

St Leonards Baptist Church

Annual Report for the year 2023

Church membership has remained stable throughout the year with around 38 members. We have on average between 20 and 30 people - both members and visitors - in attendance on Sunday mornings. The joint evening meetings with Wellington Square Baptist Church has proved very popular and regularly attracts between 30 and 40 people. Excellent figures for two small churches with a combined membership of less than 50.

At the end of May 2023 our minister Janet retired from ministry. Janet has been in ministry for the past ten years. We are very grateful for the years of ministry she has given us and wish her well for a happy retirement. Janet will remain in membership with us and preaches regularly.

In October 2023 we lost a prominent member of our church family, Derek who served us as church treasurer for many years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Also in October 2023 we held a baptismal service for two people. This event attracted a larger number than usual as we were joined by people from Wellington Square along with the family of those being baptised. It was good to see the church so busy and to have the baptistry in use once again.

Although we are small church with limited resources, there are many individuals who participate regularly, making contributions in every area of church life. There is a core team of around six people who preach regularly and the music team continues to serve effectively with members regularly leading at Wellington Square. We are also very grateful to David for his continued work as maintenance coordinator helping to keep the building in good order.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, members took part in the annual shoebox appeal for 'Samaritans Purse,' a charity the church has supported

for many years. We are also in regular contact with Marc and Andrea Hotchkin who are working as missionary doctors in Chad Central Africa.

The formal process of amalgamating with Wellington Square Baptist Church to form a new church continues at steady pace and it is hoped that this will be completed sometime in 2024. We have also begun to put together a church profile in preparation for calling a minister to serve the new amalgamated church.

Although these are challenging times, the leadership and members continue to look to the future with hope in our hearts. It is our belief that God has not finished with us yet! As our verse for 2024 reads 'For I have plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you.' Jeremiah 29:11.'

God has a plan a plan for us as part of the glorious bride of Christ. We continue to pray and seek God's will for the future both as individuals and as a new amalgamated church.

Graham Hodge
Church Secretary
St Leonards Baptist Church.

April 2024

ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr G Hodge
Mrs N Cudmore
Ms M C Mascord
Mr M Fletcher
Mr I Russell

Charity number

1150270

Address

Chapel Park Road
St Leonards on sea
East Sussex
TN37 6HR

Independent Examiner

Holland Harper LLP
26 High Street
Battle
East Sussex
TN33 0EA

ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
<u>ASSETS</u>	£	£
Lloyds Bank – Business Extra Account	3,551	3,045
Lloyds Bank – 30 Day Notice Account	<u>15,859</u>	<u>9,860</u>
	<u><u>£19,410</u></u>	<u><u>£12,905</u></u>
 <u>GENERAL FUND</u> (unrestricted)		
As at 1 January 2023	12,905	27,975
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>6,505</u>	<u>-15,070</u>
	<u><u>£19,410</u></u>	<u><u>£12,905</u></u>

The above accounts and the notes and other information shown on pages 2 to 3 for the year ended 31 December 2023 are as approved by the Trustees. Signed by two trustees on behalf of the board on 14 April 2024.

Ian Russell

Graham Hodge

ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	£
Tithes and offerings	23,441	21,608
Tax refunds recovered	9,211	-
Donations received	300	4,000
Vat refund	1,720	-
Bank interest received	75	8
Net rents from Manse	12,041	12,411
Grants	-	4863
Church venue hire (including funerals)	440	280
Pensions	266	-
Sundry	1	250
	<u>£47,495</u>	<u>£43,420</u>
 <u>LESS: PAYMENTS</u>		
Stipend,pension contributions and Minister's expenses	11,450	24,041
Ministry gifts	80	160
Utilities and manse expenses	5,943	4,036
Insurances	3,504	2,849
Repairs and maintenance	10,081	20,986
Mission (note 3)	4,774	4,176
Bank service charges	121	108
Donations	575	500
Admin and telephone	999	720
Legal fees	2,064	-
Miscellaneous	1,399	914
	<u>£40,990</u>	<u>£58,490</u>
 <u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u>	 <u>£6,505</u>	 <u>-£15,070</u>

ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 These accounts have been prepared on a "receipts and payments" basis, in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 The church is the beneficial owner at a combined insurance value of £3,278,503 (2022 £3,027,242) of premises at Chapel Park Road, St Leonards-on-Sea and at 27 Clinton Crescent, St Leonards-on-Sea, the legal title to which is held by the Baptist Union Corporation Limited as custodian trustee. The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £62,986 (2022) £62,986).

3 Payments - Mission

	2023	2022
	£	£
S.E.B.A.	2,501	2,496
Baptist Mission	1,680	1,680
Baptist Union	593	-
	<u>£4,774</u>	<u>£4,176</u>

4 It is still the intention of the Church to merge with Wellington Square Church although this had not happened by 31st December 2023.

5 At 31st December 2023 the church was still owed £1,400 from a builder who had incorrectly charged them VAT. An agreement is now in place for this to be paid to the Church on a monthly basis.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH**

This report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 3, is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND THE EXAMINER

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as 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 view given by 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 requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Roy M Holland BSc(Econ), FCA

Holland Harper LLP
Chartered Accountants
26 High Street
Battle
East Sussex TN33 0EA

14 April 2024

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr R Friday
Camellia
17A Rock Mead Road
Fairlight
East Sussex
35 4BJ

RMH/DJS/TJ

3rd April 2024

Dear Roland

ST LEONARDS BAPTIST CHURCH

I have now completed my examination of the church records and have pleasure in enclosing a draft copy of the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 for consideration by the trustees.

You will appreciate, as in the previous year, I have not undertaken an audit. Instead, I am reporting as an independent examiner under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

My work has involved examining the financial records in sufficient detail to provide me with a reasonable basis to decide whether the summaries you have prepared agree with the records. This involves comparing on a test basis the cash transactions with the bank statements, verifying the existence of invoices and receipts for expenses and income and making a brief examination of the records generally.

Although I have not found any major discrepancies, my examination is not to be taken to guarantee that everything is absolutely correct as there could be errors I have not noticed.

Turning to page 2, you will see a surplus for the year of £6,505 compared with a deficit in the previous year of £15,070.

There are the following points I wish to bring to your attention:-

1. Most of the figures on the receipts and payments account you should be able to reconcile to the totals you supplied but I enclose a schedule of five of the expense headings for clarity. Please let me know if you wish any of these amounts to be adjusted for under a different heading.

.... Cont/d

2. I have taken the trustees as listed on the Charity Commission website.
3. For note 2 in the accounts, I need the combined insurance values of the premises at Chapel Park Road and 27 Clinton Crescent and also the insurance value of the church furniture, fixtures and fittings etc.
4. I have added brief notes on page 3 concerning the potential amalgamation with Wellington Square Church and the VAT owed to the Church.

There are no further points I wish to make concerning the accounts but I would be grateful if the trustees would look through the figures carefully and let me know if they have any queries and I will do my best to assist.

If, on the other hand, the trustees are able to approve the accounts, I would be grateful if two could sign page 1 between the pencil crosses on the dotted line and then clearly print their names below the line. Please also let me know the date the accounts were approved. I will then be able to send you a signed copy to keep and one from which you will be able to photocopy as many copies as you require for your AGM.

As we have now finished with the accounting records, please collect these from the office when convenient.

Finally, I enclose a note of charges for your kind attention.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

R M Holland BSc (Econ), FCA
For and on behalf of Holland Harper LLP