

**Wern Baptist Church**

**Accounts**

**For The Year Ended 31 December 2022**

## **Wem Baptist Church**

### **Trustees Annual Report 2022**

**The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2022.**

#### **Aims and Purposes of the Charity**

As an independent, Bible-believing church, Wem Baptist Church's purposes are (as stated in the Church's Constitution): "(a) the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Church's Basis of Faith, primarily, but not exclusively, in Wem 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."

As a church, we are committed to spreading the Bible's message concerning Jesus, to develop people's knowledge of him, and to encourage them to worship, trust and serve him. We seek to encourage as many as possible to follow Jesus's example of love and compassion in serving each other and the wider community.

During 2022 the Church returned to more usual services and activities after the years of Coronavirus restrictions. As in 2021, financial giving remained strong and through the Grace of God the church had no difficulties in meeting regular financial commitments.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are satisfied that the activities described below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

In order to fulfil the aims and purposes of the Church as stated above, a variety of activities are provided for both the benefit of church members and for the benefit of members of the public. Our weekly Sunday services, at 10.00 am and 6.00 pm, are central to our church life, and are open to the whole community. They are advertised in local publications, on the Church's own and other websites, on the Church's Facebook page, and outside the church building.

We seek to encourage attendance by members of the wider community by making these gatherings friendly, informal and joyful occasions. In addition, these services are

"streamed" and are accessible to all via the Internet, whilst recordings of them are available on the Church's website. During most Sunday morning services "Junior Church" is run, which is open to all primary school-aged children. There is also a Bible class for those in school years 7,8 and 9.

The Church provides a variety of midweek prayer and Bible study meetings to encourage fellowship and growth in the Christian faith, both on the Church premises and in the homes of some members. Once again, these meetings are open to all and are advertised on the Church's website and in the Church's weekly news sheet. One house group has used Zoom to further facilitate attendance for all

Age-appropriate midweek clubs are also provided for children and young people from both "Church" families and from the wider community. The youth leaders held a particularly successful 'Bonfire night' on one of the member's lands. Teenagers from a number of local evangelical churches attended this event.

During term-time, a weekly parent and toddler group is also run by the Church. This mainly serves families from the community. Parents, grandparents and child minders very much appreciate the activities, songs and stories organised for the toddlers and the adults enjoy the refreshments and the time to talk and share. We believe it is very important for children to have plenty of opportunities to mix and play with others of their own age.

On Wem Market Day (Thursday) the church welcomes the community for coffee, tea and cakes. This is not a profit-making opportunity. It is an opportunity to build links with people who do not attend Sunday worship. It is staffed by a committed and enthusiastic group of church volunteers who are always available to provide a listening ear to those who are lonely or troubled.

Where possible, the Church responds to invitations from local primary and secondary schools, radio stations and other organisations to teach the message of the Bible. We have provided speakers for 'Thought for the Day' at the local secondary school, Thomas Adams, Wem. We are grateful for this link with the community.

This year the church responded to the war in Ukraine by setting up a hub for Ukrainian refugees, this met twice a week and offered a range of support services, for example, help with applying for financial grants, job applications, transport to the job centre or local supermarkets, English lessons, visits to local schools, or simply a chance to all meet up. This made contact with 15 Ukrainians in the Wem area. This led to a communal meal attended by over 50 people including refugees, host families and volunteers.

From time to time, the Church offers courses to all who are interested in finding out more about the Christian Faith. We also offer occasional courses in personal finance with material supplied by 'Christians against Poverty.'

Individual pastoral and spiritual advice are offered to people living in the church's locality. We conduct marriages and funerals in accordance with the teaching of the Bible. We support missionary and evangelistic work in North Shropshire, nationally and internationally. This year we have supported a teacher/ missionary in Kenya.

For around fifty years Wem Baptist church has organised a Holiday Bible Club. This consists of a week of activities centred on a series of Bible stories. It is held in the early part of August and is attended by 80-100 local children from the community. It is greatly appreciated by both adults and children. For the last few years, we have linked to the government's "Holiday Activities and Food Programme" to provide activity and food for free school meals and SEN children town. The children enjoyed Bible stories and Christian teaching at the appropriate level. This year we developed a hybrid of a roadshow around the play parks for two days followed by three days where we were based at the church. This is enjoyed by many families who do not normally attend services in the church building. On the Friday of the week, a parents evening with refreshments was held. It was very well attended.

