

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGOR

England & Wales · Charity number 1136850

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-07-13

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

Contact

Address 7
Greenfields View
Llandevaud
Newport
Newport

Phone 01633880371

Email enquiries@magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

Website www.magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

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: The church's mission is to advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination, by holding regular public worship, by praying and studying the Bible, and by preaching and teaching the Good News of Jesus. It supports educational and other charitable purposes in the UK and abroad.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£94,151	£85,699	-	-
2023-12-31	£85,570	£68,658	-	-
2022-12-31	£92,290	£93,490	-	-
2021-12-31	£98,213	£108,048	-	-
2020-12-31	£85,679	£87,866	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Leighton		2023-03-20
Beverley Davies		2021-07-19
CHRISTINE FOSTER		2026-03-16
Christine Miles		2022-07-14
Davina Thomas		2023-03-20
Helen Ellwood		2025-03-16
John Anthony LoebI		2017-03-20
Kathryn Allen		2022-03-21
Rev Mark David Thomas		2023-09-16
Susan Roberts		2025-03-17

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1136850

Accounts

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
Registered Charity No. 1136850

Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December, 2024

The Diaconate (the Charity Trustees of Ebenezer Baptist Church)

Minister	Rev. Mark Thomas
Secretary	Kathy Allen
Treasurer	John Loebel
Deacons	Beverley Davies, Helen Ellwood, Christine Foster, Phyllis Jones, Andrew Leighton, Christine Miles, Davina Thomas

Diaconate meetings

The Diaconate has met 11 times for business meetings. We also held a deacons' session for reflection.

New Diaconate appointments

This year, at the AGM in March 2024, we welcomed one new deacon, Helen Ellwood, on to the Diaconate, and Kathy Allen became Secretary.

The Rev Mark Thomas having been inducted as our minister in September 2023, after supporting us through the preceding year as our Moderator, has continued to lead us with warmth and dedication.

Church Leadership Report

Achieving our objectives

Our principal activities as a Church continue to be:

- Worship and prayer.
- The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith.
- The pastoral care of the individuals.
- Service to the local community and the wider world

This report gives an indication of the wide range of activities we undertake as a church and how we fund them.

Our accounts show that we are still a generous charitable church, supporting a wide spread range of organisations both at home and overseas. This is, for example, through monthly charitable giving in our monthly charity offerings, to a charity decided by the church meeting for each month for that year; and also through responses to emergency situations in the wider world.

We continue to pursue our aims of creating stronger links between the Church and the communities of Magor and Undy with the aim of bringing more people to faith in Christ. A total of five baptisms took place during the year, led by our minister Rev Mark Thomas, which we trust is an important indication of the work of Holy Spirit, and of the work of Mark Thomas and others.

Membership and Adherence

We note the home call of a number of our older people who have been either members or in close contact with our fellowship for many years, and who are already greatly missed.

The cumulative impact of this loss, and of others in recent years, is hard but the positive impact of their lives and their faith has, we hope, helped to build our resilience as a fellowship and our ability to grow in the gospel in the future.

We welcomed three new members into our fellowship, following baptism.

At the end of the year there were 92 members and some 30 adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally).

Connections

We have maintained the relationships with our fellow Baptist churches at Caldicot and Underwood and some members have continued to support the work at the Christian centre in Sudbrook. In addition, we have also met up with St Mary's Church in Wales for Remembrance Day and Christmas carols.

We have continued to maintain relationships with Magor Church in Wales School and Undy Primary school by providing school assemblies. One of our members continues to serve as a school governor for Magor Church in Wales primary school.

We were delighted once again to host nursery children from Magor school for a session about the nativity in November, and children visited our coffee morning on one occasion to share time with local people there. We continue to welcome opportunities for multi-generational time together. Our Christingle service and nativity services again provided opportunity for families who have not necessarily been part of our worship to join in with us. Mark and Anne Thomas once again provided an effective and thought provoking all age nativity service.

Further afield we have supported the work of the Baptist Missionary Society, and the work in Uganda that continues to prosper. The local people in charge have continued to support a number of churches local to their area, which formed under the umbrella of their organization, and their health clinic. Education is provided for children in that area at both primary and secondary levels.

Church teams

Part of the Trustees' main responsibility is that of ensuring that the teams of volunteers are in place to run and deliver the wide-ranging programme of events and activities in the community. We are grateful for our volunteers' work in all areas:-

Pastoral care has continued to be overseen by a small dedicated team of people who link with the more informal support of people for each other within the fellowship, under the oversight of Mark Thomas

Bible Study leaders continue to deliver a well-supported and varied programme, with thanks to Mark Thomas for his directing of this.

Volunteers who provide our music and operate our sound desk

Teams of volunteers who run the Church's Friday coffee morning

Volunteers who run our weekly knit and natter group

The team who work in our ministry to children and young people through Toddlers and Sunday Club.

The team who offer ministry to women in our monthly Ladies friendship group

The team who offer support and friendship to other men in through the monthly Men's Drop-In

The small and dedicated team of Sunshiners who deliver flowers on behalf of the church

Our small cleaning team

Those who provide refreshments after our services

Our catering teams, who provide for Light Lunches and for church events

Door stewards

The unseen hard workers who organize lettings, move furniture (often!), provide and maintain our weekly flowers, garden and flower bed maintenance, and those who cover so many other unseen practical tasks.

Free for All, who continue to seek to bless individuals, businesses and schools in our area with chocolates or other small gifts, including a community Easter Egg giveaway.

The Magor Baptist Church Property Trustees who are responsible for the maintenance of Church Properties, and have continued to carry out or organise crucial work within our church building.

As a fellowship we continue to be able to function well because of the ongoing commitment of a number of individuals whose work in maintaining rotas, and our heating, and the rearrangement of furniture for different events; the smooth running of our letting system; our publicity, for example, is often unseen but is always necessary. Their work is much appreciated.

The Future

Our verse for this year has been *"On him we have set our hope..."* **2 Corinthians 1:10b**

We are thankful for the ministry of Mark Thomas, with the support of his wife Anne, and also grateful for our situation as a church fellowship in these challenging times in the world around us.

We seek to continue to provide a witness to the love of God for his world, shown in Jesus Christ, his life in this world, his death and resurrection, to the community around us. We look to continue to be a generous church, looking outwards to the needs of the world around us.

Kathy Allen

Church Secretary

(For and on behalf of the Diaconate)

Sunday Club

The five leaders of the Sunday club team work on a rota so that every Sunday service of the year is covered.

The decision to stop Zoom during the year has meant that numbers are very low but we are glad of the few faithful children who enjoy our sessions of songs and stories - a mixture of Old and New Testament themed stories.

We are delighted when visitors join us to boost the numbers.

We have welcomed children from the local schools to share the nativity story and presented each child with a nativity story book to take home.

Our minister Mark and his wife Anne organised a Sunday Christingle afternoon service which was a great success and the Nativity service (with Anne dressed as mouse) made for a very entertaining version with lots of support from grown up shepherds and angels!

We look forward to continuing this ministry.

Phyllis Jones

Coordinator

Toddlers

We continue to gain new members each week. We offer tea, biscuits, and toast. A variety of age-appropriate toys, Play-Doh, jigsaws, and mark-making activities are also available. The session ends with singing accompanied by musical instruments. We sing Happy Birthday to anyone celebrating, they also receive a card. Older children leaving to go to Nursery are given a book of bible stories to remember us by. Doors open at 9am with a team member there to welcome everyone. We close the doors at 9:30am but there is a doorbell to ring for anyone who comes after this time to gain entrance and join us.

We said a fond farewell to one of our team members who moved out of the area and welcomed a new member onto the team. We are grateful to the ladies who have joined our support group and who step in when we are short staffed.

We are pleased to welcome, mums, dads, grandparents and child-minders who bring the children each week.

Thank you to The Toddler team who work hard to provide this outreach service.

Beverley Davies

Coordinator

Ladies Friendship

In January we joined the Ladies Circle at St. Mary's Church for the 2024 World Day of Prayer which was delivered by Christine Miles. This year it was the Palestine ladies who compiled the programme. Considering this was compiled 3 to 4 years previous, the contents and theme *"I beg you, bear with one another in love"* felt so prophetic in the present climate. A highly sensitive topic, whatever your views, but an astonishing insight of this country.

At our February meeting Paul Thomas gave a very heart-rending account of what "Christians Against Persecution" go through by keeping true to their faith. Not only are the Christians at risk, but also family members, volunteers who help them, and even the judges are in fear of their lives if they release the imprisoned Christians.

March saw our 2024 AGM. All Committee Members agreed to stand another year apart from Pat Edlin, who although doing a fine job as Treasurer, decided not to continue for another term. Jenny Griffiths, who has previously been our treasurer, was offered the position and gratefully accepted. However, on reflection Jenny decided to step down and, thankfully, Cath Evans has taken office as our treasurer. Topics of interest were discussed, re: our June trip and future speakers. Cath Evans and her sister Sarah involved us in a most delightful and enjoyable evening showing us how to decorate cup cakes and then challenging us to do it. Cath and her sister had worked so very hard cooking at least six dozen cakes, and also bringing her utensils and decorations for our mini-master pieces. Bake off, eat your heart out!!

For our April meeting, Mary Watkins delivered a remarkable talk on the work done with youth in Rwanda, and her relentless help over 16+ visits to that country, helping set up nursery education and more. It was also enlightening to see and hear how Rugby and the introduction of nursery education has had a positive effect on the communities.

May provided us with the pleasure of having our Minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Mark Thomas, disclose to us a little about himself and how he came to faith. A heart wrenching account of his life from boyhood to manhood, recalling when he became interested in Christianity, and subsequently a minister. We heard how Mark had a keen interest in poetry, reading prose from his favourite poets and what they meant to him. This was portrayed by Mark showing his humorous side, and deep personal feelings.

Sadly we were unable to participate in our annual trip, due to a lack of venues open. Although we were able to book a Magician, unfortunately it did not take place due to car problems, and we will be looking forward to a future evening of this entertainment. Instead we had a wonderful evening of four quizzes, probing our minds and giving small chocolate prizes as an incentive, together with our usual tea, coffee and biscuits.

July's summer meal was held at the Wheatsheaf. Once again we had a wonderful turn out of ladies, accompanied by fine food, superb company and good humour.

After our summer break we commenced our September meeting with a little treat, a cosmetic demonstration on one of our members, of Organic Skincare, by Patricia O'Shea. I believe the ladies enjoyed themselves and many items were purchased. Sadly, at the end of September, we lost one of our steadfast members. A valued loving lady who will be much missed by us all. Chris Hodson gave us an informative insight to Dementia at our October meeting. A heart breaking illness that affects so many of us, but it was so sympathetically and honestly delivered.

Mandy East from St. Mary's, Magor took us through a spiritual meditation in November. This was an incredible process which touched many of our ladies in so many ways, although some might have been sceptical. However, an evening of peaceful and enjoyable feelings.

We were all full of festive joy when we met at the Wheatsheaf for our Christmas meal. As usual it was a great success and the ladies did themselves proud, looking gorgeous in their seasonal outfits.

Jenny Tilton

Chair

Knit and Natter Report

We started back to Knit and Natter in January, after the seasonal break, in top form with 18 ladies, ready to begin our next project.

During the year we donated several Christmas stockings to the Neonatal Baby Unit in Cardiff, and supported the Refugee Council in Newport, with blankets and baby clothes.

A further donation of 370 pairs of socks was also made to the Refugee Council, and on this occasion we gratefully included socks donated to us by people outside our group.

