

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1145170

Details

Other names	MBC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2011-12-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Markyate Baptist Church 13 Buckwood Road Markyate St. Albans Hertfordshire AL3 8JF
Phone	07778241457
Email	admin@markyatebaptist.org
Website	www.markyatebaptist.org

Activities

Objects: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION. THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Activities: Our church is a place of regular public worship to advance the Christian faith. We serve our village community through Alpha Groups, Youth Cell Groups, Home study Groups, Prayer and Bible Study, After School Clubs, Seniors Fellowship Groups, Toddler Group, Men's Group, Book Club, Cafe, Art Class, Social events, pastoral care and missionary links abroad.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Hertfordshire
- Luton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£66,544	£90,495	-	-
2023-12-31	£78,766	£79,560	-	-
2022-12-31	£66,873	£45,830	-	-
2021-12-31	£73,326	£71,007	-	-
2020-12-31	£66,337	£68,572	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher Trew		2023-04-23
Heidi Trew		2023-10-28
Jeremy Bottrill		2020-09-29
Mark Timothy Buckly		2024-04-28
Robert Wills		2024-04-28
Ruth Kieran		2018-04-25

Accounts

Markyate Baptist Church

Registered Charity Number: 1145170

Trustees Annual Report & Accounts for 2024

1 Our Vision Statement

Growing together by loving God, loving others and serving our community – Church without walls.

2 Our Aims

Our vision statement outlines how a healthy church and we continue to strive to fulfil this aim.

We endeavour to share the Christian faith in Markyate and beyond; nurturing people in their faith and life journeys, sharing God's love inside and outside of the church community through our words and actions, hoping that over time this leads to a growth in Church attendance and membership.

We continue to maintain our Church building, equipment and facilities to a high standard to make Markyate Baptist Church a welcoming place. We also share the premises with the village community when possible.

3 Operation of the Church

Ministerial News – Sadly Rev Nick Drury resigned his appointment as Minister of Markyate Baptist Church and left the role at the end of October 2024. The Church is now being led by the Leadership Team with the support of our Moderator, Rev Mary Moody from the Central Baptist Association.

Worship & Preaching – Church services begin at 10.30am on a Sunday and are open to everyone. There is also a Sunday Class for children called JAM – Jesus and Me, which runs alongside the main service. We continue to stream Sunday services, and recently moved to MS Teams from Zoom, this allows live viewing for those unable to attend the service in person.

The Rev Nick Drury organised and led most of the Services up to the end of October 2024. Since November 2024 services are being taken by a mix of visiting preachers and members of the Church.

Prayer – A regular interactive on-line prayer meeting continued during 2024 on Zoom and has now moved onto MS Teams, these meetings run for an hour on a Saturday morning, and once a month these are now held in person at the Church. There are various other prayer groups and initiatives and MBC continues to be committed to being a house of prayer.

Pastoral Care - A pastoral care volunteer from the Church worked with Age UK in the village until ill-health stopped this during 2024. Nick Drury, was very active in pastoral care until the end of his notice period. The Leadership team are maintaining telephone contact and visits with members of the church and congregation if they are away from church for a period or are known to be unwell.

Church Membership - On 31st December 2024 there were 31 members and 7 Non-voting members. This represents a decrease on the prior year of 7 members.

4 **Church Activities and Outreach**

We continue to use our Church facilities – the building and the garden – to strengthen our relationships with the community. Our garden has been equipped with toys and children's play equipment so that parents may bring their children into the garden at any time.

Hospitality is an important part of our Outreach for building relationships. As a Church, we try to hold communal lunches after some Sunday Church Services to encourage fellowship in our Church Family.

We always serve coffee and tea every week after the Sunday service.

Monday Café – This continues to run every Monday between 10.30am and 12.00 noon, and remains popular with those who regularly attend.

MBC Café – This continues to be held twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Friday – it is a popular venue for the community and the local Walking Group.

Holiday at Home - For the older members of both the church congregation and our local community a two-day Holiday-at-Home event was held in November providing lunch, tea, games and entertainment.

Refugee Outreach/Support – This work has continued during 2024, supporting the male refugees who are currently accommodated at The Holiday Inn on the edge of Markyate. A number of them attend Church regularly on a Sunday, contributing to Church life in many ways and during 2024 two were baptised.

The Church continues to provide a social space on a Wednesday afternoon in the Church Hall. This is run by members of the Church along with members of the local community. We also provide financial support to ensure that the refugees have sufficient basic clothing and other practical resources.

Ukraine Support - The link established with the Ukraine support charity in Luton collecting clothing and critical supplies has been maintained. Collections continue to be made by two of our Church members.

Children and Youth Work – Jack and Jill's Toddler Time has continued to run on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month during term time, and in December they received a visit from Father Christmas.

We continue to maintain our link with The 267 Project, a youth charity which arranges events in the Hertfordshire area, and we take local young people to those events.

5 **Our Facilities, and sharing them with the Community**

We maintain our buildings to a high standard to ensure that they are a good space for all of our users. The main items of work carried out this year was to upgrade all the lighting to LED lights, and to get a new front door. Smaller tasks included cleaning the carpets, replacing lights in the garden and touching up paint – these were all done by members of the church family.

We let our premises, primarily the Church Hall, to a number of local organisations serving the community for their regular meetings. These include Alcoholics Anonymous, the Markyate History Society, and a number of fitness classes. Other village groups hold meetings in the Hall from time to time. The Hall is also hired for children and family parties.

The garden is regularly used by members of the village, and we hope people find it an inviting space for everyone to enjoy.

The manse was occupied by our Minister Nick Drury throughout the year (including after he resigned on 31st October. Our plan in 2025 is to let it out to tenants.

6 Mission and Evangelism Donations

The Church continues to provide financial donations to a broad range of charitable Christian missions, based in the UK but with activities around the world. In many cases, our church members have close personal links and involvement with running these Mission activities. These are organisations that the Church has a close relationship with. In some cases, the Charities representatives speak at the Church services during the year to tell us about their work. The details of MBC's Mission payments are in the Financial Report Note 3 on page 11.

7 Churches Together

We continue our inter-denominational activities during the year with St John the Baptist Church in Markyate and also St Leonard's Church in Flamstead. A number of joint services were held during the year and there was a joint "Walk of Witness" held on Good Friday, a joint service at the Village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and a joint open-air Christmas Carol Service at the Fire Station in the centre of the village just before Christmas. All of these activities provide Christian Witness to our village community and give them an opportunity to join in.

8 Employees and Volunteers

The Church employed a full-time Minister until 31st October 2024, and employs one part-time Administrator, both on permanent contracts.

Throughout the year there were about 30 volunteers (excluding Trustees) active in various aspects of the Church's operation.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who have worked hard and given their time to keep our church running and make it the lively and vibrant community that it is. Many also make valuable contributions to the Church by bringing their expertise to the benefit the church and ensuring that high standards of workmanship are achieved by those contracted to maintain or repair the fabric of the church. They also strive to ensure financial resources of the Church are used responsibly.

9 Governance

The Church's Constitution takes the form of the model Baptist Union Approved Governing Document which describes, amongst other matters, the objectives

and activities of the church and the appointment of Trustees. The Church is governed and regulated by its own Members where all aspects of the work of the church are subject to the approval of the Members Meetings, normally held approximately every three months. The election of Deacons/Trustees was held at the Annual General Meeting in April.

As reported in Section 3 above, the Rev^d Nick Drury resigned his appointment as the Minister of Markyate Baptist Church and left the role on 31st October 2024.

Markyate Baptist Church had in place the following policies and procedures:

- Charity Financial Controls policy
- Financial Reserves policy and procedure
- Trustee Expense policy and procedure
- Safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults
- Health and Safety policy
- GDPR policy
- Risk Management procedure

10 Structure and Management

The Leadership Team of Deacons is composed of all the trustees, including the Minister. The Deacons are nominated by the members and are elected for a three-year term and retire by rotation. Elections are usually held at the Church Members' AGM.

The Leaders meet monthly to deal with church administration, financial affairs, pastoral concerns, to plan special events and projects within the Church, and initiatives to reach out to the community. The Leadership Team are jointly responsible for preparing the agenda for Members' Meetings. These meetings are chaired by the Minister, or the Moderator when no Minister is in place.

This Charity is **not** part of any wider group structure.

The Church has no trading subsidiaries.

Administrative Information - Markyate Baptist Church is situated in Buckwood Road, Markyate, AL3 8JF. The details of church activities can be accessed on the Internet at www.markyatebaptist.org and on the Church's Facebook page. Other contact information is also available there. The video recording of the sermons preached at recent services of worship can be downloaded from YouTube or the Church website and the links are also published in the MBC weekly News sheet.

Tracy Cripps is employed as the Part time administrator for MBC.

Trustees and Deacons:

Nick Drury, Minister – resigned 31st October 2024

Jeremy Bottrill

Mark Buckley – appointed 28th April 2024

Ruth Kieran

James Salmon, Treasurer – resigned 28th April 2024

Rosemary Salmon – resigned 28th April 2024

Chris Trew

Heidi Trew – appointed Treasurer 28th April 2024

Robert Wills – appointed 28th April 2024

Both Jim and Rosemary Salmon stood down from their roles on the Leadership Team on 28th April 2024. We expressed our thanks to both of them for their hard work and service to the team. They were presented with a gift from the Church.

None of the Trustees resigned to take up employment with the charity. Except for the Minister, none of the Trustees received any remuneration for the work they have done for this charity, except for remuneration of out-of-pocket expenses.

Health & Safety - The Church has a Health and Safety Policy that is aimed at ensuring all our activities are carried out in a safe environment. The Health and Safety Policy and the policies for Safeguarding Children and vulnerable adults are reviewed annually. Trustees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS check.

There were no serious incidents to report during the period of this report.

Risk Management - The Church conducts a Risk Assessment for the new activities that it undertakes. These are documented, and the contents of these documents are shared by the project leader with the participants to make them aware of the risks and the actions they should take to avoid and minimise these risks. We have been helped in preparing the assessments by Guidance Notes sent out by the Baptist Union

During the period of this report, there were no External risks and impacts that impacted on the operation of the Church.

Safeguarding - The Church carries out DBS checks on anyone associated with the Church who has a specific role or responsibility working with children and vulnerable people and also the Trustees. Ruth Kieran is the designated person for safeguarding and Jeremy Bottrill is the deputy designated person for safeguarding. They are assigned to oversee the Safeguarding Policy and to provide a first point of contact for anyone who wishes to make a complaint or express a safeguarding concern. We continue to ensure that Trustees and volunteers have the appropriate safeguarding training.

11 Financial Review

The Accounts Schedules shown on pages 10 to 13 should be read together with the notes of explanation given below. They are prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis and follow SORP 13. They do not incorporate any form of accrual accounting.

Income Receipts - In 2024 Receipts totalled £66,544, a 15% decrease from 2023. Voluntary Donations and Receipts have decreased as our membership has reduced. These receipts mainly came from individuals' monthly standing order bank payments. The Gift Aid Tax Recovery associated with these donations also decreased.

Although interest rates decreased during 2024, the interest earned during 2024 has increased to £9405 - this was earned on the Church's deposited funds.

Other Receipts (See Note 1) at £10,423 were a slight reduction on 2023. Other Donations within this category that were not eligible for Gift Aid totalled £6,531 - these came from a variety of individuals.

Outreach activities, including Holiday-at-home, and Jack and Jill's Toddlers time, brought in £1,210.

Most of the Outreach Income – AS Support relates to payments received via the MBC account from outside organisations in support of the work of the Wednesday Café.

The Church received no endowments during the year. No income was received from outside the UK. There were no government contracts or grants during the year. The Church does not employ any professional fundraisers and does not have any partnership with any commercial participant.

Total Expenditure - In 2024 Total Expenditure was £90,495, an increase on the 2023 spend of £79,560.

Ministry Cost (See Note 2) - The total ministry costs incurred during the year were £33,828, an increase of £6,533 – whilst Nick Drury's role as minister ended on 31 October 2024, the membership of the Church agreed at a special Church meeting to pay Nick a three-month sabbatical from November 2024 -January 2025. In addition to the normal Ministry stipend, pension and HMRC related payments, there was also a cost of £570 for continuing Ministry Development.

Mission Payments (see Note 3) - These mission payments are part of the way this Church carries out its purpose and demonstrates its gratitude for God's generosity to our Church. Total mission donations in the year were £6,995 or 10.5% of our Receipts - slightly above our policy, to give 10% of annual Receipts. Our donations included support for the Baptist Home Mission fund, providing support for struggling Baptist churches and new start-ups in the UK. Also, for the Baptist Missionary Society – Worldwide, undertaking mission work in various third-world countries. Our mission payments are all made to charities based within the UK. However, several of these charities work overseas and £1,915 of these donations goes to support work overseas. Much of this charitable work is associated with helping children. We have close informal links to most of these charities through members of our congregation. There are no formal contractual arrangements with any of these charities.

Manse Costs (see Note 4) - Total Manse costs were £5,741 in 2024, a decrease of £3,944 on 2023 costs. Repair costs were £115 during the year. Utility costs and Council Tax totalled £4,834, a decrease on the 2023 costs. The Manse Insurance cost increased by £141 on the 2023 cost.

Church Costs (See Note 5) - Total Church costs were £39,221, an increase of £9,075 on the prior year. Much of this increase was due to the higher electricity charges, gas charges and spend on Church Equipment. Church Maintenance at £12,204 showed an increase of £11,166 on 2023. Most of this was due to the installation of further LED lighting in the building – mainly in the Utility block and the Hall and Kitchen. The entrance door to the Hall has also been replaced and some of the paintwork in the toilets has been refreshed. The spend on the purchase of the lights has been moved to maintenance, in 2023 this was reported under equipment.

Church utilities (water rates) at £908 were slightly up on last year. Church gas costs at £434, which is a reduction on 2023 – a new 2 year contract for the gas supply commenced in October 2024, and the until price is higher and the costs will see an increase in 2025. The electricity charges increased significantly during the year to £7,105, a rise of £1,652 on 2023, although we hope to see future reductions to this as the electric heating is no longer being used in the Church Hall.

Increased activity in the building resulted in slightly higher cleaning costs. Church administration costs showed a slight year-on-year increase due to increased salary payments and the introduction of a pension scheme for our Administrator. The Subscriptions included the per capita payment per member to Baptist Together, and a subscription to the internet site, "Find-a-church". Church insurance cost showed only a small increase in 2024 of £49 during the year to £2,084.

Church Outreach Costs (See Note 6) - Total Church Outreach costs were £4,709, a decrease of £564. This included costs for certain community events that the Church ran during the year, including the Holiday-at-Home event for elderly people from Markyate village.

There was also a spend of £2,861 for Refugee Support, this spend includes the £1,396 received. These funds allow those working with the Wednesday afternoon café to purchase clothing and other items needed, there have also been occasions where the hire of the Markyate & Flamsted Village Care bus for Refugee group has been paid.

These Outreach Costs also include the licence fees for the use of Worship Lyric Video hymn music to support our church services and for the fact that we broadcast these over the Internet.

Deficit of Receipts Over Payments - In 2024 the Expenditure exceeded Receipts giving a Deficit of £23,951, this is less than the budgeted deficit.

Use of Restricted Funds in 2024 - The Table on page 13 shows the movement through Receipts and Expenditure of these Restricted Fund categories. The only movement in these funds during 2024 was the purchase of the new LED lighting for the building.

The Church achieves most of its purposes through the activities described in sections 3 and 4 above. The Church has no other external source of income, other than the generous donations of the Members and the congregation and the Gift Aid recovery associated with those donations, hiring out of the Church premises, interest on deposited funds and some occasional charitable grants. The Church receives no money from Central Government or local authorities, other than the HMRC Gift Aid recovery on donations.

Reserves Policy - The Church tries to maintain a minimum level of reserve in the Unrestricted Fund that is the equivalent to approximately 3 months' general running costs and nine months staff cost; this is currently estimated at £49,000. This reserve calculation assumes that we have a full time Minister employed for a full year.

All the Unrestricted General funds of £91,639 at the end of 2024, are now regarded as reserves. The overall financial health of the Church remains strong and adequate controls are in place to give early warning of any changes.

Accounting Policies - The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Commission "Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice" (SORP 2013)" issued by the Charity Commission. Our accounting systems are operated using the "Financial Co-ordinator" accounting software package. The financial controls were established when the Financial Coordinator system was implemented in 2018 and have remained in place during 2024.

Donations and Grants - These are accounted for when received.

Unrestricted funds - These represent income which has no specific instructions from the donor about how it can be used and is therefore used by the trustees for any of the church's ordinary purposes.
Unrestricted funds totalled £91,639 at 31 December 2024.

Designated funds - These represent sums set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes, but which can be transferred in whole or in part back into General funds at any time or when the original purpose, for which they were originally assigned, has been completed.
Designated funds totalled £12,388 at 31 December 2024, a decrease of £1,309 on 2023.

Restricted funds - These represent donations received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given.
Restricted funds totalled £91,001 at 31 December 2024, a decrease of £5,954 following the purchase of the new LED lighting for the Utility area and the Church Hall.

The Church Building Restricted Fund is our main Restricted Fund intended for improvements and extensions to the church building and facilities.

Endowment funds - These are funds whose capital must be maintained. Only income from the capital investment is used as restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established. The church currently has no such funds.

Fixed assets - Our total assets are shown as £2,173,430 - the same as 2023. These consist of:

The Church premises at 13 Buckwood Road and contents are included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the insurance valuations because no more reliable cost information was available. In the opinion of the Trustees a professional valuation would incur costs out of proportion to the benefit gained by a user of the accounts.

The Manse, 50 Buckwood Road, Markyate, is included at its current market value.

Church Fittings, Furnishings and Equipment are valued at a replacement Cost of £84,138.

Governance Cost - No legal fees were incurred in 2024.

Pensions – Nick Drury continued his membership of the Baptist Union Pension scheme during 2024.

Tracy Cripps – the Church Administrator – continues to have a Pension with The Peoples Pension Scheme.

Staff and Trustees - The Church employed a full-time minister up to 31 October 2024 and a part-time administrator for all of 2024.

No person earned more than £60,000 during 2024. No trustee received remuneration during the year, other than reimbursements incurred solely for minor purchases of provisions and materials for church use. As required by the Charity Commission, the total value of the employee benefits of the highest paid employee during 2024 was £41,867. Total staff remuneration totalled £40,554 in 2024.

This report was approved and signed for on behalf of the Leadership Team of Trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Robert Wills', written in a cursive style.

