

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07605036 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150563

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023
FOR
STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
Statutory Auditors
3 Kensworth Gate
200 - 204 High Street South
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3HS

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and purposes

Stopsley Baptist Church ("SBC") is committed to its objectives of advancing the Christian faith, relieving sickness and financial hardship, and promoting and preserving good health, both in the UK and the wider world, through the provision of funds, goods, services, counselling and support. Fundamentally, these ends are pursued by the provision of regular opportunities for Christian teaching, prayer, and worship in our Sunday services and in our missional discipleship communities, Beacons. The church believes that the good news of Jesus Christ is not for those within the church alone and is, therefore, committed to sharing the message of hope found in the gospel. This is pursued through a range of outreach activities in Luton and in the mission activities of our overseas partners. 2023 saw us as a church community fully re-established in person after negotiating the challenges of Covid 19. Our numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels after seeing some move in and new people join our community. We continue to stream services and a weekly prayer and reflection time that reach beyond our local geography and make our content accessible, where it would not otherwise be so.

2023 has again seen us seeking to formulate and step into plans for engaging with our local community. The Community Garden continues to be a facility that is used and loved by many. It is overseen by one of our Beacons but others from the wider community are involved in maintaining it. We celebrated a moving time of prayer there at dusk on Maundy Thursday, joining with friends from St Thomas church and leaving candles for passers-by to see as the night darkened; it has also been the scene of an Easter Egg Hunt and a series of Barbecues for All run during the summer months and open to the wider community. The space has been a cherished meeting place used amongst others by a local drop-in for Adults with Learning Difficulties and by local brownies.

Plans for a refurbishment of the GreenHouse site as a Community Hub, complementing the garden, are developing. Following the local consultation made in autumn 2022 and further engagement within the church fellowship, these plans have taken firm shape, and we are hopeful that works will begin in 2024 and the facility, now referred to as The Living Room will be opened in summer 2024. This will provide an additional capacity for reaching out to and serving those in need in partnership with others from the local community. To that end we have engaged a part time project manager, whose work and energy has seen the project moved forwards apace.

The Church continues to seek to prioritise areas of social concern as well, especially through an eco-group, a racial justice concern and an engagement with the Persecuted Church. The eco group have led us through services, reflecting on aspects of climate change and environmental concern, and we have been successful in being awarded a silver award from the charity A Rocha as an Eco Church. A legacy has made it possible for us to explore the installation of solar panels on the church roof that will reduce our carbon footprint and create significant savings in energy costs into the future. At the time of writing, we are awaiting local planning approval for these works to begin.

This alone, without the many other activities that SBC leads and makes possible, amply fulfils the criteria for public benefit laid down by the Charities Commission, as well as glorifying the God whom we follow in Jesus Christ. The vision at SBC is expressed as an aspiration to be 'an extended family, growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ and sharing the good news wherever we go'. Our church is not a Sunday club or a religious group as such but a whole life community, looking to Jesus Christ and out to our neighbourhoods and contacts. The mission of the church is to engender a life, a culture that seeks to influence and transform us as individuals and our communities.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

This is pursued through our Sunday gatherings, both online and in person, and through the life of our Beacon Groups, missional families that seek to share life and faith and be places of encouragement in taking the good news into the whole of our lives. It would be true to say that Stopsley Baptist Church in all its rich variety makes a significant impact in offering a wide range of opportunity to enhance the well-being of the wider local community alongside our deep commitment to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Significant activities

Worship and Prayer

2023 saw us continuing to enjoy a vibrant rhythm of gathered worship week by week at our main building. This includes a commitment to functioning intergenerationally, adapting teaching to be consistent between adults and children and adopting ways of being together that seek to engage and learn from all ages. We have increased the amount of participation in services, which are now routinely delivered through a variety of changing people week by week. We have a reading, a time of prayer and storytelling, either in person or through video interviews. We seek to be interactive and have used text messaging and flipcharts to allow for greater communication and involvement. We often offer some form of symbolic response time that allows people of all ages to take on aspects of the life of faith that are being offered and taught. We have seen a wider variety of people speaking and are looking to release more voices in the future.

We also offer opportunities to engage in worship in different contexts and media throughout the week and beyond Sunday morning. Garden Church, meeting monthly, draws in families and offers a way to engage in faith through the outdoors and nature - it makes excellent use of our Community Garden facility. Messy Church has also continued to be part of our worship, meeting half termly and giving another community of people, not seen generally on Sunday morning, a different style of opportunity to pursue a life of faith in Christ. Patchwork on Mondays, a drop-in session aimed at both the older generation and young parents, continues to see growing numbers week by week and has become an important point of contact for many. This time always incorporates a clear Christian message and a chance to respond through a prayer activity.

