

Sidley Baptist Church

Annual Report for 2023

References and administrative details

Registered Address: Claremont Road, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 5BX

Charity Registration Number: 1158651

Trustees

The Revd D Cooke, Minister in Training, (until June)

Phil Asselin (Treasurer)

Barry Chaseley

Rev Guy Partridge (stepped down September)

Jenny Hall (Chair and Safeguarding Trustee stepped down September)

Heidi Belton (Secretary stepped down September)

Peter Goldsmith (Secretary from October)

Karina Davis (Chair from October)

Liz Daniels

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd., Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire
OX11 8RT

Bankers

HSBC Hastings, 4 Robertson Street, Hastings East Sussex, TN34 1HW

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11
8RT

Independent Examiner

Leslie John Tasker

Annual Report for 2023

The trustees present their Annual Report for 2023

Governance, Structure and Management

Governance

The Charity is governed by a constitution based on the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches.

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and other such general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Membership and Trustees

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution wherein baptism by immersion upon a personal profession of faith is the normal mode of entry but persons seeking membership who have not been baptised may be accepted at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting on their own public profession of faith.

The members Meeting normally takes place 4 times a year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to 12 Trustees including the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer. They are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Public Benefit

The Church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that there is clear benefit to the public through the activities it carries out in meeting its purpose and objectives.

This is particularly shown by:

- Public opportunity to attend Worship events on Sundays
- Open access to outreach activities
- Public access to Little Seeds (Parent and Toddler group)
- Public access to Market Place (a community food larder and café)
- Accommodating other publicly accessible activities eg. Community & Church lunches, Theatre workshops, Jugglers, Dance groups, Slimming classes, Cookery Classes, Art Classes, Older Peoples groups, Family Parties. Partnering with Local Charities for special events.

Objectives and Activities

Core Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church seeks to provide a variety of activities both for its membership and the wider community of Sidley and beyond. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. The main service take place each Sunday at 10.30 am, this service is live streamed. This enables those who cannot get to the building to continue to engage. There is a quieter worship and prayer service on zoom at 6pm on Sundays, with a face to face meeting called 'The Well', on the last Sunday of the month in the church sanctuary.

Other occasional services are advertised on the church notice board, the website and using the weekly newsletter.

There is a full children's programme during the morning services.

The Church runs a number of Explore groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members and in the church, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The Church is responsible for a Toddler Group which meets in the Church premises on Wednesday mornings, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ, whilst helping in the development of learning and social skills in those under 5.

The Market place is a community Food Larder which seeks to serve the local Sidley community as the impact of economic hardship has had a considerable effect on those living in the area. By providing very cheap food, much of which is donated by local supermarkets etc the work brings some needed relief and support. This project allows the church to work in partnership with many local agencies and local businesses. In 2023 1833 people were served providing food for 3 meals, so 5499 meals in total.

Through the provision of a café staffed by volunteers, this work also provides a place for those isolated, seeking friendship as well as a safe place for parents and their pre-school children to play.

The church is the lead church for Bexhill and Hastings for CAP (Christians Against Poverty), hosting the office of CAP in the building. Rev Guy Partridge, a member of the church, is now the centre manager having moved from being a Minister and Trustee of the church. This work sees many helped to escape overwhelming debt as well as introducing them where possible to Jesus.

From time to time the Church runs courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The policy is reviewed annually. Access to suitable and appropriate training is provided to all those in roles which require it.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The

Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure but believe that 2023 was a positive year in the life of the church, despite the loss of their minister-in-training as he was called to another church following his ordination.

Other staff changes were:-

In July 2023 the decision was made by the church members to call a new Full Time Minister, Rev Sally Sago who will take up her role in Feb of next year. With that in mind, the church is looking to be able to continue to pursue its mission purposes and outreach in 2024 with renewed enthusiasm.

3 people were baptised and received into church membership.

18 other people became members of the church.

12 members died during or moved away/left

At 31 December 2023 the membership stood at 52 compared to 43 a year earlier.

Average attendance at worship services decreased during the year.

The Toddler Group continued to be oversubscribed with a waiting list of people wishing to attend regularly.

Carried out Safeguarding Training, level 2 and 3

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation **together with grants from a number of sympathetic** charities.

Financial systems are in place, as are policies for accountability and management, which are reviewed regularly.

Income in 2023 increased to £112,858 from £89,283 in the previous year.

The most significant expense related to Salaries - £41,157

Total expenditure increased from £108,241 to £113,531.

Accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments of £1 per month to cover the costs of past service of its staff within the scheme.

Charitable Giving

The church gave a proportion of its income to other Christian charities. These include: The Baptist Home Mission, Baptist World Mission and Jews for Jesus

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy to enable the church to function effectively and meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost.

Statement from policy

Freedom Church Reserves Policy is as follows:

"To hold three months of all expenditure plus a further three months staff costs to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the church. The policy will be reviewed annually."

