

Wantage Baptist Church

Annual Trustees' Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2023

The Charity Trustees of Wantage Baptist Church have pleasure in submitting their report and the financial statements of the Church for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The principal objective of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith, especially by means of and in accordance with the principles of the Baptist denomination. In particular, the Church seeks to do this through meetings to provide occasions for worship, proclamation of the gospel and instruction in the Christian faith as well as outreach events and evangelism to the local Wantage community. The Church may also carry out other charitable purposes.

Achievements and Performance

In 2023, we have been able to continue to share the love of Christ with the community.

We have continued our regular weekly Sunday services, including Sunday School. We have continued to see growth in regular attendance, not just on Sundays but in our other activities. We have also continued to stream services online, for the benefit of those who are unable to attend for any reason.

We have continued with weekly small group meetings ("life groups") for fellowship, prayer and bible study. Attendance at these is close to 70 people across several groups. There are also special groups for carers and for those who live alone to meet and share.

A number of events for children have been held. For younger children, these include an Easter holiday bible club and an alternative "halloween" event. These events were well attended, including by children not otherwise connected to the church. There is also a regular program of events for older children, including popular social events.

The weekly Parents and Toddlers sessions continue to attract a large number of people from outside the church.

We have continued to operate the King's Centre shop. This provides an opportunity to reach out to the wider community, or for people to make contact with us in a friendly environment, as well as providing Christian resources for sale. A weekly needlecraft group brings together a number of people, including from outside the church, and other activities are planned.

The shop also acts as a collection point and storage facility for the local Food Bank.

We have continued our support for the local Street Pastors, who use our buildings as an operating base. We also continue to make our buildings available to other local independent churches, in particular for baptisms and marriages.

We also support the local community by making our building available to a local community choir, and for use by the local secondary school for examinations.

The church has made financial gifts to other organisations involved in advancing the Christian faith, as detailed in the accounts. We also hold occasional meetings to keep in touch with the activities of these organisations.

In carrying out its activities in the year under review, the trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and are satisfied that the activities mentioned above have all been for the public benefit.

Financial Review

The Leadership views the underlying financial position of the Church as being satisfactory. It is the Church's policy to maintain unrestricted cash reserves of £10,000, corresponding to approximately two months normal expenditure. At the end of 2023 the Church held such reserves of £54,152, so there is a surplus of funds available.

The main Church building is a historic asset but no valuation has been included in the accounts because of the cost of such a valuation compared to the benefit it would deliver to advancing the Church's objectives.

Structure, Governance and Management

Wantage Baptist Church is an independent church constituted as an unincorporated association governed by a constitution adopted on 19th September 2013. The church is also subject to the terms of the trust deeds under which its premises are held.

Leadership within the Church is provided by the Pastor, Elders and Deacons who are the Charity Trustees and have control and oversight of the Church. All are elected by the Church Members Meeting. The Pastor, Elders and Deacons during 2022 and at the date of this report were as follows:

Pastor:

Jeremy Fernandez

Elders:

Peter Smillie

Deacons:

David Hillsdon

Gillian Hutchinson

Matthew Shewring

Barrie Steers

Martin Torbet

The Elders meet monthly to consider the spiritual direction and pastoral concerns of the Church while the Elders and Deacons together meet monthly to discuss and decide upon practical aspects of the Church's day to day functioning. A Church member's meeting occurs on at least four occasions during the year.

The leadership has overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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 and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;

- proper records are maintained and financial information used in the charity or for publication is reliable; and
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The internal controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

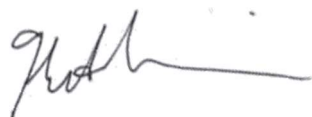
- regular consideration by the Deacons of the financial results;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The major risks as identified by the Leadership have been reviewed and systems set up to mitigate them.

