

**SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Charity No. 1190379

Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Charity No. 1190379

Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**Reference and administration details.**

Trustees:

Mr. James Anthony Lawson Briggs

Mrs Elizabeth Mary Briggs

Mrs. Linda Anne Moors

Mrs Vivienne Marshall

Dr. Marjoleine Wilhelmina Onrust

All the above were appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

**Registered Office.**

Sabden Baptist Church, Clitheroe Road, Sabden, Clitheroe, BB7 9HD.

Operating from: Sabden Baptist Church – as above.

**Bankers**

Santander, Customer Service Centre, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB.

**Independent Examiner**

Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE

KM

Chartered Accountants

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Block C, The Wharf,

Manchester Road,

Burnley

BB11 1JG

## **Trustees Report**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Trustees present their report on the activities of the Charity.

### **Objects**

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian Faith according to the principles of the Baptist Denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

### **Our Activities**

The Charity operates from Sabden Baptist Church. The Trustees of the church building and the graveyard are The Baptist Union Corporation. The Charity is responsible for the maintenance of the building and the cost of insurance and utilities and all the usual outgoings.

Our Sunday morning services are well attended. The day starts with a Breakfast Prayer Meeting when tea and toast is served before the service. We celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month when this is taken by members of the fellowship. Throughout the year we have had a regular visiting preacher on the second Sunday of each month but very sadly he suddenly passed away in December. His presence will be greatly missed. Both he and his wife have been very involved in the life of the church. We also have a visiting lay-preacher on the last Sunday of each month. For the remaining services we are served by our own members who all have different roles to play in the life of our church.

Each Tuesday morning we have a group who meet together to study the bible, to pray, and to support each other. This is a Caring and Sharing group. On Wednesday evenings we meet, again to study the bible and particularly the address given the previous Sunday. We have an evening of Prayer on the first Wednesday of each month but this will be changing to the last Wednesday. Several people, including friends from the village, meet on a Thursday evening for music practice when we plan the service for the following Sunday and practice some new songs. This is a lovely evening of worship, fellowship and singing. We also have a Christian Counsellor who is a member of the fellowship and supports clients regularly.

Our social activities have included a men's breakfast with invitations to the two other churches in the village, a games night, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a Good Friday walk, and an annual BBQ. We participate with the Anglican and Catholic churches in celebrating the church festivals when our own fellowship have lead these services. We also had a prayer walk through the village which was an encouragement to all of us. On two evenings before Christmas several members attended a local restaurant to sing carols and Christmas music.

We were approached by the Northwest Baptist Association to support our daughter church, Ebenezer, in Billington, Whalley, which was in danger of closing. We have, therefore, commenced services at the church on the first Tuesday of each month, liaising particularly with a Youth Group which operates from the church building. This is very well supported by our own church members and it is a great pleasure to see young people coming to this short service after school. It is hoped that this outreach will become very successful over the coming months and years.

### **Trustees Report (continued)**

Our own church building in Sabden is used between Monday and Friday every week by a pre-school group which operates from 7 am to 6 pm. They cater for up to 25 children each day. The staff are very dedicated and are receiving excellent reports from Ofsted. They pay a rent and also a contribution towards utilities.

We have been able to make generous donations to BMS for work in Uganda and India through the Birthday Scheme and other world mission support. Other donations are made to Home Mission, Spurgeons Childcare, Action Aid and the local food bank. We are also supporting a young couple from our church who are working with WEC. We have a very generous congregation, and we are always looking for ways to carry outreach into the village and the wider community.

Work on the graveyard continues on a regular basis with support from members and friends. The bulbs planted in previous years continue to provide a sense of peace and tranquillity under Pendle Hill.

We have also installed a new Notice Board and Sign Board.

Progress has been made with our IT system. This is of great use during our weekly services which are then available on social media. We have a link with a church in Scotland and they have visited us and help us on a regular basis to upgrade our system.

We have welcomed new people into the church, and it is very exciting that two young members of the fellowship attended a Pre-missionary Course in Switzerland in September and have recently left for their first placement in Ghana. The church fellowship looks forward to sharing their experiences during the coming months.

Although our fellowship is not large it is a very caring and thoughtful family providing support for each when needed. Everyone connected with the church plays a very active role.

### **Financial review**

The attached receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities set out the finances of the church in the accounting period. At the year end the church held £ 83,260 (2022:£60,637) in unrestricted bank accounts and investments, together with £69,919 invested in the Dawson Trust, administered by the Baptist Union Corporation which can be used with agreement for works on the church building. The property trustees are the Baptist Union Corporation.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees aim to hold £10,000 with the balance held for improvements to the buildings, emergency repairs and to provide additional income from the investments.

#### **Risk management**

Risks to the charity include those mitigated by comprehensive safeguarding policies and training and insurance covering buildings, contents and activities. A formal risk assessment is to be worked on,

## **Trustees Report (continued)**

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

The Church is an independent charity. In accordance with our Constitution Trustees are appointed as required and aim to have a broad range of skills and contacts within the Church community. The trustees are also the Deacons of the church.

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated organisation number 1190379 governed by its Constitution.

Approved by order of the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dr. Marjoleine Wilhelmina Onrust

Trustee

## **Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Sabden Baptist Church**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those 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.



Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE  
KM  
Chartered Accountants  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Block C, The Wharf,  
Manchester Road,  
Burnley  
BB11 1JG

9<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## **SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Weekly offerings	23,483	19,238
Investment income	1,306	1,199
Gift aid	10,258	3,194
Room hire	7,850	9,640
Contribution to gas, water	4,210	-
Other receipts	1,505	3,751
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>48,612</u></b>	<b><u>37,022</u></b>
 <b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Property maintenance and repairs	5,341	2,110
Water, electric, gas, oil	6,433	5,806
Sound and video equipment	2,086	2,565
Insurance	2,175	2,117
Gifts to mission organisations	2,835	4,850
Other payments	5,105	3,878
Pulpit supply	1,515	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b><u>25,490</u></b>	<b><u>21,326</u></b>
<b>Receipts less payments</b>	<b>23,122</b>	<b>15,696</b>
<b>Bank balances at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023</b>	<b>£39,403</b>	<b>£23,707</b>
<b>Bank balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	<b><u>£62,525</u></b>	<b><u>£39,403</u></b>

**SABDEN BAPTIST CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

Bank balances	<u>£62,525</u>
Charifund investment	<u>£20,735</u>
Dawson Trust – Investments	<u>£69,919</u>

Church buildings – historical cost not available

**Approval**

These financial statements set out above were approved by the Deacons as Managing Trustees on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr. Marjoleine Wilhelmina Onrust

Trustee