

Ashby Baptist Church 2023 Trustees' Report

Ashby Baptist Church 2023 Report

Statutory Information

Registered Address

Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire. LE65 1HA
Charity Registration Number 1159600

Trustees

Mrs Sarah Anderson (Appointed as Deacon 22 February 2022)
Mrs W Becker (Treasurer) (Appointed as Deacon 28 June 2016)
Prof. Richard Craggs (Appointed as Deacon 23 February 2021)
Mr Ian Hunt (Appointed as Deacon 28 February 2023)
Prof. Martin Insley (Appointed as Deacon 22 February 2022)
Mrs Lesley Salter (Appointed as Deacon 23 February 2021)
Mr Duncan Scott (Appointed as Deacon 27 February 2018)
Mrs Sue Treasure (Secretary) (Appointed 23 February 2021)

Mr Graeme Robinson (Retired as Deacon 28 February 2023)

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers

National Westminster Bank
Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Kingdom Bank
Beeston

Independent Examiners

Mrs Anne Myring
Mrs Sandra Shaw

Ashby Baptist Church 2023 Trustees' Report

Annual Report for 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2023.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the declaration of principle of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education and other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be baptised by immersion upon personal profession of faith or, at the discretion of the Church, upon an alternative personal profession of faith.

The members' Meeting normally takes place five times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint a minimum of six Trustees (including the Secretary and Treasurer), who together with the Minister (who is also appointed by the Members), and collectively known as the Diaconate, 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 the Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Although the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the Charitable Object, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. 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. Anybody is free to attend these services which take place each Sunday morning at 10.30am; there are also occasional services at other times, as advertised from time to time. There is a children's programme linked to the morning services.

The Church runs a series of mid-week home groups for the growth of faith and discipleship, both in the homes of members and on the Church premises. The Church runs various activities specifically for the wider community, some of which are recommended by the local Council's social services department, including Renew Wellbeing and a lunch club.

Rainbows and Guides meet regularly in the Church building and a number of activities for young people are held on a regular basis, some in conjunction with Ashby Youth for Christ; the Women's Institute meets monthly on the premises, and many other organisations use the facilities on an occasional basis.

Ashby Baptist Church 2023 Trustees' Report

Valued links with the other Churches in Ashby and in to the community find particular expression through involvement with Ashby Youth for Christ, Christians Against Poverty, and Street Pastors, as well as through town-wide gatherings for prayer. Many members are involved individually in the life of the community, in Ashby and further afield.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Church's activities, which can be seen in more detail on the Church's website, clearly demonstrate that it is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, whether financial or otherwise, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, encouragement and spiritual growth. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but the wide range of successful activities indicate that the Charitable objective has been met and will continue to be met in 2024.

We began the year in Pastoral Vacancy with the Church Profile live on the Baptist Union Pastoral Vacancy list. A number of our members ably led and preached at our Sunday morning services.

At the February AGM, one Deacon retired, while one was appointed.

During the past year, three members died, four members resigned their membership, one member transferred her membership due to moving away, while one person was received into membership. In July we had a baby Dedication and an adult Baptism.

Our Administrator retired in June and a new appointment was made.

For 6 weeks during the summer, we held Café Church in our lounge area instead of meeting upstairs in the Sanctuary. We had anticipated low numbers during this period but in reality, all the meetings were very well attended and attracted new people.

In October we held an away day at home – Upper Room a day of ministry and fun together. Held on a Sunday this was very well attended. It was followed by a week of prayer with a different focus each day.

We held special mid-week meetings during Lent and Advent.

The provision for children and young people continued on a Sunday morning, the monthly Saturday morning group for fathers and their pre-schoolers, *'Who let the dads out?'* continued.

The mid-week small groups for adult Bible study, prayer and support continued. The Friday *'Why Jesus?'* and *'Lunch Club'*, and the regular reflective Sunday afternoon service, *'Prime Time'* continued. The social group started so that Ukrainians staying with local families could meet in a safe place came to a natural end; three Ukrainian families have become part of the church fellowship.

