

Stockton Baptist Church
Registered Charity No: 11487883

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their report and unaudited financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing documents, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Trustees of the Charity

The directors of the charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. Details of the trustees who have served during the year and since the year end can be found on page 8.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Oversight which comprises of the Ministerial Team, Treasurer, Elders and Deacons leads the Church in the discovering and implementing of God's will for the Church, in order that it may fulfil its God-given objectives. It gives the spiritual and practical leadership generally and, in particular, is responsible for day-to-day administration, acting on behalf of the Church in between Church Meetings, and advising and guiding the Church in its decision making. The Oversight is accountable to the Church Meeting which has the right to revoke any of its decisions.

2. Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Trust are:

- a) The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Stockton-on-Tees and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- b) Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting further the work of the Church

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TRUSTEES REPORT

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2023 proved to be a testing year for Stockton Baptist Church. We had agreed to a budgeted deficit of £56,381 and achieved an actual deficit of £40,864 despite a large unbudgeted cost of £55k to replace the aging central heating system in October of that year, and an additional £15k (as a first payment) to refurbish the lift. Had we performed to budget, the loss for the year would have been £56k (budget) +£55k (heating) +£15k (lift) giving an overall loss of £126k.

The main kitchen dishwasher required replacing, with the cost shared with the Coffee House and Luncheon Club. Money was also spent to support the missional house on Hartington Road. During the year we reviewed the ministry on Hartington Road and decided that we would serve notice on the contract held with Green Pastures, who own the house. However, we did see a welcome uptake in use of the building for both local and overseas mission the income from which has contributed to the running costs for the house.

The reduction in deficit was achieved by the generosity of our congregations making additional donations to the building and other funds, but also by grant income of almost £17k, as well as drawing down from reserves and savings in other areas.

So, although our actual expenses were £476,445 (+£80,564 over budget) our income rose to £435,581 (£96,351 over budget).

In 2023, the church has been successful in securing additional income of £16,960 with grants, from Stockton Borough Council, Teesside Charity, William Leach Charity, Rothley Trust, Cleveland Local Resilience Forum and the Benefact trust. The income from these grants contributed to various ministries in the church and offset some of the heating replacement costs.

Almost every other income stream for the Church was also above budget, most notably Gifts and donations (+£57k), Use of building (+£4.7k)

Apart from the building costs and small increases in Ministry and Mission costs, most other cost lines were around the budget except for savings in Salaries (-£22.5K) and equipment (-£5.5k).

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making donations to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose. Gifts were also given to specific projects throughout the year.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

Ministries Review of the 2023

Children's and young families Ministry Report

The regular groups have continued to meet throughout 2023, each supported by teams of amazing volunteers. Sunday consists of 3 age-related groups (Starfish, River Riders and Deep Divers) and during the week we have Little Fish Toddlers, Boys and Girls Brigades, KS2 Rooted Club and a Kids Life Group (on zoom). We have continued to run a Toddler Service (now called Little Families) on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

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At the end of August 2023, we were pleased to have a full-time volunteer join us from an organisation called Time for God. She is supporting the Children and Young Families Ministry until the end of July 2024.

Our schools connections continued, with regular After School Clubs, Collective Worships, Fair Trade Assemblies and Governor support. We were able to support schools by listening to readers, helping with weekly deliveries for a food pantry and hosting a Summer Show for one of the schools. We are often asked to accompany school on trips and during the summer term we ran some Scripture Union based Year 6 transition sessions to encourage children moving up to Secondary School.

Our annual events have included Create and Chats, Little Fish Lite Summer Sessions, a Superhero Party and another Children's Weekend Away in Knock. Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade took children on a trip to Beamish paid for by the sales of Christmas Cakes.

We linked up with another church to run a Summer Club in the park and also joined up with our friends in the Parish Church to talk to school children about church and Christmas.

Refugee & Asylum Seekers (RAS Work)

The Monday and Friday Drop-Ins are going well and are appreciated by RAS community, giving opportunity for socialisation, activities and friendship. Red Cross, Homeless section from the Council and a charity supporting people into work also attend on Mondays to provide valuable specialist advice to individuals.

English classes continue to run at 3 levels. They are particularly helpful for those who do not qualify for formal classes at the college. Light lunch afterwards provides further opportunity for students to use their English and make friends.

The ownership of the two RAS houses has been transferred to Open Door North East (ODNE). This will ensure that housing is available for eight destitute asylum seekers and newly recognised refugees in the long term. In addition, it will facilitate additional support to the residents through the ODNE liaising with the Council.

The RAS admin post, a vital role within the work, was vacated in September as the postholder moved on to a different charity working with the RAS community. She was a great loss, and the post was open for the remainder of the year.

Alpha plus has continued to be widely used, with many coming to faith and being baptised. It has been a joy to see people grow in their faith and service, and to see some receiving permission to stay in UK. Family reunions are always a joy, particularly when they decide to stay in the area as it has become 'home'.

