



SOMERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Charity No: 1173623

Annual Report for 2021

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2021.

Charity's principal address

Somersham Baptist Church, High Street, Somersham, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3JB

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of the signing of this report were:

Name	Office (if any)	Date of appointment	Date of resignation
Mr. R Blackhurst	Chair		4 th January 2022
Mrs. M Davies	Treasurer		
Mr. A Ralph			
Mr. S Anker			12 th July 2021
Mrs. K Downes	Church Secretary		

Trustees are appointed for a 3-year term by the members of the Church.

Property Trustees

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

Independent Examiner

Vincent Lynch

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 29th June 2017.

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document (Baptist Union Model Constitution adopted on 26th March 2017). Membership of the Church is open to those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ and wish to become members, and who, by applying for membership have indicated acceptance of the Beliefs, a willingness to participate in the activities, have indicated their agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in the Constitution. Persons seeking membership who have not been baptised in the manner described in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle may at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting be accepted for full membership based on their own public profession of faith.

The Ordinary Church Members' meetings shall be held at regular intervals on not less than three occasions in a calendar year. One ordinary Church Members meeting shall include the AGM (Annual General Meeting).

In accordance with the constitution, the Church Members' Meeting shall appoint Charity Trustees, including a Church Secretary (or equivalent) and a Church Treasurer (or equivalent), who 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.

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people in to 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. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board and on the website at www.somershambaptist.org. There is a children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of house groups in the homes of some members, open to both members and non-members, for the growth of faith and discipleship.

The church aims to restart various events for Young People – Explorers for reception age to year 6 and Dynamite for year 7 to 13 in the coming year.

Occasionally, as needs arise, the Church runs courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity. The Church also runs the Christians Against Poverty Money course – a course designed to teach skills in building a budget, managing money and preventing debt.

Prior to Covid-19 the Church was also used by local community groups on a regular basis: The Mothers Union, Somersham Town Band and The Somersham History Society and a local school who have a summer production and a Christmas Nativity. The Church is also available to hire on an ad-hoc basis as well as for weddings and funerals

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service and attend required Safeguarding training.

Public Benefit Statement

The Church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure its success purely in numerical terms i.e., attendance and financial, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure.

January 2021 continued with a new lockdown for Covid-19, which many people felt it was harder to deal with, emotionally and spiritually, than the first one in 2020.

Achievements and Performance Continued...

Although churches were allowed to remain open this time, we decided to close due to a church family becoming ill with Covid-19, one of whom sadly died. The Trustees made the difficult decision to go back to having church closed during this time and returned to Zoom-only worship, broadcast both live and as a recording, until we re-opened for the Easter weekend.

Throughout the year our band of guest preachers have continued to bless us by preaching the word live. We continued to enable congregational participation in prayer and worship, even while on zoom. Church unity has been retained, even those too vulnerable to attend church, by being able to see one another's faces and communicate during the service for our open praise, prayer and testimony times in each service. However, there is still a proportion of the church family we have been unable to reach, notably older members who do not use the technology. Which we find deeply sad.

Despite the problems of Covid-19 we still averaged 22 adult attendees and 2 children at Sunday worship during the year. Joyfully we welcomed one new member in 2021 but sadly one member went to be with the Lord and 2 moved away during the year meaning that membership has decreased by 2 in the year to 23 as at 31st December 2021.

Two mid-week House Groups continued during 2021 - again using Zoom. A fortnightly prayer meeting also continues on Zoom. Even post Covid-19, it is possible that this form of meeting may continue in order to be better stewards of the planet's resources and not use the car as much.

We continue to support our Missionary Family in South East Asia and regular updates via newsletters and video enable us to feel close to them

The Church is actively looking for a full time Minister and a team meet once a month in order to seek God's will in this appointment. The process is not an easy task and with a pandemic it is proving challenging. However, the church remains steadfast in the knowledge that God has prepared someone in advance to be the Minister of Somersham Baptist Church.

Due to Covid-19 all planned evangelical outreach work was put on hold again. However, one to one discussion about the gospel still took place and we pray that we can start external activities in the Spring.

During another difficult year we are pleased with the way that such a small church has continued to worship in every way legally possible

Once again. We give all the glory to God. We have undoubtedly had an inordinate amount of supernatural help in order to continue to worship the triune God. Heavenly Father - Thankyou.

Financial Review

The church raises funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by giving to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose. The main recipients of this giving during the period of these accounts were: Baptist Home Mission, Baptist World Mission and UFM (to support Church members who are missionaries in South East Asia).

Financial Review Continued...

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 Ending 31 December 2021, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The church is a participant within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. The church understands that if it had left the scheme at the year-end, it would have to have made a one-off payment estimated to be £16,500 (2020 - £24,200) to meet its statutory obligations of the scheme. The church has no plans to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy for its unrestricted funds to enable the church to function effectively and meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost.

Having considered the relevant risks of changes in income and expenditure, the trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is in the range of £20,000 to £25,000. As at 31 December 2021 the church held total reserves of £135,296 (2020 - £121,127), of which £25,980 (2020 - £25,800) were Restricted and £84,000 (2020 - £70,000) Designated. The Trustees agreed that £84,000 has been designated for future Ministry costs at Somersham Baptist Church. Reserves that were neither restricted nor designated amounted to £25,316 (2020 - £25,327). (Please see Note 7 on page 9).

