



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1.1.2023 **Period start date To** 31.12.2023 **Period end date**

Charity name: Diss Baptist Church CIO

Charity registration number: 1181369

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The purposes of the church are: 1. The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the basis of faith primarily but not exclusively within diss and the surrounding neighbourhood; and 2. Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the basis of faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the doctrinal distinctives and ethical statements as may be adopted and amended by the church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the church handbook.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Our purpose as a local church in Diss continues to be to offer relevant and impactful teaching from the Bible in a way that our congregation can not only learn from but practically apply in their daily lives. 2023 saw us hold three services on a Sunday. Our morning services attract around 80 people, increasingly drawing in visitors and also people enquiring about the Christian faith. A Sunday school is available at this service and numbers are slowly increasing as new folks arrive. At 6pm we hold an evening service drawing a congregation of around 30 people. This service gives the wider leadership of the church an opportunity to

		lead and preach as well as other men to explore and develop their gifts in preaching and teaching. A third service was also held each week. This service was held at the Taylor Road Community Hall. The service is an informal café style church, and included singing, praying, a talk from a video presentation using RightNow Media, and a discussion time. Numbers fluctuated throughout the year between 10 and 20 folks including children. Sadly, the contracted term of employment came to an end on the 31st May for our Pastor for Families and Community and the work on the Taylor Road inevitably struggled. Nevertheless a strong team kept this work on this neighbourhood alive during 2023. Our midweek activities continued strongly thanks to the hard work and commitment of our small army of volunteers. The work amongst senior citizens, Senior Moments continued. Numbers are small to this meeting but those who do come enjoy coffee and chat, crafts and activities and a talk from the bible. On a Tuesday our ladies meet together for bible teaching and prayer. Wednesday is a busy day for the church. Our morning 'Coffee Stop' bustles each week and during 2023 we continued to incorporate a short bible-based thought for the day which is appreciated by all who come, including those with no faith. On a Wednesday afternoon, JAM – our family and children's club has continued to serve as a vital connection point with the community. We continued our 'Warm Space' beyond the winter offering a free meal for the children and parents. What was especially wonderful about this time, as well as practically serving our community in the midst of the cost of living crisis, was to see families asking us to pray for and talk about difficulties they were experiencing. Many good connections and friendships were built with the community through this endeavour. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings we continued to go deeper in the bible in our fortnightly Life Groups and on the opposite fortnight our prayer meetings continued to be well attended and much valued. The weekly coffee morning each Thursday called Chatterbox continued on throughout 2023. Again, this has become an established part of the church week and is especially useful as a connection point on the Taylor Road neighbourhood. In September, a monthly men's meeting and
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		became established into the winter. A full English breakfast and a time for sharing, testimony, and prayer became valued amongst the men. 2023 was a big year for local outreach and mission. Our '180 Street Outreach Team' has gone on from strength to strength with a now established presence every 3rd Saturday morning in the town. Following on from the previous year, Life Fest 2023 was held on Saturday 2nd September. This festival style outreach devised and hosted by DBC was an afternoon on Diss Park of music, talks, games, crafts, stalls, Way Sport Motor Sport Team and all sorts of food establishments. It was great success as an opportunity to reach out to our town with the good news of the life that is offered in Jesus Christ. Diss Baptist Church played a prominent role in the town when refugees were placed in the Park Hotel. DBC was central to the organisation of clothing, essential items, and support amongst the community. We welcomed many international families into our Sunday services, children's work, warm space, to our coffee mornings, as well as befriending. Most significantly we provided through the autumn and winter EFL classes. A team of volunteers was assembled to take on this massive task. We are grateful to God for our good relationship with Diss Town Council enabling us to do these town-based events as well as the use of DYCC and their allowing us to store so much of our equipment on site. However, DYCC was closed for public use following the discovery of RAAC in the roof. We moved back to the church building for all Sunday services in December 2023. In the second half of 2023 DBC partnered formally with the Norfolk Gospel Partnership and has already begun to make good use of the many events and resources put on by NGP. We give thanks to God for the generosity of our church members in their financial support, their prayers, and their practical help and support in so many ways (often totally unnoticed). But most of all we thank Him for the reason we do this - His Son Jesus Christ, and the reason we can do this, the divine help he gives us through God the Holy Spirit.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public	Para 1.18	The charity trustees of Diss Baptist Church have had regard to the guidance on public benefit in the activities of the charity.

benefit		
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	See information and comments included in the main activities identified above.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Total income for the year from collections was £98,703.66 . After adding gift aid (from HMRC) specific mission giving total income was £120,259.92 Total expenses for the year were £106,247.16 , of which £57,562.88 was spent on employees' salaries and expenses. Total mission giving was £11,211.70 for the year. As a consequence, the surplus with income greater than spending was £14,012.76
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves policy – general reserves (not including funds already designated for specific spending) should normally be between 3 and 6 months spending
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total unrestricted funds held were equal to £76,283.04. Reserves are higher than the reserve policy stipulation, but with the sale of the Manse and the potential for purchasing a new property, additional funds for development may be needed.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust deeds: Church Building, Church Manse; Handbook and Constitution.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Constitution covers the election of trustees – elders of the church (voted on by church members) become trustees. If there are fewer than 3 elders then their number is supplemented by members of the diaconate.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Diss Baptist Church
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1181369
Charity's principal address	Diss Baptist Church Denmark Street Diss IP22 4LE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jonathan Armstrong	Pastor/elder		Membership
2	Jonathan Findlay	Pastor/elder	1/1/23 to 31/5/23	Membership
3	Trevor Hart	Elder		Membership
4	Joseph Bannister	Elder		Membership
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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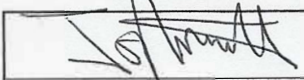
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	JONATHAN ARMSTRONG	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	PASTOR and CHAIR OF TRUSTEES	
Date	15th OCTOBER 2024	

