

Trustees Annual Report

and

Financial Statement

for the year ended 31 December 2023

for Hadleigh Baptist Church

Trustee's Annual Report for the year ending 31-12-2023

Reference and administration details

Charity name: Hadleigh Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1150613

Charity's principal address: George Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk IP7 5BE

Names of the charity trustees (Office Bearers) who manage the charity.

These trustees are appointed by the Members' Meeting:

Trustee name	Office held	Dates acted if not for the whole year
Chris Todd	Church Senior Pastor	
Graham Peter Lancaster	Church Elder	
Luke Adam Frost	Events Deacon	
Joshua Halpin	Youth Deacon	From 20 July 2023
Steve Kingston	Premises Deacon	
Elaine Pulham	Pastoral Deacon	From 20 July 2023
Lorna Todd	Fellowship Deacon	

Church Administrator

Mrs Flavia Blows
Email: admin@hadleighbaptist.org.uk

Church Treasurer

Mr Robert Twigger
Email: treasurer@hadleighbaptist.org.uk

Church Website

www.hadleighchurch.co.uk

Holding Trustees (property)

The Grace Baptist Trust Corporation.

This Company is a Registered Charity (No. 251675) and is limited by guarantee and registered in England No. 592488 with its registered office at:

19 Croydon Road
Caterham
Surrey
CR3 6PA

Independent Examiner of Accounts

Mrs Carole Cowgill ACA
4 Penny Meadow
Capel St. Mary
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP9 2UU

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Structure, governance and management

Hadleigh Baptist Church is a charity that operates under the governance of a constitution adopted at a meeting of its members in November 2008.

This constitution governs the charitable assets of the Church from a legal perspective by the requirements of charity law. Regulations affecting the spiritual governance of the Church are contained in a separate document entitled "Rules and Regulations".

Hadleigh Baptist Church also owns two properties, the Chapel and the Manse. These are the subjects of the following Governing Instruments:

- Chapel – Deed of Covenant and Declaration of Trust dated 2 October 1830
- Manse – Deed of Declaration of Trust dated 25 March 1973

The **Trustees** of Hadleigh Baptist Church and the **Managing Trustees** for the above property trusts are the **Office Bearers** of the Church i.e. the Pastor/s, the Elders and the Deacons. These are appointed by the Church Members' Meeting and are listed above. New trustees are chosen from those within the existing membership who possess at least one

qualification and/or skill that is valuable to the team. e.g. Accountancy qualification, safeguarding, management, charity work, health and safety, building maintenance, and ICT.

Any potential trustee is given a job description ahead of taking on the role and allowed to discuss the role before being appointed. The trustees are given regular advice and information from the national network (FIEC) that we are affiliated with. Trustees are confirmed to the role by a vote taken at an annual church meeting and serve a minimum term of two years. After two years trustees may stand again following a majority vote in their favour at the church meeting.

The Grace Baptist Trust Corporation are the current **Holding Trustee** of the two properties belonging to the church.

Objectives and activities

The principal objective of Hadleigh Baptist Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Baptist principles and in accordance with the Church's Basis of Faith.

The charity also carries out and supports other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

We aim to glorify God in all that we do and our published mission statement, introduced in 2007, states that:

'We seek to introduce people in Hadleigh, the surrounding area and beyond to the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Everything we do reflects this principal object, the mission statement that underpins it and the following core values introduced in 2012 to help make the mission possible. These core values were revisited in 2019 on Sundays and in our small groups: We seek to be:

A Discipling Church - Encouraging, supporting, teaching, and challenging one another to become conform to the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.

An Evangelising Church – Those who attend are equipped and become confident to share the message of Christianity openly and sensitively.

A Church Family – Hadleigh Baptist Church seeks to be a distinctive people who are devoted to one another; Where we seek to share our life as well as our faith. We aim to be committed to pray for one another.

A Worshipping Church – Where our devotion to God results in fervent praise.

A Generous Church – We endeavour to be generous to anyone in need and are known for our kindness in our local community and beyond.

A Worldwide Church – We recognise that we are part of God's worldwide church. And seek opportunities where we can work in partnership with other churches and relevant organisations. We demonstrate this by being committed to supporting missionary organisations and individuals that promote the Christian faith around the world. Our support is spiritual and financial.

