

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1134865

Details

Other names LBC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-12

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

Contact

Address Littlehampton Baptist Church
Fitzalan Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5NY

Phone 01903717961

Email office@littlehamptonbaptistchurch.org

Website www.littlehamptonbaptistchurch.org

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: Regular religious services. Work in the community. Pre-school and Parent and Toddler groups. Children and youth work. Weekly activities/meetings for church members and others. Supporting of individuals and organisations working abroad.

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£94,496	£123,149	-	-
2023-12-31	£100,283	£90,375	-	-
2022-12-31	£96,164	£106,340	-	-
2021-12-31	£109,935	£96,493	-	-
2020-12-31	£132,288	£153,338	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Benjamin Nshole		2024-04-28
DARREN LEWIS		2023-09-01
Jose Seymour		2024-04-28
Monica Harris		2024-04-28
VERONICA WHITE		2025-04-20

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134865

Accounts

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Trustees of Littlehampton Baptist Church present their Annual report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVE

The Charity (hereinafter referred to as the Church) is governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the Baptist denomination.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Persons are accepted into membership of the Church on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Constitution.

Members' Meetings are usually held not less than four times a year. There were meetings in the Church building in January, April, July and November 2024.

The meeting sets the overall Church policy and Members appoint Trustees, including the Minister, who oversee the running of all day to day Church affairs, and who also oversee the spiritual direction and help for Members and Friends.

The following were Trustees from January to April 2024 when their term of office ended:

Pastor Darren Lewis [Minister]

Veronica White (Treasurer/Church Secretary)

Margaret Dawson (Pastoral Auxiliary)

Fran Watson

John Holden

John Ray

Elections for new Trustees took place in April 2024. The new Trustees served from May 2024. The results were as follows:

Pastor Darren Lewis (Minister)

Ernest Bridger (Buildings & Fabric)

Monica Harris (Administration)

Benjamin N Nkosso (Safeguarding Trustee & Children's Ministry)

Josephine Seymour (Outreach & Hospitality, Fire Officer)

During the year, the Trustees were assisted by teams, each having a leader and separate responsibilities e.g. Worship Team, Pastoral Contact Team and Welcome Team etc.

The Constitution permits decisions at Members' Meetings to be passed by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus whenever possible.

The Trustees regularly review the major risks facing the charity and are satisfied that there are policies in place to mitigate them appropriately.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

A variety of activities are provided both for Church Members and for the local community.

A public service of worship is held each Sunday morning at 10.30am. During the service, a creche room is available for those with small children to use, and part way through the service any school-aged children and young people can engage with our Bible Discoverers and Explorers groups. Additionally, a family service is held on the last Sunday of the month. Light refreshments are served in the Church Hall after the service, which gives Members, Friends and Visitors the opportunity to keep in touch with each other.

Services are Livestreamed to YouTube and are viewed by those unable to physically attend including people not directly associated with the Church.

The needs of disabled people are regularly reviewed and provision for them includes a loop system in all public rooms for those who are hearing impaired, and specific toilet provision for physically disabled people. (This toilet also has changing facilities for babies.) There is reasonable wheelchair access to all areas.

Prayer meetings are held weekly on Sunday mornings prior to the service, Sunday evenings, Monday mornings, as well as a men's prayer meeting on Saturday morning. There is also a monthly prayer for healing service.

Small groups are an important aspect of Church life, providing the members and friends with a safe place to develop their relationships with God and each other. These small groups meet in either homes or on church premises.

In addition to this, there are several groups across the week that seek to fulfil the principal purpose of the church, and/or benefit the wider community.

Children, Youth and Families

We provide (term time only) a weekly Rainbows Baby and Toddler group, and Wow Club aimed at families of primary school-aged children. (Children outside of this age group may attend with a club member).

Other Activities, Events and Wider Community Engagement

Coffee and Chat, a social time for anyone, is held weekly in the church lounge.

The Church played an active role within the life of Littlehampton Churches Together, most notably through the Good Friday Walk of Witness at which Pastor Darren preached.

The Church has actively sought to play a part in the wider life of the community through participating in the Pancake Olympics hosted by Littlehampton Town Council and by supporting other organisations within the community such as:

- The Bonfire society, by making the premises available to use on bonfire night.
- The RNLI, by providing the premises free of charge for their annual Carol Concert.
- Littlehampton Foodbank through support, donations and use of the premises.

Premises

The premises are also utilised by local groups and organisations such as the Child Contact Centre and the Littlehampton Players Operatic Society. In addition, the hall, lounge and kitchen have, on occasions, been used for children's parties following, for example, birthdays. During the summer holidays the church premises are hired by youth / children's groups, for Summer Camps.

To facilitate most of what has been mentioned, an important and substantial amount of work is put into the running and maintenance of the church premises and manse.

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

As noted above, the Church has sought to fulfil its purpose and reach out to the local community with both spiritual and practical advice and help. The Church recognises the success of its activities and engagements is not simply found in numbers and acknowledges the great value in less tangible aspects such as depth of fellowship and the effectiveness of support and encouragement to members and the community.

Introduction – Pastor Darren Lewis

Our motto text for 2024 was 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 - “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.” Our devotion at last year’s AGM built on this by focusing on Nehemiah chapter 4 where God’s people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with one hand whilst holding their weapon in the other – the challenge was to keep fixed on God and what he has called us to do and keep a caring eye out for one another.

2024 lived up to the challenge of Nehemiah 4 of being a year of building for God. It was an incredibly busy year serving our Lord, and my heart is full when I reflect on what God has done in us and through us – we have so much to be thankful for! I am so incredibly thankful to you all, for your obedient, loving service you too did for Him at LBC.

As I reflect on last year and all that happened (as you will see in the rest of the report), and ponder our motto text, I am so thankful for this too. It was a constant and important reminder of the posture that was needed as we journeyed through the year. I look forward to seeing all that God does in 2025 as we continue to build for him.

Worship – Pastor Darren Lewis

It has been incredibly encouraging to see all that God has done through our times of worship across the year, maintaining its place at the heart of Littlehampton Baptist Church. This has primarily taken place in our Sunday gatherings.

During our Sunday morning services, we have explored the ‘Fruitfulness on the Frontline’ series, thinking about how we can further engage those around us with our Christian faith, as well as delving deeper into Paul’s letter to the Philippian church before embarking on our journey through the Gospel of Luke. These themes have often been reflected on further at our evening gathering, whether that be in Bible study, a time of prayer or sharing Communion. A highlight of the year has been seeing the wide range of members of the congregation participating in various aspects of worship, and we thank God for this. We also would like to express our

thanks to the various guest speakers who have joined us, as well as the worship band that has been so faithful in serving us, and we have been blessed by the new songs that have been introduced.

We have also been encouraged by the range of services that have taken place across the Christian Calendar. A Maundy Thursday Supper and Communion Service provided a much appreciated time of reflection and fellowship to the celebration that was had on Easter Sunday, whilst the Christingle service and Carol service once again provided an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Christmas in the build up to our Christmas Day All Age Celebration. Harvest was also a time of celebration and prayer as we lifted up the work of one of the mission partners in Bangladesh.

Finally, we are really pleased to say that we have been able to provide acts of worship during key life events. We have celebrated new life as we Dedicated children from the church family to the Lord, whilst providing the opportunity to pray a blessing for children within our community. It was also wonderful to have the opportunity, and often rare occasion, of a wedding taking place in the church. Additionally, several funerals have taken place within the church, and it has been a privilege to walk alongside and serve others during these difficult times.

Prayer – Pastor Darren Lewis

As was noted in the 2023 report, prayer is a high priority for the church and that continued to be the case in 2024. We are thankful for the existing prayer gatherings, whether they be weekly or monthly, who meet to play their vital roles in the prayer life of the church, as we seek to honour God in all that we do and lift to Him the needs of each other, our community and the wider world. These groups are Prayer and Share, Men's Prayer Group, Sunday early morning and evening gatherings and Prayer for Israel.

One development which came in 2024 was the beginning of a Prayer Meeting on Monday mornings. The aim of this group was to pray particularly for the needs of the church, its activities, as well as the needs of the community in which we serve. This simple and powerful time was much appreciated by those who attended, and prayer was gratefully received by those we prayed for. We were encouraged across the year with news of answered pray. It should be noted; the original plan was this group would be a development to the existing prayer and share meeting that also takes place on a Monday morning; however, this was not possible.

A great development to be celebrated is the participation in a new gathering that has been established to bring Christians together from the various churches to pray for our town. These have been wonderful times and something we look forward to being a part of in the future.

Coffee and Chat – J.S.

Coffee and Chat follows on immediately from our Monday 9am Share and Prayer time- (Mondays 10.30am to noon - held in the lounge)

This last year our numbers have grown. We now regularly have up to 18, mainly members and friends of LBC; but we also regularly have visitors call in - sometimes as a one off, but also more regularly and some come each week. The poster on the street outside the car park has led to a good number dropping in this year.

We thank God that this weekly get together has proved to be a great opportunity to catch up and share something of our lives and testimonies together; and to welcome new friends whom we are able to offer support to and tell of our love of the Lord Jesus.

We are grateful to C.R. and others who faithfully serve us with tea and coffee and biscuits each week, while the rest of us chat!

Oakland Grange – J.S.

LBC has been visiting Oakland Grange and holding an informal 'service', for some years now, our relationship with the Care Home was established when J.H. went into the home for respite following an operation. It has been further strengthened since J. moved in last year.

Once a month, on a Thursday, we have an informal 50 minute meeting, in the main lounge, which is usually attended by up to 20 residents and a couple of staff, plus a team of about six of us who attend on that day. We sing mostly favourite well-loved hymns which the residents often choose. L.K., J.G. and M.D. play piano or guitar for us. We break bread, sometimes one of us shares a testimony, one of J.H.'s poems are often read, and a short talk is always given, referencing a reading and the hymns.

Afterwards, most of us stay on for a while and chat with the residents. We have got to know quite a few of them and provide a listening ear and sometimes have been able to offer prayer and may also visit them at other times.

J.H reports that the residents who attend are very appreciative of the visits and look forward to the next one; the more so as some of them miss being able to attend their own church service.

Sadly, often those we have got to know pass away. We have been able to remember them during our Thursday meeting and thank God for their lives and refer to the gracious comfort of the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for this open door opportunity and for K., the senior manager, and K., the CEO of the two Oakland homes, who are very supportive of our visits.

Schools Ministry – P.D.L.

A highlight of the year was organising the local primary schools to come for free to the church so see the Rhyming Bible performed by The Saltmine Theatre Company. This was a huge success with hundreds of pupils from either/both Year 5 and 6 along with the necessary adults, coming from each school, as well as there being an evening performance for anyone to attend. All those who came experienced a performance where the story of the Bible was dramatised in an amazing and memorable way. Every child who attended with a school group also had the opportunity to enter a competition where they had to write a letter explaining what they enjoyed, with a first prize and several runner-up prizes. We are thankful for the donation that made this possible and the various people who helped, welcomed and hosted the performers and the attendees.

We also engaged with our local secondary school The Littlehampton Academy. This was done through supporting their chaplain, P.S. OBE and inviting him to preach at LBC. On top of this, P. D. had the privilege of welcoming P. S. and a large group from the school who were learning about the various church denominations and buildings. Whilst here, D. answered several questions about the church, shared about Baptist beliefs and his Christian faith. As a church we were also delighted that some of the members were able to support P. as he ran the annual prayer week at the Littlehampton Academy for pupils to attend.

Children's Ministry

Bible Discoverers – B.N.N.

Bible Discoverers started in September of 2024. It was agreed among the children's team that it was necessary to start a new Sunday School group for our younger children, due to the numbers and age range of the children in the Church. We currently operate with one main leader, H.L. or B.N.N, and we are supported by the parents of the children in our group. Although we had intended the group to be for our children from Reception up, our toddlers have joined us every week and they are a valued part of our group.

We are really pleased with how Bible Discoverers is developing. We have around 8-11 children most weeks, who all really enjoy their story time, craft and chance to play. Across the Autumn, we learnt about God's amazing creation, the story of Isaac and the Christmas Story. More recently we have spent time learning about the Easter Story, and the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. The children listen and engage well and some of them are even starting to pray at the end of our sessions.

We have had a few Church Members come forward with an interest in supporting Bible Discoverers in the future. It remains our aim that following Safer Recruitment, we will be able to offer the option for parents to leave their children with us so that they can return to the service. We will however ask parents of children under 4 years old to remain with their children.

