958	2,582
Day camp		402
Mission and other trips	2,936	1,613
Total children and youth	4,894	4,596

9. Serving, Reaching and discipling

	2021	2020
Teaching and Worship	-	922
Pastoral	-	40
Adult/Family outreach	180	59
Investing in leaders and discipleship	25	24
Kitchen/catering	905	820
Total Serving, reaching and discipling	1,110	1,865

10. Assets Held for the Church's own use

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

- Church premises and land (including burial ground) at Red Lane valued in the accounts at £1,200,000 based on insured value
 - Church manse at 15A Cobbs Lane valued in the accounts at £255,142 based on insured value
 - The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £85,000

11. Current Liabilities

Cheques written but not cashed		
Total Current Liabilities	-	-

12. Long-Term Liabilities

Long term liabilities		
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-	-

13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for Under the Schedule of Contributions, the church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, currently £383.55, which will increase in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresees these contributions continuing until June 2026. The pension scheme liability shown in the Statement of Assets and liabilities is calculated as the current rate per month multiplied by the number of months remaining in the current Schedule of Contributions, which amounted to £32,800 as at [31st December 2021].

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was £255,000.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Hillcliffe Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1134511

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Lisa Marie Price

Date:

23/10/2022

Name:

Lisa Marie Price

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

AAT

(if any):

--

Address:

17 WOOD LANE

APPLETON, WARRINGTON

WA4 3DB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--

HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134511

Accounts

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church

Annual Review of Church Ministries 2020/21



You're Welcome Here!

www.hillcliffe.info

March 2021

Introduction and Thanks

Please enjoy reading this annual review of our church-led ministries at Hill Cliffe covering the period March 2020 - March 2021.

This AGM Annual Review of Ministries is a bit different. It covers a year in which the church, alongside most of the world, was in almost continuous lockdown resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consequently, we will outline the ministries of the church which continued or emerged throughout this period.

Leadership – for the period March 2020- March 2021

Our Leadership Team, comprising our Deacons - Pam, Bryan, Joe, and Tim - along with Steve (Church Secretary), Ruth (Church Treasurer), John (Church Youth Worker), and Stuart and Katharine, served the church in providing leadership for the various ministries and practical responsibilities of the church. Stuart and Katharine provided spiritual, pastoral and theological overview and direction for the Leadership Team and the church during this period.

In April, Katharine circulated a communication to the church sharing her decision – after much thought and prayer - to step back from co-leading alongside Stuart on the leadership team at Hill Cliffe. She described how she and Stuart had shared and discussed this with the leadership team. She mentioned how she anticipated continuing in the other areas of her ministry in the church; including teaching, worship leading, and pastoral support.

We do want to record our huge appreciation for Katharine's fruitful ministry of leadership, pastoral encouragement, prophetic insight and missionary zeal in our leadership team over a significant number of years.

New Sunday Services Online

On Sunday 23rd March 2020, the first weekend of lockdown we filmed and uploaded our first YouTube online church service from the church. The following Sunday we made our home into a film and editing studio and began to produce services from there. Little did we anticipate we'd be producing online services from home for more than a year. Much thanks and appreciation to Katharine for doing the editing and uploading for the services, and to Paul who edited all the worship songs for a long while. Thanks also to Harry and Helena and to the many, many others who helped with the services throughout the year.

Teaching Ministry

Since our last AGM in March 2020, we have preached Sunday morning teaching and have prepared weekly Small Group studies on the following series (most recent first):

- The Emergence of the Kingdom of God – Acts 1-9
- Lent: A Time of Encounter, Testing & Preparation – Luke 4
- Christmas Services
- Advent - Hope Awakening
- Following the Leader - lessons from Luke's Gospel
- 1 Thessalonians
- A Journey in Prayer
- Holy Week

New Sunday Evening Prayer Gathering

Early into the first lockdown we set up a new way for the church family to gather for prayer on Zoom on Sundays at 6pm. This has continued throughout and was a wonderful resource for corporate prayer through the most difficult days of Covid lockdowns. We saw a regular group of around 12-18 gather each week.

