

STOUR VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
UNAUDITED REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

CONTACT

The Church can be contacted via 2 Elm Road, Shipston on Stour, Warks, CV36 4FA

OBJECT

The vision of Stour Valley Baptist Church (the Church) is:

to proclaim Jesus Christ to people today

to make disciples

to build God's church and see revival

to plant new churches

to reach the nations

In pursuit of these objects the trustees expend the charity's resources on:

- (a) employing a Minister, a Children's Worker and a Digital Marketing Manager
- and paying their expenses. (Ministry)
- (b) paying for the organisation and hosting of events and projects that provide an opportunity for people to find out about Jesus. (Mission)
- (c) hiring premises and providing equipment that provides a meeting place for members and visitors (Upkeep of church premises)
- (d) necessary administration incurred in the running of the church. (Administration)

The Church operates an unrestricted general fund and a restricted fund known as the "Tithe Fund". Approximately 10% of the income to the general fund is transferred to this fund throughout the year. The monies in the fund are donated to other organisations and people with similar objects to the Church. Tithe Fund recipients are selected by the Trustees from people and organisations known to the members of the Church. The vast majority of these monies are allocated to people working overseas.

CONSTITUTION

Stour Valley Baptist Church (SVBC) was planted in February 1999 from Chipping Campden Baptist Church. It adopted a constitution in 2004 and became a separate entity in charge of its own finances from 1 January 2005.

The Church is a registered charity in England - number 1185692

The Church is run on a day to day basis by a Leadership Team that normally includes a majority of Deacons who act as Trustees to the Church.

STOUR VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

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During the year ended 31 December 2023 the following people formed the leadership team and were trustees of the Charity:

Revd D Pulham	Minister and Trustee
J French (stepped down at the 2023 AGM for a sabbatical year)	Secretary, Deacon and Trustee
R French (resigned 21.4.24)	
L Holcombe (appointed 21.04.24)	Retired Treasurer and Trustee
T Porter (resigned 29.05.23)	Treasurer and Trustee
S Chapman	Deacon and Trustee
B Source (appointed 23.4.23)	Deacon and Trustee
L Bolderston (appointed 23.4.23)	Deacon and Trustee

Deacons are normally elected, by the church members, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of three years. Although in the case of vacancies within the year nominations are sought at church meetings.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

2023 saw us continue to meet weekly on Sunday mornings at Shipston Primary School. We gradually grew as a Church community, with the opportunity to welcome many new visitors. The majority of those visitors decided to remain with us and commit to SVBC as their Church community.

A growing number of regular church attenders are also part of a small group.

All groups seek to relate faith to everyday life through study and discussion.

We have run an after-school club at Shipston Primary School as well as monthly assemblies at Ilmington Primary School. We marked the coronation of King Charles III by buying a coronation souvenir Matthew's Gospel for every pupil at Shipston Primary School. We also continue to run a mid week toddler group, 'Little Fishes', which continues to be valued by a growing number of Mums and carers.

We have continued to work closely with the other churches in the town on a variety of other projects including Messy Church events for families, a summer children's Holiday Club and regular 'Holiday at Home' days for the elderly and the housebound.

The Church continues to employ a part time Digital Marketing Manager, helping us connect with the wider 'digital' community beyond our Sunday gatherings as well as offering our regular congregation relevant online resources.

All the above activities reflect our commitment 'to proclaim Jesus Christ to people today and to make 'digital' community beyond our Sunday gatherings as well as offering our regular congregation relevant online resources.

All the above activities reflect our commitment 'to proclaim Jesus Christ to people today and to make disciples' of those who have chosen to put their faith in Him. They also demonstrate the public benefit generated by the charity.

The link, first established in 2005, with pastors and Missionaries in Myanmar has been maintained, as have links in Nepal and Spain and Asia.

Such activities demonstrate the Church's commitment to 'reach the nations' in real and tangible ways.

STOUR VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Deacons have been constantly reviewing our financial results as detailed on pages 5 to 13. Post covid we have increasingly seen a decline in our regular donations. We have partly mitigated the fall in our income by reducing our expenditure.

RISK REVIEW

The Leadership Team has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and mechanisms have been established to mitigate those risks.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

Charity law requires the Deacons to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Church as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements the deacons should follow best practice and

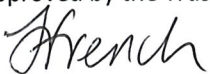
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Church will continue on that basis.

The Deacons are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose at any time the financial position of the Church and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity legislation. The Deacons are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. Examples of this public benefit can be found in other parts of this report.

Approved by the Trustees on 28/11/.....2024 and signed on their behalf



J French
Secretary, Deacon and Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND THE MEMBERS OF
STOUR VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of deacons and independent examiners

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act

to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes 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 examiners report

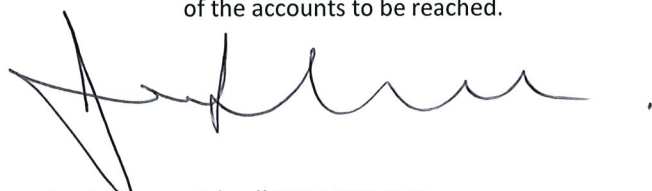
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have 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.



