



Annual Report and Accounts

2022

Charity Registration Number 1187674

HOMELANDS FREE CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Administrative information

Homelands Free Church is situated on the Homelands Estate, on the borders of Frinton and Walton. The church belongs to the Baptist tradition and is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The correspondence address is *Homelands Free Church, Garden Road, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, CO14 8SJ*. The Church, Elders and Deacons constitute a charity registered, with the Charity Commission, as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organization) and our registration number is 1187674.

The Elders and Deacons (trustees) who have served from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Mr. Brian Davis
Mrs. Carole Dean (Appointed 1 January 2023)
Mrs. Pat Jackson (Appointed 1 January 2023)
Mr. Eric Jones
Mrs. Stella Lind (Appointed 1 January 2023)
Mr. Charles McCarthy
Mrs. Bonita McPherson (Appointed 1 January 2023)
Mr. John McPherson (Appointed 1 January 2023)
Rev Andrew Openshaw (retired 31 December 2022)
Mr. John Stacey
Mrs. Pam Tuffnell
Mr. Arthur Wells-Garrett (Treasurer)
Mr. Brian Wood (Secretary)

Structure, governance, and management

The trustees are appointed by the Church Meeting as set out in the Constitution and rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to become members and thereby become eligible to vote and stand for election as trustees.

Objectives and activities

Statements of objectives are set out in the governing document (Church Constitution). The trustees along with the minister have responsibility in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, and social. The trustees also have maintenance responsibilities for the Church Building complex of Homelands Free Church, Garden Road, and the Church Manse.

Achievements and performance

As on 31/12/22 there are 85 Members: 7 names were added during the year and 6 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the area. The year continued to be disrupted by the Covid19 virus. It was now possible to make greater use the church building. We continue to maintain the use of technology to contact and provide a high level of support to attendees. We were able to provide a weekly service of Christian worship via YouTube, these in addition to our usual services held each Sunday in the church building. These have remained on-line for folk to access at any time that suits them. Linked to this we have returned our minibus to service and are able to provide transport to our services on Sundays. Whilst we continue with our online presence, for those who have no access to the internet we continue to provide DVD recordings of the services that are delivered direct to their homes. These DVDs are returned for reuse and are proving a valuable resource.

Review of the year

The trustees met 10 times during the year for formal minuted meetings, with an average level of attendance of 83%. Formal church meetings resumed for the whole of 2022. Attendance was 35% of membership. Elections for trustees and officers took place in line with our constitution and were ratified by the AGM. There was one special church meeting where the constitution was amended to allow decisions to be made during hybrid meetings (Zoom and in person) at future meetings. During covid lockdown the charity commission gave a special dispensation for such meetings, but it was removed after lockdown.

There was much rejoicing as we held a Believer's Baptism Service in the spring (29 May 2022) where friends, family, and members joined together to celebrate the public witness of faith in the Lord Jesus.

The church continues to provide office space on weekday mornings for Frinton Christian Community Care as part of our commitment to the wider community.

Following on from the building and environmental reports several items requiring remedial work were highlighted and completed during the year. These included repairs to the roof and areas of external brickwork. The facias around the entrance and lobby areas were redecorated. It is planned to redecorate the rear of the building in the spring of 2023. Lighting in the foyer was replaced with more efficient LED lighting. The increase in energy costs has been delayed for the church until our current contracts expire in June. In anticipation of this the deacons will be looking at the current system for ways to improve the efficiency.

The Community Lunch team and 'Friendship Fridays' are now firmly established providing a safe and welcoming environment within the community. They also provide support for such things as use of technology and 'repair Fridays' where advice can be sought for a wide variety of situations.

We maintained a strong commitment to being an environmentally aware church striving to become a carbon neutral organization. This is demonstrated by Homelands being awarded the 'Silver Medal' in September 2022 by A. Rocha, the church monitoring organization for eco churches. This follows on from our award of the 'Bronze Medal' in December 2021. In November 2022, we installed a weather station (to ascertain the viability of installing wind turbines to generate electricity.) on the roof to monitor wind speed and other atmospheric conditions, funded by a donation. As part of our green space commitment, we planted a wildflower garden along the strip of land along Garden Road.