Alongside this, we have continued to offer materials for children on Sunday morning. This is supported during the week by broadcasts through our SBC Kids Facebook page, youth sessions and Beacon meetings, as well as regular mailings, not only to keep people informed but to offer resources for developing faith-inspired life at home and wherever we go.

Our online presence has also continued through the now established 'Rise and Shine' morning prayer and reflection time, which generates an average of 80 views per week and is reaching people beyond our established congregation. In special seasons - Easter and Advent - we have included a guest in these times and made the offering more of a conversation.

We have hosted a second 'Difference' looking at learning to understand people with different beliefs and managing fruitful relationships in a pluralistic and often divided society. We also hosted an Alpha course introducing a number of people to the basics of Christian faith. We also introduced a Preaching Course training a number of people from several different local churches

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Children's and Family Ministry

In 2023 our Sunday morning ministry for kids and young people continued to flourish. We looked at a series that followed the sermons called 'The Long Road to the Cross' and then moved onto talking about 'Acting Spirit-Fully', which also mirrored the teaching upstairs. In the autumn term, we went through a FaithinKids curriculum to help us understand our identity in God and discover who He says we are.

We developed our monthly all-age services to explore a bible story together and encourage encounters across the generations that point to Jesus.

We continually redesign our family area upstairs to include a sensory tent, with a weighted blanket, noise-cancelling headphones and sensory toys, to help those who might need that space available. We also continued updating baskets full of colouring pages, little bible story books, stickers, crayons, more sensory toys and worksheets relevant to each week.

Our weekly email to families continued including support materials and resources to equip parents and carers to raise God-connected children. We also send out weekly emails to our volunteer teams for Sundays that share resources and encouragements.

Jo White also meets with individuals and families who need some extra support.

We continued to run outdoor activities in the Community Garden that are faith based, including a monthly outdoor worship session called Garden Church where we engage with God, His creation and each other.

We also ran a Light Party actually in the Community Garden this year, as a Halloween alternative, which many of our community families supported.

Our Early Years sessions are oversubscribed and we often have a waiting list. Our Babybaloo sessions for under ones provide a place for new parents to meet each other and the Childminders session offers a place for those in that profession too. We continue to use bible stories and songs and a prayer in the sessions which has changed the focus of what we do. Our seasonal celebrations for Easter, Harvest and Christmas also provide an opportunity to share more meaningfully at these times.

Our Junior Section of the Boys Brigade continues weekly and welcomes boys from the community and Messy Church.

Messy Church continues once a half term on a Thursday afternoon and is regularly growing and reaching new families. We ran Messy Easter and Messy Christmas on Sunday mornings as a whole church initiative and many families who are at SBC during the week attended.

Following on from the success of our intergenerational Patchwork sessions on Monday mornings, we ran Summer Patchwork sessions for all ages on five Mondays in the summer holiday weeks. This was very popular and saw all generations joining together looking at different Bible characters through activities, crafts, games, songs and teaching, before having lunch together.

We regularly provide collective worship to local primary schools, sharing bible stories linked with the value of the month and, on special occasions, focused on Easter and Christmas.

We also ran some Year 6 transition sessions at the end of the summer term linked to the bible story of Jonah.

In September we introduced Kids Socials, which is a group run for children in primary school, as a chance for them to connect with each other. This has seen more children coming from the community and our weekly congregation than our SBC families and it has been a fun time spent together.

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Youthwork

At the start of the year, we ran two discipleship groups; one for 11-14 groups called 'Impact' on Monday evenings and one for 14-18 year olds called 'Ignite' on Sunday evenings. Both groups followed a similar curriculum and encouraged involvement and participation from the young people themselves. Our monthly social session draws both age groups together and creates a community and connection and provides a lot of fun! In September we moved both of these groups to meet together on a Thursday evening.

Our Sunday morning 11-14's group continues while we encourage the over 14's to serve on teams, apart from a monthly session to socialise and be taught some leadership skills.

Just Girls is a discipleship group that meets monthly for all 11-18 girls and is led by a committed team of ladies working through studying and looking at women in the Bible. This includes a time of crafting together too.

Boys Brigade company section meets weekly for 11-18 boys and has seen many of them work towards and achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We held a youth weekend in March called "Discover" where we looked at our identity, spiritual gifts and purpose. This was a significant time to build relationships and enable young people to connect to Jesus and ground their faith.

2023 saw us baptise 3 more young people which was a great celebration of all that God has done.

In August, we took a large group of our older youth to the Satellites festival run by Youthscape which was a brilliant time for them to grow in their connection with Jesus and gain experience in confidence in praying for each other. We already have 14 young people signed up to this year's event after only two weeks since tickets were made available.

GreenHouse Mentoring

Catriona and the team have had an encouraging and successful year during 2023. We have developed all of our Group Mentoring courses in a way that encourages conversation around a table and invites young people into a new story where they create something with an art/craft theme, while they have the available space to open up and share their thoughts. We have also made room for social time in order to allow friendships to grow.

