



## **MONMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**January – December 2022**



#### **CONTENTS**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>Reference and Administrative Details</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Structure, Governance and Management</b>	<b>2 - 3</b>
<b>Objectives and Activities</b>	<b>3 - 4</b>
<b>Achievements and Performance</b>	<b>4 - 5</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>	<b>5 - 12</b>
<b>Church Groups and Ministries</b>	<b>13 - 14</b>
<b>Financial Review</b>	<b>15 - 16</b>
<b>Independent Examiner Report</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Financial Statement</b>	<b>18 - 27</b>

## **MONMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Trustees Annual Report    1 January to 31 December 2022**

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY**

**Charity Name:** Monmouth Baptist Church

**Charity's Registered Address:**

Monk Street, Monmouth, Monmouthshire, NP25 3LR

**Charity Registration Number:** 1180772

**Trustees:**

The Revd Jonathan Greaves (Pastor)  
 Mr David Adams (Secretary) (appointed May 2022)  
 Mr Clive Wiggins (Treasurer) (appointed May 2022)  
 Ms Elizabeth Alderson (appointed May 2021)  
 Mr Alan Cochran (appointed May 2022)  
 Mrs Helen Hopkins (appointed May 2021)  
 Mr Michael North (appointed July 2020)  
 Mr Cliff Vandervelden (appointed September 2022)

**Property Trustees:**

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

**Bankers:**

Barclays Bank, 57 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny NP7 5AT  
 United Trust Bank, 1 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AW  
 Monmouthshire Building Society, John Frost Square, Newport NP20 1PX

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Paul Brown, W J James & Co., Brecon LD3 7DG

**Annual Report for 1 January – 31 December 2022:**

The trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1 January – 31 December 2022.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document, namely the Church Constitution. Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Church Members' Meeting normally takes place five times a year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution the members appoint Deacons, who together with the Pastor, Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members) make up the Trustees of the Church and 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 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.

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 to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into 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 both 10.30am and 6.30pm. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board, weekly news-sheet, social media, and the website at [www.monmouthbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.monmouthbaptistchurch.org.uk). There is a full 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 the services.

The Church runs a series of Neighbourhood Groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship. From time to time the Church runs courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity, for example 'Christianity Explored' and 'Christianity Explained'.

The Church runs various activities during the week, some aimed at particular age-groups and others open to everyone. For example, activities for children include 'Footprints Parents and Toddler Group' which meets in the Church premises on Wednesday mornings with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ; the 'Links Youth Group' which meets near the Church on a Sunday evening; and 'Roots Bible Study' for young people of secondary school age.

Activities for older people include 'Hymns of Praise' and 'Songs of Praise'.

Other activities, to which all ages are invited, include 'Tuesday Coffee', 'The Art Fringe' and various social and sports activities including a new Board Game café.

The Church also supports a ministry in local schools, and supports the rural churches around Monmouth, particularly through partnerships with Norton and Cwmerra churches.

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 2022 was a positive year in the life of the Church.

During the year five people were baptised and received into membership of the Church, and one Church member died. At 31 December 2022 the membership stood at 60, the highest membership figure since 2015.

Our annual reports demonstrate the enthusiasm and commitment of our Church volunteers to pursue our primary aim of 'knowing Jesus better and making Jesus known'. Our new year text kept our focus on pursuing Godly values, and as we emerged further from the effects of Covid-19 we saw a resumption of a number of our regular ministries and the introduction of some new ones. Our in-person congregations grew, while we maintained our online streaming for a few who watch from home or at a later date.

One of the most significant events in the year was our 'Passion for Life' partnership with local evangelical churches, sharing speakers with some exceptional talks. There was great interest from people outside the church. A highlight was welcoming Professor John Lennox, who spoke at the Girls School about science and God. Students from all local schools attended this, as well as local people. Special thanks to Lindsay Brown for arranging the visit, and Cliff Swartz, the School Chaplain, for hosting the event.

Another highlight of the year was the baptism of 5 friends in the fellowship on Easter day. It was especially eventful due to the Pastor having to isolate, testing positive with covid the day before; however our Church Secretary, David Adams, readily covered all that was needed at the last minute, and the testimonies of our 5 friends and witness showed the difference Jesus still makes in people's lives today.

We have been glad to have the continued work of Morgan this year, and Bert, who in their outreach and pastoral roles respectively have supported and enhanced the ministry of the fellowship.

Once again we are especially thankful for God's continued provision through the financial giving of members, whose continued generosity enables the Church to achieve its charitable purposes without concern; we give thanks to God for His provision.

Our Church continues to partner with Union School of Theology in Bridgend, to facilitate the teaching of a GDip in Theology with the Welsh Borders Learning Community. We have continued to keep contact with Christian workers from different organisations, including our BMS missionary, through online input and directly in our services. We have also prayed for the brothers and sisters in Caldes de Monbui, in Catalonia, Spain, keeping in contact with them and sending greetings. We also supported our sister church at Norton, and have begun supporting Zoar Baptist in Pandy with Bible Studies. The Church is also ready to help and support Cwmerra, another local Rural Church.



We were delighted at harvest to support the Barnabas Fund collection for food parcels to send to persecuted people living in poverty, and have given generously with special offerings to Tearfund, BMS World Mission, and our mission contact in Moldova called Tamara.

Once again we facilitated the distribution of books for year 3 children in local primary schools. These were offered in memory of Samuel Barker. The book is called 'Indescribable' and written by Louie Giglio. These books were very well received and distributed to over 30 local primary schools. More information about this project is here: <https://samuelshope.wordpress>.