### **The Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of the church building in Chapel Street, Wem, and the Manse in Station Road, Wem. They also have oversight of the legal and financial integrity of the charity. The Church has Insurance policies in place covering assets and potential liabilities which could arise and meets its legal requirements in this area.

The Trustees have agreed a number of policies which are in place and reviewed regularly including the Child Protection policy and the Health and Safety policy which are both reviewed annually. The Trustees have put in place a comprehensive range of employment policies and continue to highlight the importance and relevance of the Data Protection procedures. The Trustees meet four times a year. These meetings are formally recorded, and these records are available for inspection by the Charity Commission and the Independent Examiner.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Church does not measure the success of its ministries mainly in numbers,

including financial numbers, but in less tangible ways like growth of individuals in their Christian faith and in opportunities to share the Christian gospel with members of the community. Such "success" is difficult to measure, but the Trustees rejoice in another year when the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been shared with the town of Wem. This year we have provided free literature both outside the church building in Chapel Street and near the exit from the CO-OP supermarket. These include Bibles, books and leaflets. These have proved popular and hundreds of items have been taken. We are encouraged to find that they have not then been dropped in the street and have not contributed to littering.

Attendance at the Sunday services in Wem average around 100 in the mornings and around 45 in the evenings. Much of the work of the church was carried out by a large number of volunteers who, amongst other ministries, serve as musicians, Home-group leaders, lay preachers, children's and youth leaders, visitors to the sick and elderly, church maintainers, administrators, and so on. We give thanks to the Lord for their faithful and fruitful efforts. This year we welcomed a new Pastor, Nathan Burley, who led many of the services, contacted those in need of pastoral support and chaired the Trustees and the other decision-making meetings. The church's administrator, financial administrator and cleaner were employed on part-time contracts. We are very grateful to them especially as they give extra time voluntarily.

Wem Baptist Church continues to seek to support those facing financial challenges. The church building is a collection point for the local food bank. The Deacons hold a fund which can be called upon by the church leaders to support those in financial need.

Overseas Missionary work was also supported last year, with continued finance given to a number of organisations. The details of the support given are included in the Treasurer's Report below.

By conviction, Wem Baptist Church is a welcoming group which both encourages the community into our building and seeks to support the town of Wem by getting involved in those events that are compatible with our values and beliefs. 2022 concluded with an outdoor 'Walk-about Nativity'. On a cold Saturday morning before Christmas members of the church dressed as Nativity characters and positioned themselves around the town. Families had to search them out and obtain special clues from each character. Then activities and refreshments were organised back at the church with refreshments for all the family. This was well received by the community.

## **Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2022**

### Summary of the Year

At the start of 2022 the church had a healthy opening cash position of over £43,000. A summary of the 2022 church finances is as follows:

- Income £106,051 (budget £74,165)  
Mainly due to increased offerings, gift aid and restricted donations.
- Expenditure £102,707 (budget £108,089)  
Savings on expenditure were made in several areas including ministerial expenses (£3,700), Chapel Street expenses (£2,500) and manse expenses (£6,000). Funds are ring-fenced for potential manse kitchen upgrade.
- Surplus £3,344 (budgeted deficit £33,924)
- Closing bank balance £47,155

### Other Causes

A total of £9,553 was distributed during 2022 as follows and included gifts to Operation Mobilisation, Checkpoint Christian Youth Trust, WEC International and the Friends of Wern Cemetery. In addition, a further £9,223 was generously given by Church members via restricted offerings, to a variety of Christian charities

### Reserves Policy

The Managing Trustees maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of £10,000 to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

### Conclusion

The Church enters 2023 with a solid cash balance of over £47,000. Whilst a deficit budget has once again been formulated, this is based on a prudent view of income and will not impact on the reserves policy as covered above,

The Managing Trustees are grateful to everyone involved in the management of the church finances and recognise God's continued financial provision to Wern Baptist Church.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

Wem Baptist Church is a charitable unincorporated association. The way that the church is governed is set out in the church's constitution that was revised and agreed on 4th March 2019. The members of the church elect elders and deacons to govern, manage and serve the church, and together these act as Managing Trustees for the charity. During 2022, one of the elders was a full-time paid worker (as pastor). Two of the Deacons, (the General Administrator and cleaner) were also employed part-time. The church's constitution allows for this, with suitable safeguards for the avoidance of conflicts of interest.