Signed:

Robert Wills, Trustee

Date: 24/04/2025

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

	2024				2023	Variance
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds	2024 v 2023
Receipts						
Voluntary Donations & Receipts	32,767	182	-	32,949	43,319	-10,370
Gift Aid	9,627	-	-	9,627	13,258	-3,631
Grants	-	-	-	0	800	-800
Lettings	4,141	-	-	4,141	2,600	1,541
Interest on Deposits	9,405	-	-	9,405	7,880	1,525
Other Receipts (Note 1)	7,817	2,606	-	10,423	10,909	-486
Total Receipts	£63,757	£2,787	£0	£66,544	£78,766	-£12,222

Expenditure						
Ministry Costs (Note 2)	33,828			33,828	27,295	6,533
Mission Payments (Note 3)	6,995			6,995	7,160	-165
Manse Costs (Note 4)	5,742			5,742	9,686	-3,944
Church Costs (Note 5)	33,267		5,954	39,221	30,146	9,075
Outreach Costs (Note 6)	612	4,097		4,709	5,273	-564
Total Expenditure	£80,444	£4,097	£5,954	£90,495	£79,560	£10,935

Deficit - Receipts less Expenditure -£23,951 -£794

Cash Funds - 31st December 2024 £195,744
Cash Funds - 31st December 2023 £219,695
-£23,951

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Cash Funds	2024	2023	Variance
Current Account	£1,924	£10,240	-£8,316
Deposit Accounts	£193,820	£209,455	-£15,635
Total Funds	£195,744	£219,695	-£23,951
Deficit 2024		-£23,951	

Assets Retained for the Church's own use

Markyate Baptist Church Building 13 Buckwood Road	£1,644,292	£1,644,292	£0
Manse (Freehold Property) 50 Buckwood Road	£445,000	£445,000	£0
Church Fittings, Furnishings & Equipment	£84,138	£84,138	£0
Total Assets	£2,173,430	£2,173,430	£0
Total Cash & Assets	£2,369,174	£2,393,125	-£23,951

Liabilities At 31st December 2024 Markyate Baptist Church had no outstanding liabilities

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2024				2023	Variance
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2024 v 2023
Note 1 Other Receipts						
Other Donations Non GA	6,531	-	-	6,531	7,340	-809
Fundraising	-	-	-	0	426	-426
Other	1,286	-	-	1,286	749	537
Holiday-at-Home	-	287	-	287	435	-148
Jack & Jills	-	503	-	503	704	-201
Outreach Activity Income	-	420	-	420	255	165
Outreach Income - AS Support	-	1,396	-	1,396	0	1,396
Renew Wellbeing	-	-	-	0	1,000	-1,000
Total Other Receipts	£7,817	£2,606	-	£10,423	£10,909	-£486
Ministry Salaries	20,776	-	-	20,776	17,291	3,485
Ministry Pension	7,258	-	-	7,258	5,329	1,929
Ministry HMRC	4,299	-	-	4,299	2,604	1,695
Ministry Expenses	88	-	-	88	524	-436
Ministry Visiting Speakers	838	-	-	838	808	30
Ministry Development	570	-	-	570	645	-75
Total Ministry Costs	£33,828	-	-	£33,828	£27,201	£6,627
Note 3 Mission Payments						
Mission BU Home Mission	2,520	-	-	2,520	2520	0
Mission Nansambo	-	-	-	0	500	-500
Mission Myosotis Trust	500	-	-	500	500	0
Mission the 267 Project	300	-	-	300	300	0
Mission BMS World Mission	1,115	-	-	1,115	980	135
Mission Step	1,800	-	-	1,800	1560	240
Mission Way to the Nations	300	-	-	300	500	-200
Mission Hospice of St Francis	300	-	-	300	300	0
Mission Christian Aid	160	-	-	160	0	160
Total Mission Payments	£6,995	-	-	£6,995	£7,160	-£165
Note 4 Manse Costs						
Manse Repairs	115	-	-	115	3747	-3,632
Manse Utilities	2,946	-	-	2,946	3120	-174
Manse Other	1,889	-	-	1,889	2167	-278
Manse Insurance	793	-	-	793	652	141
Total Manse Costs	£5,742	-	-	£5,742	£9,686	-£3,944
Note 5 Church Costs						
Church Maintenance	6,250	-	5954	12,204	1038	11,166
Church Utilities	908	-	-	908	804	104
Church Gas	434	-	-	434	607	-173
Church Electricity	7,105	-	-	7,105	5453	1,652
Church Equipment	118	-	-	118	4267	-4,149
Church Cleaning	2,006	-	-	2,006	1981	25

Church Insurance	2,084	-	-	2,084	2035	49
Church Admin	12,524	-	-	12,524	11902	622
Church Catering	1,214	-	-	1,214	1662	-448
Church Other	273	-	-	273	10	263
Church Subscriptions	241	-	-	241	287	-47
Church Bank Charges	112	-	-	112	100	12
Total Church Costs	£33,267	-	£5,954	£39,221	£30,146	£9,075

Note 6 Church Outreach

Ministry Holiday at Home	-	412	-	412	1027	-615
Ministry Outreach Expenses	-	562	-	562	1758	-1,196
Ministry Renew Wellbeing	-	-	-	0	22	-22
Ministry Resources	241	-	-	241	811	-570
Ministry Youth Work	-	261	-	261	151	110
Ministry Pastoral Care	370	-	-	370	1504	-1,134
Ministry Outreach AS Support	-	2,861	-	2,861	0	2,861
Total Church Outreach Costs	£612	£4,097	-	£4,709	£5,273	-£564

Use of Restricted Funds - 2024

Forget Me Not Centre

Balance 01/01/2024	£716	
Balance 31/12/2024		£716
Building Fund		
Balance 01/01/24	£96,955	
Expenditure	-£5,954	
Balance 31/12/2024		£91,001

ASSIGNMENT OF FUNDS

	2024	2023	Variance
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	£91,639	£108,327	-£16,688
Designated Funds			
Community Outreach Fund	£9,957	£11,005	-£1,048
Renew Wellbeing	£978	£978	£0
Youth Ministry	£1,453	£1,714	-£261
<i>Sub total Designated Funds</i>	£12,388	£13,697	-£1,309
Restricted Funds			
Forget Me Not Centre	£716	£716	£0
Building Fund	£91,001	£96,955	-£5,954
<i>Sub total Restricted Funds</i>	£91,717	£97,671	-£5,954
Total Funds of Church	£195,744	£219,695	-£23,951

STATEMENT OF CASH AND ASSETS

As at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023	Variance
Current Assets			
HSBC Current Account	£1,924	£10,240	-£8,316
Current Assets - Investments			
Baptist Union Corp	£77,793	£74,561	£3,232
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£85,273	£85,140	£133
COIF (CCLA)	£30,754	£49,754	-£19,000
Total Funds	£195,744	£219,695	-£23,951
Deficit		-£23,951	

The Financial Statements - pages 10 - 13 were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer.

Signed:
Treasurer: Heidi Trew
Date :


11/04/2025

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: Markyate Baptist Church

On accounts for year ended: 31st December 2024

Charity Number: 1145170

Financial statements as set out on pages 10 to 13 of the report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

As a retired Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, I consider myself suitably qualified to carry out the independent examination. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- Proper accounting records are kept: and
- Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act:

Or

- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

12.04.25

:

Peter Wastall, FCIS, ACIB
Oak House
Oak Way
Studham
LU6 2PE

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report & Accounts for 2023



Registered Charity Number: 1145170

1.0 Our Vision Statement:

“Growing together by loving God, loving others and serving our community”.
- Church without walls

2.0 Our Aims: Our Vision Statement describes how a healthy church should function and we have continued to strive to fulfil this aim.

We endeavour to share the Christian faith in Markyate and beyond; nurturing people in their faith and life journeys and sharing God’s love inside and outside of the church community through our words and our actions. We hope that over time this will lead to a growth in Church attendance and membership.

We have continued to donate to Christian charities carrying out missionary and outreach work across the world and to foster links with these organisations. We have also responded to the increasing number of refugees seeking asylum in the U.K and also to the crisis of war in Ukraine.

We have maintained our Church building, equipment, and facilities to a high standard to make Markyate Baptist Church building a welcoming place. We also share these premises with our village community when possible.

3.0 Operation of the Church

3.1 Ministerial Appointment: We are pleased to report that the Rev^d Nick Drury took up his appointment as the Minister of Markyate Baptist Church in February 2023 after serving his notice period with The Shore Community Church. He had previously served as Associate Minister there. An induction service, led by Reverend Mary Moody from the Central Baptist Association, was held on March 25th, followed by a Celebration Tea-party. Approximately 100 people attended.

3.2 Worship and Preaching: Church services are open to everyone. Normal Sunday morning public worship begins at 10.30 am, and there is also a Sunday class for children aged 4-11 called JAM “Jesus and Me” (JAM) that runs alongside the main worship service. We are also continuing to simultaneously stream our Sunday Worship services on Zoom allowing live viewing by a few members of our congregation who may be unable to attend services.

The Rev^d Nick Drury has organised and led most of our services throughout the year. We are, also, fortunate to have several members of our Church, capable of leading services to provide relief to the Rev^d Drury when he has time off. Time was spent focussing on Mark’s gospel. A Tenebrae service was held on Maundy Thursday. Daily prayer and reflection, also, took place in the week before Easter. A Baptismal service was held on Easter Sunday.

3.4 Prayer: In 2019 we had determined that, as a Church, we would become a more prayerful body of worshippers. We have remained steadfast to this commitment throughout 2023. A regular interactive Zoom prayer meeting has run for one hour every Saturday morning. This on-line communal prayer session has been faithfully supported. In September there were weekly prayer meetings.

Many of the Church members participate in a collective prayer-chain initiative. This is coordinated by a prayer chain leader. He puts out mobile phone text message request for prayers from people who are struggling with the challenges of life, health problems, aging, or family issues. The MBC prayer chain is also used by Christians from other church congregations around the UK. They also submit requests for prayer. This MBC prayer-chain is known for providing a faithful and committed prayer responses.

A Church Family WhatsApp group has also proved a powerful way of connecting with one another, sharing prayers and other church related information.

3.3 Life Groups: Four Life Groups were running throughout the year. The groups meet regularly in people's homes to study, pray, and develop a sense of fellowship, caring and mutual support for one-another.

3.6 Pastoral Care: Church Members in Life Groups are cared for and supported through those Groups. In addition, there are other people who carry out pastoral care work within the Church congregation. A pastoral care volunteer from the Church is also working with Age UK in the village. She visits the elderly in the community who are in need and some of our members who, through age and infirmity, are now in care homes. We have also tried to maintain telephone contact with members of the church and congregation if they are away from church for a period or are known to be unwell. Nick Drury, the new Minister has been very active in pastoral care throughout the year. He has visited all the members of the church and congregation.

3.7 Church Membership: During the year we carried out an amendment to our Church Constitution, recognising that there were several aged and infirm Members unable to attend Services and Church Meetings. These were designated as Non-voting members. On 31st December 2023 there were 38 members and 7 Non-voting members. This represents an overall increase on the prior year of 4 members.

4.0 Church Activities, and Out-reach:

We have continued to use our Church facilities, the building and the garden to strengthen our relationships with the community. Our garden has been equipped with toys and children's play equipment so that parents may bring their children into the garden at any time.

In the Lent period, coming up to Easter, the garden was set out with an Easter story trail and treasure hunt for children. On Easter Saturday we held an Easter egg hunt in the garden and area surrounding the Church. This was greatly appreciated by children and parents alike and told the Easter story. In December we again re-established our Church Garden under the theme of "Hope, Peace, Joy & Love" with Christmas lights in the trees and an almost life-size Stable Nativity Scene. Our Church Carol Service was an all-age event and was attended by many people from our community.

Hospitality is an important part of our Outreach for building relationships. As a Church, we try to hold at least four communal lunches after the Sunday Church Service to encourage fellowship in our Church Family. We always serve coffee every week after the service.

4.1 The MBC Café is held twice a month on a Friday and is an extremely popular venue for members of the community and the local Walking Group. The Walking Group sets out from the Church on Friday mornings and returns to MBC Café for refreshments. All these activities provide an opportunity to form contacts with local people and hopefully to be able to link them more closely into our Church Family. Throughout the summer months, this Café activity moved out into the Church Garden.

Monday Café is a new outreach venture started at the end of the year that is increasing in its popularity. It is particularly appreciated and supported by a group of widowed ladies who provide mutual support and encouragement for one another and also by some of the Church members who attend.

4.2 Holiday at Home

For the older members of our church congregation and members of our community a 2-day Holiday-at-Home event was held in June providing lunch, tea, games and entertainment. A similar one-day event was held in December as a Christmas party celebration. These events were generously financially sponsored by a Community Support Grant from ASDA, who encourage community events and celebrations for the recovery of life-after-Covid.

4.3 Refugee Outreach: During 2023 the Holiday Inn Hotel on the outskirts of the village continued to be used by the Government Home Office to accommodate over 200 male refugees. The refugees who came to Markyate were largely from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Africa. Some of them are Christians and attended our Church on a Sunday. Many were fleeing the persecution of Christians in their own country and had heart-rending stories to tell. The welcome at Markyate Baptist Church encouraged an increase in the numbers regularly attending the Sunday Service. Several Baptisms have been carried out, preceded by courses of instruction over several weeks to ensure the sincerity and understanding of believers. During 2023 this work was helped by a grant received from Tesco at the end of 2022 and also another Gift Aided Donation from an individual specifically for this refugee related work.

Several initiatives have also been started to make life more bearable for refugees, irrespective of their faith and beliefs to help them feel more welcome in the United Kingdom. Specifically:

- Establishing a warm-space social environment in the Church Hall on a Wednesday afternoon. Refreshments, games and conversation with local people helps them to understand England.
- The Church has hired the local Care-Group Minibus to take them to one of the surrounding towns once a week so that they can buy foods more in tune with the ethnic foods they would eat back home. Also, to give other experiences of English culture e.g., visits to St Albans Cathedral.
- Allowing Refugees to use the Church kitchen to cook their own ethnic foods on a Sunday after church.
- Receiving good second-hand clothing donated by the community to equip them with clothing suitable for our winter. Many arrived in this country with only the clothes they stood up in and are poorly shod.
- Some financial donations have been received allowing a limited amount of new clothing and trainers to be bought.

4.3 Ukraine Support: The link established with the Ukraine support charity in Luton collecting clothing and critical supplies has been maintained. Collections have been made in our Church by our congregation and from the village.

4.4 Children and Youth Work: The “Jack and Jill’s Toddlers Time” group has been maintained in 2023. This activity takes place twice monthly and is a very popular event. It is a meeting for child carers and children under school age and provides an opportunity for families to socialise and share experiences. Some of the families had been coming into our Church Garden to use the children’s play facilities set up there. In school holidays a bigger event with picnic lunches was also arranged.

We have maintained our links and support with a local Christian youth group called “**The 2:67 Project**”. Young people from our Church and the village are taken on a Sunday evening at a 2:67 run

youth worship service called **“Fuel”**. These services are held at Churches in the St Albans area including occasionally at Markyate Baptist Church.

Occasionally 2:67 runs Saturday evening Youth events such as Pizza Nights, Film Nights, or visits to Ten Pin Bowling. Some of our young people can participate in some of these Saturday events from time-to-time.

4.5 Jumble Trail: This fund-raising event was held in June. It combined community outreach and fund raising. People were able to participate in a “garage sale of unwanted goods, either in-front of their own homes or renting a sale-table from the Church in the Church Garden. Participants registered their sale location with the Church. The Church published a map and sold these to interested buyers from the Church Garden where refreshments were also on sale. The sellers either retained the proceeds of their sales or shared them with the Church. Overall £280 was raised and this was shared equally between, the Village School, Scout troop, Markyate and Flamstead Care-Bus and Markyate Baptist Church.

5.0 Sharing our Facilities with the Community

We have continued to let out our premises, primarily the Church Hall, to several local organisations serving the community for their regular meetings. These include Alcoholics Anonymous – a weekly meeting, the Markyate History Society, a fitness class, and for the Dacorum Borough Council to run a Youth Club one night per week during term time. Other village groups hold meetings in the Hall from time to time. The Hall is also hired for children and family parties.

6.0 Mission and Evangelism Donations:

The Church has continued to provide financial donations to a broad range of charitable Christian missions, based in the U.K. but with activities around the world. Notably, these are organisations working with children and promoting the Christian gospel. In many cases, our church members have close personal links and involvement with running these Mission activities. These are organisations that the Church has a close relationship with. In some cases, the Charities representatives speak at the Church services during the year to tell us about their work. The details of MBC’s Mission payments are in the Financial Report Note 3 on page 13.

7.0 Ecumenical relationships

Inter-denominational activities have increased during the year with Rev Drury forming a good working relationship with the Vicar at the Markyate Anglican Church. Several joint services have been held during the year and there was a joint “Walk of Witness” held on Good Friday, a joint service at the Village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and a joint open-air Christmas Carol Service at the Fire Station in the centre of the village just before Christmas. All of these activities provide Christian Witness to our village community and provide an opportunity for them to join in.

8.0 Employees and Volunteers

The Church employs one full-time Minister and one part-time Administrator, both on permanent contracts.

Throughout the year there were about 30 volunteers (excluding Trustees) active in various aspects of the Church’s operation. The Trustees want to thank all those who have worked so hard and given so freely of their time to keep our church running and making it the lively and vibrant community that it is. Many also make valuable contributions to the Church by bringing their expertise to the benefit the church and ensuring that high standards of workmanship are achieved by those contracted to

maintain or repair the fabric of the church. They also strive to ensure financial resources of the Church are used responsibly.

9.0 Governance

The Church's Constitution takes the form of the model Baptist Union Approved Governing Document which describes, amongst other matters, the objectives and activities of the church and the appointment of Trustees. The Church is governed and regulated by its own Members where all aspects of the work of the church are subject to the approval of the Members Meetings, normally held approximately every three months. The election of Deacons/Trustees was held at the Annual General Meeting in April.

An amendment to the Constitution was made during the year so that longstanding Members of the Church, no longer able to attend Church and Members Meetings were designated as "Non-voting Members" but maintained their association with the Church. This change overcame the problem of creating an artificially high level of members needing to be present to establish a quorum for a church meeting. This amendment to the Constitution was passed at a Special Church Meeting on 11th June 2023. The details of this change were notified to the Charity Commission together with the Minutes of the Special Church Meeting at which it was accepted by MBC. This change was approved by the Commission on 31st October 2023.

As reported in Section 3.0 above, the Rev^d Nick Drury took up his appointment as the Minister of Markyate Baptist Church on 20th February 2023.

The Markyate Baptist Church had in place the following policies and procedures.