Our main activities include:

- Sunday worship services (morning and evening)
- Mid-week small groups, prayer meetings and Bible studies
- Provision of free community events for all ages.
- Introducing Jesus to our community and the wider world through our social media channels.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Young people's clubs.
- Promotion of mission and matters of social concern, both locally and further afield
- Taking school assemblies and lessons
- Informal social events for fellowship and outreach
- Alpha, CAP Money, Baptismal and Discipleship Courses
- Practical support to individuals and families through acts of kindness
- Supporting the lonely and bereaved.
- Drop-in facility in Church Offices

Achievements and performance

Owing to the spiritual nature of the Church's principal objective, it is always difficult to quantify exactly what the Church has achieved during the year.

The following information attempts to paint a fuller picture of the life of the Church over the past year.

Serving the local and wider community

We continue to serve the local community. In 2023, we held our annual free Easter Egg Hunt reaching 300 children in the community.

Over 60 children took part in a Summer Holiday Club over two days, with several families coming to the Sunday service.

A new event coinciding with 'Halloween' saw the church distributing refreshments and a bag containing Christian material to many families within Hadleigh.

The Winter Wonderland during the Christmas period, served over 300 children. Each family also received books explaining the Christian faith at an age-appropriate level.

2023 saw significant growth in a football initiative by the church drawing in a wide range of men from the local community.

The church ran an Alpha Course and CAP course during the Autumn of 2023 for the church members and the wider community.

Regularly people from the community and beyond drop in to speak with our Pastor on various matters at our Church offices.

The Church actively engages the community through adverts in the Hadleigh Community News, Hadleigh In Touch, a regularly updated church website and various social media sites, e.g. Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.

In terms of our church building, we were delighted to complete significant refurbishment of parts of the church roof. We were grateful to receive grants of some £5,000 from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and approximately £13,000 from the Listed Places of Worship scheme, but the remainder of the £90,000 plus costs were met from the generosity of the fellowship at HBC.

Children and Young people

The baby and toddler group called 'The Ark' that began in January 2016 ran during term time serving 25-30 children and their parents/carers.

A crèche for the under 3's was provided on a Sunday morning along with Junior Church (Sunday School) for those aged 3 – 10. A group for those in school years 6 to 8 met every Sunday mornings alongside the morning service. A new youth group was established for those in years 9 – 10.

Teaching and building up of God's people.

On each Sunday we held one worship service in the morning and on two Sunday evenings we met for prayer and another for communion. A pastoral care team continued to support people throughout the week. Every Sunday, several people join via YouTube from across the UK and beyond.

Four small groups have met for prayer, study and fellowship, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. These have attracted an average attendance of 50+. These groups continue to lead to new friendships within the Church and provide the opportunity for more support and care for each other and our neighbours. We supplemented these groups with occasional midweek prayer/communion services.

We continued in 2023 the pattern established in 2012 of focusing our local, national and international support on four main ministries. This continues to be very well received and has helped us to be more prayerfully focused and informed about the ministries that we support.

Over 80 people from the Church spent a weekend together at Sizewell Hall, with Peter Roberts from Everton giving the Bible teaching.

Our Pastor has a regular opportunity to be involved in local school assemblies. He is a Foundation Governor at St Mary's Primary School, Hadleigh.

Financial Review

The financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the report from the Independent Examiner can be found later in this document.

It has been another extremely encouraging year financially with a gross income (excluding short-term loans repaid in-year) of £143,048.18. All commitments to our General Fund have been met on time and our end-of-year balance of £49,312.50 compared to an opening balance of £38,966.60.

Once again, we gave financial, practical, and prayerful support to Christian-based organisations and individuals, both in the UK and abroad. In 2023, £13,585.45 of our gross income was given to such organisations and individuals. This is comfortably above our tithing policy i.e. to give at least 10% in this way.

We continue to **'..... walk by faith, not by sight'** (2 Corinthians 5:7) and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to provide finances to match the work He has commissioned us to undertake.

A brief statement of policy on reserves

We seek to keep the month-end reserves at a minimum of between £8,000 and £10,000 to facilitate cash flow and to be in a position to cover unplanned/emergency expenditures.

Public Benefit

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by:

- Providing regular public worship open to all
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through activities for individuals, parents and toddlers, and special needs groups
- Conducting pastoral work including visiting the sick in their homes where appropriate and hospital and the bereaved
- Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Providing a free weekly 'Coffee Lounge' drop-in facility for all members of the local community.
- Running a weekly baby and toddler group.
- Providing clubs for young people with a Christian ethos
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Providing free Money Management Courses

- Providing free Christmas Winter Wonderland, Easter Egg hunt and Summer Holiday Club events for the community
- Providing a 'drop-in' facility at the Church for anyone.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

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Full name:

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Position:

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Date:

