

## Trustees Annual Report – 2023

### Events post year end

As in the past there is often an overlap from the end of the financial year of 31<sup>st</sup> December in making this report, and thankfully, the serious effects of Covid have passed and we continue worshipping as a fellowship in the church premises, with life seemingly returning to normal. Several of our more elderly congregation have experienced life changing illnesses, which has resulted in us not being able to enjoy fellowship with them on such a regular basis as we did in 2023. We continue to pray for their recovery and freedom from pain and that they may again join us in worship at Church.

The economic challenges following the sharp increase in energy costs in 2022 continue to be a financial challenge. The electricity costs on a fixed term contract expired in September 2023 and we again negotiated a 3 year fixed rate based upon current prices. The gas contract will expire in this coming year and we trust that the tariffs will be a little more forgiving.

Towards the end of 2023, we noticed cracks appearing in the external fabric of the Church which has been confirmed as a result of subsidence. The insurance policy, regrettably does not cover this so this will be a major expense from the Church finances going forward into 2024. We are fortunate that we have in our fellowship, members who have experience in construction and that we can draw upon their expertise to ensure the successful remedy of the situation.

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. Recordings of these services are posted to our web site, as well as on an on-line database.

In 2023 we held a reflection weekend at the Church and plan to meet in 2024 at an external location to reflect on what God has in mind for His Church moving forward.

In 2024, we have committed to hosting another Life Exhibition and inviting students in years 5 & 6 from the local schools to come and learn through interactive technical equipment about our Lord Jesus.

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

We are blessed that the teaching brought by both Rev Freddy Farias Palacios and Simon Black, our minister in training, has encouraged and directed the fellowship to the extent that we are exploring more in depth what God is wanting from us. In 2023, the Church was open every Sunday throughout the year, typically but not exclusively led by the Pastor or Assistant Minister. 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 to provide attenders with a Bible Study and fellowship opportunity. There were Bi-weekly and Monthly Prayer meetings in the Church for corporate prayer to complement the existing opportunities at various times during the week.

**Baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle.** There have been **3 baptisms**, 2 of which were conducted in the sea at Dungeness.

**Marriages & Funerals** Although there were no weddings during 2023 our authorised person is supporting preparation of one wedding for 2024.

**The Communion of the Lord's Supper**, which continues to be observed at least twice a month throughout the year, Communion on every 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during public worship.

**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.

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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, Ambassadors Football and Cry in the Dark. Financial support continues to support these organisations.

Closer to home we continue to hold an informal 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, have been instrumental in identifying ongoing hardship. There is also a regular evangelistic presence in the High Street by some members of the church. In 2023 we were able to have our “Christmas Tree Festival”, and we had a “tree of peace” allowing folk to write and place on the tree prayers and messages of hope. Hopefully in 2024, we will again be able to revisit the event as this has proven popular with the community and is well received.

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. Standard update training on Safeguarding (provided by SEBA) was received by all relevant volunteers in sessions in October 2023.

In 2023 saw Simon Black continuing his 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 fellowship 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 fellowship 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. Local groups from the community continue to use the building** for their activities, including clubs and local branches of well known national charities. We continue to 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. 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.

### **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 became debt free in 2023, having paid off all loans from the refurbishment of the rear of the building. 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. This position following the identification of the subsidence regrettably will not continue.

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CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

1st January 2023

To

31st December  
2023

CC16a

## Section A Receipts and payments

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £

### A1 Receipts

Donations	2,507	1,622	4,129	1,281
Other Giving	7,853	2,967	10,820	12,563
Giving under Gift Aid	62,212	24,626	86,838	46,880
Tax Rebate from HMRC	18,129	5,955	24,084	14,077
Interest	2,391		2,391	252
Rents Received	1,440		1,440	1,260
Other Revenue	4,420	109	4,529	3,770
Sub total (gross income for AR)	98,952	35,279	134,231	80,083

### A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	98,952	35,279	134,231	80,083

### A3 Payments

Employment NIC & Pensions	32,014	24,653	56,667	46,510
Administration	13,097	3,143	16,240	10,237
Giving to other causes	2,622	1,674	4,296	3,485
Mission	135	795	930	2,168
Premises	18,471	1,080	19,551	12,109
SEBA Loan repayments	333		333	6,000
Sub total	66,672	31,345	98,017	80,509

### A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Floodlights for use with cameras			-	350
Round folding tables			-	886
Sub total	-	-	-	1,236
Total payments	66,672	31,345	98,017	81,745
Net of receipts/(payments)	32,280	3,934	36,214	1,662
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	60,821	10,292	71,113	72,775
Cash funds this year end	93,101	14,226	107,327	71,113



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Current	4,880		-
	Deposits	87,385	14,226	
	Cash	835		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>93,100</b>	<b>14,226</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement letter	OK	OK

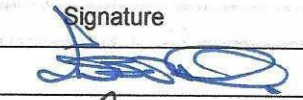

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	71 High Street, Tenterden	General	-	623,577
	Chapel - 69 High Street, Tenterden	General	-	1,955,556
	Contents of Church incl. furniture	General	-	90,015
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Equipment	general	5,309	-
	Furniture	general	480	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Iain Bottrill	10/04/2024
	Freddy Farias Palacios	10/04/2024



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

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1149069

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31.12.2023**.

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 (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*M. Attoe*

Date:

23-02-2024

Name:

MISS MIKAILA ATTOE

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

MAAT (ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS)

Address:

7 MANTON CRESCENT, HANKHURST, KENT, TN18 4FB


**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.**

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