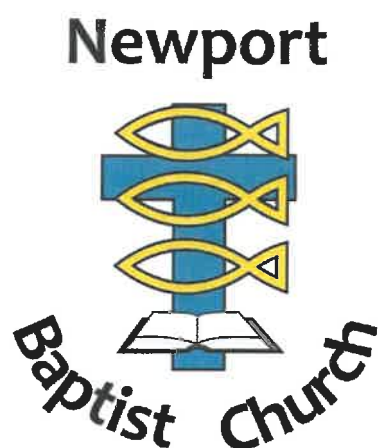


**NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE  
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION  
CHARITY NO: 1176587**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



# **NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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# **NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Newport Baptist Church Shropshire was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 9 January 2018. By an agreement executed by the Trustees dated 5 April 2018, all assets, liabilities and activities of the Church were transferred from Newport Baptist Church, an excepted charity (by virtue of its affiliation to the Baptist Union of Great Britain) to this charity.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church's Constitution.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

As a member of the Baptist Union the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of Principle: -

- That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
- That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who 'died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried, and rose again on the third day'.
- That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

During the year the Church has engaged in regular public worship, prayer and Bible study, preaching, teaching and observance of the Communion of the Lord's Supper.

In shaping our objectives for the period and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)'. The Church is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

This year, 2023, has been a year of pausing and waiting on the Lord to see where he is leading us. During the year, the church has begun to think about a vision for the future. We have continued to be blessed by the ministry of a wide range of visiting preachers, who have led our Sunday morning services and there is no reason why that could not continue for the foreseeable future. However, as a church we are seeking the Lord to see if that is the right way forward or if He wants to take us in a different direction.

# **NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

During the year, our activities have continued.

The weekly prayer meeting meets on Thursday evenings via Zoom. The number of regulars at the meetings has remained constant throughout the year. In addition to this a new, in person, meeting for prayer has begun on Saturday mornings and some members still come together for prayer immediately before the Sunday morning service

Our WhatsApp group is now an integral part of our communications within the church family. It is an efficient and effective way to share news, things to celebrate and concerns for prayer. Whilst not everyone is digitally active, we have ensured that we stay in contact with them through text, email, and phone calls so that no one feels excluded.

The weekly Bible study group meets on a Monday morning. This is an opportunity for those who are able to attend to engage in a more in-depth study of the Bible using a structured study guide.

The fortnightly ladies' fellowship group (known as the Esther Group) has met throughout the year on Wednesday mornings, and the men's fellowship group has evolved into a walking group, weather permitting, and now includes some ladies who wish to walk. Both groups aim to provide an opportunity for sharing in an informal non-threatening environment.

A Harvest service was held in October, followed by a lunch in the church hall. We had the opportunity to welcome members of the Harper Adams University Christian Union to the service and to meet and talk with them over lunch. All Harvest gifts were donated to Newport Foodbank.

Our Gift Day took place in March 2023. A total of £3,300 was raised (including the related Gift Aid) and this amount was shared between our two missionaries, Judy Cook and the Fletchers, both of whom work in Thailand.

#### **Looking ahead into 2024**

We came into 2023 with no minister, and without a major change in our financial position, there is still no real prospect of being able to appoint a new minister in the foreseeable future.

We have agreed to start a weekly Warm Drop In on a Tuesday morning. This will run from January through to the end of March, at which point we shall assess its effectiveness and consider whether or not to extend it.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Church's work is entirely dependent on the Lord's leading and the resources He provides.

Our finances are on an even keel and if the current levels of income and expenditure continue, we should be able to operate as we are indefinitely. However, it is a delicate balance and one large unexpected bill could change that.

We started the year with cash reserves in the bank of £18,136. During the year income received was £25,300 and our expenditure totalled £17,800. We received £7,500 more than we spent. This has increased our year end cash reserves to £25,636.

# **NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Church received gifts and donations of £4,507 which were for specific causes. Most of these funds were paid out in accordance with the donors' wishes, although at the year-end £410 was still held pending payment.

#### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency expenditure.

The Trustees feel that it is prudent for the Church to aim to maintain a level of cash reserves equivalent to the cost of running the church for a period of six months. Given our new circumstances, with no minister to pay, the running costs of the church for six months will be in the region of £8,750. Reserves at the yearend amounted to £25,636.