For Easter, we knitted chicks for the Frances House Children Hospice, situated in Tamworth.

We have also been fortunate enough to donate £200.00 to local charities, plus our commitment to pay for the heating of our room.

Sadly, during the year two of our stalwart members, passed away, and will be truly missed.

At the beginning of the summer we had a delightful cream tea at Chepstow Garden Centre, and an equally enjoyable meal at the Wheatsheaf for our festive meal.

We continue to Knit and Natter with the addition of new members, and look forward to our forthcoming achievements.

Jean Smith

Chair Person

Light Lunches

It's good to report that we are continuing to enjoy fellowship together over lunch once a month. We are maintaining average numbers of around 30. We enjoy welcoming new people and getting to know them.

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner in December, and my thanks to those who prepared and cooked and made it such an enjoyable occasion.

We try to keep costs low, but because of the generosity of our attendees we have more than we need in funds. Last month January we didn't make any charge, and we will be able to make a donation of £50 to the Church towards the Gas and Electricity.

I am also very grateful to those ladies who faithfully come and lay tables and serve, and to those who work in the kitchen producing lovely meals and to the gentlemen who come and wash up.

We know that many of our attendees live on their own, they enjoy coming and sharing a meal with friends old and new.

Chris Foster

Coordinator

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

We continue to open every Friday from 10.00 to 12.00 and to provide a sociable atmosphere for folk and visitors from the village who can enjoy a chat together. Coffee/tea and fresh scones are normally on offer and sometimes cake and other tasty items. Everything is served with a smile by members of our coffee morning team.

All monies made from this event go to worthwhile charities. The beneficiaries for 2024 are as follows:

Raven House Trust

Kids Cancer Trust

Magor School PTA

Ty Hafon

Sight & Sense

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Brain & Spine Foundation.

Ready Steady Go

Magor Brownies

Kidney Research

MS Society

Ripple Effect

Natalya's Fund

Money also is raised for the Kids Cancer Trust by the sale of greetings cards (sold at very modest prices from the card stall).

It has been another busy and successful year and I would like to thank all the members and helpers who have donated their tireless friendly, cheerful work and support.

Blessings

Jean Smith

Coordinator

Financial Report

For The Year Ending

31 December 2024

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
INCOME	£	£	EXPENDITURE	£	£
Church Offerings	44,741	45,198	Ministerial Costs	39,267	20,028
Donations	2,255	972	Utilities	5,497	6,408
Communion Offerings	5,192	4,750	Preaching and Moderator Fees	215	1,945
Special Offerings	2,995	4,419	Printing, Publications and Stationery	718	827
Uganda	5,300	5,162	Subscriptions and Licences	2,407	2,234
Gift Aid	14,910	14,603	Cleaning and Waste	3,218	2,709
Gift Boxes	303	344	Equipment and Repairs	675	1,908
Room Hire	3,633	4,189	Professional Services	720	876
Investment Income	14,631	4,397	Communion Offerings	6,324	5,810
Miscellaneous	191	736	Special Offerings and Gifts	5,814	5,677
Home Mission - Sudbrook	1,000	800	Uganda	6,510	6,580
			BU Home Mission	6,000	6,000
			BMS World Mission	6,000	6,000
			Miscellaneous	2,334	1,656
			Sudbrook	446	0
Total Income	95,151	85,570	Total Expenditure	86,145	68,658

Total Income excl Sudbrook	94,151	84,770	Total Expenditure (excl Sudbrook)	85,699	68,658
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Total Surplus	9,006	16,912
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Total Surplus (excl Sudbrook)	8,452	16,112
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MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

COMMUNION OFFERINGS			SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND GIFTS		
		£			£
Jan	LATCH	400	Mayday	Tearfund Ukraine	400
Feb	Ripple Effect (Send a Cow)	490		Raven House	303
Mar	UCCF	510		Ready Steady Go	122
Apr	Cardiff Baptist College	453		Uganda	303
May	Uganda	699	DEC Middle East		1,000
Jun	CAP	586	Coffee Morning Gifts		800
Jul	Kidney Research	400	Tearfund Quiz		361
Aug	Natalya's Fund	415	10% interest -	CAP	470
Sep	Tearfund	530		MAF	470
Oct	BMS Harvest - Bangladesh	940		Ty Hafan	470
Nov	Marys Meals	580	BMS Christmas	Chad	865
Dec	Raven House	321	Other		250
	Total	6,324	Total		5,814

	2024	2023	
Average weekly offering	£860	£853	Change +0.8%
Money given away	£30,648	£30,067	
As % of total expenditure	35.6%	43.8%	

Magor Baptist Church (Reg Charity No 1136850)

Statement of Financial Position
As at 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Current account	3,333	8,718
Monmouthshire Building Society	206,088	165,755
Baptists Together	200,430	141,372
CAF	0	85,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	£409,851	£400,845
Less:		
Current Liabilities due less than 1 year	£3,339	£2,785
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS	£406,512	£398,060
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Although the original budget for 2024 projected a small deficit position, the lack of progress in finding a second worker has meant that the underlying surplus for the year was £8,452. It is encouraging to note that giving to the church (mainly through electronic payments) has been at a level similar to the previous year. Giving for good causes, has continued to be very generous. Other income such as gift aid and room hire have also contributed significantly to church funds, as well as the much higher contribution now from invested funds. The increase in ministerial costs reflects the full year of ministry. These figures are disclosed fully in the Income and Expenditure account. The Church is very grateful to everyone for their continued giving over this period. All costs are carefully monitored by the Deacons to ensure our funds are spent wisely.

As stated above, the Church has made a surplus of £8,452 in 2024. The surplus has been added to the investment funds and is available for future needs. The financial reserves policy of the church has recently been reviewed and a long term plan to reduce the overall reserves to a more appropriate level has been agreed.

As at 31 December 2024, the Church held £3,339 on behalf of the Mission at Sudbrook.

Signed *J A Loebel* (Treasurer) Date *7/2/25*

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Deacons and Members of Magor Baptist Church.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Position of Magor Baptist Church relating to the year ended 31st December 2024. This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed *30/Jan* Date 7 February 2025

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1136850

Accounts

**Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
Registered Charity no. 1136850**

**Annual Report
Year ending 31st December, 2023**

The Diaconate (the Charity Trustees of Ebenezer Baptist Church)

Minister	Rev. Mark Thomas
Acting Secretary	Kathy Allen
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Loebel
Deacons	Beverley Davies, Christine Foster, Phyllis Jones, Andrew Leighton, Christine Miles, Davina Thomas

Diaconate meetings

The Diaconate has met 11 times for business meetings and a number of times for fellowship over the course of the year 2023. Fb4j

New Diaconate appointments

This year, at the AGM in March 2023, we welcomed one new deacon, Davina Thomas, on to the Church's leadership team, and Kathy Allen became Acting Secretary. Keith Arnold had indicated his intention to resign after 6 years as Church Secretary. We are truly grateful to Keith for his commitment to our fellowship, as well as his being a major part of the work in leading us through the transition period occasioned by our previous minister, Harry Place's, retirement.

Transitional Arrangements

The Church had appointed Reverend Mark Thomas to act as Moderator during the Transition period. Although not a registered charity trustee, he attended meetings and continued to act in an advisory capacity to the Church trustees.

We appreciated the work of Thomasina Brown, our church and community worker who continued to lead work with children and families during the transition. We wished her well in her new employment from August 2023.

On September 16th 2023, after his application had been considered by the diaconate and the church meeting, Reverend Mark Thomas was inducted as minister of the church.

Church Leadership Report

Achieving our objectives

Our principal activities as a Church are:

- Worship and prayer.
- The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith.
- The pastoral care of the individuals.
- Service to the local community and the wider world

This report gives an indication of the wide range of activities we undertake as a church and how we fund them.

Our accounts show that we have continued to be able to be a generous charitable church, supporting a wide spread range of organisations both at home and overseas. This is for example through monthly charitable giving in our communion offerings, to a charity decided by the church meeting for each month for that year; and also through responses to emergency situations in the wider world.

At the beginning of the year the Church was still in a period of transition, seeking a new minister. We are grateful for the work of those who supported the ongoing work of the church in that time, including our regional minister Rev Mark Fairweather-Tall. Rev Mark Thomas continued, with the agreement of the deaconate and the church meeting, to support the church as our Moderator, until taking the role of our minister in September 2023.

We continue to pursue our aims of creating stronger links between the Church and the communities of Magor and Undy with the aim of bringing more people to faith in Christ. One baptism took place during the year, with Rev Mark Thomas leading the service.

Membership and Adherence

We note the home call of Dorothy Petersen and of Joan Collings, both local to Magor and Caldicot from childhood. Both Dorothy and Joan were well-loved members of the fellowship for much of their lives, and will be much missed.

There were 7 resignations from membership. Two were occasioned by the retirement of Harry Place and his wife Alice Place, and their subsequent move to membership of a different church, and two by members who moved to support another local church. Thomasina Brown has moved to new employment and she and her husband Simon Brown resigned. A member who is no longer in contact with the church has agreed to their name being removed from the membership list.

Reverend Mark Thomas and Anne Thomas became members in September 2023. We also have a new member, who was baptised after moving to worship in our fellowship. At the end of the year there were 96 members and some 30 adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally).

Connections

We have maintained the relationships with our fellow Baptist churches at Caldicot, and Underwood and with the Christian centre being established by Jeremy Lock in Sudbrook. In addition, we have also met up with St Mary's Church in Wales for Remembrance Day and Christmas carols.

Following the move of Our Church and Community worker, Thomasina Brown, to new employment, Jeremy Lock, who worked with Thomasina, has continued to maintain relationships with Magor Church in Wales School and Undy Primary school by providing school assemblies. One of our members continues to serve as a school governor for Magor Church in Wales primary school.

We were delighted to host nursery children from Magor school for a session about the nativity in November, and children visited our coffee morning on one occasion to share time with local people there. We very much welcome opportunities for multi-generational time together.

The Christingle service and the nativity service provided opportunity for families who have not necessarily been part of our worship to join in with us. Mark and Anne Thomas provided an effective and thought provoking all age nativity service.

Further afield we have supported the work of the Baptist Missionary Society, and the work of the Kasozis in Uganda that continues to prosper, Peter and Rose Kasozi have supported the formation of a number of churches local to their area, and more recently set up a health clinic. Education is provided for children in that area at both primary and secondary levels.

Church teams

Part of the Trustees' main responsibility is that of ensuring that the teams of volunteers are in place to run and deliver the wide-ranging programme of events and activities in the community.

Pastoral care is overseen by a small dedicated team of people who continued to provide pastoral care following the retirement of Harry Place. Mark Thomas has been developing planning with them since September 2023.

Bible Study leaders continue to deliver a well-supported and varied programme. We have the new and welcome addition of Mark Thomas' input.

As a fellowship we continue to be able to function well because of the ongoing commitment of a number of individuals whose work in maintaining rotas, and our heating, and the rearrangement of furniture for different events for example, may often seem invisible but is always necessary, and is much appreciated.

Kathy Allen
(Acting Church Secretary)

Sunday Club

The five leaders of the Sunday club team work on a rota so that every Sunday service of the year is covered.

In July we said farewell to Mrs Thomasina Brown, our community worker, as she took up a new post. She was given a farewell lunch in the church grounds after the summer camp. We look forward to new leadership when God calls the right person to the vacant post.

We only have a few regular children, and we kept contact with a faithful family (connected to the church but not living in this community) by Zoom. As attendance is spasmodic, our lessons have had "stand-alone" subjects (e.g. stories from Jesus' ministry and seasonal topics such as Easter, Pentecost and Christmas) rather than following a series. We long to see an increase in numbers and are always ready to welcome new children.

