

Gillingham

Baptist

Church

Annual Report 2023

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ELDERS' REVIEW

[on behalf of the Management Trustees]

The church ended the year with 18 members. Our dear sister Poppy Muspratt went to be with the Lord in the autumn. However, the numbers in the congregation have increased steadily and we regularly see visitors and new faces.

This is one of several reasons for thankfulness for 2023. The Lord had provided financially for the church and there have been two new monthly meetings begun to strengthen fellowship and encourage outsiders to visit us.

The church has maintained its concern for the spread the gospel in other parts of this country and the world. We have welcomed those who either are working for the Lord overseas or are representatives of organisations involved in such activities. This helps us to take a global view of the kingdom of God, whilst remaining fully involved with our locality.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

1. History

Christians identifying themselves as Baptists have been gathering for worship in Gillingham since the 1830s. After a while land was given in trust and a chapel was erected. This stipulated that worship should be according to the principles of the Particular Baptists. A church has existed continuously since then and, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, was registered as a charity on 19 October 2016.

2. Details

Charity Name: Gillingham Baptist Church, Dorset

Registration Number: 1169769

Address: Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

Current Trustees: John Blake, Simon Chase, Peter Gray, Gilbert Muspratt, David Poolman. With the exception of Peter Wick (see below) these trustees have served for the whole of the calendar year 2023.

3. Structure and Governance

The church has a Constitution and Rules & Regulations which were formally revised and adopted in 2016, pursuant to Charity Commission registration.

The functional operation of the church is intended to reflect the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible. Therefore, the leadership is by elders supported by deacons. All these church officers are trustees and each is appointed by the church meeting of all members, at which approval by a substantial majority is required. Only those persons meeting the Scriptural criteria should be considered and appointed.

Whilst persons in whom the appropriate gifts are seen can be encouraged and developed, we believe these persons are gifted by God and cannot be manufactured. Thus, formal appointment to serve the church is more an act of recognition than of creation.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | John Blake | Elder | Members of Gillingham Baptist Church |
| 2 | Simon Chase | Elder & Pastor | Members of Gillingham Baptist Church |
| 3 | Peter Gray | Deacon & Treasurer | Members of Gillingham Baptist Church |
| 4 | Gilbert Muspratt | Deacon | Members of Gillingham Baptist Church |
| 5 | David Poolman | Deacon | Members of Gillingham Baptist Church |
| 6 | Peter Wick* | Deacon & Secretary | Members of Gillingham Baptist Church |

*Peter Wick ceased to be a managing or a holding trustee in May 2023.

4. Financial Review

The church believes God will provide and that the chief instrument he will use is the free and voluntary giving of his people. No fund raising is undertaken and no contribution levels are set for members. As an independent church there is no overarching body to provide support, but we believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the direct head of each true church and provides as he pleases. We are grateful to God for providing our needs over 2023, the details of which are in the annual accounts in Appendix 1.

It is not the church's policy to create reserves, however some amount will be retained in order to meet the inevitable demands of buildings that are over a century old. The church officers agreed that £10,000 is the appropriate amount to hold as an operating reserve. Apart from that it is the church's practise to use funds that have been given to further its objects.

During the year the trustees were overseeing the process of selling the house that is the current manse and purchasing an alternative property. By the end of the year the manse was on the open market and an alternative property was being identified.

5. Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit has been carefully considered and helps to frame the context for all trustee meetings.

As a Christian church we are devoted to the 'advancement of religion', one of the original purposes of a charity and dating back to 1601. In the original sense 'religion' meant Christianity, although subsequent centuries have significantly changed this meaning. Christianity proclaims the Gospel – 'good news' – to all. Once the good news is believed, it must be lived out through love to God and love to our neighbour – Jesus' own summary of the Bible's message. Such an approach in itself is aimed at all the public. And such a message, as a living reality in people's lives, changes both them and their relationships for the better, both personally and for the community. It is the testimony of countless Christians living today that their conversion changed their lives for the better – in ways their families, friends, colleagues

and neighbours could observe and benefit from. It is also demonstrable historically and from other parts of the world that where Christian values permeate a society, that society values human life more highly, cares for the vulnerable and marginalised more generously and displays higher levels of honesty and integrity in community and public life. The Christian faith, lived out in the world, measurably benefits all aspects of society.

The church is known in the local community and the evidence of this is that people seek us out for spiritual help and encouragement.

6. Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

The two Sunday services continued during 2023 and the Bible study and prayer meeting on a Wednesday also continued. On Thursday evenings a Zoom version of the meeting is held to enable those who cannot get out in the evenings to participate.

A Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship ran regularly each month during the year and a men's monthly Bible study also began. This latter meeting is held in a local café to enable fellowship over a meal as well, and to witness to others and perhaps prompt interest from them.

Financially the church has paid its way and has no outstanding obligations.

In summary, the trustees are thankful to the members and principally to God for the ability to function as a Christian church throughout 2023.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2022

With the far lower risk profile of Covid-19, church life could return to its familiar patterns, whilst remaining ready to introduce mitigations if the virus re-emerged as a threat.