Prayer points-

- for seeds of faith to be planted and God to move in the hearts of our Discoverers
- for wisdom for the leaders and parents to guide the children in their faith journeys
- for God to call further equipped team members to volunteer with us

Bible Explorers – D.B.

The three leaders have enjoyed another year of teaching a group of 6-14 year olds using the Scripture Union curriculum. The age range is wide but as the group is small in numbers this has worked well, and the older children help the younger ones especially in finding Bible passages. The group has been learning about stories from the Old and New testaments with the help of videos, craft activities, games, drama, and memory verses.

The session normally begins with a time of sharing and prayer and the children are encouraged to pray themselves, which most are happy to do. Some of them joined the LBC team for the Littlehampton Pancake Olympics and won some medals! The children are increasing their knowledge of the Bible and seeing its relevance to their own lives as well as learning about the love, faithfulness and power of our heavenly father and his son Jesus our saviour, and we pray that all the children will develop their own personal relationship with him.

Rainbows – D.B.

Rainbows meets on a Tuesday in the church Hall and is led by Auntie Di with the support of a great team who help in the hall and kitchen.

Our numbers in 2024 have varied from 5-21 children but however few meet we know the group is much appreciated. We provide a place where Mums and other carers of young children can come and relax and chat over a cuppa, whilst their children play and learn to share etc. This year we have introduced (following requests from parents) a table with puzzles which the children enjoy. We usually finish with a mixture of songs which include some from church. A Prayer Box is available on the reception table along with helpful booklets and information. Three new babies received a beautiful blanket, thanks to a member of the church and a card signed by all.

At Easter every family received an Easter Story Book, and an invitation to our Easter Service. Then, in December we enjoyed our usual Christmas Party with songs; the Christmas Story, with Auntie Di's puppets; Father Christmas with gifts of the Christmas Story books and food; we always give invitations to our Christmas events e.g. Christingle which proved very popular.

We have a few church families who come, some parents attend other churches, but most have no church connections Our Pastor, D. comes whenever he can to chat and get to know everyone and they him and the group really appreciates him coming.

The team always comes together in prayer before the start of the morning meetings, and we value your prayers for God's blessing on our ministry.

WOW Club - Pastor D.L. and H.L.

It is wonderful to report that we were able to build on the success of 2023 in 2024. As with groups like this, numbers fluctuated across the year, and we ended the year with similar numbers to 2023.

Several questions arose across the year regarding how we run, sustain, and develop WOW Club. Being a Bible themed craft-based group meant that finding appropriate stories and themes with enough crafts (that had not been done before) was increasingly challenging. There was also a lot of reflection on how we can keep those who come engaged throughout the session and meeting the needs of those who did come whilst making the most of the opportunity to share our Christian faith.

Therefore, the following developments were made:

- Although arts and crafts were a dominant feature of the sessions we added a greater emphasis to other aspects, meaning it is now not simply an arts and crafts club. For example, we had at least two other non-craft-based activities, such as Duplo or Bowling.
- A £350 grant was obtained from Littlehampton Town Council to buy a selection of board games and games/activity equipment. The board games available at each session varied and these were an instant hit. So far, only some of the other equipment has been used and this has already proved to be a great improvement to the end of the session.
- With approximately a third of the time left we would tidy up, show our pieces of work with an explanation of the topic and concluded with a prayer. The outcome of this meant the focus of the session or story was more grounded within the session. The session was then concluded with a physical game which everyone could play in teams or as a whole group before our final prayer of thanks.

We are incredibly thankful to the hard-working team who served faithfully across the year, and it was an answer to prayer to have more team members join as it was proving a challenge to cover the sessions. This challenge increased when one of the incredible founding leaders of the group, H.F., moved on to pastures new and we are indebted to H.L. for stepping in and leading the groups with P.D.L who began attending each of the sessions, as well as aiding the planning and preparation of the sessions.

What is clear to all those involved with the group is how much the group is loved and enjoyed by the children and their parents/carers alike. It continues to provide a safe space for fun, food and craft whilst exploring the Christian faith. Additionally, support and care are provided for individuals and family units through the relationships established by the team on behalf of the church. An outcome of this has been the attendance of some families at other church events and services as well as the joy of Blessing some of the children at special services.

Looking ahead, we look forward to serving God and seeing Him work in the lives of those who attend, and we can't wait to use the rest of the equipment brought with the grant from Littlehampton Town Council. However, we know more reflection and changes will need to take place to enable us to continue running this group. This is made even more so knowing that T. will also be moving on to pastures new in the first half of 2025. We want to finish this report by thanking again, both T. and H. , for their hard work and infectious enthusiasm at WOW Club right from the start and we wish them all the best in their new roles.

Pastoral Care – M.D. (Pastoral Auxiliary and Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care Team)

The team consists of the Pastor, Co-ordinator and 2 other LBC Members, J.G. and C.R., with one other (A.S.) being co-opted onto the team in the Autumn.

AIM: to keep in touch with LBC Members and Friends as much as possible to offer encouragement, support and prayer where and when needed.

MODUS OPERANDI: Two of the team undertake to make fortnightly phone calls to individuals who are housebound and those in particular pastoral need. These calls are still much appreciated, and we are very grateful to J.G. and C.R. for the time they spend in this service. In addition to the phone calls, cards, and sometimes flowers, are sent in special cases.

General news is shared on the LBC Fellowship app, which has 43 members, and specific requests for prayer are put on the LBC Prayer app which has 45 members.

These groups play an important role in keeping people informed, supporting with prayer and developing fellowship.

The Prayer WhatsApp group has a special function in that it offers immediate prayer support to any member facing a specific problem, and the PC Team appreciate the efforts made to achieve this so successfully.

A small number of our congregation are neither online nor owning a smartphone. Every effort is made to keep them updated.

The team also make home and Hospital visits where appropriate. All visits are noted on the Pastoral Care Team app for prayer support from the other Team members. Some very worthwhile visits and contacts have been made in this way.

The Pastoral Care Team is grateful for the co-operation of Home Group Leaders and their care of the members of their Groups, keeping us informed of troubling situations.

The team meet quarterly for discussion and prayer.

Much of the work done by the Team is seen by them as part of their service to the Lord and His people, but the cost of flowers, cards, and postage may be claimed from LBC petty cash.

The Church recognises the value of the work done by the Pastoral Care Team and continues to support it.

Home Groups – F. S.

Home groups continue to be important for a significant number of our membership and congregation.

In the Autumn of 2024, a survey was conducted to assess the impact of home groups. This consisted of a written questionnaire. 36 surveys were completed. The overall assessment of the groups was positive with some helpful suggestions for the way forward.

The most important findings are that the groups have a vital role in the caring, pastoral element of church life. Nearly all the participants stated that practical care and concern for each other was good, many citing examples of this. The groups provide significant opportunities for relationships to develop and grow.

Alongside the practical care was the importance of praying for each other. Within the smaller group a depth of confidentiality and confidence deepens the possibility of praying together at a level which is not possible on other occasions. Overall, the groups play a vital role in the life of the church.

Outreach Events and Community Support – J. S.

2024 was a busy year with 5 funerals, 2 dedications, a Harvest Lunch, 2 church picnics, a film show and a Church workday. An Alpha course was well attended, and we pray this year will be as busy, if not busier! The weather was good to us at the Town Show, and we moved into Christmas with the RNLI Carol Service and Christingle.

The responsibilities for Hospitality and Outreach and as Fire safety Officer overlap considerably and the safety of our children, young people and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance if they are to benefit from the work that we do here at LBC and amongst the community. The focus is very much being on identifying hazards, assessing risks and implementing controls to prevent accidents and illness.

The wider our Hospitality and Outreach programme, the greater need for Health and Safety awareness whether it be, Fire Safety, Food hygiene or General Health and Safety Issues. For many of us there are some aspects of these areas that are new to us. However, keeping up to date with New Guidelines and the various training and courses that are available to us is necessary for everybody's safety.

The need for more help in these areas is always required especially in the health and safety area. As we continue to make our building safer and thus available to outside groups and organisations e.g. The Bonfire Society, Contact Centre and Foodbank we are more able to fulfil our individual and corporate Christian ministries as outlined in Matthew 28:19-20.

Buildings and Premises- E.B.

At the close of 2023 we became aware of the very busy year ahead, briefly I have recorded what has been achieved:

Church Car Park and pathways- Complete rebuild and then tarmacked to a high safety standard.

The Church Manse: - an ongoing programme of work including a new lounge window, new uPVC fascias and gutters on the whole building, internal making good, and repairs to central heating, bathroom and kitchen which will continue in 2025. A survey on the overall condition of the roof of the house is a priority for 2025.

Maintenance of the church building is always on-going, Heating, Kitchen problems completed. Outside, we now have a gardening team of Church Members who maintain a high standard of appearance including flower beds, control of hedges etc

Spring Day: - The cleaning of all parts of the Church building was undertaken with a day when Church Members cleaned every part of the building both inside and out, plus, an enormous amount of clutter cleared from every area of the building. We have a work programme in place for 2025 which includes the baptistry and at the

Manse a new garden wall and replacement of the flat roof on the extension, garage door replacement etc.

Governance:

Membership:

At the end of 2024, there were 69 Members in Fellowship at LBC (8 are new members). During 2024 there were 4 deaths, 5 dedications, 3 blessings and 0 resignations.

2024 proved to be a very challenging year both financially and practically. In April 2024, except for Pastor Darren Lewis, all (four) members of the Diaconate were new. Three out of the four had no previous experience of working as deacons. This is not an ideal situation and steps are being taken, within the limitations of the present Constitution, to see that this situation does not arise again in the foreseeable future.

Many hours have been spent assessing, updating and where deemed necessary, rewriting the church's policies. There is a clear understanding that there is further work to be undertaken in this area.

In 2024 JS was appointed as Fire Officer. She is to be congratulated on the many improvements that she has researched and then installed in the building. The necessary signage, regular alarm checks, fire drills and general paperwork are in place. In 2025 the Church needs to appoint and equip a Health and Safety Officer.

In 2024 those attending the Sunday service were shown Stage 1 Safeguarding Film. Stages 2&3 are required for Trustees. Training for basic Health and Safety where applicable e.g. Food hygiene will need to be undertaken in 2025.

Safeguarding – B. N.

We are pleased to inform the members that the safeguarding policy of Littlehampton Baptist Church (LBC) was updated and accepted by the members and is now operational. As part of its practices, we have commenced the initial phase of the safer recruitment process, during which the applications were sent out to individuals who are directly and indirectly involved with children and young people within LBC. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have completed and returned their applications, and we remind those who are still working on them to submit them at their earliest convenience.

We are currently preparing to move to the second phase of this process, which will entail conducting an informal interview (conversation) with the applicants to ensure that we have all their necessary information safely stored in a file. This process includes carrying out measures to guarantee that staff and volunteers are fit to work with vulnerable people, such as background checks, referencing, and ongoing training

when feasible, all while complying with SEBA recommendations and LBC safeguarding principles.

It is essential to communicate to the members that one of the aims of the safer recruitment initiative is to establish a team of staff and volunteers who are prepared to assist in a variety of activities for young people and children within LBC, particularly considering the increasing number of children that we have observed in the recent period. We would like parents to feel at ease when leaving their children with the Sunday school leaders while they participate in the church service and receive God's blessings through the sermon.

The safeguarding team would like to remind LBC members that should you have concerns regarding the wellbeing of a child, vulnerable adults, or LBC members in general, you are required to report it immediately to our Designated Safeguarding Person, Carol Taylor, who will take the necessary actions to address the matter or will seek advice from appropriate agencies on how to manage the issue. Below is the safeguarding email: safeguarding@littlehamptonbaptistchurch.com

FINANCIAL REVIEW V. W.

The church raises the funds for the General account needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, by means of regular offerings at services and regular giving via the banking system. In accordance with church policy, no wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The most significant regular expenses are the salaries paid to the Minister, the cleaners, and children's workers. A grant of £350 was received from the local Council to buy equipment for the WOW Club (a children's after school club)

During this year, the Church again relied on its members and friends serving in voluntary capacities in all its activities, thus making little impact on Church expenditure.

Our income for 2024 was lower than that of 2023 and our expenditure for the year exceeded our income, mainly due to the substantial cost of resurfacing the church car park early 2024 and the increased cost of utilities. During the year we switched to British Gas for our utilities and anticipate a substantial saving as a result.