Approved by the order of the Trustees of Somersham Baptist Church on 3rd March 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs. Kim Downes
Church Secretary

**Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Somersham Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church'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 my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My 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 church 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 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.

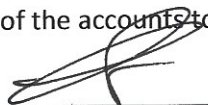
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner



Date 12/2/22

Name

VINCENT LYNCH

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any)

FCA . INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTANT OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Address

DAVID HOUSE, EARNING ST, GODMANCHESTER, PE29 0JD.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts						
Regular and Gift Aid Giving		22,596	-	-	22,596	24,620
Gift Aid recovered		4,839	-		4,839	5,328
Donations and other Income	2	21	-		21	109
Rent and Contributions for church use		-	-	-	-	264
Bank Interest		-	180	-	180	248
Other	7	-	-	-	-	310
Total Receipts		27,456	180	-	27,636	30,879
Payments						
Ministry	3	6,757	-	-	6,757	5,281
Mission	4	2,850	-	-	2,850	3,254
Upkeep of church premises	5	2,656	-	-	2,656	3,199
Administration	6	1,204	-	-	1,204	1,257
Other Payments	7	-	-	-	-	310
Total Payments		13,467	-	-	13,467	13,301
Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year		13,989	180	-	14,169	17,578
Transfers between funds	7	(14,000)	-	14,000	-	-
Net Movement in funds		(11)	180	14,000	14,169	17,578
Cash balance brought forward		25,327	25,800	70,000	121,127	103,549
Cash balance carried forward		25,316	25,980	84,000	135,296	121,127

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Assets:						
Bank and other cash balances						
Petty Cash		14	-	-	14	19
Lloyds Bank Account		25,302	-	58,339	83,641	89,648
CAF Bank Account		-	-	20,341	20,341	340
Shawbrook 60 Day notice Account		-	25,980	5,320	31,300	31,120
		25,316	25,980	84,000	135,296	121,127
Assets Held for the Church's own use	8				964,465	910,619
Total Assets					1,099,761	1,031,746
Liabilities:						
Pension Scheme Liability	9				17,414	20,985
Total Liabilities					17,414	20,985

The accounts were approved by the Trustees of Somersham Baptist Church on 3rd March 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs Maureen Davies
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Basis of accounts:

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

	2021 £	2020 £
2 Donations and other income:		
Donations	21	57
Little Sparrows	-	52
Passover Meal tickets	-	-
Total Donations and other income	21	109
3 Ministry:		
Moderators Salary	500	250
Pension (incl Defecit Payments)	3,815	2,784
Ministers Travel	128	216
Pulpit Supplies	2,004	1,635
Discipleship	60	50
Other Ministry - Worship Resources	250	346
Total Ministry	6,757	5,281
4 Mission:		
Home Mission	915	1,011
BMS	915	1,011
UFM	916	1,011
Youth Work	-	-
Little Sparrows	-	27
Outreach - Easter Weekend	-	59
Outreach - Other	104	135
Total Mission	2,850	3,254
5 Upkeep of church premises:		
Lighting and Heating	(491)	1,164
Water charges	274	339
Insurances	1,077	1,017
Repairs & Maintenance	1,075	231
Furniture & Equipment	356	388
Telephone & Broadband	365	60
Total Upkeep of church premises	2,656	3,199

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS Continued...

	2021	2020
	£	£
6 Administration		
Subscriptions	845	788
Photocopying, Printing & Stationery	-	29
Other Administration	359	440
Total Administration	1,204	1,257

7 Funds - Movement in Restricted and Designated Funds**a) Restricted Funds**

The restricted Significant Building Fund is money raised for major building work on the church premises, particularly renovation or extension projects.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Receipts		
Interest	180	248
Payments		
Planning Application	-	-
Architect Fees	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Payments	-	0
Nett Receipts/(Payments) for the year	180	248
Cash Balance brought forward	25,800	25,552
Cash Balance carried forward	25,980	25,800

b) Designated Funds

	2021	2020
	£	£

i) Future Ministry Costs

The Trustees agreed to set aside a further £14,000 to a designated Future Ministry costs fund as when a Minister is employed it will produce a significant deficit annual budget. Somersham Baptist Church is in the process to fill the Pastoral vacancy.

Transfer from General Fund	14,000	17,000
Cash Balance brought forward	70,000	53,000
Cash Balance carried forward	84,000	70,000

ii) Gift to retiring Church Secretary

Receipt from Donations	-	310
Payment for Gift	-	310
Nett Receipts/(Payments) for the year	-	-

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS Continued...

8 Assets Held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee (the Baptist Union Corporation):

- Church Premises at High Street, Somersham, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3JB valued in the accounts at £881,276 (2020 - £831,392) based on insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £83,189 (2020 - £79,227)

9 Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

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. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a 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. Since January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan was done as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316million, giving a deficit of £18million (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. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the Church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB Scheme deficit, currently £322.48, which will increase in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresees these contributions continuing until June 2026. The pension scheme liability shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities is calculated at the current rate per month multiplied by the number of months remaining in the current Schedule of Contributions, which amounted to £17,414 as at 31st December 2021 (£20,985 as at 31st December 2020).

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the Church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was £16.500 (31 December 2020 was £24,200).