Reserves at the year-end exceeded the policy level by £16,886. This is the extent of our buffer against unforeseen expenditure and part of our savings so that we may, at some point in the future, be able to employ a minister. Being realistic, the cost of employing a new minister full time would be in the region of £42,000 per annum. Therefore, savings alone will never be enough. Our weekly offerings would need to rise by £800 per week each and every week.

#### **Risk policy**

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the risk to which the Church is exposed and taken steps to eliminate, reduce or manage those risks. They have also taken steps to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud or error.

### **STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing Document**

The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It is governed by its constitution document which was unanimously adopted at a Church Members' meeting held on 30 October 2017, prior to it being submitted to the Charities Commission for England & Wales as part of the registration process. The document is based on the model constitution produced by the Baptist Union Corporation Limited in consultation with the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

#### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

The Church Members' meeting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit appoint Trustees to be responsible for the governance of the Church. Deacons are appointed for an initial three year term with the opportunity to be nominated for reappointment at the end of each three year term, or as agreed from time to time by the Church Members' Meeting. The Church Secretary and Church Treasurer are appointed annually and there is no restriction on the number of years that they can serve. New Trustees are trained and guided on the job by the more experienced Trustees.

#### **Organisational structure**

Church Members meet together in a Church Members' Meeting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and under the Lordship of Christ to discern the mind of God in the affairs of the Church. Members shall, so far as is possible, seek consensus on all matters considered at a Church Meeting. However, for matters requiring a decision, a vote shall be taken and the outcome of the vote recorded as a resolution of the Members. There are two types of formal Church Members' Meetings, Ordinary Church Members' Meetings (normally held quarterly) and Special Church Members' Meetings. In order to be carried, a resolution at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting requires a simple majority of Members attending and voting. At a Special Church Members' Meeting a resolution requires a two thirds majority of Members attending and voting in order to be carried.

# NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Wider network

The Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Heart of England Baptist Association. The Church will normally promote, encourage, support and advance the work of the Baptist Union, The Association and BMS World Mission through prayer, through financial contributions and, where appropriate, by making personnel available from membership of the Church. The Church will also support local Baptist and ecumenical gatherings when it is able to do so. The Baptist Union has no controlling interest in the conduct and operation of the Church.

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Charity name:** Newport Baptist Church Shropshire

**Registered Charity Number:** 1176587

#### Principal address

Water Lane  
Newport  
Shropshire  
TF10 7LD

#### Trustees

##### Deacons:

Chris Cartwright	
Mrs Alison Davies	
Mrs Helen Wilson	reappointed 14 March 2023
Mrs Pauline Creevey	

##### Other officers:

Mrs Ruth Summers (secretary)	appointed 14 March 2023
Ian Walsh (treasurer)	reappointed 14 March 2023

##### Property trustee:

Legal title to the Church's freehold property is held by HEBA (Trust) Association (formerly The West Midland Baptist (Trust) Association) for the benefit of the members of Newport Baptist Church Shropshire.

#### Independent examiner

Tim Herriott Enterprises  
15 Briarsleigh  
Stafford  
ST17 4QP

# **NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Trustees approved the Trustees' Annual Report on 6 February 2024.

#### **ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RE Summers', written over a faint horizontal line.

Mrs R Summers (Secretary)

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

## NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

I report on the accounts of Newport Baptist Church Shropshire (Charity No: 1176587) for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 7 to 10.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity 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 Charity'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 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.



