

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1181257

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-12-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Caversham
Reading
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Activities

Objects: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH ARE:1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION.2) THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Activities: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION. IN FULFILLING THE PURPOSE THE CHURCH ENGAGES IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES EITHER ON ITS OWN OR WITH OTHERS THAT WILL VARY FROM TIME TO TIME WITH ACTIVITIES BEING INITIATED, EXPANDED, OR CLOSED, AS APPROPRIATE.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Reading

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£94,342	£81,152	-	-
2024-12-31	£110,636	£70,655	-	-
2023-12-31	£123,534	£100,192	-	-
2022-12-31	£168,988	£405,227	-	-
2021-12-31	£302,677	£323,461	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Allan Roger Horsman		2022-03-20
Benjamin Alexander Sproule		2026-03-21
Fan Fai Chan		2024-03-17
Mabel Foye		2023-05-21
Richard Wilson		2018-12-19
Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin		2023-03-26
SUSAN HILARY CANTWELL		2026-03-21

Accounts



Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Caversham Baptist Church
Registered charity number: 1181257
South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY
Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. In fulfilling this objective, the Church engages in a range of activities, either on its own or in partnership with others. The main activities comprise worship services, prayer, Bible study and discipleship groups and supporting the local community.

In planning our activities, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and ensure they fall within this guidance.

We support the wider work of the Baptist denomination through our membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association and through our financial contribution to the Home Mission Scheme. We also support BMS World Mission financially and through prayer support for our link missionaries. We collaborate with other churches through Churches Together in Caversham and support other local, national and international organisations through grants and prayer support where that support will further our charitable objectives. An overview of all grants made in 2025 is in the note 8 to the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

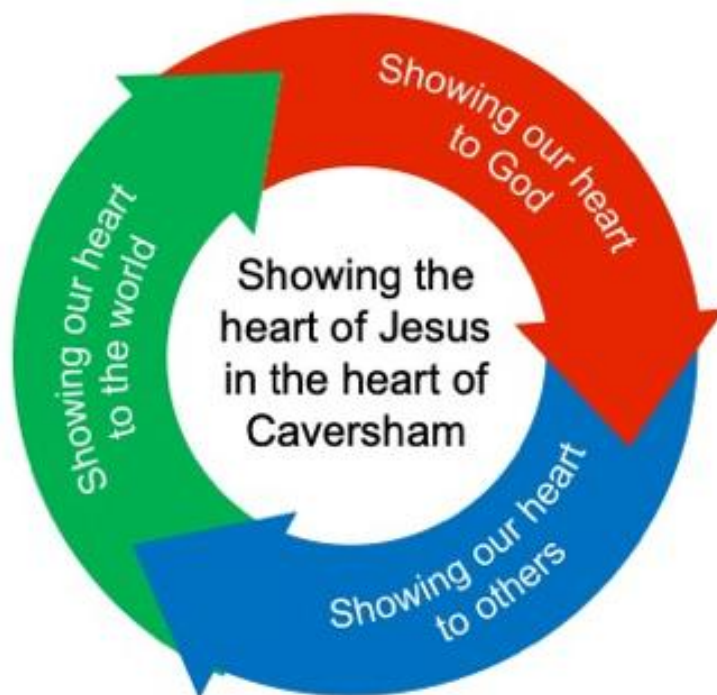
The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution, in the form of the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches registered with the Charity Commission on 19th December 2018.

In line with its constitution, the Church operates under the authority of the Church Members Meeting, which is open to all Church members, and operates with a quorum of 25 per cent of Church members. The Church Members Meeting appoints trustees to oversee the running of the Church. The trustees are:

- The Minister, as appointed from time to time from the list of Accredited Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
- The Church officers, namely the secretary and treasurer who are appointed annually by the Church Members Meeting.
- Up to six Leaders who are appointed for a three-year term by the Church Members Meeting. Leaders may only serve two consecutive terms after which they must stand down for at least one year.

Except for the minister, any individual must have been a member of the Church for a year prior to being eligible for appointment as a trustee. The trustees received no payment for their work as trustees, with the exception of the minister as authorised within the church constitution.

OUR STRATEGY



Since our church awayday in September 2021 we have been focusing on implementing the vision of living out the strapline on our church logo (see front page) “Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham”.

So, we see ourselves “Showing our hearts to Jesus...” through worship, fellowship and ministry. Showing our heart to God, to others and to the world.



We call this Worship

Pointing our hearts and lives toward God. This is our major public gathering where we pool the majority of our resources in helping folks of all ages in their worship of God, in age-appropriate ways and settings.



We call this Fellowship

Small groups and newcomers groups. Where we do life together with other disciples. A bible-based group where disciples from our weekend worship activities meet to do life together, more intimate worship/Bible study. Once per term the groups would all engage in the same 4-6 week study leaving the rest of the term for the groups to pursue separate areas of study.



We call this Ministry

This is where we take all the stuff we have learned and put it into practice. Some of this will be in practical terms and may be covered by multiple different spheres. Other areas are those of youth work, soft evangelism, social gospel opportunities (ministry to the poor, needy, aged etc).

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT.

2025 has been another year of challenges for Caversham Baptist Church. We were pleased to see Revd Colin Baker continue his phased return from sick leave and build up to full time hours in May. However, he was subsequently called to the pastorate at Sheddingdean Baptist Church in Burgess Hill in September 2025, leaving us in a period of pastoral vacancy.

However, God has continued to provide for us and we are blessed by the continued support of Revd. Graham Coldman, a former member of the church who has retired to Newbury. His guidance and support have been invaluable to us during Colin's sick leave and now as moderator during our pastoral vacancy. We have also been blessed by several other outside preachers who have brought God's word to us.

Despite our lack of a full-time minister God is still at work in our church and community. Our Youth and Children's work continues to be a source of encouragement with the splitting of the under 11s into 2 age groups in early 2025 to better serve the needs of the different age ranges. We are blessed by the commitment of the volunteers who lead this work to staff the additional group. We are also encouraged to see the continued development of our ministry to Hong Kongers who have come to the UK in recent years.

We are disappointed that we have been unable to recruit a Children, Youth, Families and Community Worker, despite investing in external advertising which attracted some candidates, but none proved right for the role. Thanks to generous donations, we have the funding in place for this role and believe it will help us to develop our ministry in this area. The church has agreed not to do further external advertising whilst we assess our plans for future ministry but remain open to applications we may receive via our website.

The Leadership Team continue to meet every week on a Monday evening to pray together for the church, other than the first week of the month when we meet on a Tuesday evening for our formal business meeting. We value your prayers for us as we offer leadership to the church. We are particularly seeking new leaders who feel called to be part of our work.

As a church we look forward to continuing to serve God in Caversham in 2026 and beyond. We have a church weekend away planned for March 2026, where we hope to progress our vision for future ministry and pray that God will lead us into the next phase of ministry for Caversham Baptist.

David, Mabel, Richard, Rob, Roger, Rosemarie

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The reports on the following pages detail regular activities and any one-off events that took place during the year.

MUSICAL WORSHIP 2025 (Tamsyn Wilson on behalf of those leading music ministry)

Psalm 95

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

The musicians at CBC have endeavoured to serve God and the congregation faithfully in worship this year. The number of musicians appearing on the rota has increased since last year and we have been pleased to welcome Samman (Sam) as a singer and Mani will make her debut on flute this spring.

The Youth Band has led us on multiple occasions under Joel's leadership, but the number of players is slightly smaller than last year owing to some young people heading off to university and therefore being away during term time.

Special events this year included Carols by Candlelight, organised by Pam Chilvers, where 9 musicians all played and sang together, and the Children's Nativity where acted scenes were interleaved by carols.

The musicians are grateful to be ably supported by our skilled and reliable AV team.

Thank you to those who volunteer their time and effort to share their gifts with the church in this important ministry. There is always room for more people to join the rota – please contact Tamsyn.

PRAYER CHAIN (Leader: Rob Sproule)

The Prayer Chain is a vital resource for those who wish to call others to join them in prayer and praise. Whilst we know the Lord hears all of our prayers, there is something special about God's people joining together, calling upon the Lord to work amongst us in mercy love and power.

The Prayer Chain only operates effectively because so many people are willing to pray - thank you all. If you would like to join the prayer chain, all you need is to have an email address and a willingness to pray - I encourage everyone to

get involved. To join the Prayer Chain, speak with Rob or email him on prayerchain@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk.

We have indeed discovered that “effective and fervent prayer” has “availed much.”

SMALL GROUPS (Leader: Roger Horsman)

In accordance with our strap line: "Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham ", we see the activity of small groups as being part of "Showing heart to others".

Centred around prayer, worship, bible study, relationships and mission, our groups have both a spiritual and social function for our church fellowship.

We currently have 6 small groups run by Rob Sproule, Pam Chilvers, Roger Horsman/ Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin, David Chan, Robin and Yeye Benwell and the ladies' fellowship.

The Central Caversham Homegroup run by Rob meets in the church lounge on Tuesday evenings (7.30 – 9 pm) during term-time. During the past year they have used a number of study guides from The Life builder Series

The Highmoor road group meet at 8 pm on Tuesdays at Pam Chilvers home. Tea, coffee etc are served on arrival followed by an informal chat about the week. They then usually take the message from the previous Sunday Service, go through the Bible readings and discuss how to apply all that into their lives today. There is also a time for prayer. They would warmly welcome new members into the group.

The Rotherfield way group was held at Colin and Alison's home until their departure, meeting on Wednesday 1- 3pm. Now meeting at the church and run jointly by Roger and Rosemarie. We are small in size and new members are always welcome.

Hong Kong Group meetings are held after the Service on the second Sunday of each month. The church continues to see new members in this group.

The Caversham Park Group meet on Thursdays at Robin and Yeye's home.

A new Ladies Group is meeting at the church once a month on a Thursday morning, having been formed in September 2025 for non-working members.

Small groups remain an important place for us all as we seek to grow and mature in our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

PASTORAL TEAM (Leader: Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin)

As a pastoral team we continue to visit and pray and provide support to church members who are sick and unable to attend church on a regular basis. The team offers communion to church members in their homes where they are unable to come to church. Members of the pastoral team visit those members who are sick in hospital to offer support and prayers and we offer assistance with transport to hospitals for treatment.

The Pastoral team also took the initiative to start a prayer meeting before our service on Sunday at 10am, to which all are invited. We use this time to uphold our services and those leading them in prayer.

The pastoral team will always continue offering prayer and practical support to our church family.

READING FESTIVAL (report by Julia Horsman)

Due to the significant lack of footfall in 2024 it was decided not to order the outside portable toilets for 2025 and to operate a smaller scale ministry. This proved to be a good move as sadly only a handful of festival goers turned up over the whole weekend. It would seem that the festival organisers had again directed anyone coming off site into Reading and Caversham was like a ghost town.

In light of this it was decided that we would not open as normal for the 2026 Festival. We need to prayerfully consider this move as a Church and any suggestions for the future would be welcome.

WARM WELCOME SPACE (Steve & Sue Cantwell and Rosemarie & David Lemin-Bansair)

The Warm Welcome Space (part of a nationwide initiative) was introduced in Caversham Baptist Church as a result of increasing energy costs and a desire of the members of the church to provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment to anyone from the local community.

In 2025, we continued to meet throughout the year apart from a break in August, as our visitors were keen to come even when the warmer weather arrived.

We invite a number of organisations to partner with us – our partnership with the local Co-op stores to collect food each week continued but during the year this became more formal with an agreement with Caboodle who administer the charity collections from the Co-op nationwide. The result of this meant

that we could only collect from one store on a Wednesday evening. This limited the type of food we could safely pass on the community so steps were taken to look into forming an alternative relationship with FareShare, an organisation that administers charity food collections from other supermarkets including Waitrose. Collections started in early 2026 from Waitrose on Thursday evenings.

We also partner with Churches Together in Caversham and Queen Anne's School (QAS) who both provide volunteers and some funds to help with running costs. Several girls from QAS volunteer each week as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, sometimes accompanied by a teacher. They generally help in the kitchen and interact with the visitors and other volunteers.

The Warm Welcome Space proves popular with a mix of people from the fellowship and a good number of the general public, often attracting 20 or more visitors. We chat, and some play board games, while hot drinks and refreshments are served, including a light lunch.

We open from 10.00 to 1.30 each Friday and provide home-made soup, cake and hot drinks. Numbers continue to rise and we enjoy spending time with members of the community as they sample the warm welcome, refreshments and spare food from local retailers. We also enjoy sharing our faith when people ask questions, and as a team we pray for any particular needs they share with us.

During the year, the church kitchen procedures were inspected by the Reading Borough Council and we were pleased to be given a 5-star rating.

Thank you to all who volunteer on a Friday including those who collect food in the evenings before Warm Welcome Space. We now have a rota of 4 or 5 members of the fellowship who provide this service. We also appreciate the regular members of the church who attend and engage with our guests, as we show the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

Our Vision is:

To see the lives of children, young people and their families in the local community be transformed and for them to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our mission is:

- To provide a safe, secure, warm environment where all are welcome and have equal value.
- To be positive Christian role models and develop relationships built on love and acceptance.
- To reach out to children and young people in the local area and equip them to participate responsibly in the community.
- To provide an opportunity for children and young people to experience the love of God and learn about the Christian faith.
- To disciple children and young people in their relationship with Christ and encourage them to live differently and make a difference.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S GROUPS (Tamsyn Wilson on behalf of the team)

Proverbs 22:6

"Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

The children's work at CBC has continued to be a source of blessing. We have now completed a year with split primary age groups. Children in Foundation to year 2 are known as "Little Lambs on Sunday" and meet in the downstairs room at the front end of the church. Children in school years 3-6 are called the "Pathfinders" and they meet in the upper hall.

Both groups have used the Energize material to study series such as "The Nature of God," "Bible Characters" and "Encounters with Jesus." The number of leaders for these groups has remained more or less constant and thanks must go to all those who have come forward to lead or help. The older children are regularly reading from the Good News Bibles for themselves. The Little Lambs on Sunday use stories from the Lion First Bible, and explore them through craft, drama and songs. Both groups appear back in church with their volunteer adults at the end of morning worship, with a brief recap of what they have learnt, to show the crafts they have made and to join with the congregation in a 'child-friendly' song with actions.

The Youth Group for secondary school age young people is dwindling somewhat in numbers after several young people left for university and are now away in term time. The group still continues to meet with a mix of adult leadership and leadership by the young people themselves.

Christmas was celebrated with a light-hearted and humorous play 'Hark the Harold Angels Sing' telling the traditional Christmas story against a backdrop of a choir rehearsal which goes wrong. The Harold Angels helped the choir members to understand the meanings of the words of traditional carols.

We thank again all of those who work with the children and young people at the Church. We are blessed with a good number of leaders and volunteers, all DBS checked. Without their support, help and dedication we would not be able to sustain this vital teaching and sharing of God's love; thank you.

During this time of ministerial vacancy, we have taken a pause in advertising pro-actively for a Children, Youth, Families and Community Worker, although the advert is still on our church website.

LITTLE LAMBS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP (Leader: Judith Lewis)

The Little Lambs and You group meets, during school term time, on a Monday morning 10.00am to 11.30am in the worship area and lounge. We have an online booking system with 25 places available each week. We serve refreshments throughout the session to parents and carers and provide an opportunity for the children, mid-way through the morning, to sit at a table together for a drink of water and a snack.

We set up the worship area as a free play space for the children, providing a varied number of toys, including a slide and climbing frame, sit-on vehicles, play kitchens, books etc as well as table-top activities including jigsaw puzzles, Noah's ark, play workbench tools, dolls house sets and craft activities.

In the lounge we create a quieter space with a baby corner with suitable mats, toys and baby bouncers as well as a car table and train set.

In the last 15 minutes of the session, we finish in the lounge with a short Bible story and sing nursery rhymes together.

We provide parents, carers and their children with an opportunity to make connections with each other in a dry, warm environment. We are also there to befriend, offer support and show God's love to those who attend.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM HOLIDAY CLUB Joint ministry through Churches together in Caversham, CBC Representative: Tamsyn Wilson)

Churches Together in Caversham Holiday Club has completed its first year as a CIO and registered charity, with the stated aim being: the advancement of the Christian faith in Caversham and the surrounding areas, by the provision of holiday clubs, with Christian content for children (of all faiths and none), or other activities, with Christian content for children (of all faiths and none) as the trustees decide.

Holiday club ran from 28 July to 1 August 2025 for children in reception to school year 6 at St Anne's School. It was decided to keep numbers slightly lower than previous years with initial sales limited to 20 children per year group. Demand for tickets was very strong and every age group other than year 6 sold out with some selling out on the first day of ticket sales. Some additional tickets were released and eventually 147 were sold in total. There were also 25 Young Leaders who are of secondary school age. The holiday club ran successfully, despite some challenges with works being carried out on the school site at the same time as the club and some wet weather at times.

The holiday club made use of Scripture Union's Deep Sea Divers material which was well received. Each morning, we “dived” into a Bible story to learn about the life of Jesus and what it means for us. In the afternoons, children chose their activities from a wide range including crafts, sports, science and dancing. As always, highlights were Wet Wednesday and the Family Fun Friday open afternoon which featured a petting zoo for the first time.

We distributed a post-event survey to the parents of attendees with 34 responses received from parents of 51 attendees. Overall feedback was very positive with an average star rating of 4.8 out of 5 and a Net Promoter Score® of 88. The feedback from this survey will be used to help improve our future holiday clubs.

A separate annual report will be produced for the Charities Commission.

SAVE THE DATE: Churches Together in Caversham Holiday Club will return in 2026 running from Monday 27th July to Friday 31st July at St Anne's School. Please contact Tamsyn Wilson if you could volunteer with us in any capacity and for any part of that time.

CATERING (Leader: Rosemary Sproule)

The kitchen is used to support a range of church events including Friday Warm Space, Little Lambs toddler group and FAITH drop-in meal primarily for homeless people.

The catering team serve the church by providing refreshments after morning worship and on special occasions. Our fellowship lunches continue to form an intrinsic part of our bi-monthly church meetings and create a relaxed environment to enjoy fellowship with each other over food.

In March we catered for the church's 'Time Together' weekend – a 'takeaway' on Friday evening and a 'bring and share' after Sunday morning worship.

We enabled a 'bring and share' after the Harvest Festival service in September and provided food and refreshments after Thanksgiving Services for John Blackmore and Tony Hawke.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped over the past year. If you would like to join any of the teams that serve these events, or join our Sunday morning refreshment rota, please contact Rosemary on 07456 407718.

AUDIO VISUAL & COMMUNICATIONS (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

We serve the church every Sunday, enhancing our worship with audio-visual support.

During the year, we supported several external organisations who hired our main hall for large public meetings requiring audio-visual services.

Ben and Jackie lead on Communications, focussing primarily on developing the church website, our social media engagement and creating artwork and flyers to promote church events.

The website is our primary source of information for the external community; we keep the content current with recordings of talks from our Sunday worship and information of upcoming events. The church management area of the system is used to support the Prayer Chain.

Sue leads on our monthly newsletters to members and friends of the church. Currently this is done via Mailchimp, with a hard copy newsletter also provided for regular attenders without email, and to give to visitors and newcomers who are not on the mailing list.

We are keen to grow these teams. If you have an interest in serving God and the church family with AV or communications (website, social media, newsletters, noticeboards, creating artwork for use within the Church or on any of our communication channels) please discuss with any of us. All you need is passion and a desire to serve; we will provide the tools, training and support.

Our thanks to each member of these teams for their commitment

BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT & FABRIC (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

The team have continued to focus on maintaining and enhancing the buildings for both internal and external use. Highlights include:

- A fellowship Workday, where a good number of people from the church came together to carry out a range of maintenance and cleaning jobs.
- Refurbished the downstairs WC at the rear of the church building.
- Installing a 10-space cycle store in the church car park with upgraded security lighting
- Preparing the Manse for letting during our time without a minister

The fabric team continues to focus on routine maintenance and minor works. We hope to implement a small number of improvements to enhance the building's usability and appearance during 2026.

Thank you for all your help and support, whatever form that took – prayer, financial, hands-on and encouragement.

We very much miss John Blackmore, who went to be with the Lord in May. John gave many years' faithful service to the church, offering his extensive practical skills and advice in so many different ways – what a blessing he was to our team and the church, for which we give thanks!

Special thanks to the Fabric team - Steve Cantwell, Richard Wilson and Rob Sproule for their diligence, tenacity and commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways during this busy and challenging time.

ROOM HIRE (Steve & Sue Cantwell)

Many visitors to our building comment on how bright and welcoming it is, which was one of the aims when it was re-opened in 2022 after refurbishment. We quite often receive enquiries from people who have attended one event, seen inside the building and are interested in booking it for another event.

During 2025 the number of enquiries and bookings grew, although we always give preference to our own church activities - especially those aimed at

engaging with the local community. These include the Little Lambs & You toddler group, Warm Welcome Space and the Christmas Craft Fair. Other regular midweek church activities using the building include small Bible study groups and the monthly Prayer Meeting.

We have regular bookings from Caversham & District Residents' Association (CADRA), Caversham Horticultural Society, the Berkshire Beekeepers and other organisations and individuals have rented space. These have included book launches and a book festival for the local Fourbears Bookshop, birthday parties, AGMs and committee meetings for other organisations, and an escape room event for children. We have also shared our worship area and baptistery (baptism pool) with another church that has no baptistery of its own.

In September we partnered with CADRA and opened up the church as part of the national Heritage Open Days initiative. Colin created a wonderful display depicting the history of the church community and building, and we met a good number of people who were shown around the building by volunteers from the church.

The Steinway grand piano in the worship area (main hall) makes our building attractive for holding musical events including concerts.

2026 has started with a busy January for external hires, and there are more concerts and festivals booked in, as well as regular bookings from community groups.

We are delighted to be able to offer high quality space for hire in the heart of Caversham. Full details of the rooms available are on the Church website at https://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/Groups/382636/Book_our_Venue.aspx.

FAITH CAVERSHAM DROP IN (Ministry hosted by Caversham Baptist Church but operated by Faith Christian Group – Manager Myra Fowler)

The Drop In has continued to open every Wednesday between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. We offer the same basic menu - sausages, fish fingers, chicken goujons, baked potatoes, chips, baked beans or tinned spaghetti. Dessert is still apple tart, fruit salad, ice cream or custard. We always have fresh fruit – grapes, bananas, oranges, sometimes apples or seasonal fruit. When people arrive we have sandwiches, biscuits, sometimes cakes available bearing in mind that for some people, perhaps the majority, this will be their first meal of the day. Our Christmas lunch this year was very well attended – we had 32 visitors and were able to give everyone a three course meal plus a gift bag to take away which contained toiletries and a selection of hats, gloves and socks and some

chocolates too. Lunch ended with us all singing Christmas carols accompanied by a volunteer who plays the guitar. It was a lovely time!

We are very grateful to our regular donors who have continued to provide biscuits, cakes and soft drinks but we do try to be as self sufficient as we can.

We continue to comply with all Environmental Health regulations and we had an inspection in the summer when we achieved a '5' which is the top mark.

In June this year Christian Community Action told us that they no longer wished to support us as they had decided to concentrate on the furniture and white goods side of their operation in these difficult times. This was a shock to us but we have been extremely fortunate that Faith Christian Group have taken us on board as part of their organisation. We very much appreciate the support they have given to us.

As always, our aim is to provide a friendly and welcoming place – no judgement and no questions. Many of our visitors have difficult lives for many different reasons and for that reason it is very important that we provide a calm and relaxed place to be, just for a couple of hours. We do not tolerate bad behaviour of any sort.

We are so grateful to the church for their support in so many ways.

CHURCH FINANCES

We are thankful that the church's finances are healthy and we are grateful to the Lord for his continued provision for our needs.

The General fund had a significant surplus of £9,796 in 2025 (2024: £13,176) and ended 2025 with a total balance of £63,011 up from £57,849 at the end of 2024. This comprised of fixed assets of £12,010, and cash and other current assets of £51,001.

General fund Freewill offerings and the associated Gift Aid increased to £80,810 from £77,337 in 2024 and total general fund income increased to £87,755 from £80,278. General fund expenditure increased significantly to £77,959 from £67,122 in 2024 due to the minister returning from sickness absence, although he then left in late September.

The Youth and Children's work fund retains a balance of £35,285 and we plan to use these resources to appoint a Worker in due course.

Overall income fell to £94,342 from £110,636 in 2024 following the large gifts to the Youth and Children's work fund in 2024. Overall expenditure increased to £81,152 from £70,655 in 2024.

The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund now holds the interest free member loans that were used to fund the redevelopment project. Regular gifts of £6,588 (including Gift Aid) were received, down from £9,295 in 2024. £1,805 was transferred from the General Fund to ensure that the loan repayments of £9,091 were covered. The loan balances at year end were £83,636, down from £92,727 at the end of 2024. We are on track to clear the loans by the end of 2032.

The manse is valued in the accounts at £325,075 after a depreciation charge of £1,914 and improvements of £2,829 to prepare it for letting. The market value of the property is estimated to be over £500,000. The Grand Piano purchased following a specific gift in 2022 is valued at £23,408 after a depreciation charge of £1,064.

RESERVES POLICY

Caversham Baptist Church aims to hold sufficient reserves (including general and uncommitted designated funds) to ensure we can meet our obligations in the event of a deterioration in our finances, or a major cost (e.g. a building repair) arising. Our policy is to hold cash equivalent to three months of general running costs and an additional three month's staffing costs. This policy is

reviewed at each Annual General Meeting. The Trustees believe that, as of 31st December 2025, our reserves policy currently requires us to hold approximately £20,400 in unrestricted and designated cash reserves, whilst we actually held approximately £51,001. The church plans to appoint a Minister and a Children, Youth and Families Worker, which together would increase the level of reserves needed to approximately £60,000 so we are looking to build up our reserves with that plan in mind.

FINANCIAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

In order to maintain appropriate control of expenditure, the Church has adopted the following financial authorisations policy. Spending or spending commitments:

- up to £250 within budget may be authorised by Team Leaders
- up to £1,200 may be authorised by the Treasurer.
- up to £6,000 may be authorised by a vote of the Leadership team.
- in excess of £6,000 may only be authorised by a vote of the Church Meeting.

These limits are reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following served as trustees and leaders between the start of 2025 and the approval of these accounts:

- Colin Baker, Minister (resigned 30 September 2025)
- Mabel Foye, Secretary
- Richard Wilson, Treasurer
- Robert Sproule
- Allan Roger Horsman
- Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin
- Fan Fai (David) Chan

LEGAL INFORMATION

Caversham Baptist Church (the Church) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission number: 1181257.

Church Address: South Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8HY

Bankers: Barclays Bank UK Plc, 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

Solicitors: Anthony Collins LLP, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES

Independent Examiner: Kate Andrews ACA

POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

This statement was agreed at a church meeting held on 27/5/97 and amended at the AGM on 25/3/03. It will be read annually at the AGM where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
3. We recognise that work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
5. The Church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to provide supervision.
6. The Church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice: *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet *Safe to Grow*. Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Church's agreed procedure and good practice guidelines.
7. As part of our commitment to the children and young people, the Church has appointed:
 - A Designated Person to advise the Church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of Children and young people and to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Their role will be regularly explained to children and their names, addresses and phone numbers publicly displayed.
8. The Church will appoint a responsible person and administrator to see that this policy is implemented.

Children and young people are a part of—and belong to—church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of the children and young people.

Designated person: Tamsyn Wilson, 7 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7RT

POLICY STATEMENT ON PHOTOS OF CHILDREN

Children and young people are a valued part of our church. In our use of photography, we seek to celebrate and communicate the life and activities of this church and to affirm the importance of all who are part of your church life, young and old. This policy is to ensure that such photography protects the safety of the children and young people in our care. It supplements our existing 'Safe to Grow' policy.

This policy statement will be read and confirmed at the AGM each year where the process of carrying it out will be monitored.

1. It is the responsibility of each church member to prevent misuse of photographs of children and young people and to report any misuse discovered or suspected.
2. We recognise that written parental/guardian consent must be given for the publication or display of a recognisable photograph of any person under the age of 18. Parents must be aware of which type of publication/display will be used. No consent is needed for photos of people whose faces are not recognisable.
3. Borderline cases will be decided by the designated person.
4. Photos by an individual of activities within or related to our church, which involve children and young people is only allowed with the permission of the leader of the activity.
5. Each leader, publisher and photographer will be given good practice guidelines on taking photos of children and young people, including being made aware of this policy.
6. We will exercise proper care ensuring children and young people will not be identified by name or other personal details in captions and accompanying text.
7. Data protection: Photos are to be stored in a safe and secure way, separated from personal details of the child or young person. Photos, negatives or computer images that are against parental consent must be completely destroyed. Others must be kept securely and, when no longer needed, destroyed.
8. As part of our commitment to children and young people, the Church has appointed a designated person to listen to children, young people and parental concerns.
9. The Church has appointed a responsible person as an administrator to see that the policy is implemented.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Incoming Resources	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	2	80,810	-	6,588	-	87,397	107,694
Income from charitable activities	3	834	-	-	-	834	302
Other Trading Activities	4	4,491	-	-	-	4,491	2,559
Investment income	5	1,620	-	-	-	1,620	81
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		87,755	-	6,588	-	94,342	110,636
Resources Expended							
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	6	77,959	1,914	1,279	-	81,152	70,655
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		77,959	1,914	1,279	-	81,152	70,655
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers		9,796	(1,914)	5,309	-	13,191	39,980
Incoming fund transfers	11	-	2,829	1,805	-	4,634	20
Outgoing fund transfers		(4,634)	-	-	-	(4,634)	(20)
Net Incoming Resources before other gains/losses		5,162	915	7,113	-	13,191	39,980
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	-	-	-	-	20
Net Movements in Funds		5,162	915	7,113	-	13,191	40,000
Funds brought forward		57,849	324,160	(30,169)	1,250,000	1,601,839	1,561,839
Funds carried forward		63,011	325,075	(23,056)	1,250,000	1,615,030	1,601,839

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

BALANCE SHEET

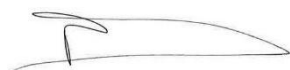
As of 31st December 2025

	Note	As at 31/12/2025		As at 31/12/2024	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	13		1,610,493		1,612,475
Debtors	14		9,313		8,304
Bank and Cash	15		80,874		76,320
Current Assets			90,187		84,624
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16		(11,105)		(11,624)
Net Current Assets			79,082		73,000
Member Loans	17		(74,546)		(83,636)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22		-		-
Long Term Liabilities			(74,546)		(83,636)
Net Assets			1,615,030		1,601,839
Charitable Funds					
Endowment	18		1,250,000		1,250,000
Restricted	19		(23,056)		(30,169)
Designated	20		325,075		324,160
Unrestricted			63,011		57,849
Total			1,615,030		1,601,839

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

Notes 1 – 23 on the following pages form an integral part of these accounts.
These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 3 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Treasurer



Secretary



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011. Caversham Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1181257 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

c Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

d Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

e Investment Income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

f Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognized where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

g Cost of raising funds

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

h Grants payable

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

i Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance cost. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

j Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt. The church premises are included in the balance sheet using a market valuation from a qualified surveyor. The Manse premises are initially recognised at cost.

k Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church premises as they are revalued each year on the basis of the insured value. The Church manse has been depreciated based on 50% of the initial purchase value being land and 50% buildings. The land is retained at cost and the building depreciated on a straight-line basis at 1% of acquisition cost per annum. Depreciation on other fixed assets is on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life:

- IT and audio-visual equipment at 20% of acquisition cost per annum.
- Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment at 10% of acquisition cost per annum
- The piano is depreciated at 4% of acquisition cost per annum.

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year in the year of disposal.

l Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church Building Reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

m Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its staff. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan. Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
Freewill Offerings	67,208	-	5,290	-	72,498	88,888
Gift Aid	13,602	-	1,298	-	14,899	18,806
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	80,810	-	6,588	-	87,397	107,694

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
Sale of assets	634	-	-	-	634	-
Other Activities	200	-	-	-	200	302
Total	834	-	-	-	834	302

4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
Use of Premises	3,652	-	-	-	3,652	2,559
Manse Letting Income	839	-	-	-	839	-
Total	4,491	-	-	-	4,491	2,559

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
Interest on cash	1,620	-	-	-	1,620	81
Total	1,620	-	-	-	1,620	81

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
Ministry	37,496	-	215	-	37,711	20,851
Mission	9,865	-	-	-	9,865	9,705
Premises	30,598	1,914	1,064	-	33,576	40,100
Total	77,959	1,914	1,279	-	81,152	70,655

7 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

The following table summarises expenditure in line with our reporting categories.

	Charitable Activities	Grant Funding	Support Costs	2025	2024
Ministry	37,150	-	561	37,711	20,851
Mission	-	9,392	473	9,865	9,705
Premises	32,109	-	1,467	33,576	40,100
Cost of Generating Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total	69,259	9,392	2,500	81,152	70,655

8 GRANTS MADE TO OTHER CHARITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
BMS World Mission	3,852	-	-	-	3,852	3,850
Baptist Home Mission	3,996	-	-	-	3,996	4,000
CCA Caversham	-	-	-	-	-	-
Churches Together in Caversham	944	-	-	-	944	885
Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	600	-	-	-	600	600
Total	9,392	-	-	-	9,392	9,335

9 SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2025	2024
Bank Charges	64	-	-	-	64	70
Church Office Expenses	1,777	-	-	-	1,777	1,567
Subscriptions	436	-	-	-	436	436
Magazine & Publicity	64	-	-	-	64	33
Other Sundry Expenses	160	-	-	-	160	128
Total	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	2,234

Support Costs have been allocated to the Charitable activities in the general fund of the Church in proportion with their other expenses (included in note 7 above) as follows:

	2025	2024
Ministry	561	426
Mission	473	370
Premises	1,467	1,438
Total	2,500	2,234

10 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE EXPENSES

		2025	2024
Salaries	Gross Salary	24,432	21,589
Pension Costs	Employer's Pension Contributions	2,931	6,056
Other Costs	Council tax, water, phone, expenses	9,000	8,366
Total		36,363	36,011

The average number of staff in the year was 1 (2024: 1). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2024: none).

Revd Colin Baker as Minister acted as one of the church's trustees in accordance with the church constitution from 1st April 2018 until 30th September 2025 and received a stipend in 2025 of £24,432 (2024: £21,589). He was also reimbursed out of pocket expenses and mileage (at the HMRC approved rate) of £180 (2024: £15). Contributions of £2,931 (2024: £6,056) were made to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

Until October 2024 the Church paid deficit contributions in relation to the service of past Ministers of the Church to the Baptist Pension Trust Limited, which was a final salary defined benefit scheme, which was not contracted out of the State second pension. There were no payments in 2025 (2024: £10). The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not currently possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. In accordance with FRS17 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details can be found in note 22.

11 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The following transfers were made in 2024:

From Fund	To Fund	Amount	Purpose
General Fund	Manse Reserve	2,829	Funding for manse improvements
General Fund	Building Redevelopment	1,805	Covering shortfall in fund

12 GAINS AND LOSSES ON REVALUATIONS OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

The Church premises at South Street are recorded using a market valuation conducted by Haslam's Surveyors as of 31 December 2021. The valuation was not revised during 2025.

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	South Street Premises	Manse	Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment	AV and IT equipment	Piano	Total
Cost						
As at 01 Jan 2025	1,026,300	358,908	15,042	6,642	26,600	1,433,492
Additions in year	-	2,829	-	999	-	3,828
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2025	1,026,300	361,737	15,042	7,641	26,600	1,437,320
Accumulated Depreciation						
As at 01 Jan 2025	-	34,748	5,783	2,057	2,128	44,717
Charge for the year	-	1,914	1,504	1,328	1,064	5,811
As of 31 Dec 2025	-	36,662	7,287	3,386	3,192	50,527
Gain/Loss on revaluation						
As at 01 Jan 2025	223,700	-	-	-	-	223,700
Change in year	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2025	223,700	-	-	-	-	223,700
Net Book Value						
As at 01 Jan 2025	1,250,000	324,160	9,259	4,585	24,472	1,612,475
As of 31 Dec 2025	1,250,000	325,075	7,755	4,255	23,408	1,610,493

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the Church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the South Street Premises at South Street, Caversham and the Church Manse at 2a Rotherfield Way, Caversham. As per the Church's accounting policy stated in paragraph j of note 1, the value stated on 31 December 2021 for the South Street Premises is a valuation conducted by Haslam's Chartered Surveyors on 23 March 2022 estimating their market value. The cost for the Church Manse is the price paid when it was acquired plus the cost of subsequent capital improvements.

14 DEBTORS

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Accounts Receivable	4,385	4,937
Prepaid Expenditure	4,928	3,367
Total Debtors	9,313	8,304

15 BANK AND CASH

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Cash in hand	-	-
SumUp Card Account	101	228
Current Account	15,762	12,710
Baptist Union Deposit Accounts	63,461	61,840
Cash Pre-payment card balance	1,349	1,542
Total	80,874	76,320

16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Accounts Payable	1,427	1,319
Accrued Expenditure	587	1,214
Loan Repayments due within 1 year	9,091	9,091
Total Creditors	9,091	11,624

17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

In 2021 and 2022 the church received four interest free loans of £120,000 from members.

Loan	Loan Amount	Balance at 31/12/2025	Repayments due in 2026	Due after 2026	Terms
A	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	Due for repayment by the end of 2032 with no repayments due prior to that date
B	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	
C	50,000	31,818	4,545	27,273	Repayable over an 11-year period in equal payments every 6 months from June 2022
D	50,000	31,818	4,545	27,273	
Total	120,000	83,636	9,091	74,546	

The church received the benefit of not paying interest on any of these loans. This benefit has not been recognised in the accounts. The repayment due in 2026 is recognised as an amount falling due within one year (see note 16) with the remainder recognised as falling due after one year.

18 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2025
Church Building Res.	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	1,250,000

The Church Building Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the South Street premises.

19 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2025
Fellowship Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Window Repair	1,825	63	-	-	-	1,887
Piano	24,472	-	(1,064)	-	-	23,408
Children & Youth Work	35,500	-	(215)	-	-	35,285
Redevelopment Fund	(91,966)	6,525	-	1,805	-	(83,636)
Total	(30,169)	6,588	(1,279)	1,805	-	(23,056)

The Fellowship Fund represents funds given to support church members suffering financial hardship.

The Window Repair fund has been initiated to gather resources to fund the long-term maintenance of the stained-glass windows in the South Street premises.

The Children & Youth Work fund has been established to support work with under-18s in the church.

The Piano fund was created following a gift from a member in 2022 of the funds to purchase a grand piano. This piano is the only asset within the fund.

The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund represents the funds related to the redevelopment of the South Street Premises in 2021-2. This fund holds the interest free loans used to fund the project and the ongoing giving that funds the repayment of these loans.

20 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2025
Manse Reserve	324,160	-	(1,914)	2,829	-	325,075
Total	324,160	-	(1,914)	2,829	-	325,075

The Manse Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the manse.

21 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUND

		Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long-term Liabilities	2025 Total	2024 Total
Endowment Funds	Per note 18	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,250,000
Restricted Funds	Per note 19	23,408	28,081	(74,546)	(23,056)	(30,169)
Designated Funds	Per note 20	325,075	-	-	325,075	324,160
Unrestricted Funds		12,010	51,001	-	63,011	57,849
Total		1,610,493	79,082	(74,546)	1,615,030	1,601,839

22 PENSIONS

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. Members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members’ Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited

Prior to 31 December 2011 the main benefit was provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan. The Trustee and the Baptist Union formally triggered the wind-up of the DB Plan with effect from 31 March 2024. The church has been notified that from 31 October 2024 that it no longer held any liability to the scheme for past service and no further deficit payments would be collected. Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
Balance sheet liability at year start	-	30
Minus deficiency contributions paid	-	(10)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	-	-
Actuarial (gains)/losses on re-measurement of liability	-	(20)
Balance sheet liability at year end	-	-

The liability in the balance sheet represents the present value of deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date.

23 RELATED PARTIES

The custodian Trustee of the Church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The Church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Southern Counties Baptist Association. The Church donated to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme via the Southern Counties Baptist Association as set out in note 8.

The total of all other donations received from Trustees and their spouses in 2025 was £28,383 (2024: £27,020). None of these donations came with conditions which might require the Church to alter its activities.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Caversham Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1181257

Set out on pages

21 to 30

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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:

Kate Andrews

Date:

28 February 2026

Name:

Kate Andrews

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

ACA

Address:

41 Wantage Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire



Caversham Baptist Church
Registered charity number: 1181257
South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY
Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Accounts



Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY

Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. In fulfilling this objective, the Church engages in a range of activities, either on its own or in partnership with others. The main activities comprise worship services, prayer, Bible study and discipleship groups and supporting the local community.

In planning our activities, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and ensure they fall within this guidance.

We support the wider work of the Baptist denomination through our membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association and through our financial contribution to the Home Mission Scheme. We also support BMS World Mission financially and through prayer support for our link missionaries. We collaborate with other churches through Churches Together in Caversham and support other local, national and international organisations through grants and prayer support where that support will further our charitable objectives. An overview of all grants made in 2024 is in the note 8 to the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution, in the form of the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches registered with the Charity Commission on 19th December 2018.

In line with its constitution, the Church operates under the authority of the Church Members Meeting, which is open to all Church members, and operates with a quorum of 25 per cent of Church members. The Church Members Meeting appoints trustees to oversee the running of the Church. The trustees are:

- The Minister, as appointed from time to time from the list of Accredited Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
- The Church officers, namely the secretary and treasurer who are appointed annually by the Church Members Meeting.
- Up to six Leaders who are appointed for a three-year term by the Church Members Meeting. Leaders may only serve two consecutive terms after which they must stand down for at least one year.

Except for the minister, any individual must have been a member of the Church for a year prior to being eligible for appointment as a trustee. The trustees received no payment for their work as trustees, with the exception of the minister as authorised within the church constitution.

OUR STRATEGY



Since our church awayday in September 2021 we have been focusing on implementing the vision of living out the strapline on our church logo (see front page) “Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham”.

So, we see ourselves “Showing our hearts to Jesus...” through worship, fellowship and ministry. Showing our heart to God, to others and to the world.



We call this Worship

Pointing our hearts and lives toward God. This is our major public gathering where we pool the majority of our resources in helping folks of all ages in their worship of God, in age-appropriate ways and settings.



We call this Fellowship

Small groups and newcomers groups. Where we do life together with other disciples. A bible-based group where disciples from our weekend worship activities meet to do life together, more intimate worship/Bible study. Once per term the groups would all engage in the same 4-6 week study leaving the rest of the term for the groups to pursue separate areas of study.



We call this Ministry

This is where we take all the stuff we have learned and put it into practice. Some of this will be in practical terms and may be covered by multiple different spheres. Other areas are those of youth work, soft evangelism, social gospel opportunities (ministry to the poor, needy, aged etc).

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

2024 has not been the easiest year for Caversham Baptist Church. Our minister, Colin Baker, was on sick leave for the entire first half of the year and was working only very limited hours from July to November. We are greatly encouraged that Colin's recovery has accelerated significantly since December, including returning to preaching for the first time in January and we look forward to his return to full-time ministry in the course of 2025.

In the face of challenging times, God has provided for us. Specifically, we are very grateful for the support of Revd. Graham Coldman, a former member of the church who has recently retired to Newbury. After preaching a few times in the first months of Colin's sick leave, Graham offered to provide more regular support, including preaching twice a month and chairing meetings of the leadership and membership. His guidance and teaching have been invaluable to us through the course of 2024 and early 2025. We have also been blessed by several other outside preachers who have brought God's word to us.

We are also grateful that God has continued to be at work among us and we have seen the church continue to flourish. Our Youth and Children's work continues to be a source of encouragement with further growth in the number of children, culminating in splitting the under 11s into 2 age groups in early 2025 to better serve the needs of the different age ranges. We are blessed by the commitment of the volunteers who lead this work.

We are disappointed that we were not able to recruit a Children, Youth, Families and Community Worker in 2024. We continue to advertise and pray that we will find the right person in 2025. Thanks to generous donations, we have the funding in place for this role and believe it will help us to further develop our ministry in this area.

We are also encouraged to see the continued development of our ministry to Hong Kongers who have come to the UK in recent years. We have been delighted to welcome David Chan onto our leadership team this year and for his and Mani's leadership of this work.

The Leadership Team meet every week on a Monday evening to pray together for the church, other than the first week of the month when we meet on a Tuesday evening for our formal business meeting. We continue to value your prayers for us as we offer leadership to the church.

We look forward to continuing to serve God in Caversham in 2025 and beyond.

Colin, David, Mabel, Richard, Rob, Roger, Rosemarie

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The reports on the following pages detail regular activities and any one-off events that took place during the year.

MUSICAL WORSHIP 2025 (Tamsyn Wilson on behalf of those leading music ministry)

Psalm 96

*1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

*2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.*

*3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.*

4 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

The musicians at CBC have endeavoured to serve God and the congregation faithfully in worship this year. The number of musicians appearing on the rota has increased since last year and we have been pleased to welcome Bill as a singer, Angela on piano, and Eva also on piano who has been playing for Hymn Café.

Joel has taken over leadership of the Youth Band and is doing a fantastic job with the organisation and leading of the rehearsals. We believe he has a real gift for leading worship and he is demonstrating wisdom beyond his years. Joel and Tamsyn have written and led a few “home grown” songs this year including “The Beatitudes”, “Thanks Be to God” and the carol “This Baby”.

Special events this year included Carols by Candlelight where 8 musicians all played and sang together, and the Children’s Nativity, where acted scenes were interleaved by carols.

The musicians are grateful to be ably supported by our skilled and reliable AV team. We may not always be aware of them, working away in the back corner, but us not being aware of them means that they are doing a fantastic job!

Thank you to those who volunteer their time and effort to share their gifts with the church in this important ministry. There is always room for more people to join the rota – please contact Tamsyn Wilson if you are interested.

HYMN CAFÉ (Leader: Rebecca Reading)

This relaxed outreach ministry centred around testimonies, both of our church family and of the hymn writers themselves, ran nine times in 2024. Hymn Café provides an opportunity to enjoy familiar hymns, with words that speak

eternal truths of our faith, and to invite guests to a simple, low-key event, with tea, coffee and of course cake. Numbers have been steady at around 15 to 20, including a scattering of people that do not attend church otherwise. We continue to invite both testimonies and suggestions for hymns.

PRAYER CHAIN (Leader: Rose Blackmore)

Another momentous year has passed with many and numerous prayers being requested and answered and we thank our God for His grace and mercy throughout. We can truly attest to the words in Psalm 46 verses 1 & 11 that,

*“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.”*

This past year we have successfully transitioned to sending our Prayer Chain requests to a new church email address on the CBC system instead of to my personal email; our thanks to Rob and Ben Sproule, who set it all up. All glory to God because this has meant that Rob has been able to operate the chain since October when ill health hit John and I.

We couldn't operate a prayer chain without all of the many people willing to pray so thank you all. If you would like to join the prayer chain, all you need is to have an email address and a willingness to pray - I encourage everyone to get involved. To join the Prayer Chain, speak with Rob or email him on prayerchain@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk.

We have indeed discovered that “effective and fervent prayer” has “availed much.”

SMALL GROUPS (Leader: Roger Horsman)

In accordance with our strapline: “Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham,” we see the activity of small groups as being part of “Showing heart to others.” This means our small groups are a place where ‘iron sharpens iron.’ In other words, disciples of Jesus hanging out together in small groups for the purpose of being disciplined by each other. Centred around prayer, worship, Bible study, relationships and mission, our groups have both a spiritual and a social function for our church fellowship.

Small groups remain an important place for us all as we seek to grow and mature in our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

As we look forward to 2025, small groups have expanded in number and diversity. We've had a good influx of new people who have come from Hong

Kong. They meet as a separate small group having a unique agenda. The church welcomes the challenge to include all nationalities in everything we do.

Our small groups offer pastoral support with those unable to attend encouraged to feed their chosen group with requests for prayer or physical support. 2024 has been a challenge to meet for some because of illnesses but we have prayed into situations and seen prayers answered.

Small groups offer in-depth bible study with some members having the opportunity of leading and teaching for the first time. We have grown seen growth in faith and knowledge as a result.

PASTORAL TEAM (Leader: Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin)

As a pastoral team we continue to visit and pray and provide support to church members who are sick and unable to attend church on a regular basis. The team offers communion to church members in their homes where they are unable to come to church. Members of the pastoral team visit those members who are sick in hospital to offer support and prayers and we offer assistance with transport to hospitals for treatment.

The Pastoral team also took the initiative to start a prayer meeting before our service on Sunday at 10am, to which all are invited. We use this time to uphold our services and those leading them in prayer.

The pastoral team will always continue offering prayer and practical support to our church family.

READING FESTIVAL (Leader: Rebecca Reading)

Our approach for the 2024 Festival followed broadly the same format as the last two years. With a series of dedicated prayer meetings to lay solid spiritual foundations by committing the plans to the Lord, we went into the Festival weekend with a sense of expectation and assurance. Roger had felt led to pray that there may be some that had come to us in previous festival years that would return, and indeed on the first morning, before we opened officially, twin sisters whom we had met last year had sought us out. This was an encouraging answer to that specific prayer.

However, overall footfall in Caversham was very significantly down from what we might have expected say five years ago. We had noticed a reduction last year, but attributed this to the post-pandemic effect. This year, the low number of festival-goers in Caversham overall was stark. Furthermore, it was reported in the local press that Caversham Road businesses had also observed far fewer. The heavy rain on Saturday was most likely a contributory factor. Another reason could be that Reading Bus is now providing a shuttle bus to the

town centre branded as “Sainsbury’s and Shops”, which was being very well used. There are also more facilities being provided on the site itself, including groceries and well-being services.

With this in mind, it was decided that we should review our offering. In October, those involved with the Festival ministry were asked to respond to a short survey about the way forward. The responses were extremely varied. Also, on 31 October 2024, a group of around six met with Nick Barnett, a contact of several at CBC. Nick works for Soulscape, a Christian charity working with young people in schools in Berkshire; and specifically, Soulscape have been partnering with Reading Festival’s “AIR HUBS” on the Festival site for 2023 and 2024. “AIR” stand for Assistance Information Response and are the Festival organisers’ response to growing concern about wellbeing. Whilst Soulscape is a Christian-based organisation, AIR HUBS are not. From our discussions with Nick, it became obvious that much more in terms of support, as well as facilities, is now being offered on site, and as such, whatever Caversham Baptist Church does next needs to have this in mind.

It remains true that those involved in the prayer preparation and the event itself experienced the joy and satisfaction of working together as the body of Christ.

CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH WORK

Our Vision is:

To see the lives of children, young people and their families in the local community be transformed and for them to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our mission is:

- To provide a safe, secure, warm environment where all are welcome and have equal value.
- To be positive Christian role models and develop relationships built on love and acceptance.
- To reach out to children and young people in the local area and equip them to participate responsibly in the community.
- To provide an opportunity for children and young people to experience the love of God and learn about the Christian faith.
- To disciple children and young people in their relationship with Christ and encourage them to live differently and make a difference.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S GROUPS (Tamsyn Wilson on behalf of the team)

Luke 18:16 “But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little

children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

The children’s work at CBC has been a source of blessing to the whole congregation. Numbers have grown so much that starting in January 2025, we split the primary school aged children into two groups, with the Pathfinders (school years 2-5) meeting in the upper hall and the Little Lambs on Sunday (nursery and school years R-1) meeting in the downstairs room at the front end of the church.