'Renew 139' the weekly Wednesday group where it is 'OK to not be OK,' with craft and other activities, and an opportunity to gather for quiet prayer; continued to be very popular.

Ashby Youth for Christ ran activities from our premises for young people, as did the *Rainbows and Guides*. The monthly *Women's Institute* meeting continued, and a monthly Saturday morning *'Make do, mend and create'* group in partnership with another local church continued.

Ashby Baptist Church 2023 Trustees' Report

As a member of the local East Midlands Baptist Association, we continued to support the ministry of *Ebenezer Baptist Church* and the *Kingsgate Project* at *Greenhill Baptist Church*, both in Coalville, while the annual toy service brought generous contributions for the *Marlene Reid Centre*. The church also provides ongoing financial and prayer support to a number of ministries, both in this country and overseas, offering assistance to church workers, young people, students, victims of abuse, and those in need of development aid or emergency assistance.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to continue its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The regular expense associated with the cost of employing a Minister has ceased whilst the church looks for a new minister. The church continues to employ a parttime Pastoral Worker, who assists the Minister in providing pastoral care for the congregation and others, and in equipping and encouraging the membership in their life, Christian witness and service. The church also employs an administrator on a parttime basis.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to local, national and international Christian organisations with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

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.

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

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the Church and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2024 AGM

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

1 Corinthians 15:22

1. Independent Examination

The Independent Examiners have completed their work and signed off the accounts. A copy of their Report and the Accounts in the format for the Charity Commission is attached.

2. Receipts

The Church continues to raise the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation.

Income for 2023 was up by over £114,500 on that for the previous year. Towards the end of 2023 Ashby Baptist Church unexpectedly received a substantial legacy from a previous long-standing member who had named the church as a residual beneficiary in his will. The church acknowledges God's gracious timing in this matter and plans to use a major part of this gift towards providing suitable housing for the incoming Pastor, when he or she is appointed. However, the final decisions concerning this depends upon many factors that are as yet unknown.

3. Payments

Following the retirement of the previous Pastor in 2022 the church has continued to function well. The majority of the regular services have been led by members of the church family with occasional input from visiting contributors. This has enabled the associated costs to be kept to a minimum and is reflected in the overall expenditure.

a. Ministry

The services continue to be available via a sound recording.

b. Mission

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church with financial support to local, national and international organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. These are summarised in Note 5 to the Accounts and detailed at Note 3.

10% of the church's income continues to be tithed equally between BMS World Mission and EMBA Home Mission Fund. Financial support is also given out of Church funds to Ashby Youth for Christ, Oasis International (to support the work of Phil Lane), Christians Against Poverty (CAP - Ashby), British Youth for Christ and Ashby Street Pastors.

c. Upkeep of church premises

The church continues to monitor the condition of the building and is planning to use some of the money from the recently received legacy to enable implementation of necessary repairs.

4. Surplus for the year and bank balances

The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing anticipated income, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

While the church continues to operate without a paid Pastor there is a significant monthly surplus; see No 3 Payments, above.

ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	<i>Note</i>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts			
Regular offerings		71,384.58	82,526
Donations and other income	2	139,341.52	12,344
Income tax recovered on gift aided receipts to general funds		15,986.45	18,553
Bank interest		1,361.93	207
Rents and contributions for use of premises		2,396.90	2,349
Ministry & Manse Fund		1,020.00	1,354
Monies raised and received for other causes	3	1,758.86	1,416
		<u>233,250.24</u>	<u>£118,749</u>
Payments			
Ministry	4	17,623.96	47,628
Mission	5	23,266.99	26,052
Administration		11,324.60	9,912
Upkeep of Church premises	6	17,474.11	18,936
		<u>69,689.66</u>	<u>£ 102,529</u>
 Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		 163,560.58	 16,220
Balance brought forward at 1st January		<u>62,865.25</u>	<u>46,645</u>
Closing Balance at 31st December		<u>226,425.83</u>	<u>£62,865</u>

