

NEW STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



Trustees' Report and Accounts 2023

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Trustees' Report - 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Charity Name:	New Street Baptist Church ("the Church")
Charity Registration No:	1185274 registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO")
Address:	22 New Street, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1AE
Website:	www.newstreetbaptist.co.uk
Charitable Purposes:	The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within St Neots, Cambridgeshire and the surrounding neighbourhood and the United Kingdom. The Basis of Faith is set out in the Church's constitution and describes the Church's Bible-based beliefs and doctrines. It can also be viewed on the Church's website, www.newstreetbaptist.co.uk/what-we-believe The Church may also engage in other charitable activities to put into practice the Christian 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.
Structure & Governance:	The Church has adopted a constitution supplemented by a church handbook, both of which have been approved by members and the Charity Commission. The Church was registered as a CIO on the 12th September 2019. The trustees are aware of and have taken into account the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. The Church is served by three officers appointed or elected by the members, namely, the Pastor, the Church Treasurer and the Church Secretary. The officers, who are trustees, are assisted in various aspects of church life and administration by a number of focus groups, each of which has a group leader, who is also a trustee. The groups currently cover the following areas: • Ministry • Evangelism • Fellowship • Children and youth • Social and community action • Property • Finance and administration

Trustees' Report - 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 (continued)

Trustees:

The trustees, all of whom served throughout the year, except as stated, are as follows:

Resigned 24/04/2023	Ann Broughton	(Fellowship Group)
Appointed 16/01/2023	Simon Ashley Cooper	(Children & Youth Group)
	Daniel Mark Coulling	(Church Secretary) (Property Group)
	Malcolm Crawford	(Church Treasurer)
Resigned 17/06/2024	Tracey Ann Howard	(Social & Community Action Group)
Resigned 16/01/2023	Judith Margaret Single	(Children & Youth Group)
	Steven Paul Todd	(Evangelism Group)
Appointed 09/10/2023	Naomi Barbara Williams	(Fellowship Group)
	Richard Samuel Williams	(Pastor)

The church building at 22 New Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire and adjoining manse are owned by a separate trust, Grace Baptist Trust Corporation.

Aims and Objectives:

The Church's aim is to serve as the body of Christ to extend the Kingdom of God and glorify His name. In pursuing this aim its objectives are to:

- Worship and pray
- Evangelise at home and abroad
- Nurture Christians
- Unify the membership
- Encourage and equip the congregation for Christian service
- Give pastoral care
- Support social action at home and abroad

During the last year the Church has carried out the following main activities to fulfil its charitable purposes for the public benefit:

- Weekly Sunday worship service.
- Weekly prayer and bible study groups.
- Sunday school.
- 8-week Discipleship Explored course started in October 2023.
- Monthly prayer breakfast.
- Messy Church generally run once in each school holiday.
- Tuesday and Friday Noah's Ark (Toddler Group).
- Harvest Sunday service, food donations for the service display donated to St. Neots Foodbank and Pains Mill Foyer, St. Neots.
- Pastoral care for the congregation.
- Christmas light switch on outreach event.
- Monthly Fellowship coffee morning.
- Carol service for local retirement home residents.
- Warm Space Project ran until March 2023.
- Light Party for children as an alternative to Halloween.
- Quarterly bring and share prayer lunch launched in June 2023.
- Christmas floral decoration evening.

Trustees' Report - 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 (continued)

**Achievements &
Performance:**

Ministry:

Below are brief reports from the 7 focus groups assisting in the day to day running of different aspects of Church life:

Reflecting back over 2023, I think it's fair to say that it's been an extraordinary year in terms of how we have seen God working amongst us and there is so much for which we can be abundantly thankful for.

The year began with an encouragement from **Jeremiah 17:7-8**, which was our vision verse for the year, and it reminded us to keep trusting and depending upon the Lord just like a tree that sends out its roots by the stream, so that even in a year of drought it does not cease to bear fruit.

Although many of us have had to walk through a variety of different challenges for different reasons, the Lord has sustained us and ultimately we can say that we have seen God working in ways beyond our expectations at the start of 2024.

God has produced much fruit in our lives personally but also in the sense that many new families have joined with us and we have seen the church grow to such an extent that currently, I think it's fair to say that about a third of those who are now attending on a Sunday were not attending this time last year.

This has created many new opportunities for our church community such as prayer lunches, light parties and soon a discipleship group for teenagers but the vision remains the same, we have been blessed to be a blessing, as we seek to make known the greatness and beauty of God whilst being relationship oriented, evangelistically vibrant, purpose driven and socially relevant.