Prayer and Meditation Drop-in at Church

Another Covid-response initiative was the Prayer and Meditation drop-in sessions which continued throughout the period of this AGM Review. A regular group of church members and the church's neighbours would come into the quietness of the sanctuary and enjoy the on-

screen guided meditations (produced by Katharine and Stuart) and sit and pray awhile. This ministry was so valuable to some that we may run it again at strategic points in the year.

New Facebook Group – Hill Cliffe Prayer and Support Group

In order to connect the church as widely, supportively and prayerfully as possible we recognised the value of harnessing Facebook. This private group for Hill Cliffe people has been used thousands of times to connect, inform, inspire and encourage the church and to share messages for prayer support. Around 75 have joined the group.

New News Feed – the companion to the Facebook Prayer and Support Group

Leah now administers a group of around 44 other people from the church (who don't use Facebook) who wish to be connected to the stories being shared on Facebook, and are able to share likewise via Leah. So, between the two facilities we now have 119 Hill Cliffe people sharing, praying and supporting across the church family since March 2020.

New Facebook Page – Hill Cliffe Public Page

We have also set up an outward-facing Facebook page which promotes the church, and its ministries and services and values and its Saviour to the outside world. We currently now have 177 Facebook friends of the church – many of whom do not attend the church.

Daily Devotionals

When the first lockdown was announced we were part-way through our Lent daily devotionals. We made a decision at that point to continue writing and producing daily devotionals to encourage the church throughout the period of lockdown – which turned out to be significantly longer than anyone could have foreseen. Many thanks to those who contributed alongside Stuart and Katharine to the devotionals series, which ran for 18 months.

New Host Team for Church Services

Since returning to the church for Sunday Services we have formed Host Teams under Pam's coordination to ensure that our congregation is

hosted safely in line with the developing Covid requirements. Recently, the Host Team has also taken responsibility for the hospitality after services. Many thanks to the wonderful team members.

Church Property Ministries – report from Peter Hindley

Church Building

The Maintenance work on the building and grounds came to a halt in March 2020 when the country went into lock down. I came back into church in August to complete the kitchen repaint and put up new metal shelving. My role as maintenance officer came to an end in September 2020.

All the inspection for 2021 of the Fire equipment, PAT testing and air con were completed early this year. The mains electrical testing was completed in August with new power boxes having to be upgraded. The electricians have suggested this work should be carried out every 1 or 2 years to cut down cost as the regulations are changing so often.

Graveyard.

As most of the church family will know Stan went into Hospital with Covid-19 and spent 3 weeks on ICU.

In January Stan called me to ask if I would like to work with him. We have the field cut with Stan's machine with no cost to the church. There have been a lot of improvements carried out on the graveyard over the past 9 months. Work around the Lychgate, headstones lifted, trees and gorse removed.

Grounds work.

Late 2020 I came back to help out and work with the guys on Tuesday morning.

This work is never-ending and always something to do to keep the church looking fresh and tidy for the local community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thanks to Bryan Hancock, Graham Newton and Graham Palmer for the hard work

these guys put in on Tuesdays. If anyone is free on Tuesday mornings, come up to church - there is always something to do and it's great fellowship.

Please continue to pray for Stan's full recovery from long covid. All the work and improvements on the graveyard are down to Stan's hard work and dedication.

Children's Ministries – report by Bryan Hancock and Jane Quinn

Like the rest of the church, back in March 2020, face to face children's work was put on hold. As a temporary measure teaching material was put online to assist parents with home teaching their children. The material was a blend of Junior Church and Excite Club materials and included links to videos, songs and activities. We later introduced online quizzes for those who could access the internet but couldn't access a printer. Later in the year, as government and BU recommendations were slightly relaxed, we moved to a family bubble meeting scenario in the church hall. Socially distanced family tables were set up and activities completed at the tables so minimising indoor contact. 10 -12 children attended these meetings which Bryan and Jane led, however a very short time we went back into another lockdown. This was disappointing as we had been having some very good interactive sessions with the children.

