

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

Registered Address

Victoria Road
Cowes
Isle of Wight.
PO31 7JJ

Registered Charity No 1143075

Trustees

Mrs Judith Compton	Minister
Mrs Elaine Cherry	Treasurer
Mrs Tracey Dancy	Secretary
Mrs Carol Jennings	Deacon
Mr Hamish Wilson	Deacon
Mr Graham Cherry	Deacon
Mrs Jacqui Spalding	Deacon

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers

Barclays Bank
St. James Square, Newport, I.W. PO30 1UP

CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

Independent Examiner

A H Cross & Co

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report for 2023

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended December 31 2023.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that 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. The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd as holding trustees, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Baptism by immersion upon personal profession of faith is the normal mode of entry into the membership of the church. Persons seeking membership who have not been baptised in the manner described may at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting be accepted for full membership based on their own public profession of faith.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place at least quarterly and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint deacons, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary (if there is one) and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), are the Charity Trustees, and are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity.

Charity Trustees serve so long as they have the support of the Church Members' Meeting and (except for those in ministerial offices) are actively appointed and reappointed at least once every three years.

Training for Trustees is provided by both the Southern Counties Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain, who regularly arrange training days on financial management, safeguarding, legal matters and other aspects of interest to the Trustees. Detailed Guidance notes are also available from the Baptist Union website.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Affiliations

The church is in membership with

- The Baptist Union of Great Britain
- The Southern Counties Baptist Association
- The Evangelical Alliance
- Churches Together in Cowes

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report for 2023 continued

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The church's focus is set out as follows:

"Cowes Baptist Church exists to honour Jesus, bringing people together, sharing facilities and resources, growing, worshipping, praying, serving, seeking to be the best we can, seeking the best for those we serve".

The Church usually holds public services of Christian worship on Sunday mornings supported by a varied music group. When necessary there are activities for babies, toddlers and children and a thriving parent and toddler group which meets on Tuesday mornings. There are also various small groups which meet on a regular basis.

Details of all church activities are available through the church website at www.cowesbaptistchurch.org.uk

The church works alongside other churches in Cowes and is also active in supporting joint initiatives such as IOW Street Pastors and School Pastors and the Isle of Wight Foodbank which serve vulnerable people in the wider community.

The Church has a Safeguarding policy which is fully compliant with the Baptist Union "Safe to Grow" Child protection document to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are interviewed and appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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

Achievements and Performance

During the last year, our core activities have been maintained, with regular Sunday morning services, zoom prayer meetings and the establishment of several small groups. The Renew Café continues to operate and is concerned with people's wellbeing. In addition several groups supporting those in need in our community are now using the premises on a regular basis, along with music and dance classes for children and adults.

During the year membership has increased slightly to 35. However there are also numerous other members of the congregation who are active in the work of the church but have not yet become church members.

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report for 2023 continued

Reserves Policy

General Fund: Regular income supports the day to day activities of the church, however it has been determined by the trustees that a policy of maintaining a general cash reserve fund of £10,000 should be adopted. This reserve will be available to cover short term reductions in income or unexpected expenditure.

Building Fund: Funds are held for any major works on the church buildings and the manse. No reserve figure has been set as any work needed will be carried out as necessary.

Church / Community Worker: No reserves are required for this account. Currently this account is not being used.

Financial Review

General Fund.

Income for 2023 (excluding funds received for outside causes) was £71,277 a 14.5% increase on 2022. However due to a change in the method of payment of a grant that we receive from monthly to annually, an amount of £5879 relating to 2024 was received in 2023. Taking this into account the increase in income was a more modest 5%. Income from hire of the premises increased as new user groups started to meet regularly.

Overall expenditure increased by 11% on the previous year. This was mainly due to an extremely large increase in energy costs (£1277 in 2022 to £7897 in 2023).

Taking the above into consideration, we ended the year with a surplus on the general fund of £15,203.32. The balance brought forward from the previous year was £48,649.72 so the balance carried forward at the end of 2023 was £65,853.04.

Building Fund. During 2023 our original manse continued to be rented out. The rent received covered the rent payable to the Minister and made a contribution towards the building fund.

There was a balance of £ 2,003.58 as of 31 December 2022. During 2023 this and the income received enabled roof repairs to the lounge area, and a down payment on new windows to be installed in the kitchen and side rooms of the church. The balance on the account at 31 December 2023 was £5,557.96. This will be used to pay the balance due on the windows and for damp proofing in the kitchen.