We have needed more leaders for these groups and so a very big thank you to all those who have come forward to lead or help. The change has enabled the Pathfinders to start reading the Bible for themselves during their sessions, ask questions and have more in-depth discussions. Initially we purchased 10 new Good News Bibles, but I am happy to say that we are going to need to buy more, as our Pathfinders group often has 14-15 children in it!

The Little Lambs on Sunday use stories from the Lion First Bible, and explore them through craft, drama and songs. We are using the Urban Saints Energize resources, which provide engaging, dynamic and biblical session plans for ages 3 to 15+.

The two younger children’s groups study the same theme each week so that families can talk about it together after the service but they now do different activities. They appear back in church with their volunteer adults at the end of morning worship, with a brief recap of what they have learnt, to show the crafts they have made and to join with the congregation in a ‘child-friendly’ song with actions.

The Youth group for secondary school age young people has also continued to thrive. A new development in the group is that some of the young people themselves are taking a turn at leading the group. Many of them are rapidly approaching the age of 18 and it will be very good training for them to learn to lead a Bible study. Adults are still present to help guide the discussion and offer their words of wisdom and life experience!

Christmas was celebrated with a light-hearted and humorous play ‘The Elf-Respecting Nativity Play’, telling the traditional Christmas story with the help of Santa and the Elves. The grumpy elf, Elvira, learned about the nativity story and came to realise the true meaning of Christmas. Santa tore up his “naughty list” because Jesus has taken the punishment and we can all be on the “nice list” instead!

We thank all of those who work with the children and young people at the Church. We are blessed with a good number of leaders and volunteers, all DBS checked. Without their support, help and dedication we would not be able to sustain this vital teaching and sharing of God's love; thank you.

We are still seeking a Children, Youth, Families and Community Worker to help us to take the next step in our work with young people. We now have fantastic provision for children once they come into the church, but we would like to reach out to our community more. Please continue to pray that the right person for this role can be found and appointed.

LITTLE LAMBS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP (Leader: Judith Lewis)

The Little Lambs and You group meets, during school term time, on a Monday morning 10.00am to 11.30am in the worship area and lounge. We have an online booking system with about 25 places available each week. We serve refreshments throughout the session to parents and carers and provide an opportunity for the children, mid-way through the morning, to sit at a table together for a drink of water and a snack.

We set up the worship area as a free play space for the children, providing a varied number of toys, including a slide and climbing frame, sit-on vehicles, play kitchens, books etc as well as table-top activities including jigsaw puzzles, Noah's ark, play workbench tools, dolls house sets and craft activities.

In the lounge we create a quieter space with a baby corner with suitable mats, toys and baby bouncers as well as a car table and train set.

In the last 15 minutes of the session, we finish in the lounge with a short Bible story and sing nursery rhymes together.

We provide parents, carers and their children with an opportunity to make connections with each other in a dry, warm environment. We are also there to befriend, offer support and show God's love to those who attend.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM HOLIDAY CLUB (Joint ministry through Churches together in Caversham, CBC Representative: Tamsyn Wilson, report below by Anna Clarke)

This year was the biggest holiday club ever, with over 160 primary school aged children, 50 adult volunteers and 22 young leaders. The theme was "Champions" to fit with 2024 being an Olympic year.

With songs written and produced by Joel Wilson, we gathered together at St Anne's Primary School to celebrate Jesus as the one true champion. Over the

course of the week, we considered how true athletes have direction, dedication, determination and must avoid distraction to eventually be awarded decoration as they climb the podium to receive their prize.

With each of these "d" words we explored a story from the Bible that helped us see how the Christian life is like a race in which we have to avoid distraction and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, whilst also showing dedication and determination as we look forward to receiving the ultimate prize – the gift of eternal life. Unlike at the Olympics, the good news is that this prize is not just for the people on the podium, but for EVERYONE who believes and trusts in Jesus! As Timothy writes in the Bible: "He [God] will give that crown not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for him to come again" (1 Timothy 4: 8). What amazing news we have to share!

And it's the belief in this amazing news that motivated the volunteers from churches across Caversham to come together and give of their time and energy (a lot of it!) to run this club. We may not know the impact that we've had on someone's life in this lifetime, but we serve knowing that our faithful God will water the seeds we plant.

To all the red t-shirted heroes from Churches Together in Caversham – THANK YOU! Thanks must also go to the sports providers who enabled us to run afternoon activities including archery, fencing, tennis, hockey and dancing; to the anonymous Caversham Bridge reader who donated funds allowing us to purchase a laser tag set which was immensely popular with the children at holiday club; and to Tamsyn and Richard Wilson for their superb leadership of the club.

SAVE THE DATE: Churches Together in Caversham Holiday Club returns with the theme "Deep Sea Divers" from Monday 28th July 2025 – Friday 1st August 2025 at St Anne's School. Please contact Tamsyn Wilson if you could volunteer with us in any capacity and for any part of that time.

CATERING (Leader: Rosemary Sproule)

We provide refreshments after morning worship and on special occasions. A big thank you to all those on the team who serve us from week to week.

Our fellowship lunches form an intrinsic part of our bi-monthly church meetings and create a relaxed environment to enjoy fellowship with each other over food. A big thank you to all who have helped with food preparation, serving and of course, the washing up!

We have had the privilege of hosting three 'Welcome meals' this year. These meals provide the opportunity for the church leaders to meet with those who

are new to CBC, to get to know each other, and share information about CBC including its goals and vision.

The kitchen is used to support a range of church events including Friday Warm Space; Little Lambs toddler group; CCA meal primarily for homeless people; Hymn Café and Reading Festival. If you would like to join any of the teams that serve these events or join our Sunday morning refreshment rota, please contact Rosemary on 07456 407718.

AUDIO VISUAL & COMMUNICATIONS (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

It's been a real pleasure to welcome David, Frank, Roy, Alvin & Brenden to the Audio-Visual team, joining Steve, Ben & Rob, serving the church each week, enhancing our worship with audio-visual support.

During the year, we have provided audio-visual support for a small number of Churches Together events and have experienced increased demand from external organisations to hire our main hall for large public meetings, requiring audio-visual support. So far, we have been able to meet all of these requests.

We've gone digital with our audio mixing! Our 20-year-old analogue mixing desk reached end of life in October. We managed to sell it on ebay for spares and repairs, which partially offset the cost of a brand new, more functionally rich, digital replacement.

Ben and Jackie lead on Communications, focussing primarily on developing the church website, our social media engagement and creating artwork and flyers to promote church events.

The website is our primary source of information for the external community; we keep the content current with recordings of talks from our Sunday worship and information of upcoming events. The church management area of the system is used to support the Prayer Chain following implementation in February 2024.

Sue leads on our monthly newsletters to members and friends of the church. Currently this is done via Mailchimp, with a hard copy newsletter also provided for regular attenders without email, and to give to visitors and newcomers who are not on the mailing list.

We welcome your feedback – What do you think? Are the website and newsletter easy to use? Do they provide the information and other content you need? How do you think we can improve them? Please let us have your

comments and thoughts in any way that suits you – face-to-face, phone, email... Thank You!

We are keen to grow these teams. If you have an interest in serving God and the church family with AV or communications (website, social media, newsletters, noticeboards, creating artwork for use within the Church or on any of our communication channels) please discuss with any of us. All you need is passion and a desire to serve; we will provide the tools, training and support.

Our thanks to each member of these teams for their commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways throughout the year.

BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT & FABRIC (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

The team have continued to focus on maintaining and enhancing the buildings for both internal and external use. Notable enhancements during the year include:

- Replaced the failing sodium lighting in the main hall with dimmable, full colour lighting. This allows us to use space lighting to help create mood and atmosphere for specific events.
- Refurbished the downstairs room at the rear of the church building, next to the car park. We plan to use this room for the younger children's group (pre-school to year 1) on Sunday mornings and as a *Green Room* for those hiring the main hall for larger public events.
- Decorated the kitchen, replacing the water heater for an instant-heat unit and replacing the fluorescent tube lights for brighter LEDs.
- Replaced the fluorescent tube lights in the tower stairwell for brighter LEDs.
- Replaced the doors of both upper rooms (Youth Room and Office) with fire resistant glass framed doors, meeting our requirements for safeguarding and fire safety.
- Installed sound proofing notice boards in the Upper Hall and replaced the noticeboards in the Lounge and Office.

We purchased a 9.6m aluminium tower to improve our safe working at height.

The fabric team continues to focus on routine maintenance and minor works. A range of improvements that would enhance the building's usability and appearance have been identified and these will be costed and prioritised for implementation during 2025.

Thank you for all your help and support, whatever form that took – prayer, financial, hands-on and encouragement.

Special thanks to the Fabric team - John Blackmore, Steve Cantwell, Richard Wilson and Rob Sproule for their diligence, tenacity and commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways during this busy and challenging time.

ROOM HIRE (Steve & Sue Cantwell)

Many visitors to our building comment on how bright and welcoming it is, which was one of the aims when it was re-opened in 2022 after refurbishment. We quite often receive enquiries from people who have attended one event and are interested in using the building for another.

During 2024 the number of enquiries and bookings grew, although we always give preference to our own church activities - especially those aimed at engaging with the local community, including the Little Lambs & You toddler group, Hymn Café, Warm Welcome Space, the Christmas Craft Fair and Reading Festival outreach.

We have regular bookings from Caversham & District Residents' Association, Caversham Horticultural Society and other organisations and individuals have rented space. These have included book launches and a book festival for the local Fourbears Bookshop, birthday parties, AGMs and committee meetings for other organisations. We have also shared our worship area and baptistery (baptism pool) with another church that has no baptistery of its own.

The Steinway grand piano in the worship area (main hall) makes our building attractive for holding musical events. There were four concerts held in 2024, two of which included art exhibitions, making full use of the space.

2025 has started with a busy January including two courses and a book launch. There are more concerts and festivals booked in, as well regular bookings from community groups.

We are delighted to be able to offer high quality space for hire in the heart of Caversham. Full details of the rooms available are on the Church website at https://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/Groups/382636/Book_our_Venue.aspx

WARM WELCOME SPACE (Steve & Sue Cantwell and Rosemarie & David Lemin-Bansair)

"The Warm Welcome campaign exists to turn poverty and isolation into warmth and welcome through the power of local Spaces made by and for the community. By working together, Warm Welcome will ensure everyone has somewhere warm and friendly to go, so no one is ever left to get through winter alone." <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/about-us>

The Warm Welcome Space was an initiative introduced in Caversham Baptist Church as a result of increasing energy costs and a desire of the members of the church to provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment to anyone from the local community.

We invited a number of organisations to partner with us – we already had a partnership with the local Co-op stores to collect food that was going out of date and which otherwise would be thrown away. This is called Food Share and we now collect this on a Thursday evening for each Friday morning when we meet. We also partner with Churches Together in Caversham and Queen Anne's School (QAS) who both provide volunteers and some funds to help with running costs. Several girls from QAS volunteer each week as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, often accompanied by a teacher. They generally help in the kitchen and interact with the visitors and other volunteers.

The Warm Welcome Space started running on Friday mornings from January 2023 and proves popular with a mix of people from the fellowship and a good number of the general public. We chat and some play board games while hot drinks and refreshments are served, including a light lunch.

In 2024, we continued to meet throughout the year apart from a break in August, as our visitors were keen to come even when the warmer weather arrived.

We open from 10.00 to 1.30 each Friday and provide home-made soup, cake and the usual tea/coffees. We are pleased to say that numbers continue to rise and we enjoy spending time with members of the community as they sample the warm welcome, refreshments and spare food from the Co-op.

Thank you to all who volunteer including those who faithfully collect food from the Co-op the evening before Warm Welcome Space. We also appreciate the regular members of the church who attend and engage with our guests, as we show the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION CAVERSHAM DROP IN

(Ministry hosted by Caversham Baptist Church but operated by Christian Community Action, Manager: Myra Fowler)

The CCA Drop In has continued to open every Wednesday between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. We offer the same menu with slight differences - we have added chips or mashed potato to the menu but our main menu remains sausages, fish fingers, chicken goujons, baked potatoes, baked beans or tinned spaghetti. Occasionally we offer pizza as a change. Dessert is still apple tart, ice cream or

custard. We always have fresh fruit available, grapes, bananas, oranges, sometimes apples. When people arrive, we have sandwiches, biscuits or sometimes cakes. We continue to comply with all Environmental Health regulations. We are particularly grateful to some regular donors who provide biscuits, cakes and soft drinks.

As always, our aim is to provide a friendly, welcoming place - no judgement and no questions. Because of the difficult circumstances that so many of our visitors face every day it is very important that we provide a calm and relaxed atmosphere so we do not tolerate bad behaviour of any sort.

Our volunteer team added two new volunteers and we are expecting a third to join us this year. Guest numbers vary but have gone up over this past year - we now welcome between 20 and 25 people every week - we try to stop serving food at 1.30 but, of course, we would never turn anyone away.

This year we were very fortunate to receive the proceeds from a concert held at the church given by the Revd David Jenkins. This made an enormous difference to our finances but also it was very good to feel the support of local people as well, of course, as the support of Caversham Baptist Church which has made the Drop In possible.

CHURCH FINANCES

We are thankful that the church's finances are healthy and we are grateful to the Lord for his continued provision for our needs.

The General fund had a significant surplus of £13,176 in 2024 compared with an operating surplus of £951 in 2023 and ended 2024 with a total balance of £57,849 up from £44,672 at the end of 2023. This comprised of fixed assets of £13,843, and cash and other current assets of £44,005.

General fund Freewill offerings and the associated Gift Aid declined to £77,337 from £78,640 in 2023 and total general fund income decreased to £80,278 from £83,251. General fund expenditure decreased significantly to £67,122 from £82,301 in 2023 due to the reduction in the cost to the church of the minister as a result of his sickness absence. The majority of the minister's stipend and pension costs were reimbursed by insurance. This was offset by increased expenditure on external speakers and on improving our premises.

We were also blessed to receive a further £19,500 in gifts restricted for Youth and Children's work giving a balance of £35,500 in this fund at the end of 2024. We hope use these resources to appoint a Children, Youth, Families and Community Worker in 2025.

Overall income fell to £110,636 from £123,534 in 2023, but this was more than offset by a fall in overall expenditure to £70,655 from £100,192 in 2023.

The final costs of the recent redevelopment project that were accrued for at the end of 2022 were settled in January 2024 once the final snagging works at the end of the 12-month warranty period were completed. The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund now holds the interest free member loans that were used to fund the redevelopment project. Regular gifts of £9,295 (including Gift Aid) covered £9,091 of repayments made in the year. The loan balances at year end were £92,727, down from £101,848 at the end of 2023. We are on track to clear the loans by the end of 2032.

The manse is valued in the accounts at £324,160 after a depreciation charge of £1,914. The market value of the property is estimated to be over £500,000. The Grand Piano purchased following a specific gift in 2022 is valued at £24,472 after a depreciation charge of £1,064.

RESERVES POLICY

Caversham Baptist Church aims to hold sufficient reserves (including general and uncommitted designated funds) to ensure we can meet our obligations in the event of a deterioration in our finances, or a major cost (e.g. a building repair) arising. Our policy is to hold cash equivalent to three months of general running costs and an additional three month's staffing costs. This policy is reviewed at each Annual General Meeting. The Trustees believe that, as of 31st December 2024, our reserves policy currently requires us to hold approximately £31,000 in unrestricted and designated cash reserves, whilst we actually held approximately £44,005. The surplus above the target reserves is expected to reduce due to a deficit budget for 2025.

FINANCIAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

In order to maintain appropriate control of expenditure, the Church has adopted the following financial authorisations policy. Spending or spending commitments:

- up to £250 within budget may be authorised by Team Leaders
- up to £1,200 may be authorised by the Treasurer.
- up to £6,000 may be authorised by a vote of the Leadership team.
- in excess of £6,000 may only be authorised by a vote of the Church Meeting.

These limits are reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following served as trustees and leaders between the start of 2024 and the approval of these accounts:

- Colin Baker, Minister
- Mabel Foye, Secretary
- Richard Wilson, Treasurer
- Robert Sproule
- Allan Roger Horsman
- Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin
- Fan Fai (David) Chan (appointed 17 March 2024)

LEGAL INFORMATION

Caversham Baptist Church (the Church) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission number: 1181257.

Church Address: South Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8HY

Bankers: Barclays Bank UK Plc, 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

Solicitors: Anthony Collins LLP, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES

Independent Examiner: Kate Andrews

POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

This statement was agreed at a church meeting held on 27/5/97 and amended at the AGM on 25/3/03. It will be read annually at the AGM where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
3. We recognise that work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
5. The Church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to provide supervision.
6. The Church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice: *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet *Safe to Grow*. Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Church's agreed procedure and good practice guidelines.
7. As part of our commitment to the children and young people, the Church has appointed:
 - A Designated Person to advise the Church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of Children and young people and to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Their role will be regularly explained to children and their names, addresses and phone numbers publicly displayed.
8. The Church will appoint a responsible person and administrator to see that this policy is implemented.

Children and young people are a part of—and belong to—church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of the children and young people.

Designated person: Tamsyn Wilson, 7 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7RT

POLICY STATEMENT ON PHOTOS OF CHILDREN

Children and young people are a valued part of our church. In our use of photography, we seek to celebrate and communicate the life and activities of this church and to affirm the importance of all who are part of your church life, young and old. This policy is to ensure that such photography protects the safety of the children and young people in our care. It supplements our existing 'Safe to Grow' policy.

This policy statement will be read and confirmed at the AGM each year where the process of carrying it out will be monitored.

1. It is the responsibility of each church member to prevent misuse of photographs of children and young people and to report any misuse discovered or suspected.
2. We recognise that written parental/guardian consent must be given for the publication or display of a recognisable photograph of any person under the age of 18. Parents must be aware of which type of publication/display will be used. No consent is needed for photos of people whose faces are not recognisable.
3. Borderline cases will be decided by the designated person.
4. Photos by an individual of activities within or related to our church, which involve children and young people is only allowed with the permission of the leader of the activity.
5. Each leader, publisher and photographer will be given good practice guidelines on taking photos of children and young people, including being made aware of this policy.
6. We will exercise proper care ensuring children and young people will not be identified by name or other personal details in captions and accompanying text.
7. Data protection: Photos are to be stored in a safe and secure way, separated from personal details of the child or young person. Photos, negatives or computer images that are against parental consent must be completely destroyed. Others must be kept securely and, when no longer needed, destroyed.
8. As part of our commitment to children and young people, the Church has appointed a designated person to listen to children, young people and parental concerns.
9. The Church has appointed a responsible person as an administrator to see that the policy is implemented.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Incoming Resources	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	2	77,337	-	30,357	-	107,694	117,268
Income from charitable activities	3	302	-	-	-	302	3,463
Other Trading Activities	4	2,559	-	-	-	2,559	2,752
Investment income	5	81	-	-	-	81	51
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		80,278	-	30,357	-	110,636	123,534
Resources Expended							
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	6	67,122	1,914	1,619	-	70,655	100,192
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		67,122	1,914	1,619	-	70,655	100,192
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers		13,156	(1,914)	28,738	-	39,980	23,341
Incoming fund transfers	11	20	-	-	-	20	1,655
Outgoing fund transfers			(20)	-	-	(20)	(1,655)
Net Incoming Resources before other gains/losses		13,176	(1,934)	28,738	-	39,980	23,341
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	20	-	-	20	-
Net Movements in Funds		13,176	(1,914)	28,738	-	40,000	23,341
Funds brought forward		44,672	326,074	(58,907)	1,250,000	1,561,839	1,538,497
Funds carried forward		57,849	324,160	(30,169)	1,250,000	1,601,839	1,561,839

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

BALANCE SHEET

As of 31st December 2024

	Note	As at 31/12/2024		As at 31/12/2023	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	13		1,612,475		1,614,782
Debtors	14	8,304		7,788	
Bank and Cash	15	76,320		57,588	
Current Assets		84,624		65,376	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(11,624)		(25,562)	
Net Current Assets			73,000		39,813
Member Loans	17	(83,636)		(92,727)	
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	-		(30)	
Long Term Liabilities			(83,636)		(92,757)
Net Assets			1,601,839		1,561,839
Charitable Funds					
Endowment	18	1,250,000		1,250,000	
Restricted	19	(30,169)		(58,907)	
Designated	20	324,160		326,074	
Unrestricted		57,849		44,672	
Total			1,601,839		1,561,839

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

Notes 1 – 23 on the following pages form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 4 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Treasurer



Secretary



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011. Caversham Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1181257 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

c Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

d Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

e Investment Income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

f Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognized where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

g Cost of raising funds

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

h Grants payable

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

i Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance cost. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

j Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt. The church premises are included in the balance sheet using a market valuation from a qualified surveyor. The Manse premises are initially recognised at cost.

k Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church premises as they are revalued each year on the basis of the insured value. The Church manse has been depreciated based on 50% of the initial purchase value being land and 50% buildings. The land is retained at cost and the building depreciated on a straight-line basis at 1% of acquisition cost per annum. Depreciation on other fixed assets is on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life:

- IT and audio-visual equipment at 20% of acquisition cost per annum.
- Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment at 10% of acquisition cost per annum
- The piano is depreciated at 4% of acquisition cost per annum.

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year in the year of disposal.

l Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church Building Reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

m Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its staff. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan. Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Freewill Offerings	63,338	-	25,550	-	88,888	99,474
Gift Aid	13,998	-	4,807	-	18,806	17,794
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	77,337	-	30,357	-	107,694	117,268

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Listed Places of Worship Grants	-	-	-	-	-	1,655
Sale of assets	-	-	-	-	-	909
Other Activities	302	-	-	-	302	899
Total	302	-	-	-	302	3,463

4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Use of Premises	2,559	-	-	-	2,559	2,752
Total	2,559	-	-	-	2,559	2,752

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Interest on cash	81	-	-	-	81	51
Total	81	-	-	-	81	51

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Ministry	20,321	-	530	-	20,851	38,223
Mission	9,705	-	-	-	9,705	9,792
Premises	37,096	1,914	1,089	-	40,100	52,178
Total	67,122	1,914	1,619	-	70,655	100,192

7 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

The following table summarises expenditure in line with our reporting categories.

	Charitable Activities	Grant Funding	Support Costs	2024	2023
Ministry	20,424	-	426	20,851	38,223
Mission	-	9,335	370	9,705	9,792
Premises	38,661	-	1,438	40,100	52,178
Cost of Generating Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total	59,086	9,335	2,234	70,655	100,192

8 GRANTS MADE TO OTHER CHARITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
BMS World Mission	3,850	-	-	-	3,850	3,722
Baptist Home Mission	4,000	-	-	-	4,000	3,990
CCA Caversham	-	-	-	-	-	300
Churches Together in Caversham	885	-	-	-	885	878
Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	600	-	-	-	600	600
Total	9,335	-	-	-	9,335	9,490

9 SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Bank Charges	45	-	25	-	70	8
Church Office Expenses	1,567	-	-	-	1,567	1,036
Subscriptions	436	-	-	-	436	416
Magazine & Publicity	33	-	-	-	33	62
Other Sundry Expenses	128	-	-	-	128	-
Total	2,209	-	25	-	2,234	1,523

Support Costs have been allocated to the Charitable activities in the general fund of the Church in proportion with their other expenses (included in note 7 above) as follows:

	2024	2023
Ministry	426	165
Mission	370	302
Premises	1,438	1,056
Total	2,234	1,523

10 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE EXPENSES

		2024	2023
Salaries	Gross Salary	21,589	27,825
Pension Costs	Employer's Pension Contributions	6,056	3,496
Other Costs	Council tax, water, phone, expenses	8,366	8,062
Total		36,011	39,383

The average number of staff in the year was 1 (2023: 1). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2023: none).

Revd Colin Baker as Minister acted as one of the church's trustees in accordance with the church constitution from 1st April 2018 and received a stipend in 2024 of £21,589 (2023: £27,825). He was also reimbursed out of pocket expenses and mileage (at the HMRC approved rate) of £15 (2023: £624). Contributions of £6,056 (2023: £3,496) were made on to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

The Church pays deficit contributions in relation to the service of past Ministers of the Church to the Baptist Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. These amounted to £10 in 2024 (2023: £12). The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not currently possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. In accordance with FRS17 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details can be found in note 22.

11 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The following transfers were made in 2023:

From Fund	To Fund	Amount	Purpose
Pension Reserve	General Fund	20	Transfer of final balance

12 GAINS AND LOSSES ON REVALUATIONS OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

The Church premises at South Street are recorded using a market valuation conducted by Haslam's Surveyors as of 31 December 2021. The valuation was not revised during 2024.

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	South Street Premises	Manse	Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment	AV and IT equipment	Piano	Total
Cost						
As at 01 Jan 2024	1,026,300	358,908	13,492	5,143	26,600	1,430,443
Additions in year	-	-	1,550	1,499	-	3,049
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2024	1,026,300	358,908	15,042	6,642	26,600	1,433,492
Accumulated Depreciation						
As at 01 Jan 2023	-	32,834	4,434	1,029	1,064	39,361
Charge for the year	-	1,914	1,349	1,029	1,064	5,356
As of 31 Dec 2024	-	34,748	5,783	2,057	2,128	44,717
Gain/Loss on revaluation						
As at 01 Jan 2024	223,700	-	-	-	-	223,700
Change in year	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2024	223,700	-	-	-	-	223,700
Net Book Value						
As at 01 Jan 2024	1,250,000	326,074	9,058	4,115	25,536	1,614,782
As of 31 Dec 2024	1,250,000	324,160	9,259	4,585	24,472	1,612,475

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the Church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the South Street Premises at South Street, Caversham and the Church Manse at 2a Rotherfield Way, Caversham. As per the Church's accounting policy stated in paragraph j of note 1, the value stated on 31 December 2021 for the South Street Premises is a valuation conducted by Haslam's Chartered Surveyors on 23 March 2022 estimating their market value. The cost for the Church Manse is the price paid when it was acquired plus the cost of subsequent capital improvements.