Daniel James Colwell FCCA CTA ATT
Daniel Colwell & Co
Chartered Certified Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor

29th Oct 2024
.....2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Restricted Tithe Fund	Restricted Little Fishes	Restricted Holiday at Home	Restricted Vision Fund	Restricted Welfare Fund	Youth Project Fund	Unrestricted General Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES										
Gifts and donations		-	-	-	-	-	-	46,490	46,490	61,308
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-	46,500	46,500	-
Income tax recovered on gifts		-	-	-	-	-	-	9,862	9,862	13,520
Little fishes		-	1,017	-	-	-	-	-	1,017	858
Special collections for other causes		-	-	-	-	-	-	5,378	5,378	5,613
Holiday at home		-	-	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608	1,075
Interest received		-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500	1,282
Employment allowance claimed		-	-	-	-	-	-	3,172	3,172	4,285
Covid-19 JRS grants		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		-	1,017	1,608	-	-	-	113,902	116,527	87,941
RESOURCES EXPENDED										
Direct charitable expenditure:										
Ministry	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,727	62,727	78,437
Mission	3.	-	2,097	2,082	-	-	-	2,017	6,196	5,395
Rooms and building hire	4.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,330	5,330	6,543
Administration	5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,483	5,483	7,982
Donations from tithe fund	6.	9,112	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,112	8,166
Special collections	7.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,378	5,378	5,613
Recognition of pension liability	9.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(15,587)
		9,112	2,097	2,082	-	-	-	80,935	94,226	96,549
Total resources expended		9,112	2,097	2,082	-	-	-	80,935	94,226	96,549
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(9,112)	(1,080)	(474)	-	-	-	32,967	22,301	(8,608)
Transfer between funds		9,112	1,040	-	-	-	-	(10,152)	-	-
Fund balance at 31 December 2022		396	40	1,064	-	1,056	19,371	95,297	117,224	125,832
Fund balance at 31 December 2023		396	-	590	-	1,056	19,371	118,112	139,525	117,224

STOUR VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Note	Restricted Tithe Fund £	Restricted Little Fishes £	Restricted Holiday at Home £	Restricted Vision Fund £	Restricted Welfare Fund £	Youth Project Fund £	Unrestricted General Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
8.	-	-	-	-	-	-	623	623	934
FIXED ASSETS									
CURRENT ASSETS									
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-	-	-	-	-	165	165	2,294
Income tax recoverable on gifts	-	-	-	-	-	-	794	794	991
Lloyds current account	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,707	61,707	37,992
Baptist Union deposit	396	737	889	-	1,056	19,371	64,137	86,586	84,087
	396	737	889	-	1,056	19,371	126,804	149,253	125,364
CREDITORS due within one year									
Taxation social security and pensions	-	-	-	-	-	-	214	214	214
Collections due to others	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	164	125
Creditors and accruals	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,974	9,972	8,735
	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,352	10,350	9,074
NET CURRENT ASSETS									
	396	737	889	-	1,056	19,371	117,075	139,526	117,224
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES									
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS AFTER PROVISIONS									
	396	737	889	-	1,056	19,371	117,075	139,526	117,224
FUNDS									
Unrestricted general fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,112	118,112	95,297
Restricted Welfare Fund	-	-	-	-	1,056	-	-	1,056	1,056
Restricted Vision Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Holiday at Home	-	-	590	-	-	-	-	590	1,064
Restricted Little Fishes fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Restricted tithe fund	396	-	-	-	-	-	-	396	396
Restricted youth project fund	-	-	-	-	-	19,371	-	19,371	19,371
	396	-	590	-	1,056	19,371	118,112	139,526	117,224

Approved by the trustees on 28/11/2024 and signed on their behalf



Revd D Pulham
Minister and Trustee

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014. and with the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been reviewed in light of adopting FRS102 as opposed to the previously adopted FRSSE.

No change in accounting policies was seen to be needed and no restatement of comparative figures was required.

Incoming resources

Income received from donations and grants is included in incoming resources when these are receivable.

Income tax recovered is included in the period in which the donation that gave rise to it occurred.

Interest is included when receivable by the Church.

In order to perform its charitable activities the Church is dependant upon voluntary help provided by members and friends of the Church. The value of such help is impossible to quantify and is not included in the accounts.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the Church are either:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects of the Church

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the Church. The Church currently operates restricted funds as follows;

The tithe fund for donations in support of causes that have similar objects to the Church

Little fishes fund to be used for the Little Fishes children's activity club

Holiday at Home to be used on a holiday at home event for elderly.

Vision Fund monies are held to further the vision statement as specific needs arise. This fund is now closed.

Welfare fund for the relief of hardship locally

The Youth Project Fund represents monies transferred to the care of the Baptist Church from the Shipston joint churches during the year under review.

Donations specifically for those funds may be only used for the defined object of that fund.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)*Grants made*

The Charity makes grants to organisations and individuals working in the UK and overseas having similar objects to the charity. Grants are made at the discretion of the Trustees and are usually to organisations or individuals with whom the church body has an historic or active working relationship.

