

Trustees Annual Report – 2022

Events post year end

As in the past there is often an overlap from the end of the financial year of 31st December in making this report, and with the onslaught of Covid-19 lessening throughout 2022 with no more lockdowns occurring we have been able to revert to worshipping as a fellowship in the church premises, with life seemingly returning to normal.

The economic challenges following the sharp increase in energy costs in 2022 hit us in November 2022 following the expiry of the gas fixed term contract. We have since moved supplier on a fixed 2 year contract, but the cost has dramatically increased over four-fold over what we had been used to. The electricity costs are on a fixed term contract expiring in September 2023 and are mindful that these prices will hit us hard when we have to renew.

Our worship via on-line conferencing software, continues to stream the live services to those who being unable to attend through illness or other infirmities. We continue to invite folk from other parts of the United Kingdom to join us in worship which are well received.

Our plans for 2022, following the cancellation of all bookings at short notice, we were unable to meet at Northiam Oasts, so as in 2021 we met for a reflection weekend in the Church. In 2023 we plan to replicate this arrangement, but for 2024 plan to meet at an external location to reflect on what God has in mind for His Church moving forward.

Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching

We are blessed that the teaching brought by Rev Freddy Farias Palacios has encouraged and directed the fellowship to the extent that we are exploring more in depth what God is wanting from us. In 2022, the Church was open every Sunday throughout the year as and when Government restrictions allowed to hold its Sunday morning worship service, typically but not exclusively led by the Pastor. The Elders have met together regularly with our minister to pray and plan the way forward. We have a full team of Deacons. They all work together with the Elders and Minister in leading the Church forward on a day to day basis.

We continued to be supported during our worship services by a talented group of musicians. The Music Group has blessed us week after week with their songs of praise and worship and for responding to the call to lead us in prayer and preaching when asked. The Church and Music Group could not function without the support of the small team of computer operators who control the PA system and overhead projector, who of recent months have engaged themselves in the continued presentation of Sunday services, prayer and administrative meetings by means of Zoom conferencing. Attendance at Sunday Zoom Church averages in the order of 3 logins indicating a loyal attendance in the region of 6 to 7 people. This is in addition to the regular attendance in Church of between 45-55 people every Sunday.

A number of Home Groups exist and meet throughout the week in person and via Zoom to provide attenders with a Bible Study and fellowship opportunity. There is a new Monthly Prayer meeting for corporate prayer to complement the existing opportunities at various times during the week.

We hosted the Life Exhibition in June 2022 and invited pupils from years 5 & 6 from all the local schools. This was very well received and the pupils really enjoyed the interactive experiences. It is planned that we will repeat this in 2024.

Baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle

There have been no baptisms or weddings during 2022, although we had 5 Baptisms in 2021 and have had a baptism in April 2023.

The Communion of the Lord's Supper, which continues to be observed at least once a month.

Throughout the year, Communion was held on every 1st and 3rd Sundays during public worship. Communion was also held for specific reasons such as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Mission has always remained a priority in Zion as we continue to look beyond our building at the mission opportunities presented to us. The preaching series on various themes has helped to focus the church on our mission responsibilities.

Internationally we continue to support our Baptist Missionary Society link missionaries working overseas, **and we** also support and engage with Christian charities such as Mission Aviation Fellowship and Cry in the Dark. Fundraising for this work has been and is still ongoing.

Closer to home we continue to hold an informal Friday Coffee Morning meeting in the Church This was changed at the beginning of 2023 to a Thursday morning to allow the Church to be open for prayer on Friday mornings. We have found this invaluable in identifying social needs in non-church members and has resulted in us being able to offer advice and practical help where needed. The toddler group called Rainbow Tots under the leadership of Suzanne Martin and Christine Hendry, has been instrumental in identifying ongoing hardship. There is also a regular evangelistic presence in the High Street by two members of the church. In 2022 we were not able to have **our** “Christmas Tree Festival”, but instead we had a “tree of peace” allowing folk to write and place on the tree prayers and messages of hope. **Hopefully** in 2023, we will again be able to revisit the event.

Regionally we are proactive with the South Eastern Baptist Association, the body that represents Baptist Churches throughout the South East region. More locally, we are encouraged to network with other Baptist Churches and we do this through the South Kent Network that consists of 17 Churches across Kent. Nationally, we are a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. We will seek to support, certainly by prayer, all current mission initiatives that they are engaging with across the UK.