Again, no progress was made regarding the exploration to redevelop the Church premises, this is due to the NHS Commissioning Group making no headway with their plans for the regeneration of the Hospital site next door. The premises were made available to local groups and organisations such as the Child Contact Centre, the Littlehampton and District Foodbank, the Littlehampton Players Operatic Society, and the Littlehampton Bonfire Society. During the summer holidays the church premises were hired by Belfairs Methodist Boys Brigade.

The Church designated 10% of its General Fund income to the support of missionaries serving overseas, and charities in the UK. These were: -

Judy Cook at Hope Home in Thailand through BMS
Turning Tides,
Operation Romania Trust,
Compassion, through whom we support 2 children,
Creative Heart

The Church also made other donations to the following local and national charities: -

BMS World Mission
Spurgeon's Children's Homes
The Littlehampton Foodbank

The Church also gives 5% of its General Fund to the Baptist Home Mission Fund, funding Baptist work and witness in the UK.

The Trustees are aware that at some stage in the future, significant sums will need to be spent on the roofs of the Church buildings, and informal estimates suggest that the cost could exceed £100,000. This future expenditure is behind the reserves policy which suggests that £25,000 is needed for maintaining cash flow as well as the £100,000 potential repairs. The current reserves held of £47576 are therefore insufficient in the opinion of the Trustees.

The Financial Reports for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The correspondence address is:

Littlehampton Baptist Church, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5NY.

office@littlehamptonbaptistchurch.org


Registration number: 1134865

Independent Examiner: Mrs. Carol Boreham

Bankers: Santander Bank and Baptists Together

This report was approved by the Trustees on

And signed on their behalf by *Pastor Darren Lewis*


07/05/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH	No (if any) 1134865
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Grants Note 1	79,417	655	-	80,073	86,422
Projects and Events Note 2	908	-	-	908	823
Other income Note 3	13,515	-	-	13,515	13,038
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	93,840	655	-	94,496	100,283
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	93,840	655	-	94,496	100,283
A3 Payments					
Ministry Costs Note 4	34,304	-	-	34,304	15,425
Project Costs Note 5	4,002	-	-	4,002	4,648
Gifts Note 6	12,554	734	-	13,287	15,702
Premises Costs Note 7	51,415	9,915	-	61,330	45,500
Other Support Costs Note 8	10,226	-	-	10,226	9,101
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	112,501	10,649	-	123,149	90,376
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	112,501	10,649	-	123,149	90,376
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 18,660	- 9,993	-	- 28,654	9,907
A5 Transfers between funds	- 1,218	1,218	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	67,454 #	13,531	-	80,985	-
Cash funds this year end	47,576	4,756	-	52,331	9,907

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit	39,553	-	-
	Current	8,020	4,756	-
	Cash	3	-	-
	Total cash funds	47,576	4,756	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Church Premises Insurance Value	General	-	2,832,608
	Manse premises Insurance Value	General	-	465,434
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

NOTES TO LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR 2024 page 1 of 3

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Note 1 Donations and Grants					
Church Offerings	56,058			56,058	59,594
Gift Aid	11,408			11,408	13,915
Grants	350			350	0
Gifts / legacies	11,602			11,602	250
Specified Gifts	0	0	655	655	12,663
	<u>£79,417</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£655</u>	<u>£80,073</u>	<u>£86,422</u>

Note 2 Projects and Events

Events receipts	908			908	823
Other income	0			0	0
	<u>£908</u>			<u>£908</u>	<u>£823</u>

Note 3 Other Income

Use of premises	10,763			10,763	10,570
Miscellaneous	1,156			1,156	1,875
Bank Interest	1,596			1,569	594
	<u>£13,515</u>			<u>£13,515</u>	<u>£13,039</u>

Total receipts	<u>£93,840</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£655</u>	<u>£94,496</u>	<u>£100,284</u>
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Note 4 Ministry Costs

Salaries and NIC	28,601			28,601	8,833
Sundry expences	1,732			1,732	3,508
Pension contributions	3,631			3,631	1,133
Visiting speakers	340			340	1,900
Home Groups	0			0	50
	<u>£34,304</u>	<u>£0</u>		<u>£34,304</u>	<u>£15,425</u>

Note 5 Project Costs

Salaries and NIC	3,131			3,131	2,970
Childrens Clubs	170			170	242
General Project costs	262			262	1,299
Youth projects	350			350	0
Evangelism and Publicity	89			89	136
	<u>£4,002</u>			<u>£4,002</u>	<u>£4,648</u>

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Note 6 Gifts					
Home Mission	4,544			4,544	4,321
Fellowship Fund	300			300	
Specified Gifts	434			434	11,211
ORT Sponsorship	90			90	
World Mission	0	7,920		7,920	170
	<u>£5,367</u>	<u>£7,920</u>		<u>£13,287</u>	<u>£15,702</u>

Note 7 Premises Costs

Church Utilities	13,419			13,419	11,990
Church Insurance	3,081			3,081	2,999
Cleaning salaries	3,971			3,971	4,807
Cleaning and refuse	2,582			2,582	2,295
Church Maintenance	28,538			28,538	18,910
Live streaming equipment	0			0	0
Manse Insurance	602			602	456
Manse repairs	5,404			5,404	2,357
Manse utilities / telephone	3,734			3,734	1,685
	<u>£61,330</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£61,330</u>	<u>£45,500</u>

Note 8 Other support costs

Catering	805			805	524
Training	60			60	20
Administrators salary	0			0	0
Photocopier and stationery	3,263			3,263	2,963
Telephone / internet	2,036			2,036	1,202
Office equipment and maintenance	0			0	13
Licences and subscriptions	3,510			3,510	3,766
Accountancy fees	0			0	0
General expenses	551			551	612
	<u>£10,226</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£10,226</u>	<u>£9,101</u>

Note 9 Cash Funds

	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ payments	Balance 31.12.23	Balance 31.12.24
Mission Account	9,139	7,920	1,219	2,789	4,008
Fellowship Fund	25	300	(275)	826	551
Building Fund	197	9,915	(9,718)	9,915	4,559
	<u>9,361</u>	<u>18,135</u>	<u>-£8,775</u>	<u>£13,531</u>	<u>£4,756</u>

Note 10 Specified Gifts

	Payments
World Mission account	
Judy Cook (BMS)	2,000
Operation Romania Trust (ORT)	2,080
Creative Heart	1,600
Turning Tides	1,600
Compassion	640
	<u>7,920</u>

Miscellaneous accounts

Spurgeons Childcare	84
BMS World Mission	275
Foodbank	49
Creative Heart	25
	<u>434</u>

Note 11 Assets

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by the Church's Custodian Trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Limited

The church premises at Fitzalan Road Littlehampton	£2,832,608
The church manse at 34 St Flora's Road Littlehampton	£465,434

All additions to the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment are charged through the year



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year ended

December 2024

Charity no (if any)

1134865

Set out on pages

(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 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:

CBdx

Date:

11/3/2025

Name:

CAROL BOREHAM

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

Address:

8 HARRSFOLD ROAD

RUSTINGTON

W. SUSSEX BN16 2QE

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134865

Accounts

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Trustees of Littlehampton Baptist Church present their Annual report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.

CHARITABLE OBJECT

The Charity (hereinafter referred to as the Church) is governed by a Constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the Baptist denomination.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Persons are accepted into membership of the Church on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Constitution.

Members' Meetings are usually held not less than four times a year. There were meetings in the Church building in January, April, June (Special Meeting to consider new Pastor), July, October.

The meeting sets the overall Church policy and Members appoint Trustees, including the Minister, who oversee the running of all day-to-day Church affairs, and who also oversee the spiritual direction and help for Members and Friends.

The following have been Trustees during the year:

Pastor Darren Lewis (as from his appointment on 1st September 2023.)

Veronica White (Treasurer/Church Secretary)

Margaret Dawson (Pastoral Auxiliary)

Fran Watson

John Holden

John Ray

A Moderator, Revd. Hazel Sherman, assisted the Trustees and oversaw the process of appointing a new Minister, Pastor Darren Lewis.

During the year, the Trustees were assisted by Ministry teams, each having a leader and separate responsibilities such as Worship Group, Pastoral Contact Team and Welcome Team etc.

The Constitution permits decisions at Members' Meetings to be passed by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus whenever possible.

The Trustees regularly review the major risks facing the charity and are satisfied that there are policies in place to mitigate them appropriately.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

An important aspect and objective for the Church in 2023 was the search and appointment of a new Minister to build upon the ministry of the late Pastor Martin Seymour and to lead the church alongside the other trustees. This process began in the first part of the year with a substantial amount of work on the Church Profile and other documents and the forming and working of the Search Committee. This was followed by diligently looking into the profiles of those who responded, and the subsequent meetings and members' meetings. This concluded in the middle of the year when Pastor Darren Lewis was appointed.

A variety of activities is provided both for Church Members and for the local community.

A public service of worship is normally held each Sunday morning at 10.30am. During the service, a creche room is available for those with small children to use, and part way through the service any school-aged children and young people can engage with our Bible Explorers group. Additionally, after the arrival of Pastor Darren Lewis, a family service is held on the last Sunday of the month. Light refreshments are served in the Church Hall after the service, which gives Members, Friends and Visitors the opportunity to keep in touch with each other.

Services are Livestreamed to YouTube and are watched by shut-ins, as well as people not directly associated with the Church.

The needs of disabled people are constantly reviewed and provision for them includes a loop system in all public rooms for those who are hard of hearing, and toilet provision for physically disabled people. (This toilet also has changing facilities for babies.) There is reasonable wheelchair access to all areas.

Prayer meetings are held weekly on Sunday mornings prior to the service, Sunday evenings, Monday mornings, as well as a men's prayer meeting on Saturday morning. There is also a monthly prayer for healing service.

Small groups are an important aspect of Church life, providing the members and friends with a safe place to develop their relationships with God and each other. 5 small groups meet in either homes or church premises.

In addition to this, there are a number of groups across the week that seek to fulfil the principle purpose of the church, and/or benefit the wider community.

Children, Youth and Families

A weekly term-time, Rainbows Baby and Toddler group, and Wow Club, aimed at families with primary school-aged children, allows them to bring children outside of this age group with them.

In addition to this a Family Fun Day was held during the Easter holidays and a Pantomime was held in the second half of the year in the build up to Christmas.

Other Activities, Events and Wider Community Engagement

Coffee and Chat, a social time for anyone, is held weekly in the church lounge.

A monthly Communion Service was held at a local care home, providing the residents the opportunity to engage in Christian Worship.

The Church played an active role within the life of Littlehampton Churches Together, most notably through the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the two Christmas Nativity plays during Late Night Shopping. The church also supports the Littlehampton Town Chaplains.

The Church has actively sought to play a part in the wider life of the community through participation in the Pancake Olympics hosted by Littlehampton Town Council and by supporting other organisations within the community such as:

- The Bonfire society, by making the premises available for their use on bonfire night.
- The RNLI, through hosting their annual Carol Concert.
- Littlehampton Foodbank through support, donations, and use of the premises.

Premises

The premises are also utilised by local groups and organisations such as the local NHS nurses, the Child Contact Centre, and the Littlehampton Players Operatic Society. During the summer holidays the church premises was hired by three Girls' and Boys' Brigade Camps. For a period at the beginning of the year, the premises was also hired by Rock Focused Youth Group.

To facilitate most of what has been mentioned, an important and substantial amount of work is put into the running and maintenance of the church premises and manse.

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

As noted above, the Church has sought to fulfil its purpose and reach out to the local community with both spiritual and practical advice and help. The Church recognises the success of its activities and engagements is not simply found in numbers and acknowledges the great value in less tangible

aspects such as depth of fellowship and the effectiveness of support and encouragement to members and the community.

Governance

The Church was successful in its search for a new Minister and was pleased to appoint Pastor Darren Lewis. We are very thankful to Rev Hazel Sherman for being our Moderator and the support she provided. The subsequent transition of leadership has been smooth with a great deal of initial work taking place, which was enabled by the Trustees meeting fortnightly rather than monthly.

Worship

Worship is at the heart of our church life and careful consideration is given to providing opportunities for the wider community to engage with this important aspect of life. The church is pleased that it can continue to offer a wide range of opportunities across the week for people to continue in their exploration into, or journeying in, the Christian faith. Furthermore, it was with great delight that a full range of services was able to take place at key moments in the Christian calendar, such as Easter and Christmas, that spiritually enriched the lives of members, friends, and the wider community. An example of this was our interactive, all-age Christingle that took place in a new format at a new time and day.