During this year we were able to upgrade our audio and video systems in the building. This was made possible through the generous funding of a donor, whose gift was allocated for this and other purposes.

We have made contact with new people in the community through our regular worship, groups to explore the Christian faith, and our regular ministries and special events. Our heart's desire is to help our community see Jesus in all His truth and love and to faithfully serve Him together.

*Jonathan Greaves*

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

The reports below provide more detail on some of the Church activities held during the year.

### **Activities for Children, Young People and Families**

#### **Footprints**

Footprints has a wonderful reputation in town for being a warm, friendly, kind toddler group with super songs and homemade cake! Our visitors love that they are looked after, don't need to clear away or set up, and get served their hot drinks and snacks. It is a great position to be in and we pray that this continues. Ruth and Morgan do most of the practical setting out on Wednesday mornings and I (Jo) plan and set up the craft that links to our Bible story, with artistic help from Rachel too! We've continued to follow through the stories in the Beginner's Bible, jumping from New to Old Testament each term. We have about 15 - 20 families every Wednesday, made up of many regulars and lots who come when they can. A few families have come to church on a Sunday morning; spiritual conversations have happened and I'm always pleasantly surprised and delighted to see so many of the adults singing all the words to our Christian songs and copying Jonathan in his hands-up prayer. We continue to pray that this group would be a blessing to many and that spiritual seeds would be sown. We would benefit from another practical person to help with clearing away (11-11:40) so that the adults don't feel they need to help, and another 'chatter' to deliberately and intentionally talk to the adults for the middle hour (10-11am) of the session.

*Jo Walker*

#### **LINKS Youth Fellowship**

LINKS Youth Fellowship is open to children and young adults of secondary school age from all Monmouth churches or from no church, or even those who are simply curious. The Sunday evening session runs from 6:00-7:45pm at the Priory with a great mix of games and activities to suit all types, themed around a short bible study or talk by guest speakers or LINKS Leaders. This year has focused on themes that run throughout the Bible inspired by videos produced by *Bible Project*. Youth are gifted a Journaling Bible and encouraged to use these in the talks to take notes in. Anyone who feels they could do a talk, share a testimony or run an activity/ workshop, please let us know!

In 2022 there have been no new members from Year 7 but neither have we lost any Year 13s. Numbers are low, sometimes as few as four but more often nearer ten. Membership is almost exclusively from Monmouth Baptist Church, although two of our regulars do not belong to any church. They have developed good friendships within the group and it is a pleasure to see our MBC youth bearing Christian witness to their peers in a very easy and natural way. Our small band has become quite a tight-knit group, even creating games and activities to amuse themselves independent of Leaders' intervention.

Healthier snacks have been introduced this year, which have proved popular and regularly disappear before the pizza is finished!

LINKS held a Youth Service at MBC in the Winter Term, and the mix of dance, music and drama was well received by those present and proved a thoughtful and emotive worship opportunity for all concerned.

*Amanda Endicott*

### **Sunday Club**

I think many of us have noticed the growth in the number of our children on a Sunday morning; what a blessing! We regularly have about 20 children, sometimes up to 25, in the Assembly which is the first part altogether when we first go downstairs. We sing a couple of songs, have a biscuit, pray and learn a memory verse over roughly 4 weeks. The Juniors (Year 3 - 6) then meet in the far end, led by Jeff, Katie or Chris. The Beginners (age 3 - Year 2) meet in the near end, led by Jo, Mand, Cat or recently Hayley, who has joined our team. The creche (age 0-2) goes back upstairs, manned by parents. We always have a 'Third Adult' downstairs for practical and Safeguarding reasons of whom there's about 8 that volunteer, but we'd love more if you're willing - no preparation involved! We continue to use the Click material produced by the Good Book Company which sets out a Bible story and a range of activities/ crafts to accompany. It's been great to see the children being firm friends with many in our church family.

*Jo Walker*

### **Brigade**

We are blessed with six lovely girls who attend every week and learn what it means to follow Jesus by learning to use the bible as well as singing, dancing and games. We also teach them how to sew, weave, knit and crochet, as well as many crafts during the year. Our girls come from 5 different schools; they have formed a very close friendship even though we have an age range of 7 to 16 year olds.

*Michelle Fuller*

### **Roots Bible Study**

The Youth Bible Study is a follow-on from the LINKS Youth Fellowship, and 6-8 of our young people study the Bible each week through engaging activities, discussion and prayer. They are a talented group with much potential, and the themes explored have continued to be designed to help them engage with some of the ideas and challenges in the world today.

### **Work in Schools**

We have continued to serve the schools with Primary class assemblies in partnership with Wyesham Christian Fellowship, and lunchtime and after-school clubs. Especially popular has been the 'Bake through the Bible' club run at Osbaston School. It is also especially helpful that there is a great partnership in praying for the Haberdashers Chaplain and supporting some of his work. He also makes opportunities available to bring Open the Book or other appropriate contributions to the schools.

## Activities for adults

### **The Art Fringe**

The Art Fringe aims to attract people who want to be creative or partake in creative activities inside and outside of the church community. A key aspect of our goal is to attract those in the 'fringes' of our Christian community into a space within the church which is a hub of social activity. Our other key aim is to provide a therapeutic outlet to those who are looking for a time where they can meet likeminded creatives (artistic ability not an issue) and relax, losing themselves in the art that we do.

We have on the whole attracted many people from the church to experience the club at least once but now have a core group who regularly attend. We have 4 people who are not Christian, come every week and are positive advocates of our sessions to the rest of the community. They occasionally bring visitors or friends with them to experience The Art Fringe and we often get very good feedback about what we do and the welcoming, 'therapeutic' atmosphere of the club.