A new kitchen is also required. Funds will need to be raised to cover this as yet uncoded expenditure.

Funds for the Church/Community Worker were restricted funds for the employment of a Church/Community Worker. The post is now vacant, and there was no income or expenditure during 2022. The balance at the end of 2022 remains at was £15,942.40

There were no unforeseen expenses in 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

.....

On (date).....

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

I report on the accounts of Cowes Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the following 7 pages.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") does not apply. I report in respect of my examination of the Church 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.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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:

- 1) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2) the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 3) 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.


I S Henderson
Chartered Accountant
A H Cross & Co Limited
16 Quay Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5BG

14 March 2024

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2023

	General Fund	Building Fund	Toddlers	Church Community Worker	Total 2023	Total 2022
Receipts						
Donations	67,117.97	2,260.00			69,377.97	62,905
Investment Income	2,283.41				2,283.41	363
Other Sources of Income	4,019.00	19,200.00	1,219.61		24,438.61	21,294
	<u>73,420.38</u>	<u>21,460.00</u>	<u>1,219.61</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>96,099.99</u>	<u>84,562</u>
Payments						
Church Activities	47,475.83		1,137.22		48,613.05	41,489
Given to other causes	7,204.99				7,204.99	7,664
Management & Administration	3,536.24				3,536.24	4,085
Rent/maintenance		17,905.62			17,905.62	16,728
	<u>58,217.06</u>	<u>17,905.62</u>	<u>1,137.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>77,259.90</u>	<u>69,966</u>
 Surplus for the year	 15,203.32	 3,554.38	 82.39	 0.00	 18,840.09	 14,596
 Balance b/f 1/1/23	 48,649.72	 2,003.58	 1,151.03	 15,942.40	 67,746.73	 53,151
Transfer						
Balance c/f 31/12/23	<u>63,853.04</u>	<u>5,557.96</u>	<u>1,233.42</u>	<u>15,942.40</u>	<u>86,586.82</u>	<u>67,747</u>

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	<i>Note</i>	2023	2022
Receipts			
Offerings		41,041.10	42,855
Donations and other income	2	15,687.45	9,159
Income tax recovered on gifts		8,246.05	7,468
Bank Interest		2,283.41	363
Contributions for use of premises		<u>4,019.00</u>	<u>2,321</u>
Sub Total		71,277.01	62,166
 Raised for other causes	3	<u>2,143.37</u>	<u>3,045</u>
		<u><u>73,420.38</u></u>	<u><u>65,211</u></u>
 Payments			
Ministry	4	33,954.54	34,229
Upkeep of church premises	5	12,315.11	5,147
Given to other causes	6	7,204.99	7,664
Administration	7	3,536.24	4,312
Outreach	8	<u>1,206.18</u>	<u>882</u>
		<u><u>58,217.06</u></u>	<u><u>52,234</u></u>
 Surplus/ Deficit for the year		15,203.32	12,977
Balance brought forward 1/1/23		<u>48,649.72</u>	<u>35,673</u>
		63,853.04	48,650
 Balance carried forward 31/12/23		<u><u>63,853.04</u></u>	<u><u>48,650</u></u>

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts: These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and accord with S.42(3) charities act 1993 (Amended by section 28 of the Charities Act 2006)

	2023	2022
2.Donations and other income		
Donations	423.20	220
HIWCF 2023	7,839.00	7,839
HIWCF 2024 in Advance	5,879.25	
Funeral Donations	200.00	200
SCBA Heating Grant	500.00	
Church Meal	306.00	
Christmas Tree	450.00	900
Safeguarding Training	90.00	
	<u>15,687.45</u>	<u>9,159</u>
3. Raised for other causes		
Baptist Missionary Society	4.87	5
BMS Harvest (Op Agri)	780.00	328
Curins (Latin Link)	200.00	
Toilet Twinning	98.50	
R West	35.00	
Compassion First(Andrew & Dira)	10.00	
Christmas Hampers	205.00	
Youth Club (in memory of A Leigh)	290.00	
J & L Ovenden		2,100
Tearfund		132
Street Pastors	200.00	
Frontline	320.00	480
	<u>2,143.37</u>	<u>3,045</u>
4. Ministry		
Ministers Stipend	26,499.96	24,750
Pension	3,375.36	5,315
Travel	135.14	326
Visiting Speakers	300.00	300
Manse Upkeep - Council Tax	2,711.49	2,607
Insurance	531.01	450
Water	401.58	285
Repairs		196
	<u>33,954.54</u>	<u>34,229</u>