Hobby Pop-In and Line Dancing have now settled in to their pre-covid position. Jazzercise and keep-fit have also resumed a full program within the building.

The moving of Chatterbox, the group for under 5's and their carers, into the worship area has seen its numbers grow. This year saw the introduction of a clothing bank that has been warmly welcomed by the carers who attend Chatterbox.

The 2nd Frinton Girl Guides, (Guides, Rangers, Brownies, and Rainbow sections) continue to use the premises for their weekly activities.

The music group Free Jazz have been using the premises for rehearsals and were able to give a concert, in the church. This was well attended and introduced a number of folks to the church.

Mission and social giving during the year amounted to £10,872.50 spread between BMS World Mission (£700), Home Mission (£3,840), Missionary Aviation Fellowship (£500), FEBA (500), Open Doors (£500), Frinton Mission (£275), Lupeni Orphanage (£3990), Walton Food Bank (£55), Big love, Colleen and Peter's chosen charity for offering at their wedding, (£400) with (£112.50) from the Minister's discretionary fund. The extra money given over that raised, was made up by the trustees using recovered income tax and monies from the General Fund to support the external organizations. The total for the Mission and Social Giving was in excess of 10% of unrestricted receipts.

From the funds raised by Line Dancing and Hobby Pop-In, £500 was sent to RNLI Walton & Frinton Branch.

The planned giving through envelopes and standing orders increased to 92% of the monthly giving.

There was a legacy gratefully received during the period, from the estate of D Moore of £20,000

Financial review

Total receipts on general and designated unrestricted funds were £96,634 (2021 £79,671) are detailed in the financial statements. The Minister's employment costs, including £410 for visiting speakers, were £37,548. These costs were lower than expected due to a reduction in pension costs from August. (The costs for 2021, £37,634.) As we enter a period of inter-regnum along with pension deficit payments reducing (see pension review in the next section) we expect a reduction in ministry costs in 2023. There was a surplus of receipts over payments in the general fund of £32,810 (2021 £17,354). After transferring £11,975 to deficit funds (to cover deficits and

projected expenditure) and adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, balances carried forward at 31 December for unrestricted funds totalled £36,219 (2021 £15384).

Pensions

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

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. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a 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. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was undertaken by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%).

In the summer of 2022, there was a window of opportunity when bond and annuity rates made it favorable for the trustees to purchase guaranteed benefits for scheme members that enabled the deficit to be reduced to zero. They acted with commendable speed and decisiveness and reduced the liability of all partaking employers (Churches in the scheme)

The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan who are collectively responsible for funding the deficit, saw these liabilities reduced to zero. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the church now makes a monthly peppercorn payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, currently £1. The Schedule of Contributions foresees these continuing until June 2026.

The Church has been advised that the estimated administrative cost for the church to leave the Pension Scheme as at 31 December 2022 was £1,000. There are no plans to leave the scheme.

Reserves' policy

It is the trustees' policy to maintain a balance on general unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately three months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £36,219 (2021 £15,385) in the unrestricted general funds represents, approximately, 160% of target. The trustees will continue to monitor balances. Although the balances appear high as we plan for growth under a new minister(s) we look forward, with God's guidance, to exciting times.

It is our policy to invest fund balances in deposit accounts to ensure the safety and accessibility of church funds, also the short-term nature of the funds (less than 5 years). To this end we have opened 12-month savings bonds with the Baptist Union as the first step to building a reserve fund. The current balance in the reserve bonds is £5,232.

Approved by the trustees of Homelands Free Church on 7 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed _____ Church Secretary.

