



Arbury Road Baptist Church – Annual Report 2023

References and administrative details

Registered address

20 Arbury Road, Cambridge CB4 2JE

Charity Registration Number 1175114

Trustees

The Revd Matt Rowe (Minister/Secretary)
Susanne Lyle (Operations Strategic Leader/Secretary) (Resigned March 2023)
Richard Green (Treasurer)
John Watts
Sue Brignell
Lauren Haywood (appointed March 2023)
Neil Armstrong (Resigned September 2023)
Ian Farr (Co-opted September 2023)

Property Trustees

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

Bankers

Barclays Bank, Leicester LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner

Mr Richard Law

Annual Report for 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document. Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The members' meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint four Trustees, who together with the Minister, Operations Strategic Leader (previously Church Secretary) and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), 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.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in the Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

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.

One of the significant changes this year has been the increased international contingent within our church. Cambridge is an international city and it has been great to be able to welcome and include increasingly diverse worshippers from around the world as we gather to worship together. This year has also been a time of transition in our leadership with a number of key roles either in vacancy, or with long standing members intending to stand down in March. We continue to pray for these leadership vacancies and look forward to appropriate people being appointed to these roles in due course. Yet throughout the last year we have continued to know and make known the hope and life of Jesus, both through our services, as well as in the community around our church. Over the year, we have had a particular focus on spiritual growth, and have been blessed in seeing a number of new faces join our church family and congregation.

In order to achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is that as a church we help people to know, and make known, the hope and life of Jesus.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship, which this year which is now a hybrid service making the service accessible for those online as well as those gathering with us in person. Our services take place each Sunday at 10.30am, as well as a prayer meeting twice a month at 7.00pm. There are also occasional additional services at other times such as at Christmas and Easter, which are advertised appropriately, including through the church website at arburyroadbaptist.org. We continue to delight in the privilege of being a family church, with representation across the age demographics. We continue to see a blossoming number of children and young people joining us for ARK Sundays (Arbury Road Kids).

The Church runs a series of house groups for the growth of faith and discipleship, which this year have continued to run. We have seen new groups start over the past year and the leadership team have been reflecting on how we can best utilise our home groups to help and support members of our church to grow in their faith and as disciples of Jesus.

The Church runs a range of activities in our local community, which have flourished during the last year. These include 'Wonderfully made' (a safe place for those dealing with mental health challenges) and 'Faithful friends' (a community group helping people to explore the Christian faith). In addition this year we have been able to offer a holiday lunch for those in our community who would usually depend on free school meals, or who would just like to come and join in with what is happening in their local community. All our community events aim to demonstrate the love, hope and life of Jesus Christ to all in our local community.

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.

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 the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas such as fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2023 has been a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2024 with continued enthusiasm.

Over the last year, we were delighted to welcome seven new members into our church family and were sad to see three members leave our membership to worship elsewhere. It has been a privilege to walk alongside others who are exploring Jesus throughout their life and we have had the joy of seeing two people baptised in our church over the last year. We have also had the privilege of serving three families in conducting a funeral and service of thanksgiving for a loved one who died. At 31 December 2022, the membership stood at 47.

This year we have continued to serve our community and work towards the fulfilment of our community dream which can be found on our church website (arburyroadbaptist.org/dream). Our community pioneer role has continued to thrive, and we are thrilled to see this work continuing to bear fruit in the life of the church.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. We currently operate at a deficit but we have now stepped out in faith that we might see God's provision for his people and have a balanced budget next year. The financial climate continues to be a challenging one and we continue to explore ways of funding all that happens in the life of our church so we might be able to serve and support those around us.

The most significant expense relates to the employment of our church staff team, the Revd Matt Rowe as Minister of the Church, to lead and co-ordinate the church's activities including the Sunday services, to provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and to equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service. Alongside Matt, Kimberley Rayson serves as our community pioneer, taking the life and hope of Jesus out into the community around our church.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is grateful for all the volunteers who give of their time to support the activities of our church. These volunteers come both from within the membership of the church, as well as volunteers from other churches and members of the community. We continue to be grateful for all who contribute to the life of our church in such a wide variety of different ways.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Church is a participating employer 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 £67,600 to meet its statutory obligations to the scheme. The Church has no plan to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Arbury Road Baptist Church

1175114

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	01-Jan 2023	To	31-Dec 2023
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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					
Offerings	36,592	525	-	37,117	39,493
Gift Aid (Inland Revenue)	9,718	2,516	-	12,235	11,491
Other / Donations	14,978	21,174	-	36,152	49,918
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	61,288	24,215	-	85,503	100,902
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	61,288	24,215	-	85,503	100,902
A3 Payments					
Employee Related	32,893	24,733	-	57,626	59,164
Manse	11,789	-	-	11,789	6,243
Premises	19,215	6,161	-	25,376	15,761
Supplies & Services	3,110	266	-	3,376	3,510
Church Activities	1,016	57	-	1,072	606
Missions / Support	8,151	1,563	-	9,714	10,021
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	76,173	32,779	-	108,953	95,305
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	76,173	32,779	-	108,953	95,305
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 14,885	- 8,564	-	- 23,449	5,597
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	63,546	46,221	-	109,767	104,170
Cash funds this year end	48,661	37,657	-	86,318	109,767

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current accounts	10,143	-	-
	Deposit account	38,419	37,657	-
	Petty cash - lunch	99	-	-
	Total cash funds	48,661	37,657	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

Balances and Reconciliation

Balances:	31/12/2023	31/12/2022	Change (£)
Barclays Current Account	10,723	33,906	-23,183
Baptist Union Deposit Account	76,076	75,518	558
Welcome Lunch Petty Cash	99	478	-379
Net Liabilities 1	-580	-135	-445
	86,317	109,766	-23,449

Funds:

	31/12/2023	31/12/2022	Change (£)
Unrestricted/Designated			
General Fund	1,293	17,902	-16,610
Reserve Fund	44,052	43,755	297
Ark Kids	0	19	-19
Lunch Break	638	478	161
Kitchen Fund	1,077	1,196	-119
Go Fund	1,600	350	1,250
Pioneer Fund	0	1,482	-1,482
TOTAL	48,660	65,182	-16,522

Restricted

Outreach in Cambridge	3,234	3,205	29
Fellowship Fund	1,118	1,434	-316
Looking Forward Building Fund	14,439	14,462	-22
Bursary	1,000	1,000	0
Wonderfully Made	4,586	1,601	2,986
Minister in the Community	11,298	18,285	-6,987
M.Harris Investment	1,980	4,596	-2,616
TOTAL	37,657	44,583	-6,927

TOTAL FUNDS	86,317	109,766	-37,355
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1. £580 owed to BMS

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records. 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.

Signed: *R. Law*

Name: *RICHARD LAW*

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any)

Address *2 LONBURYHOLME ROAD - OVER - CAMBRIDGE CB24 5NP*

Date: *11 March 2024*