Reserves Policy

It is currently the policy of Stockton Baptist Church is to hold three months' worth of all budgeted expenditure to allow the church to adapt to any changes in circumstance of the church. Based on the planned contractual and other essential expenditure within this year's budget this amount is £98,970. It is proposed that we will hold sufficient free cash reserves at the year end to satisfy this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually.

The Trustees expect to continue the activities of the charity in accordance with their current objectives.

STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable Charity Law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Comply with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year amounted to £435,581 (2022: £423,468) of which £62,479 (2022: £33,435) was restricted. Expenditure of £476,445 (2022: £498,056) was incurred of which £68,855 (2022: £38,448) was for restricted purposes. At 31 December 2023, the charity had unrestricted funds of £2,457,398 (2022: £2,501,398).

The trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the organisation at 30 December 2023 and are confident that the strategies in place will lead to the organisation being able to fulfil its growth objectives.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name: Stockton Baptist Church

Charity No: 1147883

Principal Address: The Square
Stockton-On-Tees
TS18 1TE

TRUSTEES

	PASTORAL TEAM	
Trustee	Senior Minister/Chair	Craig Downes
	Associate Minister	Matty Steel
	Children's and Young Families Pastor	Lydia Gurney
	Youth Pastor	Jess Steel
	CHURCH OFFICERS	
Trustee	Church Secretary	Peter Dawson
Resigned	Church Treasurer	Carlie Ryder Resigned October 2023
	ELDERS	
Trustee	Dave Blackman	
Trustee	Cath Ingram	
Resigned	Ken Toop	Resigned May 2023
Resigned	Daisy Taylor	Resigned September 2023
Trustee	John Mark Ryder	
Trustee	Seyedemad Nejati	

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Resigned	Mohamad Jalili	Resigned December 2023
	DEACONS	
Trustee	Adrian Korynek	
Trustee	Andrew Barnett	
Trustee	Peter Gurney	
Resigned	Derek Davison	Resigned October 2023
Resigned	Khatereh Amiri	Resigned November 2023

	OTHERS	
Trustee	Mark Askew	Operations Manager
Resigned	Susan Hughes	Office Manager (Resigned November 2023)
Resigned	Claire Paxton	RAS Administrator (Resigned July 2023)
	HOLDING TRUSTEES	
Deceased	Alan Bowman	Died February 2023
	Stuart Cornwell	
	Ernie Hepplestone	
	Martin Greenwood	
	Baptist Union Corporation	

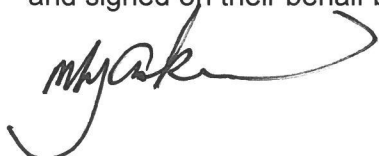
Bankers: Nat West Bank plc
123 High Street
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1AY

Independent Examiner: John Kumpalume
6 Coatham Road
Stockton on Tees
TS19 8QY

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approval

This report was approved by the directors/trustees on ... *19th June 2024* ...
and signed on their behalf by:



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

Report to the Trustees of Stockton Baptist Church on Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 13-19.

Respective responsibilities of the Charity and the Independent Examiner

As members of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of 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 these 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 accounts.

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 requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Akondaawo John Kumpalume, AFA MIPA
AJK Accounting Services Ltd
6 Coatham Road
Stockton on Tees
TS19 8QY
Date: 4th June 2023

STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

					2023	2022
Income and Endowments	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	2	273,646	62,479	9,985	346,110	338,736
Charitable Activities	2	86,967	-		86,967	84,265
Other Trading Activities	2	1,859	-		1,859	-
Investments	2	645	-	-	645	467
Total Income and Endowments		363,117	62,479	9,985	435,581	423,468
Expenditure						
Charitable Activities	2	401,771	68,855	5,819	476,445	498,056
Other	2		-		-	-
Total expenditure		401,771	68,855	5,819	476,445	498,056
Net movement in funds	-	38,654	- 6,376	4,166	- 40,864	- 74,588
Transfer between funds	-	5,415	5,415	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		2,501,398	81,928	5,054	2,588,380	2,662,967
Total funds carried forward		2,457,329	80,967	9,220	2,547,516	2,588,380

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings	3	2,405,392	2,405,392
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments		-	9,545
Cash at bank and in hand		135,507	170,319
Held in BU Trust		7,600	7,600
Petty cash		178	
		143,285	187,464
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	4	- 1,161	- 2,476
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year			- 2,000
		- 1,161	- 4,476
Net Current Assets		142,124	182,988
Net Assets		2,547,516	2,588,380
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General Funds		2,457,329	2,501,398
Restricted Funds		80,967	81,928
Designated funds		9,220	5,054
		2,547,516	2,588,380

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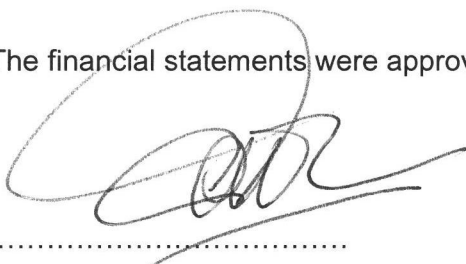
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

For the year ending 31 December 2023 the Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on



.....

