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Annual Report 2022

This church aims to be a community of believers living according to the Bible's teaching where people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

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Annual Report 2022

We are pleased to present a report of the life and work of the Church during 2022.

Aims and Purposes

The vision of Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church is to be a community of believers living according to the Bible's teaching so that Christ's redemptive purposes can be accomplished in the world. The Church's mission is to enable people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The fellowship of the church seeks to go **deeper** with God, become **closer** to each other and **wider** in our influence.

Objectives and Activities

The Church is committed to carrying out its activities in line with the Baptist tradition and to encourage and enable people in the local area to attend and take part in its services and meetings.

Activities include:

- Services each week for worship, prayer, Bible Study, preaching and teaching, including additional services for those in the local area whose first language is not English
- Baptism on request
- Meetings for young people
- Small group meetings (Life Groups)
- Pastoral care
- Discipleship for Christian service
- Evangelism and mission
- Support of Christian and social charitable action within the local area
- Support for mission overseas
- Involvement with the local and national Baptist associations

The ministry areas of the Church are classified into **Worship, Fellowship, Reaching Out, Discipleship and Social Action**, supplemented by a **Resources Team** (all led by the Deacons) and with spiritual oversight and pastoral care administered by the Elders.

Achievements and Performance

Worship, Teaching and Prayer

2022 represented a return to pre-Covid formats. Masks became optional and social distancing was present in half the Worship Area and absent in the other half. People were free to sit where they wanted. We continued to live-stream services and to record them via YouTube. This gave people the option of attending in person or watching from home, and this also had the benefit of allowing people to catch up with the service if they had been away. We discovered that several people became part of our regular congregation from other parts of the country and abroad.

As the year went on and people established new, post-Covid patterns of behavior we had many new people attending. We also had a number of asylum-seekers from a local hotel that became part of the congregation. We moved the Portuguese language service to begin at the same time as the English-language service. This had the advantage of enabling the children from both congregations to be part of our children and youth activities together, and to allow us to mix afterwards in fellowship.

We had the occasional evening service for specific events, including a prayer watch following the death of her Majesty the Queen. We continued with regular prayer events including weekly prayer meetings via Zoom.

Over the year we looked at the following topics in our services:

- Vision for 2022
- The Messy Church
- A Passion for Life
- We Believe – a short series on Christian basics
- The Gospel of Mark Chapters 1-15

After a period without a worship deacon, 2022 was a year of re-establishing the ministry post-lockdown. This has involved a lot of work 'behind the scenes', which is probably not immediately apparent to most, but has been essential. The worship team has welcomed in new members and has seen the return of some who were part of the team pre-covid. Christmas saw the return of drama and we want to encourage more expressions of creativity as part of our worship in the future. At the end of the year we began to explore the possibility of establishing a youth band to encourage, mentor and help our children to engage with the rest of the congregation. This has now begun and we look forward to them leading us as part of our Sunday morning worship.

International Ministry

This ministry is overseen by our Minister Gustavo Gubiani and is now being led by Uelton Ricardo.

The International Ministry has had its focus on Portuguese and Spanish speakers. A Sunday morning service in Portuguese has been offered to people who would like to worship in this language. Uelton Ricardo has been offering pastoral care and servant leadership to those part of this service.

Our growing connection with the Ibis Hotel is providing an opportunity to reach other nationalities. People in this hotel are asylum seekers and have been encouraged to take part in our services (both in English and Portuguese) and are gradually being included in our church life.

The International Ministry continues with the vision to draw people in from the wider town community and is very effective in aiding the international community to feel fully included in the Church family.

Safeguarding

In 2022 we approved a new Safeguarding Policy, based on the Baptist Union Model Policy. This Policy states that we recognise our responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people, and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

We have shared this policy with the Church Fellowship. We have two Designated People for Safeguarding, Mandy Talbot (Child Protection) and Steve Barber (Adults at Risk). Everyone working with children, young people or adults at risk holds an enhanced DBS check and will be expected to complete Safeguarding Training.

Children and Youth

Children's Ministry

This ministry is led by Richard Jones

We were delighted that in 2022 we were back with Xplorers (school years 4-6) and the two Kidzone groups (nursery- school year 3) meeting in person on a Sunday morning. Regularly we have around 40 children attend in total.

A number of new families joined the church and we were pleased to welcome their children into

the groups. We were also pleased to have some new volunteer leaders and helpers join a faithful existing team.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers for making the groups safe and welcoming place where through stories, crafts and games the children can learn about God's love for them, how they can accept Jesus as saviour for themselves, and how they can grow as Christians and as part of the church.

Youth Ministry

This ministry is led by Mandy Talbot.

Our Sunday morning group, for aged 11-18, is called Impact and meets during the Church Service. Numbers attending fluctuated during 2022, but we now seem to have a solid group of 10-15 youngsters each week.

Our team of dedicated leaders delivers interesting and fun sessions to help the young people to learn more about the Bible and discuss how to live as a Christian in today's world. We usually include breakfast together once a month and have held some social events to help us get to know each other better.

Moving forward, we have just begun a new Youth Group on Friday evenings to allow more opportunities for the group to mix and learn from each other.

Discipleship

This area is led by Graham Page and Calvin Horner.

Small groups (known as LIFE Groups) continue to be the primary focus for Church members and non-members to grow as disciples of Jesus by building relationships with each other, deepening faith through prayer and Bible study, and living their faith out in the world.