We are partnering with various organisations across Luton to support one another in tackling some of the issues young people are facing. Our part in this is to bring awareness to young people in a way which helps to prevent them becoming involved in harmful activities.

During the year, GHM has successfully launched a new Group Mentoring Course called "Hanging Out Safely", based around keeping young people aware of the dangers online and on the streets. Topics included online safety, bullying, good and bad friendships and safety on the streets. We also talked about how within crime you can be guilty by association.

We have also continued our new Saturday Drop-In, to provide a more relaxed space where we can encourage young people to make friends and develop their social skills and where we also introduce bite-size parts of our existing courses. The numbers attending have increased and we have found that the friendships within this group include every age attending which is a real joy to see. It has also helped the younger ones who join us on Saturdays before the courses commence. They then start in September more confidently and settled, because they have already made friends.

We continued to strengthen our existing courses and look at the best way to deliver material to the current generation.

14 new volunteers were trained, some of whom are now part of the team.

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GHM now provides the following main services:

- Group Mentoring Courses, 'Building Self-Esteem' and 'Dealing with Anger', for ages 8-13;
- Group Mentoring Courses, 'Exploring Identity Through Creative Process', 'Six Words', "Hanging out Safely" and 'Six Weeks of Summer', for ages 8-12;
- One2One Mentoring;
- Club Evening for 11-15 years;
- Saturday Drop-In.

The financial strategy has remained the same and we have secured most of our funding for 2024 through several grants and are applying for others. We have also continued to receive regular donations.

We welcomed Ellie-Mae Waller to our team in September as our new Relationships and Administration Assistant and are thankful to Rachel Gillies for her support as a casual worker.

During the summer holidays we ran four Holiday Drop-In days with lunch provided. These were successful and we are planning them again in 2024.

Looking to the future, we have been approached by two schools who have been so impressed with the changes they have seen in young people attending our services that they would like us to provide similar support within the schools. We are currently in conversation with them to plan a way forward.

Global and Cross-Cultural Mission

The church continues to support work overseas in the Balkans, Cambodia, Pakistan, and the Middle East. SBC has members of the church who are living overseas permanently while others visit for periods of up to two months at a time. We have also developed partnerships with pastors from churches overseas through Radstock Ministries, as well as a link with a pastor in Nigeria, who we have managed to connect with and fundraise towards a well project. Members of our church and leadership were involved in a conference in Macedonia last year where they were able to meet with many of our Balkans mission partners. Alongside this, we regularly connect on zoom and email with all of our mission partners.

We aim to support the members and partners in the work they are undertaking and offer opportunities for the wider church to get involved in supporting them through prayer, pastoral care, fundraising and short-term trips.

We continued to support and promote the work of a number of activities based in Luton, which seek to operate with and offer friendship and basic skills to a number of the different ethnic groups found in the town, notably amongst Pakistani Muslims. These local outreach opportunities are an opportunity for many in our church family to get involved in serving and reaching out to the community.

The budget to finance the individuals involved in mission is approximately £47,000 per annum and just over £40,000 of this was raised by the SBC family following the distribution of our Global Chronicles and the appeal we gave on Global Sunday, our special mission day. This funds the individuals who are involved in education, serving the poor and equipping and developing leaders.

Pastoral Care

The church continues to work hard to offer care to those who attend and to the wider community. Our goal is to provide this primarily through the work of Beacons. By way of regular meetings, WhatsApp and friendship, many of our pastoral needs are catered for via these extended families. Beyond this, we have a Pastoral Steering Group covering the breadth of our community.

We also continue to run a Foodworks ministry, stocked by members of the church and through contributions from local schools. This store is used to supply food parcels to referrals received either personally or through a range of agencies. In the last year, as well as parcels in response to individual referrals, we provided gifts to Azalea, one of our local partners, who run their own Food Ministry, and also to the town Foodbank. Towards the end of 2023, we entered into a trial partnership with Luton Foodbank, acting as a weekly distribution point for people from our immediate area.

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The church continues to value its senior citizens. The Patchwork meeting on a Monday provides a drop-in space and offers craft activities. We are now back in a regular rhythm offering a Sunday worship hour on the first Sunday of the month, with a variety of speakers and refreshments after the service. This is complemented by 'Tuesdays Together', a monthly meeting for Seniors in our church building. This has been attended regularly by a faithful number who have enjoyed the regular company it provides. The Seniors are led through a small but committed team of volunteers who not only make arrangements but provide care.

We support the development of a community outreach project called 'The Tent Project', led by one of our members and delivered in partnership with St Thomas' Church and others. A Singing Café is now run alongside the Tent Project, which has up to 80 attendees.

In Winter months, we provided both a warm space and a weekly 'Pay as you can' meal for the local community called 'Food for All'. Numbers were not high but the meal times provided an important meeting point for a number of families and older people.