Earlier this year, again as government and BU advice changed, we moved back into the church hall, this time without bubble tables and parents. We were still maintaining Covid strategies but had the children seated in rows. The meetings were led by Bryan, Jane or Ruth with the presence of a parent helper each week. Numbers averaged about 10 children, usually different each week.

Youth Work Ministries – report from John Harper

The onset of the pandemic meant an immediate switch, from meeting in person with our youth groups, to meeting on Zoom in groups.

We felt very early in the pandemic that the best thing we could focus on, during the pandemic, was the relationships and contact with the young people who we already had contact with.

This switch online was initially widely embraced by most of our young people and we developed 4 or 5 opportunities each week for young people to tune in and connect with each other and their faith.

One of our early innovations happened each Tuesday night, as we introduced our event 'Social Quiztancing!'

The Bible Study and Sun Morning and Evening sessions were well attended and created good engagement in the initial 3 months (even including times of worship and waiting on God speak to us, as we gathered) and then we hit the virtual wall!

By June/July we noticed that our young people were much less willing to engage with our online content and we started to look for Covid-legal ways to engage them in person, wherever possible.

From Sept 2020 we had more opportunities to gather in a socially distanced way at the Shack. And from that point on the Shack became the home of the vast majority of our church's youth work, through the 2nd and 3rd lockdown's, responding to the various regulation adjustments.

Throughout the year we have tried to continue to meet with our Thurs night youth club for ages 10-14 (made up of largely unchurched young people) on Zoom and wherever possible outside on our church field. The good news is that as we now emerge from all the lockdowns and regulations, we have retained contact with the vast majority of the young people and our levels of attendance are at least the equal of our pre-pandemic youth work... Thank you God. We know that one of the big challenges we face is increasing the depth of discipleship for young people, as we return to more normal gatherings and so we ask that you join us in praying for our young people's discipleship.

Small Group Ministries – report from Joe Martin

When the Covid 19 pandemic hit house group meetings were forced to stop. Most groups quickly adjusted to meeting on Zoom on a regular basis. Where folk struggled to adapt to the technology or were

uncomfortable with the online medium, small group leaders responded brilliantly by maintaining contact, pastoral support and practical help where needed. A couple of groups decided not to meet on Zoom but have maintained contact and support for one another on the telephone.

Many groups grasped the opportunity to meet together face to face where Covid social distancing rules permitted. Several groups have met outdoors in gardens, on the church field or walking together.

Whilst the initial novelty of house group meetings on Zoom quickly wore off, the value of meeting together online was never in question and there can be no doubt that being able to meet virtually was a real blessing during dark days. When many other aspects of life came to an abrupt halt, the small groups continued to be places of worship, discipleship, prayer, pastoral support and practical help.

Worship Ministries – report from Tim Grainger

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help with the worship ministry over the past 18 months or so. From online worship to "in person" services, there have been lots of adaptation required. A particular thanks to the AV, sound and camera teams for all that they have done to ensure that worship can be facilitated in the most unusual of times.

Please pray as we consider how best to progress the worship ministry in the months ahead and look to use bigger bands again.

A special mention regarding Doug Fairbrother, who was a faithful and reliable part of the worship team, he will be missed.