STATEMENT OF BANK & CASH BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<i>Note</i>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
General Funds - balance brought forward at 1 January		62,865.25	46,645
Total General Funds Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		163,560.58	16,220
Balance carried forward at 31 December		226,425.83	£62,865
represented by:			
NatWest Current & Business Reserve Accounts		22,785.23	25,402
Kingdom Bank Savings Accounts		203,613.94	37,437
Petty Cash		26.66	27
Total Cash and Bank balances at 31 December		226,425.83	£62,866
allocated to:			
General Fund		163,233.81	17,583
Building & Maintenance Fund		2,227.93	2,509
Ministry & Manse Deposit Fund		58,726.96	41,207
Benevolence Fund		2,237.13	1,567
Total		226,425.83	£ 62,866

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<i>Note</i>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		226,425.83	£62,865
representing Balances in the following Funds			
Total Funds		226,425.83	£62,865
		226,425.83	£62,865
Other monetary assets	7	£6,039.85	£ 7,380
Non-monetary assets	8	£2,126,681	£2,064,741

ADOPTION BY THE MEMBERS OF ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Accounts, including the Notes, were adopted at the Annual General Meeting of Ashby Baptist Church on 27th February 2024.

Dated:

27 Feb 24

27 Feb 24

Signed:



S J Treasure

Chair of Deacons
Martin Insley

Secretary
Sue Treasure

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts:

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and accord with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011

2. Donations and other income:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
General donations	191.44	85
Legacy	137,188.07	-
Saturday coffee mornings	256.26	48
Grants and donations for mission	-	2,217
Family activities	1,006.50	8,833
Income towards upkeep of Church premises	699.25	1,161
	<u>139,341.52</u>	<u>£12,344</u>

3. Other causes

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Given</u>	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Given</u>
Agape (L McIntosh)	82.32	82.32	-	-
Ashby Food Bank	10.00	10.00	122	122
Ashby Youth for Christ	32.00	6,000.00	-	4,704
BMS World Mission	210.00	4,724.00	40	5,620
British Youth For Christ (N Roberts)	-	900.00	-	2,055
Christians Against Poverty (Ashby)	-	1,200.00	-	1,044
Christian Aid	507.23	507.23	-	-
EMBA Home Mission Fund	-	5,653.90	-	6,050
Oasis International (P & R Lane)	82.31	2,782.31	57	2,343
Open Doors	177.00	177.00	-	-
Retirement Gifts	387.00	24.95	1,110	1,510
Street Pastors	-	240.00	-	-
Tearfund	271.00	186.50	87	87
	<u>£1,758.86</u>	<u>22,488.21</u>	<u>£1,416</u>	<u>£23,535</u>

4. Ministry

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Minister's Stipend, on-costs and expenses	12.00	20,340
Minister's housing costs	-	5,629
Pastoral worker and costs	13,396.83	12,605
Family activities	1,891.27	7,725
Worship resources	1,626.16	518
Fellowship support and events	246.20	327
Benevolence	451.50	485
	<u>17,623.96</u>	<u>£47,629</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

5. Mission	Note	2023	2022
Given to other causes	3	22,488.21	23,535
Other local outreach		778.78	2,518
		<u>23,266.99</u>	<u>£26,053</u>

6. Upkeep of Church Premises and General Running Costs	2023	2022
Insurance	2,487.21	2,734
Gas and electricity	3,182.02	2,984
Other running costs	3,312.03	2,600
Cleaning	4,605.89	3,978
Catering	862.31	1,380
General repairs & maintenance	3,024.65	5,259
	<u>17,474.11</u>	<u>£18,935</u>

7. Other monetary assets	Note	2023	2022
Current debtors:			
HMRC - tax recoverable on Gift Aid Q3		3,255.25	4,434
Insurance prepaid		2,487.21	2,734
		<u>£5,742.46</u>	<u>£7,168</u>
Cash balances of Church organisations	9	297.39	212
		<u>£6,039.85</u>	<u>£7,380</u>

8. Non-monetary assets	2023	2022
Church premises situate Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, built in 1862 and held by The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. as Custodian Trustees.		
The building is currently insured for	1,949,984	1,893,190
Contents of the Church premises are currently insured for	176,697	171,551
	<u>£2,126,681</u>	<u>£2,064,741</u>