Additional to these services, key life events were marked within the Church with funerals, a wedding and the dedication of two children who attend the church.

A key development that has taken place with the arrival of Pastor Darren is the establishment of a monthly All Age Service. These have been great times of spiritual nourishment where everyone has stayed together for the duration of the service. We have also created a new space for the children at the front of the Sanctuary with soft matting, flags, and instruments to better engage with the younger members of the Sunday congregation. This has built upon the existing great work that has taken place to engage these younger members of the congregation, such as a weekly action song.

We would like to acknowledge our gratitude to all those who have led and spoken across the year, particularly our guest speakers.

Prayer Meetings

The prayer meetings that have taken place throughout the week in 2023 have been varied and stimulating. These times have been a blessing to those who have been praying and those for whom prayer was made.

We have been encouraged by the prayer and share nature of the Sunday evening and Monday morning meetings, and have rejoiced at their development, prayers have also been offered for our town. Additionally, those who have attended the early Saturday morning Men's meeting have found it to be mutually supportive and uplifting. There are also monthly meetings to pray for Israel, and a Healing Communion service. A highlight has been how the prayer during the early Sunday meeting has often been echoed and reflected during the service.

In closing, it is important to note that these meetings have not been as well attended as we would have expected. Therefore, towards the end of the year, prayerful reflection began on the existing format. This is with the hope that 2024 will see a renewed enthusiasm among our members for the important ministry of prayer. Prayer needs to remain a high priority for the Church.

Safeguarding - Fran Watson (Safeguarding Trustee)

The Church continued to have DBS Checks processed via Due Diligence. All volunteers working with children and young people had DBS disclosures checked and updated where appropriate, DBS checks included those working with adults at risk. Pastor Darren Lewis was also safely recruited, and a DBS check completed. The Safeguarding Policy Statement was updated and read out at the AGM, after which it was placed on display on the notice board. Towards the end of the year, and shortly after his arrival, Pastor Darren Lewis requested a safeguarding audit to ensure our safeguarding continues to be effective as different ministries continue to progress.

We are also particularly thankful our Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) who responds carefully and diligently to concerns raised, and as has been available for people to share their safeguarding concerns should they have any.

Looking ahead to 2024: - Excellence in Safeguarding Level 1 Film to be shown to the congregation, Level 2 and 3 Safeguarding Training refresher courses to be booked for volunteers.

Pastoral Care – Margaret Dawson (Pastoral Auxiliary and Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care Team)

The team consists of the Pastor, Co-ordinator and two other Church Members and acts with the aim to keep in contact with Members and Friends of LBC as much as possible to offer encouragement, support and prayer where needed.

Modus Operandi:

Regular reports and concerns are shared with the Deacons and the Church Members' Meetings.

Fortnightly phone calls are made to shut-ins and those pastoral need. These have been well received and much appreciated. Additional to this, cards, and sometimes flowers, are sent in special cases.

News is shared on the LBC Fellowship WhatsApp Group which has 42 members, and special requests for prayer on the Prayer WhatsApp Group, which has 45 members. These groups play an important function in keeping people informed and developing fellowship. The Prayer WhatsApp Group provides quick prayer support to needs of individuals and the needs and we appreciate all those involved in achieving this so successfully. It is recognised that a small minority of our congregation are not online or owning a smartphone, and efforts are made to keep them updated, by printing out necessary information etc.

The team also try to make home /Hospital visits where appropriate.

The team meet quarterly for discussion and prayer.

A lot of the work done by the team is seen by them as part of their service and stewardship to God, but the cost of flowers, cards and postage may be claimed from LBC petty cash.

I believe the Church recognises the value of the work done by this volunteer team and supports it.

Membership:

During 2023, we welcomed 3 new Members into Fellowship at LBC, one of whom was our new Pastor.

There was 1- deaths and 1 resignation.

Home Groups

We are pleased to report, the Church continues to have 5 home groups, having at least 40 people participate across the year, meeting at differing times on different days, either in homes or on the church premises, each aiming to meet on a fortnightly basis. Although the number of people participating is lower, we acknowledge this has been primarily due to ill health or people moving away from the area.

Home groups play an important part in our church life, as they enable those who attend to attain further discipleship through Bible study, discussion, prayer, musical worship, and fellowship, creating deeper relationships with God and one another. This is enabled by the more intimate nature of a smaller group. We acknowledge and give thanks for the incredible caring work of Home Group leaders and members.

Each group has at least one group leader and is run according to the style and/or needs of each group, resulting in each group being different. In one, each member takes it in turn to lead the session or aspects of the session, in others you might find one person leads more than others and this may vary throughout the year. Additionally, each group chooses their focus or study for that session.

Throughout the year, some groups have focused on a particular book from the Bible, such as the Epistle of James and its very practical advice. Others have used Christian books to cover biblical themes, discussing what has been said and weighing it alongside Scripture. It is very encouraging to hear how groups have been nurtured through both approaches. What has been encouraging to know is the importance of prayer across all the groups.

Towards the end of the year, it was noted by the trustees that prayerful reflection needs to be done on how Home Groups function with the aim of raising their profile in the life of the church and to encourage more people to engage with them.

Buildings and Premises

The Church is very thankful for the support and hard work of the fabric team and those who have done various jobs around the premises to ensure it is successfully maintained (further details about the work that has been achieved can be found in the financial review). The Church is also thankful to those who clear up after various activities and events who, along with our two part-time employed cleaners, help ensure the premises are clean and tidy.

Furthermore, a substantial amount of preliminary work was done towards the Car Park being resurfaced in 2024 and we look forward to noting the completion of this work in the 2024 Annual Report. It was decided by the Church at a membership meeting to accept one of the quotes received and to move forward with the work with the full knowledge of the financial implications.

Bible Explorers – Di Brown

In 2023 the Group had 5 children ranging in ages from 5 to 15. Along with two other gifted and passionate leaders, the three of us take it in turns to follow the Scripture Union curriculum for 5–12-year-olds in the church lounge.

Funds had been left for children's work in a legacy, and some of this was used to purchase children's bibles. Each child is encouraged to participate in regular 'Sword Drills', where they race each other to find passages of Scripture to read.

Our sessions vary in content, but the general pattern begins with prayer and share, followed by our study of a particular passage in the Bible. Relevant activities, such as drama, quizzes, games, crafts, music, singing, and videos are very much enjoyed, and there is always an enthusiastic raising of hands when we test the children's memories on what they have learnt.

We had a diverse group of children, all originating from different countries within Africa. This enables us to benefit from learning of each other's cultures. The age range of our children can present a few difficulties, but generally, the older children enjoy helping the little ones with their reading and crafts.

Our children are also encouraged to participate, with LBC, in Community Activities, and in February 2023 we enjoyed much fun taking part in the local 'Pancake Olympics'. In May, The Coronation was celebrated with appropriate games.

We value your prayers. Please continue to pray for the Team as we prepare and deliver our BE sessions. Pray the children will continue to enjoy exploring the Bible and seeing its relevance in their daily lives, but, above all, we want our children to know that they are all precious to God, and loved by Him, and that He sent Jesus to die for them, to be their Saviour and Lord.

Rainbows – Di Brown

Rainbows meets on Tuesdays in the church Hall and is led by myself with the support of a great team. I am very thankful for their hard work and support.

Our numbers in 2023 have varied from 7-17 children and our group is much appreciated. We provide a place where Mums and other carers of young children can come and relax and chat over a cuppa, whilst their children play and learn to share etc. We usually finish with songs. A Prayer Box is available along with helpful booklets and information. Three new babies received a beautiful blanket, thanks to a member of the church and a card signed by all.

At Easter every family received an Easter Story Book, and an invitation to our Easter Service. Then, in May we celebrated the Coronation with special games, songs and food and in December we enjoyed our usual Christmas Party with songs; the Christmas Story, with Auntie Di's puppets; Father Christmas with gifts of the Christmas Story books and food; we always give invitations to our Christmas events e.g. Christingle although with little response.

We have a few church families who come, and Darren comes whenever he can to chat and get to know everyone and they him. He even joins in the songs; we really appreciate him coming, one of our Mums, with the support of Darren, planned for the Church's children's groups to be represented in the Bonfire Parade as a walking group before it was cancelled due to bad weather.

Our team always come together in prayer before the start of our morning meetings, and we value your prayers for God's blessing on our ministry.

WOW Club – Tracy Wilcock and Hannah Frostick

2023 was a very successful year for the WOW club, with numbers averaging 17 children and 9 families per session. We've had Children attending from 8 different schools within Littlehampton and the surrounding area.

The aim of WOW is to provide a fun after school club within the community for primary school age children. Although, the club is aimed at children aged 4-11, we welcome siblings, and have had some teenagers who have really enjoyed attending. It is an arts and craft club, that follows a Christian theme, providing art and craft activities, food and drinks, and a welcoming environment for anyone who would like to attend.

The WOW club was originally set up for the children of the community, but we've seen over the last year that the parents/carers enjoy and 'need' it just as much as the children. They enjoy joining in with the craft activities, talking to the other parents and members of the church. One mum said, "WOW sets her and her children up for a good week" and another said we had made her year easier.

A common request from parents is for a 'mum's WOW club'! Each term we follow a theme, this year they have been:

Spring first half – Adam and Eve

Spring second half – Easter, plus Mother's Day, Valentine's day, .
St. David's Day and World Book Day

Summer first half – Fruit of the spirit, plus growing, food and the King's coronation

Summer second half – Noah's ark

Autumn first half – Jonah and the Whale, plus harvest and world mental health day

Autumn second half – Christmas / Nativity, plus Remembrance

At the beginning of September, we had WOW clubs 1st birthday party, which had 32 children and 15 families in attendance, and was enjoyed by everyone.

The club is run by Tracy, Hannah and now Darren and has 5 volunteers. Our volunteers have been consistent, hardworking, and loyal, and without them, the club could not run. However, due to the demands of the WOW club, we feel a need to expand the team. Since Darren joined in September 23, we have been able to bring more structure to the club, in terms of leadership, as well as helping us enhance the Christian aspect within the club. Darren also introduced a short game to the end of each session which the children love. Darren has been a positive, welcome addition to WOW club.

Our hope is that the club continues its success, and we would like to see more of our WOW club families attending church service, and other church events and activities.

Coffee and Chat – John Holden

We meet every Monday from 9.45am to 11.45am to have a relaxed informal atmosphere for friendships to develop. We have people from the church, and the community, and they mix well. Most

weeks we have ten, but one week we had 17 people. It has been an encouragement to see how everyone takes an interest in each other.

Events and Community Support

Throughout 2023 the church has provided, hosted, and supported several successful events: At Easter, the Church provided a Family Fun Day on the premises, which was well attended, much appreciated and a great success. We are proud of and thankful to the many members and friends of the Church who worked incredibly hard to provide this great event for the membership and community through planning and implementing the various aspects and activities on the day. Additionally, the Pantomime was another event hosted by the Church which was successful in creating an event for the community whilst fulfilling its purpose of presenting the Christian faith. During the day, Saltmine Theatre Company performed the pantomime for a local school before an evening performance for the community.

The Church was also delighted to have taken part in the Littlehampton Town Council's Pancake Olympics, playing its part in the wider community whilst raising money for other local charities. It was also a privilege to host the RNLI's Christmas Carol Concert led by the Salvation Army Band and Singers, to a full Sanctuary of guests from Littlehampton and beyond. Furthermore, we are also happy to be able to support the Littlehampton Town Chaplains and encourage members to be involved with this fantastic ministry. Finally, we had planned and organised to support the local Bonfire Society's Bonfire Parade by allowing our premises to be used as the main preparation venue on the day, and by having our children's groups participate as a walking group, until it was cancelled on the day due to severe weather.

The monthly Communion Service held at the local Care Home continues to be greatly appreciated by the staff and residents.

It should be noted that it was with disappointment that we could not go ahead with our usual market stall in the build up to Easter and Christmas, as well as a stall of some kind at the Town Show. However, our hope and prayer is that we will be able to do this in some capacity in 2024.