Finance Ministries – report from Ruth Hughes

Like for so many in the community that we serve, because of COVID-19, 2020 saw a squeeze on our finances. While our standing orders

remained strong, with some addition due to weekly givers changing to online banking, we saw a huge fall off in our income from other areas, due to the limits on using our church building. However, the prudence of previous years has meant that we have savings to call on to see us through the difficult time. Whilst we had some decrease in our expenditure our main cost, staff, remained the same as our staff found new ways to reach, disciple and pastor. Our income for the year was £133,566 (compared to 2019 £161,990) and our expenditure £145,292 (compared to 2019 £154,686) giving a deficit of £11,726. As always, we thank God for what He has given us and want to share with others. Therefore, we are delighted that, despite a squeeze on our finances, we were able to fulfil our commitments to give generously and during 2020 gave £33,896 to local, UK and overseas mission.

Outreach Ministries – report from Stuart

Local Mission/ Outreach Partnerships

We continue to partner with several local outreach ministries, providing volunteer, prayer and (at times) financial assistance from our church to support them.

Serving our Neighbours

Many thanks to all who participated in the initiative to serve our street neighbours, the Warrington Food Bank, and the many who suffered devastating damage to their homes during the flooding in Warrington. In partnership with Kings Church, Bethany Church and Urban Church we provided food, clothes, cleaning supplies, and over £4000 in financial support to help the churches buy replacement white goods for their neighbours. Thanks also to John and the BYP staff who helped deliver and uplift goods.

World Mission Ministries – report from Mary Evans

We are committed to supporting Stephanie Darling in her work in Malawi. Stephanie has been with us over the past year and many

people have talked with her and prayed for her. She is hoping to head back to Malawi within the next month or so, to a slightly different ministry focused less on the college work and more on developing lay training. It would be good if a few, maybe newer people, could talk to her in the next couple of weeks and perhaps commit to writing a letter to keep her in touch with life here so that we can report on that next year.

We are also committed to support BMS and in particular Dan and Annie Dupree at Tek Ura project in Albania. It was really good to see and hear from them earlier in the year. Our support from them is largely through our giving to BMS and also in prayer. Their regular prayer letters have been made available via e-mail and the web. I know the small groups have prayed for them. Again it would be good if a number of people could commit to writing to them once every few months.

Nick and Liz Byles were with us very recently and are now back in Cambodia. During the year Nick has changed his focus from working with the Web Essentials Company to joining EMI (Engineering Ministries International), focussing on helping the church develop building projects and reach out through such projects. Liz is still working with World Renew in health areas. Both Liz and Nick are also getting involved with the International Christian School in Phnom Penh. They would really love to hear from people here, either e-mails or via WhatsApp.

In addition to these personal links there is ongoing support for Christian Aid, Tear Fund and Fair Trade.

Church Family Bereavements

During this dreadful period of lockdowns, some of those most particularly affected by the restrictions were those who suffered the loss of loved ones.

We were saddened by the passing of our dear friends Mary and Doug Fairbrother, Ruby Gould, Keith Prest, June Wogan, and more recently,

Pat Woodrow and Tony Bennett. For each of these loved ones we grieve, but not as those without hope. We're grateful in each case to have the assurance that they are held secure in their Saviour's hand, and will be with him forever following the resurrection.

Psalm 23.6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Church Membership at Hill Cliffe:

There are 3 key elements to how we describe Membership at Hill Cliffe. Church Members are:

COMMITTED – to our Church Family, our Church Covenant (Values), our shared Vision Emphasis and our Leadership

