



2023 Annual report for the Charities Commission

This is the eighth Annual Report of Zion Baptist Church Melbourn CIO, which was registered as a charity on 21 December 2015. The stated principal purposes of the church are the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and the advancement of education and the carrying out of other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

Church Services

During 2023 we continued to hold weekly Sunday morning services.

Our previous minister had left the church during 2022 and the organisation of the worship, teaching and preaching was led by the Sharing Ministry team, who took on the responsibility of preaching each week with our Worship group very involved in leading the services. Those who did the preaching and teaching included church members, our moderator and visiting speakers.

It was great to see the worship team joined by new people to lead singing.

Easter celebration included a prayer walk around the village followed by communion. Good Friday had an open event titled “Why Easter?”, with an outdoor service. There was then a place for reflective spaces following a time entitled the colours of Easter.

The Sunday school produced a Nativity service and in the evening we had a Candle lit carol service with an all-age Christmas day service.

One person was baptised.

Teaching Activities for children and young people

The children and young people met with the rest of the church to worship at the beginning of our Sunday service. They then went to their teaching groups and were split into 2 age groups: 2-8 and 9+.

On Sunday evenings we held our Grid group. This is for those aged 11+. This was led by church volunteers. The local primary school held their carol service in the church; this was a lovely event with the building full to capacity.

Some of our members have continued to go into local primary schools as part of GenR8 to share the Christian Faith with the children.

Other Teaching and Prayer Activities for Adults

The majority of adults who attend the church are part of a house group, some of these include people who do not regularly worship with us on Sundays. House groups are a good way to form deeper relationships with just a few people, offering mutual support and friendship as well as meeting for prayer and Bible study.

We also held weekly Zoom and monthly in person prayer meetings.

Community and Charitable Activities

Our weekly toddler group has been very much appreciated and well attended. They are told a Bible story with craft activities linked to the story and a very enjoyable song time. They have a good variety of toys, books and outdoor play equipment weather permitting.

The weekly coffee morning is mostly attended by the older folks, this is very popular and is often difficult to hear yourself thinking as they are all so happy and chatty.

Our weekly craft group continues to meet, they have an interesting and varied programme and have formed some good friendships.

A youth club for young people in years 5-8 ran weekly until July. It was run by a small team but the frequency of meeting has changed to monthly from the end of the year.

We also held community outreach events, including a Light Party at Halloween.

The church makes a regular tithe to the Baptist Union charities Home Mission (working in the UK) and BMS World Mission (working overseas). The church collected shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse as part of the Operation Christmas Child programme. We continue to collect monetary donations for Christ's Hope International, a charity which works with children in Africa.

Church Fellowship

The plans to develop the church hall are going ahead and the first foundations have been dug.

We have had some events to raise funds which are also encouraging us to socialise.

Monthly newsletters have been produced, keeping the fellowship informed and involved.

The church hosted a wedding.

The church secretary died shortly before Christmas following a short illness and a service was held in the church to celebrate her life.

Moderator

We are pleased to have the help of a moderator to guide us through the pastoral vacancy.

Ministerial search

A church profile was developed for viewing by any interested in taking on the ministerial role in the church.

To develop the profile a questionnaire was developed that was distributed to members and those who regularly meet with us. We also consulted our children and young people to help understand their views. The development of the profile also involved creation of an Ethos statement.

The publication of the profile was followed by examination of a number of profiles of ministers and this led to a couple, both of whom are qualified ministers, being interviewed. As at the end of 2023, this couple had been invited to preach at the church with a view to taking on the ministerial role, with one working 100% and the other 50%. At the start of 2024, an invitation was made to them, which they accepted and they will commence their ministry in June 2024

Statistics and Trustees

At the end of 2023 there were 51 church members, with another 32 adults also attending church-run groups. There were also approximately 94 children under 11, and 21 young people aged 11-18 in regular attendance on Sundays or during the week. Sunday service attendance was averaging 46. The recorded services are available on YouTube during the week.

At the end of 2023 there were six elected trustees.

Building maintenance

Fabric as ever has been a constant topic, with church maintenance continuing to place demands on us. And getting the manse fabric ready for the new ministers has also been occupying our resources over the year.



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|---|------------------------|
| Charity Name Zion Baptist Church Melbourne | No (if any) 1164945 |
|---|------------------------|

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| For the period from | Period start date 01/01/2023 | To | Period end date 31/12/2023 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| General fund | 52,190 | - | - | 52,190 | 52,557 |
| Fabric fund | - | 17,582 | - | 17,582 | 22,343 |
| Sponsorship fund | - | - | - | - | - |
| Soul Survivor | - | - | - | - | - |
| Church weekend | - | - | - | - | - |
| Christ's Hope International | - | 607 | - | 607 | 855 |
| Activities | 105 | - | - | 105 | 794 |
| HMRC Gift Aid | 10,493 | 4,639 | - | 15,132 | 16,484 |
| Other income | 400 | 6,870 | - | 7,270 | 1,708 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 63,188 | 29,698 | - | 92,886 | 94,742 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 63,188 | 29,698 | - | 92,886 | 94,742 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Ministry Expenses | 2,205 | - | - | 2,205 | 29,907 |
| Manse Expenses | 28,677 | - | - | 28,677 | 6,184 |
| Church Expenses | 18,011 | 6,636 | - | 24,647 | 25,937 |
| Charitable Donations | 5,460 | 1,681 | - | 7,141 | 7,692 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 54,353 | 8,317 | - | 62,670 | 69,720 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 54,353 | 8,317 | - | 62,670 | 69,720 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 8,835 | 21,381 | - | 30,216 | 25,022 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 70,554 | 201,654 | - | 272,208 | 247,186 |
| Cash funds this year end | 79,389 | 223,035 | - | 302,424 | 272,208 |



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH MELBOURN

On accounts for the year
ended

31.12.2023

Charity no
(if any)

1164945

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

C. Taylor

Date:

18.03.2024

Name:

C. TAYLOR TAYLOR & L F.C.C.A

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

THE SYCAMORES

43 KNEESWORTH STREET

ROYSTON, HERTS SG8 5AB