- Charity Financial Controls Policy
- Financial Reserves policy and procedure
- Trustee Expense Policy and Procedure.
- Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults
- Health and Safety Policy
- GDPR Policy
- Risk Management Procedure

10. Structure and Management:

The Leadership Team (LT) of Deacons is composed of all the trustees, including the Minister. The Deacons are nominated by the members and are elected for a three-year term and retire by rotation. Elections are usually held at the Church Member's A.G.M. The Leaders meet monthly to deal with church administration, financial affairs, pastoral concerns, to plan special events and projects within the Church, and the initiatives to reach out to the community. The Leadership Team are jointly responsible for preparing the agenda for Members' Meetings. These meetings are chaired by the Minister.

This Charity is **not** part of any wider group structure.

The Church has no trading subsidiaries.

10.1 Administrative information: Markyate Baptist Church is situated in Buckwood Road, Markyate, AL3 8JF. The details of church activities can be accessed on the Internet at www.markyatebaptist.org and on the Church's Facebook page. Other contact information is also available there. The video recording of the sermons preached at recent services of worship can be downloaded from YouTube and the links are also published in the M.B.C weekly News sheet.

The Church has the benefit of the services of Tracy Cripps employed as part-time Administrator.

10.2 Trustees and Deacons:

Nick Drury, Minister

Jeremy Bottrill

Ruth Kieran

Steve McCurdy, resigned on 12th June 2023

James Salmon, Treasurer

Rosemary Salmon.

Chris Trew appointed on 23rd April 2023

Heidi Trew, appointed on 28th October 2023

Steve McCurdy resigned and left the Church after expressing concern about a national consultation being enabled by the Baptist Union, regarding the Ministerial Recognition Rules on Ministry and Marriage. We were sorry to see him go and wish to express our thanks for all his hard work and the contributions he has made to the Church over several years.

None of the Trustees resigned to take employment with the charity. Except for the Minister, none of the Trustees received any remuneration for the work they have done for this charity, except for remuneration of out-of-pocket expenses.

10.3 Health & Safety: The Church has a Health and Safety Policy that is aimed at ensuring all our activities are carried out in a safe environment. The Health and Safety Policy and the policies for Safeguarding Children and vulnerable adults are reviewed annually. Trustees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS check.

There were no serious incidents to report during the period of this report.

10.4 Risk Management: The Church conducts a Risk Assessment for the new activities that it undertakes. These are documented and the content of these documents are shared by the project leader with the participants to make them aware of the risks and the actions they should take to avoid and minimise these risks. We have been helped in preparing the assessments by Guidance Notes sent out by the Baptist Union

During the period of this report, there were no External risks and impacts that impacted on the operation of the Church.

10.5 Safeguarding: The Church carries out DBS checks on anyone associated with the Church who has to deal with children and vulnerable people. Two of the Church Trustees, a man and a woman, are assigned to oversee the Safeguarding Policy and to provide a first point of contact for anyone who wishes to make a complaint or express a safeguarding concern. In general, our activities do not require us to go beyond the Basic DBS check.

11.0 Financial Review:

These Accounts Schedules shown on pages 12 to 14 should be read together with the notes of explanation given below. They are prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis and follow SORP 13. They do not incorporate any form of accrual accounting.

The appointment of a full-time minister has significantly increased the Church's expenditure in the year through employment costs and the costs of maintaining the Manse, previously paid for by the tenant. The Receipts have been reduced because of the loss of rental income from letting the Manse. Consequently the accounts are significantly different from the previous year.

11.1 Income Receipts: In 2023 Receipts totalled £78,766, an 18% increase on the £66,873 of 2022. Voluntary Donations and Receipts increased and exceeded those of the prior year. Mostly these came from individual's monthly standing order bank payments. There was one specific donation of £1,000 for Refugee Support. The Gift Aid Tax Recovery associated with these donations also increased proportionately, but we also had a four year backdated claim for donations that had not been declared as eligible for G.A until October of 2023.

We had two small grants during the year totalling £800, slightly down on the previous year. Letting income on The Church Hall at £2,600 was up by £230 on 2022. This came from a variety of local community organisations. The rise in national interest rates from early in 2023, gave a substantial increase in Interest Receipts to £7,880, 320%. This was earned on the interest received on the Church's deposited funds which is paid out to the current account to meet operating costs rather than being left invested to accumulate .

Other Receipts [See Note1] at £10,909 were down overall by £1,687 or 13%. a consequence of losing the letting income on the Manse. Other Donations within this category that were not eligible for Gift Aid totalled £7,340. These came from a variety of individuals, and also included the receipt of £1,303 from the closure of a Bank account, jointly shared with St. John's Church - Markyate. Half this amount had to be paid to St John's. These funds were the residue of money raised through a village-wide youth action project called NOISE, completed several years previously.

Outreach activities, including Holiday-at-home, Jack and Jill's Toddlers time, and the Jumble-trail event brought in £1,820. There was also a one-off donation of £1,000 towards a new outreach activity, Renew Wellbeing, planned to start in 2024. Within Other Receipts there were also some council tax refunds of £749 on the Manse.

The Church received no endowments during the year. No income was received from outside the UK. There were no government contracts or grants during the year. The Church does not employ any professional fundraisers and does not have any partnership with any commercial participant.

11.2 Total Expenditure: In 2023 Total Expenditure was £79,560, a 74% increase on the prior year total spend of £33,729. We have seen inflationary pressures related to labour cost increases from many service suppliers during the year.

Ministry Cost [See Note 2]: The Church's new Minister, the Reverend Nick Drury joined at the end of February 2023. The total ministry costs incurred during the year were £27,295, an increase of £19,265 on the prior year. There were small savings during the year on life insurance payments related to the pension plan of the previous minister. A one-month payment was due on this obligation. This ended with the appointment of the new minister. With the arrival of Nick Drury there was a saving on external preaching fees previously paid to visiting speakers. In addition to the normal Ministry stipend, pension and HMRC related payments, there was also a cost of £ 645 for continuing Ministry Development. This is in line with the recommended Baptist Union policy to ensure that ministers maintain and grow their skill set.

Mission Payments [see note 3]: These mission payments are part of the way this Church carries out its purpose and demonstrates its gratitude for God's generosity to our Church. Total mission donations in the year were £7,160, or 9.7% of our Receipts. This fell slightly short of our policy, to give 10% of annual Receipts.

Our donations included support for the Baptist Home Mission fund, providing support for struggling Baptist churches and new start-ups in the UK. Also for the Baptist Missionary Society – Worldwide, undertaking mission work in various third-world countries. Our mission payments are all made to charities based within the UK. However, several of these charities work overseas and £2,480 of these donations goes to support work overseas. Much of this charitable work is associated with helping children. We have close informal links to most of these charities through members of our congregation. There are no formal contractual arrangements with any of these charities.

Manse Cost [see note 4]: In 2023 the church was responsible for the entire cost of running the Manse to provide living accommodation for our minister. Total Manse costs were £9,686 in the year, an increase of £6,239 on the prior year. Before the new minister could move in, some minor internal repairs were required. Also, significant work was needed on the boundary fences and the replacement of the garden shed. Repair costs were £3,747 during the year. Utility costs and Council Tax totalled £5,288, an increase of £3,496 on the previous year, when most of these costs were born by the tenant. The Manse Insurance cost increased by 10%, in line with inflation.

Church Cost [See Note 5]: Total Church costs were £30,145, an increase of £6,571 on the prior year. Much of this increase was due to the higher electricity charges and spend on Church Equipment.

Church Maintenance at £1,038 showed a saving of £2,539 on the prior year. There were minor repairs, the most significant of which was £435 to repair a water leak in the main church roof associated with guttering problems.

Church utilities (water rates) at £804 were slightly up on last year. Church gas costs at £607 was also slightly up on the previous year because of increased activity within the building. We benefited from a low gas unit charge well below the Government price cap, as a consequence of a long-term five-year contract; that contract will expire in September 2024. A new electricity contract took effect at the end of 2022, close to the Government price cap level, so the electricity charges increased significantly during the year to £5,453, a rise of £2,567, an increase of 89%.

The spend on new Church Equipment was £4,267, an increase of £3,288. Of this, £2,149 was for new LED dimmable lighting under the balcony in the main Church Sanctuary, following the Government ban on the sale of fluorescent lighting from September of 2023. There is further modernization needed in the church on lighting as a result of this change in legislation.

Increased activity in the building resulted in slightly higher cleaning costs.

Church administration costs showed a slight year-on-year increase due to increased salary payments and the introduction of a pension scheme for our Administrator. The Subscriptions included the per capita payment per member to Baptist Together, and a subscription to the internet site, "Find-a-church".

Church insurance cost showed only a small 2.7% increase during the year to £2,035, this compared with the 19.5% jump in the previous year.

Church Outreach Costs (See Note 6): Total Church Outreach costs were £5,273. an increase of £2,015. This included costs for certain community events that the Church ran during the year, including the Holiday-at-Home party events for elderly people from Markyate village and the Jumble Trail event.

There was also a spend of £1,462 for Refugee Support, purchasing clothing for individuals who were inadequately clad to cope with the British winter. The Church provided clothing using the money specifically donated for refugee support. Hire of the Markyate & Flamsted Village Care bus for Refugee group trips totalled £945.

These Outreach Costs also include the licence fees for the use of Worship Lyric Video hymn music to support our church services and for the fact that we broadcast these over the Internet. The refund of £650 to St John's Church from the closure of the Noise bank account is also included in this cost.

11.3 Deficit of Receipts Over Payments: In 2023 the Expenditure slightly exceeded Receipts giving a small Deficit of - £ 794.

11.4 Use of Restricted Funds in 2023: The Table on page 14 shows the movement through Receipts and Expenditure of these Restricted Fund categories. During 2023 it was recognised that certain Restricted Funds had fulfilled their original purpose but still contained residual funds. With the agreement of the original donors, these funds were moved to more appropriate accounts where they could be put to proper use. These obsolete accounts could then be closed. In most cases the donors to these Restricted Funds were the Church Members. The proposed changes and movements of these funds were agreed at the Church Members Meeting on 29th October 2023. The fund movements were as follows.

- **Men's Fellowship:** £10 was moved to The Designated Ministry Outreach Fund.
- **Youth Activities:** £519 was moved to The Designated Ministry Outreach Fund.
- **Jack & Jill's Toddler Time:** £65 was moved to The Designated Ministry Outreach Fund.
- **Minibus Reserve Fund:** £9,750 was moved to The Designated Ministry Outreach Fund. The original funds for the Minibus purchase came from The Amateurs Trust, the prize money awarded to the Church from BIFFA Landfill Trust, and money that the Members voted from the Church General Fund. The Amateur's Trust were asked in writing to give their approval to the transfer of this Minibus Reserve Fund, and they approved this change. The BIFFA prize money was awarded to the Church for the best Community Project of 2012, for the Church to use as it saw fit, so there was no necessity to consult with them.

The Church achieves most of its purposes through the activities described in sections 3 and 4 above. The Church has no other external source of income, other than the generous donations of the Members and the congregation and the Gift Aid recovery associated with those donations, the hiring out of the Church premises, interest on deposited funds and some occasional charitable grants. The Church receives no money from Central Government or local authorities, other than the HMRC Gift Aid recovery on donations.

11.5 Reserves Policy: The Church tries to maintain a minimum level of reserve in the Unrestricted Fund that is the equivalent to approximately 3 months' general running costs and nine months staff cost; this is currently estimated at £49,000. This reserve calculation assumes that we have a full time Minister employed for a full year.

All the Unrestricted General funds of £108,327 at the 2023 year-end, are now regarded as reserves. The overall financial health of the Church remains strong and adequate controls are in place to give early warning of any changes.

11.6 Accounting Policies: The accounts are prepared in accordance with Charity Commission "Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice" (SORP 2013)" issued by the Charity Commission. Our accounting systems are operated using the "Financial Co-ordinator"

accounting software package. The financial controls were established when the Financial Co-ordinator system was implemented in 2018 and have remained in place during 2023.

- a) **Donations and Grants:** These are accounted for when received.
- b) **Unrestricted funds:** These represent income which has no specific instructions from the donor about how it can be used and is therefore used by the trustees for any of the church's ordinary purposes.
 - These were £108,327 at year-end 2023.
- c) **Designated funds:** These represent sums set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes, but which can be transferred in whole or in part back into General funds at any time or when the original purpose, for which they were originally assigned, has been completed.
 - At the 2023 year end the Designated Funds were £13,697 up on the prior year by £12,029. All of these funds increased because the re-assignment of some restricted Funds from obsolete accounts whose purpose had been discharged.
- d) **Restricted funds:** These represent donations received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given.
 - At the end of 2023 the Restricted Fund was £97,670. It reduced slightly during 2023 by £12,248 because of the expenditure on improved LED lighting for part of the Sanctuary. Also because of the closure and movement of some obsolete funds into the appropriate Designated funds described in section 11.4 above.

The Church Building Restricted Fund is our main Restricted Fund intended for improvements and extensions to the church building and facilities.

The Minibus Reserve Restricted Fund was one of the obsolete funds. It was held as the result of the insurance payment for the theft of the vehicle the Church previously owned, stolen in 2017. The Church Leadership Team agreed that the Church could not justify the purchase of a replacement minibus. The Church has hired the Markyate & Flamsted Village Care-bus on occasions to meet this need. This Minibus related reserve sum of £9,750 was transferred to the Designated Community Outreach Fund.

- f) **Endowment funds:** These are funds whose capital must be maintained. Only income from the capital investment is used as restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established. The church currently has no such funds.
- g) **Fixed assets:**
 - i. The Church premises at 13 Buckwood Road and contents are included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the insurance valuations because no more reliable cost information was available. In the opinion of the Trustees a professional valuation would incur costs out of proportion to the benefit gained by a user of the accounts.
 - ii. The Manse, 50 Buckwood Road, Markyate, is included at its current market value.
 - iii. Church Fittings, Furnishings and Equipment are valued at a replacement cost of £84,138, a reduction of - £114 on the previous year because some obsolete items of equipment have been retired.

Our Total Assets are shown as £2,173,430 an increase of £29,886, mainly as a result in the increased market value of the Manse.

h) **Governance costs:** No legal fees were incurred in 2022.

11.7 Pensions: The Church had no ongoing pension liabilities in 2022.

At the start of 2023 a small £95 monthly premium payment for "Decreasing Life Insurance with Critical Illness Cover" for Rev^d Coffin was paid. This obligation terminated when the new minister, Rev^d Drury, joined the Church in February 2023.

The Revd Drury continued his previous membership of the Baptist Union Pension Scheme when he took up his appointment at Markyate Baptist Church.

The Church's Administrator's pay level increased in January 2023 to a level where the Church was legally obliged to offer a Church Funded pension scheme. The Administrator was pleased to take up this offer and a scheme was established through the Peoples Pensions agency. The Church was pleased to provide this additional long-term security to our Administrator.

12.0 Staff and Trustees: The Church employed a part-time Administrator throughout the year and from 20th February 2023 the Church had a full-time Minister.

No person earned more than £60,000 during 2023. No trustee received remuneration during the year, other than reimbursements incurred solely for minor purchases of provisions and materials for church use. As required by the Charity Commission, the total value of the employee benefits of the highest paid employee during 2023 was £46,854. Total staff remuneration payments totalled £37,125 during 2023.

This report was approved and signed for on behalf of the Leadership Team of Trustees.

Signed:..........

Minister: Rev^d Nick Drury

Date: 11th April, 2024.

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH						
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023						
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE						
	2023				2022	Variance
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	Total Funds	2023 v. 2022
Receipts						
Voluntary Donations & Receipts	41,989	1,330	—	43,319	38,472	4,847
Gift Aid Tax Recovery	13,258	—	—	13,258	9,969	3,289
Grants	—	800	—	800	1,000	- 200
Lettings	2,600	—	—	2,600	2,370	230
Interest on Deposits	7,880	—	—	7,880	2,466	5,414
Other Receipts (Note1)	7,188	3,722	—	10,909	12,596	- 1,687
Total Receipts	£ 72,914	£ 5,852	£ -	£ 78,766	£ 66,873	£ 11,893
Expenditure						
Total Ministry Costs (Note2)	27,295	—	—	27,295	8,030	19,265
Total Mission Payments (Note 3)	7,160	—	—	7,160	7,520	- 360
Total Manse Costs (Note 4)	9,686	—	—	9,686	3,447	6,239
Total Church Costs (Note 5)	27,996	—	2,149	30,145	23,575	6,571
Total Outreach Costs (Note 6)	1,102	4,081	90	5,273	3,258	2,015
Total Expenditure	£ 73,240	£ 4,081	£ 2,239	£ 79,560	£ 45,830	£ 33,729
Deficit: Receipts minus Expenditure				-£ 794	£ 21,042	
				£		
Cash Funds at 31st December 2023				219,695		
Cash Funds at 31st December 2022				220,489		
				-£ 794		

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES				2023	2022	Variance
Cash Funds				£	£	£
- Current Account				10,240	34,082	-23,842
- Deposited Funds				209,456	186,408	23,048
Total Funds				219,695	220,489	-794
Deficit				-£794		
ASSETS Retained for the Church's own use (Insurance Valuations)						
- Markyate Baptist Church Building - 13 Buckwood Road.				1,644,292	1,644,292	-
- Freehold Property - Manse 50 Buckwood Road				445,000	415,000	30,000
- Church Fittings, Furnishing and Equipment				84,138	84,252	- 114
Total Assets				£2,173,430	£ 2,143,544	£ 29,886
Total Cash & Assets				£2,393,125	£ 2,364,033	£ 29,092
Contingent Liabilities:						
At the 31st December 2023 the Church had no outstanding liabilities				-	£95	-