The Art Fringe advertises and places the photographs of artwork produced on Facebook and Instagram. The club is non-profit making and so far we are running effectively on the weekly £3.00 subs donation by attendees.

We are currently working on an art project for International Women's Day (IWD) 2023 which will involve creating an exhibition about Biblical Women focusing on the #EmbraceEquity theme of IWD. A number of talks will be delivered during the week of the exhibition, tackling some of the ideas and challenges that arise around looking at women in the Bible and how this fits into our current lives. (This will all take place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023). We have set up a website for The Art Fringe which is the platform for which interested artists can find out more about the project and how to participate. More importantly it is also a doorway to the Bible as in order to create their piece they will have to read the accounts within. We are hoping to draw from artists within our community and further afield. It will be interesting to see what responses we receive!

*Berna Pullen*

### **'Tuesday Coffee'**

Our group have continued to meet at the Whole Earth Cafe, White Swan Court, Monmouth, where Prai warmly welcomes us and knows most of our orders off by heart!!

Bert Weenink leads us at 10 00am with spiritual 'Food for Thought' which has been a blessing, with Mike Mortimer kindly stepping in a couple of times recently. We then enjoy coffee and cake at 10 30am for an hour. There are usually 12 to 14 people present, sometimes more.

A few of our group are frailer now so we see them less/not at all, but we try to maintain contact with them via telephone or a visit.

John Daniels sadly passed away this year, and a service was held at Monmouth Baptist Church, celebrating his life and learning more about him. We miss his stories and humour.

Our newest members are Dave and Anne Mullins and it is good to have them join us regularly.

I must thank all of our members for their love and care for each other. It is a lovely thing to see.

We meet almost every Tuesday of the year and all are welcome to join us. Should the Whole Earth Cafe be unexpectedly closed, please make your way to Creates Coffee Shop in Church Street, Monmouth.

*Fiona Beber*

### **Hymns of Praise**

This ministry was still not able to resume in 2022.

### **Internet Outreach**

The Pastor continues to make regular e-mail responses to people who have questions about faith through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The Pastor responds to approximately 3 to 5 messages a week, though the organisation is in contact with thousands of online friends seeking spiritual help. We also maintain a presence online through social media, and online streaming.

### **Ladies Bible Study**

This year the Ladies' Bible Study has been diving into the Gospel of John. After enjoying the use of many commentaries for various studies, it was decided to go 'back to the basics' and focus solely on the Bible. Some of the ladies enjoyed a weekend away at Lee Abbey in October, and there is talk about making it an annual event. The group continues to meet in two separate sessions, Tuesdays 9:45-11:15 and Fridays 9:30-11:00. Any women in the church are welcome to attend either group, and we have welcomed several new attendees this year.

*Katie Swartz*

### **Men's Bible Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast has been running now since 2016, and we are weekly getting 12-14 men in attendance. 2022 began online only, using ZOOM, but thanks to revitalised catering we have been able to return to meeting in person, with an online link, since September. This year we have worked our way through a significant portion of Revelation, interspersed with the doctrines of Romans 8:28-30, (the application of salvation to our lives), and the story of Abraham in Genesis 11-25. We are a diverse group, and despite the early hour (eating at 7.30, and Bible study at 8.00, all done by 8.30 apart from a little clearing up) we offer a warm welcome to any men who would like to join in.

*David Adams*

### **Music Report**

Music in church has taken a variety of forms this year, having come out of the previous fully online services, using videos to incorporate a range of different ways to support the Church in sung worship, including video songs, piano led, contemporary band led and more traditional style instruments. It has been encouraging to see how many people have become involved and instruments have included piano, voice or vocal group, guitar, bass guitar, violin, viola, cello, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, cornet and drums. We are still learning how best to play in order to get the sound balance right, but it is great to be exploring a variety of ways to support praising God in song.

*Chris Walker and Ruth Owen*

### **Songs of Praise**

Although low in numbers, it has been exciting to resume this ministry with a steady core of visitors each month, and up to 10 or 12 people. Help is needed to provide refreshments for this.

### **Sports and Social Events**

As we came out of lockdown there have been plenty of opportunities to meet for fellowship in a sporting or social context. We are so pleased that friends and people who are not regular visitors to the church have been able to participate.

We have had several Badminton and Basketball sessions at Monmouth Leisure Centre, organized by the Walkers, and we have always had a fantastic turnout, with adults and children playing together. We have enjoyed fun tennis sessions at Monmouth Tennis Club's facilities, sometimes with a picnic; and the men have been meeting up fortnightly on a Friday to play football on the Leisure Centre's 4G pitch. A big thank you to Jim Barker for arranging the sessions and washing the bibs!

In June, eight of the men from church attended the Gathering, a festival run by Christian Vision for Men (CVM) in a field near Swindon, and attended by over 1,000 men from across the UK. This was an opportunity for worship, bible study and sports activities. We currently have 16 men from Church booked in for next year. In October, nine of the ladies from Church visited Lee Abbey in North Devon for a weekend of teaching, worship and fellowship. It was a very special time for everyone who attended and will be repeated next year; and hopefully more ladies will express an interest in going.

*James Endicott*

### **Monmouth and District Foodbank**

We continue to count it a privilege to host the Foodbank whose work has considerably increased over the year, especially due to Ukranian refugees seeking shelter, hosted here in Monmouth.

### **Mission**

#### **BMS World Mission**

The Church has continued to support BMS World Mission through prayer and giving. We contribute financially through a monthly standing order, and in addition our Christmas appeal this year was given to BMS World Mission and raised £600.

