

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