Most LIFE Groups are meeting in person. However, a number have adopted a Hybrid approach with members being able to attend face-to-face or via ZOOM when more convenient. Communication with LIFE Group Leaders is maintained through email, and now through a new WhatsApp group chat.

LIFE Group leaders are contacted when new church members are seeking to become part of a

group so that they can join the most suitable group based on several criteria: the prospective member's Christian experience, the demographics of potential LIFE Groups and geographical location. We have also supported the "Link Up" team by attending the monthly Link up meetings to meet people interested in knowing more about the Church and discuss LIFE Group participation where applicable.

One area of focus for future development will be to examine how the resources library and discipleship ministry team can support the work of LIFE groups. The development of the Church's digital ministry will allow the expansion of the electronic resources that can be made available for members to develop their spiritual lives. This has started progressing with some preliminary discussions about the possibility of serving the church community via an intranet of electronic teaching resources.

Discussions are also taking place with the LIFE Group leaders to ascertain what digital and hard print materials can be provided to support their individual groups.

In conjunction with the Teaching Ministry Team we have started to provide an overview of teaching topics for the forthcoming 3-6 month period so that Life Groups can deepen their study of the themes covered during the Sunday morning services should they so wish.

Fellowship

Janet Casson and Catherine Church continued to lead the Fellowship ministry during 2022.

The fellowship group known as the **Baptist Midweek Fellowship** (BMF) restarted in September 2021 and has continued to meet on a regular basis.

The **Contact Group** reaches about 60 people in the wider context. Eight people who are housebound or in care homes are visited by the team members each month and when not possible to visit in person, are contacted with a phone call, letter, or card. They also received a book at Christmas with Bible passages, prayers, and some comforting words of encouragement.

The Breaking Bread café has continued every Tuesday over the last year and has now extended to include a Thursday afternoon which meets in the new Bridge building on a Thursday. Both groups include church members and folk in the community. The numbers in both of these cafes are increasing week by week and are becoming a popular place for people visiting Exchange to meet

over a cup of tea or coffee with cake.

The **Cake and Make** group led by Margaret Webb and assisted by Audrey Jenkins is a small group which continues to meet. One person volunteers to bring the cake and make the coffee each time.

The Network Group has put on several events over the last year, to include bacon brunches after the Sunday morning service, a theatre trip to The Lion King and a picnic in Hatfield Forest. Other fellowship events are planned in the coming months to encourage people to get to know one another and welcome new people to the church.

Stewarding: Once the morning services started again, a loyal group of stewards have been welcoming folk to our Sunday services. Stewarding is a great way to get to know others, so we would welcome any new people onto this rota to provide a welcoming smile at the door for details see Catherine Church.

Link Up: This group meet normally on the first Sunday of the month after the morning service and it is an opportunity for newcomers to meet in a quieter space and find out about church life. It also allows the church to show hospitality and get to know them, to supply the required information, and to collect their details, if appropriate, in order to keep in touch.

We want to make the “welcome experience” as good as it can be, so members of the Link Up team are actively looking out for newcomers whenever they are at church. All church members are welcome to come along with new people they may have met.

A **Remote Garden Club** via WhatsApp (open to non gardeners or those without gardens too) started by Stephen Beach, continues to encourage one another with their photos and tips.

The **Prayer Chain** has continued its faithful confidential ministry, praying each day at a specific time, or if urgent prayer is needed, at any time of the day.

Reaching Out

This ministry area is led by Jamie Davidson.

Overview

Our Reaching Out ministries seek to share the gospel with those who do not yet know Jesus.

As a church, we seek to do this through two main channels:

- Sharing our faith with the people of Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding area;
- Supporting missionaries and mission organisations; and encouraging church members to take part in mission

In 2022, we ran the following activities:

Local work

A Passion for Life: We participated in the national A Passion for Life month of mission in the Spring of 2022, running training for the church, and several events including a quiz, Messy Church; and street outreach with OAC Ministries

Study groups: We have run study groups for those who want to explore the Christian Faith and The Bible in more depth. Courses run in 2022 include Discipleship Explored and The Bible Course.

Flower arranging: The flowers team have continued activity throughout the year running – flower arranging classes and sharing flowers and encouraging verses through Lonely Bouquets.

Puppets Galore: The puppets team have run shows both as part of church events and in external locations such as schools.

Gospel literature: We provide a range of gospel literature for individuals to take and read or share with others. This includes copies of single gospels and leaflets answering common questions about the Christian Faith.

World Mission

We partner with a number of overseas missionaries connected with the church including:

- Roland & Carolien Smith (Netherlands)
- Eric & Claire Singirankabo (Rwanda)
- Paul & Lizzie Reed (Eastern Europe)
- Sergio & Liz Vilela (Mozambique)

- Storly & Kate Michel (Haiti)

Some church members are also involved in UK-based mission amongst students including:

- Rachel Tallintire (UCCF, London)
- Tracy Moreton (Friends International, Colchester)

Our annual Harvest Sunday focused on the work of Operation Agri and their Vital Vegetables campaign in Mozambique. We also continue to support mission organisations including Stort Valley Schools Trust, BMS World Mission and Compassion.

Social Action

This ministry area is led by Julia Horner.

Overview

Our focus is to engage with our local community and make a difference through our three aims:

- Supporting those in need in our local community, particularly the disadvantaged in society or those struggling financially;
- Supporting community groups who meet specific needs in our local area;
- Caring for the local environment.

As we moved on from Covid, and started to feel the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, charitable work and helping the vulnerable was our priority, so a variety of social action projects operated throughout the year, which we either ran ourselves or were affiliated to.