Other Administrative Details

- *Registered Name* Wantage Baptist Church
- *Alternative name* Wantage Baptist
- *Registered Charity No* 1163191
- *Church address* 6 Mill Street, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9AQ
- *Property Trustees* The Fellowship Property Trust Ltd.
- *Bankers* Barclays Bank plc
- *Independent Examiner* David Cooke and Co., Chartered Accountants
5 Briar Close, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 9DS.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees:



GILLIAN AMANDA STEEDS HUTCHINSON (DEACON/TREASURER)

Date: 29th July 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Wantage Baptist Church on the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ending 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 44(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Cooke MA(Oxon), FCA, FCIE
David Cooke and Co. Chartered Accountants
5 Briar Close
Banbury, Oxfordshire
OX16 9DS

Date: 24 September 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31st December 2023							
		Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
A	Income	1					
A1	Incoming Resources from Generated Funds						
A1a	- Voluntary Income (Gift Aided)		57003	0	0	57003	52791
	- Gift Aid Recovered		13463	0	0	13463	15428
	- Voluntary Income (Not Gift Aided)		15348	30	1548	16927	17857
A1b	- Dividends		0	0	0	0	0
A1c	- Interest		2225	0	0	2225	712
A1d	- Investments		0	0	0	0	0
A1e	- Rent of Premises		15438	0	0	15438	5766
A1f	- Sales		0	23023	0	23023	27082
A2	Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities		0	0	0	0	0
A3	Other Incoming Resources		421	0	0	421	0
	Total Incoming Resources		103898	23053	1548	128499	119635
B	Expenditure						
B1	Costs of Generating Funds	2					
B1a	- Costs of Generating Voluntary Income		0	0	0	0	0
B1b	- Cost of Goods Sold		0	12129	0	12129	17603
B1c	- Investment Management Costs		0	0	0	0	0
B2	Charitable Activities						
B2a	- Ministry	3	44397	0	0	44397	38557
B2b	- Mission	4	9230	0	1500	10730	14945
B2c	- Community Support	5	0	0	0	0	0
B2d	- Fellowship & Outreach	6	3337	0	0	3337	6153
B2e	- Buildings & Utilities	7	31960	6684	0	38644	32640
B2f	- Equipment	8	1534	0	0	1534	53
B2g	- Administration	9	1995	3909	0	5904	5838
B2h	- Depreciation	10	1247	0	9783	11030	10614
B3	Governance Costs	11	7130	44	0	7174	1907
B4	Other Resources Expended		0	0	0	0	0
	Total Resources Expended		100829	22766	11283	134877	128310
	Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers		3068	287	-9734	-6378	-8675
C	Transfers						
	Gross Transfers Between Funds		0	0	0	0	0
	Net Incoming Resources Before Other Recognised Gains and		3068	287	-9734	-6378	-8675
D	Other Recognised Gains and Losses						
D1	Gains/Losses on Revaluation of Fixed Assets		0	0	0	0	0
D2	Gains/Losses on Investment Assets		0	0	931	931	-1338
D3	Actuarial Gains/Losses on Defined Benefits Pension Schemes		0	0	0	0	0
	Net Movement in Funds		3068	287	-8803	-5447	-10013
E	Reconciliation of Funds						
E1	Funds Brought Forward		58099	21324	431565	510988	521002
E2	Net Movement in Funds		3068	287	-8803	-5447	-10013
	Total Funds Carried Forward		61167	21611	422762	505540	510988

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023						
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Fixed Assets						
Investments	10	0	0	10248	10248	9316
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	10	4989	0	0	4989	6236
Buildings	10	0	0	410865	410865	420648
Total Fixed Assets		4989	0	421113	426102	436201
Current Assets						
Petty Cash	13	0	20	0	20	20
Accounts Receivable	14	0	0			
Prepayments	14	2795	483	0	3278	3639
Stock	13	0	8101	0	8101	9206
Till Float	13	0	100	0	100	100
Cash at the Bank/In Hand	15	54152	13350	1648	69151	64434
Total Current Assets		56947	22054	1648	80650	77399
Current Liabilities	16	768	443	0	1211	2612
Net Current Assets		56178	21611	1648	79438	74787
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		61167	21611	422762	505541	510988
Long Term Liabilities		0	0	0	0	0
Net Assets		61167	21611	422762	505541	510988
Funds	17	61167	21611	422762	505541	510988
Approved on behalf of the Elders and Deacons						



GILLIAN AMANDA STEEDS HUTCHINSON (DEACON/TREASURER)

Date: 29th JULY 2024

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2023 (continued)

1	Income	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Voluntary Income (Gift Aided)		57003	0	0	57003	52791
	Gift Aid Recovered		13463	0	0	13463	15428
	Voluntary Income (Not Gift)		15348	30	1548	16927	17857
	Sales		0	23023	0	23023	27082
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Dividends		0	0	0	0	0
	Interest		2225	0	0	2225	712
	Rent of Premises		15438	0	0	15438	5766
	Other Income		421	0	0	421	0
	Total		103898	23053	1548	128499	119635