In all this, we should never fail to acknowledge that unless the Lord builds the house we labour in vain, and it's right that we give God the praise and the glory for the many signs of life, particularly in the numbers of children who are now consistently attending, the ways that people are continuing to engage in worship, prayer and encouraging one another in Christ, and also in the way that we are seeing a growing sense of family and community developing.

That said, we should take seriously the responsibility we now have to wisely steward all that God is doing. Growth always brings with it logistical challenges and changes, but God has been very good time and again to answer our prayers to send workers and resources.

The church isn't a community that exists for the sake of community alone, we are a missional worshipping community, who exist to see the Kingdom advance, and therefore, it's really important that as we look to the future, we each recognise that God has brought us together, not to be an insular social club, but that we are called to be a family and a team who reach out to our town and beyond with the gospel.

We must not grow complacent and we must work hard to keep a sense of unity as we each play our parts in creating a gospel culture and an atmosphere of grace as we work to see all kinds of different people accepting the invitation to follow Jesus, just as we once did.

I'd encourage each of us to reflect upon **Colossians 4:6** which says 'let your conversation be always full of grace, and seasoned with salt' – not letting any careless talk come out of your mouths, 'but only such as is good for building

up, as fits the occasion' – **Ephesians 4:29**, and think through your role as a minister of the gospel, where God has put you, and how you can play a positive role in being a disciple who makes disciples in 2024.

Finally, over the past year, God spoke to us through **Hebrews 11**, the **Gospel of Matthew** and the **Book of Joshua**, and we were reminded that we can trust his promises and his provision, and so, as we move forwards in 2024 – please keep praying for God's power and provision, ask him to do even more in the year ahead, and ask God to continue helping us become a gospel community who are reaching our town for his glory.

Finance:

The Church started 2023 with a bank balance of £79,201 and ended the year with a bank balance of £65,667 including cash of £140 banked early January 2024.

God has continued to bless the Church through the generosity and support of its members, so that the Church was able to meet its needs, despite its income being slightly lower than the previous year. Payments exceeded receipts by £13,534 during the year. This was mainly due to planned expenditure on refurbishment of the manse.

Evangelism:

2023 was a slow year for evangelism, with people moving away and leaving the group. Social media engagement was good during 2023. The majority of Christmas service invites (250) went out to people on the street during our annual Christmas Light Switch On event.

Fellowship:

It had been encouraging to help out a family with meals going through a difficult time and it would be something that we would hope to arrange for others as and when the need arises. The group would like to continue to build on the culture of hospitality further in 2024, **1 Peter 4:8-9**.

Children & Youth:

It has been an encouraging year of growth for the group's work, though the growth has brought new challenges as we seek to develop the work in 2024. The number of new families joining the church has meant there has been a significant increase in the numbers of children attending Sunday School. By the end of the year, average numbers each week have grown to about 20 which is roughly double the numbers we had at the start of the year. On occasion, numbers have gone as high as 25, which has meant that we need a 3rd adult present in order to follow guidance on adult /child ratios. Whilst we haven't been successful in recruiting more 'teachers', a number of people have come forward as 'helpers' so we have been able to maintain a safe ratio. Looking forward, there are a number of new church friends who might be able to help, so we are praying that some of these may be led into leading the Sunday School. The physical space we have available is also becoming somewhat restrictive, though it is great that we are now able to use the garden in the warmer months; in the long term, our vision and prayer is that sufficient people may come forward to enable us to take an older group upstairs on Sunday mornings as we did before the pandemic.

Noah's Ark numbers continue to be very healthy; we've had up to 40 on a couple of mornings. Messy Church has also been positive; numbers have fluctuated with the seasons, but response continues to be very positive.

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Trustees' Report - 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 (continued)

Social & Community Action: The Warm Space initiative continued to be run until March 2023 once a week to help anyone who wanted to drop in and was struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. The space was advertised locally by the Council.

The group continued to be involved with activities taking place within the local community. During 2023 they assisted with "Thursday Food", which has been set up at another local church. The initiative provides meals and company for the homeless and those struggling with their situation. The group is also involved with St. Neots Community Support who provide volunteers to help people with shopping and collecting prescriptions. The Friendly Caller service provides visitors to those who are lonely or isolated. The group also supports the work of St. Neots Foodbank.

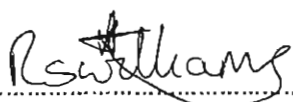
Property: Through 2023 the group continued to assist other groups to facilitate their needs and requirements to help them carry out their work. Along with ensuring regular maintenance/inspections/building work is carried out. Thank you to all those who have helped out in some way over the last year, particularly to those who carry out regular cleaning duties. 2023 also saw the Manse refurbishment work completed at the end of July.