We have maintained contact with both local schools. In November we were able to set up a Nativity scene in the church so that each school's nursery staff could bring their children into the church to see it and explain the Christmas story to them. A Nativity story book was given to each child.

Our new minister Mark Thomas and his wife Anne attracted a number of new children to both a Sunday afternoon Christingle service and a Sunday morning Nativity service. We look forward to working beside them as the New Year begins.

Phyllis Jones

Toddlers

We continue to gain new members each week.

We offer tea, biscuits, and toast, A variety of age-appropriate toys, Play-Doh, jigsaws, and mark making activities are also available. The session ends with singing accompanied by musical instruments. We sing Happy Birthday to anyone celebrating, they also receive a card and a bible story book.

Older children leaving to go to Nursery are given a book of bible stories to remember us by.

Thank you to the Toddler team who work hard to provide this outreach service.

Bev Davies

Superheroes

Childrens work has continued throughout 2023.

The Superheroes after school club continues to meet in the school room on Thursdays during term time, from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Children enjoy learning about the bible through craft, drama, song and reading the Bible. Some have taken part in family services lead by Tomi.

The summer term ended with a family camp, a family service and a farewell lunch for Tomi, who had decided it was time to move on to pastures new.

School assemblies are continuing, and we have welcomed both Undy and Magor CIW schools, to listen to the Easter and Christmas stories.

We are thankful for a new team of helpers so that superheroes can continue.

Bev Davies

Light Lunches at Magor Baptist Church

We are now in our second year of Light Lunches held in the chapel on the 1st Monday of the month.

We provide a warm lunch of soup or jacket potatoes with a hot dessert, of which crumble is the most popular, and a cup of tea or coffee.

The aim of our lunches is to provide a warm friendly atmosphere, where folks from the community can come and share fellowship.

Our numbers have steadily grown and we now serve on average 25-30 people.

We are so grateful for all the volunteers who faithfully come and put up tables, lay the tables, serve, shop, cook and wash up

We keep our price low at ,2.00 or ,3.00. But people are very generous and want to give more. They say it is well worth it as they love coming.

We were pleased to earn a food rating of 5 stars after an inspection from The Food Standards Agency.

We aim to share the love of Jesus and welcome non-church members as well as members of the fellowship into the building as part of our witness.

Christine Foster

Knit and Natter

We are a group of 16 - 20 ladies who meet every Monday from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. We get together in a friendly atmosphere to knit and do lots of nattering.

This year we have been able to support agencies by knitting chicks for the charity Ready Steady Go towards their Christmas Fayre who support the premature baby unit, Cardiff. We also knitted Christmas stockings, baby hats, baby cloths and squares to make blankets which have been donated to the Refugee Centre in Newport.

We have been fortunate to be able to donate a total of £325.00 which has covered heating and service's expenses, also the Earthquake Appeal, Ravenhouse Trust and Parkinson's charities.

In July we took a trip to Tintern Abbey, which included lunch at The Anchor. Despite the weather all the ladies had a wonderful day out, and the same enjoyable evening was spent at the Wheatsheaf for our Christmas meal, albeit in January.

Jean Smith (Chairlady)

Ladies Friendship

We began the New Year with a film night, popcorn, ice-cream, and a wonderful film >Miss Potter=. It beat going to the cinema, as all the ladies agreed. A super evening, rounded off with our usual tea/coffee and biscuits.

Christine Miles delivered a fascinating insight of Taiwan, and how open and far-sighted the country is. Considering how small it is they do amazing things with regard to democracy, equality and freedom.

Our March AGM was attended by approximately a dozen ladies. Topics discussed were, places of interest, evenings of entertainment and varied speakers. The Annual Report was read with committee members agreeing to stand for another year in office. Pat Edlin discussed the up-to-date accounts, and it was agreed we donate ,50.00 towards the heating expenses. The latter half of the evening was an enjoyable number of Beetle Drive games, ending with our usual tea/coffee and biscuits.

Mr. John Sheen entertained us at our April meeting with poems, and experiences of AThe (his) Happiest Days@, including school escapades. A memorable and joyful evening as always. We were invited to join the Ladies Circle in May, when Jenny and Stan Griffiths gave us a detailed and highly entertaining evening of their experiences travelling around the Inner Hebrides on a Vespa. They could also give us first hand advice as to the best places for Ascones and tea@!!.

On the 13th June, we had a most delightful evening, walking and viewing the idyllic Veddw House Gardens, situated in the Welsh border countryside. A flora gem hidden away in the woods, with history dated back 200 years.

We ended our year at The Rose in Redwick where the food and ambience added to a most enjoyable social evening of good conversation, laughter and wonderful company.

After a summer of unpredictable weather, we had refreshed our autumn season with a fascinating and different aspect by Jan Potter, on the survivors of the Titanic. A wonderful turn out of ladies including many new members.

In October we were joined with the Ladies Circle once more to hear a talk by Toity Deane, who is a volunteer for SARA. It was a most moving and over whelming account of the lengths the volunteers go to, saving and rescuing people, not only at sea but in other situations. It was heartwarming to hear from Toity informing us of the amount we donated to their most worthy course of ,263.00.

November, we were entertained by Pat Taylor Jones, with a highly humorous account on how she came to take up drama later in life, and her history and monologues from Joyce Grenfell.

December took us to the Wheatsheaf for our Christmas meal. A full complement of 26 ladies enjoyed wonderful food and superb service along with fantastic company and festive cheer.

Jenny Tilton (Chairperson)

Friday Coffee Morning

We continue to open every Friday from 10 am until 12 noon and provide a friendly atmosphere where we welcome folk and visitors from the village to share coffee/tea with freshly cooked scones (and sometimes cake).

All are served by our faithful band of ladies (who serve with a smile) and this year we have also been able to serve a few light lunches.

All donations go to worthwhile charities.

The Coffee Morning takings were shared between:-

Raven house Trust	Macmillan Cancer Care
Kidney Research	Undy School
Sight Cymru	Ty Hafan
Turkish Earthquake appeal	Magor Scouts

The proceeds from the light lunches were donated to Children's Cancer Care.

On various occasions during the year we have been blessed by the visit of Children of all ages, together with their teachers, from Undy School who entertained us by singing and acting their plays for us, which have been excellent. It has been a busy year and I would like to thank all members and helpers for their tireless work and support.

Jean Smith

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

COMMUNION OFFERINGS		SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND GIFTS	
	£		£
Jan LATCH	410	Tearfund Earthquake Syria	1,840
Feb Sightsavers	438	Mayday:- BMS - Ukraine	362
Mar Multiple Sclerosis	355	Raven House	503
Apr MAF	504	Ready Steady Go	150
May Cardiff Baptist Colleg	301	Princes Trust	100
Jun Ty Hafan	509	Tearfund Quiz	213
Jul Uganda	485	Christian Aid - Gaza	712
Aug Natalya's Fund	522	Shelterbox	135
Sep Tearfund	596	Raven House (10% interest)	430
Oct BMS Harvest - Uganda:	823	Frost Fayre:- BMS - Ukraine	120
Nov Christian Aid	407	Raven House	140
Dec Raven House	460	Ready Steady Go	120
		BMS Christmas/Lesbos	852
Total	5,810	Total	5,677

	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS	£	£
Current Account	8,718	6,623
Monmouthshire Building Society	165,755	202,796
Baptists Together	141,372	89,514
CAF	85,000	85,000

Total Current Assets 400,845 383,933

Less Current liabilities due less than one year 2,785 1,985

Total Magor Baptist Church Funds 398,060 381,948

2023 2022

Average weekly offering £871 £864 Change +1%

Money given away £30,067 £33,174

As % of total expenditure 43.8% 36.9%

Although the original budget for 2023 projected a breakeven position due to ministerial vacancy and the investment in our children's and community work, the surprise resignation of our children's worker in July and the delay in appointing a new minister meant that the underlying surplus for the year was £16,112. It is encouraging to note that giving to the church (mainly through electronic payments) has stabilized at a level just above the previous year. However giving for good causes, has continued to be very generous. Other income such as Gift Aid and room hire have also contributed significantly to church funds, as well as the contribution now (with higher interest rates) from invested funds. The church is having to manage the increased energy bills and most other costs. These figures are disclosed fully in the Income and Expenditure account. The Church is hugely grateful to everyone for their continued giving over this period. All costs are continually monitored by the Deacons to ensure our funds are spent wisely.

As stated above, the Church has made a surplus of £16,112 in 2023. The surplus has been added to the investment funds and is available for future needs. The overall reserves policy of the church is currently under review with a view to agreeing a policy by the end of the year.

As at 31 December 2023, the Church held £2,785 on behalf of the Mission at Sudbrook.

Signed *John Leach* (Treasurer) Date *5 Feb. 2024*

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Deacons and members of Magor Baptist Church.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Position of Magor Baptist Church relating to the year ended 31st December 2023. This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed *309ack* Date *19 February 2024*

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1136850

Accounts

Magor Baptist Church

Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2022



Magor Baptist Church is registered at the Charity Commission as
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
Charity Reg. No. 1136850



Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
(Registered Charity no. 1136850)
Annual Report for Year Ending 31st December 2022

The Diaconate (the Charity Trustees of Ebenezer Baptist Church)

Minister	Vacant
Secretary	Keith Arnold
Assistant Secretary	Val Jones
Finance Deacon	John Loebel
Deacons	Kathryn Allen, Bev Davies, Chris Foster, Phyllis Jones, Andrew Leighton, Tina Liberson, Christine Miles

Diaconate meetings

The Diaconate has met 11 times for business meetings and 8 times for fellowship over the course of the year 2022, in addition to meeting with Reverend Mark Fairweather-Tall, the Regional Minister, regarding the Pastoral vacancy. The Diaconate has reported regularly to the Church Meeting, which has been held 7 times to discuss, share information, and to take decisions together. In addition, we held a Vision service with the Regional Minister to discern the will of the Church in the appointment of a new Minister.

New Diaconate appointments

This year, at the AGM in March, we welcomed one new deacon, Kathy Allen, on to the Church's leadership team. In addition, Chris Foster, Tina Liberson, Andrew Leighton and Christine Miles were welcomed on to the diaconate at a special meeting held in July. Bill Adams and Val Jenkins, having served as deacons, resigned in May 2022.

Transitional Arrangements

Our Minister, Reverend Harry Place, retired from the Ministry and as a Trustee on 31st August. We are indebted to him for leading the Church through the unprecedented Covid pandemic. The Church then appointed Reverend Mark Thomas to act as Moderator during the Transition period. Although not a registered charity trustee, he attended meetings and acted in an advisory capacity to the Church trustees.

Church Leadership Report

Achieving our objectives

Our principal activities as a Church are:

- Worship and prayer.
- The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith.
- The pastoral care of the individuals.
- Service to the local community and the wider world

This report gives an indication of the wide range of activities we undertake as a church and how we fund them.

Our accounts show that we have continued to be able to be a generous charitable church supporting a wide range of projects both at home and overseas.

At the beginning of the year the Church was still being affected by the Covid Pandemic and our principal objective in 2022 was to resume our normal programme of activities. Thanks to the diligent work of the group who monitored and implemented changes when it was safe to do so, this objective was largely achieved.

We continue to pursue our aims of creating stronger links between the Church and the communities of Magor and Undy with the aim of bringing more people to faith in Christ.

Membership and Adherence

We note the home call of Barbara Jones – a past deacon and Trustee, Gladys Pritchard and Margaret Neilson.