Exchange: Exchange, which is based within our new Bridge building, was open 2 afternoons a week, and provided clothing, household goods, furniture and white goods to members of the public who visited Exchange during the year. The biggest request was for furniture and household goods for those who had just moved from temporary accommodation to their first and completely empty property. We were very blessed to have Church members who regularly collected and delivered furniture using their trailer, and a volunteer who carried out portable appliance (PAT) testing on our white goods, enabling them to be received and given away. In conjunction with the Church's Pantry we gave out 28 Christmas gift bags in December. We also saw a large number of asylum seekers from a local hotel coming to choose clothing.

Toddlers and Co. Toddlers and Co had their first 'normal year' for quite a long time following the Covid restrictions. They were able to stay fully open for the whole year, running Toddlers

and Co on 2 mornings a week, although they were still operating with fewer families on their registers than pre-Covid, to help keep the room less busy. Both sessions remained full for the whole year, with a short waiting list for both days. They welcomed just over 50 families each week between the 2 groups, with a mixture of parents, grandparents, childminders and nannies attending. They held various charity events throughout the year, celebrated Easter, Christmas, Mother's and Father's Day, and managed an outing to the park. The families always appreciated the support they received, the opportunity to make new friends, and the fact that once a week someone else made them a cup of tea!

Canal Adoption: The church has informally 'adopted' the one mile stretch of canal beside the Church. We have a Church member who is a Waterways Chaplain, who regularly walked the towpaths in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth and supported anyone who needed practical or spiritual help. He has also been involved with the 'Green Spaces' initiative - planting trees and plants on the towpath in association with the Canal and River Trust.

Love Stortford: 'Love Stortford' took place again in June. We supported a decorated float which took part in the procession to the town Carnival. This included an Elvis impersonator, and the giving out of sweets and flyers. Our church made 200 small bouquets with a message of hope, to leave in various places throughout the town to be taken home by anyone finding them. We also ran a café each afternoon for the week, serving free tea, coffee, cakes and ice creams. 'Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford supported other churches running other free cafes and stalls at the Carnival, litter picking throughout the town, the making and sending of Thank You gifts to care workers in the local care homes and encouraging the Acts of Random Kindness by individuals to the public.

Bishops Stortford Food Bank With the cost-of-living crisis, the Bishop's Stortford food bank continued to see an increase in people using it. In 2022 it fed over 3400 people - a 42% increase on the year before. They offered the clients appointments to come to the food bank to choose items, but also offered a delivery service for those unable to get there in person. With the food parcels they also gave Aldi vouchers, so clients could buy fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and chilled and frozen foods. They also supported people with pre-payment gas and electricity meters, and via referrals from a support agency, could help top up their accounts. They had a wonderful team of volunteers without which they would be unable to run. They had 'in house' volunteers who picked, packed and got ready all the food parcels to go out, plus worked with clients face-to-face who came in to choose their food. They also had a team of delivery drivers who took the food parcels to those most vulnerable and unable to come in person. They received referrals

from a variety of agencies such as the YMCA, CAB, Holy Trinity Night Shelter, the local council, housing associations and mental health teams plus many more. As always at Christmas, they worked with the Salvation Army, Family Centres and the YMCA providing around 300 Christmas hampers to families and local residents in need, along with supporting Cal e4Calais who help asylum seekers. They fully appreciated the support the food bank received from the community, which enabled them to help so many people.

Bishops Stortford Money Advice Service This year, Community Money Advice Connect Centre Bishop's Stortford (CMAC BS) felt that debt advice was becoming more of a specialist service and would be better delivered by the local CAB which had a higher level of resources to do this. CMAS BS therefore closed at the end of March, with aim of referring clients on to the CAB.

Street Pastors: Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth who care about their community and want to keep people safe. They patrol the pubs, bars restaurants and railway stations weekly in teams of men and women on Friday or Saturday nights between 10pm and 2am. Their aim is to care for, listen to, and help people who are out and about in our town, and to make the community a safer place for everyone to enjoy. In 2022, Street Pastors cared for those who needed help particularly those who were vulnerable or who were taking risks. Teams regularly encountered people struggling to get home after a night out, those who had had too much to drink or were under the influence of drugs, those with nowhere to sleep for the night and those who simply wanted a friendly person to talk to. Much of their work was preventative; by being a friendly, non-threatening presence. Street Pastors were accepted in the community and deterred crime. They also swept up bottles, glass and drug paraphernalia for safe disposal. They were able to be a quiet presence and distraction at known 'hot spots' and were sometimes able to diffuse and prevent difficult situations from escalating. Street Pastors also signposted people to other agencies for further support if they wanted them to and listened to those who wanted to chat. They charged mobile phones, called taxis or contacted friends or relatives of those who had become stranded, were vulnerable, or at risk of making poor decisions. They kept lone individuals company as they waited for friends, especially lone women. They handed out bottled water, fruit pastilles, flip flops, space blankets, plasters, sanitising wipes, sick bags and helpful contact cards. They called for emergency services when necessary and remained in support until help arrived. They currently have a team of 14 volunteers, a wonderful team of Prayer Pastors covering their work in prayer, and a dedicated team of trustees who oversee our work. They are also supported by the police and the local

authority, including Bishops Stortford Town Council. They are extremely grateful to the Baptist Church for their support; for storing their uniform, allowing them space for meetings, and especially to John Walford, their Chair for all he has done.

Grove Cottage We aim to support Grove Cottage (the Mencap provision just 100 yards from the church) however we can. We ran our usual accessible Carol Service for them in December, held an offering for their work over Christmas, and provide them with room hire in the church building. We continue to support them practically and financially where possible and in prayer.