The Church has continued to support Joy Ransom, as our adopted BMS missionary. Joy is working in Nepal with Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC)'s teacher training programme (EQUIP), training local teachers in rural, remote areas of Nepal. We have enjoyed receiving Joy's regular prayer updates, and can continue to uphold her in prayer as she enters the last few months of her time in Nepal. More information about Joy can be found at: [www.bmsworldmission.org/iransom](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/iransom).

#### **BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme**

Some changes have taken place recently at BMS ready for a fresh and exciting approach to 2023, introducing brand new resources. The Birthday Scheme is now renamed 'BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme' and I am no longer called the 'Secretary'; from January 2023 I will be the 'Birthday Scheme Coordinator'.

The past year can best be described as steady considering all that has been going on in the world. I am still supported by a faithful group who, together with members of similar schemes throughout the Baptist network, continue to support BMS World Mission financially and through



prayer, enabling them to not only show practical help to people in need throughout the world but also demonstrate God's love for them.

New members are always welcome.

*Mike North*

### **Mission Prayer**

Sad to say, the MBC missionary prayer meeting is no longer functioning. We had been looking forward to meeting face to face again after the pandemic. However, when the time came, it became clear that there were not enough of the previous members still available to make it a viable meeting. Due to illness or the pressing demands of other duties, some of the members had been forced to drop out. This was a sad situation and the remaining few talked and prayed about the best way forward.

It seems shocking that a Church with such an active congregation as MBC should not include prayer for overseas mission among its activities. After some discussion with Jonathan, the matter was taken to the deacons for them to make a decision about it. They concluded that the best way forward would be to hand the responsibility over to the housegroups. Helen Hopkins volunteered to collect the prayer information each month and pass it on to the housegroup leaders. They would then include prayer for the missionaries in the programme of the share and prayer meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. This system was put into operation for the first time at the share and prayer meeting in December 2022, and we hope it will become established and work well.

However, aspects of the situation remain troubling. Almost all the previous members of the group who used to take part in the meeting were elderly. There seems to be almost no-one under the age of 65 in the Church who has any interest in supporting overseas missionaries in prayer. This is a source of both sorrow and mystery to me, and I question why interest in missionary work has waned so much over recent decades. This is not the case in all churches, but it does seem to be a noticeable trend. If anyone has any ideas about the possible causes of this decline, and, more to the point, how to try to reverse it, I would love to hear from you.

The measure that we have taken, of transferring the responsibility to the housegroups, welcome though it is, seems to me to be a second-best solution. The duty to pray for our missionaries is really a whole-church responsibility and was never part of the purpose of housegroups when they were first instituted. If there are any individuals in the Church who would be willing to help revive the missionary prayer meeting and take it forward, we would be very glad to hear from you. Otherwise, this is the last annual report that is likely to be written for the missionary prayer meeting.

*Marian Hall*

### **Operation Christmas Child**

We were once again a drop off point for the Monmouth area. A number of local people called in during November to drop off their Christmas boxes full of gifts for children in need around the world. We collected 120 boxes at our Church and they were taken to the All Nations Centre in Cardiff to be processed. Our boxes this year were sent to Moldova and Central Asia. A total of 19,464 boxes were processed in Cardiff - 19,464 children received a wonderful gift of God's love! Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.

*April Wiggins*



### **Rural Mission**

We are glad to continue our longstanding partnership with Norton and still hope to offer support to Cwmerra, at their request. This year Pandy approached us to ask if we would support Bible studies which we eagerly have helped resume on a monthly basis. A couple of visits a year to Garway have resulted in additional support to their Christian discipleship by the Pastor covering special contemporary subjects when he visits.

### **Tearfund**

Tearfund is a Christian charity with over 50 years of experience in international development, working with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the extreme challenges of poverty. They work directly with, and/or alongside, local partners and churches, in underserved communities and have three main responses:

- Humanitarian response to disasters and conflicts, supporting those in greatest need throughout the recovery process.
- Community development with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.
- Advocacy and influencing, helping individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and challenging unjust policies and practices at local, national and global level.

More details can be found on their website, and 'Tear Times', with accompanying Prayer Diary, is published quarterly. MBC's Christmas appeal of 2021 and Harvest donations for 2022 were dedicated to Tear Fund and raised £1,843.

*Elaine Adams*

### **Pastoral Care**

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

The characteristics of faith, love and hope are several times found together in the New Testament. Notice in the passage above that true faith will be expressed in action, accompanied by a labour of love, steadfastly trusting in, and resting on, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those involved in pastoral care at MBC will no doubt acknowledge the need for such faith, love and hope as we seek to come alongside those who are in need of support.

I am grateful to the other members of the team who faithfully get on with maintaining contact with people who have been bereaved, with those who were hospitalised and those who are housebound. We are glad that most restrictions have now been lifted, allowing us free access to those in need.

I would also like to thank the team for the invaluable guidance and encouragement they have given me.

Please pray for us in this ministry. Thank you.

*Bert Weenink (Pastoral Worker)*

## **Safeguarding**

We as a Church recognise our responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk. We currently have over 50 individuals in church who hold a DBS certificate – thanks to Jo Walker for her work in organising these and keeping things up to date with Due Diligence Checking.

We have discussed Safeguarding at most of our Deacons' meetings and it is also an agenda item at our Church Meetings.

The Safeguarding policy is updated each year.

During 2022 we introduced the policy of asking all new volunteers to complete an application form and provide names of referees. Any volunteers are also expected to complete Safeguarding Training. The Level 1 Safeguarding video is shown during a Church service annually and we took part in Safeguarding Sunday on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Safeguarding Sunday is an annual awareness-raising campaign that helps churches share what they are doing to make their church safer for everyone.

