



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
2023**

Aims and Purposes

Crowthorne Baptist Church is responsible for maintaining a Christian witness in the village and encouraging pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical activities. We are also responsible for the maintenance of the buildings – the church and hall and provision of a manse for the Minister and their family.

Objectives and Activities

In fulfilling its Purpose, the Church will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others. These will vary from time to time, with activities being initiated, expanded or closed, as appropriate. The activities may include, but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching
- baptism, as defined in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples
- education and training for Christian and community service
- giving and encouraging pastoral care
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Vision and Goals

We are seeking to: "Build a Christ-Centred Community."

- We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We follow Jesus Christ and teaching within the Bible.
- We believe it's possible to have a personal relationship with our Father God and encourage all to encounter Him, grow in faith and develop spiritual maturity.
- We want our community to experience God's love and to feel part of a 'family'.

We aim to do this by:

- **Teaching** - growing disciples by providing Bible-based, Spirit-inspired instruction during our Sunday services, Children's Groups and Home Groups.
- **Telling** - reaching out to our community with the Good News of the Love of Jesus through activities, events, personal relationships and invitations.
- **Treating** - providing godly pastoral care that enables people to belong, find healing for hurts, forgiveness of sins, and by developing a programme that enables people to establish real relationships with one another.
- **Transforming** - providing teaching, encouragement and opportunity for disciples to grow more and more into the likeness of Christ through the growth of the fruit of the Spirit.
- **Togetherness** - encouraging disciples through corporate acts of worship, teaching, caring and challenge.

Associations: We are affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and locally participate in the Southern Counties Baptist Association

Worship and Teaching

A worship team works with the Minister to plan and lead services. The Minister preaches on most Sundays. The themes covered during the year have included:

- Completion of the series on Mark's gospel
- Exploring gifts and preparation for the Gift Day
- Faith Full - fuelling faith in a world on empty
- "Me and my big mouth"
- Maintaining Momentum
- Special themes for Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas

Most services are video recorded and are made available to people linked to our church. The sermons are published on our website

Once again, our Christingle service attracted lots of visitors.

Prayer

Prayer underpins all that we do as a church and we encourage everyone to participate in the prayer life of the church. On the first Monday of each month we have our Church Family prayer with the Leadership Team meeting for prayer on the third and fourth Mondays. Two members of a dedicated prayer team are available at the end of every Sunday morning service so that anyone can confidentially share anything on their mind and receive prayer.

In February, we continued the initiative that we started in 2022 and held a prayer space. During the February half term the four subjects were: Love everyone, Holy Spirit reliance, Soak in the word of God and Being fearless in mission.

Church survey in 2022/3

In the winter of 2022 and throughout 2023, we embarked on a journey to gain a better understanding of the life of the church and to determine our direction for the future. As part of our efforts, the leadership team proposed that the entire church participate in a survey. This survey focuses on natural church growth rather than mechanical growth and emphasises the power of God over human ability. It examines eight characteristics related to successful church growth and encourages attendees to utilise their gifts. Understanding these characteristics will help church leadership identify strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to enhance the church's natural growth. The eight characteristics are:

1. Gift-based Ministry
2. Passionate Spirituality
3. Effective Structures
4. Inspiring Worship Services
5. Holistic Small Groups
6. Need Oriented Evangelism
7. Loving Relationships
8. Empowering Leadership

Gift Day

We decided to hold a gift day in October. As well as asking people to think about what they could do practically to support the gospel message, we needed the church to think about how we addressed the rising costs we were incurring, particularly for energy and loan repayments. It was encouraging that there was such a positive response, allowing us to prepare a budget that would not require support from reserves.

Home Groups

Many of our congregation participate in our Home Groups. These meet on Monday and Friday mornings and in the evenings on Tuesday to Thursday. As well as times of bible study and prayer, these groups allow members to develop stronger relationships with each other and to deepen their faith.