Important Note

We were particularly encouraged by the support for the Church at the induction of Pastor Darren Lewis. Along with other churches and local organisations, key local figures such as the Mayor and a councillor were in attendance and spoke very highly of the important role the Church plays in the wider community. This is particularly encouraging as we look ahead to 2024 with a passionate desire to continue to fulfil our purpose as well as build upon what has already been achieved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church raises the funds for the General account needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, by means of regular offerings at services and regular giving via the banking system. In the Autumn of 2023, an appeal was made to the membership, for specific donations towards the cost of resurfacing the church car park, which is planned for early 2024, and a total of £9915 was raised,

A substantial amount of money has had to be spent on maintenance and repairs to the church fabric in 2023. It has included: new main doors to the hall, new outside lights, repairs to the roof and windows of the hall, an upgrade to the emergency lighting system, a new dishwasher, new electric water heaters in the ladies' and gents' toilets, two replacement heaters in the lounge, and replacement cabling and new camera to improve the quality of the live streaming of our Sunday services. The expenses for the manse have included remedial work for a damp problem, relocation costs for our new Pastor and the safety checks necessary for a change of tenancy.

In accordance with Church policy, no wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The most significant regular expenses are the salaries paid to the Minister, the cleaners, and children's workers.

During this year, the Church again relied on its members and friends serving in voluntary capacities in all its activities, thus making little impact on Church expenditure. Our income was higher than in 2022. The results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

Again, no progress was made regarding the exploration to redevelop the Church premises, this is due to the NHS Commissioning Group making no headway with their plans for the regeneration of the Hospital site next door.

The Church regularly designates 10% of its General Fund income to the support of missionaries serving overseas, and charities in the UK. These are:

UCCF, for the support of Joe Winstone
Turning Tides,
Operation Romania Trust,
Judy Cook at Hope Home in Thailand through BMS
Compassion, through whom we support 2 children,
Creative Heart

The Church also made other donations to the following local and national charities:

Operation Agri
Spurgeon's Children's Homes
The Littlehampton Foodbank

The Church also gives 5% of its General Fund to the Baptist Home Mission Fund, funding Baptist work and witness in the UK.

The Trustees are aware that at some time in the future, significant sums will need to be spent on the roofs of the Church buildings, and informal estimates suggest that the cost could exceed £100,000. This future expenditure is behind the reserves policy which suggests that £25,000 is needed for maintaining cash flow as well as the £100,000 potential repairs. The current reserves held of £65,803 are therefore insufficient in the opinion of the Trustees.

The Financial Reports for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The correspondence address is:

Littlehampton Baptist Church, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5NY

Registration number: 1134865

Independent Examiner: Mrs. Carol Boreham

Bankers: Santander Bank and Baptists Together

This report was approved by the Trustees on

And signed on their behalf by



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

1134865

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2023

To

31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Grants Note 1	73,759	12,663	-	86,422	78,362
Projects and Events Note 2	823	-	-	823	2,923
Other income Note 3	13,038	-	-	13,038	14,879
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	87,620	12,663	-	100,283	96,164
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	87,620	12,663	-	100,283	96,164
A3 Payments					
Ministry Costs Note 4	15,425	-	-	15,425	27,726
Project Costs Note 5	4,648	-	-	4,648	3,471
Gifts Note 6	4,491	11,211	-	15,702	17,514
Premises Costs Note 7	45,500	-	-	45,500	49,584
Other Support Costs Note 8	9,101	-	-	9,101	8,045
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	79,165	11,211	-	90,376	106,340
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	79,165	11,211	-	90,376	106,340
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,456	1,452	-	9,907	10,176
A5 Transfers between funds	- 8,742	8,742	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	67,740	3,337	-	71,077	81,253
Cash funds this year end	67,454	13,531	-	80,986	71,077

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit	47,425	13,531	-
	Current	19,977		-
	Cash	52	-	-
	Total cash funds	67,454	13,531	-
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Church Premises Insurance Value	General	2,760,817	-
	Manse Premises Insurance Value	General	368,659	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

NOTES TO LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR 2023 page 1 of 3

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Note 1 Donations and Grants					
Church Offerings	59,594			59,594	62,399
Gift Aid	13,915			13,915	11,815
Grants	0			0	0
Sundry Gifts	250			250	2,932
Specified Gifts		0	12,663	12,663	1,216
	<u>£73,759</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£12,663</u>	<u>£86,422</u>	<u>£78,362</u>

Note 2 Projects and Events

Events receipts	823			823	1,111
Other income	0			0	1,812
	<u>£823</u>			<u>£823</u>	<u>£2,923</u>

Note 3 Other Income

Use of premises	10,570			0	9,934
Miscellaneous	1,875			1,875	4,476
Bank Interest	594			594	469
	<u>£13,038</u>			<u>£13,038</u>	<u>£14,879</u>

Total receipts	<u>£87,621</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£12,663</u>	<u>£100,284</u>	<u>£96,164</u>
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Note 4 Ministry Costs

Salaries and NIC	8,833			8,833	21,262
Sundry expences	3,508			3,508	879
Pension contributions	1,133			1,133	4,055
Visiting speakers	1,900			1,900	1,530
Home Groups	50			50	
	<u>£15,425</u>	<u>£0</u>		<u>£15,425</u>	<u>£27,726</u>

Note 5 Project Costs

Salaries and NIC	2,970			2,970	2,496
Childrens Clubs	242			242	111
General Project costs	1,299			1,299	719
Youth projects	0			0	38
Evangelism and Publicity	136			0	107
	<u>£4,648</u>			<u>£4,648</u>	<u>£3,471</u>

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Note 6 Gifts					
Home Mission	4,321			4,321	4,693
Specified Gifts	0	8,504	2,707	11,211	12,621
ORT Sponsorship	170			170	200
	<u>£4,491</u>	<u>£8,504</u>	<u>£2,707</u>	<u>£15,702</u>	<u>£17,514</u>

Note 7 Premises Costs

Church Utilities	11,990			11,990	6,730
Church Insurance	2,999			2,999	2,663
Cleaning salaries	4,807			4,807	3,569
Cleaning and refuse	2,295			2,295	2,054
Church Maintenance	18,910			18,910	13,083
Live streaming equipment	0			0	0
Manse Insurance	456			456	395
Manse repairs	2,357			2,357	17,650
Manse utilities / telephone	1,685			1,685	3,440
	<u>£45,500</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£49,584</u>

Note 8 Other support costs

Catering	524			524	189
Training	20			20	320
Administrators salary	0			0	0
Photocopier and stationery	2,963			2,963	2,887
Church Telephone	1,202			1,202	1,097
Office equipment and maintenance	13			13	45
Licences and subscriptions	3,766			3,766	3,268
Accountancy fees	0			0	0
General expenses	612			612	239
	<u>£9,101</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£8,045</u>

Note 9 Cash Funds

	Net receipts payments	Transfers (from)/to	Balance 31.12.22	Balance 31.12.23
			General Fund	
Mission Account	(8,504)	8,742	2,551	2,789
Fellowship Fund	40		786	826
Building Fund			0	9,915
	<u>(8,464)</u>	<u>£8,742</u>	<u>£3,337</u>	<u>£13,531</u>

Note 10 Specified Gifts

	Receipts	Payments
Mission account		
Jo Winstone		1,500
Judy Cook (BMS)		2,000
Operation Romania Trust (ORT)		2,170
Creative Heart		1,200
Turning Tides		1,100
Compassion		704
		<u>8,674</u>

Miscellaneous accounts

Spurgeons Childcare	150	150
Foodbank	31	31
Operation Agri	359	359
	<u>539</u>	<u>539</u>

Note 11 Assets

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by the Church's Custodian Trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Limited

The church premises at Fitzalan Road Littlehampton	2,760,817
The church manse at 34 St Flora's Road Littlehampton	368,659

All additions to the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment are charged through the year



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st DECEMBER 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1134 865

Set out on pages

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

**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:

CBob

Date:

27/8/2024

Name:

CAROL BOREHAM

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

Address:

8 HARSFOLD ROAD

RUSTINGTON

BN16 2QE

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134865

Accounts

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Trustees of Littlehampton Baptist Church present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Charitable Object

The Charity (hereinafter referred to as the Church) is governed by a constitution which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.

Organisational Structure

Persons are accepted into membership of the Church on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Constitution.

Members' Meetings are usually held not less than four times a year. There were meetings in the Church building in March, June, August and November.

The meeting sets the overall church policy and members appoint Trustees, including the Minister, who oversee the running of all day-to-day Church affairs, and who also oversee the Spiritual direction and help for the members and friends.

The following have been Trustees during the year:

Revd Martin Seymour (Minister) until his death on 15th August.

Veronica White (Treasurer/Church Secretary)

Margaret Dawson (Pastoral Auxiliary)

Fran Watson

John Holden

John Ray

Ian Wieck served until his resignation on 12th July.

The Revd. Martin Seymour served with the Church from February 2017 until his sudden death on 15th August 2022 and both the Church and the local community were blessed by his warm-hearted service, humour and never-ending stream of ideas for sharing God's love with the unchurched.

A Moderator, Revd. Hazel Sherman, was appointed in November to assist the Trustees and to oversee the process for appointing a new Minister.

During the year, the Trustees were assisted by Ministry teams, each having a leader and separate responsibilities such as Worship Group, Evangelism, Pastoral Contact Team and Welcome Team etc.

The Constitution permits decisions at Members' Meetings to be passed by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Trustees regularly review the major risks facing the charity and are satisfied that there are policies in place to mitigate them appropriately.

Objectives and Activities

A variety of activities is provided both for Church Members and for the local community.

A public service of worship is normally held each Sunday morning. This used to be at 10am but during 2022 was changed to 10.30 am. Light refreshments are served in the church hall after the service which gives members, friends and visitors the opportunity to keep in touch with each other. During 2022 an "Explorers" group was started for the children during the second part of the Sunday service.

When needed, the sound from the main service is relayed to the Creche for the benefit of carers of babies and toddlers.

Services are Livestreamed to YouTube and are watched by shut-ins and also people not associated with the Church.

The needs of disabled people are constantly reviewed and provision for them includes a loop system in all public rooms for those who are hard of hearing, and toilet provision for physically disabled people. (This toilet also has changing facilities for babies.) There is reasonable wheelchair access to all areas.

Prayer meetings are held weekly on Sunday evenings, Monday mornings, Saturday mornings for men and before each Sunday service.

SMALL GROUPS meet either in homes or on the church premises as each group determines. There are 5 groups with 41 active participants and 18 associated but not regular attendees. These small groups are an important part of Church life and are a safe place where members and friends can develop their relationship with God and with each other.

RAINBOW Baby and Toddler groups meet each Tuesday in term-time, when around 15 children and carers attend. There are 3 group leaders and 3 refreshment helpers. This is a time when the babies and toddlers can learn to play together while their parents/grandparents/carers have time to relax and make new friends. This is the only contact with the Church that some of these children will have. Where appropriate, all adults supervising children are vetted with the Disclosure and Barring Service and are made aware of the Church's "Safe to Grow" Child Protection Policy.

FAMILY FUN DAYS for children up to the age of 11 were held on 7 occasions during the school holidays, with a Christingle session in December. These are run by 2 staff and a group of volunteers. They are open to all within a 5-mile radius of the Church, and a Church Facebook page is available to give information to the widest possible number of people. These Days are very popular with between 14-44 children, and an average of 15-20 parents/carers attending.

WOW CLUB was begun in September with 7 staff and volunteers, meeting after school on Tuesdays during term-time, with between 14-21 children and an average of 8-9 parents attending. Children from 4-5 different schools attend for a variety of guided activities, enabling the adults to participate and to relax. Light refreshments are available.

A PANTOMIME was hosted for families of the Community in December.

When planning activities, the Trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with particular reference to religious charities. They try to enable as many people as possible to live out their faith as part of our Church community, through worship and prayer, pastoral care, and missionary work and outreach.

A CHILD CONTACT CENTRE uses our premises fortnightly.

NHS Nurses use the premises for meetings occasionally.

LITTLEHAMPTON FOODBANK continues to have an office and to use our premises for sorting stock. The Foodbank is run by a Management Committee drawn from several churches in Littlehampton and achieved a separate charity registration in 2015. Since most of the Foodbank's Trustees are not appointed by Littlehampton Baptist Church, from the date of its separate charity registration, the financial details of the Foodbank are not included in the Church accounts. The Foodbank covered its own administrative and salary costs without recourse to Church funds.

THE BONFIRE SOCIETY was again welcomed to share our premises on the occasion of their Annual Parade.