During the year we continued to have a third adult present in Sunday Club to ensure the extra safety of the children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk are as safe as possible in our church. Over the next year we will organise First Aid Training and ensure that new volunteers continue to follow procedures as outlined in our policy.

*April Wiggins – Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)*

**CHURCH GROUPS AND MINISTRIES****DECEMBER 2022**

Art Fringe	Berna Pullen
Bible Reading Notes	Fiona Beber
BMS World Mission Birthday Scheme	Mike North
BMS World Mission	Ed and Marian Hall
Breathe	Jonathan Greaves, Helen Hopkins
Brigade	Michelle Fuller
Catering Coordinator	Richard Coltart
Child Protection Advocates	April Wiggins, Jo Walker
Christianity Explained	Jonathan Greaves
Church Administration	Roger and Rebecca Clewett
Church Worker	Morgan Britton
Churches Together in Monmouth	Jonathan Greaves, Ruth Bingle
Cleaning	'Dust A Minute' (outside company)
Coffee Coordinator	Richard Coltart
Communications and Publicity	Jonathan Greaves and Ruth Bingle
Email Hub (prayer letters)	Ed and Marian Hall
E-News	Rebecca Clewett
Evangelical Alliance	Alan Cochran
Finance Administrator	Roger Clewett
First Aid boxes and Fire safety	Alan Cochran
Flowers	Dave and Beth Frederick
Food Bank	Mary Harris
Footprints	Jo Walker, Katie Swartz
Hymns of Praise	Jonathan Greaves, Alan Cochran
Internet Editor	Ruth Bingle
Internet Evangelism (Billy Graham)	Jonathan Greaves

Kitchen Management	Richard Coltart
Ladies Bible Study	Katie Swartz, Jo Walker
Links Youth Fellowship	Amanda Endicott, Olivia McLachlan
London City Mission	Ed Hall
Men's Ministry	David Adams
Minutes Secretary	Elizabeth Alderson
Music Coordinator	Ruth Owen, Chris Walker
Overseas Mission	David Adams
Pastoral Coordinator	Maureen Vandervelden
Pastoral Worker	Rev Bert Weenink
Posters	Simon Beber
Prayer Triplets	Helen Hopkins
Property Maintenance Steward	
Pulpit Secretary	Elaine Adams
Roots Youth Bible Study	Jonathan Greaves
Rotas	Elizabeth Alderson, Jo Walker, Richard Coltart
Schools' Ministry	Jonathan Greaves
'Serving our Streets' Coordinators	Janet Lloyd, Fay Sims
Songs of Praise	Jonathan Greaves, David Adams
Sports and Social Activities	James Endicott, Chris Walker
Sunday Club	Jo Walker
Tearfund	Elaine Adams
Tuesday Coffee	Fiona Beber
'Word Alive' Coordinator	Katie Swartz

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

This review covers the calendar year 2022. The financial results for the calendar years 2021 and 2022, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted, are set out in the accompanying financial statements. To respond to changes in the information presented requested by the Baptist Union some items in 2021 have been re-categorised from how they were presented last year.

The Church's activities resulted in a deficit of £18,907 in 2022. Other than the usual receipts and payments, the main components of this deficit were spending £10,106 on audio-visual equipment for the Church and spending over £27,000 from money received in previous years on employing a Church Worker and a Pastoral Worker. These amounts were partially offset by higher receipts from most of our sources of income.

### **Sources of income**

The Church continues to receive the funds it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, from a grant from a church organisation to support specific activities, and with smaller amounts, mostly from the hire of the Church building. Other than seeking gifts for the devotional books in memory of Samuel Barker through a Stewardship website there was no wider public appeal for funds during the year.

### **Donations and Grants**

Regular personal donations were 9% higher than in 2021; other donations for the Church's own purposes were 15% higher than the previous year. Donations collected for other causes were more than £3,000 more than in 2021. The Sunday collection has increased, probably through having a higher attendance due to the easing of coronavirus restrictions, but it remains at less than half pre-coronavirus levels.

The Schools Work and Training Fund received a grant seeking to cover up to half the cost of employing our Outreach Worker.

### **Repair of the Church building**

The Church continued the repairs to the Church building set out in the 2017 quinquennial inspection report; the work was estimated to cost £14,600 at that time. Most of the work was completed prior to 2022; £2,545 was spent in 2022 on repairs listed in that report. A new quinquennial inspection report is planned for 2023.

### **General Fund**

The General Fund finances the normal work of the Church. A surplus of £12,292 arose during 2022, mostly due to increased donations and spending less than planned on the Church building and manse. This surplus will enable the repairs to the Church building to continue without expecting to have to seek substantial additional donations from the members and congregation.

Along with many other Baptist Union Churches this Church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension Scheme. The Church had been making on-going deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. Following 'Just Group' taking on the Defined Benefit assets and liabilities during 2022, deficit payments have been reduced from £381 per month to £1 per month, saving the Church £18,000 over the following four years.

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 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.

### **Other Church funds**

The Schools Work Designated Fund had a deficit of £8,693 in 2022. This fund was used to support an Intern who helped the Pastor undertake schools and other work. After our Intern was employed as an Outreach Worker in September 2021, funding was received from the Wales Leadership Forum, intended to meet half of his costs over the following year. This Fund was also used to buy and receive donations for the devotional book called 'Indescribable' by Louie Giglio given to Year 3 pupils in Monmouthshire schools.