Events and Outreach

- **Men's breakfast:** the regular Men's Breakfast which started in 2022 continued to meet on one Saturday in alternate months. A guest speaker gives a short presentation each time. The minister begins and ends in prayer. Examples of subjects have been: 'The role of a Magistrate' and 'Working in live television', to name a few; we were grateful that men from the community were willing to give up their time.
- **Ark Pre-School** – We are pleased that the Ark uses our church as its base. The preschool aims to provide a loving, caring and happy group within a Christian environment. It welcomes visits from our Pastor and participates in some of our services each year. The church is represented on the Ark committee by several of our members.
- **HopeZone** is a Youth Group initiative established by the Crowthorne churches. It holds weekly events in our church during term time. After the success of the Zone 6 meeting (for year 6 children) a further session was added for older children – Zone 78
- **Thursday Fellowship, Craft Group and Coffee Mornings** – These groups are run by church members and appeal to different people from our community. Each of them attracts people who may not be ready or able to join in the regular Sunday worship.
- **Shine** – an alternative monthly service for all ages has continued to meet and has seen encouraging growth. Different formats and times have been used featuring core activities of fun worship, games, snacks, craft, songs, reflection and prayer. There was a special Easter event on the Saturday before Easter Sunday which was particularly popular.
- **Youth** – The youth at church (Years 7 to 13) meet every Sunday morning for sessions which include games and Bible study with topic discussions. There are about ten youth in total with numbers on any given Sunday consistently around 6-8. Over the last year we have studied a vast number of topics, mainly using material provided by "Youth for Christ". The youth are also getting increasingly involved in many aspects of Church services. This has been greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the congregation. The group also meets for socials events on some Sunday evenings which has included games nights at church and bowling in Camberley.
- **Christmas Video** – one of our members compiled a video carol service for use with groups that could not get to church services. This was shared with several of the local care homes.
- **Summer Community Activities** – as part of a joint venture with the Parish Council and Churches Together, we host Friday summer activities on the local recreation ground where our ethos is to bring the community together and offering free activities; large inflatables, Christian craft and refreshments. Together there are over 50 volunteers.
- **Coronation** - we had a craft table at the Crowthorne Parish Council fun day, offering children to make a crown, and held a Cream Tea and quiz at our own church.
- **Ukrainian Coffee Stop** – we continued to host this event for Ukrainian refugees for the first half of the year.
- **"Open the Book"** – a team of church people regularly visit two of our local primary schools to present dramatic versions of Bible stories. These use the Bible Society's "Open the Book" material, with a mix of Old and New Testament stories: the boy Samuel, David and Goliath, Elijah and the ravens, Daniel in the lions' den from the Old Testament and the Great Banquet, the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep from the New Testament, as well as Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter.
- **Tear Fund Quiz Night** – in November, we joined with churches around the country to participate in this virtual quiz to raise funds for the charity.
- **Socials** – social gatherings were held for both ladies and men. These included an afternoon tea for ladies and themed meals for men.

- **Late Night Shopping** – once again, we supported this annual community event at the beginning of December. The church was able to play a full part, providing a base for music, offering refreshments, hosting stalls as well as welcoming people into our buildings.
- **Cakes for Edgbarrow** - members of the Church are involved in the Churches Together in Crowthorne ministry to Edgbarrow School, providing cakes to the Staff Room every Friday.
- **St Brendan's Care Home** – a short service has been held monthly at St Brendan's care home in the village. A small group from the church has led this service and stay afterwards to chat with the residents over coffee.

Communication

During the year, we have maintained our website and continue to use social media to advertise our activities. We are also building direct contact with people that we are engaged with as we request that we email them about upcoming events of interest.

News Sheet – the news sheet, giving details of all our activities, has continued to be published monthly. It is available in paper and electronic form

Churches Together In Crowthorne

We have continued to work with the other churches in the village. This has involved holding joint services at Easter, Christian Aid week and for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. The joint Good Friday service was held at St John's Parish Church. The churches have also been working closely with the Parish Council to help support and organise community events (e.g. Late Night Shopping and the Summer Activities at Morgan Rec.).

Eco Church

The team led several services on environmental issues:

- 'One step more' campaign, during Lent
- An all age service on the theme of Fairtrade
- Advent service on the theme of promoting an ethical Christmas.
- Bi-monthly Bring and Share lunches were held with the opportunity to join a local walk afterwards.
- A local environmental group, called C.R.O.W. (Crowthorne, Reduce Our Waste), started a monthly Repair Café on our premises providing an excellent opportunity to repair goods rather than purchase new. Practical tips to reduce our environmental impact were published in our monthly newsletter.

These actions, and many others, allowed us to achieve Bronze Eco-Church status, a scheme validated by A Rocha. Spurred on by this success, the team will work towards the Silver Award, with a view to achieving it in 2024.

Minister

The church was pleased that our Minister completed his Newly Accredited Minister's programme in the Autumn and that he is now a Fully Accredited Minister.

Church Leadership and Governance.

Leadership Team Meetings were held regularly. The members of the team were:

Minister – Kevin Mills

Elders – Mike Stephenson (resigned November 2023) and Elaine Hood (re-elected at 2023 AGM)

Treasurer – Justine Wells

Church Secretary – Philip Hood

Deacons – Emma Frost, Alan Gravett, Ian Burrow and Matt Patterson

All members of the Leadership Team also act as Charity Trustees.

Membership, baptism and dedication.

During the year we were pleased to welcome 5 new members and delighted that 1 person was able to publicly declare her faith by being baptised. We also formally welcomed the young child of some members into our fellowship at a dedication service.

At the end of 2023 there were 57 voting members.

Church Buildings and Manse

The church owns our main buildings on the High Street and a manse for the use of the Minister. Maintenance is carried out by a team of volunteers who also coordinate work with contractors as required. Work at the manse included the installation of a new boiler and replacement of garden fencing.

Safeguarding

The church has a small Safeguarding Team consisting of the Minister, Designated Persons for Safeguarding and a Safeguarding Trustee. The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed by and re-adopted by the Church AGM and a second DPS appointed. All volunteer DBS checks are reviewed by the Leadership Team to ensure that they are up to date.

