

Trustees' report April 2024

2023 marked the end of Jim's studies at Spurgeon's College, his graduation and then his ordination in October as a Nationally Recognised Lay Baptist Pastor. The ordination service was a joyful occasion with a packed church.

We are very grateful to Peter Nodding for his continued help with preaching and teaching, and also supporting Jim and Fran on the diaconate after Michael retired as a deacon. It is good that going forward from March 2024 the diaconate will be up to strength following the election of Carole and Paul as deacons.

Our church vision for 2023 was to be 'passionate for God, for the world and for each other'. We have sought to fulfil the first of these aims particularly through our worship and teaching on Sundays and at the weekly Bible studies, and also through the quarterly healing services, monthly prayer mornings and day retreats at Wicken Bonhunt and Pleshey.

To fulfil the second aim we have continued our engagement with the local community and further afield through the weekly coffee mornings, the monthly men's breakfasts and Coffee & Company for those who have been bereaved. The seated exercise class has started again and is very well attended each week. The Ladies' Community Choir continues to meet and took part in the Carols by Candlelight service. Regular services in Humfrey Lodge care home are much appreciated by the residents and staff and it was a joy to welcome some of the residents and their carers to a special carol service in the church at Christmas. A special Easter service was held in the home but we hope to have future services in the church. Classes from the Primary School visited at Easter and Harvest, and following a meeting with the Headteacher we are strengthening the links with the school as Jim takes occasional assemblies and acts as chaplain to the staff.

The new website is active and information regarding the church activities is noted there and on Facebook. Jim also posts a monthly reflection on the website which is aimed not only at church members but also the wider community via local websites. Information about church activities and an outreach article from Jim are included in the ABC&U Community magazine which is distributed to every house in Thaxted three times a year.

Following approval by the church membership the Fabric Group is proceeding with plans for the front entrance of the church to make it more welcoming and also for improving the heating and flooring. We want to maintain the building in good condition and also make sure that it can serve the needs of the church family and local community in future generations.

The quarterly cluster services with the Baptist Churches in Saffron Walden, Ashdon and Gt Sampford continue as do our joint services with the URC. We participate in Thaxted Churches Together events such as the Good Friday walk of witness, the Christian Aid Big Brekkie and Messy Church, including a Messy Church holiday club for children for a week during the summer holidays.

We continue to support the local Foodbank especially at harvest with a large quantity of supplies; the fresh produce was used for community lunches at Pam's Place. In addition to our regular giving to support other causes we have also made donations to the appeals for aid following the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria and in Nepal.

We endeavour to fulfil the third aim of the church vision by caring for each other, sharing the joys and sorrows. We are delighted to have welcomed new friends to the Sunday services and other activities and our regular congregation has increased over the past year.

The trustees would like to thank you all for the way you contribute to the life of the church; everyone plays a part, some in an obvious up-front role and others behind the scenes.

We look forward to seeing where and how God will lead us in the coming year.

Jim Ford & Frances Griffiths



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THAXTED BAPTIST CHURCH

1182813

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2023

To

31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Regular Offerings | 16,570 | - | - | 16,570 | 16,355 |
| Donations & Other Income | 2,366 | - | - | 2,366 | 1,485 |
| Manse Rent | 10,247 | - | - | 10,247 | 11,232 |
| Raised for other Causes | - | 790 | - | 790 | 1,010 |
| Gift Aid | 2,364 | - | - | 2,364 | 4,940 |
| Wednesday Fellowship | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 31,547 | 790 | - | 32,337 | 35,022 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 31,547 | 790 | - | 32,337 | 35,022 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Ministry | 4,389 | - | - | 4,389 | 3,011 |
| Mission | 4,210 | 790 | - | 5,000 | 5,746 |
| Church Running Costs | 7,563 | - | - | 7,563 | 6,967 |
| Manse | 3,997 | - | - | 3,997 | 2,256 |
| Administraion | 3,167 | - | - | 3,167 | 2,368 |
| Outreach / Evangelism | 230 | - | - | 230 | - |
| Church Repairs / Improvements | 3,602 | - | - | 3,602 | 13,719 |
| Wednesday Fellowship | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 27,157 | 790 | - | 27,947 | 34,068 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 27,157 | 790 | - | 27,947 | 34,068 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 4,390 | - | - | 4,390 | 954 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 80,029 | - | - | 80,029 | 79,075 |
| Cash funds this year end | 84,419 | - | - | 84,419 | 80,029 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Current Account | 84,419 | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 84,419 | - | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |
| | | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | | | |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | Church Building | Unrestricted | - | 1,297,319 |
| | Manse | Unrestricted | - | 262,805 |
| | Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment | Unrestricted | - | 61,194 |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
| | | F. Griffiths | Frances Griffiths | 21/04/2024 |



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THAXTED BAPTIST CHURCH

On accounts for the year
ended

31st DECEMBER 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1182813

Set out on pages

1 - 4

(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 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Ann Forsyth

Date: 26/03/2024

Name:

Ann Forsyth

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

FCCA (Non-practising)

Address:

The Lea

The Chase, Park Street

Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2NE

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

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

| | | |
|--|---------|--|
| THAXTED BAPTIST CHURCH | | Report to the trustees |
| 31 st DECEMBER 2023 | | members of |
| Charity no (if any) | 1162813 | On accounts for the year ended |
| | | 1 - 4 |
| | | Set out on pages |
| <p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.</p> <p>As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(2)(b) of the Act.</p> <p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the accounts do not accord with the accounting records * accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or <p>I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p> | | |
| independent examiner's statement | | |
| Signed: Ann Forsyth | | |
| Name: Ann Forsyth | | |
| FCCA (Non-graduating) | | Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): |
| The Lea | | Address: |
| The Church, Park Road | | |
| Thaxted, Essex, CM8 2NE | | |