The Benevolent Fund Restricted Fund was renamed the 'Assistance Fund'; it continues to be available to support the material needs of people associated with the Church. The Pastor decides who to give money to. This Fund had a surplus of £1,060 in 2022 after making three gifts during the year and receiving donations, including one of £1,000 plus £250 Gift Aid to help individuals with their energy bills. The collection at the monthly evening communion service and one-off donations continue to finance this Fund.

The Special Gift Designated Fund did not receive any donations in 2022. It had a deficit of £23,566 as money given to it in 2020 and 2021 was spent in accordance with the donors' wishes on audio-visual equipment and paying a Pastoral Worker and (from September 2022) a Church Worker.

### **Reserves Policy**

During 2022 the Trustees decided to retain the existing Reserves Policy. Reserves are funds that are readily available to meet financial circumstances that are substantial deviations from those anticipated in the annual budget and not met by receipts at the time payments are made.

The Trustees consider that the Church requires three months' worth of budgeted payments as its reserves; this is £33,350 for 2023. This Reserves Policy is reviewed by the Trustees at least once a year. On 31st December 2022 the Church held £50,966 in its reserves. The reserves are held in a bank current account and a building society account from which money can be withdrawn at a maximum of two working days' notice.

*Clive Wiggins, Treasurer*  
4 May 2023



## MONMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 19 to 28.

#### 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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 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.



Joanna Roderick ACA  
WJ James & Co  
Bishop House  
10 Wheat Street  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 7DG

24/05/2023

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

These accounts are presented in the format requested by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. They have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

### GENERAL FUND

This Fund can be used for any purpose, though for purposes that have their own specific funds those other funds will be used until they are exhausted. The Rural Mission Fund's transactions with HMRC passed through the General Fund; only their net effect on the General Fund in each calendar year is shown in this section.

	Note	Calendar year 2022	Note	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Planned regular donations by standing order	1	£65,966		£60,660
Other donations excluding those for other causes	2	£10,426		£9,056
Gift Aid income tax refund		£16,173		£14,322
Investment income: Interest received		£1,813		£986
Payments for use of premises		£5,818		£1,194
Raised for other causes	3	£4,411		£1,281
Other receipts	4	£1,244		£108
		<u>£105,851</u>		<u>£87,607</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Ministry	5	£50,871		£51,725
Mission	6	£5,832		£2,463
Upkeep of Church premises	7	£15,833		£14,510
Administration and other expenses	8	£3,314		£3,408
Amounts passed on to other causes	9	£17,709		£12,145
		<u>£93,559</u>		<u>£84,251</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>		£12,292		£3,356
Balance brought forward		£29,743		£26,387
Balance carried forward		<u>£42,035</u>		<u>£29,743</u>

## RURAL MISSION PROJECT

This fund closed in July 2021 after the five year Rural Mission project came to an end on 30 June 2021. This was a Restricted Fund, it could only be used to support the Monmouthshire and South Herefordshire Rural Mission or returned to the donors.

	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
South Wales Baptist Association	£0	£0
Llandogo Trust	£0	£8,000
Donations from churches	£0	£1,400
Personal donations	£0	£1,610
Gift Aid income tax refund	£0	£569
Miscellaneous income	£0	£214
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£11,793</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Missioner's stipend (gross)	£0	£14,208
Employer's pension contributions	£0	£1,421
Employer's National Insurance contributions	10 £0	£560
Missioner's expenses	£0	£666
Returned to the Llandogo Trust	£0	£2,093
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£18,948</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	£0	(£7,155)
Balance brought forward	£0	£7,155
Balance carried forward	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

## **ASSISTANCE FUND** (Previously known as the Benevolent Fund)

This is a Restricted Fund, it exists to meet the material needs of people associated with the church, but is also used to help others in need. Its funds are used as directed by the pastor of Monmouth Baptist Church.

	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Monthly evening communion collection	£71	£60
Other donations	£1,694	£942
Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme tax refund	£255	£133
	<u>£2,020</u>	<u>£1,135</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Gifts to individuals	£960	£0
	<u>£960</u>	<u>£0</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	£1,060	£1,135
Balance brought forward	<u>£3,389</u>	<u>£2,254</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>£4,449</u>	<u>£3,389</u>

## **SPECIAL GIFT FUND**

This is a Designated Fund. It was created from a gift received during 2020 from the estate of a relation of a member of the Church. This member requested that it be used to support the pastor's ministry and to renew the Church's audio-visual equipment; this request was made less prescriptive in January 2021.

	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Received from Stewardship	£0	£60,000
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£60,000</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Audio-Visual equipment	£10,106	£19,155
Pastoral Worker and Church Worker's employment costs	£12,051	£1,700
Pastoral Worker and Church Worker's expenses	£1,409	£0
	<u>£23,566</u>	<u>£20,855</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	(£23,566)	£39,145
Balance brought forward	<u>£139,145</u>	<u>£100,000</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>£115,579</u>	<u>£139,145</u>

## SCHOOLS' WORK FUND

This is a Designated Fund that exists to separate and hold receipts received to meet the costs of specifically Christian work in schools in Monmouth and the immediate area and other similar work.

Two interns trained with the Church from October 2018 to August 2021; this included assisting the pastor with schools' work. From September 2021 until August 2022 the most recent intern was employed as an Outreach Worker, which also included helping with schools' work which is financed through this fund.