There were 2 resignations from membership.

At the end of the year there were 100 members and some 30 adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally).

Connections

We have maintained the relationships with our fellow Baptist churches at Caldicot, Underwood and Gaerllwyd and with the Christian centre being established by Jeremy Lock in Sudbrook. In addition, we have also met up with St Mary's Church in Wales for Pentecost, Remembrance Day and Christmas carols.

Our Church and Community worker, Thomasina Brown, has continued to build the relationships with Magor Church in Wales School and Undy Primary school. Liz Upton continues to serve as a Governor at Magor Church in Wales Primary School. Davina Thomas retired as a Governor at the school during the year.

Further afield we have supported the work of the Baptist Missionary Society, and the work of the Kasozi's in Uganda that continues to thrive and provide education for children in that area.

Church teams

Part of the Trustees main responsibility is that of ensuring the teams of volunteers are in place to run and deliver the wide-ranging programme of events and activities in the community.

Pastoral care is overseen by a small dedicated team of people who have taken on and continue to provide pastoral care following the departure of our Minister.

Life Group leaders deliver a well-supported and varied programme. Since recommencing following the Pandemic most groups are now meeting in the Church for the studies.

Other examples of teams of volunteers who help to make our service to both church and community possible include:

- the Church catering teams that provide light lunches each month, refreshments at Church events, the weekly coffee morning and after-service refreshments on Sundays;
- a small and dedicated team of Sunshiners who deliver flowers on behalf of the Church;
- a team of volunteers who work in our ministry to young people through the Toddler group, Superheroes and Sunday Club. Also, those who help with the Family Fun days and Family camp;
- teams who offer ministry to women in a monthly Ladies Friendship meeting;
- a team of men who offer support and friendship to other men through the Monthly Men's 'Drop-In';
- those who serve as volunteers in the ecumenical team that makes possible the work of the Newport/Caldicot Food bank overseen by Raven House Trust;
- the people who run a thriving Knit and Natter group on a weekly basis;
- the team which organises the 'Free for All' Initiative for the schools and the Community;
- the team, led by Thomasina, who were able to provide some basic English lessons to the refugees from Ukraine affected by the conflict in their country;
- the small cleaning team which maintains our premises;
- the committed Property Trustees who are responsible for the maintenance of Church property.

We appreciate the commitment, dedication and service of so many volunteers and helpers in every group who regularly give their time and talents to ensure that the Church functions smoothly throughout the year. Also, the preachers who are sustaining the Church in the period of Transition and those who are taking on additional responsibility in the absence of a Minister.

The Future

The Scripture verse that was chosen for 2022 was

"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go".

Joshua 1:9

Over the year we believe that we have demonstrated again our commitment as Trustees to
"advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out the other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world."

Keith Arnold (Church Secretary)

For and on behalf of the Diaconate

Sunbeams

The year began still under covid restrictions with people having to book to attend a group. Thankfully as the year went on these rules were removed and people were able to attend freely.

The doors are open from 9am until 11am. Children from birth to nursery age are welcome to come along with their parents, Grandparents, or child minder. We offer a range of toys to suit all ages which encourage children to share, explore and use their imagination. We ask for a £1 a week to help with the cost of craft material, gifts, tea, coffee, and biscuits. Toast was introduced late in the year and is a huge hit with the children. The session ends every week with singing and musical instruments. Favourite songs are Sleeping Bunnies, Row-Row-Row your Boat and Little Red Tractor. We always finish with a prayer "Hands together..."

Children who move on to Nursery or school receive a book of Children's bible stories. We celebrate their birthday by singing happy birthday to them and giving them a card and book with a bible story to read with a grown up.

Easter time the children were told the story of Easter and received an Easter egg. As the summer term continued, we were able to take some of the toys outside and play in the Church garden. We became concerned as the term progressed at the fall in attendance. We restarted quietly in September but with new members joining us every week. We are a lively and bubbly group of adults and children.

The year ended on a sad note. After a wonderful Christmas party with a visit from Santa, we received the sad news of the passing of Margaret, one of our hard-working ladies. She was well loved by all the mums and children (past and present) who came to the toddler group. This was shown in all the lovely messages we received and passed on to the family.

We as a team, feel privileged and blessed to be able to run this group. We thank you all for your support and prayers over the year.

The name Sunbeams seems to have caused some confusion as to who and what we are. We have decided to be known as "Magor Baptist Toddler Group"

Thank you.

The Toddler Team

Beverley Davies

Gill Arnold

Tina Liberson

Pat Edlin

Sunday Club

The Sunday club, although very reduced in number, meets with the congregation for the Sunday morning service. After all-age worship at 11 a.m. the children leave to share with those who join us on Zoom for prayer, singing, bible story and activity under the direction of one of the leaders together with a second adult for safeguarding. Preparation and planning for themes from the New and Old testaments together with festival themes are planned half-termly under the direction of Thomasina Brown with the team of Phyl Jones, Chris Foster, Liz Wilson, Liz Brown and Bev Davies, each member taking their turn to lead and plan the morning. The rest can enjoy the morning worship and receive input of God's word from the sermon. Only a few children now join us on Zoom but they are regular and add such input and stimulation that the team feel it is good to continue this service. Thomasina leads the monthly family worship when other children from the weekly meetings are encouraged to join in and participate. It was good to welcome Ukrainian children to our Christmas celebration. We continue to support the work of Uganda by sponsoring a child.

Please pray for this important work as the seeds of God's word are implanted in these precious children.

Phyl Jones

Knit and Natter

We've had another successful year, still meeting on a Monday at 1.30pm 'til 3.00pm, where the ladies enjoyed knitting and crocheting over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, along with a good natter.

Sadly, because of Covid restrictions, we've been limited on supporting charities which we have donated to in the past. However, we have sent blankets, hats, scarves, baby clothes and trauma teddies to Ukraine. We have also donated £50.00 each to three charities, namely Marie Curie, Ready Steady Go, and the R.N.I.B., from our weekly collection.

Jenny Tilton

Superheroes

This after school club continued to meet in person in the School Room on a Thursday afternoon from 3:30-4:30 for ages 4-10. Each week around a dozen children play games (in the church garden when weather permits), act out a Bible story, sing Bible songs and do a craft connected to the story, finishing with an opportunity for them to bring their thank-yous and requests to the Lord in prayer.

The Spring Term is when we traditionally look at Jesus' life on earth, so we looked at children and young people whose lives were changed when they met Jesus. In the Summer Term we looked at His death, resurrection and ascension, followed by stories from Acts to show how Jesus continued His work through His early disciples. Then in the Autumn Term we looked at stories from the Old Testament showing how God keeps His promises!

The children were also involved in the November Family Service led by Max retelling the story of Noah's Ark, and the year closed with the children enacting a nativity play for their parents which was greatly enjoyed as this year they were able to dress up!

Tomi was ably assisted by Beverley Davies and Jeremy Lock with occasional visits by Ruth Lock, Gaynor Chapple and Tina Liberson.

Tommi Brown

Beverley Davies

Friday Coffee Morning

We open every Friday from 10am until 12.00 noon and provide a friendly atmosphere where we welcome folk and visitors from the village to share coffee/tea with freshly cooked scones (and sometimes cake). All who attend are served by our faithful band of ladies, who serve with a smile. This year we have also been able to serve a few light lunches.

All donations made go to worthwhile charities, and the proceeds from the light lunches were donated to Children's Cancer Care.

Other beneficiaries were:-

Raven House Trust

Kidney Research

Sight Cymru

Ukrainian Appeal

It has been a busy year and I would like to thank all members and helpers for their tireless work and support.

Blessings

Jean Smith

Ladies Friendship

We had our AGM in our March meeting, when we discussed topics of interest for the future. Pat Edlin gave a full account of our financial situation, and it was suggested and unanimously voted that we donate £100 to the Ukrainian crisis. On a brighter note Val Jones brought bunches of flowers, greenery and her knowledge of oasis to make flower arrangements in household containers ranging from cups, jugs, vases and even small casserole dishes. We had a wonderful evening with a superb array of bouquets.

Our April meeting was another visit by Jeff Grosvenor, who this time gave a talk on the Newport Medieval Ship. As he did on the Transporter Bridge, Jeff gave a fantastic in-depth talk, full of interesting facts and pictures, wanting you to visit the ship in person.

In May, a dozen of our ladies spent an enjoyable evening at the Dolman Theatre who were presenting *The Vicar of Dibley*. Although the weather was nothing to laugh about the performance certainly was, and I believe it was a successful evening with Christine Miles having a win in the raffle. June was a long overdue visit to Mathern Mill. This time the weather was superb, which matched the evening about a most informative and fascinating relic on our doorstep. To end our evening we had wonderful hospitality by Jan and David Bowen in their garden, with refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits.

Although I could not attend our end of year summer meal at Papi's Bistro, it ended our social year, once again with good food and great company.

After a lovely summer break we were commencing our autumn meetings with a talk by Jen Robinson. Sadly she was unable to make our date, but hopefully we will be able to hear her adventures in the future. Thankfully, we did hear a wonderful talk by Hilary Winstanly who speaks for Health Help International (HHI), a Christian charity who work in both Zambia and the Kerala area of India.

October we were joined by the Ladies Circle, and this was literally an 'eye' opener, with an excellent talk and demonstrations with visual aids by Russell Ham from the Vision Impaired Society. Also in October, the L.F. hosted a fun evening of quizzes, drama and readings, at the chapel, in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. All who attended had a wonderful evening, finishing with an array of refreshments, and showing their appreciation and generosity by raising £360.00. All credit and thanks go to Sarah Cashman, from our committee, who suggested having the evening and the chosen charity.

For our animal topic in November, we failed to obtain a speaker. However, at very short notice Christine Miles came to the rescue and presented us with a superb evening of videos on hedgehog habitat, Scottish wild cat preservation, Dogs Trust School, plus the development of Bristol Zoo and my personal favourite, behaviour as to why your cat loves you. All in all, it was a very informative and successful evening.

To end our varied and, may I say, successful year, we met for a delightful Christmas meal at the Wheatsheaf. Everyone looked traditionally festive, enjoying, I believe, a splendid meal, accompanied by good conversation, laughter and happy memories. A marvellous way to start our Christmas, and look forward to an amazing New Year.