T Herriott  
Tim Herriott Enterprises  
15 Briarsleigh  
STAFFORD  
ST17 4QP

Date: 27/2/24



# NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023			2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>Receipts</b>						
Offerings - general	16,169	-	16,169	15,065	-	15,065
Offerings - appeals	-	2,720	2,720	-	737	737
Home Mission Grant	-	-	-	-	330	330
Gift Aid recovered	3,168	580	3,748	2,926	138	3,064
Donations	200	1,035	1,235	-	913	913
Rents received	1,227	-	1,227	-	-	-
Other income	30	171	201	153	-	153
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>20,794</u>	<u>4,506</u>	<u>25,300</u>	<u>18,144</u>	<u>2,118</u>	<u>20,262</u>
<b>Payments</b>						
Minister's stipend	-	-	-	755	330	1,085
Minister's housing allowance	-	-	-	284	-	284
Minister's expenses	-	-	-	16	-	16
Manse expenses	-	-	-	117	-	117
Contribution to Pension Fund deficit	-	-	-	7,700	-	7,700
Visiting speakers' expenses	1,850	-	1,850	1,800	-	1,800
Donations	2,320	3,963	6,283	1,933	1,407	3,340
Insurance	1,282	-	1,282	1,136	-	1,136
Heat, light, telephone and water	2,170	-	2,170	3,085	-	3,085
Cleaning	2,912	-	2,912	2,912	-	2,912
Subscriptions	561	-	561	527	-	527
Repairs and maintenance	818	-	818	1,500	-	1,500
Miscellaneous expenses	595	514	1,109	634	-	634
Independent Reviewer's fee	300	-	300	400	-	400
	<u>12,808</u>	<u>4,477</u>	<u>17,285</u>	<u>22,799</u>	<u>1,737</u>	<u>24,536</u>
<b>Asset purchases</b>						
Purchase of furniture and equipment	515	-	515	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<u>13,323</u>	<u>4,477</u>	<u>17,800</u>	<u>22,799</u>	<u>1,737</u>	<u>24,536</u>
<b>Net cash outflow for the period</b>	<b>7,471</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>(4,655)</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>(4,274)</b>
<b>Cash funds at 1 January 2023</b>	<b>17,755</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>18,136</b>	<b>22,410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,410</b>
<b>Cash funds at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>25,226</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>25,636</b>	<b>17,755</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>18,136</b>

# NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

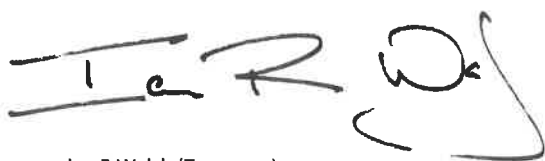
	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>Cash funds</b>						
Cash at bank	25,226	410	25,636	17,755	381	18,136
<b>Other assets</b>						
Gift Aid recoverable on gifts	814	-	814	761	-	761
Utilities paid in advance	146	-	146	554	-	554
	960	-	960	1,315	-	1,315

	2023		2022	
	Cost £	Estimated current value £	Cost £	Estimated current value £
<b>Assets retained for own use</b>				
Freehold property	327,266	330,000	327,266	330,000
Equipment and furniture	4,094	1,500	4,094	1,900
	331,360	331,500	331,360	331,900

Legal title to the Church's freehold property is held by HEBA (Trust) Association (formerly The West Midland Baptist (Trust) Association) for the benefit of the members of Newport Baptist Church.

Liabilities	2023 £	2022 £
Estimated amount owing for utilities prior to period end	-	-
Expenditure committed before period end	-	-
	-	-

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Ian R Walsh (Treasurer)

6 February 2024

# NEWPORT BAPTIST CHURCH SHROPSHIRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 1 Establishment of the Charity

Newport Baptist Church Shropshire was registered, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 9 January 2018, although it did not commence activities until 5 April 2018.

#### 2 Accounts format

The Trustees have taken the decision to prepare these accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

#### 3 Payments to Trustees

No Trustee, other than the cleaner, was remunerated. However some trustees were reimbursed for expenses they incurred on behalf of the Church.

The cleaner, who is a trustee, is engaged for four hours per week.

#### 4 Restricted funds

	2023		2022	
	Donor specific donations	Home Mission Grant	Donor specific donations	Total
Brought forward	381	-	-	-
Received in the year	4,506	330	1,788	2,118
Spent in the year	(4,477)	(330)	(1,407)	(1,737)
	<u>410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>381</u>

The Home Mission grant was given by the Heart of England Baptist Association as a contribution towards the cost of the minister's stipend.

#### 5 Donor specific donations

	B/fwd	Received	Paid	C/fwd
Gift Day	-	3,300	(3,300)	-
Esther Group collections	-	295	(295)	-
Home Mission	-	138	(138)	-
Collections for leaving members	81	150	(231)	-
Demential Choir	-	493	(183)	310
Esther Group funds	100	130	(130)	100
Gift for fridge repair	200	-	(200)	-
	<u>381</u>	<u>4,506</u>	<u>(4,477)</u>	<u>410</u>

#### 6 Related parties

The Trustees and several Church Members have bought items for the Church and have been subsequently reimbursed.

Reimbursements were paid as follows: -

	2023	2022
Mrs A Davies	21	19
Mrs P Creevey	35	20
Mr C Cartwright	32	-
Mr I Walsh (treasurer)	89	-
	<u>177</u>	<u>39</u>