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors:

Name CRAIG DOWNES (REVEREND)
Chair of Trustees

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

Stockton Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Fund accounting.

Restricted Funds comprise revenue donations or grants for a specific activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted Funds are income funds which are to be spent on the general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the will move any surplus to other general funds.

Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources.
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate.

Resources expended.

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets, over their expected useful lives. It is calculated at the following rate:

Land and Buildings Reviewed as needed for revaluation but not depreciated Church.

Organ 5% Straight Line basis

Other fixed assets are written off in the year of purchase. The trustees consider that this is prudent in view of the short life of these assets.

2. FUNDS

Restricted funds	Agreed Transfer				
	Balance B/F	Income	from Reserves	Expenditure	Balance C/F
	£	£	£	£	£
Andrew & Helen Symmonds (MAF)	2,500	916	-	3,415	1
BMS	2,175	893	-	-	3,068
Building Fund	8,727	29,430	3,134	41,291	-
CAP	1,545	480	-	-	2,025
Fellowship fund	1,443	1,223	-	18	2,648
Funeral collections	134	265		297	102
Garden Fund	156	-	-	-	156
Gifts	1,469	1,200		1,756	913
Hartington Road	-	13,032		13,032	-
Ministry & Mission Work	52,604	8,920		1,113	60,411
Overseas Mission	3,095	-	-	-	3,095
RAS	7,686	5,000		4,552	8,134
Spurgeon's Childcare	394	20	-	-	414
Youth Missions	-	1,100	2,281	3,381	-
Total Restricted funds	81,928	62,479	5,415	68,855	80,967

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Designated funds	Agreed Transfer				Balance C/F
	Balance B/F	Income	from Reserves	Expenditure	
Children's work	1,021	3,324	-	1,745	2,600
Community garden	1,913	80	-	346	1,647
Event income	309	829	-	-	1,138
Tab Toddlers	1,252	214	-	87	1,379
Youth work	558	5,538	-	3,641	2,455
Total Designated Funds	5,053	9,985	-	5,819	9,219
Total restricted funds	86,981	67,464	5,415	74,674	85,186

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS 2023

INCOME				
Income and Endowments from Donations and legancies	Unrestricted	Resticted	Designated	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gifts and Donations	244,466	57,479	9,985	311,930
Asylum seekers and refugees	8,643	5,000		13,643
Other Donations/Grants	11,789			11,789
Legacy	8,748			9,115
	273,646	62,479	9,985	346,110
 Income from Charitable Activities				
Use of Building	19,734			19,734
Thanks Giving	8,015			8,015
Tax Refunds	59,218			59,218
	86,967			86,967
 Investment Income				
Other income	2,504			2,504
	2,504			2,504
 Total Income Resources	363,117	62,479	9,985	435,581
 EXPENDITURE				
Charitable Activites				
Administration	12,996			12,996
Office costs	4,215			4,215
Building costs	71,747	41,291		113,038
Equipment	2,963			2,963
Ministries	32,876	27,564	5,819	66,259
Mission	47,525			47,525
Housing	4,648			4,648
Salaries	222,686			
Bank charges	1,439			1,439
Refreshments	203			203
Publicity and Promotion	473			
Depreciation				
Total expenditures	401,771	68,855	5,819	476,445

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FUND RAISING

Support cost type	Charitable Activity £	Other £	Total cost £
Administration	12,996	-	12,996
Office costs	4,215	-	4,215
Building costs	71,747	-	71,747
Equipment	2,963	-	2,963
Ministries	32,876	-	32,876
Mission	47,525	-	47,525
Housing	4,648	-	4,648
Refreshments	203		
Publicity and Promotions	473		
Total	177,646	-	177,646

3. FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Land and Buildings £	Total £
At 1 January 2023	2405392	2405392
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
At 31 December 2023	2405392	2405392
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	0	0
Charge for the period	0	0
At 31 December 2023	0	0
Net book Value		
At 31 December 2023	2405392	2405392

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4. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Trade creditors and accruals	1161	0	1161
	1161	0	1161

5. SALARIES AND WAGES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Gross salaries and NI	222,686	0	222,686
	222,686	0	222,686

	2023
Number of employees	10

6. BANK AND CASH IN HAND

	2023
	£
Natwest Reserve	48,144
Natwest Current	87,363
Baptist Together	7,600
Petty cash	178
	143,285