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HADLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £
Receipts			
Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources		106,255	17,786
<i>of which: Grant from Suffolk Historic Churches</i>		-	4,990
<i>Grant from Listed places of Worship Grant Scheme</i>		-	12,796
Activities in furtherance of charitable objectives		4,662	-
Activities for generating funds		4,966	-
Investment income		9,379	-
<i>of which: Bank interest</i>		79	-
Other incoming resources		-	-
		125,262	17,786
Loans received		-	17,000
Total receipts		125,262	34,786
Payments			
Grants and donations	1	14,035	-
Costs of activities for charitable objectives	1	19,083	-
Support costs excluding fixtures and fittings	1	81,205	17,786
		114,324	17,786
Fixtures and fittings	1	592	-
Other land and buildings		-	-
Loan repayments		-	17,000
Total payments		114,916	34,786
Net receipts (-payments)		10,346	-
Gross transfers between funds		-	-
		10,346	-
Cash funds last year end		38,967	-
Cash funds this year end		49,313	-

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts

2023 Total £	2022 Total £
124,041	125,232
4,990	-
12,796	-
4,662	4,351
4,966	8,187
9,379	10,258
79	58
-	-
-----	-----
143,048	148,029
17,000	-
-----	-----
160,048	148,029

14,035	16,352
19,083	11,343
98,991	108,782
-----	-----
132,110	136,477
592	1,612
-	-
17,000	-
-----	-----
149,702	138,089
-----	-----
10,346	9,939
-	-
-----	-----
10,346	9,939
38,967	29,027
-----	-----
49,313	38,967
=====	=====

HADLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of assets and liabilities

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £
Cash funds				
Bank Accounts		48,624	-	48,624
Building Society accounts		-	-	-
Cash in hand		689	-	689
		-----	-----	-----
		49,313	-	49,313
		=====	=====	=====
Assets retained for the charity's own use				
	2			
Freehold land and buildings		-	310,000	310,000
Other land and buildings		-	2,098,321	2,098,321
Fixtures and fittings		12,800	-	12,800
		-----	-----	-----
		12,800	2,408,321	2,421,121
		=====	=====	=====
Other monetary assets				
Tax reclaim		743	-	743
Sizewell Hall deposit		450	-	450
		-----	-----	-----
		1,193	-	1,193
		=====	=====	=====
Liabilities				
Loans		-	-	-
Trade Creditors		-	-	-
Accruals		102	-	102
Deferred income		427	-	427
Agreed giving not dispersed		-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----
		529	-	529
		=====	=====	=====

Approved by the Board of Trustees on _____ and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts

HADLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1) Analysis of payments

Costs of activities for charitable objectives	2023	2022
	£	£
Outreach	8,522	3,834
Speakers' expenses	691	722
Church weekend away	6,951	5,296
Other expenses (a)	2,920	1,491
	19,083	11,343
	=====	=====
Support Costs - unrestricted fund	2023	2022
	£	£
Pastoral remuneration (b)	38,939	38,048
Manse running costs	792	532
Church running costs	22,112	19,812
Church maintenance (a)	36,739	49,980
Independent examiner's fee	350	330
Other expenses	60	81
	98,991	108,782
	=====	=====
Grants and donations	2023	2022
	£	£
Total grants to institutions	14,035	16,152
Total grants to individuals	-	200
	14,035	16,352
	=====	=====

2) Assets retained for the charity's own use

	Freehold land and buildings	Other land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings (d)	Total
	£	£	£	£
	(c)	(c)		
Net book value at 31 December 2022	275,000	1,662,188	17,124	1,954,312
Additions	-	-	592	592
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	35,000	436,133	-	471,133
Depreciation (e)	-	-	4,916	4,916
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net book value at 31 December 2023	310,000	2,098,321	12,800	2,421,121
	=====	=====	=====	=====

- Notes: (a) 2023 figures for these categories exclude a total of £592 in fixtures and fittings (£1,612 in 2022).
 (b) Pastoral remuneration was paid to trustee Chris Todd for his pastoral duties. He was not paid for his role as a trustee.
 (c) Freehold land and buildings at market value, other land and buildings at the insurance value as at 31 December 2023. Revaluation to take place by year end 2026.
 (d) From 2023 fixtures and fittings have a minimum value of £500 rather than £250.
 (e) Depreciation of new fixtures and fittings is over 7 years.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Hadleigh Baptist Church
(Charity Number 1150613)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect, accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have no concerns, and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: CA Cowgill Date: 7/8/2024

Mrs. Carole Cowgill ACA
4 Penny Meadow
Capel St. Mary
Ipswich
IP9 2UU