A training session run by the team appointed by the Southern Counties Baptist Association was held at our church in January. Most of our DBS holders attended this event along with Baptists from other churches. Others who were due training, have attended events at other locations.

GDPR

Although we do not handle significant personal data and there is no requirement for us to register with the Data Commissioner's Office, we do have a Data / Privacy Policy and this was re-adopted at the AGM. Regular church attenders have been given the option for their data to be held by the church and shared within the fellowship. Their responses are maintained in a register.

Social Media Policy

A social media policy was prepared. Following discussions with the membership, this was adopted at the September Church Meeting.

As part of these discussions, we also clarified how we maintained the email distribution lists used by the church.

Support for Outside Groups

- We have been able to continue to give financial support for several external charities. These are detailed below (see "Finance").
- Once again, the Shoebox Appeal gave members and friends the opportunity to make a Christmas parcel for distribution via Samaritan's Purse. This year, the boxes we supplied were delivered to Moldova.

FINANCE REPORT 2023

Finance Overview

During 2023 the Church current account was with the Co-operative Bank. There was also a deposit account with the Co-operative Bank, which allowed money to be held in an instant access account. Additional deposit accounts (with notice periods) were held with the Baptist Union.

To aid clarity, figures in this overview are rounded to the nearest pound. They are derived from the detailed financial records for the calendar year 2023, which are reproduced at the end of this report. The figures include the additional quantifiable assets and liabilities listed in the statement of assets and liabilities. In summary they show:

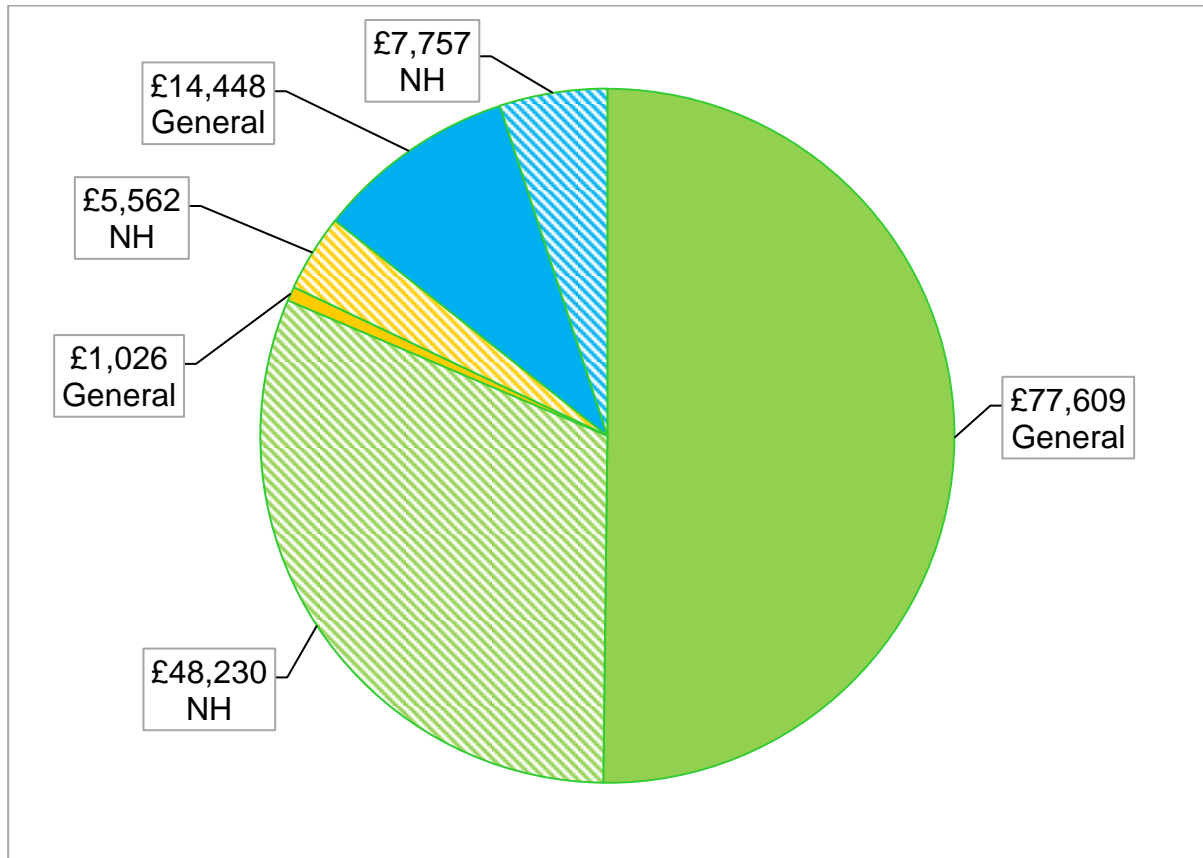
- Total quantified assets held by the Church at the end of 2023 were £2,031,082 (compared with £1,984,707 at the end of 2022). Like previous years, this statement also includes quantified values of the premises owned by the church such as buildings. Previously, this included the Church's liability to the BU, church members and the pension fund deficit, however, on the 30th June 2022, this scheme no longer had a shortfall and therefore, the church had no further liability.
- The "general" money held for use in normal church activities was £49,116 (£33,847 in 2022).
- The amount held for the New Heart Project at the end of 2023 was £54,811 (£57,577 at the end of 2022)
- In addition some money was held for specific purposes (directed transactions), totalling £697 (£647 in 2022).

