



SOMERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Charity No: 1173623

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2023.

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 Anthony Cooney		24 April 2022	
Mr Graham Lodge	Treasurer	6 November 2022	
Mrs Ruth Lodge	Church Secretary	6 November 2022	
Dr Joshua Ross		19 November 2023	

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

Ian Cunningham

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, with minor amendments in April 2021, and May 2022). 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 their agreement to become a member, indicated acceptance of the Beliefs, a willingness to participate in the activities, 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.

Ordinary Church Members' meetings are held at regular intervals on not less than three occasions in a calendar year. It is stipulated that one ordinary Church Members meeting shall include the AGM (Annual General Meeting).

In accordance with the constitution, the Church Members' Meeting appoints 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 objectives.

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 youth group for 8-14 year olds on alternate Friday evenings, and a series of fellowship groups in the homes of some members, for the growth of faith and discipleship: these groups are open to both members and non-members,

The church also hosts a community choir and would ideally like to restart other community outreach activities in the coming year: possibly a weekly group for pre-school, or for people interested in discovering more about Christianity, if resources allow (no detailed plans exist at this stage). The church will also be participating in village events such as carnival.

Prior to Covid-19 the Church was also used by local community groups on a regular basis: we were glad to see a local school and their PTA using our building again last year for several evening events including their Christmas production. The Church is also available on an ad-hoc basis for private hire, 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 primarily in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure.

Now that pandemic lockdowns are behind us, Sunday services have been held in the church building throughout the year: it has been good to be fully back into the swing of congregational participation in prayer and worship

Membership was stable during the past year; we still have 19 members as at 31st December 2023. We appointed one additional trustee in November and this team are now getting established in their new roles. We averaged 20 - 30 adult attendees and 4 - 8 children at Sunday worship during the year.

One mid-week House Group – now able to meet face to face again - continued throughout 2023, along with an additional weekly / fortnightly prayer meeting, taking place at church.

We continue to support our Missionary Family in South East Asia; including donating having returned to Asia at the end of 2022, our contact in 2023 was via newsletters and occasional videos to enable us to feel close to them.

We also held a special Coronation event for the village community in May. This consisted of an afternoon tea, music from Somersham Town (brass) Band, and a children's drama based on the actual coronation service. We arranged for paid catering work to be performed by 6 teenagers who live in Somersham, and are fundraising for an expedition to Borneo with Camps International, where they will be taking on a range of community projects such as helping to build classrooms and install clean water supplies.

The Church is now actively looking for a full time Minister, with a small team assigned both to practical tasks, and meeting to seek God's will in this appointment. The process was paused through most of 2023 while the new group of trustees was established, but it is encouraging that we can now move ahead with this appointment, in the knowledge that God has prepared someone in advance to be the Minister of Somersham Baptist Church.

During a year of consolidation, we are pleased with the way that such a small church has continued to worship and proclaim the gospel. Once again, we give all the glory to 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).

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 2023, 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 (up until the middle of 2022) was making ongoing deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. Following a 'buy-in' arrangement announced in July 2022, recovery

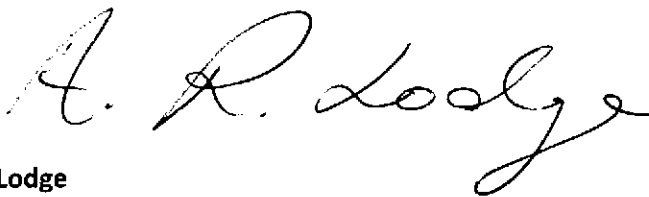
payments were reduced to £1 per month, continuing until June 2026. The latest guidance we have received is that no further deficit payments are anticipated: nevertheless, participating employers remain responsible for providing a share of any additional funds that the Defined Benefit Plan may require in future. The church has no plans to leave the scheme and could therefore be asked to resume deficit payments should the need arise.

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 £25,000 to £30,000. As at 31 December 2023 the church held total reserves of £147,243 (2022 - £138,694), of which £24,075 (2022 - £23,509) were Restricted and £84,000 (2022 - £84,000) 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 £39,168 (2022 - £31,185). (Please see Note 7 on page 9).

Approved by the order of the Trustees of Somersham Baptist Church on 26th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. R. Lodge', written in a cursive style.