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES						
	2023				2022	Variance
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total	
	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	2023 v. 2022
Note 1 Other Receipts						
Other donations Non GA	5,857	1,483	—	7,340	6,662	678
Fund raising	426	—	—	426	16	411
Other	749	—	—	749	276	473
Holiday-at-Home	—	435	—	435	265	170
WLTDO	—	—	—	—	74	74
Jack & Jills	—	704	—	704	541	163
Manse letting	—	—	—	—	4,763	4,763
Outreach activity income	155	100	—	255	—	255
Renew Wellbeing	—	1,000	—	1,000	—	1,000
Total Other Receipts	£ 7,188	£ 3,722	—	£ 10,909	£ 12,596	-£ 1,687
Note 2 Ministry Costs						
Ministry Salaries	17291	—	—	17291	—	17,291
Ministry pension	5329	—	—	5329	—	5,329
Ministry HMRC	2604	—	—	2604	316	2,288
Ministry expenses	524	—	—	524	2499	1,975
Ministry visiting speakers	808	—	—	808	4079	3,271
Ministry Life Insurance	95	—	—	95	1137	1,042
Ministry development	645	—	—	645	—	645
Total Ministry Costs	£ 27,295	—	—	£ 27,295	£ 8,030	£ 19,265
Note 3 Mission Payments						
Mission BU Home mission	2,520	—	—	2,520	2,520	—
Mission Nansambo School Fund	500	—	—	500	500	—
Myosotis Trust	500	—	—	500	250	250
Mission the267project	300	—	—	300	—	300
Mission BMS World mission	980	—	—	980	2,110	1,130
Mission Step	1,560	—	—	1,560	1,440	120
Way to the Nations	500	—	—	500	200	300
Hospice of St Francis	300	—	—	300	—	300
Open Doors	—	—	—	—	300	300
Salvation Army	—	—	—	—	200	200
Total Mission Payments	£ 7,160	—	—	£ 7,160	£ 7,520	-£ 360
Note 4 Manse Costs						
Manse repairs	3,747	—	—	3,747	1,093	2,654
Manse utilities	3,120	—	—	3,120	987	2,132
Manse other	2,168	—	—	2,168	804	1,364
Manse Insurance	652	—	—	652	563	88
Total Manse Costs	£ 9,686	—	—	£ 9,686	£ 3,447	£ 6,239
Note 5 Church Cost						
Church maintenance	1,038	—	—	1,038	3,577	2,539
Church utilities	804	—	—	804	675	129
Church gas	607	—	—	607	485	122
Church electric	5,453	—	—	5,453	2,886	2,567
Church equipment	2,118	—	2,149	4,267	979	3,288
Church cleaning	1,981	—	—	1,981	1,456	525
Church insurance	2,035	—	—	2,035	1,980	55
Church admin	11,902	—	—	11,902	10,291	1,610
Church catering	1,662	—	—	1,662	798	864
Church other	10	—	—	10	137	127
Church subscriptions	287	—	—	287	223	65
Church bank charges	100	—	—	100	88	11
Total Church Costs	£ 27,996	—	2149	£ 30,145	£ 23,575	£ 6,571
Note 6 Church Outreach						
Ministry Holiday at Home	—	1,027	—	1,027	660	367
Ministry WLTDO	—	—	—	—	214	214
Ministry Outreach expenses	292	1,466	—	1,758	—	1,758
Ministry Renew Wellbeing	—	22	—	22	—	22
Ministry resources	811	—	—	811	1,300	489
Ministry youth work	—	61	90	151	153	2
Ministry pastoral care	—	1,505	—	1,505	931	574
Total Church Outreach Costs	£ 1,102	£ 4,081	£ 90	£ 5,273	£ 3,258	£ 2,015

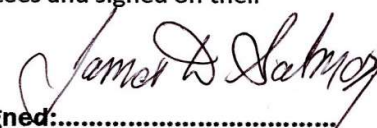
USE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS IN 2023			
Receipts		Expenditure	
Forget me Not Centre	£	Forget me Not Centre	£
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	716	Balance in the Restricted Fund c/f to 2024	716
Men's Fellowship		Men's Fellowship	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	10	Transferred to Designated Community Outreach Fund	10
		Closing Balance	Nil
Building Fund		Building Fund	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	99,103	Expenditure	2,149
		Balance in the Restricted Fund c/f to 2024	96,954
Youth Activities		Youth Activities	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	519	Transferred to Designated Community Outreach Fund	519
		Closing Balance	Nil
Jack & Jill's Toddlers Time		Jack & Jill's Toddlers Time	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	65	Transferred to Designated Community Outreach Fund	65
		Closing Balance	Nil
Minibus Reserve Fund		Minibus Reserve Fund	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	9,570	Transferred to Designated Community Outreach Fund	9,570
		Closing Balance	Nil

ASSIGNMENT OF FUNDS			
As at 31st December Year-End			
	2023	2022	Variance
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	108,327	108,903	- 576
Designated Funds			
Community Outreach Fund	11,005	1,026	9,979
Renew Wellbeing	978	—	978
Youth Ministry	1,714	642	1,072
Sub-total Designated Funds	13,697	1,668	12,029
Restricted Funds			
Forget me Not Centre	716	716	-
Men's Fellowship	—	10	- 10
Building Fund	96,954	99,103	- 2,149
Youth Activities	—	519	- 519
Minibus Reserve Fund	—	9,570	- 9,570
Sub-total Restricted Funds	97,670	109,918	- 12,248
Funds of the church	£ 219,695	£ 220,489	-£ 794
Deficit	-£ 794		

STATEMENT OF CASH AND ASSETS			
As at 31st December Year-End			
	2023	2022	Variance
	£	£	£
Current assets			
HSBC Current account	10,240	34,082	-23,842
Current Assets - Investments			
Baptist Union Corp	74,562	71,514	3,048
Cambridge & Counties bank	85,140	85,140	0
COIF	49,754	29,754	20,000
Total Funds	£ 219,695	£ 220,489	-£ 794
Deficit	-794		

The Financial Statements pages 12,13, & 14 were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer.

Date: 11th April 2024

Signed: 
Treasurer: James D. Salmon

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: **Markyate Baptist Church**

On accounts for the year ended: **December 31st, 2023.**

Charity Number: **1145170**

Financial statements as set out on pages 12 to 14 of the report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As a retired Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, I consider myself suitably qualified to carry out the independent examination. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- Proper accounting records are kept;
- and
- Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

Or

- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Date:

15 April 2024

Peter Wastall, F.C.I.S., A.C.I.B.
Oak House,
Oak Way,
Studahm, LU6 2PE

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1145170

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report & Accounts for 2022



Registered Charity Number: 1145170

1.0 Our Vision Statement:

***“Growing together by loving God, loving others and serving our community”.
- Church without walls***

2.0 Our Aims: Our Vision Statement describes how a healthy church should function and we have continued to strive to fulfil this aim.

During 2022 we have worked to re-establish the operation of the Church after the restrictions of Covid-19 lockdown periods. We have sought to increase our interaction with the community, and to build on the experiences of the lockdown period by doing some things in a different way.

We are endeavouring to propagate the Christian gospel and we are seeking to grow our church membership.

We have continued to donate to Christian charities carrying out missionary and outreach work across the world and to foster links with these organisations. We have also responded to the crisis of war in Ukraine and the increasing number of refugees seeking asylum in the U.K.

We have maintained our Church building, equipment, and facilities to a high standard to make Markyate Baptist Church building a welcoming place. We also share these premises with our village community when possible.

3.0 Operation of the Church

Ministerial Search and the Period of Inter-regnum: Our previous Minister, Rev^d Phillip Coffin, left the Church at the end of September 2021. In the second half of 2021 the Leadership Team spent a significant amount of time preparing a Church Profile. This document described what Markyate Baptist Church is about and what we are hoping to achieve in the future. It also described the sort of Minister we were looking for, to come and lead the Church in the future. This document was published on the Baptist Union of Great Britain, recruitment web site, in September 2021. This site is accessible to all Baptist Ministers who might be looking to find a new church to pastor.

Throughout 2022 the Church Leadership Team have been heavily engaged in the process of Ministerial search using the Baptist Union process described above. During the course of the year there were 17 applications. We had preliminary discussions with 12 of them and in-depth discussions with 6 of these. Four candidates came to the Church on a Sunday to conduct a service and meet the Church Congregation. Two of these candidates progressed to preaching for a second Sunday. The Leadership Team presented these candidates for the consideration of the Church Members at two Special Church members Meetings. At the Special Church Meeting held on November 27th the Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of calling the Rev^d Nick Drury to become the next Minister of Markyate Baptist Church. The Members approved the proposed terms of appointment and remuneration. We are pleased to report that the Rev^d Drury was happy to accept this call. It was agreed that he would take up his appointment in February 2023 after serving his notice period with The Shore Community Church, where he had previously served as Associate Minister.

3.3 Worship and Preaching: Church services are open to everyone. Normal Sunday morning public worship begins at 10.30 am, and there is also a Sunday class called JAM (Jesus and Me) for children aged 4-11; that runs

alongside the main worship. We are also continuing to simultaneously stream our Sunday Worship services on Zoom allowing live viewing by a few members of our congregation.

Sunday services during the inter-regnum were organised by the members of our Leadership Team, with preaching either by some members of the congregation or by outside visiting speakers.

3.4 Prayer: In 2019 we had determined that, as a Church, we would become a more prayerful body of worshippers. We have remained steadfast to this commitment throughout 2022.

A regular interactive Zoom prayer meeting has run for one hour every Saturday morning. This on-line communal prayer session has been faithfully supported.

Many of the Church members participate in a collective prayer-chain initiative. This is coordinated by a prayer chain leader. He puts out mobile phone text message request for prayers from people who are struggling with the challenges of life, health problems, aging, or family issues. The MBC prayer chain is widely known by Christians from other church congregations around the UK. They also submit requests for prayer. This MBC prayer-chain is known for providing a faithful and committed prayer response on behalf of those that are requesting prayer support for the difficult issues in their life.

A Church Family WhatsApp group has also proved a powerful way of connecting with one another, sharing prayers and other church related information.

3.5 Life Groups: Four Life Groups have been running throughout the year. The groups meet regularly to study, pray, and develop a sense of fellowship, caring and mutual support for one-another.

3.6 Pastoral Care: Church Members in Life Groups are cared for and supported through those Groups. In addition, there are other people who carry out pastoral care work within the Church congregation. A pastoral care volunteer from the Church is also working with Age UK in the village. She visits the elderly in the community who are in need and some of our members who, through age and infirmity, are now in care homes. We have also tried to maintain telephone contact with members of the church and congregation if they are away from church for a period or are known to be unwell.

3.7 Church Membership: There were 41 members on 31 December 2022, the same level as the previous year the previous year.

4.0 Church Activities, Pastoral Care and Out-reach : We have continued to use our Church facilities the building and the garden to serve and to strengthen our relationships with the community. Our garden has been equipped with toys and children's play equipment so that parents may bring their children into the garden at any time.

In the Lent period, coming up to Easter, the garden was set out with an Easter story trail and treasure hunt for children. On Easter Saturday we held an Easter egg hunt in the garden and area surrounding the Church. This was greatly appreciated by children and parents alike and told the Easter story.

4.1 The MBC Café: held twice a month on a Friday, is an extremely popular venue for retired members of the community and for the local Walking Group. The Walking Group sets out from the Church on Friday mornings and returns to MBC Café for refreshment. All these activities provide an opportunity to form contacts with local people and hopefully to be able to link them more closely into our Church Family. Throughout the summer months this Café activity moved out into the Church Garden.

In December we again re-established our Church Garden under the banner of **"Peace Love & Joy at Christmas"** with Christmas lights in the trees and an almost life size Stable Nativity Scene. There was a Christmas story trail set out around the Garden. The highlights were a Father Christmas event for the Jack & Jill's children. Just

before Christmas we also held a Carol Service together with the Dunstable Salvation Army Band in the Church with good attendance from the local community.

For the older members of our church congregation and members of our community, 3-day *Holiday-at-Home* event was held in June providing lunch, tea, games and entertainment. This event was generously sponsored financially by a Community Support Grant from ASDA to encourage community celebrations for the recovery of life-after-Covid.

4.2 Refugee Outreach: In February 2022 the village of Markyate was surprised to find that the Holiday Inn hotel on the outskirts of the village had been taken over by the Government Home Office to accommodate 180 male refugees. They had been displaced from their original hostel in London by Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war in their own country. The refugees who came to Markyate were largely from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Africa. Moving from London to a very rural location was quite a culture shock for them. There was not much for them to do, and their small financial allowance barely covered the bus fare to a local town leaving them with no money to spend when they got there.

Some of the Christians amongst this group soon found their way to our Church on a Sunday and were given a warm welcome. We soon learned that many were fleeing the persecution of Christians in their own country. They had heart rending stories to tell. The news of the welcome at Markyate Baptist Church quickly spread and we have had an increasing number of regularly attending the Sunday Service. Several initiatives have been started to make life more bearable for them and feel more welcome in the United Kingdom. Specifically:

- The Church has hired the local Care-Group Minibus to take them to one of the surrounding towns once a week so that they can buy foods more in tune with the ethnic foods they would eat back home. Also, to other aspects of English culture e.g., visits to St Albans Cathedral.
- Allowing Refugees to use the Church kitchen to cook their own ethnic foods on a Sunday after church.
- Establishing a warm-space social environment in the Church Hall with refreshments and games on a Wednesday afternoon.
- Receiving good second-hand clothing donated by Church members so that the refugees can equip themselves with clothing suitable for our winter. Many arrived in this country with only the clothes they stood up in.

These facilities have been made available to all the refugees, whether or not they profess to be Christians.

Some of the Christian refugee have learned their Christian faith in under-ground churches back in their country of origin. In the open and free Christian environment of the U.K. several refugees have expressed the desire to be baptised. Baptism classes have been held in preparation for the commitment they were to make. A baptism service was held toward the end of the year for two of the refugees and one other member of our congregation. More baptisms are planned to follow in 2023.

The Church has received some charitable donations from individuals and charities to specifically help with this local refugee support work.

The Church has found the war in Ukraine deeply distressing and made a significant financial donation in March 2022 to the BMS World Mission Ukrainian Refugee Support based in Poland. A link was also established with a Ukraine support charity based in Luton collecting clothing and critical supplies. Collections have been made in our Church by our congregation and from the village. These are taken to Luton and then sent on a regular transport into the war-torn areas of the Ukraine that are suffering such terrible hardships.

4.3 Children and Youth Work:

We have maintained our links and support with a local Christian youth group called *“The 2:67 Project”*. Normally Youth work activity takes place in a variety of the 2:67 Saturday evening events such as Pizza Nights, Film Nights, and visits to Ten Pin Bowling. These Saturday events have been followed by attendance on Sunday

evening at a youth worship service called *"Fuel"*, held at Churches in the St Albans area including occasionally at Markyate Baptist Church.

The good progress made in 2021 re-establishing the *"Jack and Jill's Toddlers Time"* group has been maintained in 2022. This is a meeting for child carers of children under school age. Many of these carers had been coming into our Church Garden to use the children's play facilities set up there. For many of these carers who feel isolated at home, to be able to come into the Church Hall, meet with other people in the same situation for coffee and chat is very therapeutic. There are a myriad of toys spread out for their children to play with and children and carers alike have benefited from this social interaction. This activity takes place twice monthly very popular event. In school holiday times a bigger event with picnic lunches has also been arranged.

The *"Who Let The Dads Out" (WLTDO)* was a monthly group meeting at the Church on a Saturday morning. This activity was intended to provide a place where fathers and other male relatives of children can bring their children along for a Saturday morning of fun, games, and entertainment. The aim was to provide an opportunity for strengthening the bond between fathers and their children. For single parent fathers it is also a family friendly place for them to take their children and to be able to spend time together at negligible cost. They were provided with a cooked breakfast and there are hot and cold drinks on tap throughout the morning. The most successful meeting was when a local motorcycle club agreed to come along one Saturday in the summer and bring their powerful motorcycles into the Church Garden for the children and Dads to sit on and hear them roar.

Unfortunately, attendance at WLTDO fell off in the autumn and it was decided to terminate this activity for the time being. Also, the people supporting this activity diverted their efforts to other Church activities supporting refugees. We still believe in the merits of this WLTDO and it may restart in the future.

4.4 Sharing our Facilities with the Community

We have continued to allow Alcoholics Anonymous to use our premises for their weekly meeting. Similarly, the Markyate History Society hold their regular meetings in the Church Hall, and for the Dacorum Borough Council run a Youth Club one night per week during term time. The Hall is also hired from time-to-time for children and family parties.

5.0 Mission and Evangelism Donations: The Church has continued to provide financial support to a broad range of Christian mission activities around the world, notably organisations working with children and promoting the Christian gospel; this included the Baptist Missionary Society - World Mission. The details of the Church's Mission Giving are in the Financial Report Note 4 on page 11. In general, these are organisation that the Church has a close relationship with. In some cases, the Charities representatives have been to speak at the Church services during the year. In many cases our church members have close personal links and involvement with running these Mission activities.

6.0 Ecumenical relationships

The opportunities for inter-denominational activities were limited during the pandemic. Also, the inter-regnum at our Church, the change of the Vicar at the Anglican Church and the closure of the Methodist Church meant that ecumenical activities were very limited. At the end of the year a joint service was held with the Anglican Church, and more joint activities are planned for the coming year.

7.0 Volunteers

The Trustees want to thank all those who have worked so hard and given so freely of their time to keep our church running and making it the lively and vibrant community that it is. Many also make valuable contributions to the Church by bringing their expertise to the benefit of the church, by ensuring financial resources are used responsibly, and that high standards of workmanship are achieved by those contracted to

maintain or repair the fabric of the church. Throughout the year there were about 30 volunteers (excluding Trustees) active in various aspects of the Church's operation.

8.0 Structure, Governance and Management

The Church's Constitution takes the form of the model Baptist Union Approved Governing Document which describes, amongst other matters, the objectives and activities of the church and the appointment of Trustees. The Church is governed and regulated by its own Members where all aspects of the work of the church are subject to the approval of the Members Meetings, normally held approximately every three months. The election of Deacons/Trustees was held at the Annual General Meeting in April. Two Special Meetings were held during the year to consider calling a new minister.

The Leadership Team (LT) is composed of all the trustees. They are nominated by the members and are elected usually at the A.G.M., for a three-year term and retire by rotation. They meet monthly to deal with church administration, pastoral concerns, to plan special events and projects within the Church, and initiatives to reach out to the community. The Leadership Team are jointly responsible for preparing the agenda for Members' Meetings. These meetings were chaired by one of the leaders during the Inter-regnum, in the absence of a Minister and the Moderator.

Following the departure of the Rev^d Phillip Coffin, the Church Members voted in late 2021 to appoint the Rev^d Ruth Gookey, the Minister of Christ-the-King Community Church at Milton Keynes, as the Moderator of the Church during the interregnum. Regrettably Ruth Gookey was taken ill early in 2022. This turned into a period of long-term sick leave. An alternative Moderator could not be found, but the LT functioned very effectively for the remainder of the year, including through the appointment of Rev^d Nick Drury as the new minister.

The Church has no trading subsidiaries.

8.1 Administrative information: Markyate Baptist Church is situated in Buckwood Road, Markyate, AL3 8JF. The details of church activities can be accessed on the Internet at www.markyatebaptist.org and on the Church's Facebook page. Other contact information is also available there. The video recording of the sermons preached at recent services of worship can be downloaded from YouTube and the links are also published in the M.B.C weekly News sheet.