Future Plans

Our Strategy moving forward is to develop a culture in which we are growing in:

- Compassion
- Community
- Hospitality
- Christlikeness
- Proclamation
- Creativity
- Global Perspective
- Accountability

Each Ministry Area has developed aims and goals to move towards this, and they will be reviewed regularly to see how they are being met. We look forward to The Bridge being fully operational and enabling us to be even better equipped as a place of healing, comfort and encouragement.

External Links

The Church continues to be linked in fellowship to the national structures of the Baptist Union of Great Britain which are expressed locally through the Eastern Baptist Association.

The Church also remains a member of Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford and the Evangelical Alliance.

Church members take part in the meetings and events of Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford and support a number of joint projects.

Premises

This area is led by Paul Crispin.

The Church has four properties, all of which are held in trust by the Baptist Union Corporation:

- The Church Centre
- The Bridge (second building on the Church Centre site)
- 8 Wilson Close (Manse 1)
- 14 Cavell Court (Manse 2)

I am grateful to Cliff Cureton, Angus McLeod, Andy Doochan, Dave Lambert, Steve Beach and Paul Morris for their practical help in general maintenance.

We meet every 2nd Wednesday to attend to any issues as they arise.

Church Membership

We are now beginning to see church life opening up again after Covid, and attendance is beginning to rise. A small number of people have taken an opportunity for a fresh start during the Covid period, and have moved to a new area to live, or moved to a new church. We are also taking the opportunity of this new season to contact people who have not returned to church after Covid or have not been active members for some time, to see how they are and to see whether their membership circumstances have changed. All these criteria are reflected in our membership numbers for 2022.

The year started with 223 members and ended with 216, of which there were 3 deaths and 17 resignations either by request, or by removal. (It should be noted that whilst this looks like a large number, it simply reflects the natural movement in and out of membership that would have taken place during the 3 years of the Covid period but was delayed. We had 2 baptisms.

The BSBC 'Discovery Course' is held for newcomers to the Church to find out more about our beliefs, practices, priorities and activities. These are informal and interactive sessions, during which people can hear about the joys and the responsibilities of membership within Baptist churches, where governance is the responsibility of the gathered membership. On completion of the two sessions attendees can decide whether they wish to become members of the Church. We held courses in March, June and October, and there was a total of 14 attendees, 13 of whom became members.

Staff and Volunteers

We were very pleased to appoint Irene Thorn as our new Finance Assistant in January 2022. She joins John Walford, Gustavo Gubiani, Tim Kingston Hepner, Liz Lake and Ira Mayo to complete a team of six.

But in addition, in order to run the vast number of activities that the Church operates, we have an amazing band of volunteers that serve faithfully and enthusiastically. A large percentage of our Church members and members of the congregation serve in one way or another, many in a multitude of roles. Many others are also very active prayerfully. As always in any vibrant community, there are vacancies for service that need to be filled.

Structure, Governance and Management

A Finance and Administration Committee continues to oversee the administration of the church to free up more time for the rest of the Leadership Team to focus on ministries, in order to enable the church to thrive, grow and blossom in our service to our Lord and in our witness and service to the community.

Administrative Information

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church is affiliated to the Eastern Baptist Association and to the Baptist Union. The correspondence address is The Baptist Church Centre, Twyford Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3LJ

The Church is registered with the Charities Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1159484; Constitution last amended 23rd September 2021)

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102) • Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity 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 Charity's auditor is unaware;
- 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 auditor is aware of that information

Trustees

The Trustees for 2022 were as follows:

Ex Officio Members

Senior Minister

The Reverend John Walford

Minister

The Reverend Gustavo Gubiani

Elected members

Elders

Mr Keith Bintley

Mr Martin Gill

Mr Rupert Moore

Church Secretary

Mr Michael Talbot (since March 2022)

Church Treasurer

Mr Geoffrey Gosling (Until March 2022)

Mr Richard Lake (since March 2022)

Deacons

Mrs Judy Box

Mrs Janet Casson (until March 2022)

Mrs Catherine Church

Mr Paul Crispin

Mr Jamie Davidson

Mrs Julia Horner

Mr Calvin Horner

Mr Richard Jones

Mrs Jo Moore (since March 2022)

Mr Graham Page (since March 2022)

Mrs Mandy Talbot

Mr David Thomas

Financial overview

All monies received are donations from members and other persons associated with the church. A small sum is received from the letting of premises to other organisations. In 2022 the church also received grants from external organisations towards the major redevelopment of the second building on our campus known as The Bridge.

Following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions, planned giving through weekly cash offerings (including casual cash gifts) and giving through the envelope scheme recovered to the levels of pre-pandemic years. Direct giving by standing order also increased. Organisations using the Church Centre for various functions returned, leading to £6,681 being received, an increase of 30% over 2021.

The church was immensely grateful to receive a very generous grant of £750,000 from the Hallingbury Free Church Trust towards the construction costs of 'The Bridge' redevelopment. Further gifts from the fellowship and grants from East Herts District Council and Hertfordshire Community Foundation were received for the fit-out costs totalled and £44,130 including gift aid.

A legacy of £7,975 was received during 2022.

Total receipts for the General Fund (including Gift Aid) were £272,912, an increase of 5.8% compared to equivalent giving in 2021 (£258,061). Total income for the year amounted to £1,170,030 (£475,911 in 2021).