Date _____

Brian Wood

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Receipts	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
	General	Designated				
Offerings and Gift Aid (less recovered tax)	£ 58,131.96				£ 58,131.96	£ 52,875.04
Interest	£ 54.43				£ 54.43	£ 2.10
Donations (Missionary & Others)			£ 4,705.20		£ 4,705.20	£ 4,997.60
Carbon Offset			£ 63.95		£ 63.95	£ 4,997.60
HMRC (recovered tax)	£ 11,278.50				£ 11,278.50	£ 10,543.63
Building Fund		£ -			£ -	£ -
Building Bricks		£ -			£ -	£ -
Community Lunch		£ 1,108.01			£ 1,108.01	£ 390.21
Garden Maintenance		£ -			£ -	£ -
Chat 'N' Play			£ -		£ -	£ -
Messy Church			£ -		£ -	£ -
Camp/Rom			£ 6,346.11		£ 6,346.11	£ -
MG2			£ -		£ -	£ -
Chatterbox			£ 615.74		£ 615.74	£ 101.15
Friendship Fridays			£ 763.84		£ 763.84	£ -
Brick Yard Xtreme			£ 38.23		£ 38.23	£ -
Brick Yard			£ -		£ -	£ -
Line Dancing Hobby Pop-in			£ 1,586.98		£ 1,586.98	£ 579.03
Discretionary Fund			£ 1,000.00		£ 1,000.00	£ -
Flower Fund			£ -		£ -	£ -
Triangle Bookstall			£ -		£ -	£ 150.00
Mini Bus		£ 346.50			£ 346.50	£ 1,250.00
Hobby Pop-in			£ 97.15		£ 97.15	£ -
Misc. & Legacies	£ 25,715.24				£ 25,715.24	£ 14,609.74
Total	£ 95,180.13	£ 1,454.51	£ 15,217.20	£ -	£ 111,851.84	£ 90,496.10

Payments	Note	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
		General	Designated				
Church Admin. & Maintenance	2	£ 16,793.11				£ 16,793.11	£ 15,703.94
Ministry	3	£ 37,548.17				£ 37,548.17	£ 35,975.64
Community Lunch	4		£ 1,300.34			£ 1,300.34	£ 487.93
Miscellaneous	5	£ 1,949.44				£ 1,949.44	£ 1,429.00
Outreach	6	£ 902.00				£ 902.00	£ 1,335.90
Donations (Missionary & Others)	7			£ 10,872.50		£ 10,872.50	£ 13,503.00
Carbon Offset				£ 281.84		£ 281.84	
Manse	8	£ 5,177.25				£ 5,177.25	£ 3,799.89
Building Fund	9		£ 2,885.02			£ 2,885.02	£ 609.98
Building Projects	10		£ 519.60			£ 519.60	£ 6,379.40
Garden Maintenance	11		£ 144.00			£ 144.00	£ 200.00
Messy Church	12			£ -		£ -	£ 211.85
Chat 'N' Play	12A			£ -		£ -	£ 59.85
Camp/Rom	13			£ 6,683.61		£ 6,683.61	£ -
MG2	14			£ -		£ -	£ -
Chatterbox	15			£ 1,013.53		£ 1,013.53	£ -
Friendship Fridays	16			£ 332.75		£ 332.75	£ -
Discretionary Fund	17			£ -		£ -	£ -
Flower Fund	18			£ -		£ -	£ -
Brick Yard Xtreme	19			£ -		£ -	£ 60.00
Brick Yard	20			£ -		£ -	£ 130.86
Triangle Bookstall	21			£ 116.40		£ 116.40	£ 99.15
Line Dancing Hobby Pop-in	22			£ 580.00		£ 580.00	£ 414.00
Carbon Offset							
Minibus	23		£ 1,880.27			£ 1,880.27	£ 1,210.59
Hobby Pop-in	24			£ 40.00		£ 40.00	£ -
Total		£ 62,369.97	£ 6,729.23	£ 19,920.63	£ -	£ 89,019.83	£ 81,610.98

Net Receipts/(Payments)	£ 32,810.16	-£ 5,274.72	-£ 4,703.43	£ -	£ 22,832.01	£ 7,429.17
Transfers Between Funds	-£11,975.25	£ 5,492.61	£ 6,482.64		£ -	£ -
Balance brought forward	£ 15,384.77	£ -	£ 3,446.51	£ -	£ 18,831.28	£ 11,402.11
Balance Carried Forward	£ 36,219.68	£ 217.89	£ 5,225.72	£ -	£ 41,663.29	£ 18,831.28