The Church has the benefit of the services of Mrs. Tracy Cripps employed as part-time Administrator.

Trustees and Deacons:

Jeremy Bottrill
Jacqui Hewitson, resigned in Sept 2022
Ruth Kieran
Steve McCurdy
James Salmon, Treasurer
Rosemary Salmon.

Jacqui Hewitson resigned before the end of her term because she was going abroad for an extended time. We are grateful for her considerable contributions to the development of the Church Profile and for her creativity in developing the use of the Church Garden and other out-reach activities.

None of the Trustees resigned to take employment with the charity. None of the Trustees received any remuneration for the work they have done for this charity, except for remuneration of out-of-pocket expenses.

8.2 Health & Safety: The Church has a Health and Safety Policy that is aimed at ensuring all our activities are carried out in a safe environment. The Health and Safety Policy and the policies for Safeguarding Children and

vulnerable adults are reviewed annually. Trustees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS check.

8.3 Risk Management: The Church conducts a risk assessment for the new activities that it undertakes. This was quite challenging during the pandemic to ensure that the Church followed safe health and hygiene practices. We have been helped in this by Guidance Notes sent out by the Baptist Union that we have tried to follow.

8.4 Safeguarding: The Church carries out DBS checks on anyone associated with the Church who has to deal with children and vulnerable people. Two of the Church Trustees, a man and a woman, are assigned to oversee the Safeguarding Policy and to provide a first point of contact for anyone who wishes to make a complaint or express a safeguarding concern.

9.0 Financial Review – Our accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. They do not incorporate any form of accrual accounting.

9.1 Income Receipts: In 2022, Receipts totalled £66,873 which is down by 9.1% on the 2021 level of £73,326. Within that total were Donations and Receipts, mostly made by bank standing order and also the associated HMRC Gift Aid recovery. These, taken together, were slightly down on the prior year. They totalled £48,441, which was down by £5,417, or 7.4%, on the prior year. We lost receipts from some regular donors who have moved into care-homes, and some donations were reduced because of the pressure on people's personal finances as a result of the "cost-of-living crisis".

Grant Receipts at £1,000 were £500 lower than the prior year. This grant was received from Tesco and was held in a Designated fund for Community Out-reach activities.

Interest Receipts of £2,466 from our investment deposits were up by £1,429 because of the rising interest rates, although these rate increases in percentage terms are far short of the rate of inflation.

Letting receipts at £7,133 were slightly down overall on the prior year by £1,706. (*See Note 1*). In 2021 The Manse 6-month Letting Income, was paid up front in November '21, but also covered the first four months of 2022, so that we only received payment in 2022 of three months rental, from May until early August 2022. The Manse was then empty for the remainder of the year, pending the arrival of the new Minister in January 2023. Lettings of the Church Hall and the Church at £2,370 increased by £680 as the Community activities recovered after the pandemic.

Other Receipts at £7,833 were slightly down by 3% on the prior year of £8,093 (*See Note 2*). These receipts came from a variety of small donations. It included income from the bi-weekly MBC Café and the Holiday-at Home. Also, there were some regular non-gift aid donations that continued to be made, some of this was made to our Restricted Building Fund. There was a small income from some of the Church Outreach activities during the year with the resumption of the Jack & Jill's Toddlers Group. There were also some funerals of two congregation members which generated some additional one-off donations.

The Church received no endowments during the year and no income was received from outside the U.K. There were no Government contracts or Grants during the year. The Church does not employ any professional fund raiser and does not have any partnership with any commercial participant.

9.2 Total Payments: In 2022 these were £45,830, a significant reduction of £25,176 on the 2021 Total Payments of £71,007.

Ministry Costs: Being without a Minister for the whole of 2022 resulted in a saving of £16,904 on salary, pensions and national insurance, compared with the 9-month Minister costs in 2021. (See Note 3). There were other Ministry expenses incurred to pay for visiting preachers to lead our Sunday services, although members of our congregation helped to fulfil this role on many occasions throughout the year. There are also Pastoral Care cost for outreach work for care and support for individuals and for groups of refugees mentioned in section 4.2 above.

Mission Payments: These are detailed in Note 4. These totalled £7,520 in the year and were almost at the same level as in 2021. These 2022 Mission Payments are 11.2% of our annual Receipts, slightly ahead of our Mission policy to give 10% of Receipts. Although our Mission payments are to Charities within the U.K., in several cases these Charities give money and work overseas. Our Donations relating solely to the U.K. totalled £4,160, with the largest part of this going to the Baptist Union Home Mission, who support churches that are struggling financially. Overseas related donations totalled £3,360 of which the largest donation was to the BMS World Mission working from Poland to assist Ukrainian Refugees. We have close informal links to most of these charities through members of our congregation, but there are no formal contractual arrangements with any of these charities. These Mission Payments are part of the way the Church carries out its purpose.

Manse Costs for 2022 at £3,447 a saving of £2,425 on the prior year of £1,767. (See Note 5). The running costs of the Manse were born by the tenant for the first 7 months of the year and then by the Church for the last 5 months when the building was unoccupied. The Church had some small amount of rate relief when the building was unfurnished and incurred a low level of heating cost when the building was vacant. There were also some repairs after the departure of the last tenant although most of this was covered by their deposit.

Church Costs at £23,575 showed a saving on the prior year by £6,482 (See Note 6). There was no major equipment investment in 2022, which is the main contributor to the saving. However, there were some year-on-year cost increases, the main one arising from the purchase of a five-year extended warranty / maintenance contract on the Step Lift, installed in December of 2021. There was a small increase in catering costs as activities reopened when lockdown was lifted. The Church Utility Costs showed an increase because of increased activity in the Church building and because of the start of a new electricity supply contract entered into in May 2022. Although this contract was a significant increase on the previous contract it was still well below the peak electricity price that was reached by the end of 2022. The Church Insurance cost of £1,980 was an increase of 19.5% on the prior year. HSBC bank charges that were introduced in November 2021 on cash deposits and for cheque clearing, totalled £88. We have attempted to minimise these charges through internet banking.

Other Church Costs (See Note 7). These were related to community out-reach activities. The costs, at £874 were up on last year by £454, but these were mostly covered by the Tesco Grant .

There was no direct expenditure outside the U.K.

9.3 Surplus of Receipts over Payments; There was a large Surplus of Receipts over Payments of £21,043 at the end of the year. This was due primarily to being without a minister for the year and also having income from Manse letting for part of the year. This gives a slightly optimistic view of the results for the whole year. There was no major one item of expenditure during the year.

9.4 Use of Restricted Funds in 2022: The Table on page 11 shows the movement through Receipts and Expenditure of these Restricted Fund categories.

The Church achieves most of its purposes through the activities described in sections 3 and 4 above. The Church has no other external source of income, other than the generous donations of the Members and the congregation and the Gift Aid recovery associated with those donations, the hiring out of the Church premises,

interest on deposited funds and some occasional charitable grants. The Church receives no money from Central Government or local authorities, other than the HMRC Gift Aid recovery on donations.

9.5 Reserves policy: The Church tries to maintain a minimum level of reserve in the Unrestricted Fund that is the equivalent to approximately 3 months' general running costs and six months staff cost; this is currently estimated at £44,000. This reserve calculation is based on the assumption that we have a full time Minister employed for a full year.

All of the Unrestricted General funds of £89,364 at the 2022 year-end, are now regarded as reserves. The overall financial health of the Church remains strong and adequate controls are in place to give early warning of any changes, for better or worse.

9.6 Accounting Policies: The accounts are prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice" (SORP 2005) issued by the Charity Commission. Our accounting systems are operated on the "Financial Co-ordinator" accounting software package. The financial controls were established when the Financial Co-ordinator system was implemented in 2018 and have remained in place during 2022.

a) Donations and Grants: These are accounted for when received.

b) Unrestricted funds: These represent income which has no specific instructions from the donor about how it can be used and is therefore used by the trustees for any of the church's ordinary purposes.

– These were £89,364 at year-end 2022.

c) Designated funds: These represent sums set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes, but which can be transferred in whole or in part back into General funds at any time or when the original purpose, for which they were originally assigned, has been completed.

– At the 2022 year end the Designated Funds were £1,668 up on the prior year by £314. The Youth Ministry Fund increased but the Community Outreach reduced because of events and refugee support activities.

d) Restricted funds: represent donations received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given.

The Church Building Fund is our main Restricted Fund intended for improvements and extensions to the church building. This fund grew modestly during 2022 by £1,380 to £97,723.

Minibus Reserve: We continue to hold a restricted fund of £9,570 for the future purchase of a minibus to support youth and work with the elderly. This is the result of the insurance payment for the vehicle the Church previously owned that was stolen in 2017. At the present time we have not yet replaced it because we are managing without it and by hiring the Markyate & Flamsted Village Care-bus.

f) Endowment funds: These are funds whose capital must be maintained. Only income from the investment is used as restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established. The church currently has no such funds.

g) Fixed assets: The Church premises at 13 Buckwood Road and contents are included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the insurance valuations because no more reliable cost information was available. In the opinion of the Trustees a professional valuation would incur costs out of proportion to the benefit gained by a user of the accounts.

The Manse, 50 Buckwood Road, Markyate, is included at its current market value.

Our Total Assets are shown as £2,143,544 an increase of £23,868, mainly as a result in the increased market value of the Manse.

h) Governance costs: No legal fees were incurred in 2022.

9.7 Pensions: The Church had no ongoing pension liabilities in 2022.

There remained a small monthly premium payment for “*Decreasing Life Insurance with Critical Illness Cover*” for Rev^d Coffin. The Monthly premium for this policy was £95. This premium payment terminates when a new minister joins the Church in February 2023.

10.0 Staff and Trustees: Following the departure of the full time Minister, the church only employed a part-time administrator at the year-end. The Administrator is not obliged, and up until the end of 2022 has chosen not, to join a pension scheme. No person earned more than £60,000 during 2022. No trustee received remuneration during the year, other than reimbursements incurred solely for minor purchases of provisions and materials for church use. As required by the Charity Commission, the total value of the employee benefits of the highest paid employee during 2022 was £ £9,967.

This report was approved and signed for and on behalf of the Leadership Team of Trustees.

Date:

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH						
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022						
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE						
	2022				2021	Variance 2022 v 2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds	
Receipts						
Voluntary Donations and Receipts	38,292	—	180	38,472	42,581	- 4,109
Gift Aid Tax Recovery	9,969	—	—	9,969	11,277	- 1,308
Grants	—	1,000	—	1,000	1,500	- 500
Lettings - See Note 1	7,133	—	—	7,133	8,839	- 1,706
Interest on Deposit Accounts	2,466	—	—	2,466	1,037	1,429
Other Receipts - Note 2	5,551	1,083	1,200	7,833	8,093	-259.45
Total Receipts	£ 63,410	£ 2,083	£ 1,380	£ 66,873	£ 73,326	-£ 6,453
Expenditure						
Ministry Cost - Note 3	9,390	960	65	10,415	27,318	16,904
Mission Costs - Note 4	7,520	—	—	7,520	7,340	- 180
Manse Cost - Note 5	3,447	—	—	3,447	5,872	2,425
Church Costs - Note 6	23,575	—	—	23,575	30,057	6,482
Church Outreach Costs - Note 7	—	750	124	874	420	- 454
Total Expenditure	£ 43,931	£ 1,710	£ 189	£ 45,830	£ 71,007	£ 25,176
Surplus Receipts over Expenditure				£ 21,043	£ 2,319	
				£		
	Cash Funds at 31st December 2022			220,490		
	Cash Funds at 31st December 2021			199,447		
	Surplus			£ 21,043		
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES				2023	2022	Variance
Cash Funds				£	£	£
- Current Account				34,082	17,772	16,310
- Deposited Funds				186,408	181,675	4,733
Total Funds				£ 220,490	£ 199,447	£ 21,043
		Surplus		£21,043		
ASSETS Retained for the Church's own use (Insurance Valuations)						
- Markyate Baptist Church Building, 13 Buckwood Road				1,644,292	1,644,292	—
- Freehold Property - Manse, 50 Buckwood Road				415,000	395,000	20,000
- Church Fittings, furnishings and Equipment				84,252	80,384	3,868
Total Assets				£ 2,143,544	£ 2,119,676	£ 23,868
Total Cash & Assets				£ 2,364,034	£ 2,319,123	£ 44,911
Contingent Liability						
Decreasing Life Assurance Critical illness cover - One remaining premium				£95	£1,799	

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES						
	2022				2021	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total	Variance
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	
Note 1 Lettings Receipts						
Church lettings	2,370	—	—	2,370	680	1,690
Manse Lettings	4,763	—	—	4,763	8,159	3,396
Total Net Lettings	£ 7,133	—	—	£ 7,133	£ 8,839	-£ 1,706
No 2 Other Receipts						
Other Donations	5,259	203	1,200	6,662	7,077	416
Fund Raising	16	—	—	16	431	415
Youth Work	—	—	—	—	147	147
Holiday at Home	—	265	—	265	162	103
Outreach receipts	276	615	—	891	275	616
Total Other Receipts	£ 5,551	£ 1,083	£ 1,200	£ 7,833	£ 8,093	-£ 259
Note 3 Ministry Costs						
Ministry Salaries	—	—	—	—	13,490	13,490
Pension cost	—	—	—	—	4,429	4,429
HMRC	316	—	—	316	4,475	4,159
Life Insurance	1,137	—	—	1,137	1,137	-
Ministry Expenses	2,499	—	—	2,499	617	1,882
Ministry resources	1,300	—	—	1,300	1,771	471
Youth work	—	88	65	153	—	931
Pastoral care	—	931	—	931	—	931
Visiting speakers	4,079	—	—	4,079	1,400	2,679
Total Ministry Cost	£ 9,331	£ 1,019	£ 65	£ 10,415	£ 27,318	£ 16,904
Note 4 Mission Payments						
Baptist Union Home mission	2,520	—	—	2,520	2,400	120
Stand by me	—	—	—	—	500	500
Nansambo School Trust	500	—	—	500	500	-
Tear fund Yemen	—	—	—	—	200	200
Mission Myosotis Trust	250	—	—	250	500	250
The 267 project	—	—	—	—	200	200
BMS World mission	2,110	—	—	2,110	500	1,610
Albans Education Project	1,440	—	—	1,440	1,440	—
EMMS	—	—	—	—	300	300
Way to the Nations	200	—	—	200	200	—
Open Doors	300	—	—	300	—	300
Salvation Army	200	—	—	200	250	50
Hospice of St Francis	—	—	—	—	250	250
M&F Care Group	—	—	—	—	100	100
Total Mission Costs	£ 7,520	—	—	£ 7,520	£ 7,340	-£ 180
Note 5 Manse Cost						
Manse repairs	1,093	—	—	1,093	1,654	561
Manse utilities	987	—	—	987	1,964	977
Manse other	804	—	—	804	1,728	924
Manse Insurance	563	—	—	563	506	57
Letting - Deposit Refund	—	—	—	—	20	20
Total Manse Cost	£ 3,447	—	—	£ 3,447	£ 5,872	£ 2,425

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Continued)						
	2022				2021	
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds	Variance
Note 6 Church Cost						
Church maintenance	3,577	—	—	3,577	1,093	- 2,484
Utilities	675	—	—	675	651	- 24
Gas	485	—	—	485	526	40
Electricity	2,886	—	—	2,886	1,232	- 1,654
Equipment	979	—	—	979	12,433	11,454
Cleaning	1,456	—	—	1,456	1,412	- 44
Insurance	1,980	—	—	1,980	1,657	- 323
Administration	10,291	—	—	10,291	9,805	- 486
Catering	798	—	—	798	845	47
Church other	137	—	—	137	184	47
Subscriptions	223	—	—	223	207	- 16
Bank charges	88	—	—	88	12	- 77
Total Church Costs	£ 23,575	—	—	£ 23,575	£ 30,057	£ 6,482
Note 7 Church Outreach Costs						
Holiday at Home	—	660	0	660	420	-241
Who Let The Dads Out	—	90	124	214	—	-214
Total Church Outreach Costs	—	£ 750	£ 124	£ 874	£ 420	-£ 454

USE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS IN 2022			
<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Forget me Not Centre		Forget me Not Centre	
Opening Balance b/f from 2021	716	Balance in the Restricted Funds c/f to 2023	716
Mens Fellowship		Mens Fellowship	
Opening Balance b/f from 2021	10	Balance in the Restricted Funds c/f to 2023	10
Who Let the Dads Out		Who Let the Dads Out	
Opening Balance b/f from 2021	123	Expenditure	- 123
		Closing Balance	Nil
Building Fund		Building Fund	
Opening Balance b/f from 2021	97,723	Balance in the Restricted Funds c/f to 2023	99,103
Receipts during 2022	1,380		
	99,103		
Youth Activities		Youth Activities	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022 (WOW Club)	519	Balance in the Restricted Funds c/f to 2023	520
Receipts	1		
	520		
Jack & Jill's Toddlers Time		Jack & Jill's Toddlers Time	
Opening Balance b/f from 2022	65	Expenditure	- 65
		Closing Balance	Nil
Minibus Reserve Fund		Minibus Reserve Fund	
Opening balance b/f from 2021	9,570	Balance in the Restricted Funds c/f to 2023	9,570

ASSIGNMENT OF FUNDS				
	2022		2021	Variance
	£		£	£
Unrestricted				
General fund	108,903		89,364	19,539
Designated				
Community Outreach Fund	1,026		1,242	- 216
Youth Ministry	642		112	530
Sub-total Designated Funds	1,668		1,354	314
Restricted Funds				
Forget me not centre	716		716	-
Mens fellowship	10		10	-
Who let the Dads out	—		123	- 123
Building fund	99,103		97,723	1,380
Youth activities	520		519	1
Jack & Jill's Toddlers Time	—		65	- 65
Minibus	9,570		9,570	-
Sub-total Restricted Funds	109,919		108,726	1,193
Total Funds	£ 222,157		£ 199,447	£ 22,710
Surplus		£ 22,710		
STATEMENT OF CASH AND ASSETS				
As at 31st December Year-End				
	2022		2021	Variance
	£		£	£
Current Assets - Cash in Hand				
HSBC Curent account	34,082		17,772	16,310
Current Assets - Investments				
Baptist Union Corp	71,514		20,820	50,694
Cambridge & Counties bank	85,140		85,027	114
COIF	29,754		29,754	-
Stewardship	—		46,075	- 46,075
Total Funds	£ 220,490		£ 199,447	£ 21,042
Surplus		£ 21,043		

The Financial Statement pages 10, 11, 12 & 13 were approved by the Trustee and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer.