Indeed food is a significant part of our life together. We now have a monthly breakfast provided before our Feast services and occasional shared suppers that we have called 'Feast for the Nations', conceived as a space to build relationships and celebrate the diversity of our community through eating together.

Use of the Church Centre

Our vision remains to be open to the wider community and known as a safe and warm place to visit. The foyer area is available daily to anyone and self-service tea and coffee are available. We have seen some from our Early Years sessions and other bookings using this facility and we are hopeful that in time more people will see this as a welcome area to meet.

The hard work of our bookings manager has seen the continued use of the building as a venue for letting to a number of local groups. This has served both to be a useful source of income as well as an expression of our vision to be a space for extended family and community.

Staffing

We are grateful for all the hard work of the staff, as well as for the many volunteers who make life at SBC possible.

Our staff team are extremely conscientious, and we are grateful for their commitment given that activity remains high and staffing levels are lower. Internships in our Early Years and Youth and Children's work came to an end in July 2023 and we were able to reflect both on a good quality experience for those who have been serving and also on the benefit for our work through our interns in this period.

As of July, we were able to recruit an assistant to our Youth and Children's work, one of the previous year's interns, which has provided more capacity in that area.

We have also re-arranged our Operations and Administration function in 2023, following the retirement of our Executive Director in July. This has been achieved by developing one of our existing staff into an Operations Manager roll,

It is hoped that they will be in a position to take over the role fully by July 2025.

In December 2023, our Senior Pastor announced that he would be moving on at the end of June 2024 after 15 years in the role and our Finance Officer will be retiring in August. The impact of this will need to be worked through in the coming months but the strength and depth of the church community mean that we are well placed to navigate a transition and to take the opportunity to reflect and review before moving into a new season in the future.

Membership and Baptisms

Last year we baptised 4 people. At the end of 2023, the church had 212 members.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year under review, the objective was to maintain the reserves in the general fund in line with the agreed policy. There was a surplus for the year of £4,906 (2022 £64,755) in the general fund. The designated fund reduced by £61,834 leaving a balance of £115,766. There was a surplus in restricted funds of £6,594 (2022 increase of £8,769). Total income for the year was £569,405 (2022 £747,893) and total expenditure £642,739 (2022 £496,769). More detailed information regarding income and expenditure can be found in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Investment policy and objectives

The trustees consider that the present policy of investing funds in higher rate bank accounts offers the least risk in the current economic climate, although interest rates continue to be low. The funds received from a legacy have been invested in the Baptists Together 3 Month Notice Account.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the requirements for reserves based on the main risks to the funding. The restricted activities are mainly supported from contracts or fundraising and all of these activities could be reduced without significant risk. Reserves are therefore only required to cover unrestricted activities, namely general fund. Approximately 90% of general fund income comes from the regular weekly or monthly commitment from Members and the gift aid recovered on it. Consequently, it is considered that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should ultimately be no less than 1.5 months of expenditure. As of 31 December 2023, the general fund reserves calculated on the above basis were £125,851 representing 3.6 months of future expenditure. Based on the budgeted expenditure for 2024, the reserve target will be £52,769.

FUTURE PLANS

We continue to operate out of our vision statement that envisages our church as 'an extended family, growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ and sharing the good news wherever we go.'

The community engagement aspect of this has seen significant development in 2023 and it will continue in the coming year. The GreenHouse Hub Project has become a real focus; plans are being drawn up for building works and tenders are being invited to complete this, linking the community garden to the GreenHouse building and preparing a community space, the Living Room, which will be used for community events and as a drop-in space. The Stopsley Community Chaplaincy continues to thrive. Together, these represent our continuing intention to reach out into the community with care and with the gospel. The church has a partnership now as well with the Foodbank, acting as a distribution point weekly.

The future will be a significant preoccupation for the church in the coming months as they seek direction following the resignation of the Senior Pastor and his leaving at the end of June 2024. It is a time to be grateful for the wider leadership that is established and ready, and for the whole church to come together, listen, talk and discern. In addition, we will be seeking members who will be willing to step forward where volunteer support is needed. SBC will not be merely waiting but continuing to live and reach out in this period of change.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Stopsley Baptist Church was registered as a company limited by guarantee and having no share capital on 14 April 2011, company number 07605036, and registration as an independent charity was granted on 22 January 2013, charity number 1150563.

Until 20 September 2013, SBC operated as an unincorporated business and had excepted charity status via the Baptist Union of Great Britain, who is the custodian trustee for the church properties. With effect from 1 October 2013 all income and expenditure for SBC has been reflected through the company limited by guarantee.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Elders are appointed by a formal ballot at a Church Members' Meeting and, once appointed, automatically become trustees. The minimum number of elders is three and there is no maximum number. An elder serves for an initial term of three years but may be reappointed for further terms. No restrictions apply to the Senior Pastor who is automatically an elder and trustee.

