

CARTERS LANE BAPTIST CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

The members Meeting normally takes place 5 times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

FOR 2023, WE WERE ABLE TO ORGANISE CHURCH MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to 10 deacons/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 church/charity. By December 2023 we had 7 serving deacons plus the minister, treasurer and church secretary. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the church's objectives.

In 2023 the deacons continued to meet monthly and minutes are kept in the church safe.

In 2023 we were able to hold Annual General Meeting and the trustees were able to present reports and accounts.

Church members each receive minutes of the formal church meetings. These are sent out with agendas at least one week prior to the meeting.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Deacons/Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Deacons/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 principle purpose of the church/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 other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Our particular aims and objectives are:-

- To be a demonstrable place of Christian fellowship and worship furthering God's kingdom on earth

- To be a friendly, open and welcoming church, not just on Sunday services but throughout all activities
- To encourage the growth of the membership of the Church attracting new young people and families to the congregation, whilst continuing to support and nurture the current congregation.
- To mobilise the church membership to increase the number and range engaged in the running of the wider activities of the church.

The Church has a Minister, working at 70%, an active diaconate and around 65 active church members. We have number of other people who attend but are not formal members.

In the normal run of things we have around 120 young people involved weekly in Sunday Club, Friday Youth Club, the Brigade and the Toddler Group. There are a range of activities which normally take place during the week for adults and seniors including 65 Lunch Club for senior citizens which caters for around 35 people, 2 exercise groups catering for around 25 participants, and an Over 50s Group with an average of 35 people per session. We are now offering weekly free Coffee Mornings as part of the Places of Welcome Scheme – these have proved to be very popular with over 40 people per week attending. In addition to weekly groups, the Church usually hold an annual Holiday Club for primary aged children, social evenings such as quizzes and concerts, garden parties and Autumn Fair. There are strong links with the worshipping community in the locality. We are very active members of Churches Together in Halesowen.

During 2023 these activities regularly took place at the church.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately verified 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.

Activities 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 Deacons/Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but 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 December 2023 the membership stood at 67.

For the first half of 2023 regular services and Bible Study sessions were held in church and on-line. These were well supported.

Government guidelines regarding COVID restrictions were still followed.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The most significant expense related to the continued appointment of the Revd Siôr Coleman as Minister of the Church, on a 70% basis, to lead and co-ordinate the church's activities including the Sunday services, to provide pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and to equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.

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

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 accompanying financial statements.

The church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. The church has no plan to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.

Carters Lane Baptist Church Period Ended 31st December 2023

		% Year elapsed		100%			
<u>General A/c</u>		<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Budget Achieved</u>			<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Budget Achieved</u>
Income				Expenditure			
Collections Standing Order	£ 25,592.50	£ 32,000	80%	Ministry			
Collections (Plate)	£ 9,555.00	£ 8,000	119%	Stipend/ salaries	£ 12,518.63	£ 12,600	99%
Other Donations	£ 3,500.81	£ 1,750	200%	Expenses	£ 1,921.03	£ 3,000	64%
Use of Hall	£ 2,975.00	£ 4,000	74%	HMRC Tax	£ 4,143.68	£ 4,200	99%
Bank Interest	£ 3,921.51	£ 1,000	392%	Pension	£ 7,078.32	£ 4,000	177%
HMRC GA	£ 8,481.30	£ 10,000	85%	Visiting Preachers	£ -	£ 200	0%
Printing & Stationery	£ 100.00	£ 100		Manse Allowance	£ 7,134.00	£ 7,134	100%
Legacy	£ 1,840.34	£ -		Manse Expenditure	£ 3,298.17	£ 3,915	84%
Youth Ministry	£ -	£ -		Total Ministry	£ 36,093.83		
BMS	£ 955.54	£ 1,000	96%	Upkeep of Church Premises			
BMS Birthday Scheme	£ 250.00	£ 500	50%	Electricity	£ 3,724.62	£ 3,500	106%
Home Mission	£ 318.00	£ 500	64%	Gas	£ 2,631.30	£ 2,000	132%
Project	£ 645.08	£ 200	323%	Insurance	£ 2,518.50	£ 2,750	92%
Weddings / Funerals	£ 600.00	£ 500	120%	Water	£ 233.33	£ 150	156%
Bank Interest form HEBA A/c	£ 12,309.91			Repairs & Renewals	£ 19,226.42	£ 2,000	961%
Clear Fund	£ -			Church Cleaning	£ 4,348.24	£ 4,000	109%
Total Income	£ 71,044.99	£ 59,550.00		Final Manse Exps (Pinewoods)	£ 161.93	£ 225	72%
Transfers between Bank Accounts	£ 18,800.00			Total Church Premises	£ 32,844.34		
Surplus /(Deficit) for year	-£ 6,068.21			Administration			
Add Opening balance b/f 1st January	£448,976.23			Sundry Expenditure	£ 1,319.39	£ 500	264%
Closing Balance 31.12.23	£442,908.02			Admin- Wi-Fi	£ 650.44	£ 750	87%
Represented by :				Admin Printing & Stationery	£ 1,505.22	£ 1,000	151%
Treasurer's A/c	£ 6,889.99			Admin Subscriptions	£ 1,194.48	£ 1,300	92%
30 Day A/c	£ 28,017.42			Equipment	£ 84.25	£ 1,000	8%
NS&I A/c	£120,000.00			Admin Bookkeeping & Payroll	£ 595.00	£ 600	99%
HEBA A/c	£288,000.61			Admin Bank Charges	£ 229.35	£ 300	76%
Total Bank Accounts	£442,908.02			Total Administration	£ 5,578.13		
Funds				Clear Fund	£ -		
General Fund (Unrestricted)	£442,908.02			Youth Ministry	£ -		
				Gifts for Forwarding			
				BMS	£ 800.00	£ 1,000	80%
				BMS Birthday Scheme	£ 650.00	£ 500	130%
				Home Mission	£ 638.00	£ 500	128%
				Project	£ 408.90	£ 200	204%
				Donations	£ 100.00		
				Total Expenditure	£ 77,113.20	£ 57,324	
				Transfers between Bank Accounts	£ 18,800.00		