RNLI was supported by a gift from a Carol service on 2nd December, when music was provided by Worthing Salvation Army Band.

CAMPS. During the year, three Girl's Brigade groups from Hampshire and Essex were able to enjoy camping on our premises.

LOCAL SCHOOLS – During October we hosted the Saltmine Theatre Company's production of the 'Rhyiming Bible' to which children from local primary schools were invited.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2022, the Church again sought to reach out to the local community with both spiritual and practical advice and help. The Evangelism Team represented the Church with a stall at the town's market on occasions, including the Christmas market; entered a team in the Town's Pancake Olympics; joined the Littlehampton Churches Together March of Witness on Good Friday and helped organise the Nativity enacted by local children at the switching-on of the Town lights at the end of November. The Church continued to support the Littlehampton Town Chaplains, who patrol the town on Market days whenever possible, being available to anyone needing help or someone to talk to. This is with the full co-operation of the Town Council and the local Police.

During the year, 1 member died, there were 2 resignations and 3 additions to membership, making a total of 68 at 31st December, 2022.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church raises the funds for the General account needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation by means of regular offerings at services. We also received a gift of £2932 for the General fund. A substantial amount of money has had to be spent on maintenance and repairs to the manse and the church this year. It has included, a new shower, new front door, repairs to the double glazing and the replacement of a lintel to the manse. The church also has had new lights in the sanctuary, repair of the carpark wall, a new water heater to the disabled toilet, along with sundry carpentry work around the premises.

In accordance with Church policy, no wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The most significant regular expenses are the salaries paid to the Minister, the cleaners and children's workers.

During this year, the Church again relied on its members and friends serving in voluntary capacities in all its activities, thus making little impact on Church expenditure. Giving to the general account was higher than in 2021. The results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

No progress was made with the wish to redevelop the Church premises, due to the NHS Commissioning Group making no headway with their plans for the regeneration of the Hospital site next door.

The Church regularly designates 10% of its General Fund income to the support of missionaries serving overseas, and charities in the UK. These are:

UCCF, for the support of Joe Winstone

Turning Tides

Operation Romania Trust

Judy Cook at Hope Home in Thailand

Compassion, we support 2 children.

Creative Heart

The Church also made other donations to the following local and national charities:

Chestnut Tree House

Tear Fund

Spurgeon's Children's Homes

The Church also gives 5% of its General Fund to the Baptist Home Mission Fund, funding Baptist work and witness in the UK.

The Trustees are aware that at some time in the future, significant sums will need to be spent on the roofs of the Church buildings, and informal estimates suggest that the cost could exceed £100,000. This future expenditure is behind the reserves policy which suggests that £22,000 is needed for maintaining cash flow as well as the £100,000 potential repairs. The current reserves held of £50,000 are therefore insufficient in the opinion of the Trustees.

The Financial Reports for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The correspondence address is:

Littlehampton Baptist Church, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5NY

Registration number: 1134865

Independent Examiner: Mrs. Carol Boreham

Bankers: Santander Bank

This report was approved by the Trustees on

And signed on their behalf by



J.A.B. WHITE



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

1134865

Receipts and payments accounts

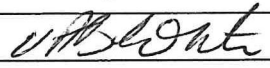
CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2022	To	31/12/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Dnations & Grants Note 1	77,146	1,216	-	78,362	97,706
Projects & Events Note 2	2,923		-	2,923	3,803
Other income Note 3	14,879		-	14,879	8,426
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	94,948	1,216	-	96,164	109,935
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	94,948	1,216	-	96,164	109,935
A3 Payments					
Ministry Costs Note 4	27,726		-	27,726	33,273
Project Costs Note 5	3,471		-	3,471	304
Gifts Note 6	4,893	12,621	-	17,514	17,527
Premises Costs Note 7	49,584		-	49,584	37,689
Other Support Costs Note 8	8,045		-	8,045	7,700
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
Sub total	93,719	12,621	-	106,340	96,493
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	93,719	12,621	-	106,340	96,493
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,229	- 11,405	-	- 10,176	13,442
A5 Transfers between funds	- 9,457	9,457			
A6 Cash funds last year end	76,133	5,120		81,253	67,810
Cash funds this year end	67,905	3,172		71,077	81,252

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit	60,362		-
	Current	7,368	3,337	-
	Cash	9		-
	Total cash funds	67,740	3,337	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Church Premises Insurance value	General	2,187,436	-
	Manse Premises Insurance value	General	260,958	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		VAIB WHITE	18/7/2023	

NOTES TO LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR 2022 · page 1 of 3

	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Note 1 Donations and Grants					
Church Offerings	62,399			62,399	60,665
Gift Aid	11,815			11,815	10,937
Grants	0			0	0
Sundry Gifts	2,932			2,932	25,081
Specified Gifts		0	1,216	1,216	1,023
	£77,146	£0	£1,216	£78,362	£97,706
Note 2 Projects and Events					
Events receipts	1,111			1,111	339
Other income	1,812			0	3,464
	£2,923			£2,923	£3,803
Note 3 Other Income					
Use of premises	9,934			0	7,957
Miscellaneous	4,476			4,476	0
Bank Interest	469			469	469
	£14,879			£14,879	£8,426
Total receipts	£94,948	£0	£1,216	£96,164	£109,935
Note 4 Ministry Costs					
Salaries and NIC	21,262			21,262	24,500
Sundry expences	879			879	1,551
Pension contributions	4,055			4,055	6,773
Visiting speakers	1,530			1,530	449
	£27,726	£0		£27,726	£33,273
Note 5 Project Costs					
Salaries and NIC	2,496			2,496	0
Childrens Clubs	111			111	120
General Project costs	719			719	0
Youth projects	38			38	0
Evangelism and Publicity	107			0	184
	£3,471			£3,471	£304

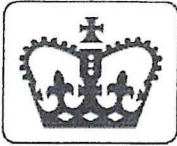
	General Fund	Mission	Other funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Note 6 Gifts					
Home Mission	4,693			4,693	4,912
Specified Gifts	0	10,442	2,179	0	12,615
Sundry	200			0	0
	<u>£4,893</u>	<u>£10,442</u>	<u>£2,179</u>	<u>£17,514</u>	<u>£17,527</u>

Note 7 Premises Costs

Church Utilities	6,730			6,730	2,409
Church Insurance	2,663			2,663	2,498
Cleaning salaries	3,569			3,569	4,440
Cleaning and refuse	2,054			2,054	1,833
Church Maintenance	13,083			13,083	16,217
Live streaming equipment	0			0	4,093
Manse Insurance	395			395	355
Manse repairs	17,650			17,650	2,255
Manse utilities / telephone	3,440			3,440	3,589
	<u>£49,584</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£49,584</u>
					<u>£37,689</u>

Note 8 Other support costs

Catering	189			189	286
Home groups	0			0	37
Training	320			320	36
Administrators salary	0			0	0
Photocopier and stationery	2,887			2,887	2,640
Church Telephone	1,097			1,097	1,093
Office equipment and maintenance	45			45	253
Licences and subscriptions	3,268			3,268	2,870
Accountancy fees	0			0	160
General expenses	239			239	76
	<u>£8,045</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£8,045</u>
					<u>£7,451</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year ended

2022 31st December

Charity no (if any)

1134865

Set out on pages

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

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:

CB

Date:

22/8/2023

Name:

CAROL BOREHAM

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

Address:

8 HARSFOLD ROAD

RUSTINGTON

BN16 2QE

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134865

Accounts

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 Registered Charity number: 1134865

The Trustees of Littlehampton Baptist Church present their Annual report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Charitable Object

The Charity (hereinafter referred to as the Church) is governed by a Constitution which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.

Organisational Structure

Persons are accepted into membership of the Church on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Constitution.

Members' Meetings are usually held not less than four times a year. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the February and May meetings in 2021 were held via Zoom. There were meetings in the church building in July and October.

The meeting sets the overall Church policy and members appoint trustees, including the Minister, who oversee the running of all day-to-day Church affairs, and who also oversee the Spiritual direction and help for the members and friends.

The following have been Trustees during the year:

Revd Martin Seymour (Minister)
Veronica White (Treasurer/Church Secretary)
Margaret Dawson (Pastoral Auxiliary)
Fran Watson
John Holden
John Ray
Ian Wieck

The Revd Martin Seymour began his role as the Church's part-time Minister on 1st February 2017, and from January 2019 was paid as the full-time Minister. Martin became a Trustee from 2017. The Church is grateful for the leadership which Martin has already brought, and will continue to bring over the coming years, as he interprets and encourages God's will for the Church.

During the year, the Trustees were assisted by Ministry teams, each having a leader and separate responsibilities such as Worship Group, Pastoral Contact Team and Welcome Team etc.

The constitution permits decisions at Members' Meetings to be passed by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The trustees regularly review the major risks facing the charity and are satisfied that there are policies in place to mitigate them appropriately.

Objectives and Activities

Due to Covid restrictions, the usual services and activities provided by the church for members and the community, had to be curtailed at times.

Until the end of May, the Sunday service of worship was recorded and made available to the members and friends online and via the church website littlehamptonbaptistchurch.org. (They continue to be available on this website.) Those members and friends who were not online were sent a hard copy of the sermon and news. At Easter, a service was held outdoors in the church car park. In June, restrictions were eased and services were restarted in church at 10am with all covid precautions. From September, the services were also livestreamed to YouTube to be available to all. In the Autumn of 2021 a Children's Area was set up at the back of the church and a creche is also available on Sunday Mornings.

During lockdown, we conducted weekly prayer meetings on Zoom on Friday evenings.

Light refreshments were served after the service when allowed, to give opportunity for fellowship.

The needs of disabled people are constantly reviewed, and provisions for them include a loop system in all public rooms for those who are hard of hearing, and toilet provision for physically disabled people. This toilet also has changing facilities for babies. There is reasonable wheelchair access to all areas.

A service of Believers' Baptism was held on 29th August, when three candidates confirmed their faith, and were baptised by immersion.

SMALL GROUPS had to cease during lockdown but resumed meeting in September. There are currently 4 adult groups, and they are a safe place where members and friends can develop their relationship with God, and with each other. Following on from an Alpha course, which was conducted partly on Zoom and partly in person, a new group for young Christians was started to enable them to grow in their faith. This was originally on Zoom, but in person when restrictions were lifted

RAINBOW Baby and Toddler Group ceased for the first part of the year due to covid restrictions but began meeting again on Tuesday mornings in September. This group is attended by about 15 babies and toddlers, and their Carers. Where appropriate, all adults supervising children are vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service and are made aware of the Church's "Safe to grow" Protection Policy.

FAMILY FUN DAYS for children up to 11 were held in August and October, and a Christingle service in December. These were made open to all within a 5-mile radius of the Church, and a Church Facebook page was started to reach the widest possible number of people. These were very popular with about 20 families attending. There was a wide variety of crafts and activities led by Church Members and Friends, and light refreshments were served.

A PANTOMIME was hosted for the Community with the help of a grant from the local Council.

When planning activities, the Trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with particular reference to religious charities. They try to enable as many people as possible to live out their faith as part of our church community, through worship and prayer, pastoral care and missionary work and outreach.

A CHILD CONTACT CENTRE uses our premises fortnightly, and two of our members are closely involved.

We also welcome SLIMMING WORLD to use our premises.

LITTLEHAMPTON FOODBANK continues to have an office and to use our premises for sorting stock. The Foodbank is run by a Management Committee drawn from several churches in Littlehampton and achieved a separate charity registration in 2015. Since a majority of the

Foodbank's Trustees are not appointed by Littlehampton Baptist Church, from the date of its separate charity registration, the financial details of the Foodbank are not included in the Church accounts. The Foodbank covered its own administrative and salary costs without recourse to Church funds.

THE BONFIRE SOCIETY was again welcomed to share our premises on the occasion of their Annual Parade.

RNLI was supported by a gift from a Carol service on 3rd December, when music was provided by Worthing Salvation Army Band.

A "LIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE "Service was held in December for members of the Church and the wider Community who had recently been bereaved, and who, due to the covid restrictions, had been unable to celebrate the lives of their loved ones as they would have liked. This was done in conjunction with Reynolds Funeral Directors.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Littlehampton Baptist Church faced many challenges in 2021 due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid19 Pandemic. During Lockdowns, worship services were recorded and made available online. This attracted more viewers than just Church Members and Friends, and once we were able to meet in Church again, services began to be Live-streamed on YouTube.

