

## **Darlington Baptist church annual report 2023**

### **Darlington Baptist Church**

#### **Registered Address**

Grange Road, Darlington DL1 5NH  
Corporation Road, Darlington DL3 6AR  
Charity Registration Number 1186432

#### **Trustees**

The Revd V Thompson Minister  
The Revd B Thompson Minister  
Ms M Bell Trustee (re-elected March 2023) Church Secretary to March 2023  
Mrs G Marshall Trustee (re-elected June 2021)  
Mrs J Hughes Trustee (Re-elected March 2023) Church Secretary from March 2023  
Mr T Cotterill Trustee (Elected March 2022)  
Mr George Buchanan (Elected March 2022)

#### **Property Trustees**

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

#### **Bankers**

Santander, Darlington

#### **Independent Examiner**

Val Carr

### **Annual Report for 2023**

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2023.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document. Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to meet the churches qualification on baptism.

The members Meeting normally takes place on not less than 4 occasions per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint a maximum of 15 trustees, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

In order to achieve the principal objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of

Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at both 10.30 am at the Grange Road site and 6.00 pm at the Corporation Road site. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board and the website at [www.darlingtonbaptist.org](http://www.darlingtonbaptist.org). There is a full children's programme during the morning services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church runs a series of life groups for the growth of faith and discipleship in both the Church building and private homes, further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship.

The Church is responsible for a Toddler Group and a baby bank which meets in the Corporation Road Church premises on Thursday mornings, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. From time to time the Church runs courses in parenting, and courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity, entitled 'Christianity Explored' and 'Alpha'.

The Church runs various events for families and for people in need of mental health support.

The church runs a regular soup kitchen and food bank.

The Church Runs a café in the conservatory two days a week.

The Church runs an addiction support and rehab service in the community three days a week.

The Church runs an Edge centre offering support and a safe space for community engagement.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees believe that 2023 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2024 with renewed enthusiasm. At 31 December 2023 the membership stood at 112. Average attendance at worship services both in person and online has increased during the year, and similar increases were shown in the children's and youth work.

The Toddler Group has seen an uptake in attendance and has begun to develop a baby bank to compliment and support the work with young families in providing good quality used clothing and equipment.

The soup kitchen and foodbank have seen increasing numbers of people attending. This service provides those in need with a hot meal, and where necessary a food parcel. The service has developed links with probation and other local services who are encouraging their clients to attend. A number of the service users began to attend Sunday worship and were Baptised.

The addiction support service has seen increased numbers of people attending the support group and the "KEYS" rehab in the community programme. They have developed strong links with other support services in the community and are working well together. Roots has seen a number of people attend a Christianity explored course and begin attending Church. This year Roots has developed the edge centre extending their services beyond the remit of addiction to those facing mental health struggles, social isolation and in need of a place of community. They held a lunch for all local support services showcasing what the edge centre could offer, a significant number of local services attended and new opportunities for working together established.

The conservatory café is now open two days a week and has a steady flow of people attending.

### **Financial Review**

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. Some outside funding opportunities have been sought in a bid to make upgrades for the soup kitchen, this project is ongoing.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making donations to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Church has agreed a reserves policy. The purpose of holding reserves is to ensure that Darlington Baptist Church has sufficient funds available to cope with financial issues that might arise, such as the need to fund an urgent property repair, an issue with staffing or the loss of income.

The current reserves policy of Darlington Baptist Church is to hold approximately three months of all staff costs plus three months of running costs, to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the church. The recommendation is that approximately six months of staff costs and six months of running costs are held, but currently the church funds do not allow this level of reserves. The trustees will annually review the reserves policy with a view to reaching the recommendation over time, as funds and priorities allow.

# DARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Registered in England and Wales as Charity No. 1186432

## Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Receipts	2022	2023	Notes
Offering	82451	109033	1
Vision / Gift Day	20078	13432	2
Gift Aid (from HMRC)	20473	21853	3
Donations & Bequest	7127	1916	4
Church Organisations / Initiatives	1570	2533	
Property Rental	13792	12773	5
Room Hire of Premises	17580	19895	
Raised for Other Causes	2153	1095	
Bank Interest	96	1540	6
Miscellaneous	207	1891	
<b>Church Specific Funds</b>	<b>£ 165,527</b>	<b>£ 185,961</b>	
Basement	1502	7045	14
Basement Refurbishment	5930	6578	
Roots	13875	4041	
Edge		1000	
Grant Funding (Think of Yourself)		7114	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>186833</b>	<b>£ 211,739</b>	
<b>Payments</b>			
Ministerial Costs & Expenses	53480	61028	7
Outreach Workers	22986	25402	8
Youth Worker		8905	9
Cleaner	4376	4995	
Volunteer Placement	1293	129	10
Worship	1643	1826	
Pastoral		292	
Church Outreach	1770	1616	
Young People's Work	996	961	
Organisations / Activities	1880	1934	
Social / Hospitality Events	1095	1359	
Utilities	15779	16600	
Repairs & Maintenance-Prop & Equip	7635	21717	11
Church Insurance	9801	9998	
Rental Property Costs	2063	3792	
Professional Fees	5651	7504	12
Subscriptions & Fees	1844	2431	
Office, Admin, Phone & IT	2961	2616	
Sageguarding	1372	292	
Church Tithing & Other Causes	19080	21736	
Miscellaneous	4739	2326	13
<b>Church Specific Funds</b>	<b>£ 160,447</b>	<b>£ 197,460</b>	
Basement Expenses	2370	2968	14
Unite		678	
Basement Refurb Expenses	240	519	
Roots Expenses	5252	3502	
Edge		996	
Think of Yourself		474	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 168,310</b>	<b>£ 206,598</b>	



# DARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## General Fund

Balance as at 1 January 2023	£ 24,815.39
<b>Add</b>	
Vision Fund as at 01/01/23	19079.70
Basement Res Fund as at 01/01/23	6000.00
Total Receipts	210791.59
Payments to Restricted Funds	9137.54
Interest on BU Account	946.72
<b>Less</b>	
Church Contribution to Basement	-2500.00
Total Payments	-206597.57
Income for Restricted Funds	-25777.98
Transfer to Reserve Fund	-5000.00
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 30,895.39

## Vision Fund

Balance as at 1 January 2023	19079.70
Transfer to General Fund	-19079.70
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ -

## Basement Reserve Fund

Balance as at 1 January 2023	£ 6,000.00
Less - Transfer to General Fund	-6,000.00
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ -

## Reserve Fund

Balance as at 1 January 2023	£ 35,000.00
Add Transfer from General Fund	5,000.00
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 40,000.00

## BU Bank Account

Opening Balance	50000.00
Interest	946.72
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 50,946.72

## Restricted Funds

### Basement - General Fund

Church Contribution	2,500.00
Add: Receipts	7045.07
Less: Payments	-2967.90
Less: Spend on Unite (50% of cost)	-338.93
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 6,238.24

### Basement - Refurb Fund

Balance as at 1 January 2023	6139.59
Add - Receipts	6577.55
Less - Payments	-519.36
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 12,197.78

## Roots

Balance as at 1 January 2023	£ 6,713.69
Add - Receipts	4041.36
Less - Payments	-3501.96
Less: Spend on Unite (50% of cost)	-338.93
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 6,914.16

## Edge

Receipts	1,000.00
Payments	-996.00
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 4.00

## Think of Yourself

Grant Fund	7114.00
Less: Payments	-474.46
Balance as at 31 December 2023	£ 6,639.54

## Grocery Store Fund

£ 1,000.00



# **DARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **Amendments agreed by Trustees - 2023**

The balance on the Vision Fund transferred to General Fund.

All donations to Vision Fund & gift aid receipts added to General Fund.

Basement Reserve Fund transferred to General Fund towards salary costs of Outreach Workers.

Ministerial hours to be increased from 3 days per week to 4 days per week for 1 minister.

Estimated cost of £5000 per annum.

Youth Worker would be appointed for 15 hours per week. Estimated cost £10000 per annum.

All income received towards running of Basement Hub & Café will be retained in Basement General Fund. All expenses, excluding salary & salary related costs will be charged against this fund.

All income received towards the refurbishment of Basement Hub & Café will be retained in Basement Refurb Fund. All expenses will be charged against this fund.

All income received towards running of Roots will be retained in Roots fund.

All expenses, excluding salary & salary related costs will be charged against this fund.

All costs relating to Unite initiative will be split equally between Basement General Fund & Roots.

Following the resignation of the Youth workers, 5 hours per week funding will be used to fund an Admin Officer for 2 months in 2023

£5000 would be transferred from General Fund to Reserve Fund on 31/12/2023.

A new project Edge has been set up with a private donation to cover initial costs.

Funding was received from NHS North East & North Cumbria to run Think of Yourself project.

A Baptist Union Bank account would be opened to deposit excess funds.

£50,000 has been deposited in 3 month notice account.

Tithing: Darlington Baptist Church has agreed to give 10% of its unrestricted income to Good Causes'. In 2023 it was agreed to split this equally between 4 charities.

However one charity returned the donation so during the year tithing was distributed between 3 charities with the remaining quarter undistributed plus the portion returned by the charity.

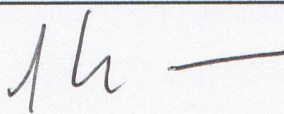
It was agreed that the undistributed amount should be sent to the 3 existing charities already supported by the church.



# DARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## Assets and Liabilities at 31st December

Assets	2022	2023
<u>Bank and other Cash Balances</u>		
Santander Current Account	4821.26	2922.02
Santander Deposit Account	93927.11	50020.37
BU 3 Month Notice Account		50946.72
	£ 98,748.37	£ 103,889.11
<u>Properties held for the Church's own use</u>		
Corporation Road church building (nominal value)	200,000	200,000
Grange Road church building (nominal value)	200,000	200,000
8 Tower Road, Darlington (insured value)	250,000	250,000
42 Kielder Drive, Darlington (insured value)	180,000	230,000
	830,000	880,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£ 928,748.37</b>	<b>£ 983,889.11</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

  
TONY COTTERILL

Signed on behalf of Trustees of

Darlington Baptist Church



# DARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## Notes to the Accounts

**Basis of Accounts - The Accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments Basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.**

### Church Specific Funds

#### 1 Offerings

The majority of giving comes directly into the bank account. Cash is also given during services at both sites.