Total expenditure in 2022 was £1,147,899 (£382,068 excluding £765,831 for The Bridge construction and fit out). This compares to £396,904 in 2021 (£356,549 excluding £40,355 for The Bridge).

A significant proportion of the church's income is given to Christian mission and relief groups. A total of £79,247 was donated by the church, supporting similar ministries to 2021. This was over budget, as gifts totalling £16,831 were also received to support Christian churches and families in Ukraine. This represents about 21% of expenditure excluding 'The Bridge'.

There was a deficit in the General Fund (receipts less payments) of £7,154 compared to a surplus of £14,425 in 2021.

£5,160 was spent (using the capital reserve) on replacement pumps in the Church Centre. £56,100 was paid towards repayment of the Baptist Union Corporation loan for the costs of Church Centre construction and the redevelopment work associated with The Bridge Project, so that the amount outstanding is now £456,474. The loan is to be paid off by 2036.

£18,780 was paid towards repayment of the Baptist Union Corporation loan for the purchase of our second manse, so that the amount outstanding is now £212,542. The loan is to be paid off by 2037.

As at 31 December 2022 the General Reserve stood at £150,401. The Capital Goods Reserve stood at £15,412. The monies held for equipping the Church Centre and Special Projects totalled £25,808. The Bridge development works and fit out fund stood at £87,292.

The church has a reserves policy, and a minimum sum is stipulated within this and held within the General Reserve. The amount is sufficient for meeting obligations in a six-month period should the Church have to be wound up.

The property is used to further the aims of the church and is not used for investment purposes.

Workplace Pensions

As reported in previous years, the church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Union of GB Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"). The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the Scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

The Minister and all members of the church staff are eligible to join the Scheme and pension provision is made through a defined contribution (DC) plan. Members of the Ministers' section of the scheme pay 8% of their pensionable income and employers pay 6% into individual pension accounts. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of pensionable income (or 3% if the employer is in the segregated DC section) 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.

Our non-ministerial employees are eligible to join the Basic section of the scheme. Members pay contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%. However, benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a DB 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.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was carried out by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Following the 2019 valuation a Recovery Plan was signed in September 2020 under which deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions were broadly based on each employer's membership at 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

As at 30th November 2021 the Church's individual estimated debt within the Baptist Pension Scheme was £45,600, based on the service of current and previous ministers. At 31st December 2022 no liability exists.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise Statement of Financial Activity, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charity 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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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.

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 course of 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or

the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or

the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 15 and 16, the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 1443 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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 an

auditor's report 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.

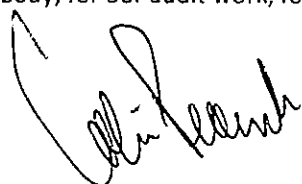
The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Colin Peacock FCCA MAAT (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Lawrence & Company
26 Bell Street
Sawbridgeworth
Herts
CM21 9AN

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

| | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total funds | Prior year total funds |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | Note 3 | 289,785 | 118,949 | 759,389 | 1,168,124 | 473,697 |
| Investments - bank interest | | 1,906 | - | - | 1,906 | 2,214 |
| Total income | | 291,692 | 118,949 | 759,389 | 1,170,030 | 475,911 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | Note 4 | 261,875 | 185,112 | 700,913 | 1,147,899 | 396,904 |
| Total expenditure | | 261,875 | 185,112 | 700,913 | 1,147,899 | 396,904 |
| Net Income / (expenditure) resources before transfer | | 29,817 | (66,163) | 58,476 | 22,131 | 79,008 |
| Transfers: | | | | | | |
| Gross transfers between funds - in | | 59 | 105,280 | - | 105,347 | 122,975 |
| Gross transfers between funds - out | | (79,228) | (1,119) | (25,000) | (105,347) | (122,975) |
| Other recognised gains / losses | | | | | | |
| Gains on fixed assets and loans | | 1,053,077 | (62,538) | - | 990,539 | 2,573,882 |
| Net movement in funds | | 1,003,725 | (24,532) | 33,476 | 1,012,670 | 2,652,890 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | Notes 15 & 16 | 3,039,803 | (75,007) | - | 2,964,797 | 311,907 |
| Total funds carried forward | Notes 15 & 16 | 4,043,528 | (99,538) | 33,476 | 3,977,466 | 2,964,797 |


The gains and losses represent fixed assets and a new loan. All of the church's activities are classed as continuing.

The notes numbered 1-17 form part of these accounts.

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

| | | Total Funds 2022 £ | Total Funds 2021 £ |
|--|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Fixed assets:</i> | | | |
| Tangible assets | Note 10 | 4,262,927 | 3,261,175 |
| Total Fixed assets | | 4,262,927 | 3,261,175 |
| <i>Current assets:</i> | | | |
| Debtors | Note 11 | 19,200 | 690 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | Note 12 | 427,308 | 377,871 |
| Total Current assets | | 446,508 | 378,561 |
| <i>Liabilities:</i> | | | |
| Creditors falling due within one year | Note 13 | (62,953) | - |
| Net Current assets/(liabilities) | | 383,555 | 378,561 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 4,646,481 | 3,639,736 |
| Creditors falling due after more than one year | Note 14 | (669,015) | (674,939) |
| Total net assets | | 3,977,466 | 2,964,797 |
| <i>The funds of the charity:</i> | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | Note 15 | 4,043,528 | 3,039,803 |
| Designated funds | Note 16 | (99,538) | (75,007) |
| Restricted funds | Note 17 | 33,476 | - |
| Total charity funds | | 3,977,466 | 2,964,797 |

Approved by the Trustees on 23 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by

....., Michael Talbot, Trustee

The notes numbered 1-17 form part of these accounts.