Organisational structure

The trustees are accountable for the overall management of SBC. This report contains a list of those who served in this capacity. The day-to-day provision of services is overseen by a staff team led by the Senior Pastor. This team is responsible for the operational management of the charity, the recruitment and supervision of volunteers and the development of skills and procedures in line with good practice. There are also approved policies for Volunteers, Investment, Risk Management, Conflict of Interest, Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults, Complaints Handling and Paying Staff.

SBC is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Central Baptist Association.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees are expected to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates. They are also required to read the Charity Commission publication "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know".

Affiliations and relationships

SBC is a member of Churches Together in Luton and has been involved in town-wide initiatives through the umbrella of the Transforming Luton organisation. In 2023, we hosted the annual Pentecost Praise event. Our Senior Pastor has continued to be involved with a group of ministers meeting from across Luton to discuss advocacy for racial justice. A leaders' breakfast in the autumn included an act of reconciliation between church ministers that was powerful and laid the foundation for cooperation into the future.

We continue to enjoy good relationships with other churches across the town and in the immediate area. This is witnessed by our involvement locally with churches in the East of Luton sharing in a Good Friday Walk of Witness and regular meetings between ministers. Our Senior Pastor continued in 2023 to serve as the Moderator at Ramridge Baptist Church as they enter into another interregnum; members of the church have also provided support in offering to preach.

We continue to support, through individuals, and in some cases as a church, the work of a number of local charities and parachurch organisations. Formally, SBC has recognised four Local Partners with whom we are seeking to develop a closer relationship of support and mutual benefit. In 2023 these were: Azalea, Youthscape (Luton), Noah and the Luton Community Chaplaincy.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

All volunteers working with children and young people are required to complete Level 1 online safeguarding training accessed through Bedfordshire Children's Services, to provide a current DBS disclosure certificate and to attend our annual training evening 'Equip'. Our Safeguarding Board, under the chair of a Safeguarding Trustee, has met quarterly.

In the short term, the risks of a shortfall in funding are minimised by the reserves held and the commitment of the members through donations and monthly standing orders. Internally, procedures are in place for the authorisation of expenditure and the receipt of monies. Computer records and bank statements are reconciled monthly.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07605036 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1150563

Registered office

Stopsley Baptist Church

St Thomas' Road

Luton

Bedfordshire

LU2 7XP

Trustees

N Mattocks (Chair)

S Moody

J Hylton

L Mudd

I Pirks

C Roberts

A Davie

J White

L Yule

Auditors

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

Statutory Auditors

3 Kensworth Gate

200 - 204 High Street South

Dunstable

Bedfordshire

LU6 3HS

Solicitors

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

134 Edmund Street

Birmingham B3 2ES

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc

28 George Street

Luton LU1 2AE

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Stopsley Baptist Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

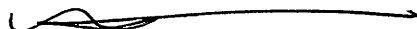
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on28/8/24..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
N Mattocks (Chair) - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Stopsley Baptist Church (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

Audit response to risks identified

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policy;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Company documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team, including tax regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in relation to revenue deferrals. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, UK Corporate Governance Code and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with Financial Conduct Authority regulation for the UK operating segment and compliance with local legislation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.


**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Donald M Brown FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
Statutory Auditors
3 Kensworth Gate
200 - 204 High Street South
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3HS

Date: 28/9/2024


Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	347,796	-	23,836	371,632	568,574
Charitable activities	4					
Mission Support		-	-	50,472	50,472	34,026
GreenHouse Mentoring Organisations		-	-	70,554	70,554	91,426
Oasis Drop-in Centre		-	-	1,123	1,123	1,054
		-	-	12,477	12,477	8,966
Investment income	3	63,147	-	-	63,147	43,847
Total		<u>410,943</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,462</u>	<u>569,405</u>	<u>747,893</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	5	4,791	-	-	4,791	4,626
Charitable activities	6					
Mission Support		-	-	71,152	71,152	76,089
GreenHouse Mentoring Organisations		-	-	78,485	78,485	69,694
General		411,058	61,834	-	472,892	353,814
Oasis Drop-in Centre		-	-	14,187	14,187	14,652
Pension fund liability movement		-	-	-	-	(23,300)
Total		<u>415,849</u>	<u>61,834</u>	<u>165,056</u>	<u>642,739</u>	<u>496,769</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(4,906)	(61,834)	(6,594)	(73,334)	251,124
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		1,908,425	177,600	57,572	2,143,597	1,892,473
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>1,903,519</u></u>	<u><u>115,766</u></u>	<u><u>50,978</u></u>	<u><u>2,070,263</u></u>	<u><u>2,143,597</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (REGISTERED NUMBER: 07605036)**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted funds £	Designated fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
	Notes					
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11	1,777,668	-	-	1,777,668	1,777,668
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	12	12,309	-	4,001	16,310	22,764
Cash at bank		136,975	115,766	90,992	343,733	403,251
		<u>149,284</u>	<u>115,766</u>	<u>94,993</u>	<u>360,043</u>	<u>426,015</u>
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(23,433)	-	(44,015)	(67,448)	(60,086)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>125,851</u>	<u>115,766</u>	<u>50,978</u>	<u>292,595</u>	<u>365,929</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,903,519</u>	<u>115,766</u>	<u>50,978</u>	<u>2,070,263</u>	<u>2,143,597</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,903,519</u></u>	<u><u>115,766</u></u>	<u><u>50,978</u></u>	<u><u>2,070,263</u></u>	<u><u>2,143,597</u></u>
FUNDS	14					
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund					1,903,519	1,908,425
Designated fund					115,766	177,600
					<u>2,019,285</u>	<u>2,086,025</u>
Restricted funds					<u>50,978</u>	<u>57,572</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					<u><u>2,070,263</u></u>	<u><u>2,143,597</u></u>