Looking at the New Heart Development Project, there was a decrease in the amount held during 2023. This was due to overpayment on the BU loan. More information is given on the New Heart project in other sections of this report.

Considering other money directed for specific purposes; by the end of 2023 a total of £697 was held. Of this the church is holding £476 for the Thursday Fellowship group.

Sources of Income

Overall, the church income during 2023 was £154,632 (excluding money which was to be passed on to others, e.g. communion collections). The income came primarily through regular gifts from the congregation, received directly into the bank via standing orders; the weekly collections and the tax rebate received through the Gift Aid scheme. A gift day was held in November and donations totalling £22,500 were given. A breakdown of the income into key categories is shown in the pie chart.



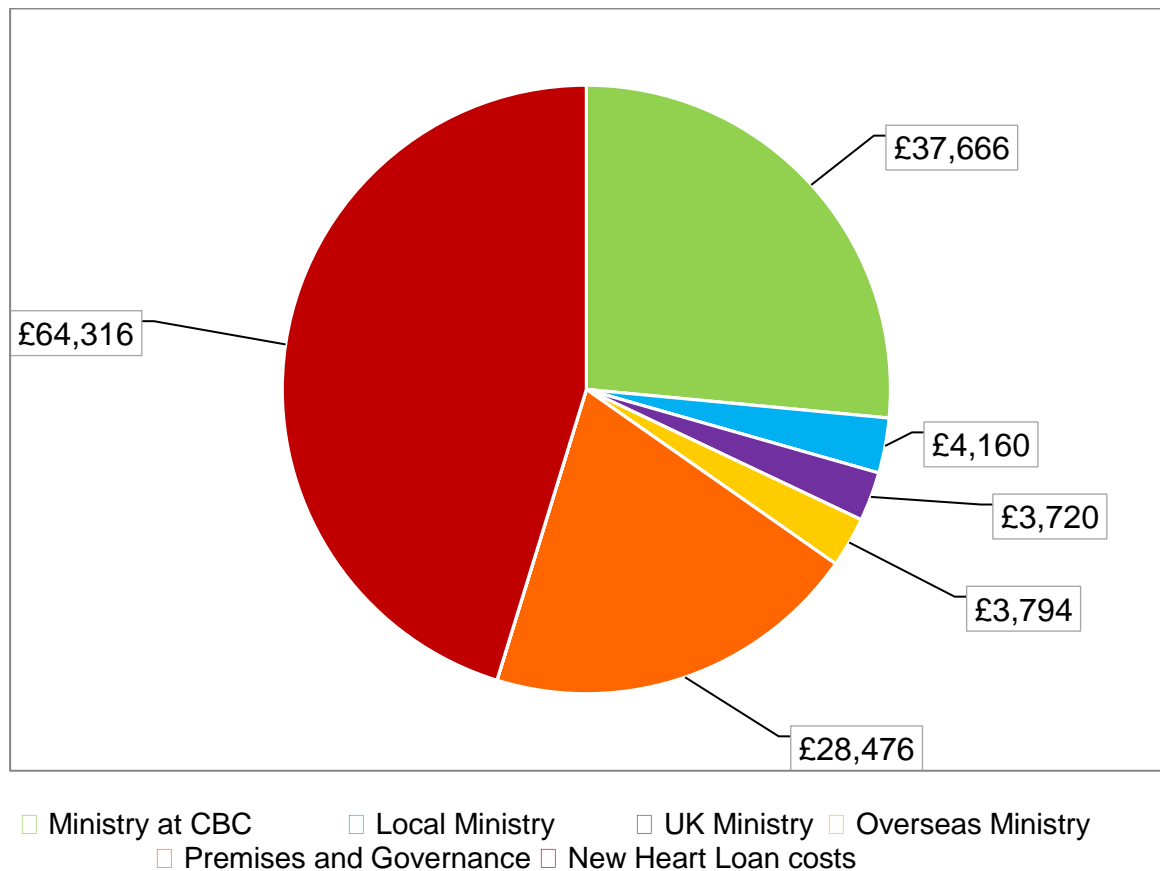
□ From Congregation □ External Gifts □ Other

Within each colour block, the solid sections represent money for the general running of the church and the hatched sections the equivalent items for New Heart. The “Other” category is principally interest and the tax rebate under the Gift Aid scheme. The total amount (in whole pounds) received in each category is also shown.