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

Assets:

Bank and other Cash balances

Representing Balances on the following Accounts

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
	General	Designated				
General Fund	£ 36,219.68				£ 36,219.68	£ 15,384.77
Building Fund		£ -			£ -	£ -
Building Bricks/ Projects		£ -			£ -	£ -
Community Lunch		£ -			£ -	£ -
Carbon Offset			£ -		£ -	£ -
Garden Maintenance		£ -			£ -	£ -
Birthday Scheme			£ -		£ -	£ -
Mission			£ 198.94		£ 198.94	£ -
Messy Church			£ -		£ -	£ -
Chat 'N' Play			£ 215.69		£ 215.69	£ 215.69
Camp/Rom			£ 212.50		£ 212.50	£ 550.00
MG2			£ 72.22		£ 72.22	£ 72.22
Chatterbox			£ 972.29		£ 972.29	£ 1,370.08
Friendship Fridays			£ 431.09		£ 431.09	£ -
Hobby pop in / Line Dancing			£ 1,477.74		£ 1,477.74	£ 470.76
Discretionary Fund			£ 1,276.36		£ 1,276.36	£ 276.36
Flower Fund			£ 115.00		£ 115.00	£ 115.00
Brick Yard Xtreme			£ 103.94		£ 103.94	£ 65.71
Brick Yard			£ 191.29		£ 191.29	£ 191.29
Triangle Bookstall			£ -		£ -	£ -
Hobby Pop-in			£ 176.55		£ 176.55	£ 119.40
Mini Bus Replacement		£ -			£ -	£ -
Mini Bus		£ -			£ -	£ -
Total	£ 36,219.68	£ -	£ 5,443.61	£ -	£ 41,663.29	£ 18,831.28

Notes

Non Monetary Assets Held for Church's Use

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*The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd:

Church Premises at Garden Rd. Walton-on-Naze (Insurance Value)*	£ 1,650,000.00	£1,500,000.00
19 Blaine Drive, Frinton*	£ 423,691.54	£ 399,709.00
Church Contents (Insurance Value)	£ 117,099.15	£ 111,523.00
Mini Bus	£ 13,851.00	£ 15,390.00

Liabilities:

Short Term

HMRC Income Tax and National Insurance (January Payment)	£ 1,151.84	£ 1,397.68
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Long Term

No Long term liability		£ 21,837.71
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Notes

(1) Basis of Accounts:

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis in accord with S42(3) Charities Act 1993 amended 2006 & 2019

	2022	2021
(2) Church Admin. & Maintenance		
Printing Stationery Post & Phone	£ 2,280.39	£ 3,074.63
Cleaning	£ 4,690.95	£ 5,847.42
Utilities	£ 3,754.37	£ 3,177.83
Bank Charges	£ -	£ -
Insurance	£ 2,128.26	£ 2,030.24
Travelling	£ 730.15	£ 168.70
Training	£ 2,218.00	£ 321.50
Other*	£ 990.99	£ 763.79
Total	£ 16,793.11	£ 15,384.11

(3) Ministry		
Stipend, Tax & NI	£ 30,509.13	£ 29,213.78
Pension (Church)	£ 6,629.04	£ 8,345.76
Visiting Preachers	£ 410.00	£ 75.00
Total	£ 37,548.17	£ 37,634.54

(4) Community Lunch		
Payments	£ 1,300.34	£ 697.35
Total	£ 1,300.34	£ 697.35

(5) Miscellaneous		
Annual Subs BUGB	£ 411.60	£ 432.25
Annual Subs EA	£ 90.00	£ 190.00
Bookstall	£ -	£ -
Copyright	£ 645.17	£ 924.07
Fact	£ 75.00	£ -
Catering	£ 727.67	£ 69.00
Corn Wine	£ -	£ -
Minibus Hire	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 1,949.44	£ 1,615.32