2	Costs of Generating Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Advertising & Promotions		0	0	0	0	0
	Jonathan Veira Concert - Civic Hall Hire		0	-	0	0	0
	Jonathan Veira Concert - Ticket Printing		0	-	0	0	0
	Operating Expenses		0	3953	0	3953	3961
	Cost of Goods Sold		0	12129	0	12129	17603
	Total		0	16082	0	16082	21564

3	Charitable Activities: Ministry	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Ministerial Expenses						
	Pastor Net Salary		21020	0	0	21020	19594
	Pastor Income Tax		2795	0	0	2795	2312
	Pastor Employee's NIC		2897	0	0	2897	1293
	Pastor Employer's NIC		0	0	0	0	437
	Pastor Pension		3718	0	0	3718	2197
	Pastor Expenses (Mileage)		132	0	0	132	61
	Pastor Expenses (Telephone)		990	0	0	990	845
	Pastor Expenses (Other)		1091	0	0	1091	0
	Pastor Expenses (Mortgage and CT)		11104	0	0	11104	11478
	Visiting Speakers' Gifts		650	0	0	650	340
	Total		44397	0	0	44397	38557

4	Charitable Activities: Mission	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Africa Inland Mission		1220	-	0	1220	1200
	Be Space		460	-	0	460	1440
	Bible Society		800			800	
	Jim Harries		250			250	
	London City Mission		0	-	0	0	1000
	Misc		300			300	
	Open Doors		1100			1100	
	Pilgrim Homes		940	-	0	940	420
	ROPE		0	-	0	0	0
	Spurgeons		0	-	0	0	500
	Street Pastors		0	-	0	0	0
	Tearfund - General Support		260	-	0	260	865
	Ukraine Christian Ministries - General Support		3900	-	1500	5400	9520
						0	
	Total		9230	0	1500	10730	14945

5	Charitable Activities: Community Support	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Fellowship Gifts		0	-	0	0	0
	Total		0	0	0	0	0

6	Charitable Activities: Fellowship & Outreach	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Books		0	-	0	0	0
	Catering		1218	-	0	1218	1466
	CAP		0	-	0	0	0
	Church Weekend		0	-	0	0	0
	Crèche/Toddlers		0	-	0	0	0
	Dickensian Evening		51	-	0	51	0
	Engage/Youth		0	-	0	0	0
	Evangelism		223			223	
	Fellowship Gifts		0	-	0	0	500
	Happy Acorns		0	-	0	0	0
	Holiday Club		109	-	0	109	151
	Hot Topics		0	-	0	0	0
	Ladies' Group		139	-	0	139	0
	Light Party		62	-	0	62	451
	Men's Group		-23	-	0	-23	0
	Miscellaneous Expenses		146	-	0	146	1020
	Pastoral Care		12	-	0	12	0
	Sandbanks Visit		880	-	0	880	0
	Schools' Evangelism		0	-	0	0	0
	Social Events		26	-	0	26	2547
	Sunday School		494	-	0	494	17
	Training		0	-	0	0	0
						0	
	Total		3337	0	0	3337	6153

7	Charitable Activities: Buildings & Utilities	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Church						
	Buildings		0	-	0	0	0
	Electricity		6545	-	0	6545	1978
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		0	-	0	0	0
	Gas		1829	-	0	1829	1930
	Insurance		3484	-	0	3484	3113
	Maintenance		15226	-	0	15226	9087
	Miscellaneous Items		0	-	0	0	0
	Telephone		0	-	0	0	0
	Water		592	-	0	592	337
	Church Total		27677	0	0	27677	16446
	Manse						
	Buildings		0	-	0	0	0
	Council Tax		891	-	0	891	690
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		0	-	0	0	0
	Insurance		363	-	0	363	360
	Maintenance		1997	-	0	1997	10143
	Manse Total		3251	0	0	3251	11193
	Cemetery						
	Maintenance		894	-	0	894	629
	Cemetery Total		894	0	0	894	629
	The King's Centre						
	Buildings		137	-	0	137	198
	Electricity		-	3842	0	3842	786
	Gas		-	-	0	0	0
	Insurance		-	795	0	795	983
	Maintenance		-	0	0	0	600
	Rent (Service charge)		-	1244	0	1244	1105
	Telephone		-	454	0	454	504
	Water		-	348	0	348	196
	King's Centre Total		137	6684	0	6821	4372
	Total		31960	6684	0	38644	32640