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28/8/24 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
N Mattocks (Chair) - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(72,359)	225,998
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(72,359)	225,998
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		12,841	1,010
Net cash provided by investing activities		12,841	1,010
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(59,518)	227,008
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		403,251	176,243
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		343,733	403,251

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(73,334)	251,124
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(12,841)	(1,010)
(Decrease)/increase in Pension Liability	-	(23,300)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	6,454	(3,503)
Increase in creditors	7,362	2,687
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(72,359)</u>	<u>225,998</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	403,251	(59,518)	343,733
	<u>403,251</u>	<u>(59,518)</u>	<u>343,733</u>
Total	<u>403,251</u>	<u>(59,518)</u>	<u>343,733</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to strategic management.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. time spent or estimated usage as set out in Notes 5 to 8.

Tangible fixed assets

The custodian trustee for the church land and buildings is the Baptist Union of Great Britain Trust. The Trust holds the deeds for the following:

Church premises	1,304,000
Old Chapel refurbishment (GreenHouse)	373,774
Land (next to GreenHouse)	99,894
	<hr/>
	£1,777,668
	<hr/>

The current church premises were built in 1994. The property is shown at historic cost within the financial statements. The Old Chapel Building was built in 1869 and was converted for use as a youth centre in 2002. There is no cost included for the original chapel but the refurbishment is included at cost. The land next to it was purchased in 2002 and is included at cost.

The trustees had the above professionally valued in July 2017, and the open market value of land and buildings exceeds their historic cost for the "current use" of the assets. No depreciation has been charged for buildings due to this valuation.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Equipment costing below £5,000 is not capitalised. Items costing over £5,000 purchased since 1 January 2009 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected life. Office equipment depreciation is 20% per year.

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for specific purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

The charitable company also makes payment into The Peoples Pension. Contributions payable to these are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gifts and donations	29,079	29,264
Offerings	285,159	290,365
Gift aid	57,394	56,642
Legacies	-	192,303
	<u>371,632</u>	<u>568,574</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rents received	50,306	42,837
Deposit account interest	12,841	1,010
	<u>63,147</u>	<u>43,847</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Source	Activity - restricted	2023	2022
		£	£
Mission Support	Mission works	50,472	34,026
GreenHouse Mentoring	Mentoring	70,554	91,426
Oasis Drop-in Centre	Luton Social Action	12,477	8,966
Boys Brigade and Badminton	Organisation events/activities	1,123	1,054
		<u>134,626</u>	<u>135,472</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Postage and stationery	105	54
Sundries	553	733
Support costs	4,133	3,839
	<u>4,791</u>	<u>4,626</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£
Mission Support	71,152	-	71,152
GreenHouse Mentoring	78,485	-	78,485
Organisations	1,232	-	1,232
General	381,329	91,563	472,892
Oasis Drop-in Centre	14,187	-	14,187
	<u>546,385</u>	<u>91,563</u>	<u>637,948</u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance £	Reprographics & Stationery £	Site maintenance & utilities £	Auditors Remuneration £	Totals £
Raising donations and legacies	2,233	1,900	-	-	4,133
General	12,284	8,125	68,454	2,700	91,563
	<u>14,517</u>	<u>10,025</u>	<u>68,454</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>95,696</u>

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration	<u>2,700</u>	<u>2,400</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' remuneration, other benefits or expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023, nor for the year to 31 December 2022.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	323,052	281,021
Social security costs	21,777	18,205
Other pension costs	<u>9,700</u>	<u>11,664</u>
	354,529	310,890
Pension fund liability movement	<u>0</u>	<u>(23,300)</u>
	<u>354,529</u>	<u>287,590</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Management and administration	3	3
Premises	2	2
Direct charitable activities	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £
COST	
At 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023	1,777,668
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2023	1,777,668
At 31st December 2022	1,777,668