	Note	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>			
Donation from the Wales Leadership Forum		£6,667	£3,333
Personal donations directed to this fund	11	£3,141	£13,381
Gift Aid income tax refund		£63	£263
		<u>£9,871</u>	<u>£16,977</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>			
Intern's training allowance		£0	£4,100
Trainee's expenses		£730	£563
All costs of employing the Outreach Worker		£13,192	£6,195
Outreach: Key to Life exhibition		£0	£1,000
Devotional books distributed in Monmouthshire schools		£3,885	£7,270
ICE Wales affiliation fee		£200	£200
Employer's National Insurance contributions	10	£557	£0
		<u>£18,564</u>	<u>£19,328</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(£8,693)</b>	<b>(£2,351)</b>
Balance brought forward		<u>£16,713</u>	<u>£19,064</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>£8,020</u>	<u>£16,713</u>

## WELSH BORDERS LEARNING COMMUNITY FUND

This is a Restricted Fund. It was created on 2 July 2021 to hold money on behalf of the Welsh Borders Learning Community.

	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Receipt from Welsh Borders Learning Community	£0	£885
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£885</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Returned to Welsh Borders Learning Community	£0	£0
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£885</b>
Balance brought forward	<u>£885</u>	<u>£0</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>£885</u>	<u>£885</u>

## CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

These amounts are the totals from pages 18 to 21. The total amounts transferred between funds are deducted to avoid them being double counted in the total.

	Note	Calendar year 2022	Note	Calendar year 2021
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
General Fund		£105,851		£87,607
Rural Mission Project		£0		£11,793
Special Gift Fund		£0		£60,000
Assistance Fund		£2,020		£1,135
Schools Work Fund		£9,871		£16,977
Welsh Borders Learning Community Fund		£0		£885
Transfers between funds	12	£0		(£1,260)
Total		<u>£117,742</u>		<u>£177,137</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
General Fund		£93,559		£84,251
Rural Mission Project		£0		£18,948
Special Gift Fund		£23,566		£20,855
Assistance Fund		£960		£0
Schools Work Fund		£18,564		£19,328
Welsh Borders Learning Community Fund		£0		£0
Transfers between funds	12	£0		(£1,260)
Total		<u>£136,649</u>		<u>£142,122</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>		(£18,907)		£35,015
Balance brought forward		<u>£189,875</u>		<u>£154,860</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>£170,968</u>		<u>£189,875</u>



## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

### Reserves Policy

The Church does not pursue the accumulation of reserves as a policy but seeks to use the resources given to it to pursue its objectives. It has, however, recognised the need to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to meet both the expected and unexpected costs of pursuing those objectives. To this end, and amid uncertain broader economic conditions, the Church aims to maintain a level of reserves equal to three months of budgeted expenditure in each of its funds. Both the level of reserves and the policy on the use of any accumulated funds are reviewed regularly by the Trustees and specifically ratified on an annual basis when the church's accounts are prepared.

At 31 December 2022 the Church's cash balance available at short notice was £50,966, which is more than three months of budgeted expenditure for 2022 of £32,948.

	No	31 Decem-	31 December
	te	ber 2022	2021
<b><u>Assets</u></b>			
Bank account balances		£170,966	£189,872
Representing the balances carried forward in each fund:			
General Fund		£42,035	£29,743
Special Gift Fund (Designated Fund)		£115,579	£139,145
Assistance Fund (Restricted Fund)		£4,449	£3,389
Schools Work Fund (Designated Fund)		£8,020	£16,713
Welsh Borders Learning Community (Restricted Fund)		£885	£885
		<u>£170,968</u>	<u>£189,875</u>

*The £2 discrepancy between the value of monetary assets and liabilities above is a result of adding-up the rounded values of the amounts in the funds; the value of the assets is the more accurate figure.*

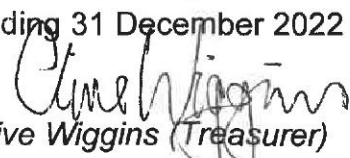
### Non-monetary assets

Held for the church's own use	13	£3,520,214	£3,062,686
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### Liabilities

Current liability: Uncashed cheques		£0	£100
Current liability: Cash balance in respect of Footprints		£28	£0
Outstanding repairs to the Church building under the 2017 Quinquennial Review of the building	14	£255	£3,200
Share of the Baptist Pension Scheme deficit	15	£0	£43,400
Total Liabilities		<u>£283</u>	<u>£46,700</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 18 to 23 relating to the year ending 31 December 2022 are as approved by the trustees.

  
Clive Wiggins (Treasurer)

  
Rev Jonathan Greaves (Pastor)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
<b>1. Planned regular giving by bank standing order</b>		
Gift Aided regular giving	£57,589	£52,910
Other regular giving	£8,377	£7,750
	<u>£65,966</u>	<u>£60,660</u>
<b>2. Other donations</b>		
Collections	£3,285	£1,131
Other one-off and irregular donations	£7,141	£7,925
	<u>£10,426</u>	<u>£9,056</u>
<i>The amount stated here for 2021 is different from what was originally presented for 2021 because the Baptist Union asked for amounts raised for other causes to be separated; that information is in Note 3 below.</i>		
<b>3. Amounts raised for other causes</b>		
Tearfund	£1,563	£125
Tamara Bucur's ministry in Moldova	£2,738	£1,136
Other causes	£110	£20
	<u>£4,411</u>	<u>£1,281</u>
<b>4. Other receipts</b>		
Footprints receipts	£607	£0
Insurance claim on the Church building	£362	£0
Book sales	£263	£0
Greetings card sales	£12	£0
Funeral fee	£0	£108
	<u>£1,244</u>	<u>£108</u>
<b>5. Ministry</b>		
Pastor's stipend (gross)	£33,465	£31,674
Employer's NI paid on behalf of the Rural Mission	£0	£2,240
Employer's pension contribution, see the note below	£6,908	£8,923
Visiting speaker's fees	£452	£1,565
Pastor's travel	£1,047	£486
Manse costs including energy	£8,528	£6,108
Other ministry	£471	£729
	<u>£50,871</u>	<u>£51,725</u>

The Pastor acts as one of the Church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Pastor, including the provision of manse accommodation owned by the Church.