14 DEBTORS

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Accounts Receivable	4,937	5,358
Prepaid Expenditure	3,367	2,430
Total Debtors	8,304	7,788

15 BANK AND CASH

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Cash in hand	-	411
SumUp Card Account	228	10
Current Account	12,710	54,524
Baptist Union Deposit Accounts	61,840	1,760
Cash Pre-payment card balance	1,542	883
Total	76,320	57,588

16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Accounts Payable	1,319	14,296
Accrued Expenditure	1,214	2,175
Loan Repayments due within 1 year	9,091	9,091
Total Creditors	11,624	25,562

17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

In 2021 and 2022 the church received four interest free loans of £120,000 from members.

Loan	Loan Amount	Balance at 31/12/2024	Repayments due in 2025	Due after 2025	Terms
A	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	Due for repayment by the end of 2032 with no repayments due prior to that date
B	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	
C	50,000	36,364	4,545	31,818	Repayable over an 11-year period in equal payments every 6 months from June 2022
D	50,000	36,364	4,545	31,818	
Total	120,000	92,727	9,091	83,636	

The church received the benefit of not paying interest on any of these loans. This benefit has not been recognised in the accounts. The repayment due in 2025 is recognised as an amount falling due within one year (see note 16) with the remainder recognised as falling due after one year.

18 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
Church Building Res.	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	1,250,000

The Church Building Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the South Street premises.

19 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
Fellowship Fund	530	-	(530)	-	-	-
Window Repair	288	1,563	(25)	-	-	1,825
Piano	25,536	-	(1,064)	-	-	24,472
Children & Youth Work	16,000	19,500	-	-	-	35,500
Redevelopment Fund	(101,261)	9,295	-	-	-	(91,966)
Total	(58,907)	30,357	(1,619)	-	-	(30,169)

The Fellowship Fund represents funds given to support church members suffering financial hardship.

The Window Repair fund has been initiated to gather resources to fund the long-term maintenance of the stained-glass windows in the South Street premises.

The Children & Youth Work fund has been established to support work with under-18s in the church.

The Piano fund was created following a gift from a member in 2022 of the funds to purchase a grand piano. This piano is the only asset within the fund.

The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund represents the funds related to the redevelopment of the South Street Premises in 2021-2. This fund holds the interest free loans used to fund the project and the ongoing giving that funds the repayment of these loans.

20 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
Manse Reserve	326,074	-	(1,914)	-	-	324,160
Pension Reserve	-	-	20	(20)	-	-
Total	326,074	-	(1,894)	(20)	-	324,160

The Manse Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the manse.

The Pension Reserve fund held the church's liability to the Baptist Pension Scheme and sufficient cash to cover the liability. Following the wind-up of the defined benefit section of the pension scheme and the discharge of the church's liability, this fund was closed in 2024 with remaining balance transferred to the general fund.

21 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUND

		Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long-term Liabilities	2024 Total	2023 Total
Endowment Funds	Per note 18	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,250,000
Restricted Funds	Per note 19	24,472	28,995	(83,636)	(30,169)	(58,907)
Designated Funds	Per note 20	324,160	-	-	324,160	326,074
Unrestricted Funds		13,843	44,005	-	57,849	44,672
Total		1,612,475	73,000	(83,636)	1,601,839	1,561,839

22 PENSIONS

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

On 30th June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan 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. Following this agreement a Recovery plan was signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan are £1 per month from August 2022.

The Trustee and the Baptist Union formally triggered the wind-up of the DB Plan with effect from 31 March 2024. The church has been notified that from 31 October 2024 that it no longer held any liability to the scheme for past service and no further deficit payments would be collected.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
Balance sheet liability at year start	30	42
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(10)	(12)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	-	-
Actuarial (gains)/losses on re-measurement of liability	(20)	-
Balance sheet liability at year end	-	30

The liability in the balance sheet represents the present value of deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments.

23 RELATED PARTIES

The custodian Trustee of the Church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The Church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Southern Counties Baptist Association. The Church donated to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme via the Southern Counties Baptist Association as set out in note 8.

The total of all other donations received from Trustees and their spouses in 2024 was £27,020 (2023: £38,844). None of these donations came with conditions which might require the Church to alter its activities.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Caversham Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any) 1181257

Set out on pages

21 to 30

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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: 2 March 2025

Name: Kate Andrews

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

ACA

Address:

41 Wantage Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire



Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY

Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181257

Accounts



Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. In fulfilling this objective, the Church engages in a range of activities, either on its own or in partnership with others. The main activities comprise worship services, prayer, Bible study and discipleship groups and supporting the local community.

In planning our activities, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and ensure they fall within this guidance.

We support the wider work of the Baptist denomination through our membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association and through our financial contribution to the Home Mission Scheme. We also support BMS World Mission financially and through prayer support for our link missionaries. We collaborate with other churches through Churches Together in Caversham and support other local, national and international organisations through grants and prayer support where that support will further our charitable objectives. An overview of all grants made in 2023 is in the note 9 to the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution, in the form of the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches registered with the Charity Commission on 19th December 2018.

In line with its constitution, the Church operates under the authority of the Church Members Meeting, which is open to all Church members, and operates with a quorum of 25 per cent of Church members. The Church Members Meeting appoints trustees to oversee the running of the Church. The trustees are:

- The Minister, as appointed from time to time from the list of Accredited Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
- The Church officers, namely the secretary and treasurer who are appointed annually by the Church Members Meeting.
- Up to six Leaders who are appointed for a three-year term by the Church Members Meeting. Leaders may only serve two consecutive terms after which they must stand down for at least one year.

Except for the minister, any individual must have been a member of the Church for a year prior to being eligible for appointment as a trustee. The trustees received no payment for their work as trustees, with the exception of the minister as authorised within the church constitution.

OUR STRATEGY



Since our church awayday in September 2021 we have been focusing on implementing the vision of living out the strapline on our church logo (see front page) “Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham”.

So, we see ourselves “Showing our hearts to Jesus...” through worship, fellowship and ministry. Showing our heart to God, to others and to the world.



We call this Worship

Pointing our hearts and lives toward God. This is our major public gathering where we pool the majority of our resources in helping folks of all ages in their worship of God, in age-appropriate ways and settings.



We call this Fellowship

Small groups and newcomers groups. Where we do life together with other disciples. A bible-based group where disciples from our weekend worship activities meet to do life together, more intimate worship/Bible study. Once per term the groups would all engage in the same 4-6 week study leaving the rest of the term for the groups to pursue separate areas of study.



We call this Ministry

This is where we take all the stuff we have learned and put it into practice. Some of this will be in practical terms and may be covered by multiple different spheres. Other areas are those of youth work, soft evangelism, social gospel opportunities (ministry to the poor, needy, aged etc).

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Welcome to our Annual Report. Although 2023 has not been the easiest year for Caversham Baptist Church, we know that God has been with us in our challenges and we have been blessed to see the church develop and grow.

Our minister, Colin Baker, struggled with ill health throughout 2023 and has been on sick leave since early September. With our sole paid staff member unable to operate at full capacity in 2023, you would have expected the church to struggle, but through our weakness the Lord has continued to pour out blessing and the church is doing well. Numerous individuals from within the church have stepped in to ensure that our regular services and activities and pastoral care for our congregation have been maintained.

The continued growth in our Youth and Childrens ministry has been a highlight of the year and we only praise God for his goodness to us. We especially rejoice at the number of committed members of our youth group. We were blessed in late 2023 to receive some significant financial gifts to support this ministry and one of our key challenges for 2024 is how to use these funds to support our children and youth to grow in their faith.

Further generous donations allowed us to support our youth group by refurbishing the youth room, as well as the stairs and the church office. The North end of the building is now much more welcoming and functional.

Another notable feature of 2023 was the blessing of having a growing group of families from Hong Kong joining with us regularly in worship. Our children's work has been particularly strengthened by children from this group.

Alongside our Hong Kongers, we are very blessed to have a diverse congregation with people from around the world worshipping together every week. Despite our range of backgrounds and cultures we are united by our Christian faith and love for our Lord Jesus and one another. We look forward to growing our mutual fellowship and being enriched by our diversity.

We hope you will be blessed to read this report and see how God is working in our community.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are delighted to have Revd Graham Coldman supporting us during Colin's ongoing absence. We pray that Colin will return to full health and ministry soon.

Mabel, Roger, Rosemarie, Rob and Richard

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The reports on the following pages detail regular activities and any one-off events that took place during the year.

MUSICAL WORSHIP (Tamsyn Wilson on behalf of those leading music ministry)
“Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:19-21

The musicians at CBC have endeavoured to serve God and the congregation faithfully in worship this year. We have 14 regular musicians as well as the Youth Band. This year, we have worked together in many different combinations and found inspiration and learned humility from doing so. Since the church refurbishment, having a larger space on stage, improved electrical wiring and the addition of the grand piano are all things that have enhanced and facilitated the practical aspects of our worship.

The Youth Band has gone from strength to strength under Pam’s nurturing leadership, and it is a real privilege to be led in worship by our young people once per month.

Special events this year include Carols by Candlelight – a festival of 7 readings and 8 carols, and the Children’s Nativity, where acted scenes were interleaved by carols.

The musicians are grateful to be ably supported by our skilled and reliable AV team. We may not always be aware of them, working away in the back corner, but us not being aware of them means that they are doing a fantastic job! We would all soon notice if the sound went awry or we didn’t know which verse to sing next.

Thank you to those who volunteer their time and effort to share their gifts with the church in this important ministry. There is always room for more people to join the rota – please contact Tamsyn Wilson if you are interested.

HYMN CAFÉ (Leader: Rebecca Reading)

This relaxed outreach ministry centred around testimonies, both of our church family and of the hymn writers themselves, ran throughout the year, roughly with breaks for holidays. Hymn Café provides an opportunity to enjoy familiar hymns, with words that speak eternal truths of our faith, and to invite guests to a simple, low-key event, with tea, coffee and of course cake. We continue to invite both testimonies and suggestions for hymns.

PRAYER CHAIN (Leader: Rose Blackmore)

The momentum for prayer has not stopped or slowed down. People's needs have been great, but our ever-faithful God is greater. He has not changed - He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Many of us have had to lean very heavily on Him and on each other but our prayers have been answered in amazing ways. We have been given the power to endure, we have learned patience and often the peace that passes understanding has been ours in abundance. We have laughed together and wept together and prayed together. God, through the prayer chain, has been the Glue who has kept us united through thick and thin for more than ten years on email and, before that by word of mouth over the telephone - a worthy heritage.

If you would like to join the prayer chain, all you need is to have an email address and a willingness to pray. I would encourage everyone to consider it.

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:19).

SMALL GROUPS (Leader: Roger Horsman)

In accordance with our strapline: "Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham," we see the activity of small groups as being part of "Showing heart to others." This means our small groups are a place where 'iron sharpens iron.' In other words, disciples of Jesus hanging out together in small groups for the purpose of being disciplined by each other. Centred around prayer, worship, Bible study, relationships and mission, our groups have both a spiritual and a social function for our church fellowship.

Small groups remain an important place for us all as we seek to grow and mature in our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

As we look forward to 2024 small groups have expanded in number and composure. We've had a good influx of new people who have come from Hong Kong. They meet as a separate small group having a unique agenda.

Small groups have taken on a pastoral role with absentees to small groups encouraged to feed their chosen group with prayer requests of prayer or physical support. The church welcomes the challenge to include all nationalities in everything we do.

PASTORAL TEAM (Leader: Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin)

The pastoral team meet every Sunday prior to the service, to pray for those who are unable to attend church.

As a church we are encouraging everyone to be a part of a small group (see above) to enjoy all the obvious benefits of being the part of that group and for the group to serve as first port of call for pastoral needs. The hope is that each group will become the link for pastoral care for those not in attendance to be prayed for on a regular basis.

The pastoral team are a dedicated team of church members, who are available by phone or in person to attend those who are unable to attend church or where there are pressing pastoral needs.

Members of the pastoral team have been trained in safeguarding.

We give thanks to the Lord for the many and varied giftings we have in this team and encourage all to continue praying for those who serve the Lord in this way.

READING FESTIVAL (Leader: Rebecca Reading)

We were able to plan ahead for our Reading Festival outreach and welcome event. We broadly followed the 2022 format, but with the added benefit of the front of the building being fully accessible this year. With a series of dedicated prayer meetings to lay solid spiritual foundations by committing the plans to the Lord, we went into the Festival weekend with confidence. We also reinstated the leafleting on Thursday evening, and also during the mornings on Friday and Saturday.

It was no surprise that our toilets continued to be the major draw. The format of the chill out space, with free drinks, fruit and snacks, phone charging and a chance for a chat with friends was welcomed. We found our visitors very open and willing to share how much they were enjoying their weekend, or in some cases, the challenges they were finding. Our church team were pleased to offer a listening ear, and once again we found a number return every day and bring their friends. We experienced a noticeable increase in questions about the Christian faith, with one group of young men asking particularly searching questions.

We are always open to new ideas. Joel and Matthew suggested we set the table tennis up in the carpark and this proved a popular addition. Those involved in the prayer preparation and the event itself experienced the joy and satisfaction of working together as the body of Christ.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

Our Vision is:

To see the lives of children, young people and their families in the local community be transformed and for them to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our mission is:

- To provide a safe, secure, warm environment where all are welcome and have equal value.
- To be positive Christian role models and develop relationships built on love and acceptance.
- To reach out to children and young people in the local area and equip them to participate responsibly in the community.
- To provide an opportunity for children and young people to experience the love of God and learn about the Christian faith.
- To disciple children and young people in their relationship with Christ and encourage them to live differently and make a difference

SUNDAY MORNING GROUPS (Sue Cantwell on behalf of the team)

It has been very good to watch the children's and youth groups grow. During 2023 and into 2024 we have had the privilege of some new families with children and teens joining the Church, and several young people who attend regularly on their own as well as those who come with family.

The group of younger children is growing, with on average about 10 to 15 children in the pre-school and primary together with occasional visitors and friends, to share the Bible through stories, discussion, games, prayer, craft and music; helping the children to discover and develop their own relationships with God. The younger group appear back in church with their volunteer adults at the end of morning worship, with a brief recap of what they have learnt, to show the crafts they have made and to join with the congregation in a 'child-friendly' song with actions.

The Youth group for secondary school age young people has also grown, with at least 11 regulars attending on Sunday mornings with their leaders to discuss the application of Biblical truths to their lives. Some of them are members of the 'Y-Band,' using their excellent musical gifts to lead the worship once a month. We thank Pam Chilvers for her excellent work in coaching and mentoring the band.

Christmas was celebrated with a light-hearted and humorous Nativity play 'A Donkey's Tale' expertly written by Tamsyn Wilson, telling the traditional

Christmas story with the help of a donkey and other animals in addition to the usual nativity characters. For the first time in many years, there were enough children and young people to act all the parts without the inclusion of any adults. Congratulations to all involved in an excellent production.

We are grateful to Tamsyn for setting the curriculum for the children's and youth groups, using the Urban Saints Energize resources, which provide engaging, dynamic and biblical session plans for ages 3 to 15+.

We thank all of those who work with the children and young people at the Church. We are blessed with a good number of leaders and volunteers, all DBS checked and trained in safeguarding. Without their support, help and dedication we would not be able to sustain this vital teaching and sharing of God's love; thank you. We believe that at the start of the pandemic, God instructed us to focus on this work with the younger generation.

With the rapid growth in numbers attending, and the generous provision of funding to get us started, now is the time to take the next step. The Church believes that we need to employ someone to head up the children's and youth work and is now praying about it.

LITTLE LAMBS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP (Leader: Judith Lewis)

The Little Lambs and You group meets, during school term time, on a Monday morning 10.00am to 11.30am in the worship area and lounge. We have an online booking system with about 25 places available each week. We serve refreshments throughout the session to parents and carers and provide an opportunity for the children, mid-way through the morning, to sit at a table together for a drink of water and a snack.

We set up the worship area as a free play space for the children, providing a varied number of toys, including a slide and climbing frame, sit-on vehicles, play kitchens, books etc as well as table-top activities including jigsaw puzzles, Noah's ark, play workbench tools, dolls house sets and craft activities.

In the lounge we create a quieter space with a baby corner with suitable mats, toys and baby bouncers as well as a car table and train set.

In the last 15 minutes of the session, we finish in the lounge with a short Bible story and sing nursery rhymes together.

We provide parents, carers and their children with an opportunity to make connections with each other in a dry, warm environment. We are also there to befriend, offer support and show God's love to those who attend.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM HOLIDAY CLUB (Joint ministry through Churches together in Caversham, CBC Representative: Tamsyn Wilson)

A lot of fun was had at the Churches Together in Caversham holiday club at the end of July. We were back up to full strength of numbers this year with nearly 150 children, 20 young leaders and around 50 volunteer adults. In the afternoons we enjoyed a wide variety of activities including circus skills, chess, dancing, archery and crafts. In the mornings we explored stories from the gospel of John which revealed Jesus to be healer, life-giver and miracle worker. On the final day we considered how Jesus had not just done amazing things for other people, but how he has also done something amazing for us too by restoring our relationship with God.

Working with the theme for the week (Restoration Station), each year group was allocated a trade. We had gardeners, mechanics, roofers, electricians, bricklayers, carpenters and decorators. We enjoy some healthy competition at holiday club with teams collecting points throughout the week - well done Drills for their victory! But the very existence and success of the club also illustrates the great things that can be achieved when members from all the churches in Caversham work together.

The Bible talks about how the body is made up of many parts – each with an important and specific function (1 Corinthians 12: 12-31). In the same way, Christians form the body of Christ – each of us having an individual role but remaining a part of that one united body. This is exactly what I see when I step back and consider the differently gifted individuals involved in making holiday club come to life: the kitchen team, security team, storytellers, room leaders and helpers, drama team, AV team, admin support, activity leaders etc. How brilliant it is to draw together people from across the churches in Caversham and live out what it means to be the body of Christ!

SAVE THE DATE: Churches Together in Caversham Holiday Club returns next year with a theme to fit with 2024 being an Olympic Year - “Champions” will run from Monday 29th July 2024 – Friday 2nd August 2024 at St Anne’s School. Please contact Tamsyn Wilson if you could volunteer with us in any capacity and for any part of that time.

CATERING (Leader: Rosemary Sproule)

We continue providing refreshments after morning worship and this year we welcomed Frank and Lucy to the refreshment team. A big thank you to all those on the team who serve us from week to week.

Our fellowship lunch as part of our church meetings have continued to provide the chance to enjoy fellowship with each other over food. A big thank you to those who have helped with food prep and the washing up!

We also provided refreshments for The World Day of Prayer and Churches Together in Caversham AGM.

The kitchen is used to support other church events including Friday Warm Space; Little Lambs Toddler group; CCA meal; Hymn Café and Reading Festival.

If you would like to volunteer to help with hospitality or join our Sunday morning refreshment rota, please contact Rosemary Sproule.

AUDIO VISUAL & COMMUNICATIONS (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

Our capable and dedicated Audio-Visual team - Ben, Steve and Rob serve the church each week, enhancing our worship with audio-visual support. We have also provided audio-visual support for a small number of Churches Together and other non-church related events held in our building.

Ben and Jackie lead on Communications, focussing primarily on developing the church website, developing our social media engagement and creating artwork and flyers to promote church events.

The new website platform “The Hub” was launched late October 2022 with a basic set of content and functionality. The website is our primary source of information for the external community; we keep the content current with recordings of talks from our Sunday worship and information of upcoming events.

The church management area of the system has been configured to support the Prayer Chain and will be rolled out in February 2024.

Sue leads on our monthly newsletters to members and friends of the church. Currently this is done via Mailchimp, with a hard copy newsletter also provided for regular attenders without email, and to give to visitors and newcomers who are not on the mailing list.

We welcome your feedback – What do you think? Are the website and newsletter easy to use? Do they provide the information and other content

you need? How do you think we can improve them? Please let us have your comments and thoughts in any way that suits you – face-to-face, phone, email... Thank You!

We are keen to grow these teams. If you have an interest in serving God and the church family with AV or communications (website, social media, newsletters, Noticeboards, creating artwork for use within the Church or on any of our communication channels) please discuss with any of us. All you need is passion and a desire to serve; we will provide the tools, training and support.

You will have heard a lot recently about working in teams to serve God, the Church and others – these are two good examples of how those with a technical or creative bias can use their God given gifts to help build-up the Church and grow the kingdom of God in Caversham and beyond.

Our thanks to each member of these teams for their commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways throughout the year.

BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT & FABRIC (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

The redevelopment project formally completed in January 2024. The 12-month period following handover of our building from the main contractor (Morris & Blunt) known as the “Defect period” has concluded. During this period, Morris & Blunt completed a number of outstanding works and repairs to defects.

As Phase 2 of the redevelopment (full re-configuration of the north end of the building) is on hold and not expected to be carried out in the near term, it was decided to do a more modest, interim refurbishment, making these spaces safe and welcoming. This included:

- Replacing the roof light windows in both upper rooms to resolve long standing leaks that caused damage to the ceilings and walls.
- Decorating and recarpeting the upper rooms and the entrance, stairs and landings.
- Replacing all of the lighting with bright LED fittings throughout the north end and introducing additional emergency lighting.

We still need to replace the doors of both upper rooms with fire resistant glass framed doors, meeting our requirements for safeguarding and fire safety. This is expected to be completed in February 2024.

The fabric team continue to focus on routine maintenance and minor works. A range of improvements that would enhance the building's usability and appearance have been identified and these will be costed and prioritised for implementation during 2024.

Thank you for all your help and support, whatever form that took – prayer, financial, hands-on and encouragement.

Special thanks to the project and fabric team Steve Cantwell, John Blackmore, Benjamin Sproule, Richard Wilson and Rob Sproule for their diligence, tenacity and commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways during this busy and challenging time.

ROOM HIRE (Steve & Sue Cantwell)

One of the aims of refurbishing our building was to make it a more welcoming place, and a resource for the local community. The Covid pandemic meant that hirers who had previously used the premises had ceased their activities, and some did not return, and so it has been a slow return to normality.

During 2023 the number of enquiries and bookings steadily increased. We have regular bookings from Caversham Horticultural Society, and a number of other community organisations and private individuals have rented space. These have included a children's tutoring organisation, birthday parties for members of the church and others, the parish youth group, an art exhibition and concert, a public meeting for local residents and a children's drama school.

The addition of a grand piano in the worship area (main hall) has increased the attractiveness of our building for holding musical events.

We already have a number of bookings for 2024, including another concert and art exhibition and a book festival. Although preference is given to our own church activities, especially those aimed at engaging with the local community, we are delighted to be able to offer high quality space for rental in the heart of Caversham.

Full details of the rooms available is on the Church website at https://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/Groups/382636/Book_our_Venue.aspx.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION CAVERSHAM DROP IN

(Ministry hosted by Caversham Baptist Church but operated by Christian Community Action, Manager: Myra Fowler)

The CCA Drop In has continued to open every Wednesday between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. We offer tea, coffee and soup and sandwiches when our visitors arrive and then a lunch menu which varies during each month – sausages, chicken goujons, fish fingers sometimes pizza but always with baked potatoes and baked beans or tinned spaghetti. Garlic bread when we serve it is usually popular. Dessert is usually fruit tart and ice cream sometimes tinned fruit. During the session we also offer fresh fruit – oranges, grapes and bananas, biscuits sometimes cake as well. We recently had our Environmental Health Inspection and we received the highest mark of 5.

Our aim is to provide a friendly, welcoming place with no judgement or questions. Sometimes our visitors will want to have a chat but if they would just like to sit and talk among themselves or just sit that is absolutely fine – we aim to make everyone feel comfortable which means that we do not tolerate bad behaviour of any sort and any problems are sorted out quickly. So many of our visitors come from difficult situations, some are living in tents or uncertain accommodation and so it is important to us to maintain a calm and relaxed atmosphere.

Most of the team have been working together for some years and are very committed to what we do. We have two new members who already feel like old friends. Each session is staffed by 4 volunteers on a weekly basis. Numbers can vary – some people have been coming for a while, some people come for just one or two sessions, but I think it is important that they know they are welcome and we usually have about 20 people – they don't always arrive at the same time though we try to get them to come before 1.30pm. However, if someone comes later there is always something for them to eat!

As ever CCA are very grateful to the Church for the support they give the Drop In in so many ways and to my volunteers who make my job so much easier.

WARM WELCOME SPACE

“The Warm Welcome campaign exists to turn poverty and isolation into warmth and welcome through the power of local Spaces made by and for the community. By working together, Warm Welcome will ensure everyone has somewhere warm and friendly to go, so no one is ever left to get through winter alone.” <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/about-us>

Warm Welcome Space was first set up in Caversham Baptist Church from the beginning of 2023. This was particularly as a result of increasing energy costs

and a desire of the members of the church to provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment to people from our local community.

We invited a number of organisations to partner with us – we already had a partnership with the local Co-op stores to collect food that was going out of date and which otherwise would be thrown away. This is called Food Share and we now collect this on two separate days in the week. We also partner with Churches Together in Caversham and Queen Anne's School (QAS) who provide volunteers and some funds to help with running costs. Funding was also received from the Southern Counties Baptist Association when we set up in 2023.

The Warm Welcome Space started running on Monday afternoons from January 2023 and proved popular with a mix of people from the fellowship and a good number of the general public. We chatted and played games while hot drinks and light refreshments were provided.

The initiative continued until the warmer weather arrived when it closed for the summer months. Over this period, we continued to have discussions with QAS about how we might enhance the relationship and it was decided that we re-open for the winter months from the beginning of November on Friday mornings when girls from QAS would volunteer for part of the morning as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Initially we opened from 9.30 to 11.30 on Friday mornings from November 2023. There was a slow start as people adjusted to the new day and times so we decided to extend the hours from January 2024 and we now run from 10.00 to 1.30 and include soup and rolls, cake and other snacks, and the usual hot drinks. We are pleased to say that numbers now increase each week and we enjoy spending time with members of the community as they enjoy the warm welcome, refreshments and spare food to take away from the Co-op.