Mrs. Ruth Lodge
Church Secretary

**Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Somersham Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023****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 4/4/24

Name IAN CUNNINGHAM

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any) ACCA QUALIFIED 1999

Address WARKFIELD, ST PETERS STREET,
CAXTON CB23 3PJ

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
Regular and Gift Aid Giving		17,181	-	-	17,181	18,768
Gift Aid recovered		3,642	-	-	3,642	4,401
Donations and other Income	2	374	-	-	374	333
Rent and Contributions for church use	2	511	-	-	511	-
Bank Interest	2	1,483	601	-	2,084	213
Other	2	356	-	-	356	-
Total Receipts		23,547	601	-	24,148	23,715
Payments						
Ministry	3	3,396	-	-	3,396	4,486
Mission	4	4,183	-	-	4,183	2,911
Upkeep of church premises	5	6,813	-	-	6,813	8,524
Administration	6	1,172	-	-	1,172	1,712
Other Payments	7	-	35	-	35	2,684
Total Payments		15,564	35	-	15,599	20,317
Nett Receipts/(Payments) for the year		7,983	566	-	8,549	3,398
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		7,983	566	0	8,549	3,398
Cash balance brought forward		31,185	23,509	84,000	138,694	135,296
Cash balance carried forward		39,168	24,075	84,000	147,243	138,694

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:						
Bank and other cash balances						
Petty Cash		0	-	-	0	0
Lloyds Bank Account		23,340	-	-	23,340	86,839
BU Deposit Account		15,828	-	55,655	71,483	-
CAF Gold Bank Account		-	-	20,549	20,549	20,419
CAF Cash Account		-	-	215	215	-
Shawbrook 60 Day notice Account		-	24,075	7,581	31,656	31,436
		<u>39,168</u>	<u>24,075</u>	<u>84,000</u>	<u>147,243</u>	<u>138,694</u>
Assets Held for the Church's own use	8				1,144,084	1,021,502
Total Assets					<u>1,291,327</u>	<u>1,160,196</u>
Liabilities:						
Pension Scheme Liability	9				30	42
Total Liabilities					<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees of Somersham Baptist Church on 26th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Graham Lodge 03 April 2024

Graham Lodge
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.

	2023 £	2022 £
2 Donations and other income:		
Donations	374	333
Rent and Contributions for church use	511 -	
Interest on BU deposit account	1,483	-
Sunday collections to support UFM	356	-
Total Donations and other income	2,724	333
3 Ministry:		
Moderators Salary	500	500
Pension (Incl Defecit Payments)	132	2,312
Ministers Travel	73	
Pulpit Supplies	2,267	1,363
Discipleship	160	90
Other Ministry - Worship Resources	264	221
Total Ministry	3,396	4,486
4 Mission:		
Home Mission	775	787
BMS	775	787
UFM	1,456	787
Youth Work	374	400
Outreach - Other	803	150
Total Mission	4,183	2,911
5 Upkeep of church premises:		
Lighting and Heating	824	671
Water charges	443	369
Cleaning	413	312
Insurances	1,147	1,140
Repairs & Maintenance	2,714	5,531
Furniture & Equipment	810	105
Telephone & Broadband	462	396
Total Upkeep of church premises	6,813	8,524

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS Continued...

	2023	2022
	£	£
6 Administration		
Photocopying, Printing & Stationery	127	-
Subscriptions	706	960
Other Administration	339	752
Total Administration	1,172	1,712

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 premise renovation or extension projects.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Receipts		
Interest	601	213
Payments		
Replacement of side door	-	2,684
Architect Fees	-	-
Bank charges	35	-
Total Payments	35	2,684
Nett Receipts/(Payments) for the year	566	(2,471)
Cash Balance brought forward	23,509	25,980
Cash Balance carried forward	24,075	23,509

b) Designated Funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Future Ministry Costs		
The Trustees agreed to retain a designated Future Ministry costs fund as when a Minister is appointed it will produce a significant annual budget deficit. Somersham Baptist Church is in the process of seeking a minister to fill the Pastoral vacancy.		
Cash Balance brought forward	84,000	84,000
Cash Balance carried forward	84,000	84,000

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 £1,171,803 (2022 - £934,153) based on insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £109,573 (2022 - £87,349)

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: the Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan were collectively responsible for funding this deficit. However in mid-2022 the Pension Trustee signed a 'buy-in' agreement with the insurance company Just Group, under which Just has taken responsibility for meeting the cost of pension benefits due from the DB Plan in the future. The Trustee and the Baptist Union agreed that deficit recovery payments should reduce to £1 per month for each employer from the August 2022 payment until June 2026.

The Trustee and the BU do not anticipate reinstating the requirement to pay full DRCs in the future but this cannot be ruled out at this stage. Participating employers remain responsible for providing a share of any additional funds that the DB Plan may require in future.

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. The current liability is £30 at 31 December 2023 (£42 as at 31 December 2022).

Should the Church cease to be a participating employer, an administrative charge will apply for processing cessation events for the time being, even though there is no shortfall. The Church was previously advised that the estimated cost for the Church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities (at 31 December 2021) was £16,500.