(6) Outreach		
Outreach	£ 902.00	£ 2,232.15
Total	£ 902.00	£ 2,232.15

	2022 Raised	2021 Raised	Given	Given
(7) Donations (Missionary & Others)				
Designated Offerings	£ 158.50	£ 104.25	£ -	£ -
B.day Scheme	£ 200.00	£ 10.00	£ 200.00	£ 350.00
FEBA	£ -	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 300.00
TEAR Fund	£ -	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
MAF	£ -	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 300.00
Lupeni Orphanage	£ 4,142.69	£ 7,176.30	£ 3,990.00	£ 2,882.00
Harvest Appeal	£ -	£ 1,055.00	£ -	£ 400.00
Spurgeon's Childcare	£ 131.10	£ 375.00	£ -	£ 40.00
Other Causes	£ 70.00	£ 50.00	£ 955.00	£ 530.00
Home Mission	£ -	£ -	£ 3,840.00	£ 3,680.00
BMS	£ 2.91	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
Frinton Mission	£ -	£ -	£ 275.00	£ -
Pastors Discretion	£ -	£ -	£ 112.50	£ 350.00
Total	£ 4,705.20	£ 8,970.55	£ 10,872.50	£ 18.00

	2022 Raised	2021 Raised	Expenditure	Expenditure
(7a) Carbon Offset				
Carbon Offset	£ 63.95	£ -	£ 281.84	
Total	£ 63.95	£ -	£ 281.84	£ -

(8) Manse		
Council Tax	£ 2,387.57	£ 2,297.66
Utilities	£ 956.00	£ 669.00
Insurance	£ 424.46	£ 391.10
Maintenance	£ 1,409.22	£ 453.01
Total	£ 5,177.25	£ 3,810.77

(9) Building Fund		
Repairs & Renewals	£ 2,885.02	£ 1,656.76

	2022	2021
(10) Bricks		
Projects	£ 519.60	£ 1,491.36
Total	£ 519.60	£ 1,491.36

(11) Garden Maintenance		
Garden Costs	£ 144.00	£ 100.00
Total	£ 144.00	£ 100.00

(12) Messy Church		
Craft/Meals/Advertising	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(12a) Chat 'n' Play		
Annual Expenditure	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(13) Camp/Rom		
Camp/Casa Hul	£ 6,683.61	£ -
Total	£ 6,683.61	£ -

(14) MG2		
MG2	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(15) Chatterbox		
Chatterbox	£ 1,013.53	£ 283.85
Total	£ 1,013.53	£ 283.85

(16) Friendship Fridays		
Friendship Fridays	£ 332.75	£ -
Total	£ 332.75	£ -

(17) Discretionary Fund		
Annual Expenditure	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(18) Flower Fund		
Annual Expenditure	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(19) Brickyard Xtreme		
Annual Expenditure	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(20) Brickyard		
Annual Expenditure	£ -	£ -
Total	£ -	£ -

(21) Triangle Bookstall		
Annual Expenditure	£ 116.40	£ 1,003.90
Total	£ 116.40	£ 1,003.90

(22) Line Dan/Hobby Donations		
Annual Expenditure	£ 580.00	£ 414.00
Total	£ 580.00	£ 414.00

(23) Minibus		
Tax & Insurance	£ 1,046.02	£ 1,009.21
Fuel & Oil	£ 348.27	£ 50.01
Repairs	£ 485.98	£ 1,030.00
Total	£ 1,880.27	£ 2,089.22

(24) Hobby Pop-in		
Payments	£ 40.00	£ -
Total	£ 40.00	£ 2,089.22

Grand Total £ 89,019.83 £ 78,069.33

The accounts and statements of assets and liabilities set out on pages 4-6 relating to the year ending 31 December 2022 are as approved by the deacons.

Signed _____ (Treasurer)

Date _____

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Homelands Free Church.

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2022 , which are set out on pages 4 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church'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 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

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 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 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.

(Name) **KAREN BARTLETT** (Date) **11/9/2023**

(Relevant professional qualification or body -if required as above) **ACA**

(Address)

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