Thank you to all who volunteer including those who collect food from the Co-op the evening before Warm Welcome Space. We also appreciate the regular members of the church who attend and engage with our guests, as we show the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham.

CHURCH FINANCES

Overall, the finances of the church are in good shape and we are grateful to the Lord for his continued provision for our needs.

Overall, the General fund operated at approximately break-even, with an operating surplus of £951, compared to a deficit of £2,828 in 2022. The General fund ended 2023 with a total balance of £44,672, up from £43,722 at the end of 2022. This comprised of fixed assets of £13,173, and cash and other current assets of £31,500.

General fund Freewill offerings and the associated Gift Aid declined to £78,640 from £82,504 in 2022 and total general fund income decreased to £83,251 from £86,228. General fund expenditure decreased to £82,301 from £89,056 in 2022 due to the administrator role being made redundant at the end of 2022, offset in part by increasing energy costs.

We were delighted that members supported the church with £7,572 of gifts to the Fabric fund to support repair and refurbishment of the north end of the building including the room used for our Youth ministry, which is flourishing. These funds were fully spent in 2023 with some further costs funded from the General fund repairs budget.

We were also blessed to receive £16,000 in gifts restricted for Youth and Childrens work and the church are considering how best to invest these funds to serve our young people in 2024.

Overall income fell to £123,534 from £168,988 in 2022, with the majority of this fall being due one-off grants of £37,431 received in 2022 related to the redevelopment project.

The final costs of the recent redevelopment project that were accrued for at the end of 2022 were settled in January 2024 once the final snagging works at the end of the 12-month warranty period were completed. The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund now holds the interest free member loans that were used to fund the redevelopment project. Regular gifts support repayment of the loans and the deficit balance on the fund was £101,261 at the end of 2023, a reduction from a deficit of £110,630 at the end of 2022. The deficit on the fund is expected to be cleared by the end of 2032.

The manse is valued in the accounts at £326,074 after a depreciation charge of £1,914. The market value of the property is estimated to be over £500,000. The Grand Piano purchased following a specific gift in 2022 is valued at £25,536 after a depreciation charge of £1,064.

RESERVES POLICY

Caversham Baptist Church aims to hold sufficient reserves (including general and uncommitted designated funds) to ensure we can meet our obligations in the event of a deterioration in our finances, or a major cost (e.g., a building repair) arising. Our policy is to hold cash equivalent to three months of general running costs and an additional three month's staffing costs. This policy is reviewed at each Annual General Meeting. The Trustees believe that, as of 31st December 2023, our reserves policy currently requires us to hold approximately £30,948 in unrestricted and designated cash reserves, whilst we actually held approximately £31,313, matching very closely to our policy.

FINANCIAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

In order to maintain appropriate control of expenditure, the Church has adopted the following financial authorisations policy. Spending or spending commitments:

- up to £250 within budget may be authorised by Team Leaders
- up to £1,200 may be authorised by the Treasurer.
- up to £6,000 may be authorised by a vote of the Leadership team.
- in excess of £6,000 may only be authorised by a vote of the Church Meeting.

These limits are reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following served as trustees and leaders between the start 2023 and the approval of these accounts:

- Colin Baker, Minister
- Sue Cantwell, Secretary (resigned 21 May 2023)
- Mabel Foye, Secretary (appointed 21 May 2023)
- Richard Wilson, Treasurer
- Rebecca Reading (resigned 26 March 2023)
- Robert Sproule
- Allan Roger Horsman
- Rosemarie Bansair-Lemin (appointed 26 March 2023)

LEGAL INFORMATION

Caversham Baptist Church (the Church) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission number: 1181257.

Church Address: South Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8HY

Bankers: Barclays Bank UK Plc, 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

Solicitors: Anthony Collins LLP, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES

Independent Examiner: Kate Andrews

POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

This statement was agreed at a church meeting held on 27/5/97 and amended at the AGM on 25/3/03. It will be read annually at the AGM where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
3. We recognise that work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
5. The Church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to provide supervision.
6. The Church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice: *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet *Safe to Grow*. Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Church's agreed procedure and good practice guidelines.
7. As part of our commitment to the children and young people, the Church has appointed:
 - A Designated Person to advise the Church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of Children and young people and to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Their role will be regularly explained to children and their names, addresses and phone numbers publicly displayed.
8. The Church will appoint a responsible person and administrator to see that this policy is implemented.

Children and young people are a part of—and belong to—church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of the children and young people.

Designated person: Tamsyn Wilson, 7 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7RT

POLICY STATEMENT ON PHOTOS OF CHILDREN

Children and young people are a valued part of our church. In our use of photography, we seek to celebrate and communicate the life and activities of this church and to affirm the importance of all who are part of your church life, young and old. This policy is to ensure that such photography protects the safety of the children and young people in our care. It supplements our existing 'Safe to Grow' policy.

This policy statement will be read and confirmed at the AGM each year where the process of carrying it out will be monitored.

1. It is the responsibility of each church member to prevent misuse of photographs of children and young people and to report any misuse discovered or suspected.
2. We recognise that written parental/guardian consent must be given for the publication or display of a recognisable photograph of any person under the age of 18. Parents must be aware of which type of publication/display will be used. No consent is needed for photos of people whose faces are not recognisable.
3. Borderline cases will be decided by the designated person.
4. Photos by an individual of activities within or related to our church, which involve children and young people is only allowed with the permission of the leader of the activity.
5. Each leader, publisher and photographer will be given good practice guidelines on taking photos of children and young people, including being made aware of this policy.
6. We will exercise proper care ensuring children and young people will not be identified by name or other personal details in captions and accompanying text.
7. Data protection: Photos are to be stored in a safe and secure way, separated from personal details of the child or young person. Photos, negatives or computer images that are against parental consent must be completely destroyed. Others must be kept securely and, when no longer needed, destroyed.
8. As part of our commitment to children and young people, the Church has appointed a designated person to listen to children, young people and parental concerns.
9. The Church has appointed a responsible person as an administrator to see that the policy is implemented.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Incoming Resources	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	2	78,640	7,572	31,056	-	117,268	127,833
Income from charitable activities	3	1,808	1,655	-	-	3,463	40,549
Other Trading Activities	4	2,752	-	-	-	2,752	580
Investment income	5	51	-	-	-	51	26
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		83,251	9,226	31,056	-	123,534	168,988
Resources Expended		-	-	-	-	-	-
Raising funds	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	7	82,301	9,486	8,406	-	100,192	405,227
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		82,301	9,486	8,406	-	100,192	405,227
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers		951	(259)	22,650	-	23,341	(236,239)
Incoming fund transfers	12	-	-	1,655	-	1,655	60,013
Outgoing fund transfers		-	(1,655)	-	-	(1,655)	(60,013)
Net Incoming Resources before other gains/losses		951	(1,914)	24,305	-	23,341	(236,239)
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	-	-	-	-	15,626
Net Movements in Funds		951	(1,914)	24,305	-	23,341	(220,614)
Funds brought forward		43,722	327,988	(83,212)	1,250,000	1,538,497	1,759,111
Funds carried forward		44,672	326,074	(58,907)	1,250,000	1,561,839	1,538,497

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

BALANCE SHEET

As of 31st December 2023

	Note	As at 31/12/2023		As at 31/12/2022	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	14		1,614,782		1,620,138
Debtors	15		7,788		8,201
Bank and Cash	16		57,588		40,323
Current Assets			65,189		48,524
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17		(25,562)		(28,305)
Net Current Assets			39,813		20,219
Member Loans	18		(92,727)		(101,818)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23		(30)		(42)
Long Term Liabilities			(92,757)		(101,860)
Net Assets			1,561,839		1,538,497
Charitable Funds					
Endowment	19		1,250,000		1,250,000
Restricted	20		(58,907)		(83,212)
Designated	21		326,074		327,988
Unrestricted			44,672		43,722
Total			1,561,839		1,538,497

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

Notes 1 – 24 on the following pages form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 5 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Treasurer



Secretary



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011. Caversham Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1181257 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

c Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

d Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

e Investment Income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

f Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognized where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

g Cost of raising funds

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

h Grants payable

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

i Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance cost. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

j Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt. The church premises are included in the balance sheet using a market valuation from a qualified surveyor. The Manse premises are initially recognised at cost.

k Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church premises as they are revalued each year on the basis of the insured value. The Church manse has been depreciated based on 50% of the initial purchase value being land and 50% buildings. The land is retained at cost and the building depreciated on a straight-line basis at 1% of acquisition cost per annum. Depreciation on other fixed assets is on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life:

- Office, IT and audio-visual equipment at 20% of acquisition cost per annum.
- The chairs at 10% of acquisition cost per annum
- The noticeboard at 10% of acquisition cost per annum
- The piano is depreciated at 4% of acquisition cost per annum.

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year in the year of disposal.

l Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church Building Reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

m Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its staff. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan. Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Freewill Offerings	64,835	7,194	27,445	-	99,474	106,649
Gift Aid	13,805	378	3,611	-	17,794	20,934
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	250
Total	78,640	7,572	31,056	-	117,268	127,833

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Listed Places of Worship Grants	-	1,655	-	-	1,655	37,431
Friday Lunches	-	-	-	-	-	345
Insurance pay-out	-	-	-	-	-	1,975
Sale of assets	909	-	-	-	909	557
Other Activities	899	-	-	-	899	240
Total	1,808	1,655	-	-	3,463	40,549

4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Use of Premises	2,752	-	-	-	2,752	580
Total	2,752	-	-	-	2,752	580

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Interest on cash	51	-	-	-	51	26
Total	51	-	-	-	51	26

6 RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Credit card fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

7 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Ministry	38,223	-	-	-	38,223	48,148
Mission	9,792	-	-	-	9,792	11,682
Premises	34,286	9,486	8,406	-	52,178	345,397
Total	82,301	9,486	8,406	-	100,192	405,227

8 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

The following table summarises expenditure in line with our reporting categories.

	Charitable Activities	Grant Funding	Support Costs	2023	2022
Ministry	38,058	-	165	38,223	48,148
Mission	-	9,490	302	9,792	11,682
Premises	51,121	-	1,056	52,178	345,397
Cost of Generating Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total	89,180	9,490	1,523	100,192	405,227

9 GRANTS MADE TO OTHER CHARITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
BMS World Mission	3,722	-	-	-	3,722	3,640
Baptist Home Mission	3,990	-	-	-	3,990	4,200
CCA Caversham	300	-	-	-	300	150
Churches Together in Caversham	878	-	-	-	878	833
Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	600	-	-	-	600	600
Total	9,490	-	-	-	9,490	9,423

10 SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Church Administrator	-	-	-	-	-	11,113
Bank Charges	8	-	-	-	8	5
Church Office Expenses	1,036	-	-	-	1,036	2,964
Subscriptions	416	-	-	-	416	461
Magazine & Publicity	62	-	-	-	62	-
Other Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	2,677
Total	1,523	-	-	-	1,523	17,221

Support Costs have been allocated to the Charitable activities in the general fund of the Church in proportion with their other expenses (included in note 8 above) as follows:

	2023	2022
Ministry	165	9,241
Mission	302	2,259
Premises	1,056	5,721
Total	1,523	17,221

11 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE EXPENSES

		2023	2022
Salaries	Gross Salary	27,825	34,429
Termination Payments	Redundancy Pay	-	2,672
Social Security Costs	Employer's National Insurance	-	-
Pension Costs	Employer's Pension Contributions	3,496	3,247
Other Costs	Council tax, water, phone, expenses	8,062	7,599
Total		39,383	47,946

The average number of staff in the year was 1 (2022: 2). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2022: none).

Revd Colin Baker as Minister acted as one of the church's trustees in accordance with the church constitution from 1st April 2018 and received a stipend in 2023 of £27,825 (2022: £25,988). He was also reimbursed out of pocket expenses and mileage (at the HMRC approved rate) of £624 (2022: £438). Contributions of £3,496 (2022: £3,247) were made on to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

The Church pays deficit contributions in relation to the service of past Ministers of the Church to the Baptist Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. These amounted to £12 in 2023 (2022: £2,182). The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not currently possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. In accordance with FRS17 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details can be found in note 23.

12 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The following transfers were made in 2023:

From Fund	To Fund	Amount	Purpose
Building Redevelopment (Designated)	Building Redevelopment (Restricted)	1,655	Transfer of DCMS grant to cover VAT costs of redevelopment project

13 GAINS AND LOSSES ON REVALUATIONS OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

The Church premises at South Street are recorded using a market valuation conducted by Haslam's Surveyors as of 31 December 2021. The valuation was not revised during 2023.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	South Street Premises	Manse	Chairs	AV Equipment	Notice- board	Piano	Total
Cost							
As at 01 Jan 2023	1,026,300	358,908	10,282	5,143	3,210	26,600	1,430,443
Additions in year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2023	1,026,300	358,908	10,282	5,143	3,210	26,600	1,430,443
Accumulated Depreciation							
As at 01 Jan 2023	-	30,920	3,085	-	-	-	34,005
Charge for the year	-	1,914	1,028	1,029	321	1,064	5,356
As of 31 Dec 2023	-	32,834	4,113	1,029	321	1,064	39,361
Gain/Loss on revaluation							
As at 01 Jan 2023	223,700	-	-	-	-	-	223,700
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2023	223,700	-	-	-	-	-	223,700
Net Book Value							
As at 01 Jan 2023	1,250,000	327,988	7,197	5,143	3,210	26,600	1,620,138
As of 31 Dec 2023	1,250,000	326,074	6,169	4,115	2,889	25,536	1,614,782

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the Church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the South Street Premises at South Street, Caversham and the Church Manse at 2a Rotherfield Way, Caversham. As per the Church's accounting policy stated in paragraph j of note 1, the value stated on 31 December 2021 for the South Street Premises is a valuation conducted by Haslam's Chartered Surveyors on 23 March 2022 estimating their market value. The cost for the Church Manse is the price paid when it was acquired plus the cost of subsequent capital improvements.

15 DEBTORS

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Accounts Receivable	5,358	5,710
Prepaid Expenditure	2,430	2,491
Total Debtors	7,788	8,201

16 BANK AND CASH

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Cash in hand	411	602
SumUp Card Account	10	20
Current Account	54,524	37,075
Baptist Union Deposit Accounts	1,760	1,709
Cash Pre-payment card balance	883	917
Total	57,588	40,323

17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Accounts Payable	14,296	1,228
Accrued Expenditure	2,175	13,441
Loan Repayments due within 1 year	9,091	13,636
Total Creditors	25,562	28,305

18 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

In 2021 and 2022 the church received four interest free loans of £120,000 from members.

Loan	Loan Amount	Balance at 31/12/2023	Repayments due in 2024	Due after 2024	Terms
A	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	Due for repayment by the end of 2032 with no repayments due prior to that date
B	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	
C	50,000	40,909	4,545	36,364	Repayable over an 11-year period in equal payments every 6 months from June 2022
D	50,000	40,909	4,545	36,364	
Total	120,000	101,818	9,091	92,727	

The church received the benefit of not paying interest on any of these loans. This benefit has not been recognised in the accounts. The repayment due in 2024 is recognised as an amount falling due within one year (see note 17) with the remainder recognised as falling due after one year.

19 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
Church Building Res.	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	1,250,000

The Church Building Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the South Street premises.

20 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
Fellowship Fund	530	-	-	-	-	530
Window Repair	288	-	-	-	-	288
Piano	26,600	-	(1,064)	-	-	25,536
Children & Youth Work	-	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Redevelopment Fund	(110,630)	15,056	(7,342)	1,655	-	(101,261)
Total	(83,212)	31,056	(8,406)	1,655	-	(58,907)

The Fellowship Fund represents funds given to support church members suffering financial hardship.

The Window Repair fund has been initiated to gather resources to fund the long-term maintenance of the stained-glass windows in the South Street premises.

The Children & Youth Work fund has been established to support work with under-18s in the church.

The Piano fund was created following a gift from a member in 2022 of the funds to purchase a grand piano. This piano is the only asset within the fund.

The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund represents the funds related to the redevelopment of the South Street Premises in 2021-2. This fund holds the interest free loans used to fund the project and the ongoing giving that funds the repayment of these loans.

21 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
Redevelopment Fund	-	1,655	-	(1,655)	-	-
Fabric Fund	-	7,572	(7,572)	-	-	-
Manse Reserve	327,988	-	(1,914)	-	-	326,074
Pension Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	327,988	9,226	(9,486)	(1,655)	-	326,074

The Designated Building Redevelopment fund represents funds that had been set aside towards redevelopment and improvement of the South Street Premises. This fund was closed in 2023.

The Fabric Fund represents funds set aside for major repairs to the South Street Premises.

The Manse Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the manse.

The Pension Reserve fund holds the church's liability to the Baptist Pension Scheme and sufficient cash to cover the liability. A transfer to or from the general fund is made each year to ensure that the liability is covered.

22 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUND

		Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long-term Liabilities	2023 Total	2022 Total
Endowment Funds	Per note 19	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,250,000
Restricted Funds	Per note 20	25,536	8,284	(92,727)	(58,907)	(83,212)
Designated Funds	Per note 21	326,074	30	(30)	326,074	327,988
Unrestricted Funds		13,173	31,500	-	44,672	43,722
Total		1,614,782	39,813	(92,757)	1,561,839	1,538,497

23 PENSIONS

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-

term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as of 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 Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (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 financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

RPI price inflation assumption	3.20% p.a.
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70% p.a.
Minimum Pensionable Income increases above CPI	0.50% p.a.
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 0.5%)	3.20% p.a.
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement (gilt yield plus 1.75% pa)	2.95% p.a.
- Post retirement (including benefits matched by the insurance policy) (gilt yield plus 0.5% pa)	1.70% p.a.
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20% p.a.
- Post April 2009	2.50% p.a.
Pension increases	
- Based on CPI with an annual floor of 0% and annual cap of 5%	2.70% p.a.

Mortality is assumed in accordance with 80% of the S3NA standard mortality table. Future improvements projected from 2013 in line with the "CMI 2019" projection with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.75% p.a. for males and 1.5% p.a. for females with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as of 31 December 2022

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Baptist Union Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan.

On 30th June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group (“Just”) to secure DB Plan 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. Following this agreement a Recovery plan was signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan are £1 per month from August 2022.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
Balance sheet liability at year start	42	17,500
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(12)	(2,182)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	-	350
Actuarial (gains)/losses on re-measurement of liability	-	(15,626)
Balance sheet liability at year end	30	42

The liability in the balance sheet represents the present value of deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

Accounting date	31/12/2023	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
Discount rate	0%	0%	2.00%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	n/a	n/a	4.06%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the Church to buyout the Pension Scheme liabilities on 31 December 2023 was approximately £1,000 (31 December 2022: £1,000).

24 RELATED PARTIES

The custodian Trustee of the Church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The Church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Southern Counties Baptist Association. The Church donated to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme via the Southern Counties Baptist Association as set out in note 9.

The Church has received interest-free loans of £50,000 each from Susan Cantwell, who served as a trustee for part of the year and her husband Stephen Cantwell. The loans were provided to fund the refurbishment of the church premises and are repayable in equal 6-monthly instalments over a period of 11 years. Repayments of £6,818 were made on each loan and the outstanding balance on each of these loans at the end of 2023 was £40,909.

The total of all other donations received from Trustees and their spouses in 2023 was £38,844. None of these donations came with conditions which might require the Church to alter its activities.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Caversham Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1181257

Set out on pages

20 to 33

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 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: 5 March 2024

Name:

Kate Andrews

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

ACA

Address:

41 Wantage Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire



Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY

Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181257

Accounts



Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY

Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The names of all the trustees who have served between the start of the accounting period and the approval of these accounts are noted below with the dates of appointment and/or resignation where these fall within the same period.

Colin Baker, Minister
Sue Cantwell, Secretary
Richard Wilson, Treasurer
Roger Horsman (appointed 20 March 2022)
Rebecca Reading
Rob Sproule
Andrew Blackband, (resigned 11 January 2022)
Shane Lowings (resigned 20 March 2022)

Staff Team:

Helen Strong (Administrator, until 31 December 2022)

LEGAL INFORMATION

Caversham Baptist Church (the Church) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission number: 1181257
Church Address: Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8HY

Bankers: Barclays Bank UK Plc, 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

Solicitors: Anthony Collins LLP, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES

Independent Examiner: Kate Andrews

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution, in the form of the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches registered with the Charity Commission on 19th December 2018.

In line with its constitution, the Church operates under the authority of the Church Members Meeting, which is open to all Church members, and operates with a quorum of 25 per cent of Church members. The Church Members Meeting appoints trustees to oversee the running of the Church. The trustees are:

- The Minister, as appointed from time to time from the list of Accredited Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
- The Church officers, namely the secretary and treasurer who are appointed annually by the Church Members Meeting.
- Up to six Leaders who are appointed for a three-year term by the Church Members Meeting. Leaders may only serve two consecutive terms after which they must stand down for at least one year.

Except for the minister, any individual must have been a member of the Church for a year prior to being eligible for appointment as a trustee. The trustees received no payment for their work as trustees, with the exception of the minister as authorised within the church constitution.

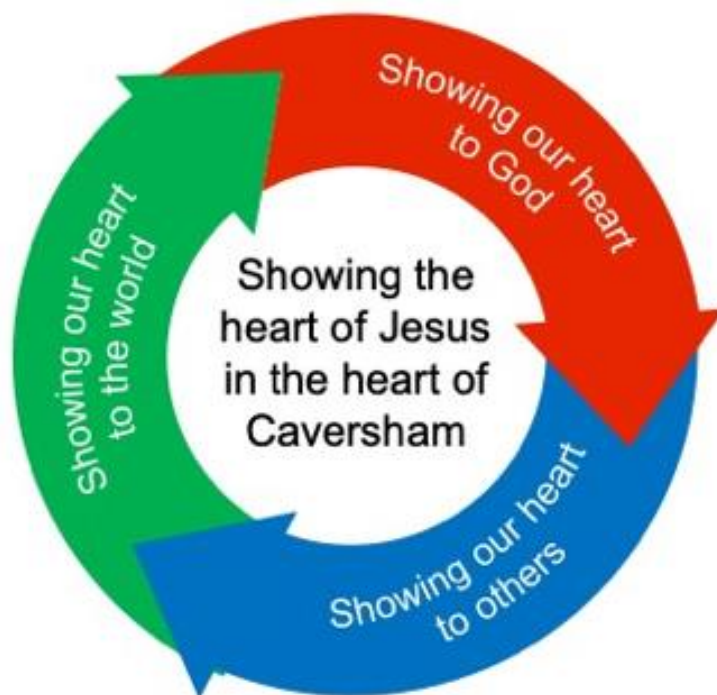
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. In fulfilling this objective, the Church engages in a range of activities, either on its own or in partnership with others. The main activities comprise worship services, prayer, Bible study and discipleship groups and supporting the local community.

In planning our activities, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and ensure they fall within this guidance.

We support the wider work of the Baptist denomination through our membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association and through our financial contribution to the Home Mission Scheme. We also support BMS World Mission financially and through prayer support for our link missionaries. We collaborate with other churches through Churches Together in Caversham and support other local, national and international organisations through grants and prayer support where that support will further our charitable objectives. An overview of all grants made in 2022 is in the note 9 to the financial statements.

OUR STRATEGY



Since our church awayday back in September 2021 we have been focusing on implementing the vision of living out the strapline on our church logo (see front page) “Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham”.

So, we see ourselves “Showing our hearts to Jesus...” through worship, fellowship and ministry. Showing our heart to God, to others and to the world.



We call this Worship

Pointing our hearts and lives toward God. This is our major public gathering where we pool the majority of our resources in helping folks of all ages in their worship of God, in age-appropriate ways and settings.



We call this Fellowship

Small groups and newcomers groups. Where we do life together with other disciples. A bible-based group where disciples from our weekend worship activities meet to do life together, more intimate worship/Bible study. Once per term the groups would all engage in the same 4-6 week study leaving the rest of the term for the groups to pursue separate areas of study.



We call this Ministry

This is where we take all the stuff we have learned and put it into practice. Some of this will be in practical terms and may be covered by multiple different spheres. Other areas are those of youth work, soft evangelism, social gospel opportunities (ministry to the poor, needy, aged etc).

MINISTER'S REPORT

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2022.

During the past year, both we and society have unmasked. No more worship behind a mask. And, finally, our building was unmasked! What I mean is that the hoardings which dominated the frontage of our building and the container in our car park have been removed! Hallelujah!

Our community has obviously been watching and wondering what would be revealed – the response has been really positive. Our planning for celebrating the completion of the building works took months but finally, on the first weekend of September, a good number of our community came to enjoy our new look and the weather was fine.

Many responses from those who came were that they had always been intrigued by what lay behind those solid wooden doors. Now they can see! Now, the way in which people access our worship space is simplified as they can clearly see (not only because of the light coming through the doors) because the route is straight. We remain as welcoming as ever through our welcome team and as partners in ministry, but also now our heating system is efficient and reliable. No-one ever responded to the gospel through cold feet!

We have been praying into a vision the Lord gave regarding children and young people and are now seeing green shoots. I am grateful that for the children's ministry our upper hall looks modern and fresh – actually spectacular! We have a really good facility to aid ministry for these young lives and some very willing, creative and capable children's volunteers. It is right that we have been able to provide a suitable environment where this ministry can flourish.

Between June and August I took a sabbatical which had been delayed from 2021 and the church took on studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians supported by some of our own preachers and visitors from other Baptist churches in the Reading area. I would like to remind everyone of a couple of key verses from Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus.

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19

This is and remains my prayer for all who gather to worship at Caversham Baptist Church.