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	16,310	22,764

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Social security and other taxes	5,236	4,068
Other creditors	62,212	56,018
	67,448	60,086

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,908,425	(4,906)	1,903,519
Designated fund	177,600	(61,834)	115,766
	2,086,025	(66,740)	2,019,285
Restricted funds			
GreenHouse Mentoring	27,715	(7,931)	19,784
Global Sunday	16,962	3,156	20,118
15th Luton Boys Brigade	284	(98)	186
Badminton Club	49	(11)	38
Oasis Drop-In Centre	12,562	(1,710)	10,852
	57,572	(6,594)	50,978
TOTAL FUNDS	2,143,597	(73,334)	2,070,263

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	410,943	(415,849)	(4,906)
Designated fund	-	(61,834)	(61,834)
	<u>410,943</u>	<u>(477,683)</u>	<u>(66,740)</u>
Restricted funds			
Mission Support	23,836	(23,836)	-
GreenHouse Mentoring	70,554	(78,485)	(7,931)
Global Sunday	50,472	(47,316)	3,156
15th Luton Boys Brigade	600	(698)	(98)
Badminton Club	523	(534)	(11)
Oasis Drop-In Centre	12,477	(14,187)	(1,710)
	<u>158,462</u>	<u>(165,056)</u>	<u>(6,594)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>569,405</u></u>	<u><u>(642,739)</u></u>	<u><u>(73,334)</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,843,670	64,755	1,908,425
Designated fund	-	177,600	177,600
	<u>1,843,670</u>	<u>242,355</u>	<u>2,086,025</u>
Restricted funds			
GreenHouse Mentoring	5,983	21,732	27,715
Global Sunday	24,099	(7,137)	16,962
15th Luton Boys Brigade	397	(113)	284
Badminton Club	76	(27)	49
Oasis Drop-In Centre	18,248	(5,686)	12,562
	<u>48,803</u>	<u>8,769</u>	<u>57,572</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,892,473</u></u>	<u><u>251,124</u></u>	<u><u>2,143,597</u></u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	405,575	(340,820)	64,755
Designated fund	177,600	-	177,600
	<u>583,175</u>	<u>(340,820)</u>	<u>242,355</u>
Restricted funds			
Mission Support	29,246	(29,246)	-
GreenHouse Mentoring	91,426	(69,694)	21,732
Global Sunday	34,026	(41,163)	(7,137)
15th Luton Boys Brigade	561	(674)	(113)
Badminton Club	493	(520)	(27)
Oasis Drop-In Centre	8,966	(14,652)	(5,686)
	<u>164,718</u>	<u>(155,949)</u>	<u>8,769</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>747,893</u></u>	<u><u>(496,769)</u></u>	<u><u>251,124</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,843,670	59,849	1,903,519
Designated fund	-	115,766	115,766
	<u>1,843,670</u>	<u>175,615</u>	<u>2,019,285</u>
Restricted funds			
GreenHouse Mentoring	5,983	13,801	19,784
Global Sunday	24,099	(3,981)	20,118
15th Luton Boys Brigade	397	(211)	186
Badminton Club	76	(38)	38
Oasis Drop-In Centre	18,248	(7,396)	10,852
	<u>48,803</u>	<u>2,175</u>	<u>50,978</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,892,473</u></u>	<u><u>177,790</u></u>	<u><u>2,070,263</u></u>

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	816,518	(756,669)	59,849
Designated fund	177,600	(61,834)	115,766
	<u>994,118</u>	<u>(818,503)</u>	<u>175,615</u>
Restricted funds			
Mission Support	53,082	(53,082)	-
GreenHouse Mentoring	161,980	(148,179)	13,801
Global Sunday	84,498	(88,479)	(3,981)
15th Luton Boys Brigade	1,161	(1,372)	(211)
Badminton Club	1,016	(1,054)	(38)
Oasis Drop-In Centre	21,443	(28,839)	(7,396)
	<u>323,180</u>	<u>(321,005)</u>	<u>2,175</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,317,298</u>	<u>(1,139,508)</u>	<u>177,790</u>

15. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For any month, each participating employer in the Scheme pays contributions as set out in the Schedule of Contributions in force at that time.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, plus any impact of deficiency contributions (see below).

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

15. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

In June 2022 the Baptist Union Pension scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group (Just) to secure members' pensions under the Defined Benefit Plan. This agreement is referred to as a "Buy-in policy". It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for DB pensions provided through the Scheme DB Plan.

The cost of such policies is largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme have agreed that deficit contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan be reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

Movement in Balance Sheet liability

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. There is no current liability to be disclosed, and no further liability is expected..

The profit and loss charge for the period represents the employer contributions payable. The total pension cost for the Church paid to the Baptist Pension Scheme is £4,531 (2022 £7,271).

Contributions were also made to The Peoples Pension of £5,168 (2022 £4,392).

