

Woodberry Down Baptist Church

Charity Number 1189018

Trustees Report 2023

Principal Trustees:

Lola Maselino, Jennifer Jones, Bryan Sycamore, Trevor Davis

Rev. Charles Mugenyi

190 Vartry Road London N15 6HA

The Woodberry Down Baptist Church (Church) 's principal purpose is advancing the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptists. The Church also advances education and carries out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

In fulfilling the Purpose of the Church, we engage in a range of activities and sometimes partner with other organisations to fulfill the church's vision and plan. These will vary from time to time with activities being initiated, expanded, or closed, as appropriate.

The church's principal activities include:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- baptism by immersion, child dedication, wedding, funeral.
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- the teaching, encouragement, and welcoming of children and young people;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- offering pastoral care, encouraging relationships with and supporting both other Christians and those of no faith.

We give thanks to God who has gathered us to serve Him, as we seek to serve one another and the wider community. As a community of faith, we are still reeling from the pandemic lockdowns that have impacted church commitment and attendance in general. Having said that however, the church continues to strive thanks to its committed members and visitors. Over the past year, the church welcomed some new families and returning adherents into membership which is indeed a sign of renewal.

A Culture of Care

Our main objective in 2023 was to build a culture of care and support, encouraging people to return to normality following the most difficult seasons of life where many, up and down the country, were coerced through public opinion into isolation. Several members are still not confident enough to take active roles in the life of the church. Sadly a few are still not willing to return to public worship and or other church life activities.

The Generational Gap

Another aspect of our objectives is to address the widening generational gap in church attendance, activity, and involvement.

Seniors were and still are gripped by the pandemic fear of crowds and choose to stay away from community-facing projects. The young generation seems to have found new ways of connecting to others socially through the internet instead of the traditional physical presence and engagement. This new reality engagement (post-pandemic and lockdown) is challenging the church on how to include young people meaningfully in the life of the church. A significant number of our young people show signs of diminished communication skills and interaction abilities.

Engaging the whole Church

Part of our culture of care and diminishing the generational gap in church life is to develop and promote community-facing activities and ministry. These events or activities offer contacts the opportunities for development and challenge aspects of isolation and abandonment. These activities are two-pronged in that they offer platforms for engagement and serving others and in so doing offering caring for both the service givers and beneficiaries.

Events and Activities

- Community Outreach provides opportunities to meet with people from diverse backgrounds and talk about life issues and battles that affect families and communities.

The outreach offers invitations to consider the Christian faith and worldview in addressing life battles of right and wrong.

- The Recovery Program provided an opportunity and activities to reach out to the community who are suffering from life-controlling addictions and habits.
- Hosting groups like Teen Challenge to address issues of addictions of all sorts, crime, and punishment, and support for those who are choosing to walk away from destructive and criminal lifestyles. Hearing testimonials of radical transformation.
- The Children's Club offers opportunities for parents and families to meet and provide a needed service for the children to engage in stimulating games, play schemes, and learn new skills.
- Sunday School – this popular weekly provision is more than a beautiful bible story time. It includes kids doing group activities, and singing imaginative songs. It is a platform for children to develop social skills and other abilities.
- Advocating for and inviting friends to the Men/ Women and Health/Wellness events to inform, educate, equip, and strengthen communities with positive living and respect for healthy lifestyles.
- Giving to missions that are reaching out with God's love to their respective audiences.
- Food Parcels - the church donates small food parcels and hygiene products to individuals in need.
- Pastoral visitations to those in distress and their families, usually following a long illness, etc or bereavement.
- Vartry community residents – we support our local community and its social action events which aim to bring neighbours together through the “Know Your Neighbour” and care for our community and residents.

These and other activities constitute some of the work that we have undertaken to fulfill our mission, goals, and purpose.

Children's Club – Lego

These are kids' day clubs that we run with our partners during the school half-term weeks and around Bank holidays. These clubs are for primary school kids and their families, where children get to play with a range of legos, and crafts, sing and take part in the bible story times, and receive prizes.

The Recovery Program.

The Recovery Program has been running since September 2018. It is a ministry for those who are struggling with destructive and unwanted life-controlling habits and are seeking to turn away from them so they can live a more abundant and useful life. This program is based on the 12-step program for alcoholics. However, the key component is that it is for those who believe that or want to try out God through Jesus as the “higher power”.

The programme is run by compassionate workers and volunteers who all experienced at some point in their lives, some of the issues that those who they are seeking to help are struggling with. The team aims to lead participants in a way that honors God and brings them out of bondage from destructive habits into a better way of living. Leading them to be able to manage life well and be a blessing to their families and communities.

The programme runs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday with an average attendance of 20 - 25 people each week.

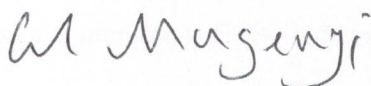
Feedback from some of the Recovery Program Participants

- *“Helped me to train my mind to be more self-aware “*
- *“The course was accessible and relatable, it helped me to evaluate my own life”*
- *“I liked working in smaller groups as it made it easier to talk in smaller groups, we had more time for conversations and we were less self-conscious”*

The pastor on behalf of the trustees and members appreciates everyone who supported, participated, and prayed for one or a number of these activities and events.

You will note from the accompanying accounts and the Independent Examiner's report that the church's accounts are in good stead. However, note that the general income has dipped from the previous year due to irregular giving and attendance, and the general economic downturn following the pandemic. However, overall the church is in a good financial position to continue its mission and activities. The trustees and church administrators (who compiled our accounts) are managing the church funds prudently.

Signed:



Trustee

Name: Charles Mugenyi, Pastor

Date: 06/04/2024

Woodberry Down Baptist Church
Receipts and Payments Account
for the period ending 31 December 2023

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Incoming resources				
Tithes and Donations	62,104	5,231	67,335	81,746
Hall Hire	420		420	0
Recovery Projects		3,992	3,992	26,875
Gift Aid Refund	39,734		39,734	0
Other income	5,339	1,674	7,013	0
Totals	107,598	10,897	118,495	108,621
Outgoing resources				
Pastorate costs	33,405		33,405	32,055
Activities in relation to the work of WDBC	35,094	18,334	53,427	71,125
Totals	68,499	18,334	86,833	103,180
Net Incomings for the year	39,099	-7,437	31,662	5,441
Adjustment to total bank balance	0	0	0	19,290
Balances as at 1 January	165,726	36,350	202,076	177,345
Balances as at 31 December	204,825	28,913	233,738	202,076

Assets as at 31/12/2023

	2023	2022
Current bank account balance	201,402	169,825
Deposit bank account balance	32,335	32,250
Total bank balances	233,738	202,076

Fixed Assets

Church building (estimated)	3,000,000
Manse (estimated)	450,000
Other assets (based on asset register)	32,046

Approved by Charles Mugenyi
Name _____

Designation: Trustee

Date: 21 / 04 / 2024

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of Woodbury Down Baptist Church

On accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above church for the year ended 31 December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the church, 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 church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 08 March, 2024

Name: Teshale Joba

Address: 39 South Grove, London, N15 5QG