The last couple of years have been really challenging because none of us has ever had to deal with pandemics and lockdowns of such scale before. However, during this time our Leaders have been some of the most considerate, diligent, caring, patient and prayerful people I have known. So, on behalf of the whole church I want to pay tribute to them all. We have adapted sometimes on a weekly basis, found time to manage health protocols, building project management, changing venues for worship, keeping our vital online presence up-to-date and supporting ministry. We enter 2023 a little bruised but certainly less concerned with pandemic and more focused on us all being filled to the measure of all the fulness of God.

pastor Colin & Alison Baker

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The reports on the following pages detail regular activities and any one-off events that took place during the year.

WORSHIP (on behalf of those leading music ministry: Colin Baker)

When reporting under the heading of Worship, I have to qualify that we are speaking here particularly of the physical act of worship which takes place in church on Sundays. Of course, there is so much more that could be said about the fact that our whole lives are to be led as an act of worship to the Lord and that our music and sung worship are part of that.

We have been working hard as a team to bring ministry to our fellowship that is fresh and open to what the Lord has in store for us. We have met to pray and talk through what takes place on Sundays and how we might all best work together. We all benefited from the ministry of Noel Robinson in September as we looked at the kinds of songs we used but also what we invite to take place in the gaps.

As we have met (about 25 of us) we have agreed to work with the following:

Vision

We seek to fulfil the CBC vision within our framework “Heart to God, Heart to others, Heart to the world”. By our being wholly prepared we may worship God ourselves, encourage each other in worship and lead our church fellowship to worship in Spirit and Truth.

Ministry

We recognise that our work is a key ministry in the life of the Church and that as members of this ministry we have been called by the Lord to this task. Individually, by being part of the musical worship ministry I believe that I am called to this by God and I commit to serving Him in this way.

As with any other ministry the work carries privileges and responsibilities.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Privileges

The ministry is a privilege because firstly we are serving the Lord himself and secondly His people. We recognise that it is very rewarding work to be able to use our gifts in this way. We must keep in mind this sense of privilege.

Responsibilities

We have responsibilities both individually and together to be prepared both spiritually and musically. This will allow us to relax and enjoy our worship of the Lord and to provide an environment within which the whole church may enter fully into worship.

AUDIO VISUAL & COMMUNICATIONS (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

First, we extend our thanks and gratitude to Martyn Strong for his dedication and commitment over many years, serving the Church with his creative, technical and practical gifting, Sunday by Sunday on the AV desk, and also building and maintaining the church website and social media channels.

We still have a very capable and dedicated team comprising Ben, Rob and Steve who serve the church week by week, enhancing our worship with audio-visual support.

Ben and Jackie took on the role to lead on communications – focussing primarily on the church website, publicity and developing our social media engagement.

Jackie, with support from Ben, has supported several church events, creating artwork for flyers and those excellent *Welcome* and *Little Lambs & You* feather flags that appear next to the church main entrance doors.

We have been conscious for some time that our website needed a major refresh in order to provide the functionality we need to serve the church family and the broader community. Ben led a piece of work to replace the website with a different platform. The new website was launched in late October 2022 with a basic set of content and functionality; we will continue to expand this over the coming weeks and months.

In the meantime, we would love to hear your feedback – What do you think? Is the website easy to use? Does it provide the information and other content you need? How do you think we can improve it? Please let us have your comments and thoughts in any way that suits you – face-to-face, phone, email... Thank You!

We are keen to grow these teams. If you have an interest in serving God and the church family with AV or communications (website, social media, creating artwork for use within the Church or on any of our communication channels) please discuss with any of us. All you need is passion and a desire to serve; we will provide the tools, training and support.

You will have heard a lot recently over recent months about working in teams to serve God, the Church and others – these are two good examples of how those with a technical or creative bias can use their God given gifts to help build-up the Church and grow the kingdom of God in Caversham and beyond.

Our thanks to each member of these teams for their commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways throughout the year.

SMALL GROUPS (Leader: Colin Baker)

In accordance with our strapline: “Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham”, we see the activity of small groups as being part of “Showing heart to others”. This means our small groups are a place where ‘iron sharpens iron’. In other words, disciples of Jesus hanging out together in small groups for the purpose of being disciplined by each other. Centred around prayer, worship, Bible study, relationships and mission, our groups have both a spiritual and a social function for our church fellowship.

Small groups remain an important place for us all as we seek to grow and mature in our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. As we look forward to 2023 there are already some new groups forming as there is clearly a need for more days and times for people to meet. In fact, a couple of our groups are quite full, hence, we have a good problem of needing to identify more leaders and homes in which to meet. Can you help us to help you?

In a church of our size, it can feel challenging for those who are new to get to know those worshipping around them. That is another reason for small groups – they are a safe place for those looking to be part of a church or even just to take a look. Our groups are more personal, less formal and certainly more familiar to folks who thrive better in conversation with a welcoming hot drink in hand (and sometimes cake!).

PASTORAL TEAM (Leader: Colin Baker)

Our pastoral team met monthly via Zoom to pray and share prayer concerns and needs for our fellowship. The team, having served the church so well during the pandemic have been able to lighten the workload because we are now seeing many folks every week in worship.

As a fellowship we are encouraging everyone to be part of a small group for all the obvious benefits of being part of that group - but also for that group to serve as a first port of call for pastoral needs. We are waiting to see how the groups settle and expand in 2023 and then will allocate names of those who are not part of a small group to group leaders. The hope is that each group will become the link for pastoral care and for those not in attendance to be prayed for on a regular basis.

With that said, of course there remains our dedicated team of pastoral carers who are available by phone or in person for those who have been unable to return to in-person worship or where there are pressing pastoral needs.

Members of the pastoral team have been trained in safeguarding.

We give thanks to the Lord for the many and varied giftings we have in this team. May I also encourage all of us to pray for those who serve the Lord in this way.

READING FESTIVAL (Leader: Rebecca Reading)

For the first time since 2019, we were able to plan ahead for our Reading Festival outreach and welcome event. With a series of dedicated prayer meetings to lay solid spiritual foundations by committing the plans to the Lord, we went into the Festival weekend with confidence. This was even though it was disappointing that the hoardings were still up as the building project did not complete until a week later. With some imagination and creativity, Alison Trim turned the boards into an eye-catching mural welcoming our visitors and pointing them in the direction of our facilities. Bob Claridge also deserves an honourable mention - he was the most effective promoter of our offer along the street from the church building to Caversham bridge.

The format of the chill out space, with free drinks and snacks, phone charging and a chance for a chat with friends was welcomed. We found our visitors very open and willing to share how much they were enjoying their weekend or, in some cases, the challenges they were finding. Our church team was pleased to offer a listening ear, and once again we found a number returned every day and told their friends. It was no surprise that our newly refurbished toilets were a huge hit.

Those involved in the prayer preparation and the event itself experienced the joy and satisfaction of working together as the body of Christ.

CATERING (Leader: Rosemary Sproule)

It was wonderful to finally be back in the church building and to start using the church kitchen again. Thank you to all who helped with unpacking the kitchen items from the container and thoroughly cleaning the kitchen.

We restarted providing refreshments after morning worship and are thankful that most of the previous volunteers were happy to re-join the rota. We then reinstated our fellowship lunch as part of church meetings and it has been good to enjoy fellowship over food.

We held a Cream Tea in June inviting those we thought were hesitant in returning to church after the pandemic. It was a lovely afternoon of fellowship and we are pleased to report that some are now back worshipping with us in person.

Our big event was the re-launch weekend where we provided refreshments and a barbecue. It was a long day and we would like to thank those who volunteered in the kitchen, the barbecue cooks and assistants.

It has been great to see new people joining the Church and as a consequence we have held two welcome lunches and are planning another one soon.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with hospitality or join our Sunday morning refreshment rota please contact Rosemary on 07456407718.

PRAYER CHAIN (Leader: Rose Blackmore)

Last year's annual report quoted a story from Luke 18 (verses 1-8) where Jesus told his disciples to show that they should always pray and never give up and made the point that *"our need to pray and our need for prayer is never redundant."*

Well, this past year has certainly verified that. The prayer chain has been very busy, requests have been many and varied and God has been faithful to hear

and answer our prayers, not always as we would have liked, but always according to His plans and purposes and, ultimately, for His glory. It has been a tough year with us losing so many of our dearly loved older members but for them, what a triumph! We pay tribute at this point to each one's contribution to the character of our church family.

The requests on the prayer chain seem to have come thick and fast at times with not many lulls in between, and most people are good at updating us - seeing the need to encourage us especially when the answers are positive.

One thing is glaringly obvious: everyone who has asked for prayer has been unanimous in appreciating the tremendous support they have felt from knowing that the things for which they have asked in prayer are being held up by us all, whether or not they get the answers they want. There's something about expressing our needs, making ourselves vulnerable to others and to God, that helps us to feel the burden lift - because it has become a 'shared' burden.

Jesus promised that we will never be alone, and part of the effectiveness of prayer is the feeling that we are not on our own - others who know and care for us are alongside and supportive - carrying our needs to the throne room of God.

Galatians 6: 2 tells us that as we "carry each other's burdens," we "will fulfil the law of Christ" and this, in turn, helps us to build up His body - the Church.

Thank you, every member of the prayer chain; you are helping to effectively draw the Church together and to our Father in Heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Lord.

HYMN CAFÉ (Leader: Rebecca Reading)

This relaxed outreach ministry centred around testimonies, both of our church family and of the hymn writers themselves, returned in October following a two-and-a-half-year break. Hymn Café provides an opportunity to enjoy familiar hymns, with words that speak eternal truths of our faith, and to invite guests to a simple, low-key event, with tea, coffee and of course cake. Hymn Café continues monthly into 2023.

BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT & FABRIC (Rob Sproule on behalf of the team)

When works in the worship area of the church building commenced in November 2021 we moved Sunday morning worship to Queen Anne's School. We were able to return to worshiping in our building under a partial occupation arrangement in February 2022.

After lengthy delays to completing the new external entrance area, we held our official opening on the weekend of 3rd-4th September 2022. This was an amazing opportunity to literally “open our doors” and welcome the community to meet us and explore the redeveloped building. The opening ceremony was conducted with Peter Ousley and Kady Chan, representing the generational mix of our congregation, cutting the tape.

From a contractual perspective, the building was fully handed over to us on 2nd September, which represents the start of the 12-month Defects period. We are monitoring the building for any faults or defects that arise from the works; any urgent items will be reported and addressed promptly; non-urgent items will be addressed towards the end of the defect period. We have retained 2.5 per cent of the contract sum; this becomes due upon successful completion of the defects.

We are so thankful to our God for protecting the health and wellbeing of all those who worked on our project – and with God’s help and the active support of our professional team and main contractor (Morris & Blunt) we were able to deliver the project within the agreed budget and include additional elements that were not originally planned for. Notably this included recarpeting the worship area and replanning the front of the worship area following the removal of the organ. We were also able to substantially refresh the AV system and install a new projector.

With this phase of refurbishment work complete, the fabric team is now focussing on routine maintenance and minor works. A range of improvements that would enhance the building’s usability and appearance have been identified and these will be costed and prioritised for implementation during 2023.

Thank you for all your help and support throughout the project, whatever form that took – prayer, financial, hands-on...

Special thanks to the project and fabric team Steve Cantwell, John Blackmore, Benjamin Sproule, Richard Wilson and Rob Sproule for their diligence, tenacity and commitment to serving the Lord and the fellowship in so many ways during this busy and challenging time.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

Children and Young People's Vision and Mission Statement

Our Vision is:

To see the lives of children, young people and their families in the local community be transformed and for them to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our mission is:

- To provide a safe, secure, warm environment where all are welcome and have equal value.
- To be positive Christian role models and develop relationships built on love and acceptance.
- To reach out to children and young people in the local area and equip them to participate responsibly in the community
- To provide an opportunity for children and young people to experience the love of God and learn about the Christian faith
- To disciple children and young people in their relationship with Christ and encourage them to live differently and make a difference

SUNDAY MORNING GROUPS (Sue Cantwell on behalf of the team)

It was wonderful to welcome the children and young people back to the church building early in the year – although the rooms provided at Queen Anne's school during our 'exile' from our own building were warm and welcoming.

During 2022 and into 2023 we have had the privilege of several families with children joining the Church, and some young people who attend regularly on their own. It has been wonderful to see the group of younger children growing, with on average about eight to ten children in the pre-school and primary together with occasional visitors and friends, to share the Bible through stories, discussion, games, prayer, craft and music; helping the children to discover and develop their own relationships with God. The younger group appear back in church with their volunteer adults at the end of morning worship, with a brief recap of what they have learnt, to show the crafts they have made and to join with the congregation in a 'child-friendly' song with actions. The Youth group for secondary school age young people has also grown, with at least six regulars attending on Sunday mornings with their leaders to discuss the application of Biblical truths to their lives. Some of them are members of the 'Y-Band', using their excellent musical gifts to lead the worship once a month. We thank Pam Chilvers for her dedication to coaching and mentoring the band. We are delighted that one of the young

people was baptised in February 2023 and that others are considering this important step in their faith journey.

Christmas was celebrated with a light-hearted and humorous Nativity play expertly written by Tamsyn Wilson, telling the traditional Christmas story with the help of Old Testament prophets played by the young people, with the younger children and some adults playing the parts of nativity characters. It was very good to see all ages involved in telling the story.

We are grateful to Tamsyn for setting the curriculum for the children's and youth groups, based on material from the Urban Saints Energize resources website, which provides engaging, dynamic and biblical session plans for ages 3 to 15+.

We thank all of those who work with the children and young people at the Church. We are blessed with a good number of leaders and volunteers, all DBS checked and trained in safeguarding. Without their support, help and dedication we would not be able to sustain this vital teaching and sharing of God's love; thank you.

LITTLE LAMBS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP (Leader: Judith Lewis)

The Little Lambs and You group meets, during school term time, on a Monday morning 10.00am to 11.30am in the worship area and lounge. We have an online booking system with about 28 places available each week. We serve refreshments throughout the session to parents and carers and provide an opportunity for the children, mid-way through the morning, to sit at a table together for a drink of water and a snack.

We set up the worship area as a free play space for the children, providing a varied number of toys, including a slide and climbing frame, sit-on vehicles, play kitchens, a car table etc.

In the lounge we create a quieter space with a baby corner with suitable mats, toys and baby bouncers as well as table-top activities including jigsaw puzzles, Noah's ark, play workbench tools, dolls house sets and craft activities.

In the last 15 minutes of the session, we finish in the lounge with a short Bible story and sing nursery rhymes together.

We provide parents, carers and their children with an opportunity to make connections with each other in a dry, warm environment. We are also there to befriend, offer support and show God's love to those who attend.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM HOLIDAY CLUB

(Joint ministry through Churches together in Caversham,
CBC Representative: Helen Strong)

Following two years in which we were unable to run a holiday club in its usual form due to Covid-19, we were delighted at the start of 2022 to be able to plan for not one, but two clubs.

There had been quite a bit of interest from children who had attended the club when they were of primary school age, but missed out on year 6 (orange hats!) due to the pandemic. So it was decided to run a club for year 7 to 9 for four days at Easter, particularly as the science and Christianity theme which was the theme for the summer, was one the secondary school pupils seem interested in. Although numbers were small, those that attended enjoyed the sessions and made new friends.

The summer club, based at St Anne's school, followed the usual format but with many new volunteers (including several from Caversham Baptist Church), which was a great answer to prayer. There were fewer children due to our 2-year hiatus, but we were able to support several Ukrainian families by offering spaces and providing extra help where necessary.

This year's holiday club will be held at St Anne's school from 24th to 28th July. Heading up the core team will be members of this Church Richard and Tamsyn Wilson, as Jane Borgeaud has had to take a step back from her involvement due to her work. We would like to say a big thank you to Jane for all her years of service.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION CAVERSHAM DROP IN

(Ministry hosted by Caversham Baptist Church but operated by
Christian Community Action, Manager: Myra Fowler)

We were able to re-open the Drop In in October last year at the usual times of 12.00 – 2.00 every Wednesday. We were surprised and very pleased to welcome eight guests on our first session which, considering that we had very little publicity, was really exciting. Since then we seem to have between 15 and 20 guests every week. Some are regulars and some are people who come perhaps once or twice. It is always encouraging when regulars find employment – although we are sorry to see them go we are really pleased that they can move on with their lives.

We have more or less the same team as before lockdown, but we have modified our sessions by having only four volunteers per session – this seems to work very well and we have also changed our menu to take account of the

cold weather. We offer baked potatoes at every session – they are really popular and then a variety of meals – fish fingers, sausages, chicken nuggets and pizza. We also try to provide fruit, sandwiches and biscuits.

We aim to provide a safe and comfortable environment where everyone is welcome. We do not ask questions but are always happy to talk - and laugh as well. It is two hours when we hope people will be able to forget their worries and have fellowship with us and with each other.

As ever my job is made so much easier by the wonderful team of volunteers and also by the support of Caversham Baptist Church – so much appreciated.

CHURCH FINANCES

The major financial story of 2022 was the completion of the refurbishment of the South Street premises. This was delivered almost exactly to the budget approved by the Church Meeting in 2021. Thanks be to God! The balances of the Fabric Fund and the Designated Building Redevelopment Fund were transferred to the Redevelopment fund to cover the final invoices for the project. The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund now holds the interest free member loans that were used to fund the project and as a result this fund had a deficit balance of £110,630 at the end of 2022. Specific monthly giving from members is covering the cost of the repayments on the loans and is expected to clear the deficit on the fund by the end of 2032.

General fund Freewill offerings and the associated Gift Aid increased to £82,504 from £75,057 in 2021 and total general fund income increased to £86,228 from £75,947. These reflect the recommencement of a full range of activities following the building closure for the pandemic and refurbishment of the premises in 2021. Overall income fell to £168,988 from the elevated level of £302,676 in 2021 which included the fundraising for the refurbishment.

General fund expenditure increased to £89,056 from £77,588 in 2022 due in the main to one-off support costs, including the redundancy cost for the administrator, some IT purchases and costs for valuation of the South Street premises and the professional independent examination of the 2021 church accounts. These latter two were necessary due to the high level of income in the year. There was also a notable increase in energy costs.

Overall, an operating deficit of £2,828 was recorded in the general fund, compared to a deficit of £1,641 in 2021. £15,266 was transferred into the general fund from the Pension Reserve due to a significant reduction in the value of the liability to the Baptist Pension Scheme and £4,514 was then transferred to the Building Redevelopment fund to cover the final invoices for

the project. The general fund ended 2022 with a total balance of £43,722, up from £27,444 at the end of 2021. This comprised of fixed assets of £15,551, and cash of £28,171.

The manse is valued in the accounts at £327,988 after a depreciation charge of £1,914. The market value of the property is estimated to be over £500,000.

RESERVES POLICY

Caversham Baptist Church aims to hold sufficient reserves (including general and uncommitted designated funds) to ensure we can meet our obligations in the event of a deterioration in our finances, or a major cost (e.g., a building repair) arising. Our policy is to hold cash equivalent to three months of general running costs and an additional three month's staffing costs. This policy is reviewed at each Annual General Meeting. The Trustees believe that, as of 31st December 2022, our reserves policy currently requires us to hold approximately £29,900 in unrestricted and designated cash reserves, whilst we actually held approximately £28,200 in general and designated cash reserves, giving a modest shortfall of £1,700. The trustees are looking to rebuild reserves following the completion of the building refurbishment.

FINANCIAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

In order to maintain appropriate control of expenditure, the Church has adopted the following financial authorisations policy. Spending or spending commitments:

- up to £250 within budget may be authorised by Team Leaders
- up to £1,200 may be authorised by the Treasurer.
- up to £6,000 may be authorised by a vote of the Leadership team.
- in excess of £6,000 may only be authorised by a vote of the Church Meeting.

These limits are reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

This statement was agreed at a church meeting held on 27/5/97 and amended at the AGM on 25/3/03. It will be read annually at the AGM where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
3. We recognise that work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
5. The Church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to provide supervision.
6. The Church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice: *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet *Safe to Grow*. Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Church's agreed procedure and good practice guidelines.
7. As part of our commitment to the children and young people, the Church has appointed:
 - A Designated Person to advise the Church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of Children and young people and to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Their role will be regularly explained to children and their names, addresses and phone numbers publicly displayed.
8. The Church will appoint a responsible person and administrator to see that this policy is implemented.

Children and young people are a part of—and belong to—church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of the children and young people.

Designated person: Tamsyn Wilson, 7 Blenheim Road, Caversham, RG4 7RT

POLICY STATEMENT ON PHOTOS OF CHILDREN

Children and young people are a valued part of our church. In our use of photography, we seek to celebrate and communicate the life and activities of this church and to affirm the importance of all who are part of your church life, young and old. This policy is to ensure that such photography protects the safety of the children and young people in our care. It supplements our existing 'Safe to Grow' policy.

This policy statement will be read and confirmed at the AGM each year where the process of carrying it out will be monitored.

1. It is the responsibility of each church member to prevent misuse of photographs of children and young people and to report any misuse discovered or suspected.
2. We recognise that written parental/guardian consent must be given for the publication or display of a recognisable photograph of any person under the age of 18. Parents must be aware of which type of publication/display will be used. No consent is needed for photos of people whose faces are not recognisable.
3. Borderline cases will be decided by the designated person.
4. Photos by an individual of activities within or related to our church, which involve children and young people is only allowed with the permission of the leader of the activity.
5. Each leader, publisher and photographer will be given good practice guidelines on taking photos of children and young people, including being made aware of this policy.
6. We will exercise proper care ensuring children and young people will not be identified by name or other personal details in captions and accompanying text.
7. Data protection: Photos are to be stored in a safe and secure way, separated from personal details of the child or young person. Photos, negatives or computer images that are against parental consent must be completely destroyed. Others must be kept securely and, when no longer needed, destroyed.
8. As part of our commitment to children and young people, the Church has appointed a designated person to listen to children, young people and parental concerns.
9. The Church has appointed a responsible person as an administrator to see that the policy is implemented.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Incoming Resources	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	2	82,504	-	45,329	-	127,833	269,706
Income from charitable activities	3	3,118	37,431	-	-	40,549	32,513
Other Trading Activities	4	580	-	-	-	580	-
Investment income	5	26	-	-	-	26	458
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		86,228	37,431	45,329	-	168,988	302,676
Resources Expended							
Raising funds	6	-	-	-	-	-	2
Charitable Activities	7	89,056	73,146	243,026	-	405,227	323,460
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		89,056	73,146	243,026	-	405,227	323,460
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers		(2,828)	(35,714)	(197,697)	-	(236,239)	(20,784)
Incoming fund transfers	12	23,619	-	36,394	-	60,013	3,339
Outgoing fund transfers		(4,514)	(55,499)	-	-	(60,013)	(3,339)
Net Incoming Resources before other gains/losses		16,277	(91,213)	(161,303)	-	(236,239)	(20,784)
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	-	-	-	-	(1,680,000)
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	15,626	-	-	15,626	194
Net Movements in Funds		16,277	(75,588)	(161,303)	-	(220,614)	(1,700,590)
Funds brought forward		27,444	403,575	78,091	1,250,000	1,759,111	3,459,701
Funds carried forward		43,722	327,988	(83,212)	1,250,000	1,538,497	1,759,111

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

BALANCE SHEET

As of 31st December 2022

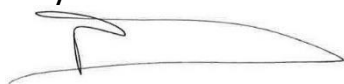
	Notes	As at 31/12/2022		As at 31/12/2021	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	14		1,620,138		1,588,127
Debtors	15	8,201		38,332	
Bank and Cash	16	40,323		201,242	
Current Assets		48,524		239,575	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(28,305)		(5,637)	
Net Current Assets			20,219		233,938
Long Term Liabilities					
Member Loans	18	(101,818)		(45,454)	
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(42)		(17,500)	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			(101,860)		(67,500)
Net Assets			1,538,497		1,759,111
Charitable Funds					
Endowment	19		1,250,000		1,250,000
Restricted	20		(83,212)		78,091
Designated	21		327,988		403,575
Unrestricted			43,722		27,444
Total			1,538,497		1,759,111

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly

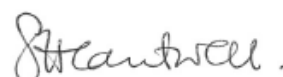
Notes 1 – 24 on the following pages form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 21 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Treasurer



Secretary



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011. Caversham Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1181257 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

c Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

d Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

e Investment Income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

f Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognized where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

g Cost of raising funds

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

h Grants payable

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

i Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance cost. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

j Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt. The church premises are included in the balance sheet

using a market valuation from a qualified surveyor. The Manse premises are initially recognised at cost.

k Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church premises as they are revalued each year on the basis of the insured value. The Church manse has been depreciated based on 50% of the initial purchase value being land and 50% buildings. The land is retained at cost and the building depreciated on a straight-line basis at 1% per annum. Depreciation on other fixed assets is on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life:

- Office, IT and Audio Visual equipment is depreciated at 20% per annum.
- The chairs are depreciated at 10% per annum.
- The noticeboard is depreciated at 10% per annum.
- The piano is depreciated at 5% per annum.

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year in the year of disposal.

l Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church Building Reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

m Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan. Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Freewill Offerings	70,058	-	36,591	-	106,649	222,496
Gift Aid	12,196	-	8,738	-	20,934	47,210
Legacies	250	-	-	-	250	-
Total	82,504	-	45,329	-	127,833	269,706

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Listed Places of Worship Grants	-	37,431	-	-	37,431	32,513
Insurance pay-out	1,975	-	-	-	1,975	-
Sale of assets	557	-	-	-	557	-
Friday Lunches	345	-	-	-	345	-
Other Activities	240	-	-	-	240	-
Total	3,117	37,431	-	-	40,549	32,513

4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Use of Premises	580	-	-	-	580	-
Total	580	-	-	-	580	-

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Interest on cash	26	-	-	-	26	458
Total	26	-	-	-	26	458

6 RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Credit card fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

7 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Ministry	47,788	360	-	-	48,148	37,543
Mission	11,682	-	-	-	11,682	9,780
Premises	29,585	72,786	243,026	-	345,397	276,137
Total	89,056	73,146	243,026	-	405,227	323,460

8 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

The following table summarises expenditure in line with our reporting categories.