INVOLVED – in our Church Family Gatherings, Ministries and Vision

INVESTING – in our Church Family Resources and Vision Emphasis

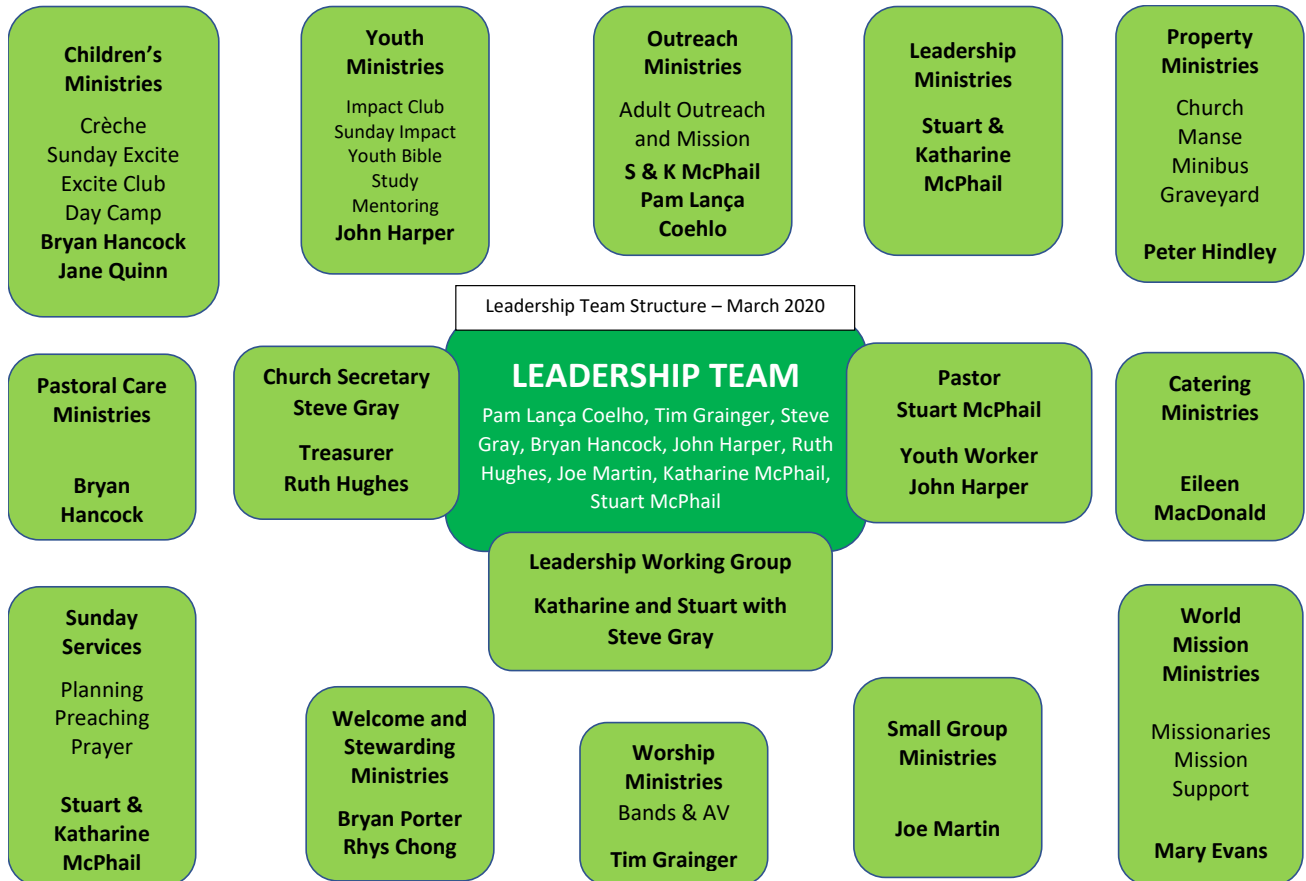
If you would like to explore becoming a member at Hill Cliffe please contact Stuart or Katharine.

Annual Church Covenant:

The Church Members at Hill Cliffe have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. Please see *Appendix 2* below for the Annual Covenant.

This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family. What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly. The Church Members are requested to make a fresh commitment to this Covenant each year at our AGM.

Appendix 1: Overview of Church Ministries March 2020-2021



Appendix 2: Annual Church Covenant

Annual Church Covenant

As a Church Membership we have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength. This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family. What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly.

We will make our new covenant at our AGM Church Meeting. Because we take this joint-commitment seriously, If you are not able to make it to that meeting, please indicate the renewal of your covenant via email to Steve Gray, steve.gray@hillcliffe.info or in writing a brief note.