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Net income/(expenditure) for 2022 (as per the financial statements) | 961,345 | 2,652,890 |
| Depreciation charges | 51,325 | 51,325 |
| (Increase)/decrease in fixed assets | (1,001,752) | (3,312,500) |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | (18,511) | 612 |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 57,030 | 674,939 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>49,437</u> | <u>67,266</u> |

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a. Basis of preparing the financial statements

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b. Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

In order to assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption basis, the trustees have considered the church's financial position, liquidity, unrestricted reserves and forecasts for the foreseeable future, taking into account the principal risks to which the charity is exposed. Trustees have also considered the circumstances under which the activities of the church would be unable to continue. After taking into account the current level of the charity's cash and reserves and the financial performance since 31st December 2022, the trustees have concluded that the risk of this situation occurring is remote.

Accordingly, and after making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of signing of this report.

On this basis, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

c. Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is more likely than not that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Legacies are accounted for when probate has been completed, the amount of the legacy can be quantified and the conditions of the legacy are within the control of the church. One such legacy and received was notified and received for the current year (2022). No such legacy was notified in the previous year (2021).

d. Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. No such services or facilities have been donated in the current (2022) or previous (2021) years.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the general volunteer time of the church members and wider church fellowship is not recognised in financial terms. Refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

e. Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

f. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. In the event of the intended purpose not requiring the money such funds could be returned to general use. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the church's work or for specific projects supported by the church. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The church has no endowment funds.

g. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is classified as relating to charitable activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h. Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful economic life.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Freehold Land | Not depreciated. |
| Freehold Buildings | Depreciated over 50 years. |
| Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings | 10% per annum, and costing £5,000 or more. There are no assets that meet this criteria. |

i. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening the deposit or similar account. These short term highly liquid investments are valued at the initial investment value.

k. Creditors and accruals

Creditors and accruals are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and accruals are normally estimated at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l. Related charities

The custodian Trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Eastern Baptist Association. The church made a donation to Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 5.

2. Legal Status of the Church

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church is a registered charitable incorporated organisation no. 1159484, and the church building is a registered place of worship.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

| | Unrestricted £ | Designated £ | Restricted £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Regular Offerings | 222,057 | 51,892 | - | 273,950 | 233,160 |
| Donations | 14,881 | 14,508 | - | 29,390 | 39,256 |
| Legacies | - | 7,975 | - | 7,975 | - |
| Donations/Grants for 'The Bridge' | - | 29,559 | 759,389 | 788,948 | 122,063 |
| Gift Aid Recoverable | 46,166 | 15,015 | - | 61,180 | 71,768 |
| Receipts for Use of Church Centre | 6,681 | - | - | 6,681 | 5,141 |
| HMRC (Work Retention Scheme) | - | - | - | - | 2,310 |
| | <u>289,785</u> | <u>118,949</u> | <u>759,389</u> | <u>1,168,124</u> | <u>473,697</u> |
| 2021 totals by type of fund | <u>273,847</u> | <u>199,850</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>473,697</u> |

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted £ | Designated £ | Restricted £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Premises | 51,535 | 70,348 | 700,913 | 822,796 | 92,031 |
| Depreciation | 51,325 | - | - | 51,325 | 51,325 |
| Interest Payable | 9,663 | 21,765 | - | 31,410 | 15,521 |
| Ministry & Outreach | 131,940 | 15,153 | - | 147,093 | 142,310 |
| Ministry Support | 16,021 | - | - | 16,021 | 5,531 |
| Mission Grants | 1,401 | 77,846 | - | 79,247 | 90,186 |
| | <u>261,875</u> | <u>185,112</u> | <u>700,913</u> | <u>1,147,899</u> | <u>396,904</u> |
| 2021 totals by type of fund | <u>238,225</u> | <u>152,296</u> | <u>6,382</u> | | <u>396,904</u> |

5. Grants for Mission

| | Unrestricted £ | Designated £ | Restricted £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| National Mission | | | | | |
| - Baptist Home Mission | - | 11,800 | - | 11,800 | 11,500 |
| - Holiday Bible Week | - | 3,371 | - | 3,371 | 73 |
| - Stort Valley Schools Trust | - | 2,150 | - | 2,150 | 2,720 |
| - Bishop's Stortford Food Bank | 1,000 | - | - | 1,000 | 2,313 |
| - Others | 401 | 2,000 | - | 2,401 | 247 |
| | <u>1,401</u> | <u>19,321</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>20,721</u> | <u>16,852</u> |
| 2021 totals by type of fund | <u>619</u> | <u>16,233</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>16,852</u> |
| World Mission | | | | | |
| - BMS World Mission | - | 17,831 | - | 17,831 | 16,955 |
| - European Christian Mission (R & C Smith) | - | 11,351 | - | 11,351 | 10,105 |
| - Samaritan Hospital (E & C Singirankabo) | - | 8,196 | - | 8,196 | 8,168 |
| - Eastern Europe Mission Work (E & P Reed) | - | 4,316 | - | 4,316 | 3,803 |
| - Operation Agri | - | - | - | - | 576 |
| - Tear Fund | - | - | - | - | 740 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>41,694</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>41,694</u> | <u>40,346</u> |
| 2021 totals by type of fund | <u>-</u> | <u>40,346</u> | <u>-</u> | | <u>40,346</u> |
| Other Mission | | | | | |
| - Compassion UK (Rwanda School Project) | - | - | - | - | 32,988 |
| - Support for Ukrainian Churches and Families | - | 16,831 | - | 16,831 | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>16,831</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>16,831</u> | <u>32,988</u> |
| 2021 totals by type of fund | <u>-</u> | <u>26,607</u> | <u>6,382</u> | | <u>32,988</u> |
| Total | <u>1,401</u> | <u>77,846</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>79,247</u> | <u>90,186</u> |
| 2021 totals by type of fund | <u>619</u> | <u>83,185</u> | <u>6,382</u> | | <u>90,186</u> |