James D. Salmon
Date: 17th April 2023

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: **Markyate Baptist Church**

On accounts for the year ended: **December 31st, 2022.**

Charity Number: **1145170**

Financial statements as set out on pages 10 to 13 of the report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As a retired Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, I consider myself suitably qualified to carry out the independent examination. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement:

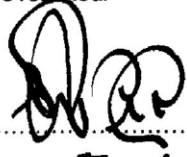
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- Proper accounting records are kept;
- and
- Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

Or

- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Date: **17.04.23.**

Peter Wastall, F.C.I.S., A.C.I.B
Oak House,
Oak Way,
Studham, LU6 2PE

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1145170

Accounts



Trustees Annual Report & Accounts for 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1145170

1.0 Our Vision Statement:

***"Growing together by loving God, loving others and serving our community".
- Church without walls***

2.0 Our Aims: Our Vision Statement describes how a healthy church should function. Our aim in 2021 has been to continue the transition towards greater spiritual health.

In the face of the Covid 19 Restrictions we have worked hard during the year to live up to our Vision Statement, keeping the Church alive using all possible means to stay in touch with our members and congregation and looking out for their welfare. We have maintained regular Sunday Communal Worship throughout the whole year and on-line prayer meetings and Life Groups. We have also tried to offer hope and encouragement to the community with the "Garden of Hope" and the "Light in the Darkness" initiatives described in section 3.0 below.

We have continued to donate to Christian charities carrying out missionary and outreach work across the world and foster links with these organisations.

We have maintained our Church building, equipment and facilities to a high standard to make Markyate Baptist Church building a welcoming place. We also share these premises with our village community when possible.

3.0 Events, Achievements and Performance.

3.1 Minister's resignation: In January 2021 our Minister, Rev^d Phillip Coffin, handed in his resignation, giving the Church 12 months' notice of his intention to leave for family reasons. In the event, as the year progressed, Phillip brought his leaving date forward and left at the end of September 2021.

We want to go on record of how much we appreciate Phillip's gifts and IT abilities that enabled the church to do so well with streaming and later Zoom services during the pandemic. He put a lot of time and effort into this ministry, without which we would not have had such well-produced services month after month through these difficult times. We wish him and Carol all the best in whatever God leads him to do back in his native Yorkshire.

3.2 Use of Our Facilities: Our Church premises are blessed with a large garden area at the front of the Church. In the past this has been an under-utilised resource. However, during the periods of Covid constraints when some level of social distanced interaction was allowed outdoors, we put this garden to full use as described below. The weather had favoured the use of this facility in 2020, but it was not quite so kind during 2021. So, we had fewer garden services in 2021, with easing of constraint and the summer and through the second half of the year we were able to operate in the Church, with suitable social distancing and Covid precautions.

Like all Churches our activities in 2021 have continued to be completely overshadowed by the Covid -19 Pandemic. The consequent lockdowns and people's nervousness of contracting the disease, kept people away. During January, February, March and into April we were constrained by the Lockdown. We kept things going using modern technology, with Zoom communications to maintain Sunday worship, communal prayer and Life Groups during the week. In April the regulations began to be relaxed, on Easter Sunday, 12th April, we held a service in our Church Garden and 65 people attended.

In May we reinstated our church garden as **"The Garden of HOPE"**. We equipped it with toys and slides and established a Noah's Ark Animal Treasure hunt. We asked people to donate any unused garden furniture and chairs to this garden. People from the village were invited to come and use the garden at any time, to meet their friends outdoors and use it as an area where their children could play but maintaining their social distancing. This was well used by families, children and people of all ages

In June we organised a Jumble Trail fund raising event for the community, with table-top sales of unwanted items set up around the village and also in the Church Garden, The Church organised a map of the locations where things were being sold, made a small charge for these locations to be on the map and a small charge for the maps. We also provided refreshments in the Garden. This was a successful event and the money raised went to the local scouts, the village school, and St John's Church. Our Church benefited from the catering sales.

In July we held a concert in the Garden with the Dunstable Salvation Army coming to play for people from the Church and the village.

In September we were approached by Dacorum Council to use our premises to run a weekly youth club for the youth in the village. We were very pleased to encourage them in starting this club.

Also in August, when the local Methodist Church closed, we were approached by Alcoholics Anonymous to use our premises for their weekly meeting and we were happy to allow them to do that.

In December we again re-established our Church Garden as under the banner of **"Light in the Darkness"** with Christmas lights in the trees and an almost life size Stable Nativity Scene and a Christmas story trail around the Garden. The highlights were a Father Christmas gift event for village children. Just before Christmas we also staged a Carol Service together with the Dunstable Salvation Army Band in the Church with good attendance from the local community.

3.3 Worship and Preaching: Church services are open to everyone. Normal Sunday morning public worship begins at 10.30 am, and there is also a Sunday class for children aged 4-11 that runs alongside the main worship. We are also simultaneously streaming our Sunday Worship services on Zoom.

Sunday services are now organised by members of our Leadership Team, with preaching either by some members of the congregation or by outside visiting speakers.

3.4 Prayer:

In 2019 we had determined that, as a Church, we would become a more prayerful body of worshipers. We have remained steadfast to this commitment throughout 2021.

A regular interactive Zoom prayer meeting has run for one hour every Saturday morning. This on-line communal prayer session has been faithfully supported.

Many of the Church members participate in a collective prayer-chain initiative. This is coordinated by a prayer chain leader. He puts out mobile phone text message request for prayers from people who are struggling with the challenges of life, health problems, aging, or family issues. The MBC prayer chain is widely known by Christians from other church congregations around the UK. They also submit requests for prayer. This MBC prayer-chain is known for providing a faithful and committed prayer response on behalf of those that are requesting prayer support for the difficult issues in their life.

A Church Family WhatsApp group has also proved a powerful way of connecting with one another, sharing prayers and other church related information.

3.5 Life Groups: Four Life Groups have been running throughout the year. The groups meet regularly to study, pray, and develop a sense of fellowship, caring and mutual support for one-another. During lockdowns, when visits to home have been prohibited, two of the groups have met on-line using Zoom technology.

3.6 Pastoral Care: Church Members in Life Groups are cared for and supported through those Groups. Alternatively, they are assigned to a dedicated pastoral care worker assigned to watch over them. A pastoral care volunteer from the Church is also working with Age Concern, visits the elderly in the community who are in need. During periods of lockdown, we have tried to maintain contact with members of the church and congregation by regular telephone calls.

3.7 Children and Youth Work: This work has been severely curtailed by the Covid 19 epidemic lockdowns.

We have maintained our links and support with a local Christian youth group called *“The 2:67 Project”*. Normally Youth work activity takes place in a variety of the 2:67 Saturday evening events such as Pizza Nights, Film Nights, and visits to Ten Pin Bowling. These Saturday events have been followed by attendance on Sunday evening at a youth worship service called *“Fuel”*, held at Churches in the St Albans area including at Markyate Baptist Church. However, during the pandemic the ability to maintain these regular activities has been disrupted from time-to-time.

As lockdown restrictions eased, one of the first outreach activities to restart was the *“Jack and Jill’s Toddlers Time”* meeting for Mums and under school age children. Many of these families had been coming into our Church Garden to use the facilities set up there for children. For the Mums, many of them feeling isolated at home, to be able to come into the Church Hall, meet with other Mums for coffee and chat and with a myriad of toys spread out for their children to play with was a great relief. Originally running once a month, it is now a twice monthly very popular event.

The *“Who Let The Dads Out” (WLTD0)* is a monthly group meeting at the Church on a Saturday morning. It started towards the end of 2019 and continued through the early part of 2020, but had to stop throughout 2021, although it is our intention to restart this as soon as possible. This activity is intended to provide a place where fathers and other male relatives of children can bring their children along for a Saturday morning of fun, games, and entertainment. They are provided with a cooked breakfast and there are hot and cold drinks on tap throughout the morning. It provides an opportunity for strengthening the bond between fathers and their children. For single parent fathers it is also a family friendly place for them to take their children and to be able to spend time together. It also has the benefit of providing mums left at home with a bit of respite from the continuous demands of a young family.

3.8 Church Membership: There were 41 members on 31 December 2021, a small increase on the previous year.

4.0 Church Activities

The MBC Café, held twice a month on a Friday, is an extremely popular venue for retired members of the community and for the local Walking Group. The Walking Group sets out from the Church on Friday mornings and returns to MBC Café for refreshment. All these activities provide an opportunity to form contacts with local people and hopefully to be able to link them more closely into our Church Family. Throughout the summer months this Café activity moved out into the Church *“Garden of Hope”*.

Several activities that were in operation in early 2020 but had to cease with the introduction of the Covid 19 Restrictions and were not resumed during 2021. These were, The Church Men’s Fellowship, The Jack and Jill’s Toddler Group, the WOW Children’s Club, Baptist Ladies Fellowship and the Who Let The Dads Out

4.1 Mission and Evangelism Donations: The Church has continued to provide financial support to a broad range of Christian mission activities around the world, notably organisations working with children and promoting the Christian gospel; this included the Baptist Missionary Society - World Mission. The details of the

Church's Mission Giving are in the Financial Report Note 4 on page 10. In general, these are organisations that the Church has a close relationship with. In some cases, the Charities representatives have been to speak at the Church services during the year. In many cases our church members have close personal links and involvement with running these Mission activities.

5.0 Ecumenical relationships

The opportunities for inter-denominational activities have been virtually impossible during the periods of restricted social interaction during the Covid pandemic. Also, the Methodist Church in the village has closed permanently during 2021 and the Church of England Church was without a Vicar for part of the year.

6.0 Ministerial Search

In the second half of the year the Leadership Team spent a significant amount of time preparing a **Church Profile**. This document describes what Markyate Baptist Church is about, what we are hoping to achieve in the future. It also describes the sort of Minister we are looking for, to come and lead the Church in the future. This document was published on the Baptist Union of Great Britain, recruitment web site, in September 2021. This site is accessible to all Baptist Ministers who might be looking to find a new church to pastor.

As a result of publishing this profile we have received several applications who have come forward. We have conducted several interviews with these applicants. We have yet to find the right candidate that the Leadership Team can present and recommend to the Church Members.

We have also advertised the vacancy to theological colleges, but so far with only limited success.

In the Central Baptist Association region that Markyate falls under, there are a significant number of church ministerial vacancies, so we recognise that this search could take some time to find the right fit to fill our minister position.

7.0 Volunteers

The Trustees want to thank all those who have worked so hard and given so freely of their time to keep our church running and making it the lively and vibrant community that it is. Many also make valuable contributions to the Church by bringing their expertise to the benefit of the church, by ensuring financial resources are used responsibly, and that high standards of workmanship are achieved by those contracted to maintain or repair the fabric of the church. Throughout the year there were about 15 volunteers (excluding Trustees) active in various aspects of the Church's operation, lower than normal because of Covid constrictions. There were more people who were willing to resume voluntary work once lockdowns are lifted.

8.0 Structure, Governance and Management

The Church's constitution takes the form of the model Baptist Union Approved Governing Document which describes, amongst other matters, the objectives and activities of the church and the appointment of Trustees. The Church is governed and regulated by its own Members where all aspects of the work of the church are subject to the approval of the Members at meetings normally held approximately every three months. During the pandemic lockdowns only two Members meetings were possible; the AGM on 13th June when the 2020 Trustees Report and Accounts were approved, and the election of Deacons/Trustees was held. The other meeting was held on 10th October 2021.

The Leadership Team (LT) is composed of all the trustees who meet monthly to deal with church administration, pastoral concerns, to plan special events and projects within the Church, and also reaching out to the community. These LT meetings were held every month using Zoom technology. The Leadership Team are jointly responsible for preparing the agenda for Members' Meetings. These meetings were chaired by the Rev^d Phillip Coffin but are now chaired by a member of the Leadership team or the Moderator.

Following the departure of the Rev Phillip Coffin the Church Members voted on 10th October 2021 to appoint the Rev Ruth Gookey as the Moderator of the Church during the interregnum. She now attends all the Trustees Meetings. Rev Gookey is the Minister of Christ-the-King Community Church at Milton Keynes.

The Church has no trading subsidiaries.

8.1 Administrative information: Markyate Baptist Church is situated in Buckwood Road, Markyate, AL3 8JF. The details of church activities can be accessed on the Internet at www.markyatebaptist.org and on the Church's Facebook page. Other contact information is also available there. The video recording of the sermons preached at recent services of worship can be downloaded from that site.

The Church has the benefit of the services of Mrs. Tracy Cripps employed as part-time administrator.

Trustees:

Jeremy Bottrill – Elected in September 2020
Phillip Coffin (Minister) resigned Sept 2021
Jacquie Hewitson,
Ruth Kieran
Steve McCurdy
James Salmon, Treasurer
Rosemary Salmon,
Christopher Trew. Resigned February 2021

None of the Trustees resigned to take employment with the charity.

8.2 Health & Safety: The Church pays has a Health and Safety Policy that is aimed at ensuring all our activities are carried out in a safe environment. The Health and Safety Policy and the policies for Safeguarding Children and vulnerable adults are reviewed annually. Trustees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS check.

8.3 Risk Management: The Church conducts a risk assessment for the new activities that it undertakes. This has been quite challenging during 2021 to ensure that the Church followed safe health and Hygiene practices in the light of the Pandemic and the frequently changing Government Regulations. We have been helped in this by Guidance Notes sent out by the Baptist Union.

9.0 Financial Review

9.1 Income Receipts: In 2021, Receipts totalled £73,326, which is up by 7.3% on the 2020 level of £68,337. Within that total, Donations and Receipts, mostly made by bank standing order and the associated HMRC Gift Aid recovery, taken together were slightly down on the prior year, they totalled £53,858, which was down by £3,810, or 7%, on the prior year.

The overall increase in Receipts was largely the result of rental income of £8,159 from letting the Manse on a 6-month tenancy agreement. The Manse became vacant during the year at the end of September, after the departure of Rev Coffin. This six-month letting figure of £8,159 and covered the period from November 2021 until the beginning of May 2022. Also, lettings of our Church Hall resumed and showed a slight increase on the previous year (*See Note 1*).

A charitable grant of £1,500 was received from Tesco for community outreach work. This helped us to run a Holiday-at-Home party event in December. This grant was held in a Designated fund for Community Out-reach.

Although our invested funds remained at the same level as the prior years, the resulting interest, at £1,036, continued to show a decline as a result of continued interest rate reductions. It was down 35% on the 2020 level and only 41% of the level in 2019.

Other Receipts at £8,093 were slightly down by 5% on the prior year of £8,521 (*See Note 2*). This came from a variety of small donations. It included income from MBC Café that we were able to continue, sometimes this was in the Church Garden during partial lockdowns. During the summer, the Church organised a community fund raising event, called the Jumble Trail, There were stalls set-up all-round the village and in our Church Garden. This raised money for other charitable organisations in the village and MBC received £ 431 from catering sales during this event. Also, some regular non-gift aid donations continued to be made to our Building Fund. There was a small income from some of the Church Group activities in the second half of the year with the resumption of the Jack& Jill's Toddlers Group. There were also some funerals which generated some fee income and one-off donations.

The Church does not employ any professional fund raiser and does not have any partnership with any commercial participator.

9.2 Total Payments: In 2021 these were £71,007, a small increase of £2,435 on the Total Payments of £68,572 made in 2019.

The Ministry Costs of £27,318 is detailed in Note 3. It is down from the £31,198 Expenditure in 2020. The saving was the result of only having a Minister for 9 months of the year and the consequent saving on salary, pension, and social charges. Some of these savings were offset by increased expenditure on visiting speakers to preach on a Sunday. These costs are detailed in Note 3.

Mission Payments are detailed in Note 4. These totalled £7,340 and were slightly up on the £6,668 donated in 2020. These 2021 Mission Payments are 10% of our annual Receipts, in line with our Mission giving policy. All the Mission Charities are paid within the U.K., but in several cases these Charities give money overseas.

The Manse costs for 2021 at £5,851 are an increase of £1,767 on the costs of the previous year. (*See Note 5*). The running costs of the Manse were entirely born by the Church for the first 10 months of the year, these included utility costs, council tax, insurance and the maintenance cost. In the last two months of the year these costs were born by the tenant. After the Manse was vacated by the Minister, there were some repairs and redecoration costs, this included the installation of a new cooker, prior to the letting the house.

Church costs at £30,057 were up from the prior year by £3,721 (*See Note 6*). The main cost increase was the result of expenditure of £11,927 on a new Wessex Step Lift for disabled access into the Church. This replaced a 9-year-old Pollock Step lift; that unit had become very unreliable and uneconomic to maintain. The purchase of the new lift was approved by the Members on 10th October and installed in mid-December. There was a small increase in catering costs as activities reopened when lockdown was lifted. All the other Church Cost items showed some small savings. HSBC has now started to make bank transaction charges from November 2021 on cash deposits and for cheque clearing. These costs were small in this year but could become more significant in the future.

Other Church Costs (*See Note 7*). These were related to community out-reach activities. The costs were slightly up on last year, at £440, although activity was still curtailed by the pandemic.

9.3 Surplus of Receipts over Payments; There was a small Surplus of Receipts over Payments of £2,319 at the end of the year. This was due to the 6 months Manse Rental paid up-front in November, which gives a slightly over-optimistic view of the results for the year as a whole. This rental income helped to offset the substantial cost of the new Wessex step-lift which was a rather exceptional cost in the year.

9.4 Use of Restricted Funds in 2021: This shows the movement through Receipts and Expenditure of these Restricted Fund categories that are shown in the Table on page 10.

The Church achieves most of its purposes through the activities described in [sections 3 and 4](#) above. The Church has no other external source of income, other than the generous donations of the Members and the congregation and the Gift Aid recovery associated with those donations, the hiring out of the Church premises, interest on deposited funds and some occasional charitable grants. The Church receives no money from Central Government or local authorities, other than the HMRC Gift Aid recovery on donations.

9.5 Reserves policy: The Church tries to maintain a minimum level of reserve in the Unrestricted Fund that is the equivalent to approximately 3 months' general running costs and six months staff cost; this is currently estimated at £40,000. This reserve calculation is based on the assumption that we have a full time Minister employed for a full year.

All Unrestricted General funds of £89,364 at the 2021 year-end, are now regarded as reserves. The overall financial health of the Church remains strong and adequate controls are in place to give early warning of any changes, for better or worse.

9.6 Accounting Policies: The accounts are prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice" (SORP 2005) issued by the Charity Commission. Our accounting systems are operated on the "Financial Co-ordinator" accounting software package. The financial controls were established when the Financial Co-ordinator system was implemented in 2018 and have remained in place during 2021.

a) Donations and Grants: These are accounted for when received.

b) Unrestricted funds: represent income which has no specific instructions from the donor about how it can be used and is therefore used by the trustees for any of the church's ordinary purposes. These were £89,364 at year-end 2022.

c) Designated funds: represent sums set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes but which can be transferred in whole or in part back into General funds at any time. At the 2021 year end the Designated Funds were £1,345.

d) Restricted funds: represent donations received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given.