Pensions

The Charity is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("The Scheme") which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For any month, each participating employer in the Scheme pays contributions as set out in the Schedule of Contributions in force at that time.

The Minister employed during the accounting period was eligible for and decided to continue in membership of the Scheme, which is not contracted out of the State Second Pension.

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 Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. 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 in the event that 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 further 4% contribution rate is reduced to 3% for Employer contributions made to the Segregated DC Arrangement

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit 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. 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.

Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million. The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £18million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Charity and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

As a result of the valuation, in addition to the contributions to the DC plan set out above it was agreed that the standard rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan will remain at previously agreed levels, increasing each year in line with increases in the Minimum Pensionable Income. The deficiency contributions are broadly based on 12% of Pensionable Income/Minimum Pensionable Income reflecting each employer's contributions in March 2015. Some employers that were involved in the DB Plan for a short period pay lower contributions.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

TYPE OF ASSUMPTION	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income Increases (CPI plus 1.0% pa)	3.20
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	2.95
- Post-retirement	1.70
Deferred pension increases	
-Pre April 2009	3.20
-Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
-Main Scheme pension	2.70

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 Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan.

Under the Recovery Plan dated 30 September 2020, deficiency contributions were payable until 30 June 2026. These contributions are broadly based on the employer's membership at 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules. However, the Trustee and the Council agreed a 50% reduction for all deficiency contributions payable between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.

The 2021 Accounts included a provision for the possible liability under the Baptist Pension Scheme.

At the end of June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ('Just') to secure members' pension benefits under the Defined Benefit ('DB') Plan. As a result, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. A revised statement of contributions was announced in July 2022 with deficit contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reducing to just £1 per month from August 2022.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in section 28 of FRS102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pension costs charged in the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, plus any impact of deficiency contributions.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. MINISTRY

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries	41,175	56,600
Employer's pension contributions	4,349	4,617
Employer's national insurance	3,172	4,285
Pastoral care expenses	1,459	823
Manse expenses	11,078	10,728
Ministry gifts	196	580
Training costs including conferences	260	260
Pastoral mileage expenses	717	396
Worship group/online worship	321	148
	<u>62,727</u>	<u>78,437</u>

Average number of employees	2	3
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No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000

Trustee remuneration and expenses

	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £
	Gross salary	Employer NI contributions	Employer Pension contributions	Reimbursed expenses
D Pulham	31,800	3,133	4,068	6,159

Housing expenses of £11,078 (2022: £10,728) are paid on behalf of D Pulham.

3. MISSION

	2023	2022
	£	£
Junior church	282	284
Family church	260	-
Small group resources	103	-
Alpha course expenses	19	41
Catering costs	564	566
Little fishes (restricted)	2,097	2,177
Rock solid	258	126
Holiday at home (restricted)	2,082	1,374
Other outreach	531	827
	6,196	5,395

4. ROOMS AND BUILDING HIRE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Hall rental	5,330	6,479
Storage	-	64
	5,330	6,543

5. ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Printing, stationery and postage	293	349
Telephone and internet	477	425
General expenses	28	-
IT and equipment	12	-
Subscriptions	1,631	2,467
Professional fees	1,770	1,450
Bank charges	133	219
Interest payable	-	214
Insurance	786	763
Website costs	43	548
Build planning and design costs	-	1,080
Computer depreciation	311	467
	5,483	7,982

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6. DONATIONS FROM TITHE FUND

	2023 £	2022 £
Home mission fund	2,400	2,400
Baptist Missionary Society	1,104	1,104
OMF (M & J Griffiths)	1,200	1,200
Open Doors	600	600
Hobson and Mary	1,000	-
Ukraine	-	54
Mill House of Bread	1,008	1,008
Batram	600	600
CAP Donation	1,200	1,200
	<u>9,112</u>	<u>8,166</u>

7. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR OTHER CAUSES

	2023 £	2022 £
Hobson and Mary	3,797	1,336
Ukraine	39	4,277
Pann Nann Ein	644	-
Open Doors	236	-
Coronation books	662	-
	<u>5,378</u>	<u>5,613</u>

8 FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment 2023
Written down value brought forward	934
Addition in year	-
Depreciation in year	<u>(311)</u>
Written down value carried forward	<u>623</u>

The 2021 Accounts included a provision for the possible liability under the Baptist Pension Scheme.

At the end of June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ('Just') to secure members' pension benefits under the Defined Benefit ('DB') Plan. As a result, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. A revised statement of contributions was announced in July 2022 with deficit contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reducing to just £1 per month from August 2022.

The pension liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions indicated as being attributable to the Charity by the pension trustees. It has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments.

Accounting date	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022
Discount rate	0.00%	5.70%
Pensionable income	N/A	4.50%

The movement in the provision is set out below.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening liability	-	17,540
Minus deficiency contributions paid	-	(2,167)
Interest cost	-	214
Remaining change to balance sheet liability	-	(15,587)
Balance sheet liability at year end	-	-