Jenny Tilton
Chairperson

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Financial Statement

for the year ending

31 December 2022

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 2022

INCOME	2022	2021	EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
	£	£		£	£
Total Church Giving	£44,927.51	£49,086.50	Total Ministerial/Mission Costs	£43,793.55	£54,308.93
Communion Offerings	£9,757.80	£10,523.00	Utilities	£3,684.11	£3,208.72
Special Offerings	£3,348.14	£5,037.00	Preaching Fees	£175.40	£474.20
Uganda	£5,237.50	£6,645.00	Printing, Publications and Stationery	£695.82	£1,115.09
Gift Aid	£14,335.25	£14,745.75	Subscriptions and Licences	£1,890.36	£2,366.82
Gift Boxes	£348.65	£442.93	Cleaning	£2,637.02	£1,640.00
Room Hire	£3,705.00	£2,055.00	Maintenance and computers	£767.00	£1,394.48
Investment Income	£1,679.59	£2,431.96	Professional services	£1,015.45	£0.00
Trustees Contribution in lieu of manse	£4,000.00	£6,000.00	Communion Offerings	£11,830.00	£13,636.00
Miscellaneous	£360.16	£1,246.10	Special Offerings	£3,583.87	£7,631.00
Home Mission - Sudbrook	£4,599.96	£4,039.96	Uganda	£6,610.00	£8,288.00
			BU Home Mission	£5,550.00	£5,400.00
			BMS World Mission	£5,600.00	£5,400.00
			Miscellaneous	£2,077.70	£3,184.95
			Sudbrook	£3,580.30	£3,074.94
Total Income	£92,299.56	£102,253.20	Total Expenditure	£93,490.58	£111,123.13
Total Income excl Sudbrook	£87,699.60	£98,213.24	Total Expenditure excl Sudbrook	£89,910.28	£108,048.19
TOTAL DEFICIT	-£1,191.02	-£8,869.93	TOTAL DEFICIT Excl Sudbrook	-£2,210.68	-£9,834.95
Exceptional Item (Reduction in Pension Liability)	£24,000.00	£10,200.00	TOTAL SURPLUS	£21,789.32	£365.05

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH OFFERINGS IN 2022

	COMMUNION OFFERINGS	£	SPECIAL OFFRINGS	£
Jan	Wales Air Ambulance	£810	Mayday	£587
Feb	Street Life Sarnies	£560		£212
Mar	Tearfund Ukraine	£4,655	Tearfund	£1,435
Apr	Marys Meals	£556	Tearfund Quiz	£211
May	Cardiff Baptist College	£337	Frost Fayre	£251
Jun	Raven House	£853		£180
Jul	Kidney Research	£581	BMS Christmas	£610
Aug	Uganda	£1,708	Raven House	£98
Sep	Spurgeons Children	£265		
Oct	BMS Harvest - Nepal	£454		
Nov	Tearfund	£711		
Dec	Save the Children	£340		
	Total	£11,830	Total	£3,584

	2022	2021	
Average weekly offering	£864	£944	Change -8%
Money given away	£33,174	£40,386	
As % of total expenditure	36.9%	37.4%	

Magor Baptist Church (Reg Charity No 1136850)

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31st December 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
Current Assets		
Current Account	£6,623.00	£6,238.00
Monmouthshire Building Society	£202,796.00	£204,905.00
Baptists Together	£89,514.00	£88,980.00
CAF	£85,000.00	£85,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Current Assets	£383,933.00	£385,123.00
Less:		
Current Liabilities	£1,985.00	£5,965.00
Liabilities > 1 year		£19,000.00
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS	<hr/> £381,948.00	<hr/> £360,158.00

Although the original budget for 2022 projected a substantial deficit due to the investment in our children's and community work, the surprise resignation of our minister in August meant that the underlying deficit for the year was only £2,210. It is disappointing to note that giving to the church (mainly through electronic payments now) declined to a level not seen since 2010 – without any adjustment for inflation. However giving for good causes, has continued to be very generous. Other income such as Gift Aid and room hire have also contributed significantly to church funds. The church is having to manage the steep rises in energy bills with greater increases expected in the future. These figures are disclosed fully in the Income and Expenditure account. The Church is hugely grateful to everyone for their continued giving over this period.

The Church has, at first sight, made a surplus of £21,790 in 2022. This has arisen as a result of the big fall in the church's pension liability which is now zero following the cancellation of the Baptist Pensions overall deficit. The underlying position is of a small deficit of £2,210 which, as mentioned, would have been much greater had the minister been in situ for the whole year. All costs are continually monitored by the Deacons to ensure our funds are spent wisely.

As at 31 December 2022, the Church held £1,985 on behalf of the Ministry at Sudbrook.

Signed  (Finance Deacon)
Date 18/2/23

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Deacons and members of Magor Baptist Church.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Position of Magor Baptist Church relating to the year ended 31st December 2022. This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed 
Date 23 February 2023

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1136850

Accounts

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
Registered Charity no. 1136850

Annual Report
Year ending 31st December, 2021

The Diaconate (the Charity Trustees of Ebenezer Baptist Church)

Minister	Rev. Harry Place
Secretary	Keith Arnold
Assistant Secretary	Val Jones
Treasurers	Jonathan Rhodes and Davina Thomas
Deacons	William Adams, Beverley Davies, Christine Foster, Valerie Jenkins, Phyllis Jones, John Loebel,

This year, at the Annual General Meeting held in July, Kathryn Allen and Jean Smith retired as deacons having served an additional year due to the ongoing pandemic. We welcomed two new deacons, Beverley Davies and Valerie Jenkins and re-appointed the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for a further term. Jonathan Rhodes and Davina Thomas retired as Joint Treasurers agreeing to continue until a new Treasurer was appointed. Darwin Noel was appointed as Treasurer in September but resigned in December before taking up the duties.

Dave Matthews, having served as a deacon, resigned in April.

The Diaconate held twelve business meetings during the year – utilising the Zoom technology from January until May and in the Church for the remainder of the year. There were twelve occasions for fellowship and prayer.

In June the Church meeting passed a special resolution to change the Constitution to allow attendance at Church meeting by electronic means. This enabled Church meetings to recommence in Church and on the Zoom. Three subsequent meetings were held to share information, and to make decisions together.

The Coronavirus Pandemic continued to cause serious disruption to the activities in the Church with restrictions imposed by the Welsh government. However, we were able to restart our Sunday service with limited seating in March with a Tuesday morning service introduced later in the year. Other activities – with the exception of Munchies and Knit and Natter - were gradually opened up.

The small team set up to manage the church activities during the pandemic met on seventeen occasions during the year and we are very grateful for their efforts in monitoring and managing the situation during the year.

Church Leadership

Achieving our objective

Our principal activities as a Church are:

Worship and prayer.

The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith.

The pastoral care of individuals.

Service to the local community and the wider world.

This report gives an indication of the range of activities we normally undertake as a Church and how we fund them.

Our financial accounts show that we have continued to generously support a wide range of charitable projects both at home and overseas.

It has been a difficult period in the life of the Church in seeking to achieve our objectives. Our minister, Harry, supported by his wife, Alice, has worked tirelessly in developing the church, bringing more people to faith in Christ, and building strong links with local churches. Also, our new Community/Church worker is developing our links with the schools and the wider community.

Membership and Adherence

We note the home call of our faithful members - Brian Adams, Mary Packer and Karina Bihet. Also, of Jill Jones, a faithful worshipper and organist in the Church for many years. During the year there were 5 new members and 1 resignation from membership. At the end of the year there were 102 members and some 30 adherents (people who would normally worship with us regularly or occasionally)

Connections

We continued, under the umbrella of the Junction 23A initiative, to work with our fellow Baptist churches at Caldicot, Underwood, and Gaerllwyd. The work in planting a new Christian centre, built on Baptist principles, continues in Sudbrook led by Jeremy Lock and supported by the South Wales Baptist Association. It was good to see that their first services and meetings were held despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We were unable to hold our joint service with Caldicot and Underwood. However, we were able to join with St. Mary's Church in Wales for the Remembrance Day service in The Square and with Sudbrook for their Carol service.

Our Church/Community worker, Thomasina Brown, has continued to forge closer ties with Magor School and Undy Primary school and also with schools in a wider area.

Liz Upton and Davina Thomas continue to serve as Governors at Magor Church in Wales Primary School. Valerie Jenkins retired as a Governor at Undy school during the year.

The Free for All initiative continues to bless individuals, businesses and schools in our community through acts of kindness. Although the work has been restricted because of the pandemic it has been greatly appreciated by those who have served the community during this difficult period.

Further afield we have supported the work of the Baptist Union, Baptist Missionary Society, Home Mission and BMS World Mission. We also continue to support the team in Uganda who are providing education for children in that area. Members have also responded generously to Emergency Appeals in overseas countries and to our monthly charity causes.

Church teams

One of the Trustees main responsibilities is to ensure that teams of volunteers are in place to manage and deliver the wide-ranging programme of events and activities in the Church and community.

Each Trustee has a portfolio indicating specific areas of oversight. The objective is to establish clear lines of communication between the activity leaders of the church and the leadership and to encourage the activities in their work.

Pastoral care is overseen by the Minister assisted by a small dedicated team who continue to provide pastoral care to our members and adherents. This also has been hampered this year due to the protocols laid down through the pandemic. However, doorstep visits were made and with the help of the Trustees, all members and attendees have been contacted regularly by phone, email, text or letter. This is proving to be an essential ministry during the pandemic.

The Minister along with a team of Life Group leaders help to co-ordinate a programme of studies throughout the year and deliver a well-supported and varied programme. The studies undertaken, whether meeting together in the Church or via Zoom, were in Philippians; Jonah; Sermon on the Mount; Vision and Values; The Songs of Advent;

Also, the latter part of the year we started a Stepwise Programme (Faith Filled Life). We have 15-20 delegates together with facilitators meeting fortnightly. This is a programme that helps to develop and deepen faith and learn more about following Jesus where we are - wherever that may be. Faith Filled Life is the first of 5 'streams' in the Stepwise discipleship programme which has been developed by the United Reformed Church and is available for all churches to use. Faith-filled Life encourages you to see how God is at work in your life and in the world and to explore how you can make a difference in your community and church.

The disruption to our normal outreach activities continued during the year with a cautious approach in the decisions taken to recommence and continuing to run the following activities

Sunbeams (previously known as Mothers and Toddlers) - who work in our ministry to young people weekly

Ladies Friendship - who offer ministry to women and meet monthly.

Men's 'Drop-In' - who offer support and friendship to other men that meet monthly.

Friday Coffee morning – a chance to chat and have refreshments.

Magor Munchies and *Knit and Natter* were unable to recommence because of the restrictions.

We appreciate the commitment, dedication and service of the volunteers and helpers that run these activities and would also express our grateful thanks to:

the small and dedicated team of Sunshiners who deliver flowers to deserving or needy people on behalf of the Church.

Those who serve as volunteers in the ecumenical team that makes possible the work of the Caldicot Foodbank overseen by Raven House Trust.

The small cleaning team who maintain our premises especially during the difficult conditions of the pandemic.

the committed Property Trustees who are responsible for the maintenance of Church property.

The Future

Our Scripture verse for 2022 comes from Joshua 1 v9

*“Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

God offered Joshua the next chapter of the story. The story moving forward would mean Joshua letting go of the past. God began to explain that after 40 years of wilderness wanderings, Joshua was about to enter the PROMISE! In doing so God offered Joshua and His people His Powerful presence, Personal presence, Permanent presence

We all have a purpose in 2022.

We need to be reminded in fulfilling this purpose it must always be tied to His Sent-ness and His With-ness; Such is our motto text for 2022.

We believe God is writing a new part of the story here in Magor, in which the natural is ignited by the supernatural and to proclaim the glory of His presence into the now of LIFE of 2022!

This being the case we trust that what was laid on the heart of the fellowship in 2018 would continue to come to fruition -

‘We need to listen to God afresh, seeking what He is planning for us in the church and within our community as He builds His kingdom. We recognise that this may require fresh expressions of mission and worship, not necessarily always within the confines of a ‘traditional church’.

This year we will, by God’s help, continue to put this into practice –

Worship – New, fresh and varied expressions of worship through our celebrations online and when we meet together in person. Allowing a greater openness and freedom in our worship times together.

New ways of doing and being church, learning from and strengthening the ministries that’s been developed online through Zoom.

Mission – Reaching out to the community and schools.

Looking at enhancing the work with the schools by holding Holiday Clubs, Messy Church celebrations and After School Clubs.

We hope to venture out with taking children and young people to Spree Wales this July. This camp is organised by Urban Saints

Discipling – New preaching series in 2 Timothy will build on the Sermon on the Mount studies encouraging the Church to become His Kingdom people.