- **The Church Building Fund** is our main Restricted Fund intended for improvements and extensions to the church building. This fund grew modestly during 2021 by £1,835 to £97,723.
- **Minibus Reserve:** We continue to hold a restricted fund of £9,570 for the future purchase of a minibus to support youth and work with the elderly. This is the result of the insurance payment for the vehicle the Church previously owned that was stolen in 2017. At the present time we have not yet replaced it because we are managing without it. Also cannot justify the on-going running costs of a replacement vehicle and it would have largely stood idle during the last two years of the pandemic.

f) Endowment funds: These are funds whose capital must be maintained. Only income from the investment is used as restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established. The church currently has no such funds.

g) Fixed assets: The Church premises and contents are included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the insurance valuations because no more reliable cost information was available. In the opinion of the Trustees a valuation would incur costs out of proportion to the benefit gained by a user of the accounts.

The Manse, 50 Buckwood Road, Markyate, is included at its current market value.

Our Total Assets are shown as £2,119,676, an increase of £23,017, mainly as a result in the increased market value of the Manse.

h) Governance costs: No legal fees were incurred in 2021.

9.7 Pensions: Our Minister, the Rev^d Phillip Coffin was a participant in the Baptist Union Pension Scheme (BUPS -Segregated section). This is a money purchase pension scheme to which both he and the Church contributed.

As detailed in the Trustees Report and Accounts for 2018 and 2019, the small historic Pension deficit of £1,368 to the Baptist Union Pension scheme was settled in early January 2019. No further payment was required in 2020 or 2021. However, as a condition of making this settlement the Rev^d Phillip Coffin, was required to agree that his pension would move into the Segregated sections of the scheme, with some potential loss of critical illness cover. It was agreed that to compensate and protect the Ministers interests, the Church entered a *“Decreasing Life Insurance with Critical Illness Cover”* for Rev^d Coffin for a period of 5 years with the Legal & General Insurance Company. The initial Life Insurance value of this Policy was £78,000 and the Critical Illness Cover was also £78,000. The Monthly premium for this policy is £94.71. On 31st December 2020 there remained a further 26 months of this policy to run, giving rise to a contingent liability of £2,462. On the departure of the Rev^d Coffin, it was agreed that the Church would continue to pay this insurance premium until he reached his state-pension retirement date in July 2023.

10.0 Staff and Trustees: Following the departure of the full time Minister, the church only employed a part-time administrator at the year-end. The administrator is not obliged, and has chosen not, to join a pension scheme. No person earned more than £60,000 during 2020. No trustee received remuneration during the year, other than reimbursements incurred solely for minor purchases of provisions and materials for church use. As required by the Charity Commission the total value of the employee benefits of the highest paid employee was £34,800.

This report was approved and signed for and on behalf of the Leadership Team of Trustees:



Jacqui Hewitson
Trustee

16th April 2022

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH					
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021					
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
	2021				
Receipts	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	2020
	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Total
Voluntary Donations & Receipts	41,946	—	635	42,581	46,299
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	11,277	—	—	11,277	11,369
Grants	—	1,500	—	1,500	—
Lettings - See Note 1	8,839	—	—	8,839	535
Interest on deposit accounts	1,036	—	—	1,036	1,612
Other Receipts - See Note 2	6,553	274	1,265	8,093	8,521
Total Receipts	£ 69,651	£ 1,774	£ 1,900	£ 73,326	£ 68,337
Payments					
Ministry Cost	27,318	—	—	27,318	31,198
Mission Cost	7,340	—	—	7,340	6,668
Manse Cost	5,852	—	—	5,852	4,085
Church Cost	30,057	—	—	30,057	26,336
Other Church Cost	20	420	—	440	284
Total Payments	£ 70,587	£ 420	—	£ 71,007	£ 68,572
Surplus Receipts over Payments				£ 2,319	-£ 235
				£	
Cash Funds 31st December 2020				£ 197,128	
Cash Funds 31st December 2021				£ 199,447	
				-£ 2,319	
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES					
Cash funds				£	£
- Current Accounts				17,772	15,641
- Deposit funds				181,675	181,487
Total Funds				£ 199,447	£ 197,128
		Surplus		£2,319	
ASSETS Retained for the Church's own use (Insurance Valuations)					
- MARKYATE Baptist Church Building, 13, Buckwood Road.				1,644,292	1,644,292
- Freehold Property, Manse, 50 Buckwood Road				395,000	375,000
- Church fittings, furnishings and equipment (excluding pipe organ)				80,384	77,367
		Total Assets		£ 2,119,676	£ 2,096,659
Contingent Liability					
Decreasing Life Insurance with Critical illness Cover - ongoing premiums				£ 1,799	£ 2,462
Note:					
Decreasing Life Assurance was taken out for the Minister to compensate for who's pension benefit was slightly impaired by the settlement made with the Baptist Union Pension Fund. This settlement was made to eliminate the <i>Employer-deficit-liability</i> incurred on the pension of a previous minister.					

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES					
	Full Year 2021				2020
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Note 1 Lettings Receipts	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £
Church Lettings	680	—	—	680	535
Manse Lettings	8,159	—	—	8,159	—
Total Net Lettings	8,839	—	—	8,839	535
Note 2 Other Receipts					
Other Donations	5,877	—	1,200	7,077	7,154
Fund Raising	431	—	—	431	—
Youth Work	—	82	65	147	180
Holiday at Home	—	162	—	162	—
Outreach Receipts	245	30	-	275	1,188
Total Other Receipts	6,553	274	1,265	8,093	8,521
Note 3 Ministry Costs					
Ministry Salaries	13,490	—	—	13,490	17,587
Ministry pension	4,429	—	—	4,429	5,808
Ministry HMRC	4,475	—	—	4,475	4,272
Ministry Life Insurance	1,137	—	—	1,137	1,137
Ministry expenses	572	—	—	572	—
Ministry resources	1,771	—	—	1,771	1,080
Ministry youth work	—	—	—	—	304
Ministry pastoral care	—	—	—	—	1,011
Ministry visiting speakers	1,400	—	—	1,400	—
Total Ministry Cost	27,318	—	—	27,318	31,198
Note 4 Mission Payments					
BU Home mission	2,400	—	—	2,400	2,000
Stand by me	500	—	—	500	200
Nansambo School Trust	500	—	—	500	500
Tear fund Yemen	200	—	—	200	305
Myosotis Trust	500	—	—	500	500
The 267project	200	—	—	200	200
BMS World Mission	500	—	—	500	500
STEP-St Albans Educ. Proj	1,440	—	—	1,440	1,440
Mission EMMS	300	—	—	300	—
Hyatt Life Centre Lebanon	—	—	—	—	500
Hospice of St Francis	250	—	—	250	323
Way to the Nations	200	—	—	200	200
Markyate Care Group	100	—	—	100	—
Salvation Army	250	—	—	250	—
Total Mission Cost	7,340	—	—	7,340	6,668
Note 5 Manse Cost					
Manse repairs	1,654.34	—	—	1,654.34	—
Manse utilities	1,964.20	—	—	1,964.20	1,723.95
Manse other	1,727.52	—	—	1,727.52	1,884.94
Manse Insurance	505.77	—	—	505.77	476.35
Total Manse Cost	5,851.83	—	—	5851.83	4,085.24

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Continued)					
	Full Year 2021				2020
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Note 6 Church Cost	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £
Church maintenance	1,093	—	—	1,093	4,104
Church utilities	651	—	—	651	751
Church gas	526	—	—	526	716
Church electricity	1,232	—	—	1,232	2,246
Church equipment	12,433	—	—	12,433	4,615
Church cleaning	1,412	—	—	1,412	1,675
Church insurance	1,657	—	—	1,657	1,549
Church admin	9,805	—	—	9,805	9,866
Church catering	845	—	—	845	386
Church other	184	—	—	184	49
Church subscriptions	207	—	—	207	379
Church bank charges	12	—	—	12	—
Total Church Cost	30,057	—	—	30,057	26,336
Note 7 Other Church Costs					
Holiday at Home Event	—	420	—	420	—
Men's Fellowship	—	—	—	—	50
Forget Me not	—	—	—	—	10
Who Let the dads Out	—	—	—	—	135
Lettings Deposit Refund	20	—	—	20	90
Total Other Church Cost	20	420	—	440	284

USE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS IN 2021			
<u>Receipts</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
WOW Club - Youth Work		WOW Club - Youth Work	
Opening balance b/f from 2021 Restricted Fund	455	Balance in the Restricted funds c/f to 2021	455
Who Let the Dads Out		Who Let the Dads Out	
Opening balance b/f from 2021 Restricted Fund	123	Balance carried forward to 2022	123
Jack & Jill's Toddlers		Jack & Jill's Toddlers	
Opening balance b/f from 2021 Restricted Fund	65	Balance carried forward to 2022	65
Men's Fellowship		Men's Fellowship	
Opening balance b/f from 2021 Restricted Fund	10	Balance carried forward to 2022	10
Forget Me Not Centre		Forget Me Not Centre	
Opening balance b/f from 2021 Restricted Fund	716	Balance carried forward to 2022	716
Building Fund		Building Fund	
Opening balance b/f from 2020 Restricted Fund	95,888	Balance Carried forward to 2022	97,723
Receipts	1,835		
	97,723		
Minibus Reserve Fund		Minibus Reserve Fund	
Opening balance b/f from 2020 Restricted Fund	9,570	Balance brought forward to 2022	9,570
Youth Activities		Youth Activities	
Opening balance b/f from 2020 Restricted Fund	454	Balance brought forward to 2022	519

USE OF DESIGNATED FUNDS IN 2021			
ASSIGNMENT OF FUNDS			
	2021		2020
	£		£
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			
General Fund	89,364		90,300
<u>Designated Funds</u>			
Community Outreach Fund	1,242		—
Youth Ministry	112		—
	1,354		
<u>Restricted Fund</u>			
Building Fund	97,723		95,888
Youth WOW Club	519		455
Men's Fellowship	10		10
Forget Me Not Centre	716		716
Who Let the Dads Out	123		123
Jack & Jill Toddler	65		65
Minibus Reserve	9,570		9,570
Total Funds	£ 199,447		£ 197,127
Surplus		£ 2,320	
STATEMENT OF CASH AND INVESTMENT ASSETS			
As at 31st December 2021			
	2021		2020
	£		£
<u>Current Assets - Cash in Hand</u>			
HSBC Current Account	17,772		15,640
<u>Current Assets - Investments</u>			
Baptist Union Corporation	20,820		20,724
Cambridge Counties Bank	85,027		85,027
CCLA/COIF - Charities Deposit Fund	29,754		29,754
Stewardship Fund	46,075		45,983
Total Funds	£ 199,447		£ 197,127

The Financial Statements on Pages 8, 9, 10 & 11 were approved by the Trustee and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer.



Date: 16th April 2022

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: **Markyate Baptist Church**

On accounts for the year ended: **December 31st, 2021.**

Charity Number: **1145170**

Financial statements as set out on pages 9 to 12 of the report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As a retired Fellow of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants I consider myself suitably qualified to carry out the independent examination. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- Proper accounting records are kept;
- and
- Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

Or

- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Date: 20 April 2022

Peter Wastall, F.C.I.S., A.C.I.B
Oak House,
Oak Way,
Studham, LU6 2PE

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1145170

Accounts



Trustees Annual Report & Accounts 2020

Minister: Rev^d Phillip Coffin

Registered Charity Number: 1145170

1.0 Our Vision Statement:

*"Growing together by loving God, loving others and serving our community".
- Church without walls*

2.0 Our Aims: Our Vision Statement describes how a healthy church should function. Our aim in 2020 has been to continue the transition towards greater spiritual health.

In the face of the Covid 19 Restrictions we have worked hard during the year to live up to our Vision Statement, keeping the Church alive using all possible means to stay in touch with our members and congregation and looking out for their welfare. We have maintained regular Sunday Communal Worship throughout the whole year and on-line prayer meetings and Life Groups. We have also tried to offer hope and encouragement to the community with the "Garden of Hope" and the "Light in the Darkness" initiatives described in section 3.0 below.

We have continued to donate to Christian charities carrying out missionary and outreach work across the world and foster links with these organisations.

We have maintained our Church building and facilities to a high standard to make Markyate Baptist Church building a welcoming place and share these with our village when possible.

3.0 Achievements and Performance

Like all Churches our activities in 2020 have been completely overshadowed by the Covid -19 Pandemic and the consequent lockdowns. During January and February things operated normally but then under Government Emergency Legislation in March the Church had to close our building. Our congregation quickly adapted to using modern technology with YouTube and Zoom communications to maintain worship, communal prayer and life groups. (See 3.1 and 3.2 below)

Our Church premises are blessed with a large garden area at the front of the Church. In the past this has been an under-utilised resource. However, during the periods of Covid constraints when some level of social distanced interaction was allowed outdoors, we put this garden to full use as described below.

In May, as the first lockdown was beginning to be eased, we decided to name our Church garden **"The Garden of HOPE"**. We asked people to donate any unused garden furniture and chairs to this garden. A large tarpaulin awning, stretched between trees, provided shelter and shade. People from the village were invited to come and use the garden at any time, to meet their friends outdoors and use it as an area where their children could play but maintaining their social distancing. When the restrictions began to be lifted the garden gave a facility the Church could use for services with the help of a public address system. The weather on Sunday mornings throughout the summer was amazingly kind. These services proved to be popular and well attended. We were able to continue the use of our garden until mid-October.

In the run-up to Advent we decided to try to provide a new attraction in the garden. Under a new banner **"Light in the Darkness"** we put lights in the trees, created a nativity story path with text and large painted pictures. A half size Stable and Nativity scene was built. A lot of children came through our garden and to see this display. The intention was to hold an outdoor Christmas Carol Service in the Garden but then Lockdown struck again and social distancing for this service could not be maintained. However, we were able to have a Father Christmas visit experience and keep the social distance regulations in place. 130 children came from the village and received small gifts.

3.1 Worship and Preaching: Church services are open to everyone. Normal Sunday morning public worship begins at 10.30 am with a Sunday class for children aged 4-11 that in normal times runs alongside the main worship.

Our Minister Rev^d Coffin organises Sunday services and carries out the majority of sermon preaching. During lockdown under the leadership of Rev^d Coffin our service quickly adapted to “streamed services”, recorded in advance on YouTube. Various members of the congregation participated in these recording sessions and the Services were broadcast from 10.30 am on a Sunday morning. We achieved high viewing figures in the early months, reaching many more people than would have attended a normal Sunday Service.

The monthly informal service called **iChurch** ran for most of the year. Normally preceded by serving breakfast, it offers an interactive and fun style of worship for all ages, from children and youth through to adults and has been an extremely popular service. It did continue with recorded streamed services through the first lockdown. However, it was hard to maintain the interactivity with the on-line service and so this form of service was suspended when we came to the second lockdown, During the summer and between the lockdowns it continued in the garden.

3.2 Prayer:

In 2019 we had determined that, as a Church, we would become a more prayerful body of worshipers. We have remained steadfast to this commitment throughout 2020.

Through the year we participated in the “Monthly Prayer 2020 initiative”. Church members stopped whatever they were doing on the 20th day of the month and prayed at 20.20 pm in the evening for 20 minutes.

A regular interactive Zoom prayer meeting has run for one hour every Saturday morning This on-line communal prayer is well supported.

When Churches were able to reopen for private prayer, a spiral “Prayer Labyrinth” was organised in the Church that was available for anyone to visit over a few days. Discrete themed prayer stations were organised along this route to maintain social distancing.

Many of the Church members participate in a collective prayer-chain initiative. This is coordinated by a prayer chain leader. He puts out mobile phone text message request for prayers from people who are struggling with the challenges of life, health problems, aging, or family issues. The MBC prayer chain is widely known by Christians from other church congregations around the UK. They also submit requests for prayer. This MBC prayer-chain is known for providing a faithful and committed prayer response on behalf of those that are requesting prayer support for the difficult issues in their life. A Church Family WhatsApp group has also proved a powerful way of connecting with one another and another way of sharing prayer needs.

3.3 Life Groups: Four Life Groups were running in people’s homes at the start of the year. The groups meet regularly to study, pray, and develop a sense of fellowship, caring and mutual support for one-another. During lockdowns, when visits to home have been prohibited, two of the groups have met on-line using Zoom technology.

A Youth Life Group has also been running intermittently throughout the year as circumstances allowed. This group helps young people know more about Jesus and consider the Christian life in the modern world.

3.4 Pastoral Care: Church Members in Life Groups are cared for and supported through those Groups. Alternatively, they are assigned to a dedicated pastoral care worker assigned to watch over them. A pastoral care volunteer from the Church is also working with Age Concern, visits the elderly in the community who are in need. During periods of lockdown, we have tried to maintain contact with members of the church and congregation by regular telephone calls.

3.5 Youth Work: This work has been severely curtailed by the Covid 19 restrictions but prior to Lockdown the following activities were taking place.

The Youth Work has been led by two of our members with assistance from a local Christian youth group called *"The 2:67 Project"*. Normally Youth work activity takes place in a variety of the 2:67 Saturday evening events such as Pizza Nights, Film Nights, and visits to Ten Pin Bowling. These Saturday events have been followed by attendance on Sunday evening at a youth worship service called *"Fuel"*, held at Churches in the St Albans area including at Markyate Baptist Church.

In 2019 a new children's club event started, running one evening a week during term time. This is called the *"WOW Club"*. It is for children in the age range of 6 to 11 years. It runs for 1½ hours and provides them the opportunity to play games together, watch films and become used to being in a Church environment. They are brought to the club by their parents. We try to build a relationship with those parents at arrival and collection times.

Another once-a-month group on a Saturday morning was started in 2019 called *"Who Let The Dads Out"* (WLTD) and continued through the early part of 2020. This is intended for fathers and other male relatives of children to bring their children along for a Saturday morning of fun and games, and entertainment. They are provided with a cooked breakfast and there are hot and cold drinks on tap throughout the morning. It provides an opportunity for strengthening the bond between fathers and their children. For single parent fathers it is also a family friendly place for them to take their children and to be able to spend time together. It also has the benefit of providing mums left at home with a bit of respite from the continuous demands of a young family.

