

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	April	2022		31 st	March	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Abbey Baptist Church		
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)	1176927		
Charity's principal address	Abbey Baptist Church		
	Checker Walk		
	Abingdon		
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Postcode</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;">OX14 3JB</td> </tr> </table>	Postcode	OX14 3JB
Postcode	OX14 3JB		

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Graeme Stonell			
2	Iain Baker		Until 25 th April 2022	
3	John Lipp	Chair of trustees		
4	Elizabeth Rolfe			
5	Peter Akrill			
6	Stephen Mayo			
7	Daniel Bryant			
8	Chris Hawthorne		From 1 st Jan 2023	
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

In addition to our constitution, we make use of our church handbook to guide our practice in the everyday running of our affairs.

Elders direct the day to day operations of the church. All work conducted by the church is done under their leadership. The elders are also trustees of the charity and are joined by additional trustees. All elders and trustees are selected by the members in accordance with our church handbook.

We are affiliated to two external organisations (The Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East) and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches). The nature of these affiliations is mutually supporting and both bodies are non-governing of our church's affairs.

As a long standing, stable church there are few operational risks. By offering services to vulnerable people there are risks associated to appointing volunteers/workers. These are managed through our Safeguarding Policy.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Church are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Abingdon and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

During this year, we have continued to respond to opportunities which allow us to fulfil our stated purposes.

Our main weekly meetings including Sunday worship, midweek small groups and prayer opportunities have continued, with in-person and on-line attendance options at most.

Our work amongst seniors has continued through regular events (TOFS and coffee mornings)

Work amongst young people has continued, with specific weekly activities for primary aged children and older secondary children. One-off events have made some limited provision for those who do not fall into these age categories.

English language classes for non-native English speakers have continued and proven to be a useful service to attendees, but also an avenue which has enabled some attendees to explore the Christian faith for themselves.

We established an outreach team to further the aim of advancing the Christian faith. This resulted in training for our members/attendees and a week of focussed events in the lead up to Easter 2022. Following that week, the outreach team has continued to run events aimed at providing benefit to those who are outside of the church.

The trustees are satisfied that these activities are conducted in line with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We are not involved in awarding grants or in investing (except for holding reserves in an interest paying bank account).

All of our work is supported and enabled by volunteers from within our membership. The Trustees thank the members of the church who conduct all of these activities on a voluntary basis.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The continual healthy level of interest in our in-person meetings and activities by a mixture of members, families of members and non-members is regarded as an achievement.

The online provision of our main worship activities has benefited our local supporters/beneficiaries, some of whom have faced periods where it was not possible or not wise for them to gather with the church. Although not fully measurable, we are also aware of a more geographically dispersed group of beneficiaries who have also been able to continue to receive benefit through remote ministry.

Following the resignation of our previous minister (effective 31st Dec 2021) we embarked on the exercise of finding and appointing a new minister. Dan Bryant, who had been our trainee until the 31st Dec, agreed to take on the role of Associate Minister until a new Minister was appointed. When Chris Hawthorne commenced employment as our Minister on 1st January 2023, Dan Bryant remained in employment, but now as our Assistant Minister.

An additional needs team was established to consider how to ensure we are doing everything reasonable to welcome people regardless of what additional needs they may have. This team has focussed on including those with additional needs within our existing programme of activities.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We seek to maintain reserves of around 3-6 months of operating costs. These are held in order to cushion the effect of any unplanned short term drop in income or increase in expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funding are donations and income from the renting of property. The former have been generously gifted by members and supporters without any explicit fundraising initiatives. No funding was received from grants during this reporting year.

Our largest item of expenditure has been for the ministry of the church. This has funded the various activities and provided a salary for the staff who support and prepare every volunteer for their work.

A summary of our examined accounts is provided in Section F.

Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2022

Income and Expenditure	Notes	2021/22	2022/23
Income			
Donations to the church		78,020	104,745
Income from properties		10,440	9,330
Bank interest and other income		5,653	13,345
Gifts for support of second worker		0	0
Donations for specific purposes		4,920	3,771
Grants for pastor in training post		7,517	0
Total income		106,550	131,191
Designated giving paid out	2	4,920	3,771
Income for Church use		101,630	127,420
Expenditure			
Ministry of the Church	3	52,828	50,342
Gifts made by the Church	2	17,902	17,656
Church maintenance		33,674	11,841
Properties maintenance		3,582	8,349
Total Expenditure		107,986	88,188
Net income (expenditure)		-6,356	39,232

Balance Sheet	Notes	2021/22	2022/23
Fixed Assets			
Church buildings and properties	4	860,000	860,000
Current Assets			
Debtors		3,846	6,400
Cash at bank and in hand		51,581	89,630
Total current assets		55,427	96,030
Creditors		150	1,522
Total Assets less liabilities		915,277	954,508
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds		55,277	94,508
Restricted funds			
Capital funds		860,000	860,000
Funds at end of year		915,277	954,508

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and audit of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a historical cost and accruals basis and in accordance with the Charities Commission SORP. The church is a small entity and therefore no cash flow statement is included and a full audit report is not required

Church properties

Church properties are held for the use of the church or for let to church members where possible. The properties are held in the accounts at market value and are independently revalued every five years.

2. Church Giving

The church made gifts for the support of missionary work and other Christian work during the course of the year as detailed below. These figures include gifts from members for specific missionary work. Special offerings were taken during the year to assist in ministry of compassion in the UK and other parts of the world.

Church gifts	£
Grace Baptist Mission	9,480
Pilgrim Homes	2,760
AGBC(SE) Home Mission	480
Mission work in Poland	1,740
Mission work in Italy	1,525
Open Doors	1,000
Other Missions	500
Gifts to members	171
Total Giving	17,656

Designated giving	£
Grace Baptist Mission	600
Relief needs arising from Ukraine conflict	3,000
Other compassion ministry	171
Total	3,771

3. The Ministry of the Church

Expenditure on ministry	2021/22 (£)	2022/23 (£)
Elders and visiting speakers	44,986	42,075
Outreach and Church Activities	1,409	2,293
Other	6,433	5,974
Total	48,787	50,342

4. Church Buildings and Properties

	2021/22 (£)	2022/23 (£)
Brought forward	860,000	860,000
Revaluation in the year	0	0
Balance carried forward	860,000	860,000

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)	 Recoverable Signature X  John Lipp Chair Signed by: f953579a-e575-4601-a197-fbb992e16481	 Recoverable Signature X  Stephen Mayo Trustee Signed by: f953579a-e575-4601-a197-fbb992e16481
	Full name(s) John David Lipp	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Chair	Trustee	
Date 11-Oct-2023		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Abbey Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1176927

Set out on pages

6-7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

Date:

06/09/2023

Name:

Andrew Stephen Woods

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

23 Blenheim Gardens

Grove

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.