Community – We have a desire to enhance the work and ministry of God’s Kingdom within the community, continuing to be the church without walls and seeing the call of God through the ‘Junction 23A’ initiative, come more into fruition.

Our support and links with other churches is paramount. We have and will continue to plan joint celebrations and activities.

Our minister is mentoring, supporting and coming alongside two pastors – in Sudbrook and in Caldicot.

We have recommenced the work of reaching out to the new homes recently built in and around the surrounding area.

Stepwise Programme – Faith Filled Life will continue through a combination of face-to-face group meetings, mentor or conversation partner, and if required, individual online learning.

Church Development

We felt God was speaking to us to seize the opportunity given by the pandemic to pray and discuss what it would mean for the Church to have a ‘blank canvas’ and by bringing together teams of people to pray and look ahead to what God wants in populating the ‘blank canvas’! Some exciting things have begun to happen and we trust this will continue into 2022.

Finally -

Over the year we believe that we have demonstrated again our commitment as Trustees to “advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out the other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.”

*Keith Arnold (Church Secretary)
For and on behalf of the Diaconate*

Sunday Club

Due to Covid restrictions, Sunday Club continued entirely on Zoom, running the 20 mins before the main service, with the team taking responsibility for each session in turn and Tomi and Bev sharing the technology, until Easter when the Church was able to reopen in person, albeit with restrictions. From then until September, the children attending in person would be dropped off by their parents in the church garden, and then stay with the Sunday Club team for the duration of the service before being collected again from the garden. This meant the sessions would start with games outside, weather permitting, and end with a craft activity. The 20min story time and songs were on video in the Youth Room to allow other children to join on Zoom as they had so enjoyed doing through lockdown, although obviously this was now during the service time so the grandparents tended to remain in the service rather than joining in with Sunday Club.

From September the children were allowed to join in with the main part of the worship for the first half of the service, and come out part way through for Zoom Club followed by a craft activity. Where possible, the craft was also sent out to the Zoom children to allow them to join in.

We covered Jonah in January along with the main church, before picking up the life of Jesus through Easter to his Ascension and Pentecost. We then took stories from the life of Paul from Pentecost through the summer, leading onto Daniel, Moses and Joseph before Christmas.

Numbers were low, especially due to Covid isolation issues, so sometimes there were no physical children, but it was still great to be able to offer them the opportunity to continue to meet on Zoom. Monthly Family Services continued to be held, where the children were able to remain in for the whole service either in person or on Zoom. For the Nativity Service the Sunday Club played their parts on video as they were unable to attend in person, which made the service more relaxed for the team, and much fun was still had!

We were sorry to say goodbye to Nettie, Jean Smith and Pat Coleman over the course of the year. We thank them for their faithful commitment to the Sunday Club children for so many years, and wish them every blessing as they continue to serve the Lord in other ways in the days ahead.

Thomasina Brown

Sunbeams

We were under Covid restrictions for the first half of the year and therefore unable to open. However, following Family Fun sessions in May half-term it became clear that families enjoyed using the church garden and felt safe outside. So we reopened outside, weather permitting, and created a WhatsApp group so we could let carers know when we were meeting. We also changed the name to “Sunbeams” to reflect the fact that the adults accompanying the children included grandparents and childminders, so “mothers and toddlers” was no longer an appropriate name.

When we reopened in September following the summer break, restrictions had eased to allow adults to be closer than 2m although still physically distanced and masked, so it was now possible to be inside. We took the decision to insist all adults attending were double jabbed for our protection, as well as a booking system to ensure we did not exceed our maximum of 20 adults.

We also decided to use the Youth Room to serve tea and coffee to allow adults to remove their masks in this room and remain masked in the larger room. This also allowed for more intimate conversations which have benefitted both adults and leaders.

Each session included an opportunity for the children to engage in a craft related to the story, and concluded with a Bible story told using the flannelgraph followed by a singing time with a mixture of nursery rhymes and Christian songs. We were able to finish the year with a Christmas party in the Sanctuary including a visit from Father Christmas as well as the nativity story.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Nettie Craggs and Gill Arnold this year, although Gill has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. We are very grateful to them for their years of faithful service and pray God’s blessings on them as they move into new areas of service for our Lord.

Thomasina Brown

Pirate Pete/Superheroes

In February half-term Tomi asked to hold an online Holiday Club jointly with her husband as Pirate Pete, as Covid restrictions made it illegal to meet in person. This led to an online after school club on Thursdays 4-4:30, and then in person in the Church garden after May half-term. For the Easter break there was a treasure trail taking a tour of Magor!

After the summer break the after-school club was able to meet in person in the School Room on a Thursday night 3:30-4:30 for ages 4-10. When Pirate Pete had to retire due to ill health, the club continued under the new name of Superheroes, chosen by the children.

Each week the children play games, act out a Bible story, sing Bible songs and do a craft connected to the story, finishing with an opportunity for them to bring their thank-yous and requests to the Lord in prayer. This year's stories began with the life of Peter explored by Pirate Pete, before moving on to look in September at "Old Testament children who changed their world!". The year closed with the children enacting a nativity play for their parents which was videoed to show as part of the church nativity service. Their final session was a Christingle service which they attended with their parents.

Tomi has been ably assisted by Bev, Jeremy Lock and Gaynor Chapple, with occasional visits by Ruth Lock and Tina Liberson.

Thomasina Brown

Family Fun

Given the Covid pandemic, it had been impossible to invite people to attend services inside in person. However, people were encouraged to meet up outside. Families were also used to doing everything together. So rather than Holiday Clubs, Tomi suggested holding Family Fun sessions in the church garden.

Three were held in May half-term in the church garden, Creation Day (focussing on our creativity), Destruction Day (focussing on all that is wrong in the world) and Miracle Day (focussing on Jesus). These were well attended and provided good opportunities for discussions with parents as well as children, so two more were held in the summer, Water Fun and a Teddy Bears' Picnic. There was also a trip to Weston-Super-Mare, but this was less well attended as it was not sensible to organise a coach or give lifts so many struggled for transport.

For October half-term the Covid rules did not allow meeting inside, nor the weather outside, so Tomi organised a Sponsored Walk to the Undy Playing Fields as part of World Vision's "Walk 6K for clean water so they don't have to". This was a lot of fun and £600 was raised in the process.

Thomasina Brown

Munchies Report

Due to the Covid restrictions there were no meetings during the year.

Phyl Jones

Knit and Natter

Due to the Covid restrictions there were no meetings during the year.

Jean Smith

Ladies Friendship

How lovely and thankful it was to be able to recommence our Ladies Friendship meetings once again. It was with a tentative committee meeting in July, that we discussed the pros and cons as to where, when, what and how many we could accommodate in the chapel, providing we abided by the Covid 19 regulations. It was decided to have our first meeting in September, with a meal at the Golden Lion, a lovely relaxing way to meet and enjoy ourselves after so many restrictions.

October, was our first meeting with a wonderful talk about Newport's Transporter Bridge, given by Jeff Grosvenor, who gave a very in-depth insight and had fascinating knowledge, knowing everything there was to know about this fabulous local iconic feature. Our evening was so well supported with eighteen members, who were not only enthralled by the evenings topic, but also being able to sit, chat and enjoy a cuppa and biscuit/Welsh cake too.

November, was an in-house evening of entertainment with a game of Beetle Drive. Although only about a dozen ladies attended, due to illness and dark nights, we still had a fun-filled time, with much laughter and confusion on times. Yet again a delightful evening.

We ended our first three-month programme with a Christmas lunch at the Haywain. A day that was not blessed with the best of weathers, it was certainly blessed with love, laughter and good conversation, and a feeling of sisterhood.

On a positive note, 2022 is full of optimism, and just as a little taster as to what is to come, outings and impressive speakers are on the agenda.

I can honestly report, that after a long eighteen months, Ladies Friendship is friendlier and stronger than ever.

Gods Blessings to you all for a brighter and happier 2022.

Jenny Tilton (Chairperson)

Friday Coffee Morning

In line with government Covid restrictions Friday coffee mornings remained closed for much of the year.

We re-commenced in September, meeting in the Chapel with a waitress service with teas, coffee and scones as normal, but served from the kitchen. This was extremely successful and worked very well by our team of ladies.

In December we carried out a special light lunch which raised £170.00 cash that was passed to Carol Jones for the Children's Cancer Charity.

Jean Smith

CHURCH

FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Income & Expenditure Accounts for 2021

INCOME	2021	2020
Church Giving	49,086.50	45,015.37
Gift Aid Receipts	14,745.75	12,549.00
Communion Offerings	10,523.00	6,714.49
4th Sunday Offerings	0.00	470.07
Special Offerings	5,037.00	3,959.00
BMS	442.93	260.62
Donations given to Church/Legacies	379.00	310.00
Room Hire	2,055.00	940.00
Legacy Interest	2,431.96	2,731.90
Donations to Uganda	6,645.00	6,095.00
Trustees contribution to ministerial costs	6,000.00	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	867.10	634.01
TOTAL INCOME	98,213.24	85,679.46
EXPENDITURE		
Ministerial	54,308.93	43,179.17
Utilities	3,208.72	3,328.33
Preaching Fees	474.20	120.00
Print/Publications/Stationery	1,115.09	809.83
Subscriptions	2,366.82	2,101.27
Cleaning	1,640.00	1,060.00
Maintenance/Repairs/Renewals	1,394.48	1,254.97
Communion Offerings	13,636.00	8,265.00
4th Sunday Offerings	0.00	1,133.00
Special Offerings	7,631.00	4,693.00
BMS Home Mission	5,400.00	5,400.00
BMS World Mission	5,400.00	5,400.00
BMS	0.00	63.00
Donations given from Church	31.42	188.07
Uganda	8,288.00	7,633.00
Miscellaneous	3,153.53	3,237.78
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	108,048.19	87,866.42
Deficit on Year	-9,834.95	-2,186.96
Reduction in pension liability	10,200.00	5,900.00
TOTAL	365.05	3,713.04

Magor Baptist Church
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31st December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
Current Assets		
Current account	6,238	11,391
Monmouthshire Building Society	204,905	209,500
Baptist Together	88,980	88,100
CAF	85,000	85,000
	<u>£ 385,123</u>	<u>£ 393,991</u>
Current Assets	<u>£ 385,123</u>	<u>£ 393,991</u>
Current Liabilities		
Liabilities > 1 year	5,965	£ 6,000
	19,000	£ 28,200
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS	<u>£ 360,158</u>	<u>£ 359,791</u>

2021 has been a difficult year in many ways – Church activities were curtailed in order to adhere to legislation in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is therefore good to report that giving, both for the Church and for good causes, has increased substantially from 2020. This is in spite of the fourth Sunday offerings being curtailed during the pandemic. These figures are disclosed fully in the Income and Expenditure account. Other income such as Gift Aid and Room Hire have also increased significantly. The Church is hugely grateful to everyone for their continued giving over this period.

The Church has, at first sight, made a surplus of £365.05 in 2021. However, this has been significantly enhanced by a reduction in the pension deficit of £10,200. The Church's activities ran at a deficit of £9,834.95. This has arisen as a result of a conscious decision by the members to utilise part of the reserves in recruiting a Community & Church Worker. This is paying great dividends as the Church's message is spread further in the Community. All costs are continually monitored by the Deacons to ensure all funds are spent wisely.

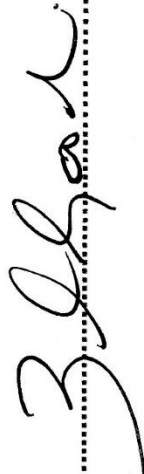
As at 31 December 2021, the Church held £965 on behalf of the Ministry at Sudbrook.