Carters Lane Baptist Church Accounts for 1/1/2023-31/12/2023

The Deacons (acting as managing trustees of the Church) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts under S.42(3) Charities Act 1993. The income of the Church is below the threshold of £250,000 and these accounts have therefore been prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis with review by an independent examiner.

The funds for the Church are distributed across 4 bank accounts. There are no restrictions placed on the funds held by the Church.

1. Business Banking Extra Current Account Lloyds Bank (termed hereafter as Treasurers Current Account/TA)
2. 30 Day Account Lloyds Bank (termed hereafter as 30 day account / 30D)
3. NS&I Bonds
4. HEBA

The accounts for the Treasurers Current Account and 30 Day Account were prepared throughout the year by Mrs Gail Rothnie, Mrs Lesley Jones and Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA). They were independently examined by Ms Eموke Simon. A trail was established from invoice, to payment, to bank statement and HEBA Finance Summaries and in reverse by Ms Simon. The funds within the Lloyds Bank accounts, NS&I and HEBA were confirmed based on statements.

A summary of the accounts is given here:

	Opening Balance 1/1/2023	Closing Balance 31/12/2023
Treasurers Current Account (TA)	£11,653.64	£ 6,889.99
30 Day Account (30D)	£41,631.89	£28,017.42
NS&I Bonds	£120,000.00	£120,000.00
HEBA	£275,690.70	£288,000.61
Total	£448,976.23	£442,908.02

Total Receipts	£ 71,044.99
Total Payments	£ 77,113.20
Deficit	(£ 6,068.21)

Note: Comparative figures for 2022 were:

Total Receipts	£ 91,365.30
Total Payments	£ 86,543.07
Surplus	£ 4,822.23

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

General Receipts and Payments

Receipts and payments are summarised here. Additional detail is given in the accompanying notes later in the document.

RECEIPTS	
Weekly collections (plate)	£9555.00
Collections (standing order)	£25,592.50
Donations	£3,500.81
Gift Aid	£8,481.30
Investment Income/Interest	£3921.51
Hall Rental	£2,975.00
Legacy	£1840.34
Weddings / funerals	£600.00
Raised for other causes	£2,168.62
Printing and stationery	£100.00
Bank interest from HEBA	£12,309.91
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£71,044.99

PAYMENTS	
Ministry	£36,093.83
Administration	£5,578.13
Upkeep Church Premises	£32,844.34
Amounts passed onto other causes	£2,596.90
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£77,113.20

Overall income and expenditure

Receipts	Payments
£71,044.99	£77,113.20

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31/12/2023

Assets	Opening 1/1/20223	Movement	Closing 31/12/2023	
Freehold Land and Buildings	£0.00		£0.00	Note 3
Cash Assets	£448,976.23	(£6,068.21)	£442,908.02	
Total Assets	£448,976.23	(£6,068.21)	£442,908.02	
Liabilities	£0.00		£0.00	Note 4
Overall Position	£448,976.23	(£6,068.21)	£442,908.02	

Notes to the Accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

1. Additional Details of Receipts

RAISED FOR OTHER CAUSES	
BMS	£955.54
BMS Birthday Scheme	£250.00
Home Mission	£318.00
Project – DeLIVERing Hope	£645.08
Total	£2,168.62

2. Additional Details of Payments

MINISTRY		UPKEEP		ADMIN		AMOUNTS PASSED ON	
SALARY	£12,518.63	Cleaning	£4,348.24	Bank	£229.35	BMS Birthday Scheme	£650.00
HMRC	£4,143.68	Gas	£2,631.30	Bookkeeping & Payroll	£595.00	BMS	£800.00
Expenses	£1,921.03	Electric	£3,724.62	Subscriptions	£1,194.48	Home Mission	£638.00
Manse	£10,432.17	Manse (rented)	£161.93	WIFI	£650.44	Donations	£100.00
Pension	£7,078.32	Repairs	£19,226.42	Printing & Stationery	£1,505.22	Project	£408.90
		Water	£233.33	Sundry	£1,319.39		
		Insurance	£2,518.50	Equipment	£84.25		
	£36,093.83		£32,844.34		£5,578.13		£2,596.90

3. Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings are shown at no value as it is considered that they have no commercial value due to the restricted covenant placed by the vendor when the land was originally acquired. This is a conservative position since, if time and resources are invested in pursuing this, a more positive outcome **may** be forthcoming but cannot be assumed unless tested legally. If the Church were to be in financial difficulties this would be pursued more fully.

4. Liabilities - Pension Fund

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

Gail Rothnie

Mrs. Gail Rothnie, Treasurer

Mrs. Lesley Jones

Ms. Eموke Simon, Independent Examiner