

**Charity Number 1184783**

**Sutton St James Baptist Church**

**Report and Accounts**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**



**Mark Rose Accountancy**

## Annual Report for Sutton St James Baptist Church For the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

2023 has been a good year for Sutton St James Baptist Church where we have seen both consolidation and growth across all our activities. This has been especially encouraging with regard to Sunday gatherings where we have seen an increase both in people and in their willingness to serve our community through the various outreach activities that SSJBC offers.

SSJBC ended the year with 17 Covenant Members and 8 people exploring membership with a view to becoming Covenant Members early in 2024. We have been blessed with a number of new people becoming a regular part of our Sunday Church family which is giving us an average Sunday attendance of approx. 30 people.

The Outreach activities run by SSJBC continue to be popular and attendance has grown significantly, especially with our daily Renew SSJ outreach which is part of the National network of Renew Wellbeing centres. These activities are reliant on our wonderful team of volunteers led by our Renew Lead Person. During 2023 we had 3721 visits to Renew SSJ which is billed as a "quiet shared space where it is ok not to be ok" built around a daily short optional period of guided prayer offered at 11.30am.

As well as our Sunday Church Family of approx. 30 people, our wider Church family now numbers in excess of 250 people who are regularly engaging with our various outreach events as listed below:

- **Daily:**

- Renew SSJ every weekday 10am – 12 noon and most weeks the following optional activities are also available:
  - Mondays: Chair Exercise Group with Jake.
  - Tuesdays: French Conversation Group & Chess Group
  - Wednesdays: Crafting with Claire
  - Long COVID Peer Support Group
  - Fridays: A knitting and crochet group

- **Weekly:**

- Sunday Worship which would include something for the children.
- SSJ Village Choir – weekly on Thursday evenings

- **Fortnightly:**

- Assemblies at SSJ Community School
- Half Termly assemblies at Tydd St Mary CofE School
- New Horizons Youth Group Fortnightly in Term time for School Year 6 upwards.
- Souper Thursdays Bible Study discussion group with a soup lunch

- **Monthly:**

- Men's Breakfast for fellas of any age
- Community Lunch
- Film Nights

- **Special Events:**

- Pancake Day Drop-in
- 3 Day Flower Festival
- 8. Nighttime performance of a live play & Cream Tea



- Pre-Christmas singalong & cream tea.

2023 also saw the start of the upgrade to the Sound & Vision System including the installation of a hearing loop so that it can meet the current and future needs of the Church. This was made possible through grant funding secured through Crowd Funding, Bishop of Lincoln Social Justice Fund & the Grange Wind Farm Trust.

SSJBC remains acutely aware of the need to become financially sustainable and the need to reduce our reliance on grant funding especially for the core roles which underpin the work of SSJBC - however this is a big challenge for a small rural church.

In January 2022 the Covenant Members agreed to set aside £500 per month towards futureproofing roles currently funded by grants and this was continued into 2023. In March 2023, SSJBC received an unexpected sum of £9,307 and were also successful in a Grant Application from the Mental Health & Wellbeing Community Fund that would provide funding for 3-years towards the costs of running Renew SSJ, Community Lunch & Men's Breakfast – the first years grant of £25,000 was received in April.

In May 2023 the Covenant Members agreed to invest £50,000 in a 1-Year Fixed Rate interest account towards futureproofing those roles that are currently grant funded. These roles include:

- Pastor (works full time but currently paid a half stipend funded by a Pioneer Grant from the EMBA – this grant is in place until December 2023.)
- Renew Lead Person (works 16 hours per week and paid the National Living Wage.)

In April 2023, the Pastor and her husband announced that they would be stepping down from leadership at an agreed point after Easter 2024 and as such the Church should convene a team to begin drafting a Profile that would enable the role of Pastor to be advertised. Work on this commenced in July and as 2023 ends, is still in progress with the first draft planned to be shared with the Covenant Members at the Church Meeting in January 2024.

As we finish 2023, we remain encouraged by all that is happening at SSJBC and the consolidation that has been able to take place.

God has been a faithful provider of both finances and volunteers, and we trust that if we stay true to His call to "open the doors and love people" that our efforts on all fronts will continue bear fruit and that SSJBC will be here to serve our community for many years to come.

**Sutton St James Baptist Church**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**for the year ended 31st December 2023**

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out in the attached Accounts.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners**

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'); you consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act) and to state on the basis of the Act, as amended, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiners' statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act and section 386 of the 2006 Act; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
  - (c) to prepare the accounts in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charitieshave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mark Rose  
FFA.