Meeting in Church again meant that the weekly phone calls begun, in 2019, to keep in good contact with all the members, were found to be less necessary, so they were reduced to fortnightly, and intended mainly for the "shut-ins."

The Church continued to serve the community, where restrictions allowed.

We were represented at the Town show, and together with Littlehampton Churches Together, put on Carol singing and a Nativity at the Christmas Lights Switch-on in the town centre.

Again, with the Littlehampton Town Chaplains, we continued to patrol the town on Market Days whenever possible, being available to anyone who needed help or someone to talk to. This is with the full co-operation of the Town Council and the local Police.

During the year, 3 members died, and there were 5 additions to membership making a total of 67 at 31st December, 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church raises the funds for the General account needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation by means of regular offerings at services. We also received a gift of £25,000 to the General Fund. Gifts were also received for more equipment for Live-streaming. A new boiler was purchased for the manse and maintenance work to the church premises included a full Electrical Inspection.

In accordance with Church policy, no wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The most significant regular expenses are the salaries paid to the Minister, and the Cleaners.

During this year, the Church again relied on its members and friends serving in voluntary capacities in all aspects of its activities., thus making little impact on Church expenditure. Notably, one member has taken responsibility for the administration and finances, which is saving a sizeable amount. Despite the covid restrictions, giving for the General account was higher than in 2020. Income will need to increase in 2022 as the Church continues to pay the

Minister 100% of the amount recommended by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

No progress was made with the wish to redevelop the Church premises, due the NHS Commissioning Group making no headway with their plans for the regeneration of the Hospital site next door.

When allowed by covid restrictions, the existing premises were regularly made available to community groups including Slimming World and the Child Contact Centre.

The Church regularly designates 10% of its General Fund income to the support of missionaries serving overseas and charities in the UK. These are:

UCCF, for the support of Joe Winstone
Turning Tides
Operation Romania
Judy Cook at Hope Home in Thailand
Compassion, we support 2 children.

The Church also made other donations to the following local and national charities:

Chestnut Tree House
Tear Fund
Spurgeon's Children's Homes

The Church also give 5% of its General Fund income to the Baptist Home Mission Fund, funding Baptist work and witness in the UK.

The Trustees are aware that at some time in the future, significant sums will need to be spent on the roofs of the Church buildings, and informal estimates suggest the cost could exceed £70,000. This future expenditure is behind the reserves policy which suggests that £20,000 is needed for maintaining cash flow as well as the £70,000 potential repairs. The current reserves held of £60,000 are therefore insufficient in the opinion of the Trustees.

The Financial reports for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements,


ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The correspondence address is Littlehampton Baptist Church, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton. West Sussex. BN17 5NY

Registration number: 1134865

Independent Examiner: Mrs. Carol Boreham

This report was approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by

 J. A. B. WHITE



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

1134865

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/01/2021	To	31/12/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
Donations & Grants	Note 1	96,683	1,023	-	97,706	92,806
Projects & Events	Note 2	3,803		-	3,803	32,490
Other income	Note 3	8,426		-	8,426	6,992
				-		
				-		
				-		
				-		
				-		
				-		
Sub total (Gross income for AR)		108,912	1,023	-	109,935	132,288
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts		108,912	1,023	-	109,935	132,288
A3 Payments						
Ministry Costs	Note 4	33,273		-	33,273	30,947
Project Costs	Note 5	304		-	304	44,494
Gifts	Note 6	5,052	12,475	-	17,527	16,788
Premises Costs	Note 7	37,689		-	37,689	41,542
Other Support Costs	Note 8	7,700		-	7,700	19,566
				-		
				-		
				-		
				-		
				-		
Sub total		84,018	12,475	-	96,493	153,337
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		84,018	12,475	-	96,493	153,337
Net of receipts/(payments)		24,894	- 11,452	-	13,442	- 21,049
A5 Transfers between funds		- 10,121	10,121			
A6 Cash funds last year end		59,763	8,047		67,810	88,859
Cash funds this year end		74,536	6,716	-	81,252	67,810

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit	75,893		-
	Current	240	5,120	-
	Cash	-		-
	Total cash funds	76,133	5,120	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error

Agreement Error

OK


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Church Premises Insurance value	General	2,187,436	-
	Manse Premises Insurance value	General	260,958	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	V.A.B. WHITE	21-9-2022

General Fund Mission Pre School Other funds Total 2021 Total 2020

Note 1 Donations and Grants

Church Offerings	60,665				60,665	65,148
Gift Aid	10,937				10,937	11,889
Grants	0				0	347
Sundry Gifts	25,081				25,081	13,251
Specified Gifts		30		993	1,023	2,172
	<u>£96,683</u>	<u>£30</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£993</u>	<u>£97,706</u>	<u>£92,807</u>

Note 2 Projects and Events

Fees WSCC						30542
Fees Individuals						1121
Events receipts	339				339	0
Other income	3,464				3,464	827
	<u>£3,803</u>				<u>£3,803</u>	<u>£32,490</u>

Note 3 Other Income

Use of premises	7,957				7,957	6,456
Miscellaneous	0				0	0
Bank Interest	469				469	537
	<u>£8,426</u>				<u>£8,426</u>	<u>£6,993</u>

Total receipts	<u>£108,912</u>	<u>£30</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£993</u>	<u>£109,935</u>	<u>£132,290</u>
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Note 4 Ministry Costs

Salaries and NIC	24,500				24,500	24,000
Sundry expences	1,551				1,551	1,079
Pension contributions	6,773				6,773	5,748
Visiting speakers	449				449	120
	<u>£33,273</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>		<u>£33,273</u>	<u>£30,947</u>

Note 5 Project Costs

Salaries and NIC	0				0	42,626
Childrens Clubs	120				120	51
General Project costs	0				0	2,376
Youth projects	0				0	0
Evangelism and Publicity	184				184	440
	<u>£304</u>		<u>£0</u>		<u>£304</u>	<u>£45,493</u>

	General Fund	Mission	Pre School	Other funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Note 6 Gifts						
Home Mission	5,052				5,052	4,303
Specified Gifts		10,142		2,333	12,475	12,485
Sundry						0
	<u>£5,052</u>	<u>£10,142</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£2,333</u>	<u>£17,527</u>	<u>£16,788</u>

Note 7 Premises Costs

Church Utilities	2,409				2,409	3,947
Church Insurance	2,498				2,498	2,758
Cleaning salaries	4,440				4,440	3,848
Cleaning and refuse	1,833				1,833	2,732
Church Maintenance	16,217				16,217	18,154
Live streaming equipment	4,093				4,093	1,437
Manse Insurance	355				355	334
Manse repairs	2,255				2,255	5,005
Manse utilities / telephone	3,589				3,589	3,326
	<u>£37,689</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£37,689</u>	<u>£41,541</u>

Note 8 Other support costs

Catering	286				286	436
Home groups	37				37	0
Training	36				36	254
Administrators salary	0				0	9,768
Photocopier and stationery	2,640				2,640	2,805
Website	249				249	249
Church Telephone	1,093				1,093	1,087
Office equipment and maintenance	253				253	1,457
Licences and subscriptions	2,870				2,870	3,465
Accountancy fees	160				160	0
General expenses	76				76	45
	<u>£7,700</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£7,700</u>	<u>£19,566</u>

Note 9 Cash Funds

	Net receipts payments	Transfers (from)/to	Balance 31.12.20	Balance 31.12.21
		General Fund		
Mission Account	(9,972)	(10,121)	3,217	3,366
Alpha Pre School			0	0
Livestream	(1,437)	0	1,303	0
Rainbows			0	0
Fellowship Fund	(1,773)		3,527	1,754
Repairs Fund			0	0
	<u>(13,182)</u>	<u>-£10,121</u>	<u>£8,047</u>	<u>£5,120</u>

Note 10 Specified Gifts

	Receipts	Payments
Mission account		
Jo Winstone		2,000
Judy Cook (BMS)		2,000
Operation Romania Trust (ORT)		2,400
Creative Heart		1,800
Turning Tides		1,100
Compassion		672
BMS Birthday Scheme	30	30
	<u>30</u>	<u>10,002</u>
Miscellaneous accounts		
Tear Fund	<u>493</u>	<u>500</u>

Note 11 Assets

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by the Church's Custodian Trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Limited

The church premises at Fitzalan Road Littlehampton	2,187,436
The church manse at 34 St Flora's Road Littlehampton	260,958

All additions to the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment are charged through the year



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

On accounts for the year ended

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

(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

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: [Signature]

Date: 21/9/2022

Name: CAROL BOREHAM

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

[Empty box for professional qualification]

Address: 8 HARSFOLD ROAD
RUSTINGTON
WEST SUSSEX BN16 2QE

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.

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1134865

Accounts

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Trustees of Littlehampton Baptist Church present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Charitable Object

The Charity (hereinafter referred to as the Church) is governed by a Constitution which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.

Organisational Structure

Persons are accepted into membership of the Church on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Constitution

Member's meetings are usually held not less than four times a year. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, only three meetings were held in 2020, they were in January, August and October. The August and October meetings were held via Zoom due to Covid restrictions. The meeting sets the overall Church policy. Members appoint Trustees, including the Minister, who oversee the running of all day-to-day church affairs and have an overview of the spiritual health and direction of the church.

The following have been Trustees during the year:

Revd Martin Seymour
Philip Putman (Treasurer, resigned March 2020)
Fran Watson
Veronica White (Treasurer)
Margaret Dawson
John Holden (appointed by postal vote, December 2020)
John Ray (appointed by postal vote, December 2020)
Ian Wieck (appointed, by postal vote, December 2020)

The Revd Martin Seymour began his role as the Church's part-time Minister on 1st February 2017, and from January 2019 was paid as the full time Minister. Martin became a Trustee from February 2017. The Church is grateful for the leadership which Martin has already brought, and will bring over coming years as he interprets and encourages God's will for the church.

During the year, the Trustees were assisted by Ministry Teams, each having a leader and separate responsibilities such as Evangelism, Missionary Work, and Welcome Team, etc.

The Constitution permits decisions at Members Meetings to be passed by appropriate majorities, but the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Trustees regularly review the major risks facing the charity and are satisfied that there are policies in place to mitigate them appropriately.

Objectives and Activities

In the time up to March 2020, a variety of activities were provided both for Church Members and for the local community. A Public service of worship was held each Sunday morning at 10.00am. Light refreshments were served in the church hall after the service which gave members, friends and visitors the opportunity to keep in touch with each other. The sound from this service was relayed to a Creche for the benefit of the carers of the babies and toddlers. Services were, and continue to be, made available on the church website at littlehamptonbaptistchurch.org. The needs of disabled people are constantly reviewed and provisions for them include a loop system in all public rooms for those who are hard of hearing, and toilet provision for physically disabled people. (This toilet also has changing facilities for babies.) There is reasonable wheelchair access to all areas. The monthly church Prayer Meeting was held on the afternoon of the second Sunday of the month, and there was also prayer before each Sunday service.

Rainbow Baby and Toddler Groups met each Tuesday and Wednesday morning in term times, when up to thirty babies and toddlers learn to play together while their parents/grandparents/carers have time to relax and make new friends. This is the only contact with the church that some of these children have. Where appropriate, all adults supervising children are vetted with the Disclosure and Barring Service and are made aware of the Church's "Safe to Grow" Child Protection policy. The Rainbow Baby and Toddler Groups were suspended in March 2020 due to the national lockdown and remain closed until further notice.

Small Groups met either in homes or at the church premises as each group determined. These Small Groups are a very important part of the Church and are a safe place where members and friends can develop their relationships with God and with each other. Small Groups were suspended in March 2020 due to the national lockdown and remain so until further notice.

CAMEO (Come and Meet each other) met twice a month in the Church Lounge and seeks to provide friendship and evangelism to mainly retired and/or lonely people locally. Approximately 40 people attended regularly (of whom about one third do not attend Sunday Services), and enjoyed relaxed and informative talks by a wide range of invited speakers followed by light refreshments and time to chat to each other. Sing-alongs, quizzes, and special lunches twice a year also formed part of the regular programme. Cameo meetings were suspended in March 2020 due to the national lockdown and remains closed until further notice.

The following courses, which are held, as necessary, were all suspended from March 2020 due to the national lockdown

Newcomers courses, available for those wanting to find out more about the Church's activities and doctrines, Parenting Courses run for those wanting to share experiences and strategies for parenting, Discipleship Courses for those wishing to progress in the Christian life, and Alpha courses for those with questions about the Christian faith.

