

**BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH
STOWMARKET**

Charity No. 1136075

**TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, STOWMARKET

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BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, STOWMARKET

Legal and Administrative Information

Address

Bury Street
Stowmarket
IP14 1HF

Correspondence Address

Mr J Reeve
Stowmarket Baptist Church
Bury Street
Stowmarket
IP14 1HF

Trustees

Mr J Reeve (Treasurer)
Mr T Cordle
Mr J W R Payne
Mr B Levett
Mr H Yousif

Bankers

Barclays
19-21 Cornhill
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1DY

Independent Examiner

Mr S J Whayman
51 Cowper Street
Ipswich
IP4 5JA

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, STOWMARKET

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Constitution

The church was set up by trust in 1797 and is governed by Rules formulated in 1959 and amended on 15 November 1995, 5 April 2000 and 26 May 2004. The church was registered with the Charity Commission on 12 May 2010.

There are no specific restrictions contained in the governing document that limit its activities or any specific investment powers given to the trustees.

The trustees of our properties, for which we are the beneficial owner, is the Grace Baptist Trust Corporation (previous Trustees were the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd.)

Affiliations

The church is a member of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd and a participating church of Grace Baptist Mission.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The purpose of the church is to provide a place of worship, instruction and fellowship for Christians and to carry out the command of Christ to go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is primarily but not exclusively within Stowmarket and the surrounding neighbourhood and will include other such charitable purposes, as shall in the opinion of the church members in church meetings, further the work of the Church.

To this end our regular Sunday services of worship are maintained with two services each Sunday open to members and all visitors.

During school term times, various meetings are held to reach out to different age-groups.

On Tuesday afternoons, the Ladies Meeting offered an afternoon service popular with ladies.

On Thursday afternoons the junior youth group met; and on Thursday evening intermediate youth group met.

On Friday mornings the mothers and toddlers' group met; and on Friday evenings senior youth group met.

The youth meetings are designed to give opportunity for children to participate in organised activities, and to hear a talk from the Bible. This is intended to help the children gain a basic understanding of God's word.

During the week the church regularly met for prayer, Bible study and fellowship. Apart from the 3 church members' business meetings and a few specific members meetings all our meetings for prayer and Bible study were freely open to the public to come and share in worship, prayer and the study of the word of God. From time to time visitors come and share in these services.

The church has been able to respond financially in some measure to specific requests for help both in the UK and overseas as brought to the trustees' attention. We continued to provide ongoing prayerful and financial support for the work of the Gospel and the relief of poverty and hardship. Our provision of public benefit in this way is not limited to the UK as we support missionary organisations, especially Grace Baptist Mission and with the administration of direct support into churches in Kenya and those working with the orphaned and needy children associated with those churches.

All our staff and volunteers who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults have a cleared CRB/DBS enhanced check.

We operate with a child protection policy, vulnerable adults' policy, employment of ex-offenders policy, health and safety policy including risk assessment and evacuation procedures.

Achievements and performance

We are very grateful and thankful to God for our full-time staff member, the Pastor. Through this, all who attend have been enabled to receive a message where the Bible or specific themes were expounded. This has proved to be a great help in many different ways; to some in furthering their biblical understanding, some in increasing their love for the Saviour and others in providing help, encouragement and comfort in times of need.

The interest we have in overseas missionary work has been maintained with reports on the work of various missionaries and whenever possible we take the opportunity for a missionary while at home in the UK to come and visit us. People from other churches or organisations who also have a keen interest in that work, will often come and support these occasions.

Financial Review

We are grateful to God that He continues to bless His Church in Stowmarket in providing the financial resources for the ongoing work of the gospel.

To maintain the financial equilibrium, any assistance given for Gospel work and the relief of poverty both in the UK and overseas is reviewed on a regular basis and help is given when resources enable.

The work of maintaining all our premises both internally and externally continues.

These accounts have been prepared on a non-accrual basis.

The Trustees have reviewed the balances held at 31 March 2024 and they consider these to be sufficient to cover existing commitments and provide a sufficient level of reserves in line with our policies.

Reserve Policy

The church relies chiefly on its income from members from which it pays the running costs of the church. The Trustees have decided to not hold significant reserves as the Church is a member of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia). In the event of significant items of expenditure being incurred, the church would look to the Association for grants or loans to cover the expenditure.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in respect of the accounts

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources during the period of its state of affairs at the end of the year. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

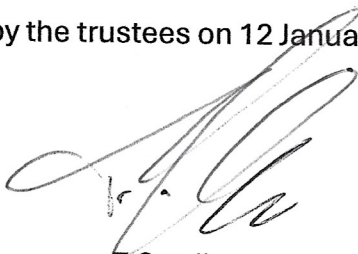
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the provision and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

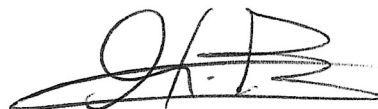
This report was approved by the trustees on 12 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



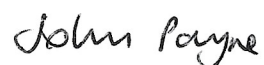
J Reeve



T Cordle



H Yousif



J W R Payne



B Levett

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stowmarket Baptist Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stowmarket Baptist Church **(the Trust)** for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 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 contents 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.

Signed:-



Name:-

Mr S J Whayman

Address:-

51 Cowper Street
Ipswich
IP4 5JA

Date:- 21st May 2024



Charity Name	No (if any)
Stowmarket Baptist Church	1136075

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2023		31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £1	Restricted funds to the nearest £1	Endowment funds to the nearest £1	Total funds to the nearest £1	Last year to the nearest £1
A1 Receipts					
Offerings	66,729	20,850	-	87,579	77,038
Gift Aid	9,092	-	-	9,092	6,317
Sale of Mini Bus	3,500	-	-	3,500	-
Other income	767	-	-	767	520
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	80,088	20,850	-	100,938	83,875
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	80,088	20,850	-	100,938	83,875
A3 Payments					
Ministerial Expenses	35,856	-	-	35,856	32,174
Support to other organisations	7,150	20,684	-	27,834	16,675
Premises Costs	20,163	-	-	20,163	18,012
Manse Costs	370	-	-	370	1,574
Minibus Costs	2,795	-	-	2,795	3,821
Cost of Activities	1,533	-	-	1,533	788
Sundries	3,558	-	-	3,558	3,284
Loan repayment	5,120	-	-	5,120	640
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	76,545	20,684	-	97,229	76,968
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	76,545	20,684	-	97,229	76,968
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,543	166	-	3,709	6,907
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,624	1,065	-	43,689	36,782
Cash funds this year end	46,167	1,231	-	47,398	43,689

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	<div>Cash in Hand</div> <div>Current Account</div> <div>Total cash funds</div> <div>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</div>	<div>179</div> <div>45,988</div> <div>46,167</div>	<div>-</div> <div>1,231</div> <div>1,231</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div>	