Use of Resources

Overall, the payments made by the church during 2023 amounted to £142,132. A breakdown of the way the money was used is shown in the pie chart. The largest single area of cost was the repayments of the Baptist Union loan, which was taken out to finance the New Heart building project, which was completed in 2021. The section labelled 'Ministry at CBC' refers to expenditure in direct support of the ministry of the Church in and around Crowthorne (including worship at the church, outreach, teaching and pastoral support). Other sections show money given to organisations primarily working locally to the church, elsewhere in the UK and Overseas whose work is in line with our Aims and Purposes (see the section on financial support for other organisations below) thus widening the scope of the church's work.

Also shown is money spent on administration (including ensuring compliance with relevant legislation) and costs associated with the premises such as utilities.



Please note that the two pie charts are not to the same scale.

Financial Support for Other Organisations

In addition to our own work, the church also seeks to advance the Christian faith by the support of other organisations operating locally, nationally and globally. In terms of financial support, many church members make individual gifts to a range of organisations but, in addition, the church, as a body, has made a number of donations. These are sourced both from the general fund and from the “directed income”, such as collections held at monthly communion services and for specific events (e.g. in response to disaster relief appeals) or through gifts by members for particular purposes. The financial support in 2023 was given to: Baptist Missionary Society World Mission, Baptist Union Home Mission, Yeldall Manor, HopeZone, Quench Christian Bookshop, Baptist Union, World Vision (Child Sponsorship), Evangelical Alliance, Tools with a Mission and A Rocha directly from church funds. Support was given to Spurgeons Children’s Charity, Tearfund, Compassion UK, Tools With A Mission, Farming Community Network, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Novo, Crowthorne Foodbank, Home Start, Women’s Refuge, Samaritan’s Purse and Barnabas Fund from collections, events and donations.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of Crowthorne Baptist Church states that we should retain sufficient funds for the general running of the church to allow for the loss of income from two of the largest financial supporters of the church and a significant unexpected uninsured expenditure. At present this is estimated to be £20,000 for the “general” money and £15,000 for the New Heart. The balance held at the end of 2023 was £49,116 and £54,811 respectively. Within the New Heart balance, £15,000 has been accumulated to repay a church member loan in 2025. As the church has taken out a major loan with the Baptist Union in 2020, it seems prudent to hold a larger reserve going into 2024 and to review the reserves target again at the end of the year.

CROWTHORNE BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities for the year 2023

Introduction

As always, this report is presented in ways that are intended to make clear the financial position of Crowthorne Baptist Church as a “business”. It is of course essential that it is considered against the background of our foundation in, and reliance upon, Christ. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the various people who have helped in the preparation of these accounts and the day-to-day running of the finances of the Church; without their efforts we would have great difficulty in keeping the records necessary to monitor and manage our finances.

The summary below is presented in broadly the same way as last year including a section showing the “Assets and Liabilities” of the Church. This is recorded in line with “Receipts and Payments Accounting”, the form appropriate for a church with our income.

As in previous years, this is followed by the receipts and payments records given in the summary of balances and transactions. Included here are records for the money used for the general running of the church, a separate record for the New Heart Development Fund and also a record of money given for specific purposes (referred to as “Directed Transactions”) such as the designated collections taken at communion services. Each of these areas is broken down to show in more detail the sources of funds and the ways they have been used. This breakdown is intended to show the way funds are used to support the main charitable aims and objectives of the church. These records also show the overall change in money held over the year.

Overview

The quantified net assets held by the Church at the end of 2023 (as shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 3), total **£2,031,082.20** (£1,984,707.20 at the end of 2022). These figures include the liability to the BU, church members and the pension fund deficit, without this the figures are **£104,623.39** [£92,071.11] which matches the figures in the Summary of Balances (page 6).

Of this, the amount held for New Heart at the end of 2023 was **£54,810.73** [£57,577.41 at the end of 2022], and **£697.15** was directed towards other specific purposes [£646.69 at the end of 2022], leaving the remaining **£49,115.51** [£33,847.01 in 2022] as “general” money.

The money held for the general work of the church was higher than during 2022. This was due to the church holding a 'gift day' in November 2023. It had been expected for the church to have a deficit at the end of the year.

Turning to the New Heart Development Project, the funds held at the end of 2023 are lower than at the end of 2022 by £2,767. This was expected as the only costs are the repayments of the various loans over the next 12 years as all the building costs associated with the New Heart Development Project have been paid. A voluntary loan repayment of £10,000 was made to the Baptist Union in March 2023 as a result of a church member loan being converted to a gift to the church at the end of 2022.

Considering other money directed for specific purposes; by the end of 2023 a total of £697.15 was held. This is higher than normal due to holding £476.38 for the Thursday Fellowship group, and the money collected for Frimley Cancer Support not being passed on until 2024.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at December 31st

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities includes a list of the monies held as cash or in bank accounts but also lists major debts and credits at the end of the year. This statement also includes quantified values of the premises owned by the church. Other assets of the church are not formally quantified.