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2023	2022
5. Upkeep of Church Premises		
Lighting & Heating	7,896.76	1,277
Cleaning	129.94	99
Insurance	2,173.31	2,078
Water	456.36	357
Repair & Maintenance	1,610.74	1,087
Equipment	48.00	249
	<u>12,315.11</u>	<u>5,147</u>
6. Given To Other Causes		
Home Mission	1,680.00	1,500
Baptist Missionary Society	1,680.00	1,650
BMS Harvest (Op Agri 2022)	780.00	327
Toilet Twinning	124.00	
Latin Link (R Gardner)	800.00	600
Compassion First (Andrew & Dira)	608.88	
Youth For Christ	180.00	180
Frontline	400.00	475
J & L Ovenden		2,100
OMF	600.00	600
Street Pastors Quiz (Tearfund 2022)	200.00	132
SCBA Church of the Year		100
Benevolent	152.11	
	<u>7,204.99</u>	<u>7,664</u>
7. Administration		
Printing & Stationery, Books etc.	833.45	845
Telephone	144.00	132
Subscriptions & Conference Fees	876.20	969
Payroll Fees	192.00	180
Independent Examiner	150.00	150
Zoom Fees/Website	183.48	894
CCLI	366.30	341
Mobile Phone	253.17	348
Catering	217.19	227
Church Meal	306.00	
Other	14.45	226
	<u>3,536.24</u>	<u>4,312</u>
8. Outreach		
Christmas Booklets	45.00	
Hampers	203.21	21
Christmas Tree /Lights	622.97	861
Westar Worship	335.00	
	<u>1,206.18</u>	<u>882</u>

BUILDING FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Donations	2,260.00	379
Manse Rent (Baring Rd)	<u>19,200.00</u>	<u>17,850</u>
	21,460.00	18,229
Payments		
Architects Fees (Church)	204.00	500
Rent (Crossfield Ave)	12,000.00	12,000
Rental Expenses/Repairs	1841.62	2.285
Church Windows	2814.00	
Lounge Roof Repairs	1,000.00	
Other	46.00	
Lounge Kitchen Area		1,942
	<u>17,905.62</u>	<u>16,727</u>
	3,554.38	1,502
Balance brought forward 1/1/23	2,003.58	502
	<u>5,557.96</u>	<u>2,004</u>
Balance carried forward 31/12/23		

CHURCH / COMMUNITY WORKER RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

balance b'fwd 1/1/2023	15,942.40	15,942
Balance c/fwd 31/12/2023	<u>15,942.40</u>	<u>15,942</u>

TODDLERS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Fees	<u>1,219.61</u>	<u>1,123</u>
	1,219.61	1,123
Payments		
Running Expenses	<u>1,137.22</u>	<u>1,005</u>
	82.39	118
Balance brought forward 1/1/23	<u>1,151.03</u>	<u>1,033</u>
Balance carried forward 31/12/23	<u>1,233.42</u>	<u>1,151</u>

COWES BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

ASSETS	2023	2022
Barclays Current account	4,456.18	29,825
Barclays Deposit Account	22,091.63	
COIF Deposit Account	59,746.93	37,555
Petty cash	37.26	64
Toddlers petty cash	254.82	303
	<u>86,586.82</u>	<u>67,747</u>
Representing balances on the following accounts		
General Fund	63,853.04	48,650
Building Fund	5,557.96	2,004
Church / Community Worker	15,942.40	15,942
Toddlers	1,233.42	1,151
	<u>86,586.82</u>	<u>67,747</u>

Non-Monetary Assets

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

Church Premises [Insured value]	2,154,283
Church Manse [Insured value]	373,644
The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of	129,689
	<u>2,657,616</u>

Long Term Liabilities:

Pension Scheme Liabilities

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

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers’ Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was

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

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme was due to take place as at 31 December 2022.

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.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 to 7 relating to the year ending 31 December 2023 are approved by the trustees.

Tracey Dancy [Secretary]

Elaine Cherry [Treasurer]