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6. Total Expenditure

| | Staff Costs £ | Premises Costs £ | Other Costs £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Local Ministry | 121,591 | 930,539 | 9,082 | 1,061,212 | 306,718 |
| National Mission | - | - | 20,721 | 20,721 | 16,852 |
| World Mission | - | - | 41,604 | 41,604 | 40,346 |
| Other Mission | - | - | 16,831 | 16,831 | 32,888 |
| Governance | - | - | 7,440 | 7,440 | - |
| | 121,591 | 930,539 | 95,769 | 1,147,899 | 396,804 |

Total expenditure was £1,147,899 (2021: £396,804), of which £261,875 was unrestricted (2021: £238,226), £185,112 was designated (2021: £152,296) and £700,913 was restricted (2021: £6,382).

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and the cost of key management personnel

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Stipends, Expenses & Wages | 105,962 | 104,493 |
| Social Security Costs | 3,216 | 4,030 |
| Pensions Costs | 12,413 | 14,263 |
| | 121,591 | 122,776 |

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: nil).

2 ministers were remunerated £59,955 (2021: 2 pastors £58,096). No trustees were remunerated during the year for work not related to their role as trustees (2021: nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: nil). During the year phone, travel and meal expenses totalling £1,584 were reimbursed to 2 ministers and nil trustees were reimbursed (2021: phone, travel and meal expenses totalling £1,360 to 2 pastors and nil trustees). In addition, 1 minister and 6 trustees made purchases totalling £4,424 on behalf of the church and were reimbursed (2021: 2 ministers and 3 trustees, £6,277).

In addition to the trustees, the key management personnel of Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church comprise the church centre manager, church publicist, church bookkeeper (2022 only) and church youth worker (2021 only). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the trust who are not trustees (3 individuals) were £36,315 (2021: 3 individuals, £37,165). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any member of the key management personnel (2021: nil). In addition, 1 key management personnel (non-trustees) made purchases totalling £523 on behalf of the church (2021: 1 individual, £107).

Remuneration for other employees (1 individual) was £8,108 (2021: £7,872). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed (2021: nil).

8. Staff Numbers

| | 2022 Number | 2021 Number |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Average Number of Employees | | |
| Ministers | 2 | 2 |
| Youth Worker | 0 | 0.4 |
| Church Centre Manager | 1 | 1 |
| Church Publicist and Church Bookkeeper | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Cleaner | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| | 4 | 4.1 |

9. Related party transactions

Close family members of the trustees and key management personnel of Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church are regarded as related parties for the purposes of these accounts. The majority of these people are themselves member of the church.

The total amount of donations received without conditions from trustees and connected parties was £104,215 (£2021: £126,915).

No expenses were paid to any related party (2021: nil). Persons related to the trustees made purchases on behalf of the church and were reimbursed £811 (2021: £1,040). No reimbursements were made to parties related to the key management personnel (2021: nil).

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold Land £ | Freehold Buildings £ | Total £ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cost | | | |
| at 1 January 2022 | 746,250 | 2,566,250 | 3,312,500 |
| Disposals | - | - | - |
| Revaluations | - | - | - |
| Additions | | <u>1,053,077</u> | <u>1,053,077</u> |
| | <u>746,250</u> | <u>3,619,327</u> | <u>4,365,577</u> |
| Depreciation | | | |
| at 31 December 2021 | - | 51,325 | 51,325 |
| Disposals | - | - | - |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| Charge for the year | - | <u>51,325</u> | <u>51,325</u> |
| | - | <u>102,650</u> | <u>102,650</u> |
| Net book value | | | |
| at 31 December 2022 | <u>746,250</u> | <u>3,516,677</u> | <u>4,262,927</u> |
| at 31 December 2021 | <u>746,250</u> | <u>2,514,925</u> | <u>3,261,175</u> |

11. Debtors

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Other Debtors | 6,982 | 690 |
| Income Tax Recoverable | <u>12,218</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>19,200</u> | <u>690</u> |

12. Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Accounts | 427,110 | 377,582 |
| Cash in Hand | <u>198</u> | <u>289</u> |
| | <u>427,308</u> | <u>377,871</u> |

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Accruals | <u>62,953</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>62,953</u> | <u>-</u> |

14. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Baptist Union Loan for Church Centre & 'The Bridge' | 456,474 | 453,271 |
| Baptist Union Loan for Manse 2 (14 Cavell Court) | <u>212,542</u> | <u>221,668</u> |
| | <u>669,015</u> | <u>674,939</u> |

15. Unrestricted Funds

| | Balance 1.1.22 £ | Movement Incoming £ | Outgoing £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | Balance 31.12.22 £ |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General Fund | 296 | 272,912 | (200,897) | (79,169) | - | (6,857) |
| Manse 2 Loan Fund | (221,668) | 18,780 | (9,653) | - | - | (212,542) |
| Tangible Fixed Assets | <u>3,261,175</u> | - | <u>(51,325)</u> | - | <u>1,053,077</u> | <u>4,262,927</u> |
| | <u>3,039,803</u> | <u>291,692</u> | <u>(261,875)</u> | <u>(79,169)</u> | <u>1,053,077</u> | <u>4,043,528</u> |