When planning activities, the Trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with particular reference to religious charities. They try to enable as many people as possible to live out their faith as part of our church community, through worship and prayer, pastoral care, and missionary work and outreach.

Alpha Pre School

Alpha Pre School, was a church initiative which received separate Charity Registration in early 2015 as Charity number 1159789. It met each weekday morning during term times. The Pre School was registered, Good, by Ofsted in 2017. A new Manager was appointed in January 2020 due to the retirement of the previous Manager. Up to 24 children attended the Pre School. The Pre School closed in March 2020 due to the national lockdown and re-opened in June 2020 following Government guidelines and Covid precautions. The Pre School closed permanently at the end of the 2020 Summer Term due to low numbers predicted for the Autumn Term which would have meant the Pre School would not have been financially viable. The assets of the Pre School were all disposed of in accordance to Charity Commissions requirements and the staff received the Statutory Redundancy and holiday pay they were entitled to. Since the Church appointed the majority of the Pre School Trustees, its financial details are included in the accounts of the Church, although their financial records and assets were maintained entirely separately. The Pre School contributed £4159 to Church Funds during the year, as a contribution towards rent and lighting and heating costs.

Littlehampton Food Bank

The Littlehampton Food Bank was able to continue to run from the Church Premises in 2020 under Covid restrictions, during which time it provided a record amount of food to local families in hardship. The Food Bank is run by a Management Committee drawn from several churches in Littlehampton, and also achieved a separate charity registration in 2015. Since a majority of the Trustees are not appointed by the Church, from the date of its separate charity registration, the financial details of the Food Bank are not included in the Church accounts. The Food Bank covered its own administrative and salary costs without recourse to Church funds.

Littlehampton Child Contact Centre

Littlehampton Child Contact Centre meets on our premises twice a month, it is a safe, friendly and neutral place where the children from separated families are able to spend time with one or both parents, and even other family members. It is operated by a team of volunteers. The Centre is an accredited member centre with the National Association of Child Contact Centres. The centre was closed for part of 2020, due to the national lockdown and reopened following Covid guidelines when permitted.

Achievements and Performance

2020 has seen many changes, from March, due to the Covid –19 pandemic, all Sunday Services were cancelled until further notice. The Church office was closed with essential work carried out from home by volunteers and the pastor worked from home. We rose to the challenges we faced and recorded a weekly service to go out via YouTube. This was a successful venture and kept the congregation in touch and also reached a wider audience. The Church website was also updated weekly, supplying news, printed sermons/recordings, and the latest information on the Covid-19 situation. A weekly pastoral telephone service was established to keep in touch with all members and friends of LBC. Via Zoom, we held a weekly Prayer Meeting and also a weekly ‘coffee morning’ which enabled us to stay connected with each other.

In spite of the difficulties of the Covid –19 pandemic, the Church, in 2020, again sought to reach out to the local community with both spiritual and practical advice and help.

When the National lockdown came into force in March 2020, an initiative was set up to shop for those in the community who were shielding or in financial hardship. We received financial support for this venture from the local Round Table Society. The Church is the nearest evangelical church to the three most deprived wards of the town which is itself recognised as having the greatest social needs in West Sussex. Most of the local events, in which our Evangelism Team usually represent the Church, were cancelled in 2020, these included, the Love Littlehampton Festival, the Town Show, the Town's Annual Bonfire Celebrations, the stall on the Town market and the Town's Pancake Olympics. The yearly pantomime, hosted by the church with a subsidy provided by Littlehampton Town Council, also had to be cancelled along with the Christmas Nativity which is produced with the Littlehampton Churches Together at the switching on of the Towns Christmas Lights. In conjunction with Churches Together in Littlehampton, the Town Chaplaincy, where Christians from several denominations patrol the town in uniform on Market Days, with full co-operation from the Town Council and the local police, had to be suspended. The public authorities had asked for the Chaplaincy to be extended in 2020 and all of these activities help to illustrate to people that Christians are positively involved in the life of the Town.

During the year 3 members died, there were no additions to membership, making a total of 66 members at 31 December 2020.

Financial Review

The Church raises the funds for the General account needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation by means of the regular offerings at services. We also received three legacies in 2020 totalling £9415. In accordance with Church policy, no wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The most significant regular expenses are the salaries paid to the Minister, and the Cleaners. In June 2020, due to ill health, our Administrator opted for Voluntary Redundancy and the Church office closed along with most activities due to the national lockdown and Covid – 19 restrictions. While the church was closed, money was spent on redecorating and renewing the flooring of the church entrance and corridors. The necessary roof repairs were also carried out which was partially funded by a Gift Day in 2019. Gifts of £2740 were received towards the purchase of Live Streaming equipment.

During this year the Church again relied on its members and friends serving in voluntary capacities in all aspects of its activities thus making little impact on church expenditure. Giving for the General account was lower than in 2019, Income will need to increase in 2021 as the church continues to pay the Minister 100% of the amount recommended by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

No progress was made with the wish to redevelop the church premises, although the Trustees will continue to talk with the NHS Commissioning Group which is charged with developing a plan for the regeneration of the hospital site next door. The existing premises was made available to community groups during the first three months of the year and included a Quilting Group, the Women's Institute, and Slimming World, these groups were all suspended until further notice from March 2020. Slimming World resumed in a reduced capacity in October and followed all the Covid guidelines.

The Church regularly designates 10% of its general fund income to the support of missionaries serving overseas, as well as 5% to the Baptist Home Mission Fund funding Baptist work and witness in the UK. It has also made several other donations to local and national charities.

The Trustees are aware that at some stage in the future significant sums will need to be spent on the roofs of the Church buildings, and informal estimates suggest the cost could exceed £70,000. This future expenditure is behind the reserves policy which suggests that £20,000 is needed for maintaining cash flow as well as the £70,000 potential repairs. The current reserves held of £59763 are therefore insufficient in the opinion of the Trustees.

The financial reports for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address is: Littlehampton Baptist Church, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5NY.

Independent Examiner: Mrs Carol Boreham.

Bankers: Santander Bank.

This report was approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by

V White 22-10-2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

1134865

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Dnations & Grants Note 1	85,678	7,128	-	92,806	106,693
Projects & Events Note 2	603	31,887	-	32,490	44,816
Other income Note 3	6,992	-	-	6,992	7,219
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	93,273	39,015	-	132,288	158,728
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	93,273	39,015	-	132,288	158,728
A3 Payments					
Ministry Costs Note 4	30,947	-	-	30,947	31,735
Project Costs Note 5	1,494	42,999	-	44,494	44,828
Gifts Note 6	4,303	12,485	-	16,788	18,311
Premises Costs Note 7	39,885	1,657	-	41,542	24,190
Other Support Costs Note 8	19,025	541	-	19,566	16,854
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	95,655	57,683	-	153,338	135,918
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	95,655	57,683	-	153,338	135,918
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,381	- 18,668	-	- 21,049	22,810
A5 Transfers between funds	5,224	- 5,224	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	56,920	31,939	-	88,859	66,049
Cash funds this year end	59,763	8,047	-	67,810	88,859

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit	57,824	-	-
	Current	1,875	8,047	-
	Cash	64	-	-
	Total cash funds	59,763	8,047	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	-	-	-
	Church Premises Insurance value	General	2,187,436	-
	Manse Premises Insurance value	General	260,958	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

	General Fund	Mission	Pre School	Other funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Note 1 Donations and Grants						
Church Offerings	60,191			4,956	65,148	76,609
Gift Aid	11,889				11,889	14,705
Grants	347				347	9,000
Sundry Gifts	13,251				13,251	1,087
Specified Gifts		185		1,987	2,172	5,292
	£85,678	£185	£0	£6,943	£92,806	£106,693

Note 2 Projects and Events

Fees WSCC			30,542		30,542	38,690
Fees Individuals			1,121		1,121	3,414
Events receipts			0		0	929
Other income	603		224		827	1,783
	£603	£0	£31,887	£0	£32,490	£44,816

Note 3 Other Income

Manse Rent	6,456				6,456	0
Use of premises					0	6,960
Miscellaneous	0				0	0
Bank Interest	537				537	259
	£6,992	£0	£0	£0	£6,992	£7,219

Total receipts	£93,273	£185	£31,887	£6,943	£132,288	£158,728
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Note 4 Ministry Costs

Salaries and NIC	24,000				24,000	23,450
Pension Contributions	5,748				5,748	6,512
Speakers expenses	120				120	703
Sundry expenses	1,079				1,079	1,070
	£30,947	£0	£0		£30,947	£31,735

Note 5 Project Costs

Salaries and NIC		41,626			41,626	41,719
Childrens Clubs	51				51	173
General Project costs	1,003		1,373		2,376	2,735
Youth projects					0	0
Evangelism and Publicity	440			*	440	201
	£1,494		£42,999		£44,494	£44,828

	General Fund	Mission	Pre School	Other funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Note 6 Gifts						
Home Mission	4,303	0	0	0	4,303	4,594
Specified Gifts		9,594	0	2,891	12,485	11,157
Sundry						2,560
	£4,303	£9,594	£0	£2,891	£16,788	£18,311

Note 7 Premises Costs

Utilities	3,947				3,947	5,184
Insurance	2,538		220		2,758	2,667
Cleaning salaries	3,848				3,848	3,416
Cleaning and refuse	2,732				2,732	3,148
Maintenance	18,154				18,154	3,727
Renewal of Heating	0				0	0
Renewal of chairs	0				0	0
Live streaming equipment				1,437	1,437	0
Manse Insurance	334				334	323
Manse repairs	5,005				5,005	1,560
Manse General expenses	3,326				3,326	4,165
	£39,885	£0	£220	£1,437	£41,542	£24,190

Note 8 Other support costs

Catering	264		172		436	1,728
Training	0		254		254	80
Administrators salary	9,768				9,768	8,045
Photocopier and stationery	2,805				2,805	3,885
Website	249				249	249
Telephone	1,087				1,087	1,097
Office equipment and maintenance	1,457				1,457	69
Licences and subscriptions	3,350		115		3,465	1,629
Accountancy fees	0				0	0
General expenses	45				45	72
	£19,025	£0	£541	£0	£19,566	£16,854

Note 9 Cash Funds

	Net receipt: payments	Transfers (from)/to	Balance 31.12.19	Balance 31.12.20
	General Fund			
Mission Account	(8,909)	(10,023)	2,103	3,217
Alpha Pre School	(11,873)	4,159	16,032	0
Livestream	1,303	0	0	1,303
Rainbows	31	640	609	0
Fellowship Fund	1,294		2,233	3,527
Repairs Fund	(10,649)		10,649	0
	(28,803)	-£5,224	£31,626	£8,047

Note 10 Specified Gifts

	Receipts	Payments
Mission account		
Jo Winstone		2,150
Judy Cook (BMS)	185	2,000
Operation Romania Trust (ORT)		2,300
Creative Heart		2,100
Turning Tides		300
Compassion		654
BMS Birthday Scheme		90
	185	9,594

Miscellaneous accounts

Project Lockdown Shopping	1,297	1,297
Spurgeons Chidcare	0	230
St Barnabus Hospice	621	621
Foodbank	0	30
Littlehampton Churches Together	68	68
Other Gifts	0	0
	1,987	2,247

Note 11 Assets

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by the Church's Custodian Trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Limited

The church premises at Fitzalan Road Littlehampton	2,187,436
The church manse at 34 St Flora's Road Littlehampton	260,958

All additions to the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment are charged through the year



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year ended

1st JAN 2020 - 31st Dec 2020

Charity no (if any)

1134 865

Set out on pages

1-5

(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

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:

CBorham

Date:

19/10/2021

Name:

CAROL BOREHAM

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

[Empty box for professional qualification(s) or body]

(if any):

--

Address:

8 HARSFOLD ROAD
RUSTINGTON
WEST SUSSEX BN16 2QE

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.

--



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
LITTLEHAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

1st JAN 2020 - 31st Dec 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1134 865

Set out on pages

1-5

(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 .

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basis of report**

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**Independent
examiner's statement**

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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:

CBorham

Date:

19/10/2021

Name:

CAROL BOREHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body**

(if any):

--

Address:

8 HARSFOLD ROAD

RUSTINGTON

WEST SUSSEX BN16 2QE

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.

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