#### 2 Vision / Gift Day

The Church Family were encouraged to have a Vision for the future of Darlington Baptist Church.

#### 3 Gift Aid from HMRC

The total claim received was £23972 & was distributed over allocated funds.

£2119 of this amount has been allocated to Restricted funds and the balance to Church Specific Funds

#### 4 Donations & Bequests

Donations were received towards the costs on Holiday Club.

Donations were also received towards the costs of 'Joint Church Ventures'

No bequests were received in 2023

#### 5 Rental Properties

8 Tower Road (tenanted)

Rent received regularly

42 Kielder Drive (tenanted)

Rent received regularly

Church House

Currently vacant as not in a habitable state to let.

#### 6 Bank Interest

A 3 month notice account was opened with BU & £946.72 interest has been received. The interest rate of the Santander account has also improved giving a significant increase in bank interest received.

#### 7 Ministerial Costs & Expenses

Ministerial hours were increased to 1.4 WTE from February 2023.

#### 8 Outreach Workers

Now wholly funded from church funds.

#### 9 Youth Workers

Youth workers were employed from March 23 for 15 hours per week.

5 Hours per week became vacant from November 23.

The remaining 10 hours per week were used to end of 2023

#### 10 Volunteer Placement

The placement did not continue in 2023

#### 11 Repairs & Maintenance

Significant work was carried on the fire alarm & electrical systems at Grange Road site. The arched window to the rear of Grange Road had to be replaced due to significant damage.

#### 12 Professional Fees

This includes work relating to the church becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

#### 13 Miscellaneous

This includes the Baptist Pensions, Defecit Repair contribution. However since August 2022 has been reduced to £1 per month.

#### 14 Restricted Funds

All projects not directly funded through church financial income are shown separately. New initiatives started during 2023 & it is anticipated these will continue to grow as funding is received to cover anticipated costs.



## DARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

### Assets held for the Church's own use

All properties are owned legally by the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (BUC), as trustee. The Church is the current beneficiary under the trusts and will remain so while the Church continues to operate as a member church of the Baptist Union. The residuary beneficiaries under the trusts are various 'Baptist related' organisations.

As a trust beneficiary, the church has no right to dispose of any of the properties and use the sale proceeds freely. Any such proceeds would be held by the BUC in accordance with the terms of the trusts.

The properties are shown below with their current insured value. The actual values of the two church buildings and their contents will be substantially lower than their insurance values. The actual values of 8 Tower Road and 42 Kielder Drive are likely to be somewhat lower than their insurance values. No 'sale' valuations have been obtained for any of the properties.

Nominal valuations of £200,000 for each of the church buildings have been included in the Accounts. It must be stressed that these are nominal values and no 'sale' valuations have been obtained.

The insurance values for 8 Tower Road and 42 Kielder Drive have been included in the Accounts.

The Grange Road church building incorporates Church House however it is currently not in a habitable state so unoccupied.

8 Tower Road and 42 Kielder Drive are let on assured shorthold tenancies.

### Current Insured Values

#### Corporation Road church building, Darlington

Building	6,450,761	
Organ	325,955	
Contents	286,841	
PA Equipment	18,813	7,082,370

#### Grange Road church building, Darlington

Building	5,971,505	
Contents	167,413	6,138,918

#### 8 Tower Road, Darlington

250,000

#### 42 Kielder Drive, Darlington

230,000

480,000

£ 13,701,288



### **Pension Scheme Liability**

The Church 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 Church the other participating employer.

Following an agreement with an Insurance Company the scheme is now in surplus. The Defecit Repair Contributions were reduced to a nominal £1 per month in August 2022. The church no longer has any defecit liability

### **Reserve Fund**

The purpose of holding a reserves fund is to ensure that Darlington Baptist Church has sufficient funds available to cope with financial issues that might arise, such as the need to fund urgent property repairs, an issue with staffing or the loss of income. Currently the balance in the Reserve Fund will cover approximately 4 months staff and running costs.

The recommendation is to hold approximately six months costs so the Reserve Fund will be increased annually. However the trustees are aware that the work of the church must continue and does not want to accumulate large financial balances, which may give the impression that Darlington Baptist Church is not making the best use of its resources.





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
Darlington Baptist Church

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1186432

Set out on pages

7 pages

(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's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

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.

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

Signed:

Valerie Carr

Date:

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Name:

VALERIE ANNE CARR

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

Address:

38. WESTGATE CRESCENT  
DARLINGTON  
CO. DURHAM DL3 85X

Section B

Disclosure

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