The church is affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC). During 2022 the holding trustee for the manse and the Chapel Street premises was transferred to the Church Growth Trust.

Our Pastor and Chair of Trustees, Rev Colin D Jones, retired on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and a new Pastor and Chair of Trustees, Nathan Burley, was appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Administrative Information**

Wem Baptist Church is situated in Chapel Street, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5ER.

Wem Baptist Church's Charity Registration Number is 1149374.

Managing Trustees who have served from 1st January 2022 until 31st December 2022 as follows:

Colin Jones -Chairman (until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

Nathan Burley – Chairman (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

David Rowe -Vice Chairman (until 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

Jon Berry

Lorna Dakin -Administrator

Ashley Bone

Elizabeth Dakin

Graham Joynes

## Declaration

The Managing Trustees declare that they have approved the above report.

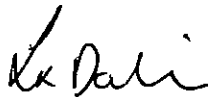
Signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees (1):



Full Name: Nathan Philip Godfrey Burley

Chair of the Trustees

Signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees (2):



Full Name: Lorna Ruth Dakin

Trustee & Chair of the Deacons



**Independent Examiner's Report to the  
Management Committee of Wem Baptist Church  
on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**Basis of Independent examiner's report**

We report on the accounts of Wem Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The Group's officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Group's officers consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts
- to follow the general directions for the conduct of an independent examination
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of Independent examiner's statement**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions for an independent examination. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the committee 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 you as a committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
  - to keep appropriate accounting records; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with applicable financial reporting standards
2. have not been met; or to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Community Accounting Services*

**Community Accounting Services Ltd  
7 Napoleon Drive  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 5PH**

**Date:** 11 October 2023

**Wem Baptist Church**  
**Income & Expenditure Accounts**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Income</b>				
Offerings	73,659	-	73,659	64,232
Gift Aid & Bank Interest	15,329	1,058	16,387	10,925
Grants	-	1,390	1,390	750
Donations	1,821	8,392	10,213	7,838
Refreshments	1,581	-	1,581	-
Bookstall	158	-	158	155
Church Groups	1,265	-	1,265	783
Other Income	351	1,047	1,398	622
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>94,164</b>	<b>11,887</b>	<b>106,051</b>	<b>85,305</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Running costs</b>				
Wages	33,968	-	33,968	38,679
Pension	2,741	-	2,741	2,279
Travel & relocation expenses	465	-	465	4,246
Conference Expenses	324	-	324	-
Repairs & Maintenance	10,617	-	10,617	24,123
Light & heat	3,559	-	3,559	2,268
Insurance	3,008	-	3,008	3,177
Rates	3,781	-	3,781	1,289
Legal & professional	10,018	-	10,018	2,645
Telephone	729	-	729	741
Publicity	592	-	592	411
Computer costs & equipment	3,732	-	3,732	407
Licences	689	-	689	1,123
Bookstall	192	-	192	169
Evangelism	920	-	920	2,808
Children & Youth	1,676	-	1,676	1,215
Refreshments	786	-	786	222
Donations to other causes	9,553	10,226	19,779	11,114
Training	550	-	550	184
Deacon's gifts	405	-	405	284
Printing & Stationery	823	-	823	513
Subscriptions	1,000	-	1,000	800
General expenses	1,306	1,047	2,353	2,329
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>91,434</b>	<b>11,273</b>	<b>102,707</b>	<b>101,026</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>(15,721)</b>
<b>Transfer Between Funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>(15,721)</b>
Fund balance brought forward at 1 January 2022	43,811	-	43,811	59,532
<b>Fund Balance Carried Forward at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>46,541</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>47,155</b>	<b>43,811</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**Wem Baptist Church  
Statement of Assets  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash at bank	46,541	614	47,155

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

**Nathan Philip Godfrey Burley**  
Chair of the Trustees



Date 15/10/23

**Lorna Ruth Dakin**  
Trustee & Chair of the Deacons



Date 15/10/23