Pastor's/Trustees' Report 1st January – 31st December 2023

Our purpose as a local church in Diss continues to be to offer relevant and impactful teaching from the Bible in a way that our congregation can not only learn from but practically apply in their daily lives. 2023 saw us hold three services on a Sunday. Our morning services attract around 80 people, increasingly drawing in visitors and also people enquiring about the Christian faith. A Sunday school is available at this service and numbers are slowly increasing as new folks arrive. At 6pm we hold an evening service drawing a congregation of around 30 people. This service gives the wider leadership of the church an opportunity to lead and preach as well as other men to explore and develop their gifts in preaching and teaching.

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Diss Baptist Church
Profit and Loss
January - December 2023

Income

2000 Cash/Cheques/Standing Orders	98,703.66
2010 Gift Aid	
2020 GASD Tax Reclaimed	844.96
2030 Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	14,113.75
Total 2010 Gift Aid	£ 14,958.71
2040 Interest Rcd	2,648.55
2060 Jam Money	204.00
2070 Taylor Road Money	1,200.00
2100 Mission Donations For	
2110 Asia Link	60.00
2116 Waveney Food Bank	125.00
2175 Slavic Gospel Association	70.00
2197 Asia Mission Trip '23	2,290.00
Total 2100 Mission Donations For	£ 2,545.00
2200 Restricted for	
Total Income	£ 120,259.92
Gross Profit	£ 120,259.92

Expenses

3000 Salary & Expenses	
3010 Salary Tax NI	52,309.14
3020 Pension Cont	3,271.44
3030 Mileage & Expenses	1,761.30
3040 Conference Fees	221.00
Total 3000 Salary & Expenses	£ 57,562.88
4000 Manse	
4020 Repairs & Maintenance	30.00
4030 Council Tax / Water Etc.	1,448.84
4040 Insurance - Building	251.53
Total 4000 Manse	£ 1,730.37
5000 Church	
5020 Repairs & Maintenance	657.88
5040 Cleaning	694.95
5050 Gas & Electricity	8,346.15
5060 Water Rates	400.69
5070 Fixtures & Fittings	150.00
5080 Insurance	1,819.69
5090 Hire of Premises for Sunday Services	3,080.70
Total 5000 Church	£ 15,150.06
6000 Administration	
6005 Accountancy Fees	763.40
6010 Books & Literature	1,233.40
6015 Copy Right	867.28
6020 General Catering	1,225.40
6025 Health & Safety	157.25

Diss Baptist Church
Profit and Loss
January - December 2023

6035 Professional Fees	3,944.61
6040 Publicity	240.00
6045 Stationery & Office Supplies	779.89
6050 Subscriptions	1,047.88
6055 Telephone & Broadband	531.68
6070 Website/Internet	487.87
Total 6000 Administration	£ 11,278.66
7000 Activity Expenses	
7100 Outreach	
7105 Christianity Explored	63.52
7135 Taylor Road	2,509.18
7140 Various Outreach	301.86
Total 7100 Outreach	£ 2,874.56
7160 Life Fest	4,371.91
7170 Refugee Fund	552.52
7200 Youth	
7210 Jam	1,241.28
7215 Jam+	93.22
7230 Various Youth Outreach	180.00
Total 7200 Youth	£ 1,514.50
Total 7000 Activity Expenses	£ 9,313.49
8000 Mission - Donations To	
8010 Asia Link	2,246.00
8012 Grace Baptist P/Ship	2,186.00
8016 Waveney Food Bank	125.00
8030 London City Mission	200.00
8075 Slavic Gospel Association	100.00
8096 Way-sport	3,934.70
8097 Asia Mission Trip '23	2,420.00
Total 8000 Mission - Donations To	£ 11,211.70
Total Expenses	£ 106,247.16
Net Operating Income	£ 14,012.76
Net Income	£ 14,012.76

Diss Baptist Church
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As of December 31, 2023

Fixed Assets

Church & Pemises	350,000.00
Manse	0.00
Fixtures / Furniture / Equipment	10,146.00
	360,146.00

Monetary Assets

Current Account	8,006.70
Savings Account	30,212.29
Savings Account	393,662.40
Savings Account	38,064.05
	469,945.44

Total	830,091.44
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Funds

Unrestricted Fund	76,283.04
Proceeds from Sale of Manse inc. Interest	393,662.40
Capital Fund	360,146.00
Total Funds	830,091.44

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Diss Baptist Church

Charity No. 1181369

Year Ended 31st December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Diss Baptist ('the charity') for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Signed:



Date: 25th September 2024

Name: Johanne Thomas, FICB PM.Dip

Relevant profession qualifications or body (if any): Institute of Certified Bookkeepers
122-126 Tooley Street
London, SE1 2TU