The £51,725 total for 2021 is sub-divided differently from how it was presented in last year's accounts to accommodate the revised breakdown of this item requested by the Baptist Union. The amount stated as the Pastor's stipend in 2021 is less than its nominal amount because of a change during 2021 in the timing of the payment of Income Tax and Employee's National Insurance contributions requested by HMRC, resulting in only ten months worth of these items being included here.

In addition to the standard level of employer's pension contributions, further obligatory contributions of £2,669 (2021: £4,509) were made to reduce the Baptist Pension Scheme's defined benefit scheme deficit. These additional contributions were reduced to £1 per month from the month after 30 June 2022, the date on which the Scheme's defined benefit liabilities were taken on by an insurance company in return for the assets of the defined benefit scheme.

## 6. Mission

None (2021: £1,260) of the Mission expenditure below was transferred to the now closed Rural Mission Restricted Fund and appeared as part of the Church and individual donations there.

	Calendar year 2022	Calendar year 2021
Outreach locally	£4,148	£628
Monmouthshire and South Herefordshire Rural Mission	£0	£1,260
Sunday School and Footprints	£793	£180
Youth Groups	£36	£96
Books and teaching aids	£430	£299
Tablet computers for the 'Guardians of Ancora' game	£425	£0
	<u>£5,832</u>	<u>£2,463</u>

*The amount stated here for 2021 is different from what was originally presented for 2021 because the Baptist Union asked for amounts passed on to other causes to be separated; that information is in Note 9 below.*

## 7. Upkeep of Church premises

Lighting and heating	£5,340	£4,597
Cleaning	£2,042	£269
Insurance	£2,546	£2,208
Repairs and maintenance	£5,905	£7,436
	<u>£15,833</u>	<u>£14,510</u>

The repairs and maintenance figure includes £2,545 (2021: £4,197) spent on repairs to the Church building as a result of the 2017 quinquennial building inspection report.

## 8. Administration and other expenses

Administration, management costs, printing and stationery	£1,122	£749
Telephone and Postage	£531	£441
Advertising and Publicity	£115	£7
Subscriptions (to Baptist and other organisations)	£1,015	£1,029
Samaritan's Purse for Christmas boxes	£33	£0
Other management	£498	£1,182
	<u>£3,314</u>	<u>£3,408</u>

No gifts were made to trustees of the Church during 2022 (2021 also £0)

## 9. Amounts passed on to other causes

Baptist Home Mission	£4,900	£4,000
BMS World Mission	£4,900	£4,000
The Leyshon's in Brittany	£2,600	£2,600
Tearfund	£1,684	£25
Tamara Bucur in Moldova	£3,515	£1,500
Total for all other causes	£110	£20
	<u>£17,709</u>	<u>£12,145</u>

## 10. Apportionment of Employer's National Insurance contributions between the funds

As in recent years, Employer's National Insurance contributions have been charged to the General Fund and other funds in a way that results in the General Fund only paying the Employer's National Insurance contributions that it would have paid had the other funds not been paying the costs of specific employees; the other funds pay the balance.

The annual allowance against Employer's National Insurance contributions called Employment Allowance was increased from £3,000 to £4,000 at the start of the 2020/21 tax year. This resulted in the General Fund not paying any Employer's National Insurance contributions in either of the calendar years 2021 or 2022, because potential Employer's National Insurance contributions of only £3,557 and £3,724 respectively were generated by payments from the General Fund in those years respectively.

## 11. Personal donations directed to the Schools' Work Fund

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021
Support of Morgan Britton as intern, then an employee	£0	£5,000
Devotional books for year 3 pupils in Monmouthshire	£3,141	£7,581
Visit of the 'Key to Life' exhibition	£0	£800
	<u>£3,141</u>	<u>£13,381</u>

## 12. Transfers from General Fund to Rural Mission Fund

In 2021 transfers of £300 from the General Fund to the Rural Mission Fund were made each month from January to April; also from January to June transfers of £10 originating from personal donations were made each month from the General Fund to the Rural Mission Fund. There were no similar transfers in 2022.

## 13. Non-monetary assets held for the Church's own use:

The Church building, including the organ, in Monk Street	£2,788,018	£2,441,366
The Manse, 3 Monk Street, Monmouth	£653,357	£552,284
Wyesham Chapel	£0	£0
Church fixtures, furniture and equipment	£78,839	£69,036
	<u>£3,520,214</u>	<u>£3,062,686</u>

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the assets above, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These assets are shown at their insured value on the relevant date. The value of zero for Wyesham Chapel and the land it is on is not an indication it has no value, just that it is not insured.

#### **14. Monies for outstanding repairs to the Church buildings**

An architect's five-yearly formal review of the state of repair of the Church building in September 2017 gave the figure used for 2021 as guidance on the cost of repairs needed to the building; it did not include VAT or professional fees. The figure for 2022, £255, is that for 2021 with the cost of the items completed in 2022 deducted.

A new five-yearly report on the state of repair of the manse and Church building is planned for 2023. The surplus in 2022, and some future receipts, may be needed to meet the costs of repairs expected to be required.

#### **15. Share of the Baptist Pension Scheme Deficit**

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 this and 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 1 January 2012 benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was carried out by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316 million, giving a deficit of £18 million (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.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure the DB members' pension benefits. 'Just' are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

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