Signed  (Treasurer) Date 3-3-22

Signed Thomas (Treasurer) Date 3/3/22

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Deacons and members of Magor Baptist Church.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Position of Magor Baptist Church relating to the year ended 31st December 2021. This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed  Date 3/3/2022

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1136850

Accounts

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS to 31 DECEMBER 2020

Anniversary Celebration Birthday

204 Years

This weekend Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July we are celebrating!

Join our celebration by helping yourself to one of our small gifts from 9am each day

We know God's Love; We are sharing a symbol of God's Love; May you get to know God's Love.

To know more, contact: minister@magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

Alleluia

Christ is risen
Christ is alive
The Church is alive

Find us at <https://magorbaptistchurch.org.uk/>

Happy Easter

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH
Creating and sharing God's love

WE ARE TAKING BEST ADVICE AND CLOSING THE BUILDING TO ALL USER GROUPS UNTIL THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS IS OVER... ..BUT... ..THE CHURCH IS CARRYING ON!

Catch up with what's going on by visiting our website at www.magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

SONGS PANCAKES CRAFT FUN

Messy Church

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY
AT MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH
FROM 5:00 TO 6:30

"PANCAKE DAY!"

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT

BIBLE STORIES

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH
Creating and sharing God's love

Jesus is alive Alleluia

Yet the disciples still met behind a closed door

See what happened in in 1 weeks time.....

Follow the story @ magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

Rejoice Rejoice it is Pentecost

The disciples are no longer hidden behind the door!

The church of God is full of strength, and power, and praise.

Read all about it on the website @ magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

The Church Wants to Say a Big **THANK YOU!** to ALL WHO SERVE AND LOVE OUR VILLAGE for all you are doing while this pandemic lasts

The Surgery - The Pharmacy - The Post Office
Takeaway Foods - The Co-op - Lougher Care

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH
Creating and sharing God's love

Fanning the Flame of PRAYER

@ Magor Baptist Church

This September we embark on a whole series of Prayer Initiatives.

the PRAYER course

Commencing 11th September in our Life Groups

Sunday Mornings @ 11am

Saturday Mornings @ 8.30am

September 28th
October 19th
November 16th
December 14th

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Celebrate Christmas with Us

You are invited to a **ZOOM** Christmas Service at 10am on 25th December

For the ZOOM link contact minister@magorbaptistchurch.org.uk

**Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
Registered Charity no. 1136850**

**Annual Report
Year Ending 31st December 2020**

Coronavirus Pandemic

The work of the Church has been seriously affected by the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic in March that continued to affect us throughout the remainder of the year. On 16th March we sadly had to take the decision to close the Chapel for all activities including Sunday worship. We were able to hold limited services from October to December with attendance restricted by the need to be socially distanced and no singing allowed before an upsurge in the virus forced us to close again on 8th December.

However, with unstinting work of our Minister and his wife and the help of electronic technology, we have been able to hold a Sunday Service on the Zoom platform and have been joined by old and new friends across the country and overseas. Prayer meetings and Zoom club for the children have also taken place on Zoom. We were blessed that we were still able to congregate and worship together as a Fellowship even though we are in our own homes. In addition, the reflections published by The Minister and by Ann Nias and Dave Matthews have continued to sustain us through the pandemic. We are truly grateful to them for this work.

All of our groups and outreach activities held in the Church have remained closed since March

The Diaconate (the Charity Trustees of Ebenezer Baptist Church)

Minister	Rev. Harry Place
Secretary	Keith Arnold
Assistant Secretary	Val Jones
Treasurers	Jonathan Rhodes and Davina Thomas
Deacons	William Adams, Kathryn Allen, Chris Foster, Phyllis Jones, John Loebel, Dave Matthews, Jean Smith

This year has been very different in the manner in which Leadership and Church meetings were held due to the Coronavirus pandemic meaning that from April onwards we were unable to hold meetings inside the Chapel. However, with the help of electronic technology (Zoom) the Diaconate continued to meet on 12 occasions in total for business meetings and twice for fellowship over the course of the year 2020.

We have only been able to hold 3 Church Meetings - in January, March and November, to share information, and to make decisions together. During the period when we were unable to hold Church meetings the Diaconate governed the Church within the guidelines issued by the Charity Commissioners and the Baptist Union. We are also indebted to the small team set up to manage the constantly changing situation caused by the pandemic who met on 7 occasions.

This year, at the AGM in March two deacons, Kathy Allen and Jean Smith, were due to retire having served 6 years on the diaconate, However, they agreed to stay on for a further year to help with the additional workload caused by the pandemic. We also welcomed two new deacons, William Adams and Phyllis Jones, and re-appointed the Church Officers for a further term.

Jo Fenton having served as a deacon during the year resigned in August 2020.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP REPORT

Achieving our objectives

Our principal activities as a Church are:

Worship and prayer.

The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith.

The pastoral care of individuals.

Service to the local community and the wider world.

This report gives an indication of the range of activities we normally undertake as a church and how we fund them.

Our accounts show that we have continued to be able to be a generous charitable church supporting a wide range of projects both at home and overseas.

One of our principal objectives in 2020 was to appoint a Community/Church worker and this was achieved with Thomasina Brown taking up her post on 1st November 2020. Harry, with the support of his wife, Alice, has settled into the Church and continues to lead it forward in achieving our aims of bringing more people to faith in Christ and building stronger links with the local churches, schools and the wider community.

Membership and Adherence

We note the home call of Rev. Patrick Ingle who served as the Minister of the Church from 1979 to 1992 and that of a faithful member - Dave Scott.

During the year there were 2 new members. At the end of the year there were 101 members and some 30 adherents (people who would normally worship with us regularly or occasionally).

Connections

We continue to strengthen our relationships with our fellow Baptist churches at Caldicot, Underwood and Gaerllwyd under the umbrella of the Junction 23A initiative. In addition, we are working with Jeremy Lock, South Wales Baptist Association and the Presbytery in Wales in seeking to plant a new Christian centre, built on Baptist principles, to replace the Presbyterian church in Sudbrook. Sadly, due to dwindling numbers, the Baptist Church at Penhow was closed this year. We were unable to meet up with St Mary's Church in Wales this year for our normal joint services. However, our joint service with Caldicot and Underwood did take place (by Zoom) at the beginning of the year.

With the appointment of our Church/Community Worker we are hoping to build on our existing relationships with the schools with opportunities - when we are able - to hold assemblies at Magor Church in Wales School and Undy Primary school. In December videos of the Nativity story were distributed to these schools together with Jubilee Park School, Rogerstone, Clytha Primary School and Rogiet Primary School. Zoom Family Celebrations have been held in the last two months.

Val Jenkins (at Undy) and Liz Upton and Davina Thomas (at Magor) continue to serve as Governors of the local schools.

Free for All is an initiative that seeks to bless individuals, businesses and schools in our community through acts of kindness. The work in 2020 has been limited to small gifts given out at Easter and to flowers/plants given out to local businesses that continue to serve the Community during the pandemic. Gifts of cakes and biscuits were also given to the staff of local schools.

Further afield we have supported the work of the Baptist Union, Baptist Missionary Society Home Mission and BMS World Mission. We continue to support the work in Uganda that is providing education for children in that area.

Church teams

Part of the Trustees main responsibility is to ensure that teams of volunteers are in place to manage and deliver the wide-ranging programme of events and activities in the community.

Each Trustee has a portfolio indicating specific areas of oversight. The objective is to establish clear lines of communication between the activity leaders of the church and the leadership and to encourage the activities in their work.

Pastoral care is overseen by the Minister with a small dedicated team of people who continue to provide pastoral care to our members and adherents. This has proved difficult this year due to the protocols laid down through the pandemic. However, doorstep visits have been made and with the help of the Trustees, all members and attendees have been contacted regularly by phone, email, text or letter. This has proved an essential ministry during this unprecedented time.

The Minister along with a team of Life Group leaders help to co-ordinate a programme of studies throughout the year and deliver a well-supported and varied programme. The studies undertaken, whether meeting together in the church or via Zoom, were - Shape of Things to Come - including Reshaped; Community Shaped by the Gospel; God Shaped; Study on Philippians
All of our normal outreach activities have been disrupted this year because of the pandemic with most of them ceasing to operate from March onwards. We trust that we will be able to reopen the following activities later in 2021.

- Magor Munchies - who plan, cook and serve lunches to around 80 elderly people on the church premises on the first Monday of each month throughout the year.
- Mothers and Toddlers - who work in our ministry to young people weekly
- Ladies Friendship - who offer ministry to women and meet monthly.
- Men's 'Drop-In'- who offer support and friendship to other men that meet monthly.
- Knit and Natter - a thriving Knit and Natter group that meet weekly.
- Friday Coffee morning - a chance to chat and have refreshments.

We appreciate the commitment, dedication and service of the volunteers and helpers that run these activities and would also express our grateful thanks to:

- the small and dedicated team of Sunshiners who deliver flowers to deserving or needy people on behalf of the Church.
- those who serve as volunteers in the ecumenical team that makes possible the work of the Caldicot Foodbank overseen by Raven House Trust.
- the small cleaning team who maintain our premises especially during the difficult conditions of the pandemic.
- the committed Property Trustees who are responsible for the maintenance of Church property.

The Future

Our Scripture for 2021 was chosen by our Church/Community Worker and comes from Matthew 28: v19-20

'Jesus said, " ...go and make disciples in all the nations, baptising them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you: and be sure of this, I am with you. "

This is known as the 'Great Commission.' It's our belief that the concern of this Commission is not just to get people ready for heaven; its task is to get heaven into the people - to make them like Christ - and involves the transformation of our life lived out here in Magor and Undy.

We believe and concur with the writer that said ". *.is not a task assigned to isolated individuals; it is an identity given to a community.*"

We are endeavouring to bring about what was laid on the heart of the fellowship in 2018 when seeking a new minister -

We need to listen to God afresh, seeking what He is planning for us in the church and within our community as He builds His kingdom. We recognise that this may require fresh expressions of mission and worship, not necessarily always within the confines of a traditional church'.

This year we will, by God's help, continue to put this into practice.

Worship - New and fresh expressions of worship through our celebrations online and when we can meet together in person. Allowing a greater openness and freedom in our worship times together.

New ways of doing and being church, learning from and strengthening the ministries that's been developed online through Zoom.

Mission - Reaching out to the community and schools. Looking at enhancing the work with the schools by holding Holiday Clubs (online if necessary), Messy Church celebrations; Lunch Club or After School Clubs.

Further emphasis on the Church to be more 'mission orientated' will be highlighted with a new preaching series 'Going Deeper' based on the book of Jonah.

We hope to continue our reaching out to the community following the 'Who Cares' initiative.

Discipling - Seeking to move forward with our motto text '*make disciples in all the nations*' Plans are already in place to encourage the children and young people to join in online bible studies.

We are hoping to commence an Alpha Course (or similar)

Community - We have a desire to enhance the work and ministry of God's Kingdom within the community, continuing to be the church without walls and seeing the call of God through the 'Junction 23A' initiative, come more into fruition.

Our support and links with other churches is paramount. We have and will continue to plan joint celebrations and activities.

Our minister is mentoring, supporting and coming alongside three pastors - in Stratford, Sudbrook and in Caldicot.

Recommencing the work of reaching out to the new homes recently built in and around the surrounding area.

During the year we believe that we have demonstrated again our commitment as Trustees to

“advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out the other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.”