	Charitable Activities	Grant Funding	Support Costs	2022	2021
Ministry	38,908	-	9,241	48,148	37,543
Mission	-	9,423	2,259	11,682	9,780
Premises	339,676	-	5,721	345,397	276,137
Cost of Generating Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total	378,583	9,423	17,221	405,227	323,460

9 GRANTS MADE TO OTHER CHARITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
BMS World Mission	3,640	-	-	-	3,640	3,710
Baptist Home Mission	4,200	-	-	-	4,200	4,017
Prospects	-	-	-	-	-	275
CCA Caversham	150	-	-	-	150	300
Churches Together in Caversham	833	-	-	-	833	550
Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	600	-	-	-	600	600
Women's World Day of Prayer	-	-	-	-	-	40
Total	9,423	-	-	-	9,423	9,492

10 SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
Office Expenses	11,113	-	-	-	11,113	7,935
Bank Charges	5	-	-	-	5	-
Subscriptions	2,964	-	-	-	2,964	1,042
Church Administrator	461	-	-	-	461	375
Magazine & Publicity	-	-	-	-	-	169
Independent Examiner for 2021	960	-	-	-	960	-
Other Expenses	1,717	-	-	-	1,717	-
Total	17,221	-	-	-	17,221	9,521

Support Costs have been allocated to the Charitable activities in the general fund of the Church in proportion with their other expenses (included in note 8 above) as follows:

	2022	2021
Ministry	9,241	1,105
Mission	2,259	288
Premises	5,721	8,128
Total	17,221	9,521

11 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE EXPENSES

		2022	2021
Salaries	Gross Salary	34,429	32,904
Termination Payments	Redundancy Pay	2,672	-
Social Security Costs	Employer's National Insurance	-	-
Pension Costs	Employer's Pension Contributions	3,247	3,145
Other Costs	Council tax, water, phone, expenses	7,653	9,190
Total		48,001	45,239

The average number of staff in the year was 2 (2021: 2). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2021: none).

Revd Colin Baker as Minister acted as one of the church's trustees in accordance with the church constitution from 1st April 2018 and received a stipend of £25,988 (2021: £25,725). He was also reimbursed out of pocket expenses and mileage (at the HMRC approved rate) of £438 (2021: £1,372). Contributions of £3,247 (2021: £3,200) were made on to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

The Church pays deficit contributions in relation to the service of past Ministers of the Church to the Baptist Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. These amounted to £2,192 in 2022 (2021: £3,695). The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not currently possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. In accordance with FRS17 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details can be found in note 23.

Following a consultation period, the church Administrator was made redundant at the end of December 2022. A cash redundancy payment of £2,672 was made in line with the church's obligations under employment law.

12 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The following transfers were made in 2022:

From Fund	To Fund	Amount	Purpose
Fabric Fund	Building Redevelopment (Restricted)	21,000	
Building Redevelopment (Designated)	Building Redevelopment (Restricted)	10,880	Funding for building refurbishment
General Fund	Building Redevelopment (Restricted)	4,514	
Building Redevelopment (Designated)	General Fund	8,353	Transfer of fixed assets to general fund
Pension Reserve	General Fund	15,266	Year-end True up of pension liability

13 GAINS AND LOSSES ON REVALUATIONS OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

The Church premises at South Street are recorded using a market valuation carried out by Haslam's Surveyors as of 31 December 2021. The valuation was not revised during 2022.

14 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	South Street Premises	Manse	Chairs	AV Equipment	Notice- board	Piano	Total
Cost							
As at 01 Jan 2022	1,026,300	358,908	10,282	-	-	-	1,395,490
Additions in year	-	-	-	5,143	3,210	26,600	35,953
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2022	1,026,300	358,908	10,282	5,143	3,210	26,600	1,430,443
Accumulated Depreciation							
As at 01 Jan 2022	-	(29,006)	(2,056)	-	-	-	(31,062)
Charge for the year	-	(1,914)	(1,028)	-	-	-	(2,942)
As of 31 Dec 2022	-	(30,920)	(3,085)	-	-	-	(34,005)
Gain/Loss on revaluation							
As at 01 Jan 2022	223,700	-	-	-	-	-	223,700
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As of 31 Dec 2022	223,700	-	-	-	-	-	223,700
Net Book Value							
As at 01 Jan 2022	1,250,000	329,902	8,226	-	-	-	1,588,127
As of 31 Dec 2022	1,250,000	327,988	7,197	5,143	3,210	26,600	1,620,138

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the Church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the South Street Premises at South Street, Caversham and the Church Manse at 2a Rotherfield Way, Caversham. As per the Church's accounting policy stated in paragraph j of note 1, the value stated at 31 December 2021 for the South Street Premises is a valuation carried out by Haslam's Chartered Surveyors on 23 March 2022 estimating their market value. The cost for the Church Manse is the price paid when it was acquired plus the cost of subsequent capital improvements.

15 DEBTORS

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Accounts Receivable	5,710	35,919
Prepaid Expenditure	2,491	2,414
Total Debtors	8,201	38,332

16 BANK AND CASH

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Cash in hand	602	22
SumUp Card Account	20	-
Current Account	37,075	198,229
Baptist Union Deposit Accounts	1,709	1,683
Cash Pre-payment card balance	917	1,309
Total	40,323	201,242

17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Accounts Payable	1,228	925
Accrued Expenditure	13,441	167
Loan Repayments due within 1 year	13,636	4,545
Total Creditors	28,305	5,637

18 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

In 2021 and 2022 the church received four interest free loans of £120,000 from members.

Loan	Amount	Balance at 31/12/2022	Repayments due in 2023	Due after 2023	Terms
A	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	Due for repayment by the end of 2032 with
B	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	no repayments due prior to that date
C	50,000	47,727	6,818	40,909	Repayable over an 11-year period in equal
D	50,000	47,727	6,818	40,909	payments every 6 months from June 2022
Total	120,000	115,454	13,636	101,818	

The church received the benefit of not paying interest on any of these loans. This benefit has not been recognised in the accounts. The repayment due in 2023 is recognised as an amount falling due within one year (see note 17) with the remainder recognised as falling due after one year.

19 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2022
Church Building Res.	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	1,250,000

The Church Building Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the South Street premises.

20 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2022
Fellowship Fund	530	-	-	-	-	530
Window Repair	-	288	-	-	-	288
Piano	-	26,600	-	-	-	26,600
Redevelopment Fund	77,561	18,441	(243,026)	36,394	-	(110,630)
Total	78,091	45,329	(243,026)	36,394	-	(83,212)

The Fellowship Fund represents funds given to support members of the fellowship suffering hardship.

The Window Repair fund has been initiated to gather resources to fund the long-term maintenance of the stained-glass windows in the South Street premises.

The Piano fund was created following a gift from a member in 2022 of the funds to purchase a grand piano. This piano is the only asset within the fund.

The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund represents the funds that have been given specifically for the redevelopment of the South Street Premises. Following completion of the works, this fund holds the interest free loans used to fund the project and the ongoing giving that funds the repayment of these loans.

21 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2022
Redevelopment Fund	52,674	37,431	(70,872)	(19,233)	-	-
Fabric Fund	21,000	-	-	(21,000)	-	-
Manse Reserve	329,902	-	(1,914)	-	-	327,988
Pension Reserve	-	-	(350)	(15,266)	15,616	-
Total	403,575	37,431	(73,136)	(55,499)	15,616	327,988

The Designated Building Redevelopment fund represents funds that had been set aside towards redevelopment and improvement of the South Street Premises. The Fabric Fund represents funds set aside to deal with long term repairs to the South Street Premises. These remaining balances in these funds were transferred to the restricted Building Redevelopment fund to cover the costs of the refurbishment project.

The Manse Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the manse.

The Pension Reserve fund holds the church's liability to the Baptist Pension Scheme and sufficient cash to cover the liability. A transfer to or from the general fund is made each year to ensure that the liability is covered.

22 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUND

		Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long-term Liabilities	2022 Total	2021 Total
Endowment Funds	Per note 22	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,250,000
Restricted Funds	Per note 23	26,600	(7,994)	(101,818)	(83,212)	78,091
Designated Funds	Per note 24	327,988	42	(42)	327,988	403,575
Unrestricted Funds		15,551	28,171	-	43,722	27,444
Total		1,620,138	20,219	(101,860)	1,538,497	1,759,110

23 PENSIONS

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of

Great Britain with Aviva Limited.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers, the scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

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 Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (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 financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

RPI price inflation assumption	3.20% p.a.
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70% p.a.
Minimum Pensionable Income increases above CPI	0.50% p.a.
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 0.5%)	3.20% p.a.
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement (gilt yield plus 1.75% pa)	2.95% p.a.
- Post retirement (including benefits matched by the insurance policy) (gilt yield plus 0.5% pa)	1.70% p.a.
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20% p.a.
- Post April 2009	2.50% p.a.
Pension increases	
- Based on CPI with an annual floor of 0% and annual cap of 5%	2.70% p.a.

Mortality is assumed in accordance with 80% of the S3NA standard mortality table. Future improvements projected from 2013 in line with the "CMI 2019" projection with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.75% p.a. for males and 1.5% p.a. for females with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Baptist Union Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Under the current Recovery Plan signed in September 2020, deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions are broadly based on the employer's membership on 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan 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.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
Balance sheet liability at year start	17,500	21,100
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(2,182)	(3,695)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	350	289
Actuarial (gains)/losses on re-measurement of liability	(15,626)	(194)
Balance sheet liability at year end	42	17,500

The liability in the balance sheet represents the present value of deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

Accounting date	31/12/2022	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Discount rate	0%	2.00%	1.37%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	n/a	4.06%	3.11%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the Church to buyout the Pension Scheme liabilities on 31 December 2022 was approximately £1,000 (31 December 2021: £22,500).

24 RELATED PARTIES

The custodian Trustee of the Church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The Church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Southern Counties Baptist Association. The Church made a donation to the Southern Counties Baptist Association under the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 9.

The Church has received interest-free loans of £50,000 each from Susan Cantwell, a trustee and her husband Stephen Cantwell. The loans were provided to fund the refurbishment of the church premises and are repayable in equal 6-monthly instalments over a period of 11 years. The outstanding balance on each of these loans at the end of 2022 was £47,727 and a repayment of £2,273 was made on each loan on 3 January 2023.

In 2022 November 2022 a gift of £21,280 was received from Rebecca Reading, one of the Church Trustees. This gift was given on the condition that the funds and the associated Gift Aid were used to purchase a specific Boston Grand Piano from Steinway and Sons for use by the Church. The purchase was completed in December 2022.

The total of all other donations received from Trustees and their spouses in 2022 was £42,791. None of these donations came with conditions which might require the Church to alter its activities.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Caversham Baptist Church		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2022	Charity no (if any)	1181257
Set out on pages	20 to 31		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

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:

Kate Andrews

Date:

22 March 2023

Name:

Kate Andrews

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

ACA

Address:

41 Wantage Road

Didcot

Oxfordshire, OX11 0BS



Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY

Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1181257

Accounts



CAVERSHAM
BAPTIST CHURCH

Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Caversham Baptist Church

Registered charity number: 1181257

South Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HY

Tel: 0118 954 5353 Email: office@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The names of all the trustees who have served between the start of the accounting period and the approval of these accounts are noted below with the dates of appointment and/or resignation where these fall within the same period.

Colin Baker, Minister

Sue Cantwell, Secretary

Richard Wilson, Treasurer

Andrew Blackband, (resigned 11 January 2022)

Roger Horsman (resigned 21 March 2021, reappointed 20 March 2022)

Shane Lowings (resigned 20 March 2022)

Rebecca Reading

Rob Sproule

Staff Team:

Helen Strong Administrator

LEGAL INFORMATION

Caversham Baptist Church (the Church) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission number: 1181257
Church Address: Caversham Baptist Church, South Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8HY

Bankers

Barclays Bank UK Plc, 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

Solicitors

Anthony Collins LLP, 134 Edmund St, Birmingham B3 2ES

Independent Examiner

Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA, Wyatt & Co, 125 Main Street, Garforth, Leeds LS25 1AF

MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

Team Ministries

Catering Team
Fabric Team
Media Team
Men's Group
Welcome
Worship Team
Youth and Children's Team

Ministry Team Leader

Rosemary Sproule
Alan Strong/John Blackmore
Martyn Strong
Shane Lowings
Roger & Julia Horsman
Martyn Strong
Andrew Blackband

Ministry Appointments (Internal)

Safe to Grow/Safeguarding
Safeguarding Designated person
Communion Stewards
Cradle Roll
Flowers
Health and Safety Officer

Sue Cantwell & Roger Horsman
Helen Strong
Robin & Yeye Benwell
Gina Lowings
Sheila Goldsmith/Alison Baker
Sheila Goldsmith/Andrew
Blackband
Martyn Strong, Richard Wilson
Rob Sproule
Sue Cantwell
Colin Baker
Martyn Strong

Registrars
Redevelopment project
Safe to Grow Policy
Small-groups Co-ordinator
Website

Ministry Appointments (External)

Baptist Union Home Mission
BMS/Overseas Mission group
Caversham Good Neighbours
Transform Reading
Churches Together in Caversham
World Day of Prayer

Richard Wilson
Joseph Shin
Margaret Wall
Colin Baker
Colin Baker
Sheila Goldsmith

Community Ministry

CCA Drop In
Little Lambs and You (baby & toddler group)

Colin Baker
Judith Lewis

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution, in the form of the Approved Governing Document for Baptist Churches registered with the Charity Commission on 19th December 2018.

In line with its constitution, the Church operates under the authority of the Church Members Meeting, which is open to all Church members, and operates with a quorum of 25 per cent of Church members. The Church Members Meeting appoints trustees to oversee the running of the Church. The trustees are

- The Minister, as appointed from time to time from the list of Accredited Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
- The Church officers, namely the secretary and treasurer who are appointed annually by the Church Members Meeting.
- Up to six Leaders who are appointed for a three-year term by the Church Members Meeting. Leaders may only serve two consecutive terms after which they must stand down for at least one year.

Except for the minister, any individual must have been a member of the Church for a year prior to being eligible for appointment as a trustee. The trustees received no payment for their work as trustees, with the exception of the minister as authorised within the church 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. In fulfilling this objective, the Church engages in a range of activities, either on its own or in partnership with others. The main activities comprise worship services, prayer, bible study and discipleship groups and supporting the local community.

In planning our activities, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

We support the wider work of the Baptist denomination through our membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Southern Counties Baptist Association and through our financial contribution to the Home Mission Scheme. We also support BMS World Mission financially and through prayer support for our link missionaries. We collaborate with other churches through Churches Together in Caversham and support other local, national and international organisations through grants and prayer support where that support will further our charitable objectives. An overview of all grants made in 2021 is in the note 11 to the financial statements.

MINISTER'S REPORT (Colin Baker)

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2021. Looking back over the year that has passed I can't imagine that any of us thought that we would still be talking about COVID-19. Having reviewed last year's report, I am glad to have challenged us as a church regarding our prayer lives. My goodness, how we have needed that!

2021 had a similar feel to 2020 as we continued to livestream our worship meetings until we were able to return to in-person gatherings. COVID-19 guidance continued to advise keeping safe distances and the wearing of a mask to help keep everyone safe.

The year must not be evaluated based upon the negative nature of the restrictions, but upon those areas of our fellowship where we have been truly blessed. During both our live worship and recorded services we have been served by our brilliant AV team (Martyn, Rob & Ben). They have created video, put up subtitles and edited where possible to make our output really excellent. Also, we express our gratitude for those who have led us in sung worship (too many to mention). They have prayed, planned and played or recorded their worship for us all to join with them – thank you! Not forgetting our open-air worship which, up to the time of writing, has been unhindered by adverse weather conditions – praise the Lord!

We have not only been able to meet face-to-face (with masks) but also from the comfort of our own home where we could see each other via Zoom. All of our church business meetings have been held via videoconferencing as well as all of our home groups when gathering together was not possible.

Once again, we managed to get all our midweek groups together for Lent and Advent studies which was a lot of fun to do. Perhaps as we move forward into greater freedoms, we might look back with some joy at the blessings we had in meeting each other on screen and in small break out groups. Certainly, for some who are more advanced in years, the opportunity of staying at home and meeting online on a cold, dark night beats having to brave the elements! On reflection we have to regard this simple use of technology as having helped us in gathering together for some important things:

Listening to God. Every Sunday evening between 6-7pm we have devoted the hour to the Lord through listening, sharing scripture, praying and pondering the Lord's leading.

Leaders' prayer and business meetings. Our leaders have continued to meet on Tuesdays online once per month for business, and weekly for

prayer. We have a gifted, diverse and committed group of men and women who serve our fellowship – praise the Lord!

- **Church meetings.** Throughout the last year we have met online for our regular Church Meetings, including being able to welcome new church members. We also held Special Church Meetings connected with our building redevelopment, which allowed us to discern God guiding us to move forward with the project. The building work then began in September 2021 and should be completed in Spring 2022.
- **Online services.** Despite the lockdown it seems that many were watching the services on our YouTube channel. We are delighted that some of these decided to join with us and are now regulars in person on Sunday mornings – praise the Lord!

In the life of any fellowship, seeking the Lord for guidance and direction is a significant and important discipline. Throughout our Listening to God evenings, we have sensed the leading of the Holy Spirit as we moved closer to the vital decisions that were to be made. The Lord has clearly taken our fellowship on a journey of faith. With any church building project there is rarely a 100 per cent agreement, therefore it was vital that we discerned the Lord's leading with the project for Caversham Baptist Church. There was a strong sense that we were called to trust the Lord for the work we were considering. *Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham* is our strapline but also our mission and challenge. Showing the heart of Jesus in any area of church life or mission requires **faith**. Much prayer was invested in this project in the running up to our church meeting and so, when it came to decision time at that meeting, we agreed that in the following week pledges for the finance would confirm the Lord's leading of our fellowship. '**And it came to pass**'. Indeed our fellowship responded with gifts, commitments to increased giving and interest-free loans. There was no need to seek any further borrowing. Praise the Lord, we were able to vote in agreement for the church redevelopment project.

We give thanks to the Lord for all that 2021 had to offer us and look forward prayerfully to all that 2022 has in store for us. Notably, our re-landscaped frontage, appealing new entrance and access to our worship space, enhanced and airy lounge, refreshed and modern toilets, transformed upper hall for our children's ministry and outside users - and the smell of fresh paint.

Before all the planning for this work was complete, we had no idea that the church organ would be rehomed in Ireland. But with its removal in September a decision was made to add a piece of work to our plans, filling the archway with acoustic plasterboard and removing the wooden screen from the stage.

Our stage is now a little larger and a new carpet has been laid throughout the worship space.

As we look forward, obviously our faith dream is to see our building used to the glory of God and filled with people joyfully worshipping. We also look to the Lord for vision as to how we creatively use the space we have and also what we will do with the space we have gained from the removal of the organ – this gives us the opportunity to re-imagine what we can do with the North end of our building.

Of course, our work as disciples of Jesus continues through the worshipping life of our fellowship, pastoral care, leadership, prayer life and relationships (church and community). We are to do all this in love. Kent Keith in his wonderful book *Jesus did it anyway* reminds us: *“Jesus didn’t say that we should love each other only when we feel like it, or when it is convenient, or when the people we are supposed to love are charming and lovable. He didn’t say we can give it a try, but if we get tired, or it doesn’t work out, we can just give up. Jesus doesn’t allow any excuses...”*. We must love people anyway.

The reason for us to love is because love is what the Christian life is about. It is implicit in Caversham Baptist Church’s strapline *Showing the heart of Jesus, in the heart of Caversham*. The heart of Jesus is all about love as we are reminded in that famous verse John 3:16. So as we engage this year in our individual and shared ministries as God’s people let’s do so with love.

pastor Colin & Alison Baker

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The reports on the following pages detail the regular activities and any one-off events that took place during the year. A number of ministries were on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.

AV, WORSHIP & ONLINE (Martyn Strong)

We continue to keep the website, social media pages and YouTube updated with all the information you need to know about the Church.

Our worship musicians have continued to serve our worship times whether streamed, live, in the building or from home; we are grateful for their dedicated service.

We continue to put together a video for our YouTube channel and to supply DVDs for those unable to get to church or get online.

Please do like and follow our platforms, share our content and engage online with us.

SUBSCRIBE: <http://www.youtube.com/cavershambaptist>

CONTACT: <http://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk/contact-us>

WEBSITE: <http://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/cavershambaptistchurch>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/cavershambap>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/cavershambaptist>



SMALL GROUPS (Colin Baker)

Being a member of a small group in our fellowship is a vital way for us as disciples of Jesus Christ to grow and 'Show our heart to others'. Discipleship is not a programme or a course, but a journey that is shared with others.

We have groups meeting on different days and times each week which gives a wonderful opportunity for us to minister to each other and receive ministry. Each group meets and centres around worship, prayer and scripture. This is the ideal setting for individuals to grow in faith and give support to others.

Groups have met safely in homes or, when that has not been possible, online. Once again, we have held Advent and Lent groups combining all the groups online and have been pleased to welcome newcomers.

All the groups would welcome new members and we encourage those who are not in a group to join one. If you would like to be part of a group or are interested in starting/hosting a new group, please contact Colin Baker.

There is also potential for some specific interest groups such as walking, cycling, car mechanics, computers, gardening etc. Such groups are not specifically centred on what a traditional home group is about but would have a more relational focus. These kinds of groups would be ideal for introducing those who might like to explore faith alongside members of our fellowship.

PASTORAL TEAM (Colin Baker)

Caversham Baptist Church's pastoral team has continued to meet monthly via Zoom to pray and share prayer concerns and needs for our fellowship. Having expanded the team in 2020 due to the lockdown and the perceived workload we continue keep in touch with the church family by telephone or visits. Our particular focus has been in keeping contact especially with those who have been unable to return to in-person worship or where there are pressing pastoral needs.

Our desire is to continue to grow this ministry. It may be that you have the ability to be a prayerful listening ear and would like to be considered for this team. As things are opening up, would you be willing to visit friends in our fellowship at home, or are you available to help with any hospital visits? In recent nursing studies it has been demonstrated that patients who are visited and prayed for spend 25 per cent less time in hospital.

We give thanks to the Lord for the many and varied giftings we have in this team. May I also encourage all of us to pray for those who serve the Lord in this way.

BAPTIST UNION/OVERSEAS MISSION (Joseph Shin)

The main activity of BMS ministry is to keep consistent contact with, and to receive updates from, partners in 'Law & Justice' / Africa. During the last year, two mission partners (the Barrell family and Naama*) said farewell to their BMS roles either due to personal or visa issues. A new couple working in a confidential area has been assigned to us and will need our prayers. We hope to resume sharing printed copies of prayer letters soon as things are slowly getting back to normal.

(*name changed for security reasons)

READING FESTIVAL (Colin Baker, on behalf of the Leadership Team)

It was looking decidedly uncertain whether Reading Festival would be held in 2021, but finally the go-ahead was given by the authorities. It was an event unlike many before because of the restrictions upon the festivalgoers. They were having to take lateral flow tests upon entering the festival site, which meant for our ministry and Caversham as a whole that there was a lot less footfall. We decided to create an open-air café style space in our car park offering the usual welcome, pastoral care, phone charging, conversation, fresh fruit and a safe quiet space 'to be'.

The short lead time for planning before the event meant that we didn't hire portable toilets, but then found that the majority of our guests wanted to use our facilities. So, with our COVID-19 protocols to follow we tried to maintain the cleanest and most hygienic toilet facilities in Caversham. A straw poll of those using the toilets suggested they were highly appreciative and would come again - and would even pay for the privilege of using clean showers if we were to provide them in future years!

It was a lot of fun. We shared our faith and had the opportunity to pray with our guests...and we enjoyed lot of good weather in the process. If you are looking to be creative and use your ministry gifts, then please ask to be part of this ministry in 2022.

CATERING (Rosemary Sproule)

We started the year with the Church still meeting online until we returned on Sunday 25th July. In anticipation of church returning to the building Rosemary Sproule was asked to take on the Acting Catering Manager role whilst Shirley Strong concentrated on her health. In September Shirley made the decision to step down from the position and Rosemary agreed to take it on. Shirley has spent many years serving the Church in this role, and we would like to thank her for her service and dedication; it has been very much appreciated by all.

Before returning to morning worship in our own building, we carried out a COVID-19 focused risk assessment. One of the outcomes was a decision not to regularly prepare food or refreshments on site.

Before we could use the kitchen, it needed a deep clean and Claudine Lowings came to the rescue doing a great job just in time for us to put on lunch when we hosted the Churches Together in Caversham Holiday Club on Friday 23rd July.

Bacon baps were served to volunteers helping to clear the south end of church over the August bank holiday, with GeoCafe providing food for Sunday lunch.

The south end of the building was handed over to the builders in late September. In preparation, everything from the kitchen and lounge was packed for storage in a shipping container located in the car park – a massive job; thank you to all who helped!

We held a Welcome Lunch in the Worship area for new CBC attenders on 5th December, with delicious food and refreshments once again provided by GeoCafe.

We look forward to being back in our newly redeveloped church building and reopening the kitchen for service once again. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the catering...

PRAYER CHAIN (Rose Blackmore)

It is hard to believe that another year has passed with COVID-19 still with us. Another year of momentous change in the world, in the UK and in our church. As this report is written, we are out of our familiar CBC building, whilst those involved in the redevelopment programme finish the major renovation.

However, some things never change.....In Luke 18 "Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up (see verses 1-8). His story related to an unjust judge who granted a persistent widow her request because she persevered in petitioning him and He said that even this unfair judge "rendered a just decision in the end." He then asked the questions: "So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?"