Other risk management issues of a more routine order have still been overseen by the church officers and the fellowship has benefited from a safe environment during the year.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

There is no separate section included here. The morning and evening Sunday services, along with the Wednesday and Thursday Bible study and prayer meeting arrangements are the principal activities of the church, along with the additional meeting mentioned in section 6 of Regulatory Information.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Gillingham Baptist Church Annual Accounts 2023

| Accounts for the year to December 31st 2023 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| RECEIPTS | | | PAYMENTS | |
| | | | | TOTAL |
| Balance brought forward from 2022 | | 18036.36 | | |
| Offerings | £ 11,660.00 | | Missionary Support | £ 330.00 |
| Gift Aid | £ 19,725.00 | | HMRC | £ 2,883.96 |
| Gift Aid Tax Refund | £ 4,426.25 | | Building services | £ 2,560.64 |
| Gift Aid - Small Donation Scheme | £ 615.00 | | Buildings & equipment maintenance | £ 4,700.70 |
| Bank Account Interest Liquidity/Reserve | £ 186.74 | | Buildings insurance (Chapel) + employer's liability | £ 2,006.13 |
| Transfer Ladies fellowship | £ 222.52 | | New Toner cartridge | £ 524.83 |
| Transfer Toddlers | £ 90.79 | | Sunday Ministry | £ 350.00 |
| | | | Payroll services | £ 312.00 |
| | | | Mme you Ltd | £ 181.00 |
| | | | Copyright Licence | £ 93.00 |
| | | | Zoom Licence | £ 143.68 |
| | | | Charity payment re Audit | £ 50.00 |
| | | | Rutters solicitors | £ 623.20 |
| | | | Government records office | £ 33.00 |
| | | | Pastors salary | £ 13,352.80 |
| | | £ 36,926.30 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | £ 28,144.94 |
| | | | | |
| | | | Balance 31st December 2023 | £ 26,817.72 |
| | | £ 54,962.66 | | £ 54,962.66 |

| CONTINGENCY FUND | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | PAYMENTS | | |
| | | TOTAL | | | TOTAL |
| Balance brought forward from 2022 | | £ 22,173.30 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | £ - |
| | | | Balance 31st December 2023 | | £ 22,173.30 |
| | | £ 22,173.30 | | | £ 22,173.30 |
| MANSE MAINTENANCE FUND | | | | | |
| RECEIPTS | | | PAYMENTS | | |
| | | TOTAL | | | TOTAL |
| Balance brought forward from 2022 | | £ 10,650.69 | Baptist Insurance(Manse) | £ 1,242.47 | |
| | | | Council Tax/Utility Bills/Plumbing | £ 2,794.81 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | £ - | | | |
| | | | | | £ 4,037.28 |
| | | | Balance 31st December 2023 | | £ 6,613.41 |
| | | £ 10,650.69 | | | £ 10,650.69 |
| SUMMARY | | | | | |
| General Fund | £ 26,817.52 | | Represented by | | |
| Contingency Fund | £ 22,173.30 | | Current Account | £ 38,715.81 | |
| Manse Maintenance Fund | £ 6,613.41 | | Reserve Account | £ 3,250.02 | |
| | | | Liquidity manager Account | £ 13,638.40 | |
| | TOTAL | £ 55,604.23 | Total monies held | £ 55,604.23 | |
| NOTE | | | | | |
| Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Gillingham Baptist Church membership | | | | | |
| Other than the above account balances the assets comprise kitchen equipment, 2 pianos, Digital Projector, OHP, printers, stack away tables and chairs, games and play equipment, a display stand, sound recording computer and compact disc duplicating equipment, hymn books etc. The value of these is unknown. | | | | | |
| ADDRESS OF CHURCH'S BANKERS | | | | | |
| Nat West Bank The Commons, Shaftesbury SP7 8JY | | | | | |



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

Gillingham Baptist Church

On accounts for the
year ended

December 31st 2023

Charity
no (if any)

1169769

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:

Tom Oaks

Date:

1st March 2024

Name:

Tom Oaks

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): | N/A |
| Address: | North Knapp, Rosemary Street |
| | Milborne Port, SHERBORNE |

Appendix 2 Holding Trustees of Gillingham Baptist Chapel

The governing document of the Trust is the Trust Deed of 1838. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed and the Constitution of Gillingham Baptist Church.

The following persons were the Holding Trustees at 31 December 2022

Mr J A C Blake, 'Sundown', Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9PT

Mr R E Burge, 5 Banstead Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9BB

Pastor S V Chase, 27 Bayfields, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AE

Mr A E Chase, 16 Linden Lea, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8QZ

Mr P C Gray, 21 Thrift Close, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LE

Mr G Muspratt, 11 Birdbush, Ludwell, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0PR

Mr D Poolman, 22 Long Cross, Shaftesbury, SP7 8QP

Mr B Thomason, The Old Malt House, Bridge Street, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1BZ Mr P

The Trust properties and assets consist of the Chapel Building and Hall with the Pipe Organ, Fixtures and Fittings, together with the Baptist Manse, situated at Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5HZ.

The Holding Trustees have no financial administration responsibilities, as there are no trust funds and management of the Manse tenancy has been delegated to the Management Trustees.