Hill Cliffe Baptist Church's Church Values

1. We are a Worshipping Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Maintaining a close relationship with God through regular Bible reading, prayer and spiritual disciplines.
- Striving to live a life that glorifies Jesus with my whole life, submitting to the authority of God's Word as the final arbiter on all issues.
- Honouring God in all my relationships – in private, in public, in the home, in the workplace, or in the church – in my words and my actions.
- Worshipping God together in the gathering of our church family on Sundays and in the various other family gatherings for prayer, ministry and fellowship.
- Worshipping God in actively participating in obeying His missionary call.

John 4:23,24; 1 Corinth 12:11-13; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15,16; 1 Thess 2:8; Psalm 119:2

2. We are a Missionary Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Actively participating in God's missionary call to 'go and make disciples of all nations', in my family, my neighbourhood and my workplace.
- Sharing my hope in the One who is the way, the truth and the life.
- Actively supporting our missionaries and mission partners across the world in prayer and financial support.

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:13-16; Phil 2:12-18

3. We are a Holy Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Walking in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ who has saved me that I can live a new life in the Holy Spirit.
- Striving to live with integrity, honesty and faithfulness in all my relationships, loving and forgiving others as I have been loved and forgiven by God.
- Striving to maintain the unity in Christ amongst God's family at Hill Cliffe, refusing to gossip and back-bite, but rather honouring one another in the Lord.
- Striving to honour Jesus by avoiding involvement in anything we know contradicts God's Word and ideals.
- Seeking to put off the old nature and the sins against the body, such as sexual immorality, adultery, sex outside of marriage, pornography, gluttony, drunkenness, etc.
- Seeking to honour, preserve and protect the gift of marriage and God's ideals for marriage in our church family.
- Submitting to the loving discipline of the Holy Spirit and God's Word in confession, repentance and restoration when we sin.

Ephesians 5:1-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 1 Peter 1:13- 2:2; Romans 6:12

4. We are a Sacrificial Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Sacrificing my time and comfort in serving our family at Hill Cliffe – in prayer, encouragement, care for the needy, in hospitality and in love.
- Sacrificing my money, time, gifts and talents in actively participating in the growth of the Kingdom of God.
- Sacrificing myself in identifying with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless.
- Sacrificing my time and comfort in purposefully serving the needs of the aliens and strangers, the vulnerable and the needy in our society in the love of Christ.

Romans 12:1; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinth 9:7; 1 John 2:2

5. We are a Prophetic Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Seeking to encourage and bless my church family in speaking and acting prophetically as I am led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and guided by God's Word and our Church leaders.
- Seeking to speak and act prophetically in our wider society in tune with godly wisdom, justice and grace – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly concepts of power, wealth, status and security.

Romans 16:25-27; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 2:17-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 13:1-3; Phil 2:12-18

6. We are an Inclusive Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Helping ensure that the gospel and the church transcend the barriers of language, race, class, age, gender and culture in the Christ-like love of God.

John 3:16-21; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9,10

**HILL CLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2020
GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT**

	Note	2020	2019
Receipts			
Offerings	2	99,718	118,390
Income tax recovered on offerings		26,750	27,002
Youth and Children events		605	7,843
Rents and contributions for use of premises		745	2,423
Café and catered events		646	3,331
Graveyard		1,531	1,515
Other		3,454	1,174
Interest	3	119	312
Total Receipts		133,566	161,990
Payments			
Ministry	4	74,602	63,653
Mission	5	33,896	36,416
Upkeep of church premises	6	26,892	25,273
Administration	7	3,442	3,925
Children and Youth	8	4,596	13,113
Serving, reaching and discipling	9	1,865	12,306
Total Payments		145,292	154,686
Surplus (Deficit)		(11,726)	7,304
Transfers (to) / from general fund			
Cash balance at previous year end		54,981	47,677
Cash balance at current year end		43,257	54,981