Date: 28th April 2024

Mark Rose, FFA  
Mark Rose Accountancy  
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PE12 9DB



# SUTTON ST JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

## Statement of Financial Activities: Year ended 31 December 2023

Incoming Resources	General Purposes	Restricted	Designated	Total Funds	2022
Gift Aid	5,464	0	0	5,464	5,175
Planned Giving (uncovenanted)	13,804	0	0	13,804	18,664
Church Functions	2,398	0	0	2,398	0
Fund Raising and Appeals (Note 2)	13,775	0	0	13,775	12,311
Investment Income (Note 3)	9,455	0	37	9,492	0
Charitable and Ancillary Trading	0	0	0	0	0
Donations and Grants	0	45,500	5,565	51,065	22,000
Other Income	35	0	0	35	170
Building Restoration Grants	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£44,931</b>	<b>£45,500</b>	<b>£5,602</b>	<b>£96,033</b>	<b>£58,320</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
<b>Relating to Church Activities</b>					
Ministers Stipend	0	13,250	0	13,250	12,375
Other employment	8,490		0	8,490	16,538
Church Running Expenses	14,504		0	14,504	6,598
Cost of Services	973		0	973	834
Outreach Costs and Renew SSJ	6,116		0	6,116	3,683
Charity Donations	1,173		0	1,173	1,076
Building Restoration	5,241	6,168	0	11,409	31,612
	<b>£36,497</b>	<b>£19,418</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£55,915</b>	<b>£72,716</b>
<b>Fundraising Costs :</b>					
Events and Appeals (note 4)	299		0	299	2,234
<b>Governance Costs</b>					
Accountancy	415	0	0	415	434
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£37,211</b>	<b>£19,418</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£56,629</b>	<b>£75,384</b>
Net movement in funds	7,720	26,082	5,602	39,404	-17,064
Transfers	-51,000	0	51,000	0	0
Fund balances introduced / bfwd	54,805	-27,719	0	27,086	44,150
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	<b>£11,525</b>	<b>-£1,637</b>	<b>£56,602</b>	<b>£66,490</b>	<b>£27,086</b>
<b>Statement of Net Income</b>					
<b>Gross Income As Above</b>					
General Purpose Fund	44,931				
Designated Fund	5,602				
Restricted Funds	45,500	96,033			
<b>Total Expenditure As Above</b>					
General Purpose Fund	37,211				
Designated Fund	0				
Restricted Funds	19,418	56,629			
<b>Net Income (Expenditure) For the Year</b>					<b>£39,404</b>

# SUTTON ST JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

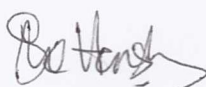
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	0	0
Prepayments	0	0
Bank Current Account- Community Account	18,270	28,603
Bank Savings Account	0	0
East Midlands Baptist Trust Account	50,037	0
Cash in Hand	62	62
Debtors	0	0
	<u>68,369</u>	<u>28,665</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	1,879	1,579
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>£66,490</u>	<u>£27,086</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Purpose Funds	11,258	16,586
<b>Designated Funds</b>		
Designated Funds	51,037	7,500
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Baptist Insurance Grant	0	0
Outreach and Renew SSJ	0	0
WAVE 12 Funding	0	3,000
Mental Health and Wellbeing	4,195	0
	<u>4,195</u>	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>£66,490</u>	<u>£27,086</u>

We approve the accounts set out on pages 1 to 5 and confirm that we have made available all information and records for their preparation.

Signed on behalf of the Committee on

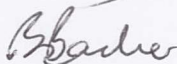
Pastor Susan Hensby - Trustee



Dated 26.04.24

Barbara Barker - Trustee

Barbara Barker



Dated 26.04.24

# SUTTON ST JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

## 1 Accounting Policies

### General

These accounts have been prepared under the Historical Cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

#### a Restricted Funds

Restricted funds represent monies earmarked by Grants/Donations for specific projects.

#### b Designated Funds

Designated funds are funds specifically allocated by the Trustees as being earmarked for specific projects

#### c Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the church without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

## 2 Fund Raising and Appeals

	General	Restricted
Church Functions	0	
Outreach	10,660	
Lunches	0	
Renew	0	
Mens Breakfast	0	
Youth Activities	92	
Events	3,023	
	<u>£13,775</u>	<u>£0</u>

## 3 Investment Income

	General	Restricted
East Midlands Baptist Trust Co Ltd	9382	0
Baptists Together	37	
Barclays Business Savings Account	36	0
	<u>£9,455</u>	<u>£0</u>

## 4 Fund Raising Costs

	General	Restricted
Lunches	0	
Coffee Mornings/Drop In	0	
Mens Breakfasts	0	
Event Costs	299	
Miscellaneous Costs	0	
	<u>299</u>	<u>£0</u>

# Sutton St James Baptist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

## 5 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	General	Restricted		Designated	
		Wave	Mental Health	Designated	Total
		12	Wellbeing	Funds	
Current Assets	11,258	0	4,195	51,037	66,490
Current Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Fund Balances at 31 December 2023	<u>£11,258</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£4,195</u>	<u>£51,037</u>	<u>£66,490</u>



## **SUTTON ST JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### **Funds**

##### **Restricted Funds**

Grants and Donations are sought where available.

##### **Pioneer Grant**

A grant is applied for to enable the Church to pay a Stipend to the Pastor.

##### **Project Refresh**

This fund is set up for building and other projects to maintain or improve the Church property.

##### **Wave 12**

Funds received for specific items which are restricted

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#### **Remuneration and Expenses**

No remuneration was paid either directly or indirectly out of the funds of the Church for the year to any Trustee or to any other person or persons known to be connected with any of them, other than the Pastor's Stipend if a grant can be secured to cover this.

No reimbursement of expenses has been made to any of the members in respect of the year, save for re-imbursing out of pocket expenses with receipts.