Gains and losses reflects the additional fixed asset created by 'The Bridge' redevelopment.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15. Designated Funds

| | Balance 1.1.22 £ | Movement | | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | Balance 31.12.22 £ |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Incoming £ | Outgoing £ | | | |
| General Reserve | 150,105 | - | - | 296 | - | 150,401 |
| The Bridge' Redevelopment Fund | 117,468 | 34,741 | (64,918) | - | - | 87,292 |
| Church Centre Loan Fund | (453,271) | 30,480 | (21,765) | 60,620 | (62,538) | (466,474) |
| Logacios | 35,642 | 7,076 | (3,104) | (800) | - | 39,713 |
| Capital Reserve | 20,572 | - | (5,160) | - | - | 15,412 |
| Communion Fund | 18,227 | 739 | (6,790) | (500) | - | 11,676 |
| Church Centre Fit-Out Fund | 11,062 | - | - | - | - | 11,062 |
| Special Projects Fund | 11,696 | 1,650 | - | 800 | - | 14,146 |
| Others | 12,891 | 53,728 | (98,429) | 53,253 | - | 21,443 |
| | (75,006) | 118,949 | (165,112) | 104,169 | (62,538) | (99,538) |

Gains and losses reflects additional loan received from the Baptist Union for 'The Bridge' redevelopment.

16 Restricted Funds

| | Balance 1.1.22 £ | Movement | | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | Balance 31.12.22 £ |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Incoming £ | Outgoing £ | | | |
| Grants for 'The Bridge' | - | 750,000 | (693,122) | (25,000) | - | 31,878 |
| Hallingbury Free Church Trust | - | 5,000 | (3,402) | - | - | 1,598 |
| Herts Community Foundation | - | 4,389 | (4,389) | - | - | - |
| East Herts District Council | - | 759,389 | (700,913) | (25,000) | - | 33,476 |

Transfer from the Hallingbury Free Church Trust grant in order to repay part of the loan taken to fund 'The Bridge' redevelopment.

17 Post Balance Sheet

There are no material post balance sheet events to report, although Trustees note the inflationary pressures which may impact future financial performance and events in Ukraine which may contribute to above inflation increases in energy costs once current hedges expire.

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church - Summary of Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ | Prior year total funds £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| INCOME & EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Income from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | | | | | |
| - Regular Offerings | 222,057 | 51,892 | - | 273,950 | 233,160 |
| - Donations | 14,881 | 14,508 | - | 29,390 | 39,256 |
| - Legacies | - | 7,075 | - | 7,075 | - |
| - Donations/Grants for 'The Bridge' | - | 29,559 | 759,389 | 788,948 | 122,053 |
| - Gift Aid Recoverable | 46,166 | 15,015 | - | 61,180 | 71,768 |
| - Receipts for Use of Church Centre | 6,681 | - | - | 6,681 | 5,141 |
| - HMRC (Work Retention Scheme) | - | - | - | - | 2,310 |
| Investments | | | | | |
| - Bank interest | 1,906 | - | - | 1,906 | 2,214 |
| Total | 291,692 | 118,949 | 759,389 | 1,170,030 | 475,911 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | | | | |
| - Premises | 51,535 | 70,348 | 700,913 | 822,796 | 92,031 |
| - Depreciation | 51,325 | - | - | 51,325 | 51,325 |
| - Interest Payable | 9,653 | 21,765 | - | 31,418 | 15,521 |
| - Ministry & Outreach | 131,940 | 15,153 | - | 147,093 | 142,310 |
| - Ministry Support | 16,021 | - | - | 16,021 | 5,531 |
| - Mission Grants | | | | | |
| - National Mission | 1,401 | 19,321 | - | 20,721 | 16,852 |
| - World Mission | - | 41,694 | - | 41,694 | 40,346 |
| - Other Mission | - | 16,831 | - | 16,831 | 32,988 |
| Total | 261,875 | 185,112 | 700,913 | 1,147,899 | 396,904 |
| Net income / (expenditure) | 29,817 | (66,163) | 58,476 | 22,131 | 79,008 |
| Transfers between funds | (79,169) | 104,169 | (25,000) | - | - |
| | (49,352) | 38,006 | 33,476 | 22,131 | 79,008 |
| Gains/ (losses) on fixed assets and loans | 1,053,077 | (62,538) | - | 990,539 | 2,573,882 |
| Net Movement in Funds | 1,003,725 | (24,532) | 33,476 | 1,012,670 | 2,652,890 |
| Total funds brought forward at 31.12.21 | 3,039,803 | (75,007) | - | 2,964,797 | 311,907 |
| Total funds carried forward at 31.12.22 | 4,043,528 | (99,538) | 33,476 | 3,977,466 | 2,964,797 |

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

| | 2022 £ | 2021 £ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 4,262,927 | 3,261,175 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | 19,200 | 690 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 427,308 | 377,871 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | (62,953) | - |
| Net Current assets | 383,555 | 378,561 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 4,646,481 | 3,639,736 |
| Amounts falling due after more than one year | (669,015) | (674,939) |
| Total Net Assets | 3,977,466 | 2,964,797 |
| Funds: | | |
| Unrestricted | 4,043,528 | 3,039,803 |
| Designated | (99,538) | (75,007) |
| Restricted | 33,476 | - |
| | 3,977,466 | 2,964,797 |