8	Charitable Activities: Equipment	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Computers		888	0	0	888	0
	Fire Extinguisher Purchase		0	0	0	0	0
	Kitchen Equipment		265	0	0	265	33
	Public Address (PA) Equipment		381	0	0	381	0
	Miscellaneous		0	0	0	0	20
	Projector, Display Screen		0	0	0	0	0
	Total		1534	0	0	1534	53

9	Charitable Activities: Administration	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Bank Charges		50	333	0	382	419
	Fees		1316	3120	0	4436	2832
	Office Expenses		0	456	0	456	790
	Postage & Packing		0	0	0	0	0
	Printing		599	0	0	599	1677
	Stationery		31	0	0	31	120
	Total		1995	3909	0	5904	5838

10	Fixed Assets	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Assets Brought Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		10768	2155	66048	78971	76060
	Buildings		0	0	489127	489127	489127
	Total Assets Brought Forward		10768	2155	555175	568098	565187
	Depreciation Brought Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		4532	2155	66048	72735	71903
	Buildings		0	0	68479	68479	58697
	Total Depreciation Brought Forward		4532	2155	134527	141214	130600
	Total Net Fixed Assets Brought Forward		6236	0	420648	426884	434587
	In-Year Costs						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		0	0	0	0	2911
	Buildings		0	0	0	0	0
	Total Costs in Year		0	0	0	0	2911
	In-Year Depreciation						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		1247	0	0	1247	831
	Buildings		0	0	9783	9783	9783
	Total Depreciation In Year		1247	0	9783	11030	10614
	Net In-Year Movement in Funds		-1247	0	-9783	-11030	-7703
	Depreciation Carried Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		5779	2155	66048	73982	72735
	Buildings		0	0	78262	78262	68479
	Total Depreciation Carried Forward		5779	2155	144310	152244	141214
	Net Assets Carried Forward						
	Investments		0	0	0	0	0
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		4989	0	0	4989	6236
	Buildings		0	0	410865	410865	420648
	Total Net Fixed Assets Carried Forward		4989	0	410865	415854	426884
	Total Net Fixed Assets Carried Forward		4989	0	410865	415854	426884

10b	Fixed Assets Investments	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Assets Brought Forward						
	Investments		0	0	9317	9317	10655
	In-Year Movement						
	Investments		0	0	931	931	-1338
	Net Assets Carried Forward						
	Investments		0	0	10248	10248	9317
	Total Net Fixed Assets Carried Forward		0	0	10248	10248	9317

11	Governance Costs	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Business Licenses & Permits		-	44	0	44	41
	CCPAS Fees		170	-	0	170	290
	Copyright Licences		825	0	0	825	766
	FIEC		5600	-	0	5600	240
	FIEC Ltd		0	-	0	0	0
	Independent Financial Examiner's Fees		535	0	0	535	570
	Land Registry Fees		0	-	0	0	0
	Legal Fees		0	-	0	0	0
	Surveyor's Fees		0	-	0	0	0
	Total		7130	44	0	7174	1907

12	Gross Transfers Between Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Gross Transfers Between Funds		0	0	0	0	0
	Liabilities Discharged		0	-	0	0	0
	Total		0	0	0	0	0

13	The King's Centre	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Petty Cash		-	20	-	20	20
	Prepayments		-	483	-	483	456
	Stock		-	8101	-	8101	9206
	Till Float		-	100	-	-	-
	Total		-	8704	-	8704	9782

14	Debtors & Prepayments	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	HMRC Gift Aid Due		2795	-	0	2795	3183
	Accounts Receivable		-	0	0	0	0
	Accrued Interest		-	-	0	0	0
	Total		2795	0	0	2795	3183

15	Cash in the Bank/In Hand	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	Barclays Current Account		9152	-	1648	10801	5815
	CCLA Deposit Account		45000				
	TKC Barclays Account and Cash In Hand		-	13350	0	13350	13619
	Total		54152	13350	1648	69151	64434

16	Current Liabilities	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
	TKC Accounts Payable		-	443	0	443	2077
	Accruals		768		0	768	535
	Total		768	443	0	1211	2612

17	Movements in Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	The King's Centre (£)	All Restricted Funds	Total Funds (£)
	Funds at 1st January 2023		58099	21324	431565	510988
	Income		103898	23053	2479	129430
	Expenditure		100829	22766	11283	134877
	Liabilities Discharged			0	0	0
	Funds at 31st December 2023		61167	21611	422762	505540