Nurture and growth of Christian disciples

The Church through its elders and leadership team has concentrated on ensuring that those Christians attending Church are cared for and nurtured in their faith and growth. A preaching/teaching address is always available on a Sunday morning, all of which is intended to enable attenders to move on in the faith walk. Mid-week, at various times, home group meetings provide for the same.

Education and training for Christian and community service

There have been DBS checks made on all the trustees and leadership team, and those engaged in work with children and the community.

In 2022 saw Simon Black being accepted for ministerial training at Spurgeon’s College the course expecting to conclude in 2025. Simon is providing much needed youth ministry through his football outreach. The numbers of unchurched young people is continuing to grow, and we have hopes that in the coming months and years that they will start attending church.

Giving and encouraging pastoral care.

During the year our pastoral team have continued to assist the Pastor in offering much needed help and prayer to those within our fellowship and outside. There have as always been some intense needs over this last year due to illness, hospitalisation and bereavement and the team have **dealt with** them all with love and compassion **dealing** with spiritual and practical needs. We have been really blessed at Zion with the willingness of the fellowship to volunteer to help wherever needed which has meant that any new initiatives can move forward and existing ones to function fully.

Supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad. The use of the accommodation by the community continues. **Local groups from the community use the building.** We support debt counselling and other initiatives run by CTIT.

Communication

Throughout the year the church produces a regular monthly newsletter listing activities and containing a monthly message from the pastor. This is in print form available in the church and is sent to the membership in electronic form. A further weekly sheet was introduced prior to the lockdown giving details of upcoming events and a summary of that week’s preaching and will be reintroduced once we can meet normally. As nearly all the membership is now online, communication can be achieved quickly and economically by e-mail. The upgraded Church Web Site communicates general information to the wider world. We introduced a Church Management system early in 2020 which, due to the requirements of Data Protection, means that we are being compliant with the administration.

Refurbishment & fundraising

The building has disabled facilities to Building Regulations Part M so allowing the church to meaningfully engage with the needs of the disabled community in **a new** and contemporary way.

The Church continues to pay off its rebuilding loans and will have paid off the debts in 2023. The Church has been able to maintain its regular anticipated **day to day** income and expenditure and in doing so we have continued wherever possible to donate funds to help support other charitable groups.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Zion Baptist Church (Tenterden)

1149069

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st January 2022

To

31st December
2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,194	87	-	1,281	1,812
Other Giving	6,402	6,161	-	12,563	68,547
Giving under Gift Aid	42,159	4,721	-	46,880	50,252
Tax Rebate from HMRC	12,618	1,459	-	14,077	11,825
Interest	252	-	-	252	3
Rents Received	1,260	-	-	1,260	270
Other Revenue	3,500	270	-	3,770	5,095
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	67,385	12,698	-	80,083	137,803
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	67,385	12,698	-	80,083	137,803
A3 Payments					
Employment NIC & Pensions	32,099	14,411	-	46,510	36,770
Administration	6,724	3,513	-	10,237	15,176
Giving to other causes	3,067	418	-	3,485	8,557
Mission	2,150	18	-	2,168	887
Premises	11,325	784	-	12,109	21,025
SEBA Loan repayments	6,000	-	-	6,000	4,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	61,365	19,144	-	80,509	86,415
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Floodlights for use with cameras	350	-	-	350	-
Round folding tables	886	-	-	886	-
Sub total	1,236	-	-	1,236	-
Total payments	62,601	19,144	-	81,745	86,415
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,784	- 6,446	-	- 1,662	51,388
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	56,037	16,737	-	72,775	21,387
Cash funds this year end	60,821	10,292	-	71,113	72,775

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current	6,355	-	-
	Deposits	53,819	10,292	-
	Cash	647	-	-
	Total cash funds	60,821	10,292	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	71 High Street, Tenterden	General	-	623,577
	Chapel - 69 High Street, Tenterden	General	-	1,955,556
	Contents of Church incl. furniture	General	-	90,015
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Equipment	general	5,309	-
				-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Iain Bottrill	20.04.2023	
		Freddy Farias Palacios	20.04.2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Zion Baptist Church (Tenterden)

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1149069

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

M. Attoe

Date:

04-04-2023

Name:

MISS MIKAILA ATTOE

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

MAAT (ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS)

Address:

7 MANTON CRESCENT
HEARTENDAK MEADOWS, HEARTENDAK ROAD
HAWKHURST, KENT, TN18 4FB

Section B Disclosure

Section B Disclosure

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

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