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31
DECEMBER 2018**

	Note	2020	2019
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		11,225	18,189
BUC deposit account		32,032	36,913
Money received not banked			
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	1,540,142	1,540,142
Total Assets		1,583,399	1,595,244
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	11		121
Long Term Loans	12		
Pension Scheme liability	13	49,500	49,500
Other liabilities			
Total Liabilities		49,500	49,621

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to the year ending 31 December 2018 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed: (Treasurer or other Deacon authorised to sign on behalf of all the deacons)

[Date]

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Donations and other income

	2020	2019
Donations	99,718	118,390
Total Donations and Other Income	99,718	118,390

3. Investment income

	2020	2019
Savings interest		
Total Investment Income	0	0

4. Ministry

	2020	2019
Staff stipends, NI and pension contributions	64,438	57,421
Manse costs	3,952	3,892
Other ministry [<i>detail if material</i>]	1,361	889
Study and conference expenses	4,850	1,441
Total Ministry	74,602	63,643

Stuart McPhail acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Pastor, including the provision of manse accommodation [owned by the church]

5. Mission

	2020	2019
Home Mission	7,128	7,950
BMS World Mission	7,128	7,950
Christians Against Poverty	936	720
Warrington Youth For Christ	980	1,060
Tearfund	738	918
Active Hope	980	1,060
SIM	6,115	6,571
Broomfields Youth Project	3,400	-
Message Trust	738	918
Warrington Street Pastors	980	1,060
Mission Aviation Fund	738	918
Open Doors	738	918
Sponsorship and Other mission	3,300	6,374
Total Mission	33,896	36,416

6. Upkeep of church premises

	2020	2019
Energy/Telephone	6,279	6,501
Cleaning	1,019	1,050
Insurance	3,189	3,133
Repairs and maintenance	8,216	5,206
Equipment		
Manse Maintenance	1,217	1,429
Minibus Maintenance	888	1,595
Graveyard Contractor	6,084	6,359

Total Upkeep of church premises	26,892	25,273
7. Administration	2020	2019
Printing and stationery	1,350	1,924
Subscriptions	2,092	2,000
Total Administration	3,442	3,925
8. Children and Youth	2020	2019
Resources and equipment	2,582	3,706
Day camp	402	5,186
Mission and other trips	1,613	4,220
Total children and youth	4,596	13,113
9. Serving, Reaching and discipling	2020	2019
Teaching and Worship	922	262
Pastoral	40	3,448
Adult/Family outreach	59	1,302
Investing in leaders and discipleship	24	154
Kitchen/catering	820	7,140
Total Serving, reaching and discipling	1,865	12,306

10. Assets Held for the Church's own use

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

- Church premises and land (including burial ground) at Red Lane valued in the accounts at £1,200,000 based on insured value
- Church manse at 15A Cobbs Lane valued in the accounts at £255,142 based on insured value
- The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £85,000

11. Current Liabilities	2020	2019
Cheques written but not cashed		4,251
Total Current Liabilities	-	4,251

12. Long-Term Liabilities	2020	2019
Long term liabilities	-	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-	-

13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2013 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £162 million. The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £84 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 66%). The Church and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2016. The results of this valuation are expected to be available in 2018.

The church makes a payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit each month as set out in the Schedule of Contributions. The church currently makes a contribution of £376.92 per month which will increase in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresees these contributions continuing until 30 June 2035. The pension scheme liability shown in the Statement of Assets and liabilities is calculated as the current rate per month multiplied by the number of months remaining in the current Schedule of Contributions, which amounted to £261,000 as at 31st December 2020.

The Church has been advised that the cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2020 was approximately £49,500.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Hillcliffe Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2020 Charity no
(if any) 1134511

Set out on pages

1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 12 2020

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: LmPrice Date: 4/9/2021

Name: Lisa Marie Price

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT

Address:

17 Wood Lane
Appleton, Warrington
WA4 3DB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