Grant making policy: The Church's aim is to set aside approximately 10% of its income by way of "tithe" to devote to good causes within the ambit of its charitable powers. The organisations benefitting are approved by the members on a quarterly basis and have strong Christian links.

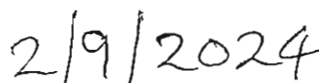
Reserves policy: The Church's policy is to hold unrestricted funds equivalent to around three months' income in order to mitigate the impact of any unforeseen drop in income.

The Church also aims to build up funds designated for future major building improvements and for periodic redecoration of the manse.

Approved by the trustees of New Street Baptist Church and signed on their behalf by:



Richard Samuel Williams
Pastor



Date

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
New Street Baptist Church, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (charity registration number 1185274)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Street Baptist Church (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Charities 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Molyneux, FCA
27 Lannesbury Crescent
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 6AG

J F Molyneux

Date

11 September 2024

NEW STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
Covenants and gifts		36,459	-		36,459	40,896
Offerings		14,461	6,251		20,712	20,375
Covenants, gifts and offerings		50,920	6,251	-	57,171	61,271
Church activities - youth work		1,722	-		1,722	1,247
Other income		301			301	-
Manse lease (net of collection expenses)		-	-		-	20
Total Receipts		52,943	6,251	-	59,194	62,538
Payments						
Pastor: salary and pension		31,528			31,528	32,816
Donations and gifts		8,220			8,220	10,510
Visiting speakers		250			250	50
Worship team/ music and sound system		976			976	825
Web hosting and wifi access		324			324	549
Expenses of church activities						
- youth work and coffee morning		1,095			1,095	1,434
- other church activities		520			520	
Insurance		5,410			5,410	159
Lighting, heating, power and water		2,873			2,873	2,800
Cleaning and maintenance		5,333			5,333	987
Manse maintenance and refurbishment		16,109			16,109	10,289
Miscellaneous		90			90	70
Total Payments		72,728	-	-	72,728	60,489
Net Receipts (Payments) for Year		(19,785)	6,251	-	(13,534)	2,049
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		(19,785)	6,251	-	(13,534)	2,049
Bank and Cash Balances at beginning of Year		78,821	380	-	79,201	77,152
Bank and Cash Balances at end of Year		59,036	6,631	-	65,667	79,201

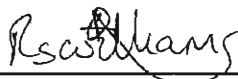
NEW STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

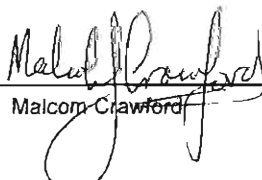
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Bank and Cash Balances at end of Period						
Bank accounts		58,896	6,631	-	65,527	79,201
Cash balances		140	-	-	140	-
	1, 2	<u>59,036</u>	<u>6,631</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,667</u>	<u>79,201</u>
Other Monetary Assets						
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Investment Assets						
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Assets retained for Church use	3	<u>164,208</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,208</u>	<u>152,296</u>
Liabilities	4	<u>771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>330</u>

The notes on page 10 form part of these accounts.

The accounts on pages 8 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 2/9/2024


Richard Samuel Williams

Pastor


Malcom Crawford

Church Treasurer

NEW STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Designated Funds

Designated funds form part of the Church's unrestricted funds.

Movements on designated funds during period:

	Boiler replacement £	Building fund £	Manse redecorations £	Total £
At 31 December 2022	7,000	21,194	10,431	38,625
Allocation of general funds in year	-	-	5,918	5,918
Expenditure	-	-	(16,109)	(16,109)
At 31 December 2023	<u>7,000</u>	<u>21,194</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>28,434</u>

2. Restricted Funds

Restricted funds have been donated for future building work at the Church.

3. Assets retained for Church use

Movements on tangible fixed assets during period:

	Building improvements £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
At cost - 31 December 2022	122,925	29,371	152,296
Additions	8,836	3,076	11,912
At cost - 31 December 2023	<u>131,761</u>	<u>32,447</u>	<u>164,208</u>

The building improvements relate to refurbishment of part of the church building and in 2023, the manse. The previous unregistered charity has acknowledged a grant from the Amey Community Fund (part of the Landfill Communities Fund) in 2020 which has contributed to the cost of the refurbishment project. The new CIO has taken over responsibility for ensuring that the grant conditions regarding availability of the facilities continue to be met.

The church building in New Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire and the adjoining manse are owned by a separate trust of which the trustee is Grace Baptist Trust Corporation.

4. Liabilities

Liabilities at 31 December 2023 comprise:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Tax and pension	-	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	771	-	-	771	330
	<u>771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>330</u>