1) Quantified Items

| | 2023 | [2022] |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| i) Bank Accounts | | |
| Current Account (Coop) | 20,665.03 | [18,030.41] |
| BU Deposit Account | 23,506.83 | [22,828.17] |
| BU 7-day Notice Account | 16,964.27 | [26,381.17] |
| BU 3-month Notice Account | 15,054.66 | [14,439.23] |
| Coop Savings Account | 28,418.23 | [10,338.53] |
| Total | 104,609.02 | [92,017.51] |
| ii) Held as cash | | |
| Unbanked Offerings ^a | 14.37 | [53.60] |
| Total | 14.37 | [53.60] |
| Total held | 104,623.39 | [92,071.11] |
| iii) Other Significant Assets^b | | |
| Church Premises | 1,790,000.00 | [1,790,000.00] |
| Manse | 600,000.00 | [600,000.00] |
| Total | 2,390,000.00 | [2,390,000.00] |
| iv) Current Liabilities | | |
| Loans ^c | -463,541.14 | [-497,363.93] |
| Total | -463,541.14 | [-497,363.93] |
| Total of Quantified Assets & Current Liabilities^d | 2,031,082.20 | [1,984,707.20] |
| Liability for Pension Scheme Deficit ^e | -0.00 | [-0.00] |
| Total of Quantified Assets & all Liabilities | 2,031,082.20 | [1,984,707.20] |

2) Non-Quantified Items^f

i) Assets

Musical equipment held at Church
Sound and Vision Equipment held at Church
Other assets at Church

ii) Liabilities

None

Explanatory Notes on Statement

- a) To simplify the banking process, small change is only banked in "standard amounts" (e.g. £10 worth of 50p coins). The remainder is retained as "Unbanked Offerings".
- b) For the church the values are based on the re-instatement figure in the 2023 insurance policy for the new building. The value shown against the Manse is based on a 2019 valuation.
- c) In 2020/21 the church site was redeveloped to provide a new worship area and improved meeting areas for church and community use (the New Heart project).

To facilitate the work a loan was arranged with the Baptist Union and supplemented with loans from members. The Baptist Union provided a loan of £499,835.36 during 2020 and 2021. The loan is subject to interest (currently 7.75%) which is added monthly. During 2023 interest totalling £30,494.47 was added to the amount owed. During 2023 the church made monthly repayments to BU starting at £3932.37/month and rose to £4370.34/month as the interest rate rose. These payments are made from church funds and appear in the Summary of Balances and Transactions.

Two separate loans have been made by members (£45,000 and £15,000) totalling £60,000. All the loans from members are interest free. They were received as payments into the church account in 2020 and do not appear in the Summary of Balances and Transactions. A third loan of £10,000 was converted to a gift in November 2022.

In summary the amounts owed at the end of 2023 were:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Baptist Union | 409,166.14 | [438,487.93] |
| Member Loan 1 | 39,375.00 | [43,875.00] |
| Member Loan 2 | 15,000.00 | [15,000.00] |
| Member Loan 3 | <u>0.00</u> | <u>[0.00]</u> |
| Total | 463,541.14 | [497,362.93] |

- d) This is the total quantified assets and liabilities excluding the pension deficit.
- e) CBC Church Ministers are members of the Baptist Pension Scheme. The following note is based on material supplied by the Baptist Union (28 Nov 23).

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

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

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was performed by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

- f) This lists the other assets and liabilities of the church which could be expressed in monetary terms, although this is not required under the "Receipts and Payments" level of accounting.