9. Cash balances of Church organisations	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance
Lunch Club	212.30	722.00	636.91	297.39
	<u>£212.30</u>	<u>£722.00</u>	<u>£636.91</u>	<u>£297.39</u>

Included in Payments for the Church organisation above are 2023 donations to charitable causes of £100.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiners

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to:

- examine the Accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the Trustees concerning 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 Examiners' Statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:


1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act ;have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached

Dated:

6-2-24

6/2/24

Signed:



Anne Myring
14 Woodlands Way
Moirā
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6HE

Sandra Shaw
41 Ashby Road
Moirā
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6DJ

ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2024 AGM

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

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1. Independent Examination

The Independent Examiners have completed their work and signed off the accounts. A copy of their Report and the Accounts in the format for the Charity Commission is attached.

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The Church continues to raise the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation.

Income for 2023 was up by over £114,500 on that for the previous year. Towards the end of 2023 Ashby Baptist Church unexpectedly received a substantial legacy from a previous long-standing member who had named the church as a residual beneficiary in his will. The church acknowledges God's gracious timing in this matter and plans to use a major part of this gift towards providing suitable housing for the incoming Pastor, when he or she is appointed. However, the final decisions concerning this depends upon many factors that are as yet unknown.

3. Payments

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a. Ministry

The services continue to be available via a sound recording.

b. Mission

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church with financial support to local, national and international organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. These are summarised in Note 5 to the Accounts and detailed at Note 3.

10% of the church's income continues to be tithed equally between BMS World Mission and EMBA Home Mission Fund. Financial support is also given out of Church funds to Ashby Youth for Christ, Oasis International (to support the work of Phil Lane), Christians Against Poverty (CAP - Ashby), British Youth for Christ and Ashby Street Pastors.

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The church continues to monitor the condition of the building and is planning to use some of the money from the recently received legacy to enable implementation of necessary repairs.

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ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH

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ADOPTION BY THE MEMBERS OF ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH

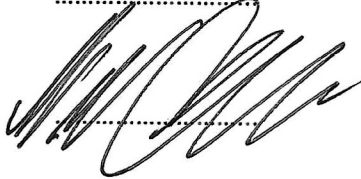
The Accounts, including the Notes, were adopted at the Annual General Meeting of Ashby Baptist Church on 27th February 2024.

Dated:

27 Feb 24

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Martin Insley

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	<u>139,341.52</u>	<u>£12,344</u>

3. Other causes

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Given</u>	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Given</u>
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	<u>£1,758.86</u>	<u>22,488.21</u>	<u>£1,416</u>	<u>£23,535</u>

4. Ministry

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Minister's Stipend, on-costs and expenses	12.00	20,340
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Pastoral worker and costs	13,396.83	12,605
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

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7. Other monetary assets	Note	2023	2022
Current debtors:			
HMRC - tax recoverable on Gift Aid Q3		3,255.25	4,434
Insurance prepaid		2,487.21	2,734
		<u>£5,742.46</u>	<u>£7,168</u>
Cash balances of Church organisations	9	297.39	212
		<u>£6,039.85</u>	<u>£7,380</u>

8. Non-monetary assets	2023	2022
Church premises situate Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, built in 1862 and held by The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. as Custodian Trustees.		
The building is currently insured for	1,949,984	1,893,190
Contents of the Church premises are currently insured for	176,697	171,551
	<u>£2,126,681</u>	<u>£2,064,741</u>

9. Cash balances of Church organisations	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance
Lunch Club	212.30	722.00	636.91	297.39
	<u>£212.30</u>	<u>£722.00</u>	<u>£636.91</u>	<u>£297.39</u>

Included in Payments for the Church organisation above are 2023 donations to charitable causes of £100.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiners

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to:

- examine the Accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the Trustees concerning 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 Examiners' Statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act ;have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached

Dated:

6-2-24

6/2/24

Signed:



Anne Myring
14 Woodlands Way
Moirā
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6HE

Sandra Shaw
41 Ashby Road
Moirā
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6DJ