This Report was accepted by the Trustees

Date: 4th September 2024

Signed:

Church Secretary

Treasurer

Attached Accounts

**Sidley Baptist Church
Known as
Freedom Church Bexhill**

**Report and Accounts
For the Year Ended
31 December 2023**

Charity number: 1158651

Freedom Church Bexhill
Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Freedom Church Bexhill
Year Ended 31 December 2023
Legal and Administrative Details

Charity Name	Freedom Church Bexhill
Charity Registration Number	1158651
Mailing Address	Claremont Road Bexhill On Sea East Sussex TN39 5BX
Trustees	Rev G Partridge (Resigned Sept 2023) Rev D Cooke (Resigned June 2023) J Hall (Resigned Sept 2023) P Asselin (Resigned 12/06/24) H Belton (Resigned Sept 2023) B Chaseley (Resigned Apr 2024) P Goldsmith (Appointed Oct 2023) K Davis (Appointed Oct 2023 Resigned Apr 2024) L Daniels (Appointed Oct 2023 Resigned Apr 2024) M Scarlett (Appointed 12/06/24) S Briton (Appointed 12/06/24) P Mullens (Appointed 12/06/24) T Purfield (Appointed 12/06/24) I Costley (Appointed 12/06/24) H Belton (Appointed 12/06/24)
Independent Examiner	Mr L J Tasker FCCA Ryefields Ltd Unit 139 Airport House Purley Way Croydon Surrey CR0 0XZ

Freedom Church Bexhill
Year Ended 31 December 2023
Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the period ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

to state 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting 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 accounts to be reached.

Name: Leslie John Tasker FCCA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address: Ryefields Ltd. Unit 139 Airport House, Purley Way, Croydon. Surrey CR0 0XZ.

Date: 21 October 2024

Freedom Church Bexhill

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total funds	
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources						
Charitable giving:						
Giving to the church	2	59,171	-	-	59,171	52,050
Other income:	2	15,761	13,104	-	28,865	26,733
Grants received		-	19,491	-	19,491	10,500
Bank interest	2	787	4,544	-	5,331	-
Total incoming resources		75,719	37,139	-	112,858	89,283
Resources expended						
Charitable activities	3	79,302	34,230	-	113,532	108,241
Total resources expended		79,302	34,230	-	113,532	108,241
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources for the year		(3,583)	2,909	-	(674)	(18,958)
Transfers between funds					-	-
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		52,345	179,719	-	232,064	251,022
Total funds carried forward		48,762	182,628	-	231,390	232,064
Represented by:						
Petty cash		178	-	-	178	819
Bank		48,587	182,625	-	231,212	231,245
		48,765	182,625	-	231,390	232,064

Approved by the Trustees on 4th September 2024

M Scarlett (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 9 and 10 form part of these accounts.

Freedom Church Bexhill

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

- (a) The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.
- (b)
 - Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
 - Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.
 - Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts.
- (d)
 - Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its 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 costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- (e) Capital expenditure is written off on purchase.

2 Giving to the church

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Gifts and donations	51,827	-	-	51,827
Interest	787	4,544	-	5,331
Property letting	14,333	-	-	14,333
Other Income	999	-	-	999
Income from Market Place	-	13,054	-	13,054
BMS - Birthday Scheme	-	50	-	50
Coffee Morning	-	-	-	-
Little Seeds/Messy Church	429	-	-	429
Grants - New Garden	-	9,971	-	9,971
Grants - Other	-	9,520	-	9,520
Tax recovered	7,344	-	-	7,344
	<u>75,719</u>	<u>37,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,858</u>

3 Total resources expended

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Church activities	4,866	10,377	-	15,243
Church Mission	6,888	-	-	6,888
Gifts	-	-	-	-
Training and resources	315	-	-	315
Bank Charges	222	-	-	222
Premises costs	19,317	3,651	-	22,968
New Garden	-	14,873	-	14,873
Professional Fees	5,740	-	-	5,740
Administration costs	6,126	-	-	6,126
Employment costs	35,828	5,329	-	41,157

79,302	34,230	-	113,532
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Freedom Church Bexhill**Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023****4 Movement of funds**

	Balance at 1 Dec 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	52,345	75,719	(79,302)	-	48,762
Restricted funds	179,719	37,139	(34,230)		182,628
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
	232,064	112,858	(113,532)	-	231,390

5 Assets

At 31 December 2023 the Charity had the following assets:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	£
Current Account	22,812			22,812
Savings Accounts	25,775	25,219		50,994
Manse Trust fund		157,406		157,406
Cash held	178			178
				<u>231,390</u>

Freedom Church Bexhill
Year Ended 31 December 2023
Report of the Trustees

The Trustees presents their report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

A copy of the report is below:

Freedom Church Bexhill
Year Ended 31 December 2023
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