Therefore, our need to pray and our need for prayer is never redundant. The prayer chain is vital in such significant times as these. Grateful thanks to every prayer partner and also to all who have requested prayer over the past year. Thank you all for your tenacious, purposeful, constant prayers. We can all have the utmost 'confidence that if we ask anything according to God's will, He

hears us. And if we know that He hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him.’ (1 John 5: 14-15)

BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT (Rob Sproule)

Our architect developed and issued the tender pack in late April 2020. We received three responses and awarded the contract to Morris & Blunt, a local construction firm with a good reputation and recent experience working with local churches, including Crowthorne Baptist Church. Morris & Blunt also submitted the lowest priced tender.

We saw the Lord’s hand on our journey as the fellowship responded in faith and generosity to fully fund Phase 1 of the project with gifts and interest-free loans. It is always a wonderful blessing when the financial support matches the need to within a very small amount – in this case our combined resources for the project were a few hundred pounds over what we needed – praise God!

Work commenced on-site in late September 2021 and is due to complete in March 2022 in terms of the inside work, and May 2022 for the remodelled entrance. We expect to deliver the project within the planned budget.

A good home was found for the pipe organ; it was removed during September and relocated to a RC Church in Athlone, Ireland.

Removal of the organ was essential to allow Phase 2 of the redevelopment (the north end of the building) to proceed. With the organ gone, we took the opportunity to bring forward some of the work that was scheduled for Phase 2 – filling in the central arch wall, reconfiguring the platform and renewing the carpet in the worship area. This work is all fully funded from within the Phase 1 budget by a combination of savings from Phase 1 scope and making use of some of the contingency.

Funding was helped by receiving a grant from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) to fund about 95 per cent of our VAT bill. This, coupled with the element of work that is zero rated means we will only pay approximately 3.4 per cent of the potential VAT bill. Whilst we had budgeted for some reduction in VAT, the additional saving is a wonderful blessing.

Despite the challenging environment, impacted primarily by COVID-19 restrictions, there have been many opportunities for all at CBC to engage with the project. This is our opportunity to formally thank everyone for their faithful, prayerful support, their financial generosity and willing hands-on support – ‘all we have needed thy hand has provided’ – thank you all and thank you Lord!

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

SUNDAY MORNING GROUPS (Andrew Blackband)

2021 was largely dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but we were very pleased to be able to re-start in September the Sunday morning groups for children and youth.

Since September we have had the privilege of teaching on average about eight children and young people from the church family, together with occasional visitors and friends, to share the Bible through stories, discussion, games, prayer, craft and music; helping the children to discover and develop their own relationships with God. The young people in the over-10s group formed a band during the autumn and are now regularly involved in leading musical worship on Sunday mornings.

Christmas was celebrated with '*Christmas Gone Worn*' a light-hearted Nativity play telling the traditional Christmas story with the help of Christmas carols, which all go a bit '*worn*'. It incorporated readings from the gospels of Mathew, Luke and John. The theme was that God came to us at Christmas, despite things not being perfect. Immanuel, *God With Us*, even in our mess and muddle. It was very good to see so many of our adults and children involved in telling the story.

The trustees thank all of those who work with the children and young people at the Church. We are blessed with a good number of leaders and volunteers, all of whom are DBS checked and have completed safeguarding training. Without your support, help and dedication we would not be able to sustain this vital teaching and sharing of God's love; thank you. We are also grateful to Queen Anne's School for the use of some excellent classrooms during the two months that we were worshipping in the school chapel during our building refurbishment.

LITTLE LAMBS Parent & Toddler group (Judith Lewis)

Little Lambs and You (renamed from Time4U) usually meets on a Monday morning 10.00am to 11.30am in the worship area. Due to COVID-19 we had been unable to open at the beginning of 2021. However, we were finally able to open in May, in a limited format due to COVID-19 restrictions, with a team that courageously took on board all the extra duties of making the space as safe as possible in difficult circumstances. We moved to an online booking system with 20 places available each week. We were unable to serve refreshments and, for the summer term to encourage social distancing, encouraged parents to stay at individual tables with a prepacked box of toys, books and a craft activity. There were limited opportunities for communal singing, but we did introduce a regular story time. Despite this the group was well attended and usually booked up quickly.

The Autumn term opened on 6th September and, although maintaining the booking system, we were able to relax some measures which allowed for more free roaming play and a return to communal singing. We continued having a regular short story each week and set up a craft table. We were also able to purchase new equipment (including sit on toys and a climbing frame and slide) due to the kind donations of the family and friends of Shelia Bowcock, in her memory. Sheila was a much loved and respected member of the team who we all miss.

At the beginning of November, due to refurbishment of the building, we were unable to provide an indoor venue, so we arranged to meet outside at Caversham Court gardens, weather permitting. We had a handful of attendees leading up to Christmas but did have to cancel at times due to the cold or rain. With the help of our hardy volunteers, we did manage to do some activities including nature hunts and leaf pictures, but it wasn't really working as a longer-term solution.

We hoped to reopen in the church building on 10th January. Due to delays this didn't happen, but we will be starting on 28th February. Thanks to the online booking system we know 90 parents/guardians have attended since opening in May 2021 and we hope to reconnect with them as quickly as possible once we are back in the building.

HOLIDAY CLUB (CBC Representative: Helen Strong)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the decision was made at the start of 2021 to not plan for a Churches Together in Caversham holiday club to take place in the summer in the usual format. The restrictions in place made club not viable in its usual form, but the core team of leaders considered whether something else could be planned. One of the team had a vision for a weekly session for families, once a week and moving around the churches in the area. Food was to be provided, and the theme was 'Holiday at Home' which included activities, bible stories and games based around different holiday locations, such as the beach and the zoo. The sessions took place at CBC, Caversham Methodist Church, Grace Church, St Andrews and St. John's.

Numbers who attended varied, with several different families attending each session, as well as some who attended more than one session. We were able to reach a similar number of children as usual, 150, but in smaller groups, which made it more Covid safe.

We are hoping and praying that we will be able to return to our usual structure of holiday club in the summer of 2022, as well as an additional club at Easter for secondary school children

POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

This statement was agreed at a church meeting held on 27/5/97 and amended at the AGM on 25/3/03. It will be read annually at the AGM where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
3. We recognise that work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
5. The Church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to provide supervision.
6. The Church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice: *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet *Safe to Grow*. Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Church's agreed procedure and good practice guidelines.
7. As part of our commitment to the children and young people, the Church has appointed:
 - A Designated Person to advise the Church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of Children and young people and to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Their role will be regularly explained to children and their names, addresses and phone numbers publicly displayed.
8. The Church will appoint a responsible person and administrator to see that this policy is implemented.

Children and young people are a part of—and belong to—church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of the children and young people.

Designated person: Helen Strong, 7 Gravel Hill, Emmer Green Reading RG4 8QN

POLICY STATEMENT ON PHOTOS OF CHILDREN

Children and young people are a valued part of our church. In our use of photography, we seek to celebrate and communicate the life and activities of this church and to affirm the importance of all who are part of your church life, young and old. This policy is to ensure that such photography protects the safety of the children and young people in our care. It supplements our existing 'Safe to Grow' policy.

This policy statement will be read and confirmed at the AGM each year where the process of carrying it out will be monitored.

1. It is the responsibility of each church member to prevent misuse of photographs of children and young people and to report any misuse discovered or suspected.
2. We recognise that written parental/guardian consent must be given for the publication or display of a recognisable photograph of any person under the age of 18. Parents must be aware of which type of publication/display will be used. No consent is needed for photos of people whose faces are not recognisable.
3. Borderline cases will be decided by the designated person.
4. Photos by an individual of activities within or related to our church, which involve children and young people is only allowed with the permission of the leader of the activity.
5. Each leader, publisher and photographer will be given good practice guidelines on taking photos of children and young people, including being made aware of this policy.
6. We will exercise proper care ensuring children and young people will not be identified by name or other personal details in captions and accompanying text.
7. Data protection: Photos are to be stored in a safe and secure way, separated from personal details of the child or young person. Photos, negatives or computer images that are against parental consent must be completely destroyed. Others must be kept securely and, when no longer needed, destroyed.
8. As part of our commitment to children and young people, the Church has appointed a designated person to listen to children, young people and parental concerns.
9. The Church has appointed a responsible person as an administrator to see that the policy is implemented.

Children and Young People's Vision and Mission Statement

Our Vision is:

To see the lives of children, young people and their families in the local community be transformed and for them to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our mission is:

- To provide a safe, secure, warm environment where all are welcome and have equal value
- To be positive Christian role models and develop relationships built on love and acceptance
- To reach out to children and young people in the local area and equip them to participate responsibly in the community
- To provide an opportunity for children and young people to experience the love of God and learn about the Christian faith
- To disciple children and young people in their relationship with Christ and encourage them to live differently and make a difference

CHURCH FINANCES

The major financial story of 2021 was the raising of the funds to undertake the first phase of the refurbishment of the church building. £194,649 was raised in 2021 to add to funds already held. A further £120,000 in interest free loans was pledged, giving the Church sufficient resources to commission the project. At the time of writing, the project is on track to complete within the approved budget of £485,000. This budget was after reclaiming the majority of VAT on the project through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme offered by the Department of Culture Media and Sport. £31,874 was claimed from this scheme by the end of 2021, with a similar amount expected to be claimed in 2022.

Freewill offerings and the associated Gift Aid received in our general fund declined slightly to £75,057 from £78,898 in 2020. Total general fund income fell to £75,947 from £80,255 in 2020 adding in interest income and a Listed Places of Worship VAT grant relating to maintenance works.

Overall income rose to £302,676 from £92,107 in 2020 due to the fundraising for the refurbishment work.

General fund expenditure increased slightly to £77,588 from £74,173 in 2020, due primarily to inflationary cost increases.

Overall, an operating surplus of £1,641 was recorded in the general fund, down from £6,082 in 2019. £3,244 was transferred to the Manse Reserve to fund repairs to the front garden wall. The general fund ended 2020 with a total balance of £27,444, down from £32,425 at the end of 2020. This comprised of the chairs, valued at £8,226 and cash of £19,219.

The manse is valued in the accounts at £329,902 after a depreciation charge of £1,881 and capital investment in the of £3,244. We believe the actual market value of the property is somewhere in excess of £500,000. The Church is valued at £1,250,000, based on a market valuation carried out by Haslams Surveyors. This is a change to the previous policy of using an insurance valuation and resulted in a reduction in the value of £1,680,000.

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of Caversham Baptist Church to hold sufficient reserves (including general and uncommitted designated funds) to ensure we have sufficient funds to meet our obligations in the event of a deterioration in our finances, or a major cost (e.g., a building repair) arising. Specifically, our policy is to hold cash equivalent to three months of general running costs and an additional three month's staffing costs. This policy is reviewed at each Annual

General Meeting. The Trustees believe that, as at 31st December 2021, our reserves policy currently requires us to hold approximately £30,600 in unrestricted and designated cash reserves, whilst we actually held approximately £110,400 in general and designated cash reserves, giving an excess of approximately £79,800 above what is required. This excess is committed to the project currently underway on the building.

FINANCIAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

In order to maintain appropriate control of expenditure, the Church has adopted the following financial authorisations policy. Spending or spending commitments:

- up to £250 within budget may be authorised by Team Leaders
- up to £1,200 may be authorised by the Treasurer
- up to £6,000 may be authorised by a vote of the Leadership team
- in excess of £6,000 may only be authorised by a vote of the Church Meeting.

These limits are reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting and have been increased by 20% this year after being unaltered for 10 years.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Incoming Resources		£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	2	75,057	-	194,649	-	269,706	89,428
Income from charitable activities	3	640	31,874	-	-	32,513	980
Other Trading Activities	4	-	-	-	-	-	785
Investment income	5	250	-	-	207	458	914
Other income	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		75,947	31,874	194,649	207	302,677	92,107
Resources Expended							
Raising funds	7	-	-	-	-	-	2
Charitable Activities	8	77,588	2,170	127,978	115,725	323,461	136,266
Other Expenditure	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended	10	77,588	2,170	127,978	115,725	323,461	136,268
Gains and losses on revaluations and disposals of investment assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers		(1,641)	29,704	66,671	(115,518)	(20,784)	(44,161)
Gross Transfers between funds - in	15	-	3,339	-	-	3,339	1,614
Gross Transfers between funds - out	15	(3,339)	-	-	-	(3,339)	(1,614)
Net Incoming Resources before other gains/losses		(4,980)	33,043	66,671	(115,518)	(20,784)	(44,161)
Gains and losses on revaluations of fixed assets	16	-	-	-	(1,680,000)	(1,680,000)	91,343
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	194	-	-	194	11,010
Net Movements in Funds		(4,980)	33,237	66,671	(1,795,518)	(1,700,590)	58,191
Total Funds brought forward		32,425	370,339	11,420	3,045,518	3,459,701	3,401,510
Total funds carried forward		27,444	403,575	78,091	1,250,000	1,759,111	3,459,701

Please note: figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2021

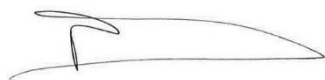
	Notes	As at 31/12/2021		As at 31/12/2020	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	17		1,588,127		3,267,793
7					
Current Assets		239,575		213,732	
Debtors	18	38,332		5,835	
Bank and Cash	19	201,242		207,897	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	20	(5,637)		(724)	
Net Current Assets			233,938		213,008
Long Term Liabilities					
Member Loans	25	(45,454)			
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(17,500)		(21,100)	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			(67,500)		(21,100)
Net Assets			1,759,111		3,459,701
Charitable Funds					
Endowment	22		1,250,000		3,045,518
Restricted	23		78,091		11,420
Designated	24		403,575		370,339
Unrestricted			27,444		32,425
Total			1,759,111		3,459,701

Please note: figures are rounded to the nearest pound and therefore totals may not always match exactly

The notes on the following pages form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 12 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Treasurer



Secretary .



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP 2019), FRS102 and with the Charities Act 2011. Caversham Baptist Church is a registered charity, no. 1181257 and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

c Donations

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

d Legacies

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

e Investment Income

Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

f Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognized where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

g Cost of raising funds

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

h Grants payable

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for when the recipient has been notified of the grant and payment is unconditional.

i Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Church but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance cost. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the Church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service.

j Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are initially recognised at cost, or for donated assets, at a reasonable estimate of their value on receipt. The church premises were included in the balance sheet

for 2020 at insurance value, but in 2021 the trustees agreed to use a market value based on a surveyor's valuation. The Manse premises are initially recognised at cost.

k Depreciation

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church premises as they are revalued each year on the basis of the insured value. The Church manse has been depreciated based on 50% of the initial purchase value being land and 50% buildings. The land is retained at cost and the building depreciated on a straight-line basis at 1% per annum. Depreciation on other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life. Office and IT equipment is depreciated at 20% per annum. The chairs are depreciated at 10% per annum. No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and a full year in the year of disposal.

l Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Church Building Reserve. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

m Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

Prior to 2012 pension provision was made through multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Where it is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for a plan as a defined benefit plan, it accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan. Where the plan is in deficit and where the charity has agreed, with the plan, to participate in a deficit funding arrangement, the charity recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement that relate to the deficit. This amount is expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Freewill Offerings	62,942	-	159,554	-	222,496	77,370
Gift Aid	12,115	-	35,095	-	47,210	12,058
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	75,057	-	194,649	-	269,706	89,428

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Listed Places of Worship Grants	640	31,874	-	-	32,513	980
Other Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	640	31,874	-	-	32,513	980

4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Use of Premises	-	-	-	-	-	785
Total	-	-	-	-	-	785

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	1
BUC Interest	250	-	-	207	458	913
Total	250	-	-	207	458	914

6 OTHER INCOME

There was no other income in 2021 (2020: £nil)

7 RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Credit card fees	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	-	-	-	-	-	2

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Ministry	36,090	289	1,164	-	37,543	35,798
Mission	9,780	-	-	-	9,780	10,602
Premises	31,717	1,881	126,814	115,725	276,137	89,866
Total	77,588	2,170	127,978	115,725	323,460	136,266

9 OTHER RESOURCES EXPENDITURE

The Church had no other costs in 2021 (2020: £nil)

10 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

The following table summarises expenditure in line with our reporting categories.

	Charitable Activities	Grant Funding	Support Costs	2021	2020
Ministry	36,438	-	1,105	37,543	35,798
Mission	-	9,492	288	9,780	10,602
Premises	268,009	-	8,128	276,137	89,866
Cost of Generating Funds	-	-	-	-	2
Total	304,448	9,492	9,521	323,460	136,268

11 GRANTS MADE TO OTHER CHARITIES

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
BMS World Mission	3,710	-	-	-	3,710	3,640
Baptist Home Mission	4,017	-	-	-	4,017	4,200
Prospects	275	-	-	-	275	300
CCA Caversham	300	-	-	-	300	300
Churches Together in Caversham	550	-	-	-	550	760
Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund	600	-	-	-	600	600
Women's World Day of Prayer	40	-	-	-	40	-
Total	9,492	-	-	-	9,492	9,800

12 SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021	2020
Office Expenses	7,935	-	-	-	7,935	7,704
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-	5
Subscriptions	1,042	-	-	-	1,042	1,273
Church Administrator	375	-	-	-	375	408
Magazine & Publicity	169	-	-	-	169	139
Other Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	780
Total	9,521	-	-	-	9,521	10,310

Support Costs have been allocated to the Charitable activities in the general fund of the Church in proportion with their other expenses (included in note 8 above) as follows:

	2021	2020
Ministry	1,105	2,708
Mission	288	802
Premises	8,128	6,799
Total	9,521	10,310

13 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE EXPENSES

		2021	2020
Salaries	Gross Salary	33,660	32,904
Social Security Costs	Employer's National Insurance	-	-
Pension Costs	Employer's Pension Contributions	3,200	3,145
Other Costs	Council tax, water, phone, expenses	10,130	9,190
Total		46,990	45,239

The average number of staff in the year was 2 (2020: 2). No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year (2020: none)

Revd Colin Baker as Minister acted as one of the Church's trustees in accordance with the church constitution from 1st April 2018 and received a stipend of £25,725 (2020: 25,200). He was also reimbursed out of pocket expenses and mileage (at the HMRC approved rate) of £1,372 (2020: £1,159). Contributions of £3,200 (2020: £3,145) were made on to the defined contribution section of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

The Church pays deficit contributions in relation to the service of past Ministers of the Church to the Baptist Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. These amounted to £3,695 in 2021 (2020: £2,724). The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not currently possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. In accordance with FRS17 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details can be found in note 28.

£2,381.42 of expenditure incurred by Trustees was reimbursed to 3 trustees during the year.

14 GAINS AND LOSSES ON REVALUATIONS AND DISPOSALS OF INVESTMENT ASSETS

The Church held no investment assets in 2021 and thus recognised no gains or losses (2020: £nil)

15 GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

In 2021, £3,244 (2020: £1,614) was transferred from the General fund to the Manse Reserve to fund improvements to the manse during the year and £95 (2020: £nil) was transferred from the General Fund to the Pension Reserve to match the movement of the Pension liability.

16 GAINS AND LOSSES ON REVALUATIONS OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

The Church premises at South Street based were re-valued based on a market valuation by Haslam's Surveyors, which was a change to the previous policy of using insurance valuations received from our insurers, the Baptist Insurance Company Plc. This resulted in a significant reduction in the value as shown below.

	2021 Valuation	2020 Valuation	Gain / (Loss)
South Street Premises	1,250,000	2,930,000	(1,680,000)
Total	1,250,000	2,930,000	(1,680,000)

17 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	South Street Premises	Manse	Chairs	Total
Cost				
As at 01 Jan 2021	1,026,300	355,664	10,282	1,392,246
Additions in year	-	3,244	-	3,244
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-
As at 31 Dec 2021	1,026,300	358,908	10,282	1,395,490
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 01 Jan 2021	-	27,125	1,028	28,153
Charge for the year	-	1,881	1,028	2,909
As at 31 Dec 2021	-	29,006	2,056	31,062
Gain/Loss on revaluation				
As at 01 Jan 2021	1,903,700	-	-	1,903,700
Charge for the year	(1,680,000)	-	-	(1,680,000)
As at 31 Dec 2021	223,700	-	-	223,700
Net Book Value				
As at 01 Jan 2021	2,930,000	328,539	9,254	3,267,793
As at 31 Dec 2021	1,250,000	329,902	8,226	1,588,128

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of two premises, the legal titles to which are held by the Church's custodian trustee the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. These are the South Street Premises at South Street, Caversham and the Church Manse at 2a Rotherfield Way, Caversham. As per the Church's accounting policy stated in paragraph j of note 1, the value stated at 31 December 2021 for the South Street Premises is a valuation carried out by Haslam's Chartered Surveyors on 23 March 2022 estimating their market value. The valuation at 1 January 2021 was the insurance valuation. The cost for the Church Manse is the price paid when it was acquired plus the cost of subsequent capital improvements.

18 DEBTORS

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Accounts Receivable	35,919	3,700
Prepaid Expenditure	2,414	2,136
Total Debtors	38,332	5,835

19 BANK AND CASH

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Cash in hand	22	20
Current Account (Barclays)	198,229	18,961
Baptist Union Deposit Accounts	1,683	187,901
Cash Pre-payment card balance	1,309	1,014
Total	201,242	207,897

20 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Accounts Payable	925	325
Accrued Expenditure	167	399
Loan Repayments due within 1 year	4,545	-
Total Creditors	5,637	724

Other than the pension provision (see note 25), there are no creditors that are not due within one year (2020: £nil)

21 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

In 2021 the Church received an interest free loan of £50,000 to support the refurbishment of the South Street premises, repayable over an 11-year period in equal payments every 6 months

22 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2021
Church Building Res.	3,045,518	207	(115,725)	-	(1,680,000)	1,250,000
Total	3,045,518	207	(115,725)	-	(1,680,000)	1,250,000

The Church Building Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the South Street premises and the funds held from the sale of the North Caversham premises. All the cash in the fund was expended on the redevelopment of the premises, in line with the trusts.

23 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2021
Fellowship Fund	530	-	-	-	-	530
Children's Work	-	1,164	(1,164)	-	-	-
Redevelopment Fund	10,890	193,485	(126,814)	-	-	77,561
Total	11,420	194,649	(127,978)	-	-	78,091

The Fellowship Fund represents funds given to support members of the fellowship suffering hardship. The children's work fund arose from the collection at a funeral of a church member that was for the purpose of supporting the Church's work with children. The Restricted Building Redevelopment Fund represents the funds that have been given specifically for the redevelopment of the South Street Premises.

24 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2021
Redevelopment Fund	20,800	31,874	-	-	-	52,674
Fabric Fund	21,000	-	-	-	-	21,000
Manse Reserve	328,539	-	1,881	3,244	-	329,902
Pension Reserve	-	-	289	95	194	-
Total	370,339	31,874	2,170	3,339	194	403,575

The Designated Building Redevelopment fund represents funds that have been set aside towards redevelopment and improvement of the South Street Premises. The Fabric Fund represents funds set aside to deal with long term repairs to the South Street Premises. The Manse Reserve Fund represents the value attributed to the manse.

24 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUND

		Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Long-term Liabilities	2021 Total	2020 Total
Endowment Funds	Per note 22	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	3,045,518
Restricted Funds	Per note 23	-	128,091	(50,000)	78,091	11,420
Designated Funds	Per note 24	329,902	91,174	(17,500)	403,575	370,339
Unrestricted Funds		8,226	19,219	-	27,444	32,425
Total		1,588,138	238,483	(67,500)	1,759,110	3,459,701

25 PENSIONS

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers’ Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members’ Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Broadstone Corporate Benefits Ltd. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members if they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva Limited.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. Because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme’s assets and liabilities to specific employers, the scheme is accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

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 Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (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 financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

RPI price inflation assumption	3.20% p.a.
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70% p.a.
Minimum Pensionable Income increases above CPI	0.50% p.a.
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 0.5%)	3.20% p.a.
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement (gilt yield plus 1.75% pa)	2.95% p.a.
- Post retirement (including benefits matched by the insurance policy) (gilt yield plus 0.5% pa)	1.70% p.a.
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20% p.a.
- Post April 2009	2.50% p.a.
Pension increases	
- Based on CPI with an annual floor of 0% and annual cap of 5%	2.70% p.a.

Mortality is assumed in accordance with 80% of the S3NA standard mortality table. Future improvements projected from 2013 in line with the “CMI 2019” projection with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.75% p.a. for males and 1.5% p.a. for females with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Baptist Union Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Under the current Recovery Plan signed in September 2020, deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions are broadly based on the employer's membership on 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out in the table below.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Balance sheet liability at year start	21,100	34,100
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(3,695)	(2,724)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	289	733
Actuarial (gains)/losses on re-measurement of liability	(194)	(11,010)
Balance sheet liability at year end	17,500	21,100

The liability in the balance sheet represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

Accounting date	31/12/2021	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
Discount rate	2.00%	1.37%	2.15%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	4.06%	3.11%	3.18%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the Church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021 was approximately £22,500 (31 December 2020: £33,700).

26 RELATED PARTIES

The custodian Trustee of the Church is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited which is charity number 249635, and which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council. The Church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Southern Counties Baptist Association. The Church made a donation to the Southern Counties Baptist Association under the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 11.

In 2021 the Church received an interest free loan of £50,000 from Mr Stephen Cantwell, husband of one of the Trustees. See note 21

The total of all donations received from Trustees and their spouses in 2021 was £171,976. None of these donations came with conditions which might require the Church to alter its activities.

27 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

The Independent Examiner's fee for the examination of the 2021 accounts is £800+VAT. The Independent Examiner has provided no other services to the church.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Caversham Baptist Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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.

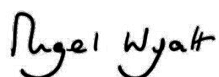
Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.



Nigel Wyatt BSC FCA
Independent Examiner
125 Main Street
Garforth
Leeds
LS25 1AF

Date: 15/07/2022



Caversham Baptist Church

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