3.6 Membership: There were 41 members on 31 December 2020, a small increase on the previous year.

4.0 Church Activities

The MBC Café, held twice a month on a Friday, is an extremely popular venue for retired members of the community and for the local Walking Group. The Walking Group sets out from the Church every Friday morning and returns to MBC Café for refreshment. All these activities provide an opportunity to form contacts with local people and hopefully to be able to bring them more closely into our Church Family. Throughout the summer months this Café activity moved out into the Church Garden of Hope.

In January and February One-Pot Lunch meetings were held after the Sunday Service for the congregation. Other local people were also invited to join us for lunch.

The following activities were in operation at the start of the year but had to cease with the introduction of the Covid 19 Restrictions. A) The Church Men's Group that has normally gathered for breakfast once a month for fellowship, prayer, spiritual support and to discuss Church initiatives and events. B) Art Class, C) Keep Fit meeting, D) The Jack and Jill's Toddler Group, E) Baptist Ladies Fellowship (BLF), F) Film-nights for Church Members, Friends and the community.

4.1 Mission and Evangelism Donations: The Church has continued to provide financial support to a broad range of Christian mission activities around the world, notably organisations working with children; this included the BMS World Mission. The details of the Church's Mission giving are in the Financial Report Note 3 on page 9. In general, these are organisations that the Church has a close relationship with. In some cases, the Charities representatives have been to speak at the Church services during the year.

5.0 Ecumenical relationships

The opportunities for inter denominational activities have been virtually impossible during the periods of restricted social interaction during the Covid pandemic.

6.0 Volunteers

The trustees want to thank all those who have worked so hard and given so freely of their time to keep our church running and making it the lively and vibrant community that it is. Many also make valuable contributions by bringing their expertise to the benefit of the church by ensuring financial resources are used

responsibly and that high standards of workmanship are achieved by those contracted to maintain or repair the fabric of the church or to supply goods or services. Throughout the year there were about 15 volunteers (excluding Trustees) active in various aspects of the Church's operation. There were more people who would be willing to resume voluntary work once lockdowns are lifted.

7.0 Structure, Governance and Management

The Church's constitution takes the form of the model Baptist Union Approved Governing Document which describes, amongst other matters, the objectives and activities of the church and the appointment of trustees. The Church is governed and regulated by its own Members where all aspects of the work of the church are subject to the approval of the Members at meetings held approximately every three months. The Leadership Team is composed of all the trustees who meet monthly to deal with church administration, pastoral concerns and to plan special events and projects within the Church and reaching out to the community. The Leadership Team are jointly responsible for preparing the agenda for Members' Meetings. These meetings are chaired by the Rev^d Phillip Coffin.

Because of Covid 19 Restrictions, we have only held one Members Meeting in September 2020 which was the Annual General Meeting delayed from April. The 2019 Report and Accounts were approved at that meeting and an Election of Trustees was held.

The Church has no trading subsidiaries.

7.1 Administrative information: Markyate Baptist Church is situated in Buckwood Road, Markyate, AL3 8JF. The details of church activities can be accessed on the Internet at www.markyatebaptist.org and on the Church's Facebook page. and other contact information is also available there. The video recording of the sermons preached at recent services of worship can be downloaded from that site. The Church has the benefit of the services of Mrs. Tracy Cripps employed as part-time administrator.

Trustees:

Jeremy Bottrill – Elected in September 2020
Phillip Coffin (Minister)
Jacquie Hewitson,
Ruth Kieran
Steve McCurdy
James Salmon, Treasurer
Rosemary Salmon,
Christopher Trew.

None of the Trustees resigned to take employment with the charity.

7.2 Health & Safety: The Church pays attention to and has policies aimed at ensuring all our activities are carried out in a safe environment. The Health and Safety Policy and the policies for Safeguarding Children and vulnerable adults are reviewed annually. Trustees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS check.

7.3 Risk Management: The Church conducts a risk assessment for the new activities that it undertakes. This has been quite challenging during 2020 to ensure that the Church followed safe health and Hygiene practices in the light of the Pandemic and the frequently changing Government Regulations. We have been helped in this by Guidance Notes sent out by the Baptist Union.

8.0 Financial Review

8.1 Income Receipts: In 2020 Receipts totalled £68,337, which is down by -11.0% on the 2019 level of £76,915. This reduction was the consequence of dramatically reduced levels of activity in all aspects of Church life as a result of pandemic related lockdowns. Donations, and Receipts mostly made by bank standing order and the associated HMRC Gift Aid taken together were £57,668, which was down by £4,914 on the prior year.

There were no Grant donations in 2020. Letting income from our Church Hall was £535; this stopped in mid-March and was only 28% of the prior year level.

Although our invested funds remained at the same level as the prior year, the resulting interest at £1,612 was only 61% of that received in 2019. This was the result of the significant reduction in interest rates during the year.

Other Receipts at £8,521 were, surprisingly, up by 10% on the prior year (*See Note 1*). This came from a variety of small donations. It included income from MBC Café that we were able to continue in the Church Garden during the summer. Also, some regular non-gift aid donations continued to be made to our Building Fund. There was a small income from some of the Church Group activities in January and February. Our Minister conducted some funerals and this generated some fee income and one-off donations.

The Church does not employ any professional fund raiser and does not have any partnership with any commercial participator.

8.2 Total Payments: In 2020 these were £68,572, a £4,918 reduction of 7% from the Total Payments of £73,490 in 2019. This reflects the reduction in activity during the year.

The Ministry Costs of £31,198 is detailed in Note 2. It is down from the £33,801 for 2019 by 7.7%. The saving was helped by no Pension deficit payment needing to be made in 2020. There was a small inflation linked salary increase for our Minister implemented from 1st January 2020 within this cost.

Mission Payments detailed in Note 3 totalled £6,668 and were down slightly on the £8,440 donated in 2018. These Mission Payments are 9.7% of our annual Receipts, closely in line with our Mission giving policy. These are detailed on page 9. All the Mission Charities are paid within the U.K., but in several cases the Charities give money overseas.

The Manse costs for 2020 at £4,085 are virtually identical with the costs in the previous year. (*See Note 4*). The running costs of the Manse were entirely born by the Church, these included utility costs, council tax, insurance and the maintenance cost.

Church costs at £26,336 were up from the prior year by £568. (*See Note 5*) This increase was the result of an investment made in Church Equipment for video production and on-line video streaming of services and Zoom meetings. This also required increased license subscription payments for video and music licenses that were broadcast during these on-line services. There were savings on maintenance and repair costs, and savings on electricity usage and charges. However, the gas utility charge was up because of a new contract at a higher rate of charging.

Other Expenditure (*See Note 6*) was related to community out-reach activity. For 10 months of the year these activities were almost entirely stopped and there was a spend of only £194 from Restricted funds, a saving of £1,833 on the previous year.

The "Use of Restricted Funds" shows the movement through Receipts and Expenditure of these projects are shown in the Table on page 10. In February, the Baptist Ladies Fellowship (BLF) decided to close, and the BLF

members elected to give the £323 of restricted funds, held on their behalf, to the Hospice of St Francis, located in nearby Berkhamsted.

The Church achieves most of its purposes through the activities described in sections 3 and 4 above. The Church has no external source of income, other than the generous donations of the Members and the congregation and the Gift Aid recovery associated with those donations, the hiring out of the Church premises, interest on deposited funds and some occasional charitable grants. There were no grants received during this year. The Church receives no money from Central Government or local authorities, other than the HMRC Gift Aid recovery on donations.

There was a small Deficit of Payments over Receipts of £235 at the end of the year.

8.3 Reserves policy: The Church tries to maintain a minimum level of Unrestricted Fund that is the equivalent to approximately 3 months' general running costs and six months staff cost; this is currently estimated at £36,000.

All Unrestricted General funds, £90,212 at the 2020 year-end, are now regarded as reserves. The overall financial health of the Church remains strong and adequate controls are in place to give early warning of any changes, for better or worse.

8.4 Accounting Policies: The accounts are prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice" (SORP 2005) issued by the Charity Commission. Our accounting systems are operated on the "Financial Co-ordinator" accounting software package. The financial controls were established when the Financial Co-ordinator system was implemented in 2018 and have remained in place during 2020.

a) Donations and Grants: These are accounted for when received.

b) Unrestricted funds: represent income which has no specific instructions from the donor about how it can be used and is therefore used by the trustees for any of the church's ordinary purposes.

c) Designated funds: represent sums set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes but which can be transferred in whole or in part back into General funds at any time.

d) Restricted funds: represent donations received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given.

e) The Church Building Fund is our main Restricted Fund intended for improvements and extensions to the church building. This fund grew modestly during 2020 by £1,860 to £95,888.

We continue to hold a restricted fund of £9,570 for the future purchase of a minibus to support youth and work with the elderly. This is the result of the insurance payment for the vehicle the Church previously owned that was stolen in 2017. At the present time we have not yet replaced it because we are managing without it and also cannot justify the on-going running costs of a replacement vehicle.

f) Endowment funds: These are funds whose capital must be maintained, only income from the investment is used as restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established. The church currently has no such funds.

g) Fixed assets: The Church premises and contents are included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the insurance valuations because no more reliable cost information was available. In the opinion of the Trustees a valuation would incur costs out of proportion to the benefit gained by a user of the accounts. The Manse, 50 Buckwood Road, Markyate, is included at its current market value.

h) Governance costs: No legal fees were incurred in 2020.

8.4 Pensions: Our Minister, the Rev^d Phillip Coffin is a participant in the Baptist Union Pension Scheme (BUPS - Segregated section). This is a money purchase pension scheme to which both he and the Church contribute. As detailed in the Trustees Report and Accounts for 2018 and 2019, the small historic Pension deficit of £1,368 to the Baptist Union Pension scheme was settled in early January 2019. No further payment was required in 2020. However, as a condition of making this settlement the Rev^d Phillip Coffin, was required to agree that his pension would move into the Segregated sections of the scheme with some potential loss of critical illness cover. It was agreed that to compensate and protect the Ministers interests, the Church entered a "Decreasing

Life Insurance with Critical Illness Cover” for Rev^d Coffin for a period of 5 years with the Legal & General Insurance Company. The initial Life Insurance value of this Policy was £78,000 and the Critical Illness Cover was also £78,000. The Monthly premium for this policy is £94.71. On 31st December 2020 there remained a further 26 months of this policy to run, giving rise to a contingent liability of £2,462.

9.0 Staff and Trustees: In addition to the full time Minister, the church also employs a part-time administrator who is not obliged, and has chosen not, to join a pension scheme. No person earned more than £60,000 during 2020. No trustee received remuneration during the year other than reimbursements incurred solely for minor purchases of provisions and materials for church use. As required by the Charity Commission the total value of the employee benefits of the highest paid employee was £34,800.

This report was approved and signed for and on behalf of the Leadership Team of Trustees:

Rev^d Philip Coffin:
Minister

P. J. Coffin

Date:

2nd June 2021

MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH					
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020					
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
	Full year 2020				2019
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds £	Funds	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Donations & Receipts	45,639	—	660	46,299	50,343
Gift Aid Tax Recovery	11,369	—	—	11,369	12,239
Grants	—	—	—	—	2,050
Lettings	535	—	—	535	1,940
Interest on Deposit Accounts	1,612	—	—	1,612	2,492
Other Receipts	6,980	—	1,541	8,521	7,751
Total Receipts	66,136	—	2,201	68,337	76,815
PAYMENTS					
Total Ministry Cost	30,925	—	273	31,198	33,801
Mission Expenditure	6,345	—	323	6,668	7,806
Manse Cost	4,085	—	—	4,085	4,088
Lettings	90	—	—	90	—
Church Cost	26,336	—	—	26,336	25,768
Other Expenditure	-	-	194	194	2,027
Total Payments	67,782	—	791	68,572	73,490
Surplus/ Deficit - Receipts versus Deficit			Deficit	-£ 235	£ 3,325
Cash Funds 31st December 2019				£ 197,128	
Cash Funds 31st December 2020				£ 197,363	
			Deficit	£ 235	
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES					
Cash Funds				£	£
- Current Accounts				15,641	16,121
- Deposit Accounts				181,487	181,242
Total Funds				197,128	197,363
			Deficit	- £235	
ASSETS retained for the Church's own use. (Insurance Valuations)					
- Markyate Baptist Church Building				1,644,292	1,644,292
- Freehold Property, Manse, 50 Buckwood Road, Markyate				375,000	375,000
- Church Fittings and equipment, excluding pipe organ				77,367	69,112
				£ 2,096,659	£ 2,088,404
Contingent Liability					
Decreasing Life Insurance & Critical illness cover for the Minister (i)				£ 2,462	£ 4,735
Note:					
i) Decreasing Life Insurance with Critical illness cover for a five years term was taken out in February 2019.					

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES					
	Full year 2020				2019
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note 1 Other Receipts					
Other donations Non GA	5,954	—	1,200	7,249	6,061
Holiday at Home	—	—	—	—	259
Youth work	—	—	180	85	740
Other	1,026	—	—	1,026	90
Men's fellowship	—	—	—	—	240
Ladies fellowship	—	—	67	67	300
WLTDO	—	—	94	94	61
Total Other Receipts	6,980	—	1,541	8,521	7,751
Note 2 Ministry Cost					
Ministry Salaries	17,587	—	—	17,587	17,108
Ministry pension	5,808	—	—	5,808	5,750
Ministry Pension Deficit Payment	—	—	—	—	1,368
Ministry HMRC	4,272	—	—	4,272	4,053
Ministry Life Insurance	1,137	—	—	1,137	947
Ministry resources	1,080	—	—	1,080	818
Ministry youth work	31	—	273	304	1,131
Ministry pastoral care	1,011	—	—	1,011	2,368
Ministry visiting speakers	—	—	—	—	257
Total Ministry Cost	30,925	—	273	31,198	33,801
Note 3 Mission Payments					
Mission BU Home mission	2,000	—	—	2,000	2,000
Mission Stand by me	200	—	—	200	500
Mission Nansambo	500	—	—	500	500
Mission Tear fund Yemen	305	—	—	305	500
Mission Myosotis Trust	500	—	—	500	500
Mission the267project	200	—	—	200	200
Mission BMS World Mission	500	—	—	500	876
Mission Step	1,440	—	—	1,440	1,440
Mission EMMS	—	—	—	—	500
Mission St Francis Hospice	—	—	323	323	200
Mission Hayat Life Centre Beirut	500	—	—	500	—
Mission Way to the Nations	200	—	—	200	—
Mission Other	—	—	—	—	590
Total Mission Expenditure	6,345	—	323	6,668	7,806
Notes 4 Manse Cost					
Manse Repairs	—	—	—	—	204
Manse utilities	1,724	—	—	1,724	1,809
Manse other	1,885	—	—	1,885	1,614
Manse Insurance	476	—	—	476	461
Total Manse Cost	4,085	—	—	4,085	4,088
Notes 5 Church Cost					
Church maintenance	4,104	—	—	4,104	5,434
Church utilities	751	—	—	751	560
5021 - Church gas	716	—	—	716	431
Church electric	2,246	—	—	2,246	3,399
Church equipment	4,615	—	—	4,615	972
Church cleaning	1,675	—	—	1,675	1,975
Church insurance	1,549	—	—	1,549	1,544
Church admin	9,866	—	—	9,866	9,925
Church catering	386	—	—	386	774
Church other	49	—	—	49	563
Church subscriptions	379	—	—	379	191
Total Church Cost	26,336	—	—	26,336	25,768

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Continued)					
	Full year 2020				2019
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note 6 Other Expenditure					
Ministry Holiday at Home	—	—	—	—	476
Ministry Men's fellowship	—	—	50	50	180
Ministry Ladies fellowship	—	—	—	—	150
Ministry FMNC	—	—	10	10	424
Ministry WLTD0	—	—	135	135	797
Total Other Church Cost	—	—	194	194	2,027

USE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS IN 2020			
<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
WOW Club - Youth Work			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	548	WOW Expenses	273
Subscription receipts	180	Balance in restricted funds c/f to 2021	455
	728	Total	728
Baptist Ladies Fellowship			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	255	Donation to St Francis Hospice	323
Subscriptions	67	Total	0
Total	323		
Who Let The Dads Out			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	164	Expense	135
Subscriptions	94	Balance c/f to 2021	124
	258	Total	258
Jack & Jill's Toddlers			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	65	Balance c/f to 2021	65
Men's Fellowship			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	60	Expenses	50
		Balance c/f to 2021	10
		Total	60
Forget Me Not Centre			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	726	Expense	10
		Balance c/f to 2021	716
		Total	726
Building Fund			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	94,028		
Receipts	1,860	Balance c/f to 2020	95,888
	95,888		
Minibus Reserve Fund			
Opening Balance b/f from 2019 Restricted Fund	9,570	Balance Brought Forward to 2020	9,570

USE OF DESIGNATED FUND FUNDS IN 2020			
ASSIGNMENT OF FUNDS			
	2020		2019
	£		£
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			
General Fund	90,300		91,976.00
<u>Restricted Funds</u>			
Restricted - Building Fund	95,888		94,028
Restricted - Your/WOW Club	455		548
Restricted - Baptist Ladies Fellowship	-		225
Restricted - Mens Fellowship	10		60
Restricted - Forget Me Not Centre	716		726
Restricted - Who Let The Dads Out	124		164
Restricted - Jack & Jill Toddlers	65		65
Restricted Minibus Reserve	9,570		9,570
Total Cash Assets	197,128		£ 197,363
Deficit		£322	
Statement of Cash and Investment Assets			
As at 31st December 2020			
	2020		2019
	£		£
<u>Current Assets -Cash in hand</u>			
HSBC: Current Account	15,641		16,121
<u>Current Asset - Investments</u>			
Baptist Union Corporation	20,724		20,604
Cambridge Counties Bank	85,027		85,080
CCLA/ COIF - Charities Deposit Fund	29,754		29,754
Stewardship Fund	45,983		45,804
Net Total Assets	197,128		197,363
Deficit		£235	

The Financial Statements on Pages 8, 9, 10 & 11 were approved by the Trustee and signed on their behalf by the Treasurer.



Date: 26TH May 2021

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of: **Markyate Baptist Church**

On accounts for the year ended: **December 31st, 2020.**

Charity Number: **1145170**

Financial statements as set out on pages 8 to 11 of the report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As a retired Fellow of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants I consider myself suitably qualified to carry out the independent examination. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

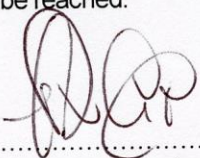
Basis of independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the 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 financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
- Proper accounting records are kept;
 - and
 - Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;
- Or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Date: 2nd June 2021

Peter Wastall, F.C.I.S., A.C.I.B
Oak House,
Oak Way,
Studham, LU6 2PE