Summary of Balances and Transactions from January 1st to December 31st

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Balances brought forward (1st January) | 2023 | [2022] |
| For General work of the Church | 33,847.01 | [32,025.08] |
| For New Heart | 57,577.41 | [80,897.61] |
| For Specific Purposes (Directed Transactions) | 646.69 | [75.88] |
| Total at January 1st | 92,071.11 | [112,997.57] |
| 2) General Transactions ¹ | | |
| <u>Receipts</u> | | |
| General Donations ² | 77,609.38 | [58,206.40] |
| External Donations ³ | 1,026.47 | [4,942.07] |
| Other General Receipts ⁴ | 14,448.36 | [13,307.71] |
| Total General Receipts | 93,084.21 | [76,456.18] |
| <u>Payments</u> | | |
| Ministry at CBC ⁵ | -37,665.64 | [-38,888.90] |
| Ministry through other local organisations ⁶ | -4,160.00 | [-5,200.00] |
| Ministry through other UK organisations ⁶ | -3,720.00 | [-4,400.00] |
| Ministry overseas ⁶ | -3,793.60 | [-4,673.60] |
| Governance ⁷ | -1,421.54 | [-1,469.36] |
| Premises ⁸ | -26,487.43 | [-19,402.88] |
| Other ⁹ | -567.50 | [-599.51] |
| Total General Payments | -77,815.71 | [-74,634.25] |
| Total General Transactions ¹⁰ | 15,268.50 | [1,821.93] |
| 3) Transactions for New Heart (NH) ¹¹ | | |
| <u>Receipts for NH</u> | | |
| NH Donations ¹² | 48,230.30 | [37,323.30] |
| NH from External Sources ¹³ | 5,562.00 | [9,787.99] |
| Other NH Receipts ¹⁴ | 7,757.28 | [10,613.48] |
| Total Receipts on NH | 61,549.58 | [57,724.77] |
| <u>Payments for NH</u> | | |
| Professional Fees | -0.00 | [-34,853.22] |
| Loan costs ¹⁵ | -64,316.26 | [-45,534.77] |
| Fit out costs | -0.00 | [-655.98] |
| Total Payments for New Heart | -64,316.26 | [-81,044.97] |
| Total Transactions for New Heart | -2,766.68 | [-23,320.20] |
| 4) Directed Transactions | | |
| Directed Receipts ¹⁶ | 2,371.37 | [3,164.65] |
| Directed Ministry at CBC ¹⁷ | -150.53 | [-197.16] |
| Directed Ministry through other local organisations ¹⁸ | -421.55 | [-622.13] |
| Directed Ministry through other UK organisations ¹⁸ | -607.45 | [-261.49] |
| Directed Ministry overseas ¹⁸ | -1,141.38 | [-1,512.06] |
| Total Directed Transactions ¹⁹ | 50.46 | [571.81] |
| Total Transactions on all Accounts | 12,552.28 | [-20,926.46] |
| Total Funds at December 31st | 104,623.39 | [92,071.11] |
| 5) Closing Balances Carried Forward (31st December) | | |
| For general work of the Church | 49,115.51 | [33,847.01] |
| For New Heart | 54,810.73 | [57,577.41] |
| For Specific Purposes (Directed Transactions) ²⁰ | 697.15 | [646.69] |
| Total at December 31st | [104,623.39] | [92,071.11] |

Explanatory Notes on Summary

- 1) This section covers the "General Funds" of the Church used for "normal" business; it excludes money connected with the New Heart Building Project and excludes money directly given (and used) for a specific purpose.

- 2) This is money given for the general work of the church, from members of the congregation, either in the Sunday collections or directly from Bank/Building Society Accounts.

3) This is money received from outside organisations or individuals:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Late Night Shopping Event | 475.47 | [354.00] |
| Events | 0.00 | [2,442.57] |
| The Ark | 0.00 | [1,000.00] |
| Anonymous | 300.00 | [1,000.00] |
| Other | <u>251.00</u> | <u>[145.50]</u> |
| | 1,026.47 | [4,942.07] |

4) This consists of:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Tax rebate from Gift Aid scheme | 13,690.00 | [12,959.68] |
| Interest | <u>758.36</u> | <u>[348.03]</u> |
| | 14,448.36 | [13,307.71] |

Note that the Gift Aid claimed covers the tax period ending in April.

5) This is expenditure on activities at Crowthorne Baptist Church in support of our aims and objectives:

| | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Employment of Minister | 35,161.80 | [35,355.83] |
| Other costs for services at CBC (including visiting speakers) | 239.28 | [587.53] |
| Cost of Educational Work (children, youth and adults) | 196.23 | [274.07] |
| Cost of Outreach work / events | 1,132.00 | [2,334.87] |
| Cost of Pastoral Care (for members and others) | 191.67 | [70.44] |
| Training | 420.00 | [32.09] |
| Cost of Refreshments | <u>324.66</u> | <u>[234.07]</u> |
| | 37,665.64 | [38,888.90] |

- 6) One of the ways we seek to fulfil our aims and objectives is by supporting appropriate activities at other organisations. These entries show money passed from the church general funds to other organisations. For money collected from members and passed directly onto the relevant organisations see Note 18.

In the immediate locality

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Yeldall Manor | 1,600.00 | [2,000.00] |
| Quench Christian Bookshop | 960.00 | [1,200.00] |
| HopeZone | <u>1,600.00</u> | <u>[2,000.00]</u> |
| | 4,160.00 | [5,200.00] |

In the rest of the UK

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------|
| Home Mission Fund | 3,720.00 | [4,400.00] |
|-------------------|----------|------------|

Overseas

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BMS World Mission | 3,520.00 | [4,400.00] |
| World Vision (Child Sponsorship) | <u>273.60</u> | <u>[273.60]</u> |
| | 3,793.60 | [4,673.60] |

7) This expenditure is primarily made to fulfil legal obligations, consisting of:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Copyright licence | 843.28 | [796.17] |
| Independent examination of accounts | 150.00 | [319.98] |
| Safety checks (PAT / Fire) | 415.26 | [340.21] |
| Safeguarding | <u>13.00</u> | <u>[13.00]</u> |
| | 1,421.54 | [1,469.36] |

- 8) This is the cost associated with the buildings on the church site and the Manse provided for the Minister. The church buildings are essential for the fulfilment of our aims and objectives as is the provision of a suitable base for the Minister. This includes running and maintenance costs, provision of services and use of equipment.