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no related party transactions.

17. PURPOSE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

GreenHouse Mentoring:

This is a project which helps young people in Luton achieve their potential by matching them with screened and trained volunteer mentors. Funding is received mainly from other grants and individual donations.

Oasis Drop-in Centre

The Centre, located in the LU3 area of Luton, provides a place of safety, friendship and learning for those in Luton with English as a second language and/or second culture, along with their friends and family.

Global Sunday:

Annual event where the focus is on raising funds specifically to provide support grants to SBC mission families located world-wide.

Mission Support:

Monies received specifically for the funding of short-term mission trips and the direct support of mission families and outreach both in the UK and overseas.

Boys Brigade & Badminton:

The Boys Brigade and Badminton Club organisations operate their own finances and are included in the church audit. Copies of their accounts can be obtained from the respective treasurers.

STOPSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

18. DESIGNATED FUND

Designated funds are unrestricted funds available for the general purposes of the organisation, but which have currently been earmarked for a particular purpose by the trustees.

During the 2022 year an unrestricted legacy of £192,303 was received and it was agreed that £14,703 should be retained in the General Fund and £177,600 be designated for the following:

	As at 01 January 2023 £	Year to 2023 £	As at 31 December 2023 £
Local Mission Partners	19,200	-14,900	4,300
GreenHouse Special Projects	96,000	-20,338	75,662
Building Improvements	14,400	-14,400	0
Environmental Special Projects	<u>48,000</u>	<u>-12,196</u>	<u>35,804</u>
	<u>177,600</u>	<u>-61,834</u>	<u>115,766</u>

The 2023 expenditure is shown above. There was no expenditure in 2022.

19. GENERAL FUND

The general fund of £1,903,519 includes the property shown at £1,777,668, resulting a net reserve of £125,851.

Stopsley Baptist Church

**Appendix to the financial statements
for the year to 31 December 2023**

**Additional Information relating to the
GreenHouse Mentoring Project and
Oasis Drop-in Centre**

Stopsley Baptist Church

Appendix to the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2023

Additional Information relating to the Oasis Drop-in Centre

		2023 Restricted Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £
INCOME			
Gifts and Donations:	Churches	5,150	5,025
	Standing Orders	680	358
	Individuals	4,415	2,240
	Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising	17	17
Fees & Subscriptions		1,890	1,091
Tax Refunds		325	120
Other Income		0	115
Total Incoming Resources		12,477	8,966
EXPENDITURE			
	Benevolent Fund	0	16
	Resource Materials	38	2
	Catering	308	136
	Office Equipment	84	166
	Special Events	705	443
	Communications	622	486
	DBS Costs	24	37
	Site Equipment & Repairs	0	1,233
	Insurance	50	0
	Rent of Premises	12,000	12,000
	Sundries	356	133
Total Expenditure		14,187	14,652
Net Movement in Funds		(1,710)	(5,686)
Funds brought forward		12,562	18,248
Funds carried forward		10,852	12,562

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements. However, we confirm that this shows a fair reflection of the transactions that relate to the Oasis Drop-in Centre and confirm that this income and expenditure is contained in the audited statutory financial statements.

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
28/8/24.

Stopsley Baptist Church

Appendix to the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2023

Additional Information relating to the GreenHouse Mentoring Project

		2023 Restricted Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £
INCOME			
Gifts and Donations:	Givenet/Stewardship	5,623	7,136
	DBS & First Aid Course Contributions	0	15
	3 Peaks Challenge	0	7,082
	Love Luton Run	1,260	0
	Easy Fundraising	81	238
	Amazon Smile	119	122
	Others	880	2,834
Tax Refunds		925	1,385
Grants:	Co-op Local Community Fund & Collecting Boxes	621	3,742
	Children in Need	27,245	20,122
	Henry Smith Charity	23,800	21,000
	Beds & Luton Community Foundation (Luton Rising-Youth Fund)	10,000	24,266
	Beds & Luton Community Foundation (Luton Rising-Citizen's Fund)	0	3,484
Total Incoming Resources		70,554	91,426
EXPENDITURE			
	Payroll Costs	69,465	61,365
	DBS Costs	295	363
	Staff & Mentor Training	14	0
	3 Peaks Challenge	0	631
	Communications	897	609
	Stationery & Postage	152	385
	Small Equipment	362	303
	Resource Materials	1,335	1,525
	Catering	4,806	2,955
	Subscriptions	133	169
	Software	1,026	1,389
Total Expenditure		78,485	69,694
Net Movement in Funds		7,931	21,732
Funds brought forward		27,715	5,983
Funds carried forward		19,784	27,715

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements. However, we confirm that this shows a fair reflection of the transactions that relate to the GreenHouse Mentoring Project and confirm that this income and expenditure is contained in the audited statutory financial statements.

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd

Higginson & Co (UK) Ltd
28/8/24