Keith Arnold (Church Secretary)
For and on behalf of the Diaconate

Friday Coffee Morning Report 2020

Coffee Morning opens weekly on Friday from 10.00 until 12.00 noon. It continues to be an excellent way for the Church to reach out into the community and welcome folk to come and share coffee, tea, scones and occasionally cakes. It is a great place to meet friends, and to have a chat.

We thank our faithful team of volunteers who give up their time to ensure the smooth running of the event each week. A big thank you to all the ladies who ensure we have freshly baked scones and cakes each week.

The money collected each week is donated to local charities, chosen by our volunteer helpers. Greeting cards can also be purchased, the proceeds going to kids cancer charity.

Sadly, in March, because of the COVID-19 virus, the church building had to be closed and we were unable to hold coffee mornings for the rest of the year.

The team agreed that this year we should donate our funds to Raven House Trust food bank and their Christmas appeal for toys and gifts for the children. Donations were sent in March, April and November - a total of £860.00

We hope and pray we will be able to all meet again soon.

Jean Smith
Coffee morning co-ordinator

Knit and Natter group report 2020

The group meets on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 to 3.00 pm, to knit, crochet and share ideas and to enjoy each other's friendship. The group continues to grow and is popular with the ladies who live in the local communities.

Each year we support a number of charities throughout Wales and overseas donating our knitted garments.

Sadly, this year has been so different for us all. In March, because of the Covid-19 pandemic and following the government guidelines, the Church had to close and we were unable to meet. However, many of our ladies have continued to knit, crochet and sew in their own homes. We have kept in touch with each other by telephone, email and text, chatting and making sure we are all safe and well.

We were sad to hear that our dear friend Enid Moon passed away in November. We will all miss her.

Our dear friends Mary Packer and Irene Bowen are now in St. Anne's Nursing Home, Chepstow, and Joyce Jones is in Cherry Trees Nursing Home, Caldicot. We send our love and prayers to them.

I pray that we will all keep well, and stay safe, and hope we will all meet up again soon to Knit and Natter.

Jean Smith

Ladies Friendship Report for 2020

We held our AGM as usual on Tuesday, 10th March, 2020, where a new committee were nominated and agreed by members; these being:

Jenny Tilton -	Chairperson	Cherryl Evans -	Events Organiser
Pat Edlin -	Treasurer	Gill Arnold -	Tea Rota Organiser
Christine Miles -	Speaker Organiser	Sarah Cashman -	Cards Distributor

This year we saw Gaynor Chapple (Chairperson) and Jenny Griffiths (Treasurer) both step down after giving 6-7 years dedicated service to Ladies Friendship. It was then agreed by the members that Jenny Tilton became Chairperson, and welcomed two new officers, Gill Arnold and Sarah Cashman as Tea Rota Organiser and Card Distributor respectively. A little note of thanks must be given to Sarah who has been so diligent at sending cards to all members at such a needy time.

Sadly, due to the global spread of COVID-19, it was agreed that Ladies Friendship should be suspended indefinitely, until such a time for regathering was confirmed by the Government.

Gaynor entertained us with her Bible Cake recipe, where we looked up passages from the bible to give the ingredients. Having already made the cake, it was then thoroughly enjoyed by all along with a cup of tea or coffee. A successful and most enjoyable evening.

Well, who would have thought, when we last met, that ten months down the line we would be wondering when we will all be together again? However, during the isolation period, it was not only comforting, but inspiring to hear acts of kindness and concern, albeit phone calls, texts, cards and letters, and shopping, for those members who could not leave their homes at this time. It has definitely brought out the best in people.

Sadly, over the past ten months, some of our long loyal members will not be joining us in the future either due to ill health or having incurred debilitating illnesses. Mary Packer has now taken residence at St, Anne's Nursing Home, along with Irene Bowen. Enid Moon will also be dearly missed having been called home to our Lord and Father. On a brighter note, Christine and Frank Miles celebrated not only the safe arrival of their first grandchildren, twin boys Arthur and George, but their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Later in the year, Gill and Keith Arnold also celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Many special dates have passed, not being celebrated as one might have wished. Although COVID-19 is not going away for a while, we can now see that bright light at the end of the tunnel, that rainbow in the sky, with the vaccine being given to more and more people daily.

So, with prayer and faith, who is to say we won't be meeting with our friends and loved ones, sooner than later.

Follow the secret trail of faith, made bold by hope and prayer. Follow the music of your dreams beyond the last ascent. Fear not the hazards of the way for God is provident.

Jenny Tilton
Chairperson

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP REPORT 2020

The Group continued to thrive during the early part of the year; the age range of the children tended to be 0-2 years. In common with other Church activities, we were not able to meet after March because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We were all very sad that Netty was not able to be part of the team in 2020 and we missed her effervescent presence greatly.

The Group was able to make monetary donations to Raven House Trust during the pandemic and continues to sponsor a Ugandan child.

Gill Arnold

Munchies Report 2020

Due to Covid restrictions the Munchies only met for three months during January, February and March. They enjoyed St Valentine's Day celebrations but everything came to standstill at the end of March. All the helpers were sad to see this good work put on hold. Many of our diners have expressed regret too but until we can make everything safe it will be impossible to serve food. All members received a Christmas card by post thanks to the effort of Mrs Ellen Scott our correspondence secretary wishing them every blessing.

Phyl Jones

Sunday Club Report 2020

Our year started in the usual way with post-Christmas party celebrations followed by Jams and Frogs meeting for lesson during Sunday morning worship using Scripture Union bible-based programmes.

These were interrupted in March due to Covid restrictions. In April Mrs Bev Davies suggested we start a children's zoom session on a Sunday morning for 15 to 20 mins prior to the adult gathering at 11 a.m. This programme has been very successful, bringing in children associated with the church family from many areas of the country. The responsibility for leading each week has been shared by the Sunday club leaders, with weekly preparations on a Thursday afternoon with Bev's guidance on the computer. Themes have covered Pentecost, Fruits of the Spirit, Jesus's Miracles, Lost and Found stories and the Christmas Story. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to join these sessions with room for prayers, singing, activities and conversations.

Rev Harry Place has been able to fit in Family Services within the schedule. The church anniversary being a particularly memorable one.

In November, Thomasina Brown joined the team and has added a new impetus with fresh ideas and invaluable skills. Family services have become a regular feature with Tomi taking the lead.

During the year we have sent the children Scripture Union activity books courtesy of the kindness of Mrs Joyce Woolley. We also packed and sent Christmas cards and gifts to all the children who have taken part this year. We have 20+ children in the club with an average of 6 to 8 loyal followers each week. Tomi prepared a QR code trail for the local children for Christmas and has made good contact with the schools.

Zoom has proved an invaluable way to keep in touch with our precious children as we share the love of the Lord and make disciples. We continue to work this way until things become normal.

Phyl Jones

CHURCH

FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS

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MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ending 31st December 2020

INCOME	2020	2019	EXPENDITURE	2020	2019
	£.p	£.p		£.p	£.p
Church Giving	£45,015.37	£49,612.98	Ministerial	£43,179.17	£37,284.75
Gift Aid Receipts	£12,549.00	£17,915.97	Utilities	£3,328.33	£4,212.17
Communion Offerings	£6,714.49	£2,961.40	Preaching Fees	£120.00	£612.38
4th. Sunday Offerings	£470.07	£2,280.68	Print/Publications/Stationary	£809.83	£1,226.83
Special Offerings	£3,959.00	£3,951.25	Subscriptions	£2,101.27	£1,318.73
BMS	£260.62	£1,588.61	Cleaning	£1,060.00	£2,120.00
Donations given to Church/Legacies	£310.00	£1,325.00	Maintenance/Repairs/Renewals	£1,254.97	£4,515.75
Deposit Interest	£0.00	£32.94	Communion Offerings	£8,265.00	£3,215.00
Room Hire	£940.00	£3,911.50	4th. Sunday Offerings	£1,133.00	£2,511.00
Legacy Interest	£2,731.90	£2,371.51	Special Offerings	£4,693.00	£5,743.55
Donations to Uganda	£6,095.00	£9,010.00	BMS Home Mission	£5,400.00	£5,400.00
Trustees Contribution to Ministerial Costs	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	BMS World Mission	£5,400.00	£5,400.00
Miscellaneous	£634.01	£2,403.38	BMS	£63.00	£1,158.00
			Donations Given from Church	£188.07	£870.38
			Uganda	£7,633.00	£11,413.00
			Miscellaneous	£3,237.78	£6,142.19
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£87,866.42	£93,143.73
TOTAL INCOME	£85,679.46	£103,365.22			
Deficit on Year	-£2,186.96	£10,221.49			

MAGOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Communion and 4th Sunday Donations

Communion	£		£	4th Sunday	£
GAP Wales	£335.00	Jan		Leprosy Mission	£266.00
Sth Wales Baptist College	£185.00	Feb		Uganda	£267.00
MAF	£217.00	Mar		Health Help International	£200.00
Sight Savers	£200.00	Apr		Sailors Society	£200.00
Beyond the Streets	£200.00	May		OM UK	£200.00
TY Hafan	£213.00	Jun			£0.00
Tear Fund	£1,740.00	Jul			£0.00
Spurgeons College	£200.00	Aug			£0.00
BMS - Chad	£850.00	Sep			£0.00
Uganda	£1,055.00	Oct			£0.00
RHT	£1,900.00	Nov			£0.00
BMS - Nepal	£1,130.00	Dec			£0.00
Total	£8,225.00			Total	£1,133.00

Average Weekly Offering	2020	2019	% Change
	£866	£954	-9.2%

Money given away (£)	£32,775	£35,711
As % of total expenditure	37.30%	35.24%

Magor Baptist Church
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31st December 2020

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Current account	11,391		15,629	
Monmouthshire Building Society	209,500		208,623	
Baptist Together	88,100		86,926	
CAF	85,000		85,000	
		<u>£ 393,991</u>		<u>£ 396,178</u>
Current Assets		<u>£ 393,991</u>		<u>£ 396,178</u>
Current Liabilities				
Liabilities > 1 year		£ 6,000		£ 5,662
		£ 28,200		£ 34,438
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS		<u>£ 359,791</u>		<u>£ 356,078</u>

The Church's financial position remains satisfactory and, at 31 December 2020, total Church funds amounted to £359,791 (2019; £356,078)

Giving to the Church is received in many ways (Standing Order, through the plate and envelopes etc.) and this has decreased by 9% from previous years. Other income included gift aid and room hire, although substantially decreased this year. Many of the income streams have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is remarkable how Church giving has remained strong even when the building has been closed. The Church is deeply appreciative of the continued financial support that it has received. The Church also received £6,000 from the Church Trustees as a contribution toward ministerial expenditure.

Church expenditure totalled £87,866. Ministerial costs increased to £43,179 as we had a full-time Minister for a full year and, in addition, a part-time Community / Church Worker for the latter two months on this period. The Church has continued to give generously to charity and this is described fully in the financial statements. The Church continued to support the School at Kitekika in Uganda.

The Statement of Financial Position shows the Church in a healthy financial position. It was noted last year that the Church's plan was to "increase the team and enhance our spiritual footprint in our hinterland". It was therefore a great pleasure to see Thomasina join the team. The SOFP discloses bank and cash balances of £392,832 – some of these funds are designated by the Deacons as follows – Mission, Capital and Emergency funds.

Signed (Treasurer) Date 4-2-21

Signed Thomasina (Treasurer) Date 4/2/21

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Deacons and members of Magor Baptist Church.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Position of Magor Baptist Church relating to the year ended 31st December 2020. This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed Date 26-3-21