Specific costs are:

| | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Utilities (Gas, electricity and water) | 9,865.17 | [4,755.18] |
| Council Tax, etc. | 3,104.19 | [3,015.06] |
| Telephone, Broadband, Website, Zoom | 956.11 | [643.40] |
| Repair and maintenance of buildings and equipment | 971.34 | [2,332.40] |
| Manse | 3,247.90 | [450.00] |
| Cleaner's wages and Tax/NI, windows and items | 5,191.87 | [4,702.68] |
| Office equipment and photocopier & paper | 770.85 | [837.79] |
| Insurance | 2,276.51 | [2,263.00] |
| Other | <u>103.49</u> | <u>[403.37]</u> |
| | 26,487.43 | [19,402.88] |

- 9) This category is for a number of items which do not fit easily elsewhere, in particular the membership subscriptions.

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Evangelical Alliance | 80.00 | [80.00] |
| Tools With A Mission | 50.00 | [50.00] |
| A Rocha | 50.00 | [50.00] |
| Premier Christian | 0.00 | [24.50] |
| Baptist Union | 257.50 | [240.10] |
| SCBA | 30.00 | [30.00] |
| Christmas Decorations | <u>100.00</u> | <u>[124.91]</u> |
| | 567.50 | [599.51] |

- 10) This is the total change in the balance in the church general account ignoring New Heart and money simply passing through which is designated for specific uses.

- 11) These are transactions in connection with the New Heart Building Project.

- 12) This is money given by the congregation for the New Heart Building Project. Much of it comes through regular donations by bank transfer, or in the collection. It also includes occasional one-off donations from the congregation.

- 13) External Receipts consisting of:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Hall Hire | 5,562.00 | [4,524.00] |
| SCBC Church of the Year 2021 | 0.00 | [4,263.99] |
| Donations | <u>0.00</u> | <u>[1,000.00]</u> |
| | 5,562.00 | [9,787.99] |

- 14) Other New Heart Receipts consisting of:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Interest from bank accounts | 1,198.53 | [827.73] |
| Tax Rebate on Gift Aid | 6,558.75 | [9,513.75] |
| Income from events, sales, etc. | <u>0.00</u> | <u>[272.00]</u> |
| | 7,757.28 | [10,613.48] |

Note that the Gift Aid claimed covers the tax period ending in April.

- 15) New Loan repayments:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| BU Loan | 59,816.26 | [44,410.77] |
| Church Member Loan | <u>4,500.00</u> | <u>[1,125.00]</u> |
| | 64,316.26 | [45,534.77] |

- 16) This is money given to the church which has been directed for use for specific purposes. It includes money given at communion services, and as a result of special appeals. How it has been used is described below (Notes 17 and 18). In all cases the money has been used as requested by the donors.

- 17) This is money given specifically for activities at Crowthorne Baptist Church. Consisting of:
 Cost of Bible Study Notes 150.53 [197.16]
 NB: £154.69 was received for Bible Study notes in 2023, i.e. £4.16 more than was paid which is due to the timings of invoices and receipts.
- 18) This is money given specifically for other organisations for work in line with our aims and objectives. All money in this section was passed on during 2023, it consisted of:
- In the immediate locality
- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Local Women's Refuge | 109.80 | [162.40] |
| HopeZone | 0.00 | [174.83] |
| Bracknell HomeStart | 160.60 | [111.90] |
| Crowthorne Foodbank | <u>151.15</u> | <u>[173.00]</u> |
| | 421.55 | [622.13] |
- In the rest of the UK
- | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Spurgeon's (for work with children) | 177.70 | [134.05] |
| Farming Community Network | 121.70 | [127.44] |
| Muscular Dystrophy (Thursday Fellowship) | 30.00 | [0.00] |
| Compassion UK | <u>278.05</u> | <u>[0.00]</u> |
| | 607.45 | [261.49] |
- Overseas
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Tear Fund | 529.79 | [150.17] |
| Tools With A Mission | 131.70 | [136.50] |
| Samaritan's Purse | 130.70 | [179.39] |
| Novo | 113.79 | [187.79] |
| Mission Aviation Fellowship | 126.95 | [145.55] |
| Barnabas Fund | 108.45 | [174.75] |
| Ukraine (BMS) | <u>0.00</u> | <u>[537.91]</u> |
| | 1,141.38 | [1,512.06] |
- 19) The transactions involving money given to the church for specific purposes will generally sum to zero, however this is not always the case due to collections at the end of December not being forwarded until January in the following year.
- 20) This consists of £476.38 is held for the Thursday Fellowship Group, £191.50 for Macmillan Cancer at Frimley Hospital and £29.27 for Bible study notes.

Prepared in line with the requirements of the Charities Act by Justine Wells on behalf of the Trustees of Crowthorne Baptist Church.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 31st December 2023 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed:

Justine Wells

15/7/24

Justine Wells
Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Crowthorne Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

11-20

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:

Rachel Belshaw

Date:

26/07/2024

Name:

Rachel Belshaw MA ACA CTA

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

ACA

Address:

Hill Top Accounting Ltd

Hill Cottage, Church Lane, Upton Nervet

Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4HQ

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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